

The Cost of Living Index for May 1929

A FALL OF ONE POINT

Increase over July 1914 .. { All articles .. 47 per cent.
.. { Food only .. 43 per cent.

In May 1929* 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 City was one point lower than in the preceding month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the general index number was 148 in April and 147 in May 1929. The general index number is thus 46 points below the high-water mark (193) reached in October 1920 and on a par with the twelve-monthly average for the year 1928.

As compared with April 1929, the index number for all food articles declined by 2 points to 143. The index number for Cereals fell by 2 points due to a decrease in all the cereals except jowari which advanced by 2 points to 119. Pulses went up by one point owing to a rise of 2 points in the price of gram. The combined average for all food articles stood at 128 as against 131 in the preceding month. Among other food articles, salt, beef, and ghee declined by 5.19 and 2 points respectively, but tea and coconut oil recorded a rise of 3 points each. The price of the remaining articles was practically stationary during the month under review. The index number for the "Other food" group stood at 168.

The index numbers for the "fuel and lighting" and "clothing" groups remained stationary at 143 and 160 respectively during the month under

All items : Percentage increase over July 1914

	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Per cent.	73	56	59	57	55	56	54	49
Per cent.	65	55	56	57	54	55	48	48½
Per cent.	65	54	54	59	55	55	45	49
Per cent.	62	56	50	58	53	53	44	48
Per cent.	63	53	50	56	53	52	47	47
Per cent.	63	52	53	54	55	54	46	47
Per cent.	65	53	57	57	57	56	46	46
Per cent.	64	54	61	52	55	57	47	46
Per cent.	65	54	61	51	55	54	45	46
Per cent.	62	52	61	53	55	51	46	46
Per cent.	60	53	61	53	54	50	47	47
Per cent.	61	57	60	55	56	51	48	48
Per cent.	64	54	57	55	55	51	47	47

The index number for the working classes in Bombay City is based on the aggregate expenditure on 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 prices on which the index is based are those collected between April 16 and May 15, 1929.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX—MAY

Articles	Unit of	Annual consumption (Mass Units) (in crores)	Price per Unit of Quantity			Price × Mass Unit		
			July 1914	April 1929	May 1929	July 1914	April 1929	May 1929
Cereals—	Maund	70	Rs. 5.594	Rs. 7.026	Rs. 6.943	Rs. 391.58	Rs. 491.82	Rs. 486.01
Rice		21	5.594	7.583	7.167	117.47	159.24	150.51
Wheat		11	4.354	5.083	5.167	47.89	55.91	56.84
Jowari	6	4.313	5.964	5.880	25.88	35.78	35.28	
Other food	..	..	..	..	582.82	742.75	728.64	
	..	..	..	..	100	127	125	
Pulses—	Maund	10	4.302	7.292	7.380	43.02	72.92	73.80
Gram		3	5.844	8.250	8.005	17.53	24.75	24.02
Turdai	..	..	..	..	60.55	97.67	97.82	
	..	..	..	..	100	161	162	
Sugar (refined)	Maund	2	7.620	10.714	10.714	15.24	21.43	21.43
Raw Sugar (Gul)	..	7	8.557	13.094	13.094	59.90	91.66	91.66
Tea	..	5	40.000	74.359	75.641	1.00	1.66	1.69
	..	5	2.130	3.125	3.031	10.62	15.63	15.16
	..	28	0.323	0.510	0.448	9.04	14.28	12.54
	..	33	0.417	0.703	0.703	13.76	23.20	23.20
Mutton	Maund	14	9.198	17.583	17.583	128.77	246.16	246.16
Milk	..	1½	50.792	89.880	88.693	76.19	134.62	133.04
Ghee	..	11	4.479	6.547	6.547	49.27	72.02	72.02
Potatoes	..	3	1.552	3.573	3.573	4.66	10.72	10.72
Onions	..	1	25.396	26.786	27.380	12.70	13.39	13.69
Coconut Oil	..	..	..	..	..	381.18	645.17	641.51
	..	..	..	..	..	100	169	168
	..	..	..	..	..	1,024.55	1,485.59	1,467.97
	..	..	..	..	..	100	145	143
Firewood	Case	5	4.375	6.594	6.594	21.88	32.97	32.97
Coal	Maund	48	0.792	1.099	1.099	38.02	52.75	52.75
	..	1	0.542	0.682	0.703	0.54	0.63	0.70
Total—Fuel and lighting	..	..	..	..	..	60.44	86.40	86.42
Numbers—Fuel and lighting	..	..	..	..	..	100	143	143
Shirts	Lb.	27	0.594	0.938	0.938	16.04	25.33	25.33
T. Cloths	..	25	0.641	1.042	1.042	16.03	26.05	26.05
	..	36	0.583	0.938	0.938	20.99	33.77	33.77
Total—Clothing	..	..	..	..	..	53.06	85.15	85.15
Index Numbers—Clothing	..	..	..	..	..	100	160	160
House-rent	Per month	10	11.302	19.440	19.440	113.02	194.40	194.40
	..	..	..	..	..	100	172	172
Grand Total	..	..	..	..	..	1,251.07	1,851.54	1,833.94
Cost of Living Index Numbers	..	..	..	..	..	100	148	147

MAY, 1929

The following table shows the price levels of articles of food in April and May 1929 as compared with the price level for July 1914, which is taken as 100. The levels are calculated from the prices of articles per standard (or railway) maund or seer.

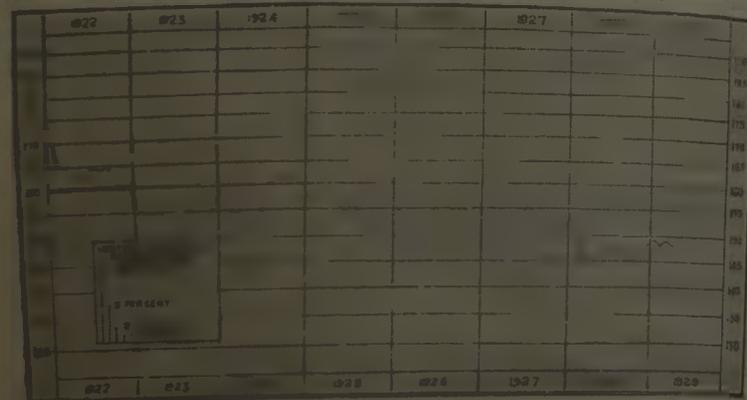
Articles	July 1914	April 1929	May 1929	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in May 1929 over or below April 1929	Articles	July 1914	April 1929	May 1929	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in May 1929 over or below April 1929
Rice	100	126	124	- 2	Salt	100	147	142	- 5
Wheat	100	136	128	- 8	Beef	100	158	139	-19
Jowari	100	117	119	+ 2	Mutton	100	169	169	..
Bajri	100	138	136	- 2	Milk	100	191	191	..
Gram	100	170	172	+ 2	Ghee	100	177	175	- 2
Turdal	100	141	137	- 4	Potatoes	100	146	146	..
Sugar (refined) ..	100	141	141	..	Onions	100	230	230	..
Raw sugar (gul) ..	100	153	153	..	Cocoanut oil ..	100	105	108	+ 3
Tea	100	186	189	+ 3	All food articles (weighted average) ..	100	145	143	- 2

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

Rice 19, Wheat 22, Jowari 16, Bajri 26, Gram 42, Turdal 27 Sugar (refined) 29, Raw Sugar (gul) 35, Tea 47, Salt 30, Beef 28, Mutton 41 Milk 48, Ghee 43, Potatoes 32, Onions 57 and Cocoanut Oil 7.

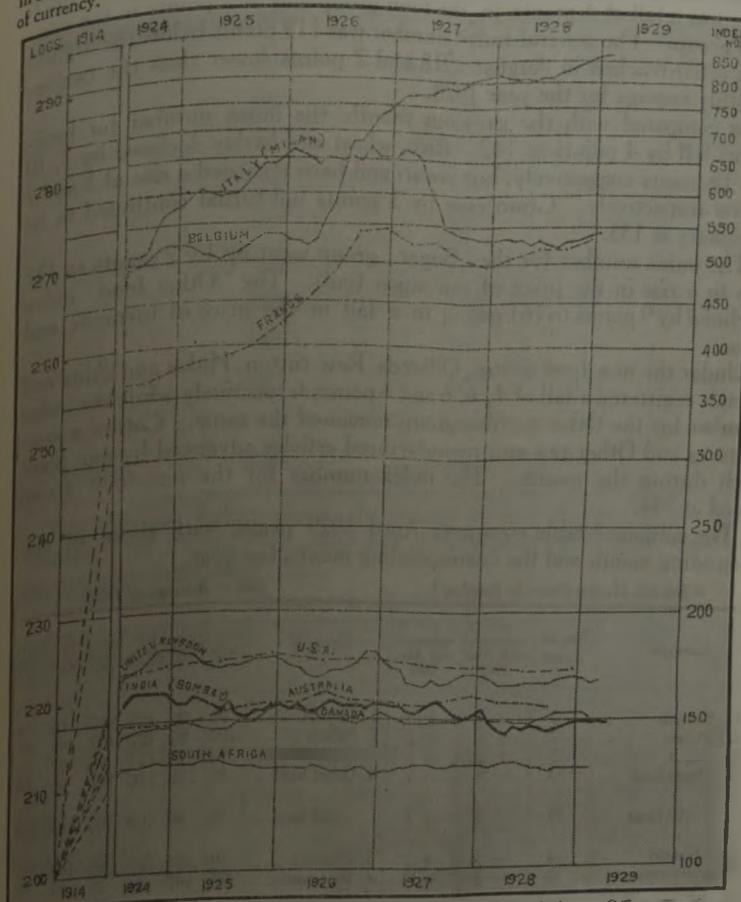
The purchasing power of the rupee being taken as 16 annas in July 1914, its purchasing power in the month under review was 10 annas and 11 pies for all items and 11 annas and 2 pies for food articles only.

Logarithmic Chart showing cost of living in Bombay (July 1914 = 100)



Comparison with the Cost of Living in Other Countries

The diagram on this page shows the comparative levels of the cost of living index Nos. in Bombay and other selected countries from the middle of 1924. The diagram is on the logarithmic scale. In comparing the position and movement of the curves allowance has to be made for depreciation of currency.



The following are the sources of the Index Nos.: (1) India—Labour Office, (2) The United Kingdom—Ministry of Labour Gazette, (3) New Zealand—Census and Statistics Department (London by cable), (4) South Africa—Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics, (5) The U.S.A.—Bulletin issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, (6) Canada—The Labour Statistics published by the Department of Labour, Canada, (7) Australia—Monthly Bulletin of Statistics published by the League of Nations, (8) Belgium—The Revue du Travail, (9) All other countries—from the Ministry of Labour Gazette United Kingdom. In the case of Italy the figures are available are recorded.

The cost of living index numbers in Bombay are shown on the logarithmic scale. The cost of living index numbers in other countries are shown on the same scale. The cost of living index numbers in Bombay are shown on the logarithmic scale. The cost of living index numbers in other countries are shown on the same scale. The cost of living index numbers in Bombay are shown on the logarithmic scale. The cost of living index numbers in other countries are shown on the same scale.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

1. WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY *

Increase over July 1924 .. 44 per cent.
 In April 1929, the index number of wholesale prices in Bombay was 144 as against 47 in the previous month. As compared with March 1929 there was a fall of 4 points in the food group and of 2 points in the non-food group. The general index number was 119 points below the highest peak (263) reached in August 1918 and 2 points lower than the twelve-monthly average for the year 1928.
 As compared with the previous month, the index number for food-grains fell by 4 points to 142. Rice, wheat and barley declined by 3, 10 and 19 points respectively, but jowari and bajri recorded a rise of 3 and 7 points respectively. Gram rose by 3 points but motal continued to be stationary at 135.

The index number for the 'Sugar' group went up by 2 points to 131 due to a rise in the price of raw sugar (mol). The 'Other food' index fell by 9 points to 161 owing to a fall in the price of turmeric and ginger.

Under the non-food group, Oilseeds, Raw cotton, Hides and skins and Metals registered a fall of 4, 6, 6 and 4 points respectively while the index number for the Other textiles group remained the same. Cotton manufactures and Other raw and manufactured articles advanced by one point each during the month. The index number for the non-food group stood at 144.

The subjoined table compares April 1929 prices with those of the preceding month and the corresponding month last year.

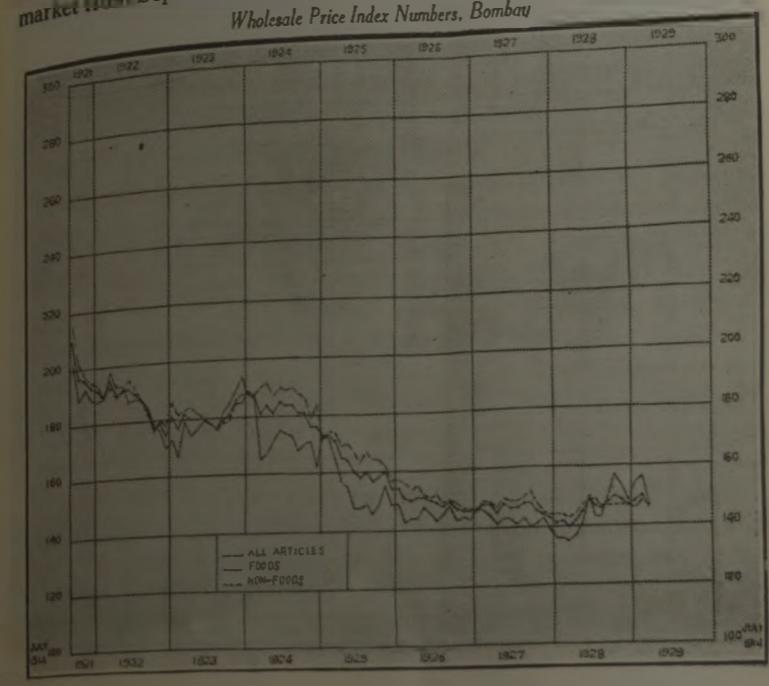
Groups		No. of items	compared with Mar. 1929	+ or - % compared with Apr. 1928	Groups	Apr. 1928	July 1928	Oct. 1928	Mar. 1929	Apr. 1929
1	Cereals	7	-4	+10	1. Cereals	96	100	109	112	110
2	Pulses	2	-	-	2. Pulses	101	93	107	107	101
3	Sugar	3	-	-	3. Sugar	85	90	111	98	97
4	Other food	3	-	-	4. Other food	107	118	114	100	96
All food			-3	-7	All food	95	98	105	103	100
5	Oilseeds	1	-	-	5. Oilseeds	100	100	100	100	101
6	Raw cotton	1	-	-	6. Raw cotton	100	100	100	100	87
7	Cotton manufactures	1	-	-	7. Cotton manufactures	100	100	100	100	101
8	Other textiles	1	-	-	8. Other textiles	100	100	100	100	98
9	Hides and skins	1	-	-	9. Hides & skins	100	100	100	100	101
10	Metals	1	-	-	10. Metals	100	100	100	100	104
11	Other raw and manufactured articles	1	+1	+5	11. Other raw and manufactured articles	95	101	100	100	99
All non-food			-1		All non-food	98	100	100	100	99
General Index No.		44	-2	+1	General Index No.	77	101	100	101	99

* Actual prices will be found on pages 926-927. † Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on pages 928-929.

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

	Food Index No.	Non-food Index No.	General Index No.
Under-monthly average for 1918 ..	171	275	239
" " " " 1919 ..	202	234	223
" " " " 1920 ..	206	219	216
" " " " 1921 ..	193	201	198
" " " " 1922 ..	186	187	187
" " " " 1923 ..	179	182	181
" " " " 1924 ..	173	188	182
" " " " 1925 ..	155	167	163
" " " " 1926 ..	145	152	149
" " " " 1927 ..	143	148	147
" " " " 1928 ..	144	146	146
Four-monthly " " 1929 ..	150	146	147

The diagram below shows the course of the changes in the Index Numbers for Foods, Non-foods and all articles in the Bombay wholesale market from September 1921.

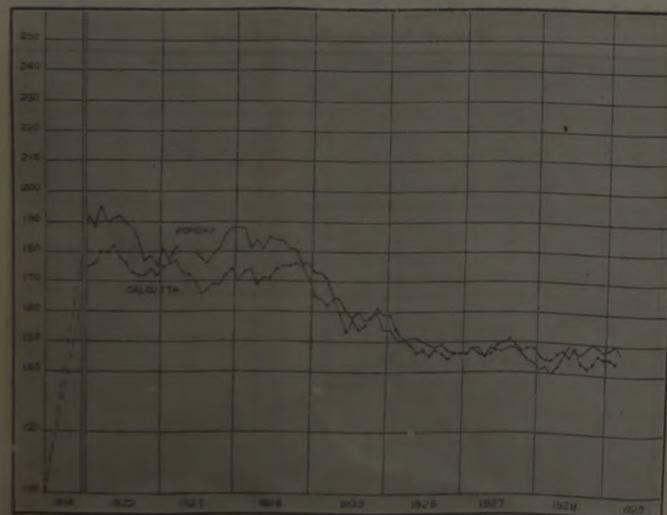


COMPARISON BETWEEN THE INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA

The diagram on this page shows the comparative movements of the index numbers of wholesale prices in Bombay and Calcutta. The index numbers for Calcutta are prepared by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence under the Government of India.

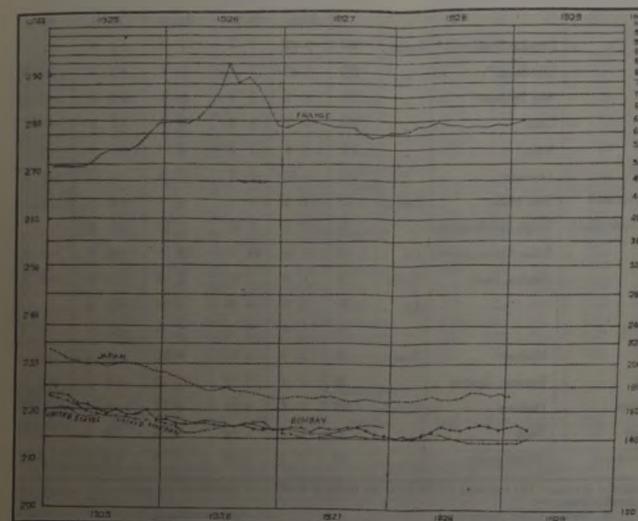
The items included in the indices are 44 for Bombay and 71 for Calcutta. The groups included in the Calcutta index but excluded from that for Bombay are tea (3 items), oil (2 items), jute-raw (3 items), jute manufactures (4 items) and building materials (1 item). There are no groups included in the Bombay list but excluded from the Calcutta list. But the details of the different commodities differ. The method of constructing the index is the same in each case—the unweighted arithmetic average being used and certain important commodities being indirectly weighted by securing quotations for more than one grade of such commodities. The diagram shows that the correlation between the two indices is direct but not perfect, i.e., the changes in the two curves are in the same direction but not to the same extent. The increase in prices over July 1914 was definitely lower in Calcutta than in Bombay though there was a tendency for the divergence to diminish in degree, and at the end of 1925 and in the beginning of 1926 and the middle of 1927 the two curves temporarily crossed. Prices in Bombay were lower than those in Calcutta between June 1927 and May 1928 and in July 1928.

The diagram is on an arithmetic and not a logarithmic scale



COMPARISON WITH WHOLESALE PRICES INDEX NUMBERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

The following diagram illustrates the comparative level of Wholesale Prices Index Numbers in five countries. The bases are 1913 for the other centres and July 1914 for Bombay. The Japan figure is for Tokyo.



The sources of these five Index Numbers are:—Bombay, the Labour Office; United Kingdom, the Board of Trade; United States of America, the Bureau of Labor Statistics; France and Japan, Monthly Bulletin of Statistics published by the League of Nations.

These Index Numbers and those for eight other countries will be found in a table at the end of the *Gazette*. The sources of information for these eight other Index Numbers are:—Canada, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics; China (Shanghai), Ministry of Finance, Bureau of Markets, Shanghai; Egypt (Cairo), Monthly Agricultural Statistics, published by the Statistical Department, Ministry of Finance; Java (Batavia), Monthly Bulletins of Statistics of Prices and Index Numbers in the Neth.-Indies; Australia, Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, published by the League of Nations; Norway, Sweden and Holland, figures republished in the *Statist*.

The Labour Office also keeps on record 20 other Index Numbers, including three privately published for the United Kingdom and three for the United States of America. The three privately published figures for the United Kingdom are those of the *Statist*, the *Economist* and the *London Times*, and the three for the United States of America are those of Bradstreet, Prof. Irving Fisher and Dun.

2. RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN BOMBAY

Article	Grade	Rate per	Equiva- lent in tolas	Percentage change				
				July 1914	March 1929	April 1929	July 1914	Mar. 1929
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	Paylee	204	5 10	7 2	7 2	+1 4	..
Wheat	Pissi Soom	..	200	5 10	7 9	7 7	+1 9	-0 2
Jowari	Best Sholapuri	..	200	4 3	5 3	5 1	+0 10	-0 2
Bajri	Ghati	..	204	4 7	6 3	6 1	+1 6	-0 2
Gram	Delhi	..	192	4 4	7 3	7 0	+2 8	-0 3
Turdal	Cawnpore	..	204	5 11	8 7	8 5	+2 6	-0 2
Raw	Java, white	Seer	28	1 1	1 6	1 6	+0 5	..
	..	..	28	1 2	1 10	1 10	+0 8	..
Tea	Loose, Ceylon, powder	Lb.	39	7 10	14 7	14 6	+6 8	..
Salt	Bombay, black	Paylee	176	1 9	2 10	2 9	+1 0	-0 1
Beef	..	Lb.	39	2 6	4 0	4 0	+1 6	..
Mutton	..	..	39	3 0	5 8	5 6	+2 6	-0 2
Milk	Medium	Seer	56	2 9	4 11	4 11	+2 2	..
Ghee	Belgaum, superior	..	28	7 1	12 5	12 7	+5 6	+0 2
Potatoes	Ordinary	..	28	0 8	0 11	0 11	+0 3	..
Onions	Nasik	..	28	0 3	0 6	0 6	+0 3	..
Cocconut oil	Middle quality	..	28	3 7	3 10	3 0	..	-0 1

Collection of prices.—The following are
 1. ...
 2. ... Road (North End).
 3. Chowli—Kumbharwada Road (South End).
 4. ...
 5. ...
 6. Parel—Paiwadi.
 7. ...
 8. DeLisle Road.
 9. ...
 10. ...
 11. ...
 12. Nal Basar.

The prices for mutton and beef are collected from the Central Municipal Markets. The number of quotations for each article during the month is, on an average, 100. The prices are collected by the investigators of the Labour Office.

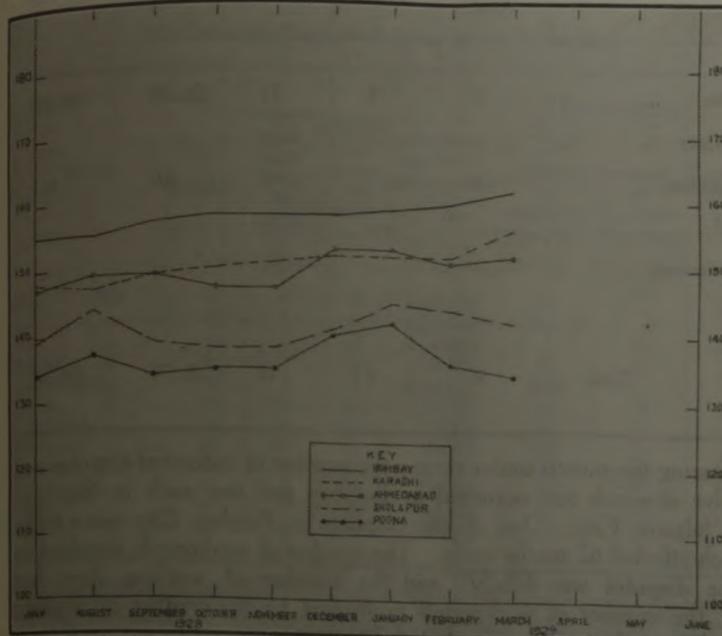
The variations in prices during April 1929 as compared with the preceding month were within narrow limits. Except in the case of rice which remained stationary, all the other food-grains declined in price. Wheat, jowari, bajri and turdal fell by 2 pies each per paylee and gram by 3 pies per paylee. Among other food articles, tea and mutton fell by 1 and 2 pies respectively per pound. Salt declined by one pie per na and cocoanut oil by one pie per seer but ghee advanced by 2 pies per seer. The price of the remaining articles was practically stationary during the month under review.

As compared with July 1914, all articles show a rise in prices. Onions are double the pre-war price. Tea, mutton, milk and ghee have risen by more than 75 per cent.; gul, salt and beef by more than 50 per cent. and sugar (refined) and potatoes by 38 per cent. each. The price of cocoanut oil is only 5 per cent. above its pre-war level.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX NUMBERS OF FOOD ARTICLES IN FIVE CENTRES OF THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY (July 1914=100)
 March 1929 April 1929

Articles	March 1929					Articles	April 1929				
	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona		Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
Rice (1)	160	120	130	159	117	Rice (1)	160	114	130	159	122
Wheat (1)	170	175	170	119	146	Wheat (1)	165	165	158	121	145
Jowari	128	144	136	134	132	Jowari	124	141	131	128	131
Bajri	139	142	142	129	133	Bajri	134	136	142	133	135
Gram	182	185	157	138	138	Gram	175	175	157	133	137
Turdal	153	126	144	138	128	Turdal	155	120	144	137	131
Sugar (refined)	154	135	129	107	120	Sugar (refined)	158	138	129	102	130
Jagri (Cul)	141	135	129	129	120	Jagri (Cul)	155	135	129	129	143
Tea	190	225	200	171	200	Tea	190	225	200	171	200
..	131	145	151	150	159	..	128	145	151	145	139
..	179	180	100	201	141	..	179	180	100	201	141
..	169	167	167	133	158	..	169	167	167	133	158
..	191	190	200	138	133	..	191	195	200	138	133
..	154	167	144	163	129	..	154	167	144	163	129
..	176	118	145	154	122	..	176	123	131	125	113
..	230	196	184	138	105	..	230	148	143	114	100
..	112	104	160	109	100	..	111	104	160	109	100
Average—All food articles	162	156	152	142	134	Average—All food articles	160	152	148	133	134

Chart showing the unweighted Retail Prices food Index Numbers (17 articles) in five centres of the Bombay Presidency (July 1914 prices=100)



(1) The Bombay index numbers for rice and wheat since June 1928 are for "Mandla" and "Sarabati" varieties instead of for "Rangoon Small Mill" and "Pissi" respectively.

Labour Intelligence—Indian and Foreign Industrial Disputes in the Presidency

Disputes in April .. 12 Workpeople involved .. 126,570

At the end of this issue will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during April 1929, 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 and magnitude of strikes in April 1929, and the number of working days lost.

I.—Industrial Disputes Classified by Trades

Trade	Number of disputes in progress in April 1929			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in April 1929	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in April 1929
	Started before April	Started in April	Total		
Textile ..	3	8	11	126,170	595,080
Transport ..	....	....	....	....	....
Engineering ..	1	....	1	400	662
Metal ..	....	....	....	....	....
Miscellaneous ..	....	....	....	....	....
Total ..	4	8	12	126,570	595,742

During the month under review the number of industrial disputes was twelve of which ten occurred in Bombay and one each in Sholapur and Jalgaon City. One of the disputes in Bombay City was a strike which affected 62 textile mills. The number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 126,570 and the number of working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days less workers replaced) was 595,742.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

II.—Industrial Disputes—Causes and Results, December 1928 to April 1929

	December 1928	January 1929	February 1929	March 1929	April 1929
Number of strikes and lock-outs ..	44	16	6	10	12
Disputes in progress at beginning ..	7	7	2	1	4
Fresh disputes begun ..	37	9	4	9	8
Disputes ended ..	37	14	5	6	6
Disputes in progress at end ..	7	2	1	4	6
Number of workpeople involved ..	73,861	20,890	4,335	29,728	126,570
Aggregate duration in working days ..	364,875	134,018	39,780	368,690	595,742
Demands—					
Pay ..	29	4	3	2	6
Bonus ..	..	..	..	..	..
Personal ..	10	7	3	6	..
Leave and hours ..	1	..	..	1	1
Others ..	4	5	..	1	..
Results—					
In favour of employees ..	12	3	..	3	..
Compromised ..	3	3	1	..	..
In favour of employers ..	22	..	4	3	4

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

III.—Industrial Disputes—Progress for last 12 months †

Month	Disputes in progress	Disputes which began during the month	Disputes ended during the month	Aggregate number of working days lost	Disputes Settled		
					In favour of employers (Per cent.)	In favour of employees (Per cent.)	Compromised (Per cent.)
May 1928 ..	8	6	4	4,243,194	50	..	50
June ..	7*	3	3	4,211,847	100	..	..
July ..	6	2	3	4,141,454	..	..	67
August ..	6	3	3	4,151,788	67	33	..
September ..	5	2	1	4,088,637	100	..	..
October ..	14	10	11	1,258,581	55	9	36
November ..	23	20	16	156,855	..	25	19
December ..	44	37	37	364,875	59	32	9
January 1929 ..	16	9	14	134,018	56	22	22
February ..	6	4	..	39,780	80	..	20
March ..	10	9	6	368,690	50	50	..
April ..	12	8	6	595,742	67	33	..

* Three individual disputes which merged into the General Strike are not counted separately.

† This table differs from the tables published till January 1927 in two respects. Firstly, the third and the fourth columns are newly added, and secondly, the totals at the end have been omitted.

It may be of interest to state that the highest peak (4,243,194) in respect of the number of working days lost through strikes in this Presidency since April 1921 was reached in May 1928, whereas the lowest level was reached in December 1927, when no strikes were reported. The nearest approach to this was in May 1924 when only 390 working days were lost.

GENERAL REVIEW OF DISPUTES

The number of industrial disputes involving stoppages of work reported as beginning in the month of April 1929 was 8 as compared with 9 in the previous month. The number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 112,070 and the number of working days lost amounted to 379,900. Six of these disputes arose over wages questions and the remaining two over questions regarding the employment of individuals. One of these disputes was a strike affecting 62 Textile Mills in Bombay city, which arose over the alleged victimisation of workers who were Trade Unionists, and the question of the reinstatement of about 6500 millhands who had been replaced by other workers for having gone out on strike in the Wadia Group of Mills in contravention of the terms of a former agreement. In addition, four disputes involving 14,500 workpeople were in progress at the beginning of the month under review and resulted in a time loss amounting to 215,842 man-days. Out of the 12 old and new disputes, settlements were arrived at in the case of six disputes during the month. The results were favourable to the employers in four cases and to the workers in the remaining two cases.

Progress of Individual Disputes

BOMBAY CITY

During the month under review there were 10 industrial disputes in progress in Bombay City. One of these was the continuation of a dispute which affected the Spring Mill. The Mill which had remained closed, was reopened on the 8th April when 275 old and new hands resumed work. The number of hands working in the mill increased in spite of the picketing carried on by the strikers and reached a maximum of 2787 on the 25th April. The attendance however decreased on the 26th owing to the announcement of a general strike, and by the close of the month it stood at 2646. Some of the strikers assaulted a Muccadam who had supplied new hands to the Mill. They also tried to prevent clerks from going into the Mill for work, but with no effect. Several operatives who were working in the Mill were assaulted with stones by the strikers, and abused by the picketers. Consequently, the Police had to escort the workers both when they went to work and also when they returned home. The Bombay Girmi Kamgar Union distributed rations consisting of 4 seers of rice and half a seer of "dal" to each of a total of about 1100 strikers on the 15th, 18th and 24th April. This strike continued into the next month.

The second was the continuation of a dispute between the Alcock Ashdown Company and their employees. On the 1st April when the management reopened the Workshops, 121 strikers resumed work unconditionally. On the 2nd, 112 more strikers returned to work and the management employed 52 new hands. Some more strikers resumed work

during the subsequent four days and the management also engaged some additional new hands. The total number of old and new hands working on the 8th was 360 and this number was found sufficient for carrying on the work. The strike thus terminated in favour of the employers.

The third was the continuation of a dispute in the Textile Mill. The management restarted the Mill on the 8th April with 725 old and new hands. Despite the picketing carried on by the strikers, there was a continuous increase in attendance till the 26th, on and from which date it began to decline owing to the announcement of a general strike. At the close of the month there were 1400 old and new hands working in the Mill. This strike continued into the next month.

The fourth was the continuation of a dispute which had begun in the Century Mill in the month of March. On the 4th April, 4500 strikers were paid their outstanding wages. The Mill was restarted on the 8th April with 1000 old and new hands. In spite of the picketing carried on by the strikers, the number of hands working in the Mill rose to 4582 by the 25th April but it decreased thereafter owing to the announcement of a general strike. The attendance at the Mill on the 30th was only 1850. The Bombay Girmi Kamgar Union distributed 4 seers of rice and half a seer of "dal" each to 750 strikers during the month. This dispute also continued into the next month.

The fifth dispute occurred in the Prabhat Mill. On the 2nd April, 60 Winders suddenly struck work at 10 a.m. and demanded an increase in their wages. Their request was not granted by the management and the strikers therefore remained idle inside the Mill till the evening and then dispersed quietly. In the afternoon of the 3rd, all the strikers resumed work unconditionally and the strike ended in favour of the employers.

The sixth dispute took place in the Satya Mill. The pay tickets for the month of March 1929 were distributed to all the operatives of the Mill on the 8th April. After the recess on the same day, 376 weavers struck work demanding an increase in their wages. As their request was refused by the management some of the strikers went into the other departments and stopped work there by whistling and shouting. On the 9th, all the departments of the Mill, except the Weaving, were working normally. Work was resumed unconditionally by 125 strikers on the 11th and by 75 more on the 12th. By the 16th, all the remaining strikers returned to work unconditionally and the strike terminated. The result of this dispute was in favour of the employers.

The seventh was a dispute which affected the Prabhat Mill for the second time during the month under review. On the 11th April, 362 Spinners suddenly struck work after the recess and demanded an increase in their wages. The manager of the Mill promised to consult the Agents in the matter and in the meantime asked the strikers to resume work. The men, however, refused to do so and brought out the workers in the other departments by whistling and shouting. All the men remained idle in the Mill till the evening and then dispersed quietly. The Mill remained closed till the 20th, on which date the strikers resumed work in the morning, on the management agreeing to grant an increase of As. 8 in the

wages and to change the hours of work for female winders to 7-30 a.m. to 5-30 p.m. instead of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. as before. The result of this dispute was in favour of the workers.

The eighth dispute occurred in the New Kaiser-I-Hind Mill. On the morning of the 16th, 35 female Winders of the Colour Winding Section refused to resume work and demanded an increase in their wages. As their request was not granted they left the Mill at noon. The management engaged 15 new hands on the 18th and 10 more on the 20th. Work was resumed by 10 strikers unconditionally on the 25th April from which date the Colour Winding Section resumed normal working. This dispute ended in favour of the employers.

The ninth dispute was in the Morarji Goculdas Mill. On the 16th April, the Management put up a notice informing the female winders that as there were superfluous hands in the Colour Winding Department some workers would be paid off and discharged. As a protest against this, 155 female Winders struck work on the 18th and demanded that none of the hands should be dismissed. Their request was refused by the management and the strikers therefore remained idle in the Mill. On the 19th, the management offered to pay the strikers their outstanding wages, but the latter refused to accept payment. In the afternoon of the 19th, 350 women winders of the Gray and Pirn Winding Departments joined the strikers, who made a further demand that one head-jobber should be dismissed. On the 20th, the operatives of the other departments of the Mill also struck work in the afternoon, on the instigation of the strikers. The entire Mill was therefore closed by the management until further notice. A meeting of the strikers was held on the 22nd, when the men were exhorted to continue the strike. Picketing was carried on by the strikers every day at the Mill and two women strikers were arrested by the Police for abusing the people going into the Mill for work. There was no change in the situation till the close of the month and the strike continued into the next month.

The tenth dispute was a strike in the Textile Mills in Bombay city which began on the 26th April and affected, before the close of the month under review, 104,813 workpeople employed in 62 Textile Mills. The origin of the strike is traceable to the strikes in the Wadia Group of Mills which first originated in the Spring Mill on the 1st March with the dismissal of a worker of the Spinning Department, who is stated to have absented himself from work from the 14th February on account of the fact that his frame was put on to spinning 10's. When the frame was again put on to spinning higher counts on the 28th February, he presented himself for work but he was refused admission on the ground that he had been absent without leave. The worker stated that he had taken leave from the Jobber who, however, denied the statement. Thereupon, the Mill Committee of the Bombay Girmi Kamgar Union demanded the immediate reinstatement of the dismissed worker and, on this being refused by the management, called a strike of about 600 operatives of that department in contravention of a written undertaking given by the President, the General Secretary and a member of the executive of the Union to the management on the

23rd November 1928 to the effect that there would be no lightning strike in the Wadia Group of Mills in future "without first putting through a regular channel any grievances that the operatives might have." On account of the strike the management kept the Mill entirely closed from the 2nd March to 8th April, when they restarted the Mill with about 275 old and new hands. In the Textile Mill two workers who returned to work on the 2nd March after several days of absence without leave were refused reinstatement and consequently 185 operatives of the Mill struck work in sympathy on the same day. This Mill also remained closed up to the 8th April, on which date it recommenced work with 725 old and new hands. In the Century Mill a jobber of the Spinning Department was discharged on the 1st March for having stopped the Spinning Department without orders at 3 p.m. on the 28th February for cleaning the frames. The operatives of the department concerned demanded the reinstatement of the dismissed man and as their request was not acceded to by the management, 650 men struck work after the recess on the 1st March. They however resumed work unconditionally on the 4th March. The management dismissed 7 men on that date and 6 on the 5th March for their having been responsible for inciting the workers to go on strike. The Bombay Girmi Kamgar Union officially demanded the reinstatement of the dismissed men and as the management refused to do so, the Union took out on strike about 1300 men from the departments where the dismissed men had been employed. This Mill remained closed from the 15th March up to the 8th April and restarted work on the latter date with about 1000 old and new hands. By the 24th April, the total number of hands working in the three Mills increased to about 10,000 of which about 6500 were new hands employed in place of the strikers. The Bombay Girmi Kamgar Union interpreted the dismissals to be the outcome of a systematic policy of victimisation adopted by the management against the workers who took a forward part in the activities of the Union inside the Mills. The displacement of such a large number of old hands was also resented by the workers. Consequently, at a joint conference of the Millowners' Association and the Joint Strike Committee held on the 24th April in order to consider the recommendations of the Fawcett Committee, the representatives of the Bombay Girmi Kamgar Union threatened to withdraw from the Conference if the Association did not take concerted action to prevent individual millowners from victimising workers taking an active interest in the Union's affairs. The owners stated that the dismissals were on purely disciplinary grounds and led evidence to prove their statement. The representatives of the Bombay Girmi Kamgar Union demanded that witnesses on their side should also be examined but the request was not acceded to as it was considered that it would be unwieldy and cumbersome for the Joint Conference to examine a large number of witnesses. A way out of the difficulty was suggested by a representative of the Bombay Textile Labour Union who proposed that a Sub-Committee might be appointed to enquire into and report on the question of the alleged victimisation. The Millowners were prepared to consider the proposal if the Bombay Girmi Kamgar Union agreed to it.

The latter, however, demanded the reinstatement of all the old hands replaced in the Spring, the Textile and the Century Mills as a necessary condition precedent to signifying their approval to the proposal in question. The Millowners were not prepared to dismiss the new hands employed in place of the old hands who had gone out on strike and consequently the Bombay Girmi Kamgar Union decided to call a general strike in all the Textile Mills in Bombay city at 12 noon on the 26th April. For this purpose, the Union issued on the 25th April, Marathi leaflets advising the millhands to strike work at exactly 12 noon on the appointed date. Accordingly, 74,675 workers in 41 mills struck work after the recess on the 26th. About nineteen thousand more hands from thirteen mills were out on the 27th and 9634 hands from seven mills on the 29th. On the 30th, one more mill employing 1420 hands was closed on account of the strike.

Meetings of millhands were held under the auspices of the Bombay Girmi Kamgar Union and also of the Bombay Textile Labour Union. The former exhorted the strikers to remain firm and to bring out the operatives who were working in the other mills, whereas the latter did not consider a general strike at all opportune and advised the millhands not to join the strike. Systematic picketing was started by the Bombay Girmi Kamgar Union on the 29th and Marathi leaflets exhorting the men to remain firm till their demands were granted, were also issued by the Union. Three of the affected Mills were working partially on the 27th, five on the 29th and six on the 30th. The strike continued into the next month.

SHOLAPUR

During the month under review there was an industrial dispute in progress in the Jam Mill. On the 3rd April, 700 operatives of the Spinning Department struck work in the afternoon demanding an increase in wages. As their request was not granted the strikers tried to bring out the workers in the Engine Room by throwing stones but the police soon dispersed the strikers. The entire Mill was, however, closed in the afternoon on the same day on account of shortage of yarn. On the 4th, the management informed the strikers that the rates of wages would be increased. Thereupon, the majority of the strikers resumed work on the morning of the 5th and the strike ended. The result of this dispute was in favour of the workers.

JALGAON

There was an industrial dispute in progress in the Bhagirath Spinning and Weaving Mill during the month under review. The operatives of the Spinning Department of this Mill demanded that they should be given wages equal to those obtaining in the Weaving Department. As their request was not granted 194 Spinners struck work on the 28th April. The management closed the entire mill on the same day as it was not possible to carry on work without the spinners. There was no change in the situation during the remaining two days of the month and the strike continued into the next month.

Workmen's Compensation Act

Details of Proceedings

Information furnished by all the Commissioners in the Presidency for the month of April 1929 shows that out of 70 cases disposed of during the month 63 were reported by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner in Bombay. The cases which were transferred from one Commissioner to another have not been included in the statistics. The gross amount of compensation awarded in lump sums was Rs. 27,474-7-0 as against Rs. 14,186-4-3 in the previous month and Rs. 13,233-2-0 in April 1928. Out of the 70 cases in which compensation was claimed, 16 were in respect of fatal accidents, 3 of temporary disablement and 51 of permanent partial disablement. No case of occupational disease has been reported since January 1925. The number of compensation cases in the textile industry amounted to 36 and in other industries to 34. The corresponding figures for April 1928 were 13 and 24.

The total number of claimants for compensation in all the cases disposed of during the month was 70 of whom 66 were adult males and 4 adult females.

Out of the cases disposed of during the month under review 34 were original claims, 34 registration of agreements and 2 miscellaneous applications. Compensation was awarded in 32 cases, agreements were registered in 35 cases, two cases were allowed to be withdrawn and one case was dismissed.

Employment Situation in April

THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The sources of the statistics regarding absenteeism in the Textile Industry in the Bombay Presidency are the returns prepared and sent in by the various mills in the different centres of the Presidency every month. Returns were received from 131 or 84.52 per cent. of the mills reported as working during the month of April 1929. The average absenteeism in the textile industry, as a whole, amounted to 9.49 per cent.

In Bombay City out of 83 mills which were working during the month, 77 or 92.77 per cent. furnished returns. The figures of absenteeism for the last five days of the month, during which the majority of the textile mills in the City were affected by strikes, have not been included in the statistics. The average absenteeism during the month under review amounted to 10.25 per cent. as against 10.89 per cent. in the previous month.

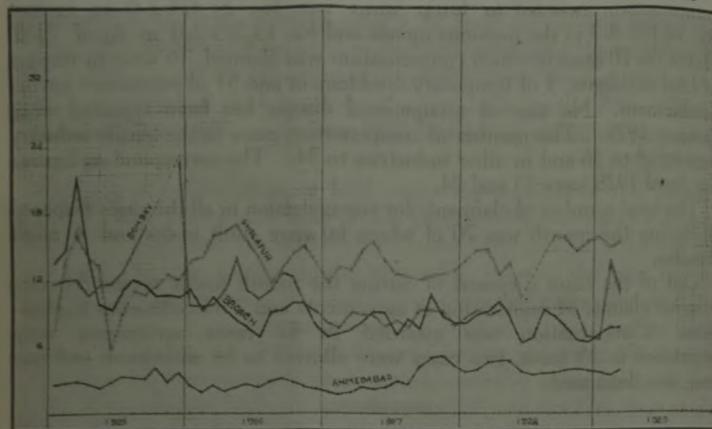
In Ahmedabad 62 mills were working during the month and 44 or 70.97 per cent. furnished information. Absenteeism amounted to 3.92 per cent. as against 3.76 per cent. in March 1929. The supply of labour was equal to the demand.

Returns were submitted by all the mills in Sholapur. There was no shortage in the supply of labour and the average percentage absentees amounted to 16.30 as against 15.34 in the previous month.

Information was supplied by only one mill in Viramgaum which was working during the month. The percentage absenteeism amounted to 1.62.

All the three mills in Broach supplied information and none of them reported that the supply of labour was inadequate. The absenteeism amounted to 8.14 per cent. as against 7.66 per cent. in the preceding month.

Chart showing the average percentage absenteeism in the Cotton Mill Industry in the Presidency



THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

In the engineering industry in Bombay City the supply of labour was adequate. The average absenteeism in representative workshops was 13.58 per cent. as against 17.32 per cent. in the previous month. In the Marine Lines Reclamation Scheme absenteeism was 5 per cent. and in the Bombay Port Trust Docks it amounted to 12.14 per cent. The average absenteeism in the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust was 10 per cent.

The Karachi Port Trust found both skilled and ordinary labour available in plenty. On an average 7.60 per cent. of the labourers absented themselves from work during the month under review.

Prosecutions under the Indian Factories Act in April 1929

AHMEDABAD

The spinning master of a cotton mill was prosecuted under section 41 (f) for breach of section 18, whereby a man was injured by falling from a frame hoist-opening. He was convicted and fined Rs. 50.

The occupier and the manager of a cotton knitting factory were prosecuted under section 41 (f) for breach of section 18 (3) and 18 (1) read with rule 32 for not fencing rope alley transmission machinery and

power-driven sewing machines. They were convicted and fined Rs. 75 and Rs. 25, respectively.

The assistant spinning master and the hoistman of a mill were prosecuted under section 41 (f) for breach of section 18 (3) and 18 (1) for not maintaining the hoist door with the locking motion in order. They were convicted and fined Rs. 40 and Rs. 20, respectively.

AHMEDNAGAR

The occupier of a cotton ginning factory was prosecuted under section 41 (a) for breach of section 24 (a) read with rule 75. He was convicted and fined Rs. 15.

AMALNER

The manager of a cotton ginning factory was prosecuted under section 41 (a) for breach of section 23 (a) for employing certain children without certificates. He was convicted and fined Rs. 10 in each of three cases.

The manager was also prosecuted under section 41 (f) for breach of an order under section 19-A for admitting a child of 5 years of age into the gin house where the machinery was at work. He was convicted and fined Rs. 10.

JALGAON

The manager of a ginning factory was prosecuted under section 41 (a) for breach of section 26 for employing certain women outside the hours specified in the time-table. He was convicted and fined Rs. 30 in each of five cases.

POONA

The manager of a printing press was prosecuted under section 41 (f) for breach of section 18 for not fencing the fly wheel of an oil engine. He was convicted and fined Rs. 15.

Agricultural Outlook in the Presidency

The following summary of conditions in the Presidency during the period ending 20th May 1929 has been supplied by the Director of Agriculture :—

Gujarat.—Excepting some few cents of rains which were received, mostly between the 20th and 24th of April, almost throughout the Division, there was practically no rain in the Division during the period under review. The harvesting of *rabi* crops such as Wheat, Barley, etc., was completed while the preparation of lands for the next season was in full swing. The irrigated crops were proceeding satisfactorily.

Konkan.—Since the submission of the last report light to fair rain was received almost throughout the division during the last ten days of April. In addition to this some fair rain was also received in the Kanara District on the 2nd, 5th, 8th and 9th of May. This rain proved useful for the preparation of fields which was in progress almost everywhere, though

in places where it was heavy it somewhat hindered the reaping operation. The reaping of late crops was generally completed. The garden crops were reported to be doing well generally.

Deccan and Karnatak.—Light to fairly heavy rain was received in almost the whole of the Karnatak between the 21st and 30th of April and again on the 2nd May, while in the Deccan the rain occurred in light to fair showers almost throughout the division between 21st and 24th of April. A few cents were also received between the 2nd and 4th of May in the Satara district in the Deccan. This rain proved opportune for the tillage operations usual at this time of the year. The harvesting and threshing of *rabi* crops were nearly completed in both the divisions. The crops under irrigation were progressing satisfactorily.

Labour News from Ahmedabad

DRINKING WATER AND DINING SHEDS

Recently the Labour Union conducted an enquiry into working conditions in mills—especially regarding the provision of cool drinking water, dining sheds and creches. The following table summarizes the results of the enquiry :—

	Number of Mills providing		
	Water	Dining shed	Creche
Satisfactory	9	5	16
Ordinary	15		7
Unsatisfactory	28	25	20
No arrangement	....	21	9

As far back as June 1921 the arbitrators drew the attention of the Millowners' Association to the unsatisfactory state of affairs in regard to the provision of water and dining sheds but the Labour Union is of opinion that even during the last eight years not much progress has been made towards removing these hardships. The Council of Representatives has passed a resolution authorizing workers to strike work after giving twenty-four hours' notice if the above grievances are not redressed. The Labour Union has intimated to the Millowners' Association that the Union will be obliged to sympathize with such strikes if water-pots, cups and water attendants are not provided within three days and if plans for dining sheds are not submitted to the Municipality for approval within a week. The Secretary of the Millowners' Association has sent a circular to all the mills requesting them to look into these complaints immediately, has drawn the attention of the Municipality to the serious state of affairs caused by the deficiency of water-supply to mills and has replied to the Labour Union that he as well as the President of the Association are willing to inspect individual mills along with the Secretary of the Union and try to remove legitimate grievances. He has also pointed out that

the object of the founders of the Union is to obviate the necessity for strikes by resorting to arbitration and that the Union will not therefore be justified in sympathizing with strikes in these days of industrial unrest.

CRECHES

In the absence of a suitable creche, women workers of a local mill had improvised Hessian cradles near a refuse heap full of inflammable materials. Owing to some cause that cannot be ascertained, the cradles caught fire and three children were burned to death.

PHYSICAL CULTURE

The Union has opened akhadas (gymnasias) in Asarwa, Rajpur, Saraspur and in the Union premises at Mirzapur. These are intended to improve the physique of the workers and also to train volunteers for the Major Seva Dal.

EDUCATION

The Union has opened a night school for the Waghris in Asarwa. A travelling library for circulating useful books and publications among workers in different wards has been started and it is proposed to open training classes for the clerical and executive staff of the Union and members of the Council of Representatives. They will be taught general economic theory and the history of Trade Unionism. A special course of instruction is to be given to spinning jobbers regarding the theory of spinning.

Lancashire Cotton Industry

METHOD OF WAGE PAYMENT

In the *Manchester Guardian Commercial* of 4th April 1929 there is an interesting article on the above subject in which the question of the method of wage payments in the weaving section of the industry is discussed. It is pointed out that wages in weaving are determined by the Uniform List which sets out by fixing a piece rate for a standard plain calico and then arranging for the payment of "extras" where the machinery used or the type of cloth produced will normally demand greater effort or skill on the part of the worker. The advantages of basing wages upon output are mainly these: It provides an automatic stimulus to the worker and by decreasing the need for supervision at once cuts down overhead charges and removes many sources of friction between capital and labour. It appears that originally there were three reasons for setting up a system of payments by results for weaving. In the first place, the workers saw in this a safeguard against their exploitation. In the second place, the employer saw in the price lists a means of encouraging the worker to maximise his output. In the third place, both employee and employer believed that this method of paying wages was fair between one worker and another. The writer however points out that it is extremely doubtful whether in practice these results are attained or whether the method employed is necessary to gain the desired results. Wages which are based upon output do not necessarily force the most skilful worker to his

utmost effort; they merely give him greater freedom to choose between more wages and more leisurely working day. Such wages admittedly compel the naturally slow worker to keep going if he wishes to keep his weekly wages fairly high. But this compulsion can be and is applied by the dismissal of those who cannot keep up their production. In any case, the writer doubts whether it is worth while maintaining a most complicated system of wage payments when the differences in output between different workers which can be attributed to variations in natural ability are fairly small.

The chief count against the method of fixing wages is, however, that it does not result in a "just" wage as between one worker and another. If all weavers were using the same sort of machinery, using the same quality of raw material, working under the same conditions in all mills then this desirable result might be achieved. Such uniform conditions, however, do not prevail and the net result of the working of the system is that the weekly wages vary between one worker and another and between workers in different mills in a manner which makes the claims of the present system to be equitable between individuals almost absurd.

The more frequent become the complaints of the weavers against "bad" material the more clearly it is revealed that the present weaving list is unscientific since it is based upon implications as to conditions of work which have never been made precise and based upon prices which have only a remote influence upon weekly wages. It has made it possible for weekly wages to experience a continuous fall whilst price lists remain constant through a falling off in the average quality of yarn being used. It has led to unjustifiable and indeed undesirable differences in the wages of operatives of equal skill, zeal and strength. This weakness is intensified and its most serious results made possible through the absence of a minimum wage in weaving. In spinning and in many other trades paying piece or premium bonus rates the difficulties arising from deterioration in material or stoppage of machinery are to some extent met by the fixing of a time rate as a minimum. The weavers' unions have not been altogether oblivious of this weakness since the war. In the weavers' charter "a demand was put forward for a minimum wage of ten shillings per week per loom. But the failure before the war to insist upon this final safeguard is remarkable and is, perhaps, only to be explained by the fact that where a family income exists as it did and does in many Lancashire families, fluctuations in the incomes of the different wage-earners of the family tend to cancel out.

It is further pointed out that the present price lists must work with sufficient success to justify their abnormal complexity. Generally speaking, a simple method of determining wages is preferable to a complicated one. The present price lists in weaving take up much of the time of the local trade union official, who must check the calculations which are made for cloths of new designs.

Discussing the alternatives for the present system, the writer points out that a simple wage paid to all weavers would be impossible for it would have to be low enough to enable the firms producing the coarsest

cloth to pay it and high enough to enable the workers in the fancy trade to make the present wages which the employers there can afford. A differential time rate which might divide weavers into three or four grades according to their class of work, might avoid this difficulty, especially if it could be combined with the payment in each mill of some sort of bonus on the collective output of cloth. Any system of time wages would probably be objected to by the employee, for it would result in the appointment of more overlookers and supervisors and reduce the considerable amount of freedom in small matters within the factory which the worker now enjoys. If no such system is possible, then steps should be taken to put the price lists system on a more definite basis by establishing a method of allowances for variations in raw material or by setting up a minimum wage, which might vary according to the cloth being produced, and thus bringing the practice in Lancashire in line with that on the Continent.

Grievances of Railwaymen

DEPUTATION TO SIR GEORGE RAINY

A deputation of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation waited on Sir George Rainy, Railway Member, Sir Austin Hadow and Mr. Hayman on 4th May 1929 at Simla. It was led by Mr. V. V. Giri, General Secretary of the Federation. Mr. Giri had furnished Government sometime ago with a detailed list of demands, which was amplified by the deputation. Mr. Giri, first of all, thanked Sir George Rainy on behalf of the deputation for having consented to receive them and emphasised the necessity and usefulness of the joint consultation between the Railway Board and the Federation. He then opened a discussion on the following subjects:—

(1) Wages, (2) insecurity of service, (3) victimisation, (4) leave, (5) hours of work, (6) recognition of unions, and (7) fines and debits, etc.

WAGES

On the question of wages it was stated that the present wages of subordinate railway employees were most inadequate in both the minimum and the maximum, that the employees were barred at the maximum of every grade for several years and that at the end of their service they did not get even a living wage. Another defect of the present wage system was the differentiation made in pay on the ground of difference in designation although precisely the same kind of work was done by the employees. It was also pointed out that there was no standardisation of working conditions and different railways paid different rates for employees doing precisely the same kind of work. The next point raised was the practice prevailing on some railways of making payments to men on the rates below the sanctioned minimum of a grade. It was suggested that all existing rates should be amalgamated and there should be time scales of pay for all classes of employees and that the present minimum and maximum should be substantially increased and that the analogy of the time scale for employees of corresponding status in other Government departments working in different places in India should be

followed. It was further pointed out that the principle of supply and demand should not be brought forward in sanctioning time scale of pay to the railwaymen and with a view to avoiding all anomalies, the employees coming under the various designations should be classified as unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled, clerical (ordinary) and semi-technical. The time scales suggested for the different classes of employees were as follows—

Unskilled workers	Rs.	25—1—45
Semi-skilled	.. "	30—2—60
Clerical (ordinary)	.. "	50—5—75
Semi-technical clerks ..	.. "	80—5—200
Supervising staff for unskilled and semi-skilled	.. "	50—5—150
Supervisors for skilled staff	.. "	150—10—350
Superintendents	.. "	350—25—700
Supervisors for clerical (ordinary) ..	.. "	180—10—250
Superintendents for clerks (ordinary)	.. "	350—25—700
Semi-technical clerks ..	.. "	80—5—200
Supervisors for clerks ..	.. "	250—20—450
Superintendents for clerks	.. "	450—25—700

OVERTIME ALLOWANCES

The memorandum then discussed the various allowances. As regards the overtime allowance it was stated that all employees who were required to work beyond the usual duty hours should be given an overtime allowance and that no differentiation should be made between employees classed under different designations. As regards Sunday and holiday allowance, it was stated that under the Geneva and Washington Conventions it was necessary that every employee should be given one day off in a week, but if it was not possible to give these concessions to any employee he should be compensated by a holiday allowance. The next question discussed was about relieving allowance which was sanctioned only when relieving work did not exceed 30 or 35 days. It was submitted that a relieving allowance should be given for all the time that an employee was away from headquarters. As regards travelling and mileage allowances, it was stated that they should be extended to all classes of employees.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The next question discussed in the memorandum was the insecurity of service. It was pointed out that the power of dispensing with the services of an employee with one month's notice or one month's pay in lieu thereof was much abused. The memorandum further suggested a procedure that should be adopted in the case where an employee was alleged to have been guilty of any act or omission for which he was liable to be dismissed or discharged. The practice prevailing in some railways of keeping men in temporary appointments for a long period extending from 5 to 12 years was severely criticised and it was requested that every employee after two years of continuous service should be considered as permanent. As regards fines, debits and other punishments, the memorandum submitted that there should be definite rules laying down

the act or omission for which any employee was liable to be fined. It was suggested that the amount of fine should be limited to 2 per cent. of the monthly wages of an employee and that the fines fund should be under the control of representatives of the employees and that the same should be utilised for the benefit of those from whom it was originally recovered.

The memorandum further pointed out that there were a few cases of victimisation of employees who took part in union activities and that as unions were recognised bodies, it was necessary that no employee taking part in the activities of a union should directly or indirectly be victimised for his conduct. As regards the question of hours of work, definite suggestions were made as to how the spirit of the Geneva and Washington Conventions could be given effect to. In the matter of leave it was urged that all employees engaged prior to the taking over of railways by the State should be governed by the Fundamental Rules and that a leave reserve of at least 20 per cent. should be provided for. Menials and daily wage-earners should be entitled to the same privileges in the matter of leave as other employees.

SUPPLY OF UNIFORMS

Uniforms and clothing should be supplied to the workers whose clothing became dirty and soiled in the performance of their duties and the number of sets of uniforms supplied should be increased. In the matter of medical relief it was pointed out that defective vision or any other ailment of an employee was due to his work and such it should be treated as an injury under the Workmen's Compensation Act. It was also suggested that men such as drivers discharged for medical unfitness should be entitled to get compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The last question discussed in the memorandum was as regards recognition of unions. It was stated that all unions of the staff should be duly recognised and should be entitled to represent individual cases. In conclusion, it was stated that the memorandum was confined to the main grievances that the railwaymen in India were labouring under and it was hoped that if the principle of joint consultation was conceded much misunderstanding in the future relations of the railwaymen in India and of the railway administrations would be removed.

SIR GEORGE RAINY'S REPLY

Sir George Rainy in replying to the deputation reminded them of the speech he delivered in the Legislative Assembly at the time of introducing the Railway Budget in which he undertook to set on foot a systematic examination of service conditions of lower paid employees in order to ascertain what were the measures most urgently needed in order to bring about an improvement. He pointed out that most of the proposals the deputation had made fell within the scope of the inquiry and there were only four which did not. These latter were the establishment of wages boards, racial discrimination, recognition of Trades Unions and victimisation. He did not propose to discuss these matters with the deputation as there were more urgent matters to be dealt with and as these were not altogether germane to the main issue. Sir George pointed

out that on the whole he did not think that there was much difference between himself and the deputation. In the first place, there were three proposals which did not seem to him to call for any general inquiry, namely, bad climate allowance, periodical transfers from unhealthy places, uniforms and water proofs and institutes. As regards the first two, he said that he saw no objection to the grant of bad climate allowance at places where the health conditions were really bad and that in such places arrangements for periodical transfers were clearly desirable. As regards uniforms and water proofs he said that these matters must be left to the discretion of the Agents, while as regards institutes, the various Agents already understood the policy of the Government in the matter and would give effect to it as funds permitted.

As regards piece-work systems and medical aid, Sir George Rainy pointed out that he did not suggest that the wages of piece-workers should be left alone if they were found inadequate and nothing should be done about it; but he deprecated a general inquiry into piece rates as such. In his opinion to attempt under present conditions to stereotype piece rates would be fatal to efficiency and the railway administrations must be left free to adapt their rates to changing conditions. As regards medical aid, it was pointed out that it was the policy of Government gradually, and as funds permitted, to extend the medical assistance which was given to the railway staff and much had already been done in that direction. During the last four years the railway expenditure on medical relief had gone up from Rs. 36 lakhs to Rs. 45 lakhs a year. Finally Sir George Rainy discussed, what he considered the most vital questions, namely, wages and the position of daily rated men, hours of work and the weekly rest day, insecurity of service and appeals, leave and quarters and house-rent. Dealing with wages, Sir George Rainy pointed out that he disagreed with Mr. Giri in the opinion that when Government came to consider his proposals regarding wages they should put financial considerations on one side. To do this, he pointed out, would be a plain breach of public duty. He reminded the deputation of his speech in the Assembly in which he said "It will not do to consider merely what are the minimum concessions which will suffice to stave off for the moment insistent demands. More than that is needed. The true line of approach is to consider what is the most we can do without injustice to other interests which Government is equally bound to safeguard." He further pointed out that the funds at the disposal of Government were limited and their primary duty was to ascertain where an increase of pay was most necessary and to see that the money that could be spared was spent where it was most needed. Besides this, the rates of wages paid to railway workers in any local area could not be dissociated from the prevailing rates of wages within that area and the rates of wages varied widely in different parts of India. Where more than one railway system was at work in a given area, he agreed that there was room for consultation between them, so as to avoid obvious and unreasonable disparities. But in the main the question would have to be considered for each railway system independently and it was not therefore possible for Government to proceed on the basis that what was required was uniformity of pay throughout India.

As regards the proposal of the deputation that every railway servant should be provided with free quarters or with a house allowance in lieu thereof, Sir George Rainy pointed out that he did not hesitate to say that financial considerations alone would make the scheme wholly impracticable and that even if it were not so, he would still be unable to accept it. The policy of Government, he said, was that railway officers and workers should pay rent for their quarters. If it was found that the balance remaining from any man's pay after meeting his rent was less than a living wage there would be a reason for increasing his pay and not for giving quarters or a house allowance. Again, it was the policy of Government to build quarters for the staff when it was necessary that the men should live near their work or when the provision made by private enterprise was inadequate. That policy had been steadily pursued during the last six years. Up to 31st March 1928 they had spent about 5½ crores of rupees on improving housing of subordinates and they expected that by March 1930 this sum would exceed 7 crores.

As regards the question of leave, Sir George Rainy said that it was found that their leave reserves were too small and in consequence the men could not be given leave so often as was desirable in the interests of their health and efficiency. It seemed to him, therefore, that when the order of priority in which claims were to be ranked came to be settled, a high place must be given to increase of staff which would make it possible to give leave more frequently. As regards the adoption of a uniform code of leave for State-Managed Railways, the question had been under consideration for a long time and he was hopeful that they would be able in the course of a year to arrive at a definite decision with regard to it. He however did not want to convey the impression that a solution was to be found in the extension of the Fundamental Rules to the railways which until recently were managed by companies. Turning to the question of insecurity of service, he discussed the proposal of the deputation of abandoning service agreements and of assimilating the position of railway servants in all respects to the position of Government servants in Government Departments. He said that the present system which provides for a provident fund instead of pensions and under which Government has the right to dispense with the services of railway servants at any time on due notice being given and without assigning reasons was adopted for definite and cogent reasons and that he would be misleading the deputation if he led them to believe that Government might contemplate its abandonment. At the same time he recognised the importance of the question and in order to remove a feeling of insecurity, he thought that there were three avenues which ought to be fully explored. In the first place, it should be made clear that length of service does establish a claim by a railway servant on the railway administration which must be fully recognised if any question came up of discontinuing his services. In the second place, it seemed desirable that the power to discharge or dismiss should be exercised only by superior officers, and in the third place, it should be made plain that an appeal against an order of discharge or dismissal (or indeed against any punitive order) ought to be decided

after careful review of the facts by the appellate authority. He did not claim that these suggestions were exhaustive but considered that if they could be satisfactorily settled they would do much to bring about a better state of affairs.

Proceeding, Sir George Rainy said that having cleared the ground by explaining what Government were not prepared to do, it would seem natural that he should go on to indicate point by point the action Government intended to take or at least to discuss with the deputation the various proposals they had made. He did not however propose to do this because of the respective positions which he and the deputation occupied. He pointed out that some of the most important railway systems were company managed and the servants employed by them were servants of the company and not of Government. His position as a Railway Member therefore did not in any way entitle him to say what the companies would or would not do or to issue orders on matters where the final decision rested with the directors of the companies. Nor could it be said that the deputation could claim to represent the railway workers of India in the sense in which the great trades unions in Western countries represented particular trades or industries. It was clear for these reasons that neither he on his side nor the deputation on theirs were in a position to discuss specific proposals on a basis that either they or he could come to a binding agreement. The second reason which had influenced him in not discussing these matters was that the investigation which he forecasted in his budget speech into the conditions of service of lower paid railway servants had begun but there was much spade work to be done before any decision could be reached. He pointed out that he had received the deputation in order to give them an opportunity of speaking their minds before any decisions were taken.

In conclusion, Sir George Rainy assured the deputation that subject to the warnings he had given, all that they had said would receive the most careful and full consideration when he introduced the Railway Budget. He thanked them for coming to him and assured them that what they had said had quite distinctly served a useful purpose. (*Abstracted from the "Times of India," May 7, 1929.*)

Maternity Benefit for Factory Women

BILL PASSED BY BOMBAY COUNCIL

On pages 449-453 of the January 1929 *Labour Gazette* the report of the Select Committee on a Bill to regulate the employment of women in factories sometime before and sometime after confinement and to provide for the payment of maternity benefit to them, was published together with the text of the bill as amended by them. The Bill as amended by the Select Committee was read a third time and passed into law on 15th March 1929 with only one minor amendment that the Act shall come into operation on the first day of July 1929.

Rules under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929

The text of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, was published on pages 774 to 781 of the April 1929 issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The Act, which received the assent of the Governor-General on the 12th April 1929, has been brought into force with effect from the 8th May 1929. In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 19 of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929 (VII of 1929), the Governor in Council has been pleased to make the following rules for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of the said Act in the Bombay Presidency:—

1. *Application.*—An application for the reference of a trade dispute to a Court of Inquiry or a Board of Conciliation shall be made in Form A, and shall be forwarded by registered post to the Registrar of Trade Unions in triplicate.

2. *Order of the appointing authority.*—If the Court or Board is appointed by the Governor in Council on his own motion the order appointing it shall, if the Court or Board is to consist of one person only, be in Form B. If it is to consist of a Chairman and other members, it shall be in Form C.

3. *Notice to parties.*—Notice to the parties to a trade dispute to nominate persons to represent them on the Board shall be in Form D.

4. *Registrar to notify appointment of Court or Board to parties.*—As soon as possible after the Court or Board is appointed the Registrar shall notify the parties of the names of the persons constituting the Court or Board and the date and place of hearing of the reference. Such notice shall be sent by registered post. The names shall also be published in the *Bombay Government Gazette*.

5. *Quorum.*—Where a Court or Board consists of a chairman and two other members, two shall form a quorum. Where it consists of a chairman and four other members, three shall form a quorum.

6. *Administration of oath.*—Any member of a Court or Board may administer an oath.

7. *Evidence.*—The Court or Board may accept, admit or call for any evidence at any stage and in any manner which in equity and good conscience it thinks fit.

8. *Summons.*—A summons issued by the Court or Board shall be in Form E and may require any person to produce before it any books, papers or other documents and things in his possession or under his control in any way relating to the matter under investigation by the Court or Board which the Court or Board thinks necessary for the purpose of such investigation.

9. *Information to be kept confidential.*—All books, papers and other documents or things produced before a Court or Board whether voluntarily or in pursuance of a summons may be inspected by the Court or Board and also by such parties as the Court or Board allows; but the information obtained therefrom

shall not, except as provided in the Act, be made public; such parts of the books, papers, documents or things as in the opinion of the ^{Court} ~~Board~~ do not relate to the matters at issue may be sealed up.

10. *Expenses of witnesses.*—The reasonable expenses incurred by any person in attending to give evidence may be allowed by the ^{Court} ~~Board~~ to such person according to the scale prescribed in the High Court in the City of Bombay and according to the scale prescribed for a District Court elsewhere.

11. *Representation of parties.*—Any party to a reference may be represented before the ~~Board~~ by not more than three persons designated for the purpose of whom one may be a legal practitioner, provided that the names of such persons shall have been communicated to the Chairman before the hearing.

12. *Acts of representatives shall be binding on parties.*—Every party appearing by a representative shall be bound by the acts of such representative.

13. *Court or Board may proceed ex parte.*—If without good cause shown any party to proceedings before the Court or Board fails to attend or to be represented the Court or Board may proceed as if he had duly attended or had been represented.

14. *Court or Board may appoint experts or assessors.*—The Court or Board may employ competent experts or assessors to examine the books or official reports of either party and to advise it upon any technical or other matter material to the investigation but shall not disclose such reports or the results of such inspection or examination without the consent of both the parties to the dispute.

15. *Service of summons or notice.*—Any summons or notice issued by the Court or Board may be sent by registered post.

16. *Procedure at the first sitting.*—(1) At the first sitting of the Court or Board the Chairman shall call upon the parties to state their case.

(2) If the ^{Court} ~~Board~~ has been constituted on the application of one only of the parties to the dispute, then that party shall first state its case and call its evidence. In other cases the ~~Court~~ shall have, in its discretion, power to call upon either party to state its case first.

17. *Right of representatives.*—The representatives of the parties shall have the right of examination, cross-examination and re-examination and of addressing the Court when all evidence has been called.

18. *Conduct of proceedings of a Board of Conciliation.*—The proceedings of a Board of Conciliation shall be private or public as may be decided by a majority of the Board.

19. *Establishment.*—Government may appoint such persons to be the Secretary and clerks of the Court or Board as it may think necessary and may fix the salaries and allowances payable to them.

20. *Powers of Courts and Boards.*—In addition to the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 9 of the Act Courts and Boards shall have the following powers also, namely:—

Powers vested in Courts under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, when trying a suit in respect of the following matters:—

- (a) discovery and inspection,
- (b) granting adjournments,
- (c) reception of evidence taken on affidavit

and the Court or Board may summon and examine *suo motu* any person whose evidence appears to it to be material and shall be deemed to be a civil court within the meaning of sections 480 and 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

FORM A

(See rule 1)

Whereas a trade dispute has arisen between workmen of the _____ and _____ (employer) and it is expedient that the same should be heard by a ^{Court of Inquiry} ~~Board of Conciliation~~ application is hereby made to the Governor in Council by the said _____ under section 3 of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, that the said dispute should be referred to a ^{Court of Inquiry.} ~~Board of Conciliation.~~

1. This application is made by _____ on behalf of _____
2. The following is a general statement of the nature of the said dispute and of the issues which the said _____ desire to be referred to the ^{Court} ~~Board~~.

3. The said _____ hereby recommend that the following persons should be appointed to represent them on the Board.

Dated _____

FORM B

(See rule 2)

GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY

GENERAL DEPARTMENT

Bombay Castle, _____ 1929.

Whereas a trade dispute ^{has arisen} ~~is apprehended~~ between _____ and whereas it is expedient that the said dispute should be referred to a ^{Court of Inquiry} ~~Board of Conciliation~~ appointed under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929 (VII of 1929), the Governor in Council is pleased

under section 4 6 of the said Act to appoint _____ to be
Court of Inquiry for investigating the said dispute.
Board of Conciliation for investigating the said dispute and promoting a settlement thereof.

The said _____ shall meet at _____ on _____

By order of the Governor in Council,

Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
General Department.

FORM C

(See rule 2)

GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY

GENERAL DEPARTMENT

Bombay Castle, _____ 1929.

Whereas a trade dispute _____
and whereas it is expedient that the said dispute should be
referred to a _____ the Governor in Council is pleased under
section 4/6 of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, to appoint a _____
investigating the said dispute.
for investigating the said dispute and promoting a settlement thereof.

The Governor in Council is further pleased to appoint
to be the Chairman and _____ to be the members
of the said _____ The said _____ shall meet at _____ on _____

By order of the Governor in Council,

Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
General Department.

FORM D

(See rule 3)

Whereas a trade dispute _____ between _____ and _____
and whereas the Governor in Council has
by an order under section 3 of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, referred the
said dispute to a Board of Conciliation to be appointed for the purpose
of investigating the same and for promoting a settlement thereof, you are
hereby required, within seven days of the receipt of this notice, to
recommend to the undersigned the names and addresses of _____ persons to
represent you on the said Board.

You are also required to forward to the undersigned within seven
days of the receipt of this notice a brief statement of the matters in dispute
between you and _____ and of the issues you desire to be referred
to the Board.

If you fail to make the recommendation within the period
abovementioned the Governor in Council will select and appoint such
person as he thinks fit to represent you.

FORM E

(See rule 8)

Whereas a trade dispute between you and _____
has been referred to this _____
section 3 of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, you are hereby summoned
to appear before this _____ in person on the _____ day of _____
at _____ o'clock in the _____ noon to answer
all material questions relating to the said dispute and you are directed to
produce on that day all the books, papers and other documents and things
in your possession or under your control in any way relating to the matter
under investigation by this _____

Dated _____

Secretary, _____
Court of Inquiry,
_____ of Conciliation.

American Wage Level

The current number of the Index published by the New York Trust
Company discusses the extent of the wage-earner's participation in the
national prosperity: "In view of the 71 per cent. increase in the cost of
living in the United States since 1914 it is apparent that real wages are 50
per cent. greater than before the war and that this greater income has been
accomplished by a decline of from 8 to 10 per cent. in the hours of work
per week. No other country has recorded an equal improvement in the
labourer's condition. In general, the rise in wages has particularly
affected the industrial worker, the average weekly earnings of this category
during 1927 being approximately 117 per cent. above those in 1914, while
clerical salaries on the average were only about 74 per cent. above the pre-
war level. "From an international standpoint, the real wages of the United
States are the highest in the world. Compared with Great Britain, for
example, with 1913 as the basis of 100, the index figure for British wages
in 1927 was approximately 189, or over 28 points lower than that for the
United States, while the cost of living index is very nearly the same as for
the United States. Expressed in terms of pounds of bread and butter,
weekly earnings in the United States supply a quantity equal to 717, in the
United Kingdom 367, in France 269, in Germany 217, and in Italy 166."
(From "Statist" London, April 6, 1929.)

Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency Returns for First Quarter 1929

(Continued from page 789 of the April 1929 issue)

The chart showing the percentage distribution of Trade Union membership in the Bombay Presidency in the principal industries covered by the movement for the first quarter of the calendar year 1929 is printed on page 883.

Federations of Trade Unions

Table I on pages 796 to 798 of the April 1929 issue shows that there are six Federations of Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency—(1) The Central Labour Board; (2) The Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Association; (3) The Bombay Presidency Postmen's and Lower Grade Staff Union; (4) The G.I.P. Railway Staff Union; (5) The Bombay Trades Council; and (6) The Labour Union in Ahmedabad, which is not exactly a Federation in the accepted sense of the term but rather a central Bureau which controls under one management all the various Unions of cotton mill operatives in Ahmedabad City. This Union extended its sphere of activities during the quarter ended the 1st June 1928 by organising a new Union of Municipal Sweepers in Ahmedabad City which it controls. It is now extending its activities further by attempting to organise the cotton textile operatives in Baroda State. The constitution of the first three Federations and the terms of affiliation of each of their members were fully described in the issues of the *Labour Gazette* for December 1925 and March 1926. The Bombay Port Trust Employees' Central Union, which had functioned as a Federation of three Unions of Port Trust workers during the first year of its creation in 1926, decided not to function as a Federation but to act as a Central Council of the Bombay Port Trust employees. The Council is composed of representatives from each of the three Port Trust Unions and it functions only when the interests of all the workers of the different departments of the Bombay Port Trust are affected.

In addition to the six Federations, there are also (1) the All-India Postmen's and Lower Grade Staff Union whose head offices have been transferred from Delhi and Lahore to Bombay; and (2) the All-India Trade Union Congress with a Provincial Committee for the Bombay Presidency which has the management of matters connected with the Bombay Unions.

The Central Labour Board.—In view of the formation of the Bombay Trades Council which has taken up the activities of the Central Labour Board in connection with Trade Union propaganda and organisation of workers into Unions, the activities of the Board are now mainly confined to Purity Mission work and to organising and delivering occasional lectures on temperance, thrift and hygiene. The Board, however, continues to maintain a separate entity for purposes of submitting representations to Government in response to inquiries concerning questions dealing with new proposals for labour legislation and matters common to labour in general.

The Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Association.—This Association has sixteen Divisional and District Postal Unions affiliated to it and although persons from the lower grades of the Postal service are included in the membership of the Divisional and District Unions affiliated to it, its membership is mainly composed of the clerical classes in the Postal service.

The General Secretary of the Association and Mr. Bewoor, I.C.S., the Time Test Investigating Officer, visited the various Departments of the Bombay G. P. O., some of the sub-offices and the D. L. O. where the work was tested with reference to the existing time allowance. While Mr. Bewoor was in Bombay, Mr. T. P. Mukerji, the General Secretary of the All-India Union, together with the General Secretary of the Association prepared and submitted a memorandum to him. The memorandum is preliminary to the investigations that have already commenced and deals with the existing time test in various departments such as Mail Sorting, Delivery, Registration, Parcels, Money Order, Savings Bank, etc.

The G.I.P. Railway Staff Union.—This Union which is a Federation of nine different Unions of the employees of the G. I. P. Railway was registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, on the 17th August 1928 and is the only Federation that has yet been registered under that Act. The Union derives its income from the affiliated Unions at the rate of two annas per month for each member of the clerical staff and one anna per month for each member from those below clerks. The income of the Union during the quarter under report amounted to Rs. 766-6-0 and the expenditure to Rs. 904-2-6. A deputation with Mr. S. C. Joshi, M.A., LL.B., Advocate, M.L.C., as Chairman and nine other members waited upon the Agent, G.I.P. Railway, on the 22nd February 1929 for a discussion on various points, mainly in connexion with seniority and promotions to higher grades, the service agreement, leave reserve, grievances of menials, system of fines and punishments, hours of attendance for the clerical staff of the workshops and revision of the existing scales of pay and the introduction of time scale systems of pay in all departments.

The Labour Union, Ahmedabad.—The membership of this Union remained the same as during the quarter ending December 1928. The normal activities of the Union in regard to schools, dispensaries, grain shops, loans, complaints, publication of the *Majur Sandesh*, workmen's compensation, etc., continued as usual. With regard to the demand made by the Union for an increase in wages of the Ahmedabad mill operatives, the Union has now modified its proposals and asks for the restoration of the wage-cut of 15½ per cent. effected in 1923. Both the Labour Union and the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association have prepared their memoranda regarding this demand to be submitted to the Arbitrators, Mr. Gandhi and Seth Mangaldas. A strike fund is being raised by collecting an amount of one rupee from each member and this is to be utilized for conducting authorised strikes. The Union has opened a branch office at Baroda with a view to organise cotton mill workers in the Baroda State and to agitate for legislation on the lines of the Indian Factories and Workmen's Compensation Acts, in the State.

A complete census of workers in all the localities in Ahmedabad is being taken by the Union with a view to study the unemployment problem and to facilitate the establishment of a Labour Exchange. A special enquiry is also being conducted in different localities in order to ascertain the extent to which the previous awards of arbitrations in regard to working conditions—arrangements for drinking water, conservancy, dining sheds, creches, etc.—have been adhered to by the mills affiliated to the Association and to represent the grievances of the workers to the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association, if necessary. With a view to pay more attention to the problems of women workers, the Union has decided to elect one woman from each mill to the Council of Representatives of the Throstle Union. The Union complains of inordinate delay on the part of the Municipality in redressing the grievances of workers in regard to Municipal amenities.

While dealing with the main activities of this Union during the previous quarter it was inadvertently stated, on page 593 of the February issue of the *Labour Gazette*, that the Union was engaged in "the establishment of a practice of the collection of subscriptions from members on the premises of each mill by Union officials". The Labour Investigator at Ahmedabad reports that the actual practice is for the Union to provide the mills with a list of members and for the managements of the mills to collect subscriptions on behalf of the Union.

PROGRESS OF INDIVIDUAL UNIONS

BOMBAY

The Bombay Textile Labour Union.—The membership of this Union fell from 6,749 to 5,409 during the quarter. The average monthly income and expenditure amounted to Rs. 731 and Rs. 795 respectively. Mr. Mahmud Umar Rajab, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Union, was nominated by the Managing Committee to represent the Union on the Bombay Municipal Corporation and he was duly elected. The Union organised 16 propaganda meetings and the different Centre Committees met 9 times in all at Madanpura, Damodar Thackersey Hall, and at Kurla during the quarter under review.

Forty-five complaints were received by the Union during the quarter, out of which 16 were handled successfully, 15 were dropped and 14 were unsuccessful. In addition to the above, the Union made a representation to the management of the Swadeshi Mills at Kurla that some Muhammadan operatives of the mill were not given holidays for their religious festivals in response to which the Agents of the mill consented to grant the necessary holidays.

The National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma (Formerly the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants of India and Burma, Limited).—The membership of this Union fell from 1653 to 1592. This Union which was formerly registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1913, was registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act on the 22nd August 1928 with its new name. The average monthly income of the Union from all sources amounted to Rs. 3530 as against an average monthly expenditure of Rs. 2828. The Union opened a new branch at Kurla on the G.I.P. Railway, thus bringing the total number of branches controlled by it to 55. A meeting of the members of the Union was held at Salem

with the object of reorganising the branches of the Union in South India. Three representations were submitted by the Union to the Railway Board in connexion with adequate compensation to the widow of a member who was killed in an accident, gratuity and running allowance on leave to two other members.

The details of the benefits granted by the Union to its members during the quarter under review were as follows:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Life Insurance Fund	500	0	0
Death Benefit Fund	100	0	0
Sickness Insurance Fund	102	8	0

The Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay.—The membership of this Union improved from 21,187 to 21,512 during the quarter. The average monthly income amounted to Rs. 2045 and the average monthly expenditure to Rs. 1598. The distribution of the membership of the Union over its three separate departments was as follows:—

Saloon Department	11,873
Engine Department	4966
Deck Department	4673

An extraordinary general meeting of the Union was held on the 14th December 1928, at which 41 delegates of the Union were elected to the *Electoral College*—the new Labour Constituency for the election of four representatives of Labour on the Bombay Municipal Corporation. At a general meeting of the Union held on the 9th December 1928, the resolutions passed at the All-India Trade Union Congress at Jharia and the items on the agenda for the Maritime Session of the International Labour Conference to be held at Geneva in October 1929, were explained to the members. Two propaganda meetings, one of the members of the Deck and Engine departments and the other of the members of the Saloon department, were held on the 20th and 27th January respectively. At the latter meeting a resolution was passed authorising the Executive Council of the Union to take such urgent steps as would bear upon the Directors of the P. & O. and the British India Steam Navigation Companies, the Shipping Master and other authorities to take into serious consideration the unemployment distress of seamen and to recruit them as early as opportunities occur. The President of the Union addressed a letter to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Commerce urging the appointment of an Assistant to the Shipping Master for recruiting seamen in Bombay. The Government of India are reported to have replied saying that the appointment would shortly be made. Ten representations were made by the Union to the Shipping Master with regard to the re-engagement of some seamen on board ships, payment of wages withheld, compensation for accidents and reissue of discharge certificate to a seaman. The Union reports that most of these representations were given favourable consideration. The Union also took up the case of 18 members from whose wages deductions were made. As the Shipping Agents and the Shipping Master declined to make full payment of wages, the agents were sued in February 1929. But subsequently, the case was settled by a compromise as a result of which the members obtained higher amounts than those previously offered to them.

The B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees Union.—The membership of this Union increased substantially during the quarter under review and stood at 6108 as compared with 5250 in the previous quarter. The average monthly income from all sources amounted to Rs. 1113 and the average monthly expenditure to Rs. 879. Several meetings were organised during the quarter at Mahim, Palghar, Dahanu, Navsari and other centres in connexion with the strike of the gangmen on the B.B. & C.I. Railway, a full account of which has been given in the monthly article on "Industrial Disputes in the Bombay Presidency" published in the April issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The Union also held two meetings at Balsar for the purpose of opening a new centre there. Mr. S. H. Jhabvala, the Honorary General Secretary, and Mr. R. V. Nadkarni, the Secretary of the Union, paid a visit to Balsar later and inspected the staff quarters which they found did not afford sufficient accommodation. Several grievances of the members both general and individual were represented to the different heads of departments of the B.B. & C.I. Railway, and it is reported by the Union that they were successful in procuring satisfaction in about 20 per cent. of the cases submitted. A total amount of Rs. 952-8-0 was granted in benefits to the members during the three months ending 28th February 1929. The "B.B. & C.I. Railwayman," a fortnightly paper conducted by the Union, continued to be published during the quarter under review.

The G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union, Bombay.—The membership of this Union, which is an amalgamation of the G.I.P. Railway Employees' General Union, and the G.I.P. Railway Workmen's Union, remained steady at 41,000 during the quarter. The Union has many branches on the G.I.P. Railway system but detailed information regarding the total number of branches and the membership at each branch was not reported. The Union organised several meetings of its members at Dadar, Matunga, Parel, Kalyan, Manmad, Chalisgaon, Shahabad, Wadi, Itarsi, Bina and Jubbulpore at which resolutions were passed condemning the attitude of the Agent in not conceding the demands of the men regarding hours of work, leave and pay. The Public Safety Bill and the Trade Disputes Bill were also severely criticised at these meetings and resolutions were passed warning Government of the consequences of passing such legislation. The Union converted its monthly journal into a weekly one and the "G.I.P. Railwayman" is now published every Saturday in English, Marathi and Hindi. Retirement benefits amounting to Rs. 111-6-0 were granted to 10 members and a death benefit amounting to Rs. 57 in one case during the quarter.

The Bombay Port Trust Employees' Union, Bombay.—This Union had a total of 1891 members on its rolls on the 1st March 1929. It held its sixth annual general meeting on the 9th December 1928 under the presidentship of Mr. F. J. Ginwala, M.A., LL.B., M.L.C., when resolutions were passed requesting the Chairman of the Bombay Port Trust to concede the demands of the workers in connexion with the following matters—

(1) The restoration of the practice of granting holidays with pay to the cranesmen and hoistmen in the Prince's Alexandra and Victoria Docks;

(2) the stopping of the practice of "playing-off" in the fitting and carpentry shops of the Bombay Port Trust;

(3) the cancellation of the system of fines imposed for absenteeism in the Southern Division of the general works; and

(4) increases in the rates of wages in the general works, Southern Division.

The Clerks' Union.—The membership of this Union increased from 327 to 381 during the quarter under review. The Union organised an athletic tournament for its members during the month of February 1929. The Secretary of the Union reports that although the response from the members to this function was not quite satisfactory still those who took part in the different contests were able to establish some fine records for Bombay. "The Indian Clerk"—the monthly journal of the Union—was published regularly during the quarter.

The Bombay Postmen's Union, Bombay.—The membership of this Union fell from 1786 to 1286 during the quarter. The reason of this fall is due to the separation of the members from the lower grade staff into a separate Union of their own. The average monthly expenditure of the Union amounted to Rs. 374 as against an average monthly income of Rs. 737. The activities of the Union during the quarter were mainly confined to a removal of the grievance of the members regarding the compulsory housing of Postmen in the Development Department chawls. The Post Master General, Bombay, is stated to have passed orders requiring a certain number of Postmen to occupy rooms in the Development Department Chawls at Naigaum and discontinued payment to these men of house-rent allowance in lieu of the rent. At the same time he also announced that all new entrants into the service would be housed similarly in these chawls and would not be paid any house-rent allowances. The Union made several representations both to the Post Master General, Bombay and to the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, New Delhi regarding this matter and as a result of these representations the scheme was given up.

The Government Peons' and Menials' Union.—The membership of this Union fell from 1060 to 907 distributed over the various Government offices in Bombay as follows:—

New Custom House	..	..	134
Income Tax Office	..	..	120
High Court	..	..	108
Offices in the Old Custom House	..	..	110
Secretariat	..	..	53
Accountant General's Office	..	..	52
Small Causes Court	..	..	41
Public Works Department	..	..	43
Excise and Tobacco Department	..	..	224
Miscellaneous Government Offices	..	..	22
		Total	907

The average monthly expenditure amounted to Rs. 79 as against an average monthly income of Rs. 158. Three meetings of the managing

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committee were held during the quarter and resolutions were authorised the publication of a monthly paper and the opening of a night school. An amount of Rs. 23-8-0 was given as death benefits.

The Bombay Port Trust Railwaymen's Union.—The membership of this Union fell from 543 to 457. At a meeting of the managing committee of the Union held on the 18th January 1929 a sub-committee was appointed to draft a reply to the letter received from the Chairman of the Bombay Port Trust regarding the revision of grades and leave rules. An extraordinary general meeting was held at which a resolution was passed requesting the Manager of the Bombay Port Trust Railway to restrict the daily working hours to 8 in the case of commercial and operative superior staff who had been doing continual day-duty and to grant one day off per week for rest.

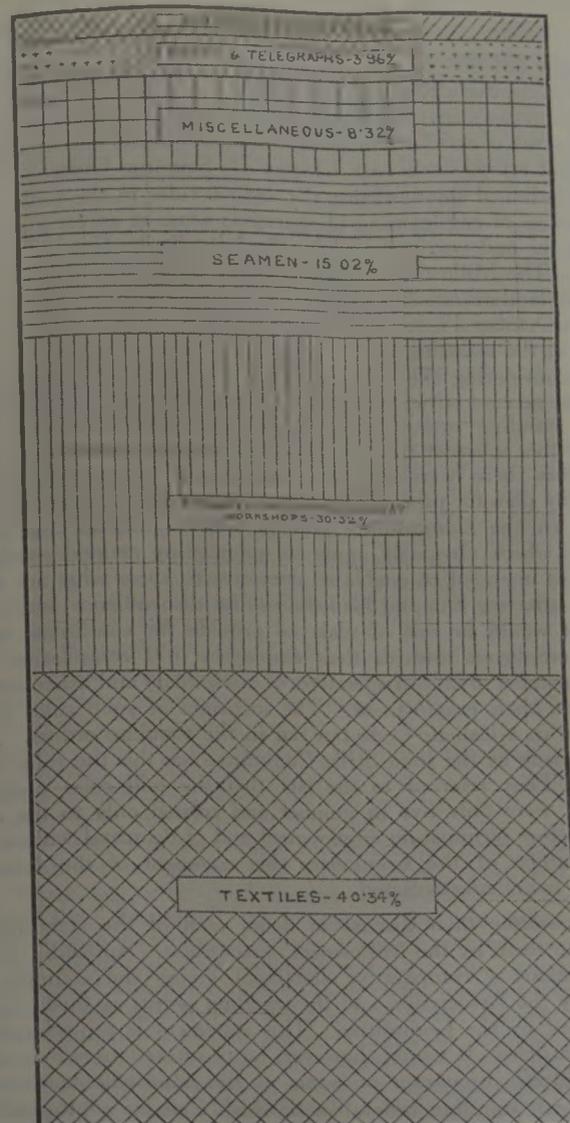
The Bombay Port Trust Docks Staff Union.—The membership of this Union was 945 on the 1st of March 1929. The average monthly expenditure during the quarter amounted to Rs. 174 as against an average monthly income of Rs. 289. An extraordinary general meeting was held to consider the report of the staff sub-committee which was appointed by the Trustees of the Port of Bombay to enquire into the grievances of the Union. It was resolved to form a sub-committee of the members of the Union to go into the details of the report along with the managing committee of the Union.

The demands made by the Union regarding the grant of Provident Fund benefits to Hamallage, muddams and checking boys and the grant of casual leave to temporary clerks were complied with. But two other and the number of working hours per day and per night were reported as still under the consideration of the authorities. The Union continued to publish its monthly organ "The B.P.T. Dockman" throughout the quarter.

The Wadi Bundar Staff Union (G.I.P. Railway).—The membership of this Union increased from 520 to 597. The average monthly income amounted to Rs. 93 and the average monthly expenditure to Rs. 119. Three extraordinary general meetings of the members were held during the quarter at two of which the main question for consideration was a proposal for the branching of *Satyagraha* if the Agent of the G.I.P. Railway did not redress the grievances of the members regarding long hours of attendance, and heavy pressure of work. On the Agent promising his early and favourable consideration to these grievances the proposal was dropped. The main item on the agenda for the third meeting was the consideration of the reorganisation scheme of work at Wadi Bundar. The Union report that in accordance with the promise given by the Agent, 64 additional clerks were engaged for service at Wadi Bundar Office in order to reduce the number of hours and pressure of work.

(To be continued.)

Chart showing percentage Distribution of Trade Union Membership in the Bombay Presidency



Fawcett Committee's Report

Standing Orders

On pages 681-688 of the March *Labour Gazette* a summary of the Fawcett Committee's Report was published. In view of the importance of the Committee's investigations, it is proposed to publish in the *Labour Gazette* a series of articles containing summaries of the important chapters. The present article deals with Chapter II, Standing Orders.

The question of standardising the various rules in the mills regarding the conditions of employment of operatives arose at an early stage of the general strike and was included by the Joint Strike Committee in their demands. The Millowners' Association, in their reply, agreed that there should be standardisation and submitted a final draft to the Committee on the 4th October 1928. The Committee has considered in some detail each one of the standing orders proposed in the Millowners' draft.

Before considering the rules in detail, the Committee have discussed some of the general criticisms made by the Joint Strike Committee on the proposed standing orders. First of all, the Joint Strike Committee contended that whereas the rules imposed restrictions upon the conduct of employees there were very few restrictions put upon the employers and that any plan for properly framed standing orders ought to treat both equally. In the Committee's opinion these criticisms overlook the limitations which obviously apply to enunciating general conditions of employment intended to enable an operative to know what are the main conditions affecting him and his liabilities for disobedience, etc. In their opinion, it would be out of place to provide for conditions regarding duties of employers towards their employees in a compilation of rules which is intended to inform operatives of disciplinary and other conditions attaching to their employment. The inclusion of such rules might be appropriate in a Labour Code but not in the standing orders. Another comment made by the Joint Strike Committee was that the rules were too elaborate. They referred to the fact that the mill rules obtaining in Lancashire were only five in number and related only to the question of notice before terminating employment and of dismissal without notice. In the opinion of the Committee this comment of the Joint Strike Committee is not substantiated.

The Committee then discuss in detail each of the standing orders submitted to them by the Millowners' Association. Appendix III to the Report contains a comparative statement giving the standing orders proposed by the Association and the standing orders as finally approved and redrafted by the Committee. This statement is reproduced at the end of the article. It would, however, be of interest to summarise here the Committee's discussion on some of the important standing orders.

Dealing with standing order No. 6 which contains a proposal for an extra morning recess, the Committee endorse the opinion of the Tariff

Board that the morning recess is desirable. But they do not consider that the Joint Strike Committee's contention is reasonable that the Millowners should reduce the present working hours from 10 in order to enable this recess to be provided. Nor, on the other hand, do they think that the Millowners can reasonably insist on the operatives reducing the mid-day hour recess and staying one quarter of an hour late in the mill. In order to enable the half-hour morning recess to be given, they therefore arrive at the conclusion that the hours of work should remain as at present unless some general compromise is arrived at or an agreement to the contrary is made in the case of any mill. In any case, having regard to the desirability of the extra recess, they suggest that the Millowners' Association might well try the experiment in some mills of giving it and reducing the working hours to 9½. This experiment, they point out, would be fully justified if it reduces loitering and absenteeism and does not result in material loss in production. In their opinion, the experiment should however be confined to mills which have adequate provision for shelter during meal time from sun and rain and for facilities of obtaining drinking water.

The Committee discuss in some detail standing order No. 13 which deals with what is known as "Playing-off" under which an operative is given less work than he would normally have or is asked to stay away for some time for trade reasons such as varying seasonal demands or lack of orders. The Joint Strike Committee, in their written statement, referred to section 56 of the Indian Contract Act as possibly rendering such a rule void. In the opinion of the Committee this section of the Contract Act does not affect the legality of an agreement of the kind mentioned in standing order No. 13. They point out that while it is correct to say that a fire or other catastrophe preventing a mill working would be an impossibility of the kind contemplated by section 56, trade depression or slackness of trade would not of itself justify any breach of the contract by an employer on the ground that it rendered it impossible for him to perform the implied contract of an employer to provide work for an employee, and they are, therefore, of opinion that there is unfairness to the employees in the proposed standing order so far as it covers "Playing-off" on account of the state of trade without fixing any time-limit whatever. On the other hand they consider that there is something to be said in favour of the practice in cases where it is reasonably acted on, i.e., without undue hardship to a worker who may have no objection to having a holiday without pay or less work for one or two days; and they therefore think that if the "Playing-off" of an operative for trade reasons is limited to not more than two days at a time, there is nothing unreasonable in the practice being continued and provided for in the standing orders. The Committee's criticism of the standing order however does not apply to the other cases specified in the standing order, namely, strike, fire, etc. These, in their opinion, are on a different footing as covering interruption of employment through causes for which the employer is not responsible. In their opinion, therefore, it is reasonable to standardise the existing rules about "Playing-off" so far as this relates to causes beyond the control of the employer in accordance with the general law

on the subject, but that the proposal about "Playing-off" for trade reasons should be restricted.

There is an interesting discussion in the Committee's Report on clauses (b) and (c) of standing order No. 17 which deals with acts of omission to be treated as misconduct. These clauses relate to striking without giving a month's previous notice. The Joint Strike Committee, in their written statement, said that to treat strikes without notice as misconduct is against the right of workers to go on strike as secured by the Indian Trade Unions Act. The Committee do not uphold this interpretation of subsection (i) of section 18 of the Trade Unions Act and think it a clear misapprehension on the part of the Joint Strike Committee. They express the opinion that there is legal justification for the proposal to make "striking work either singly or with other operatives without giving one month's previous notice, an act which can be treated as misconduct rendering an operative liable to summary dismissal. This would be in accordance with the ordinary law regarding wilful disobedience of a servant. In their opinion clause (c) of the standing order, incitement to strike work, without due notice, by operatives on the premises, is also unlawful to the same extent as clause (b). Such conduct, they say, should equally render the operative liable to dismissal.

In connection with standing order No. 18 which deals with offences for which operatives are liable to be fined, the Committee discuss the practice of the compulsory purchase of damaged material by the operatives. This practice which compels a weaver to take over cloth spoiled by defective workmanship, the full value of such cloth being recovered from him and credited to the mill, and the weaver having then to dispose of the cloth as best he can, was strongly condemned by the Tariff Board in paragraph 64 of their report and they recommended that it should be abolished as the advantage which the mills derive from it was entirely incommensurate with the soreness it causes. The question was fully discussed before the Committee and the Committee have arrived at the conclusion that there is no doubt that the practice is liable to considerable abuse and has often given rise to industrial unrest. In their opinion, although there is much to be said on both sides, the objections to the practice outweigh its utility. In the absence of any machinery to settle disputes arising out of this practice, they have come to the conclusion that it is unfair to the weaver that his employer should have power to compel him to take over the material and that the practice should be confined to cases where the weaver has no objection to so taking it over. On the other hand, the Committee think that it would be clearly unreasonable for the employer not to have power to recover compensation for damage caused by the negligence of a weaver by fine or deduction from his wages, and they therefore think that a separate provision should be made for fines for damaged cloth, which (as in Lancashire) should be fixed on a compensatory basis not exceeding the estimated loss to the mill owing to the damage. If the worker elects to take over the damaged material rather than pay the fine, this can be done. If he disputes his liability for the damage and the amount of fine inflicted exceeds a sum, which they tentatively suggest might be Rs. 5, then

provision should be made for the joint examination of the cloth by an officer of the mill and a representative of the weavers who may be either an employee in the mill or an official of a registered trade union. If they differ as to their decision, then there may be a reference to an independent person (if available). Otherwise the manager will have to decide whether to enforce the proposed fine or not and his decision would of course be subject to the usual checks of the possibility of a strike or a law suit. The proposal is not incorporated in the Committee's redraft of the standing orders and is put forward in the hope that it may afford a basis for some agreement between the Millowners' Association and the labour representatives on the subject.

The following is a Comparative Statement showing the Standing Orders as presented by the Millowners' Association at the Conference of the 4th October 1928 and these Orders as amended by the Committee in the form in which the Committee consider they may be approved as fair and reasonable.

(Some new Orders subsequently presented by the Association to the Committee during their discussions are printed in italics)

Millowners' Draft	Committee's Draft
The (Mill Company) Limited Standing Orders for Operatives	The (Mill Company) Limited Standing Orders for Operatives
1. These Orders shall come into force as and from the 1928.	1. These Orders shall come into force as and from the 1929.
2. "Operatives" means all work-people male or female employed in the mill and includes "Jobbers." "The Company" means The (Mill Company) Limited. "The Manager" means the Company's Manager or Acting Manager for the time being. Masculine includes feminine.	2. In these Orders, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context, (a) "Operatives" means all work-people male or female employed in the mill and includes "Jobbers"; (b) "The Company" means The (Mill Company) Limited; (c) "The Manager" means the Company's Manager or Acting Manager for the time being; and (d) Masculine includes feminine.
3. The decision of the Manager upon any question arising out of, in connection with, or incidental to these Orders shall be final, subject however to appeal to the Managing Agents.	3. The decision of the Manager upon any question arising out of, in connection with, or incidental to these Orders shall be final, subject however to appeal to the Managing Agents and without prejudice to any right of an operative aggrieved by his or their decision to resort to legal proceedings in a court of law.
4. The Company may, on one month's prior notice, add to or alter these Orders or substitute new Orders or any new Order and any such addition, alteration or substitution shall be as binding on the operatives as if originally incorporated in these Orders. Such notice to be posted prior to the last day of the month.	4. (Omitted here and placed as Standing Order 22.)
5. The Mill will work each day for such number of hours as the Manager may from time to time fix in accordance with the Factories Act.	5. The Mill will work each day for such number of hours (not ordinarily exceeding ten) as the Manager may from time to time fix in accordance with the Factories Act.

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Millowners' Draft

6. Notice of the time of beginning and ending work will be posted on the Board outside the Time-Keeper's Office.

The hours of work for adult operatives until further notice will be as follows:—

- 7 a.m. to 9-30 a.m.
9-30 a.m. to 10 a.m.—Recess.
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
1 p.m. to 1-45 p.m. Recess.
1-45 p.m. to 6-15 p.m.

(This is subject to the approval of the Factory Inspector and the consent of the operatives.)

Operatives attending late are liable to be shut out and treated as absent, but may be admitted on payment of a fine.

Operatives shall only take their food at the Recess Times. Any break of this Order will incur dismissal.

7. Each operative without exception will be provided with a departmental ticket showing his number, name and occupation, and on attendance each day shall deliver up the ticket at the place provided.

8. Any operative who, after presenting his ticket, is found absent from his post without leave without sufficient cause is liable to be treated as absent without leave. Any operative who desires to obtain leave of absence must apply previously to the Head of his Department or any officer appointed by the Manager for this purpose.

New Order

When on an application for special leave, leave exceeding one day and not exceeding two months is granted to an operative, the period of leave granted shall be stated in writing by the head of his department. In the event of an operative taking leave in excess of the period granted, he shall lose all rights to reinstatement unless he has previously secured permission in writing to extend the leave originally granted and returns to work on the first working day following the period covered by any such extension.

Committee's Draft

6. Notice of the time of beginning and ending work will be posted on the Board outside the Time-Keeper's Office.

The present hours of work for adult operatives are as follows:—
7 a.m. to 12 noon
12 noon to 1 p.m. (Recess)
1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Provided that, with the approval of the Factory Inspector and the consent of the operatives or their representatives, these hours may be modified to allow of a morning recess in addition to the mid-day one.

Operatives attending late are liable to be shut out and treated as absent, but may be admitted on payment of a fine.

When a morning recess is provided, operatives shall take their food at the Recess Times, and any breach of this Order will render the offender liable to be punished for misconduct under Orders 17 and 18.

7. Same as the Millowners' Draft

8. Any operative who after presenting his ticket is found absent from his proper place or places of work without leave or other sufficient excuse is liable to be treated as absent without leave. Any operative who desires to leave his work, except for a temporary purpose within the mill premises, must apply previously to the Head of his Department or any officer appointed by the Manager for this purpose.

- 8-A. Any operative who desires to obtain leave of absence must apply previously to the Head of his Department or any officer appointed by the Manager for this purpose, who, if he thinks fit, may grant him leave for a period not exceeding two months. If the leave granted exceeds one day, the officer granting it shall keep a record of its grant, and give the operative a written and signed certificate as to the period of leave granted to him. In the event of an operative taking leave in excess of the period granted he shall lose all his rights to reinstatement, unless he has previously secured written permission to extend the leave originally granted and returns to work on the first working day following the period covered by any such extension, or unless on his return to work he gives a satisfactory explanation for his omission to apply for such an extension and the extension is retrospectively sanctioned.

Millowners' Draft

9. Operatives will be classed as (1) Probationary and (2) Permanent. A Probationary operative is one who is provisionally engaged for the first time on a particular post for a period of two months during which he may be dismissed at any time without notice. At the end of two months if not dismissed a Probationary operative becomes permanent.

10. No operative shall enter or leave the mill premises except by the gate appointed for the purpose.

11. All male operatives are liable on leaving the mill premises to be searched by the gateman and all female operatives are liable to be detained by the gateman for search by the female searcher.

12. Before the beginning of each month a notice will be posted outside the Time-Keeper's Office and in the Mill stating (a) the days on which the mill will be closed during the following month, and (b) the date or dates on which wages will be paid.

- Wages will be calculated to the nearest pie and the percentage allowance paid for the high cost of living shall be calculated on this amount including annas and pies, but no payment of pies shall be made. If the last figure of this calculation is five pies or less it shall be neglected; if the last figure of this calculation amounts to six or more, the annas column will be increased to the next higher figure.

13. The Company may at any time or times and for any period or periods at their discretion in the event of a strike, fire, catastrophe, emergency or epidemic, or when it is necessary to do so because of the state of the trade stop any machine or machines, department or departments. The operatives employed on those machines or in those departments will be "played off," i.e., temporarily stopped without notice and without compensation in lieu of notice. The employees so "played off" are not to be considered as dismissed from service, but are temporarily unemployed and will not be entitled to wages during such unemployment. Such employees will be given the first chance of work again on the resumption of work on such machines or departments.

Committee's Draft

9. Operatives will be classed as (1) Probationary and (2) Permanent. A Probationary operative is one who is provisionally engaged for the first time on a particular post for a period of two months during which he may be discharged or may leave at any time without notice. At the end of two months, if not discharged, a Probationary operative becomes permanent.

10. No operative shall enter or leave the mill premises except by the gate appointed for the purpose.

11. All male operatives are liable on leaving the mill premises to be searched by the gateman and all female operatives are liable to be detained by the gateman for search by the female searcher, if acting without malice he suspects that any operative so detained or searched has wrongful possession of property belonging to the Company.

12. Same as the Millowners' Draft.

- 12-A. Same as the Millowners' Draft.

13. The Company may at any time or times and (a) for any period or periods at their discretion in the event of a strike, fire, catastrophe, epidemic or other emergency rendering it necessary or advisable to do so; and (b) for a period not exceeding two days in the event of the state of the trade rendering it necessary to do so, stop any machine or machines, department or departments. The operatives employed on those machines or in those departments will be "played off," i.e., temporarily stopped without notice and without compensation in lieu of notice, provided that an employee "played off" for a period longer than seven days may leave the Company's service on intimation of his intention to do so, without any further notice. The employees so "played off" are not to be considered as dismissed from service, but are temporarily unemployed and will not be entitled to wages during such unemployment, except to the extent mentioned in Order 13-A. Such employees will be given the first chance of work again on the resumption of work on such machines or departments.

Millowners' Draft

New Order

In the event of a stoppage of machinery due to a breakdown or stoppage of the power supply, work will be resumed and whether they are to remain or leave the mill. The period of detention in the mill shall not ordinarily exceed one hour after the commencement of the stoppage or breakdown. If the period of detention does not exceed one hour, operatives so detained shall not be paid for the period of detention. If the period of detention in the mill exceeds one hour, operatives so detained shall be entitled to receive wages for the whole of the time during which they are detained in the mill as a result of the stoppage. Operatives shall not be paid during the period of any breakdown or stoppage when they are not detained in the Mill.

14. The service of any operative drawing a monthly wage may be terminated on one month's notice or on payment of one month's wage in lieu of notice. Any operative drawing wages on a daily earning basis may be dismissed on one month's notice or 26 days' earnings (computed on the average earnings of such operative for the month last passed) in lieu of notice.

15. Any operative desirous of leaving the Company's service shall on the last day of the month, or, if that day be a holiday on the day previous, give one month's notice to the Head of the Department concerned. The wages due to such an operative must be paid within three days after the expiry of the notice; if more than 20 per cent. of the operatives in a department give notices simultaneously, the period of three days to be extended to one week. If any permanent operative leaves without such notice he shall forfeit the whole or part of the wages due to him for the month at the discretion of the Manager by way of liquidated damages.

No corresponding rule framed by the Millowners' Association but they stated in May 1929 that they had no objection to unclaimed wages being made available to operatives at any time on sufficient identification.

16. A Jobber will be deemed to have knowledge of the rules under the Indian Factories Act as regards employment of women and children and will be personally responsible to see those Rules are not infringed.

Committee's Draft

13. In the event of a stoppage of machinery or a breakdown of the power supply, the period of detention in the mill shall not exceed one hour after the commencement of the stoppage or breakdown. If the period of detention in the mill exceeds one hour, operatives so detained shall be entitled to receive wages for the whole of the time during which they are detained in the mill as a result of the stoppage. Operatives shall not be paid during the period of any breakdown or stoppage when they are not detained in the Mill.

14. The service of any operative may be terminated by 14 days' notice or by payment of 13 days' wages in lieu of notice. If he draws wages on a daily earning basis, the 13 days' wages shall be computed on the average earnings of such operative for the month last passed.

15. Any operative desirous of leaving the Company's service shall give one month's notice to the Head of the Department concerned. The wages due to such an operative must, if possible, be paid within three days after the expiry of the notice. If any permanent operative leaves without notice, he shall be liable to forfeit by way of liquidated damages at the discretion of the Manager the whole or part of the wages due to him for the 14 days immediately prior to his so leaving, provided that no such wages shall be paid without giving the operative an opportunity of being heard, if he is present or his attendance can be procured without undue difficulty.

15A. Any wages due to an operative leaving the Company's service shall be paid at any time on their being claimed by the operative or his legal representatives, subject to the wages being sufficiently identified.

16. (Omitted in view of Standing Order 20).

Millowners' Draft

17. Any operative who is adjudged by the Manager on examination of the man, if present, and of the facts to be guilty of misconduct is liable to be summarily dismissed without notice, or, at the Manager's discretion, to be fined. The following acts or omissions will be treated as misconduct, namely,—

- (a) insubordination or disobedience whether alone or in combination with another or others to a superior or to the Manager;
- (b) striking work either singly or with other operatives without giving one month's previous notice;
- (c) inciting whilst on the premises any operative to strike work without giving one month's previous notice;
- (d) habitual breach of any rules for the maintenance and running of any department and maintaining its cleanliness; and
- (e) theft.

16. Operatives will ordinarily be fined after being heard (but the acts on being repeated or in any gross case may be treated as misconduct under Order 17) for any of the following offences, namely,—

- (a) absence without leave for more than three days without sufficient cause;
- (b) negligence in work or neglect of work;
- (c) smoking on the mill premises except in places where smoking is permitted;
- (d) entering or leaving or attempting to enter or leave the mill premises except by the gate provided for that purpose;
- (e) habitual late attendance;
- (f) absence without leave without sufficient cause from appointed work in the mill;
- (g) quarrelling or behaving in a noisy or obnoxious manner or doing anything likely to cause a breach of the peace, and
- (h) taking bribes from or giving bribes to any other operative or person employed in the mill, or from or to any other person having dealings with the Company as a motive or reward for doing or omitting to do any act, the performance or omission whereof would be prejudicial to the interests of the Company.

Committee's Draft

17. Any operative who is adjudged by the Manager on examination of the man, if present, and of the facts to be guilty of misconduct is liable to be summarily dismissed without notice, or at the Manager's discretion, to be fined. The following acts or omissions, or other things justifying summary dismissal under the order, shall be treated as misconduct, namely,—

- (a) insubordination or disobedience whether alone or in combination with another or others to a superior or of the manager;
- (b) striking work either singly or with other operatives without giving one month's previous notice;
- (c) inciting whilst on the premises any operative to strike work without giving one month's previous notice;
- (d) habitual breach of any rules for the maintenance and running of any department and maintaining its cleanliness; and
- (e) theft, fraud or dishonesty in connection with the Company's business or property.

18. Operatives will ordinarily be fined after being heard (but the acts on being repeated or in any gross case may be treated as misconduct under Order 17) for any of the following offences, namely,—

- (a) absence without leave for more than three days without sufficient cause;
- (b) negligence in work or neglect of work;
- (c) smoking on the mill premises except in places where smoking is permitted;
- (d) entering or leaving or attempting to enter or leave the mill premises except by the gate provided for that purpose;
- (e) habitual late attendance;
- (f) absence without leave or without other sufficient excuse from appointed work in the mill;
- (g) quarrelling or behaving in a noisy or obnoxious manner or doing anything likely to cause a breach of the peace;
- (g-A) breach of any rules for the maintenance and running of any department and maintaining its cleanliness; and
- (h) taking bribes from or giving bribes to any other operative or person employed in the mill, or from or to any other person having dealings with the Company as a motive or reward for doing or omitting to do any act, the performance or omission whereof would be prejudicial to the interests of the Company.

Millowners' Draft

The total amount of fines inflicted under this Rule (18) during any particular month shall in no case exceed 2 per cent. of the operatives total earnings for that month

New addition to this Rule

Fines imposed under this rule shall be utilized for the welfare work of the Company.

19. The order and the reasons for fine or dismissal of any operative shall be in writing and shall be dated and signed in the case of a fine by the Head of the Department concerned, and in case of dismissal by the Manager and shall, in the event of a fine, state the amount. A copy of such order, if demanded should be supplied to the operative.

20. Each Overseer Jobber or Muccadam will be personally held responsible for the proper and faithful observance of the special rules made under the Factories Act and posted in the mill particularly regarding the employment of women and children.

21. Copies of these Orders in the vernacular will be posted to each operative when engaged and he shall understand that he has read these Orders and agrees to abide by them.

Corresponds to Order 4 above

Committee's Draft

The total amount of fines inflicted under the Order 18 during any particular month shall in no case exceed 2 per cent. of the operatives total earnings for that month.

All fines imposed under this Order shall be covered to a separate fund and shall be applied for such benefit or benefits as the operatives as the Company determine.

No fine shall be inflicted by an officer lower than the Head of the Department in which the fine is imposed.

19. The order and the reasons for fine or dismissal of any operative shall be in writing and shall be dated and signed in the case of a fine by the Head of the Department concerned, and in case of dismissal by the Manager, and shall, in the event of a fine, state the amount. A copy of such order, if demanded, should be supplied to the operative concerned, unless it is impracticable to do so, and in the case of a fine should be supplied if demanded by the operative concerned. Any operative aggrieved by any such order of the Head of a Department may appeal to the Manager, and any order of the latter shall be subject to the provisions of Order 20.

20. Same as the Millowners' Draft.

21. A copy of these Orders, or of the Orders as altered under Rule 22, in the vernacular will be handed to each operative when engaged, and he shall understand that he has read the said Orders and agrees to abide by them.

22. The Company will not rescind, add to or otherwise alter these Orders unless— (1) at least two months' clear notice of the proposed rescission, addition or alteration has been posted up in the vernacular and a copy of the same forwarded to the Millowners' Association; (2) objections or suggestions, if any, put forward by the operatives or their representatives within one month after the posting up of the notice have been considered by the Company;

Committee's Draft

(3) the Millowners' Association has signified its assent in writing to the proposal, or to any modification thereof; and

(4) the said alteration, in the form finally approved by the Millowners' Association, has been posted up in the vernacular for the information of the operatives of the Company, not less than fourteen days prior to its being given effect to.

Upon substantial compliance with the above conditions, the said alterations shall be binding on the operatives as if originally incorporated in the Standing Orders. Provided that nothing in the foregoing of this rule will preclude the Company from—

(a) making any such alteration with effect from an earlier time than is required by the above provisions with the consent of the operatives or their representatives and with the approval of the Millowners' Association;

(b) making by-laws or rules, not inconsistent with the Standing Orders for the maintenance or recovery of any Department, maintaining cleanliness or other similar matters of internal administration.

New Order regarding purchase of damaged cloth.

The Company shall be entitled to debit a weaver swages with the cost of cloth damaged by the negligence of the weaver concerned. The piece or pieces damaged shall become the property of the weaver. The decision to debit the wages of a weaver with the cost of damaged cloth under this rule shall be made by an officer of the Company not lower in rank than an Assistant Weaving Master.

This Order is not to be construed by the Committee.

The Company shall not be entitled to debit a weaver with the cost of cloth damaged by his negligence, unless he elects to take it over on those terms. Otherwise the Company may deduct from his wages an amount corresponding to the estimated loss caused to it by such negligence, provided that, if the proposed deduction exceeds the sum of Rs. 50 or the weaver disputes the damage being due to his negligence, the deduction shall not be made by an officer of the Company lower in rank than an Assistant Weaving Master. If the latter officer directs a deduction of Rs. 50 or over, and the weaver disputes his liability to pay the same, there shall be a joint examination of the damaged cloth by such officer of the Company as the Manager appoints and a representative of the weavers, who may be either an employee of the Company or an official of a registered Trade Union. If they agree in their decision, the Manager shall accept their decision. If they disagree, and there is no independent person to whom the Manager and the weavers' representative agree to refer the dispute, the Manager shall decide what amount (if any) shall be deducted from the weaver's wages.

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in Foreign Countries*

Variations during 1928

It is proposed to deal in this article with the movements of official index numbers of wholesale prices during 1928 for certain countries for which information is available, although it must be remembered that the index Nos. for the various countries are not strictly comparable owing to the differences in the (1) base periods, (2) number, selection and grouping of commodities and (3) methods of construction.

AUSTRALIA (MELBOURNE)

The Melbourne wholesale prices Index No. on base 1911 = 1000, fluctuated between 1829 and 1860 during the first four months, thereafter declined steadily to 1735 in November and was 1760 in December 1928. As compared with 1927, the general index No. declined by 25 points to 1792 owing to a fall in all the groups except "Jute, leather, etc.," Building materials and Chemicals which recorded a rise. Of the monthly variations in individual groups, meat showed an appreciable fall from 2211 in January to 1797 in December. Agricultural produce, etc., and Groceries stood at 1860 and 1728 respectively in January and were 1717 and 1695 respectively in December. The following table shows the monthly index numbers for the individual groups:—

Index numbers of wholesale prices in Australia for the year 1928
(1911 = 1000)

Groups	No. of items	Average for 1927	January	February	March	April	May
Metals and coal	14	1,962	1,928	1,922	1,917	1,919	1,916
Jute, leather, etc.	10	1,650	1,836	1,849	1,912	1,916	1,844
Agricultural produce, etc.	16	1,826	1,860	1,774	1,710	1,738	1,743
Dairy produce	9	1,823	1,721	1,683	1,651	1,761	1,818
Groceries	21	1,724	1,728	1,710	1,715	1,705	1,715
Meat	5	2,111	2,211	2,197	2,289	2,246	1,970
Building materials	10	1,624	1,709	1,718	1,739	1,745	1,732
Chemicals	7	1,866	1,904	1,945	1,945	1,929	1,934
All Groups	92	1,817	1,860	1,829	1,830	1,844	1,810

Groups	July	August	Septem-ber	Octo-ber	Novem-ber	Decem-ber	Average for 1928
	1,916	1,914	1,914	1,914	1,910	1,889	1,889
	1,796	1,803	1,685	1,659	1,651	1,676	1,742
	1,746	1,728	1,682	1,678	1,684	1,657	1,717
	1,796	1,777	1,745	1,769	1,751	1,755	1,791
	1,706	1,707	1,700	1,701	1,693	1,704	1,695
	2,041	1,973	1,902	1,881	1,822	1,847	1,797
	1,742	1,746	1,756	1,762	1,763	1,755	1,762
	1,934	1,909	1,909	1,909	1,909	1,909	1,942
	1,807	1,795	1,751	1,746	1,737	1,735	1,760

*An article on wholesale prices Index numbers in Bombay during 1928 was published on pages 540-41 of the February issue of the Labour Gazette.

BELGIUM

The wholesale prices index number published by the Ministère de L'Industrie Du Travail, Brussels, on base April 1914 = 100, declined steadily from 851 in January to 830 in September but subsequently advanced sharply to 855 in December. The annual average for 1928 was 843 as against 847 for the previous year. As compared with 1927, there was an increase in 8 groups and a decrease in the remaining 9 groups. Foodstuffs cheapened by 59 points to 879 and Metallurgical products by 7 points to 791. Chemicals varied between 690 and 704 during the first 8 months but recorded a sharp advance towards the end of the year. Textiles and Building materials stood at 1124 and 734 respectively in 1928 as against 1072 and 668 respectively in the preceding year. The table below shows the changes in the monthly index Nos. for the different groups:—

Index numbers of wholesale prices in Belgium for the year 1928
(April 1914 = 100)

Groups of commodities	No. of items	Average for 1927	January	February	March	April	May
Foodstuffs	16	938	889	873	896	895	914
Fuel	4	892	814	817	811	811	827
Coal tar and derivatives	3	1,401	1,123	1,046	1,080	1,083	1,101
Metallurgical products	15	798	771	780	773	772	783
Petroleum	7	1,063	951	916	911	902	864
Pottery	10	820	820	821	821	821	821
Glass	2	496	484	484	484	484	484
Chemicals	12	701	691	690	701	703	703
Chemical fertilisers	4	650	614	630	613	605	585
Fats	7	852	802	771	793	797	813
Textiles	21	1,072	1,164	1,183	1,177	1,175	1,147
Building material	13	668	707	715	715	731	733
Resinous products	2	1,155	1,114	1,117	1,064	1,015	965
Skins and Leather	9	766	961	960	935	938	914
Tobacco	1	754	750	750	750	750	750
Paper	1	1,145	1,067	1,095	1,168	1,168	1,168
Rubber (Raw)	1	348	354	280	257	180	196
General Index (all goods)	128	847	851	848	848	847	844

Groups of commodities	June	July	August	Septem-ber	Octo-ber	Novem-ber	Decem-ber	Average for 1928
Foodstuffs	899	874	850	857	882	865	854	879
Fuel	827	822	822	827	835	835	848	825
Coal tar and derivatives	1,090	1,040	1,028	970	903	902	849	1,018
Metallurgical products	786	783	793	803	804	813	825	791
Petroleum	909	905	912	936	936	936	938	918
Pottery	821	834	834	849	870	874	898	840
Glass	484	484	484	484	484	659	679	515
Chemicals	704	704	703	711	716	724	746	708
Chemical fertilisers	591	585	592	596	613	643	650	610
Fats	790	779	778	760	767	775	765	783
Textiles	1,141	1,139	1,081	1,047	1,051	1,091	1,092	1,124
Building materials	733	733	733	741	740	749	782	734
Resinous products	971	992	965	959	962	1,046	1,115	1,024
Skins and Leather	912	930	930	918	896	885	877	921
Tobacco	750	750	750	795	795	795	795	765
Paper	1,168	1,168	1,168	1,168	1,168	1,168	1,168	1,154
Rubber (Raw)	205	208	203	187	198	191	193	221
General Index (all goods)	844	841	831	830	835	847	855	843

CANADA

The Dominion Bureau of statistics wholesale prices index No., on the basis of average 1913 prices = 100, declined from 151.3 in January to 146.7 in December, the maximum (153.2) being reached in April. Vegetable products advanced by about 12 points to 169.7 in the first four months but rapidly fell thereafter to 141.5 in December. On the other hand, "Animals and their products" fell by about 8 points to 138.2 in May 1928, then rose to a maximum of 161.4 in September and were 150 in December. The Index No. for "Fibres, textiles and textile products" which had suddenly increased to about 172 towards the close of 1927 gradually recovered to about 163 at the end of 1928. The changes in the remaining 5 groups included in the index were within narrow limits. The monthly index numbers for the individual groups are set out in the table below:—

Index numbers of wholesale prices in Canada for the year 1928
(Average 1913 prices=100)

Groups	No. of items	January	February	March	April	May
Vegetable products (grains, fruits, etc.)	67	157.7	158.2	164.2	169.7	168.6
Animals and their products	50	146.1	143.4	144.9	140.4	138.2
Fibres, textiles and textile products	28	171.0	170.0	170.8	167.4	168.4
Wood, wood products and paper	21	154.4	154.5	155.1	155.2	156.0
Iron and its products	26	141.7	142.1	141.7	141.5	141.7
Non-ferrous metals and their products	15	95.0	94.3	94.2	94.3	95.7
Non-metallic minerals and their products	16	170.2	170.2	170.1	169.6	169.9
Chemicals and allied products	13	151.0	150.5	150.3	149.9	150.0
Total index	236	151.3	150.8	152.8	153.2	152.9

Groups	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Vegetable products (grains, fruits, etc.)	158.6	152.0	147.7	144.2	145.9	143.3	141.5
Animals and their products	141.3	147.4	152.2	161.4	158.6	156.4	150.0
Fibres, textiles and textile products	168.4	169.3	166.4	163.2	163.5	163.2	163.9
Wood, wood products and paper	156.0	156.0	156.0	156.1	154.4	154.6	154.6
Iron and its products	139.7	138.4	138.6	138.7	139.4	140.6	140.5
Non-ferrous metals and their products	96.3	95.7	95.8	95.3	96.2	97.7	97.3
Non-metallic minerals and their products	170.6	170.6	171.7	172.3	172.3	172.3	172.5
Chemicals and allied products	148.9	148.9	148.9	148.9	148.7	147.8	147.4
Total index	150.2	149.6	149.1	149.7	150.2	148.6	146.7

CHINA (SHANGHAI)

The wholesale prices index No. compiled by the Ministry of Finance, Bureau of Markets, Shanghai averaged 160.7 in 1928 as compared with 170.4 in the previous year. The monthly index No. varied between 164.5 in May and 156.2 in September. Cereals were highest (168.9) in May and then fluctuated between 149.7 in September and 160.1 in November. "Other food products" declined while the Metals and Miscellaneous groups fell till August and September respectively but recovered somewhat at the end of the year. The following table shows the changes in the monthly index Nos. for the individual groups

Index numbers of wholesale prices in China (Shanghai) for the year 1928
(February 1913=100)

Groups	No. of items	Average for 1927	January	February	March	April	May
Cereals	14	171.1	155.8	161.7	165.7	164.6	168.9
Other food products	26	176.4	175.3	178.3	174.6	177.4	177.5
Textiles	27	146.2	148.5	149.2	149.7	148.7	150.1
Metals	11	197.1	178.4	177.4	172.2	170.5	172.3
Miscellaneous goods—							
(i) Fuels	12	173.5	158.3	155.8	155.3	153.5	154.2
(ii) Building materials	14	164.4	162.2	158.9	156.6	156.3	151.9
(iii) Industrial materials	21	162.8	164.3	160.3	161.7	161.2	162.3
(iv) Sundries	22	143.2	145.8	145.4	146.1	146.0	145.8
All Miscellaneous	69	161.0	157.6	155.1	154.9	154.2	153.5
General Average	147	170.4	163.1	164.3	163.4	163.1	164.5

Groups	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average for 1928
Cereals	158.2	157.6	154.1	149.7	159.7	160.1	160.0	159.7
Other food products	175.1	174.7	172.4	171.1	168.3	168.5	168.4	173.5
Textiles	148.2	149.1	146.2	145.8	147.0	146.5	148.5	148.1
Metals	166.0	163.3	161.1	164.4	166.4	167.1	167.9	168.9
Miscellaneous goods—								
(i) Fuels	153.0	152.4	154.1	151.6	156.7	158.6	159.0	155.2
(ii) Building materials	150.2	147.5	149.9	148.5	152.8	155.3	154.9	153.7
(iii) Industrial materials	161.7	160.1	160.2	157.4	158.4	158.4	159.2	160.4
(iv) Sundries	146.1	146.1	145.4	143.4	142.9	143.5	146.2	145.2
All Miscellaneous	152.7	151.5	152.4	150.2	152.7	153.9	154.8	153.6
General Average	160.0	159.2	157.2	156.2	158.8	159.2	159.9	160.7

EGYPT (CAIRO)

The wholesale prices Index Nos., on base 1st January 1913 to 31st July 1914 = 100 published in the Monthly Agricultural and Economic Statistics issued by the Statistical Department of Cairo, varied between 114 in January and 129 in November, the annual average being 120 for

1928 as against 121 for the preceding year. The general Index Nos for the twelve months ended December 1928 are as follows:—

Index numbers of wholesale prices in Egypt (Cairo) for the year 1928

(Base: Average prices from 1st January 1913 to 31st July 1914=100)

	Average for 1927	January	February	March	April	May
General Index Number ..	121	114	114	116	120	117

	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average for 1928
General Index Number ..	117	117	119	120	126	129	126	120

FRANCE

The wholesale prices Index Nos. of the Statistique Generale De La France, Paris, on base July 1914=100, increased from 620 in January to 646 in May and thereafter fluctuated between 630 in August and 639 in November. The annual average (634) was only 4 points higher as compared with the preceding year. The movements in Foodstuffs were more or less similar to those of the general average and the slight rise in the twelve-monthly average for this group was due to the comparatively high prices of "Sugar, coffee and cocoa" up to September 1928 and partially also to the sharp rise in animal foods towards the end of the year. Vegetable foods advanced very rapidly during the first half of the year but the group average for the year was about the same as for 1927. The index number for Industrial materials varied between 680 in April and 671 in September though the indices for all the 3 sub-groups included in it showed wider ranges of variation. The following table gives the index Nos. for the various groups included in the index:—

Index numbers of wholesale prices in France for the year 1928

(July 1914 = 100)

Groups	No. of items	Average for 1927	January	February	March	April	May
Vegetable foods	8	608	568	568	608	626	670
Animal foods ..	8	533	513	527	549	515	515
Sugar, coffee, and cocoa ..	4	644	627	639	661	669	692
Food-stuffs (general) ..	20	584	556	564	593	588	610
Minerals and metals	7	636	591	575	589	589	593
Textiles	6	715	733	750	759	775	764
Miscellaneous ..	12	666	693	686	675	678	677
Industrial materials (general)	25	671	676	673	674	680	677
General Index (all goods) ..	45	630	620	622	636	637	646

Index numbers of wholesale prices in France for the year 1928—contd.

(Base 1913 = 100)

Groups	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average for the year 1928
Vegetable foods	640	616	579	587	597	601	590	604
Animal foods ..	527	524	524	543	550	580	579	537
Sugar, coffee and cocoa ..	692	721	693	707	625	614	607	662
Food-stuffs (general)	602	597	576	590	583	595	589	587
Minerals and metals	584	584	584	594	596	613	609	592
Textiles	770	766	765	739	749	761	762	758
Miscellaneous ..	666	671	682	675	672	668	673	676
Industrial materials (general)	672	673	678	671	672	678	679	675
General Index (all goods) ..	639	637	630	633	630	639	637	634

GERMANY

The wholesale prices index number of the Federal Statistical office, on the base 1913 = 100, showed a tendency to rise till July (141·6) but it was practically steady at about 140 during the last four months. Agricultural products varied between 130·1 in February and 137·6 in August. "Industrial materials and semi-finished goods" showed very little variation while "Industrial finished goods" advanced from 156·1 in January to 159·6 in July and were nearly steady at that level till the close of the year. The table below gives the index numbers for the various groups and sub-groups included in the index:—

Index numbers of wholesale prices in Germany for the year 1928

(1913 = 100)

Groups of commodities	Average for 1927	January	February	March	April	May	June
Foodstuffs of vegetable origin	153·8	144·6	140·5	146·4	153·6	155·5	152·5
Cattle	111·5	102·1	102·8	100·3	99·7	105·3	114·6
Foodstuffs of animal origin	142·9	146·6	142·8	138·6	133·0	131·7	126·3
Fodder	146·1	140·9	141·0	148·1	158·2	161·9	159·5
Total agricultural products	137·8	132·2	130·1	131·3	133·5	135·9	136·0
Provisions ..	129·2	130·0	129·7	133·8	136·3	139·6	138·7
Coal ..	129·2	130·8	130·7	130·5	127·9	131·4	131·4
Iron	125·0	126·0	126·6	126·6	126·2	127·9	128·4
Metals	107·5	105·9	104·0	103·4	103·8	104·4	104·6
Textiles	153·1	159·0	158·6	161·5	164·8	167·1	164·4
Hides and leather	133·6	167·9	160·3	156·5	159·9	156·2	150·5
Chemicals	124·2	125·7	125·7	125·6	125·7	125·8	125·8
Artificial fertilisers	83·3	81·9	82·4	82·5	82·5	82·0	82·3
Oils and fats ..	125·8	114·8	112·6	111·6	115·0	118·1	120·4
Rubber ..	47·1	48·3	40·3	33·0	25·3	25·3	27·2
Paper-making materials and paper ..	150·1	151·5	149·7	148·9	148·2	148·3	150·7
Building materials	158·0	157·6	158·0	157·5	158·2	160·0	160·9
Total industrial materials and semi-finished goods	131·9	134·4	133·6	133·5	133·8	135·3	135·0
Producers' goods	130·2	134·4	135·4	135·9	136·1	136·4	137·0
Consumers' goods	160·2	172·5	172·9	173·4	173·9	175·0	175·8
Total industrial finished goods	147·3	156·1	156·8	157·3	157·6	158·4	159·1
General Index (all goods) ..	137·6	138·7	137·9	138·5	139·5	141·2	141·3

Index numbers of wholesale prices in Germany for the year 1928
(1913 = 100)

Groups of commodities	July	August	September	October	November	December
Foodstuffs of vegetable origin	149.6	148.5	145.4	135.1	127.0	121.1
Foodstuffs of animal origin	135.2	135.4	139.0	139.1	118.9	117.1
Fodder	154.6	149.9	149.2	152.1	164.2	151.0
Total agricultural products	136.6	137.9	139.2	138.3	138.8	137.4
Provisions	137.7	135.1	133.0	129.0	135.2	131.2
Coal	149.0	132.1	135.1	133.1	127.6	121.0
Iron	128.2	130.4	127.9	122.9	135.3	127.5
Metals	128.9	124.3	119.4	107.0	109.2	105.5
Textiles	117.7	119.1	114.6	112.1	151.8	159.4
Hides and leather	111.6	120.0	120.1	149.1	141.9	152.8
Chemicals	107.1	126.7	126.7	127.3	27.1	127.1
Artificial fertilisers	77.9	79.6	80.7	82.0	83.3	84.2
Oils and fats	122.1	124.1	125.3	126.5	128.8	126.3
Rubber	27.5	27.5	25.0	25.7	25.3	25.3
Paper-making materials and paper	150.8	151.1	151.4	151.6	151.9	151.2
Building materials	160.8	160.0	159.6	159.2	159.1	158.3
Total industrial materials and semi-finished goods	135.1	134.3	133.5	133.4	133.5	134.1
Producers' goods	137.6	137.9	138.2	138.6	138.5	138.2
Consumers' goods	176.1	175.8	175.6	176.1	176.1	175.6
Total industrial finished goods	159.6	159.5	159.5	160.0	159.9	159.5
General Index (all goods)	141.6	141.5	139.9	140.1	140.3	139.9

GREAT BRITAIN

The British Food and Sale Prices Index, compiled on the basis of 1913 = 100, opened the year at 141.1, reached its maximum (143.0) in May and, after the turning point, steadily declined to 137.6 in September and was 138.3 in December. The index number for the food group, which was throughout higher than the general index, was highest (159.3) in May and lowest (147.5) in September. In the case of the non-foods group, the range of variation was very small and the annual

average was 1.8 points less than in 1927. As compared with the previous year "Iron and steel" and "other metals and minerals" recorded a decrease of about 8 points while cotton and other textiles were higher by about 9 points. The following table shows the changes in the monthly index numbers for the various groups—

Index numbers of wholesale prices in the United Kingdom for the year 1928
(Average for 1913 = 100)

Groups	No. of items	Average for 1927	January	February	March	April	May
Cereals	17	152.7	152.1	151.1	153.1	156.3	158.8
Meat and fish	17	137.5	143.5	136.4	133.2	138.7	143.6
Other foods	19	165.4	163.6	166.5	170.4	181.6	175.4
Total food	53	152.0	153.2	151.5	152.0	158.7	159.3
Iron and steel	24	119.9	112.9	112.9	113.0	112.7	112.3
Other metals and minerals	20	120.9	113.1	112.4	112.0	111.4	111.7
Cotton	16	154.9	160.8	157.2	163.6	169.0	173.1
Other Textiles	15	156.4	164.1	166.8	168.4	170.0	168.8
Miscellaneous	22	142.5	146.9	145.9	144.0	141.5	142.6
Total non-food	97	135.7	134.7	134.0	134.7	134.9	135.4
All articles	150	141.4	141.1	140.3	140.8	142.9	143.6

Groups	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average for the year 1928
Cereals	155.0	151.1	145.9	140.7	142.0	143.3	140.2	149.1
Meat and fish	146.4	139.6	142.7	141.3	138.4	142.4	145.3	140.9
Other foods	170.9	167.4	163.4	160.1	164.5	159.1	158.4	166.7
Total food	157.5	152.8	150.8	147.5	148.3	148.5	148.2	152.3
Iron and steel	112.3	112.0	111.7	112.0	112.2	112.3	112.3	112.3
Other metals and minerals	111.7	110.4	110.4	112.1	113.2	114.1	114.5	112.2
Cotton	171.8	171.8	162.0	158.1	160.1	161.1	163.6	164.2
Other Textiles	167.4	167.6	165.6	161.9	158.4	159.2	160.2	164.9
Miscellaneous	141.7	142.9	143.3	141.4	140.9	138.2	138.1	142.3
Total non-food	134.9	134.9	133.2	132.4	132.4	132.2	132.7	133.9
All articles	142.6	141.1	139.3	137.6	137.9	137.9	138.3	140.3

JAPAN

The wholesale prices index number of the Bank of Japan, Tokyo, which has for its basis October 1900 prices = 100, was 224.1 in January, 224.5 in April, 223.2 in July, 229.7 in October and 229.8 in December. The annual average for 1928 was 226.1 as against 224.7 for the previous year and 132.3 for 1913. The changes in the monthly index numbers can be seen from the table below:—

The index numbers of wholesale prices in Japan for the year 1928

(Base: October 1900 = 100)

Month and year		General Index
Average for 1927
January 1928
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December
Average for 1928

JAVA (BATAVIA)

The Index number of wholesale prices compiled by the Central Kantoor Voor De Statistiek, Weltevreden, on base 1913 average = 100, showed very little change during the year. The variations in the different groups except the Miscellaneous group were also slight. The twelve-monthly averages for "imported articles," "exported articles" and "all articles" were 155, 127 and 149 respectively as compared with 160, 130 and 154 respectively in the preceding year. The next table gives the monthly index numbers for the different groups:—

Wholesale prices index numbers in Java (Batavia) for the year 1928

(1913 = 100)

Groups	No. of items	Average for 1927	January	February	March	April	May
Textiles	20	174	172	172	172	173	174
Foodstuffs	12	148	150	149	147	149	146
Metals	12	149	140	140	140	140	140
Chemicals	15	149	145	145	145	144	144
Miscellaneous	13	173	158	158	157	157	164
Import Articles	72	160	155	155	154	155	156
Export Articles	20	130	130	129	132	133	132
General Index	92	154	150	149	149	150	151

Wholesale prices index numbers in Java (Batavia) for the year 1928—contd.

(1913 = 100)

Groups	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average for the year 1928
Textiles	174	173	172	172	173	171	171	172
Foodstuffs	146	147	148	149	150	151	149	149
Metals	140	140	140	141	142	143	143	141
Chemicals	144	143	143	142	142	143	143	144
Miscellaneous	163	165	160	164	164	167	167	162
Import Articles	155	156	155	155	156	156	156	155
Export Articles	129	126	121	123	124	124	124	127
General Index	150	150	148	149	149	149	149	149

NETHERLANDS

The wholesale prices index number on base 1913 — 100, published in Maandschrift issued by the Centraal Bureau Voor De Statistiek, fluctuated between 150 and 153 in the first half of the year and between 144 and 148 during the latter half of the year, the twelve-monthly average being 149 as against 148 in 1927. The movements of the food index, which was throughout higher than the general average, were also more or less similar to those of the general index. The following table gives the monthly index figures for the food group and for all articles:—

Wholesale prices index numbers in the Netherlands for the year 1928

(1913 = 100)

	No. of items	Average for the year 1927	January	February	March	April	May
Food Index	28	153	160	158	161	161	162
General Index	48	148	153	150	152	153	152

	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average for the year 1928
Food Index	163	155	150	151	154	156	155	157
General Index	153	148	144	145	146	148	148	149

NEW ZEALAND

The wholesale prices index number prepared by the Census and Statistics Office, Wellington, on the basis of the average annual aggregate expenditure of four chief centres during 1909-13 = 1000 and published in the Monthly Abstract of Statistics, fell from 1577 in January to a

minimum of 1550 in April and thereafter recovered to 1573 in December. Foodstuffs, etc., fluctuated between 1620 in April and 1749 in November and Animal products between 1407 in January and 1471 in August while Metals and their products varied between 999 in January and 931 in November. The remaining groups showed no marked variation during the year under review. The monthly Index numbers for the various groups are given in the following table:—

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in New Zealand for the year 1928
(Average for the four chief centres, 1909-1913 = 1000)

Groups	Average for the year 1927	January	February	March	April	May
Foodstuffs, etc., of vegetable origin	1,593	1,723	1,646	1,644	1,620	1,624
Textile manufactures	2,010	1,976	2,000	2,010	2,011	2,020
Wood and wood products	1,979	1,964	1,965	1,963	1,961	1,959
Animal products	1,368	1,407	1,410	1,421	1,439	1,442
Metals and their products	1,011	999	999	982	960	978
Non-metallic minerals and their products	1,400	1,408	1,384	1,389	1,396	1,411
Chemicals and manures	1,171	1,171	1,177	1,169	1,169	1,163
All groups	1,541	1,577	1,555	1,556	1,550	1,558

Groups	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average for the year 1928
Foodstuffs, etc., of vegetable origin	1,644	1,640	1,630	1,650	1,717	1,749	1,718	1,636
Textile manufactures	2,020	2,005	1,997	1,992	1,989	1,983	1,981	1,999
Wood and wood products	1,956	1,954	1,952	1,956	1,947	1,950	1,948	1,954
Animal products	1,438	1,450	1,471	1,464	1,443	1,452	1,470	1,449
Metals and their products	970	951	935	939	950	931	933	951
Non-metallic minerals and their products	1,410	1,413	1,409	1,405	1,405	1,403	1,400	1,406
Chemicals and manures	1,162	1,169	1,168	1,165	1,162	1,168	1,164	1,167
All groups	1,561	1,557	1,553	1,557	1,573	1,579	1,573	1,555

SOUTH AFRICA

The quarterly index number of wholesale prices, on base 1910 = 1000, published by the Census and Statistics office, Pretoria, in the Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics, declined from 1388 in January to 1339 in July and was 1450 in October. The annual average stood at 1358 as against 1397 in 1927. "Iute, leather, etc.," Dairy produce and Meat were higher than in the previous year, "Soft goods" averaged about the same as in that year though the quarterly index for the group increased at the end of the year, while the remaining 7 groups registered a decrease. South African and Imported goods stood at 1319 and 1573 respectively in 1927 and were 1278 and 1542 respectively in 1928. The various group index numbers are shown in the following table:—

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in South Africa for the year 1928
(1910 = 1000)

Groups	No. of items	Average for 1927	January	April	July	October	Average for the year 1928
Metals	18	1,264	1,180	1,162	1,137	1,117	1,149
Iute, leather, hides and skins	20	1,731	1,963	1,925	1,854	1,808	1,888
Grains, meals, etc.	23	1,476	1,416	1,406	1,347	1,355	1,381
Dairy Produce	6	1,339	1,441	1,370	1,367	1,419	1,399
Groceries	37	1,285	1,265	1,251	1,259	1,258	1,258
Meat	5	1,268	1,379	1,240	1,228	1,288	1,284
Building Materials	28	1,282	1,268	1,259	1,247	1,245	1,255
Chemicals	14	992	983	921	889	862	914
Fuel and Light	6	1,196	1,172	1,176	1,180	1,188	1,179
Soft Goods	17	1,869	1,857	1,853	1,884	1,912	1,869
Miscellaneous	13	1,674	1,657	1,650	1,654	1,653	1,653
South African Goods		1,319	1,316	1,281	1,250	1,265	1,278
Imported Goods		1,573	1,554	1,538	1,540	1,548	1,542
All Groups	187	1,397	1,388	1,359	1,339	1,350	1,358

UNITED STATES

The Bureau of Labor Statistics Index number of wholesale prices, on base 1926 = 100, advanced from 96.3 in January to 100.1 in September and then receded to 96.7 in November and December, the annual average for 1928 being 97.6. Fuel and lighting, Chemicals and drugs, House-furnishing goods and the Miscellaneous groups declined, while the remaining 6 groups included in the index registered a rise as compared

with the previous year. The variations in the monthly index numbers for the different groups can be seen from the following table:—

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in the U.S.A. for the year 1928
(1926=100)

Groups	No. of items	Average for the year 1927	January	February	March	April	May
Farm products	67	99·4	106·1	104·5	103·5	107·6	109·8
Foods	99	96·5	98·5	98·7	98·0	99·5	101·2
Hides and leather products	40	107·9	121·0	124·1	124·0	126·7	126·3
Textile products	75	95·7	96·7	96·6	96·5	96·5	96·6
Fuel and lighting	23	86·5	80·8	81·2	80·8	80·8	81·8
Metals and metal products	73	98·2	98·1	98·3	98·4	98·4	98·6
Building materials	47	93·3	90·8	91·0	91·0	92·5	93·5
Chemicals and drugs	73	96·6	96·3	95·8	95·6	95·8	95·3
House-furnishing goods . .	28	98·2	98·6	98·4	98·3	97·9	97·8
Miscellaneous	25	89·9	89·0	87·3	86·8	84·9	85·1
All commodities	550	95·4	96·3	96·4	96·0	97·4	98·6

Groups	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average for the year 1928
Farm products	106·7	107·1	107·0	108·8	103·5	101·6	103·6	105·8
Foods	100·3	102·3	104·1	106·9	102·3	100·1	98·0	100·8
Hides and leather products	123·7	124·2	121·0	120·7	117·5	115·5	115·7	121·7
Textile products	96·3	96·8	96·3	95·6	96·1	96·1	96·1	96·4
Fuel and lighting	82·1	82·8	84·6	85·1	84·9	84·4	83·5	82·7
Metals and metal products	98·7	98·6	100·4	100·5	101·0	101·7	102·9	99·6
Building materials	93·9	94·4	94·6	94·7	95·0	96·0	96·8	93·7
Chemicals and drugs	94·9	94·5	94·7	95·1	95·6	96·0	96·1	95·5
House-furnishing goods . .	97·0	96·5	97·2	97·2	96·5	96·4	96·4	97·4
Miscellaneous	82·2	80·8	79·3	79·7	80·3	80·0	80·1	83·0
All commodities	97·6	98·3	98·9	100·1	97·8	96·7	96·7	97·6

It will be seen that the wholesale prices of commodities showed no marked variations during 1928. The averages for most of the countries considered were slightly higher in certain cases and slightly lower in others as compared with the previous year.

Cost of Living Index Numbers in Foreign Countries*

Variations during 1928

A brief description of the scope and methods of construction of Cost of Living Index Numbers in different countries was given on pages 734-737 of the April 1927 issue of the *Labour Gazette*. A perusal of that article will show that, for a variety of reasons, these index numbers are not strictly comparable with one another. The figures which appear in this article are intended only to indicate the relative movements of the cost of living index numbers in those countries for which the latest information is available. The table at the end of the *Gazette* gives the cost of living index numbers for the different countries, while important variations in individual groups are discussed in the following notes.†

AUSTRALIA

The Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics cost of living index number for 30 towns with the weighted average of Food, Groceries and Rent of all houses for the six capital cities in 1911-1000, was 1745 for the first quarter, 1750 for the second quarter, 1727 for the third quarter and 1728 for the fourth quarter as compared with the annual average of 1744 for 1927. The corresponding figures for the four quarters, with the 1914 average equated to 100, were 157, 157, 155 and 155 respectively. The retail food index number, on base July 1914=100, showed small variations between 150 and 154 during the year under review.

BELGIUM

According to the Ministry of Industry and Labour and Social Welfare, the steady rise in the retail prices index number, on base April 1914=100, was somewhat arrested during the first half of the year but the general index rapidly increased from 811 in June to 852 in December. The retail food index, with 1921 prices taken as 100, declined from 210 in January to 199 in May and, after the turning point, increased steadily to 219 in November and was 218 in December.

CANADA

The weekly cost of a family budget of staple foods, fuel and lighting and rent in terms of the average retail prices in sixty cities in Canada, according to the Department of Labour, fell steadily from \$21·41 in January to \$20·97 in June and gradually increased thereafter to \$21·56 in December. Of the total, the cost on account of the 29 food items only amounted to \$11·19 in January, \$10·73 in June and \$11·31 in December. The corresponding cost for July 1914 was \$14·17 for all articles and \$7·42 for food articles only.

*An article on working class cost of living in Bombay during 1928 was published on pages 436-437 of the January 1929 issue of the *Labour Gazette*.

† In considering the differences between the index numbers, allowance has to be made for depreciation of currency.

FRANCE

According to the French General Statistical Office, the cost of living index number for Paris, with the average 1914 prices = 100, advanced from 507 in the first quarter to 531 in the fourth quarter as contrasted with the corresponding decrease from 524 to 498 during the previous year. The index for the food group was throughout higher than the general average and reached its maximum (555) during the fourth quarter. Heat and light fell by 43 points to 504 during the second quarter but recovered somewhat to 515 towards the end of the year. Rent and clothing stood at 275 and 581 respectively during the first half of the year and were 300 and 591 respectively in the third and fourth quarters. Sundries were throughout stationary at 590.

GERMANY

The cost of living index of the Federal Statistical Office, on base 1913-14=100, recorded a slight increase during the year, the index having varied between 150.6 in February and 153.5 in August. The food index fluctuated between 150.8 in May and 155.6 in August while rent was practically at the same level. Clothing and sundries were above the general average throughout.

GREAT BRITAIN

The cost of living index number compiled by the Ministry of Labour, on the basis of July 1914 prices=100, moved within narrow limits. The general index declined from 168 in January to 164 in March, was 165 from June to September and thereafter gradually rose to 168 in December. The movement of the food index was also more or less similar, the index being 162 in January, 155 in March, 156 in June and 160 in December. Clothing and fuel and lighting remained at about 220 and 170 through most of the year while rent and "other items" were practically steady at about 151 and 180 respectively.

IRISH FREE STATE

The cost of living index numbers compiled by the Department of Industry and Commerce, Dublin, "being mainly dependent on food prices, usually show regular seasonal changes, decreasing from January to July and increasing from July to January." The food and cost of living index numbers for October 1928 were 171 and 176 respectively as compared with 172 and 175 respectively a year ago.

ITALY

The cost of living index number for Milan declined, with some fluctuations, from 532 in January to 522 in August and rapidly rose thereafter to 538 in December. The food group moved more or less in conformity with the general average, the index number having stood at 514 in January, 506 in August and 533 in December.

JAVA

The cost of living index number for the native population of Java and Madura compiled by the Central Bureau of Statistics, Batavia, on the basis of 1913 prices = 100, declined from 148 in January to 144 in June

and again increased steadily to 153 in December, the corresponding index numbers for the food group being 151, 145 and 152 respectively. The cost of living index number for a European normal family stood at 161 except in January (160), February (159), June (159) and October (162).

NEW ZEALAND

The Census and Statistics Office all-groups index number, on base July 1914 = 1000, showed very little change during the year, the index having touched its maximum (1621) in May and November and minimum (1611) in February. The food group increased from 1450 in February to 1496 in November. Rent, fuel and light and clothing, etc., showed only slight variations while the Miscellaneous group was highest (1706) in May and lowest (1639) in November.

SOUTH AFRICA

The cost of living index number computed by the Census and Statistics Office, on base 1914 = 100, showed no marked variations during 1928. The general index number was 132 in January, 133 in May, 130 in September and 131 in December, the corresponding index numbers for the food group being 119, 120, 115 and 115 respectively.

SWITZERLAND

Both the retail food and cost of living index numbers of the Federal Labour Office, on base June 1914 = 100, recorded very little change during the year, being in the neighbourhood of 157 and 161 respectively.

UNITED STATES

The Bureau of Statistics cost of living index number, on base 1913 average = 100, stood at 170 in June and 171 in December 1928 as compared with 172 in December 1927, thus showing only a small variation during the year under review.

It will thus be seen that like wholesale prices, the retail prices index numbers showed only slight changes during the year and tended to fluctuate about certain fixed levels which are naturally different for different countries.

Industrial Advancement in the Nizam's Dominion

HELP TO COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

His Exalted Highness the Nizam has sanctioned Rs. 1 crore towards constituting an Industrial Fund to be under the control of a board composed of three Executive Council Members. The fund will be utilised for the improvement and development of cottage industries, industrial experiments, and demonstration of industrial plants and processes for the economic and industrial inquiries within the State, for grants to assist industrial and technical research, and grant of assistance to young men in obtaining training in industrial processes, either within or without the state. (From "Indian Daily Mail," Bombay, April 23, 1929.)

Workmen's Compensation Statistics, 1927

The Workmen's Compensation Statistics for the year 1927 together with a note on the working of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, published by the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, are reprinted below :—

The year under report was the third complete year of the working of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act, but the difficulty in securing satisfactory returns from employers to which reference was made in previous reports continued to be felt during the year. In the United Provinces, cases are reported in which certain employers were prosecuted and convicted under Section 176 of the Indian Penal Code for not submitting the returns prescribed by Section 16 of the Workmen's Compensation Act in spite of repeated reminders. Similar action is under contemplation in other provinces and it is to be hoped that this difficulty will now rapidly disappear. The figures in Statement I which gives the number of cases and the amount of compensation paid during the year cannot therefore be regarded as wholly reliable, though they furnish a good idea of the working of the Act and of the extent of the use made of it during the year. As has been pointed out in previous years, these figures do not cover all the cases of workmen who are protected by the Act, but they include the more important classes, viz., workers in factories, mines, docks, railways and tramways; the number of other workmen who come within the scope of the Act is comparatively small, and their exclusion is not therefore of importance.

2. The increase in the figures in Statement I over those of the preceding year indicates that workmen are availing themselves of the benefits of the Act to an increasing extent. The total number of accidents which occurred during 1927 and which came within the purview of the Act was 15,216 as against 14,096 in 1926, whilst the total amount of compensation paid during 1927 was Rs. 11,11,254 as against Rs. 8,21,476 in the preceding year, i.e., an increase of over 35 per cent. Some of the local Governments have commented on the fact that, though much progress remains to be made, the provisions of the Act are more widely known and that the benefits accruing from it are more generally appreciated by the working classes. On the other hand, a good deal of ignorance still persists among certain section of workers regarding their rights under the Act. Thus, the Bengal Report states that very few claims are received in the Raneeganj Coalfield area and it is stated that this is largely due to the absence of any proper trade union to assist the workers in obtaining the relief provided for under the Act. The same report also mentions that only a small proportion of workmen in engineering works and other miscellaneous factories appear to be aware of the existence of the Act. It is however satisfactory to note that the Factory Inspectors have in many instances by their advice been able to help ignorant and illiterate workmen to secure the compensation which was due to them under the Act. Labour Organisations, particularly in Bombay and Bengal, are also taking an increasingly active part in furthering the claims of their members, whilst there are satisfactory indications that a large number of

employers are also assisting their workmen to obtain their just dues under the Act. Thus, the Bengal Report states that larger concerns generally assisted their workmen in recovering compensation and that the Calcutta Claims Bureau representing the majority of insurance companies settled numerous *bona fide* claims without litigation and with promptness and care. The Bombay Report refers to the sympathetic co-operation on the part of the Bombay Claims Bureau and a large number of insurance companies representing the employers. The same report also states that the employers in general are taking a less contentious attitude and are helping a great deal in the administration of the Act in the right spirit. The Government of the Punjab in commenting on the figures for that province remark that the rise in the number of cases filed before Commissioners and the low percentage of contested cases indicate that while employers are ready to enforce their statutory rights in case of delay or default, employers for their part are ready to admit their obligations. On the other hand, the Government of Bihar and Orissa point out that there is an increasing tendency to deny liability on the part of employers, particularly the smaller concerns which are working at a loss owing to the depression of the coal industry. It is hoped however that the tendency pointed out by that Government is confined to a particular area and is temporary in character.

3. Any undue reluctance which may continue to characterize a minority of employers in meeting just claims for compensation will tend to disappear with the growth of the practice of insurance against claims made under the Act. The percentage of employers who insure their liabilities under the Act is not known but it is mentioned in the Burma Report that most of the large employers of labour are insured against the risk, while the Madras Report mentions the existence of 30 insurance companies and a Claims Bureau. Such insurance also appears to be widely resorted to by the employers in Bengal and Bombay. The growth of the insurance habit will no doubt result in the smoother working of the Act and will put an end to difficulties such as are occasioned by inaccurate returns.

4. The total number of applications filed before Commissioners in 1927 under Section 10 of the Act for the award of compensation was 554 as against 379 in 1926, an increase of over 46 per cent., and a striking indication of the growing popularity of the Act among the working classes. Distribution cases filed before Commissioners under Section 8 of the Act also showed a considerable increase, the number in 1927 being 491 as compared to 409 in 1926, i.e., an increase of 20 per cent. The percentage of contested cases to the total number of cases disposed of by the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation was 22.9 as compared to 23.7 in 1926. The number of applications filed for the registration of Agreements was 711 as against 610 in 1926, an increase of over 16 per cent., and only 3 out of 711 applications were not registered on account of the inadequacy of the amount of compensation offered. It is satisfactory to note that, in the majority of cases, compensation was paid without the intervention of the Commissioner. Over 15,000 persons are reported to have received compensation in 1927, while the total number of

applications filed before Commissioners for the award of compensation were only 54.

5. During the year there were four appeals in the High Court and these two were disposed of during the year and two were pending at its close. Two references, both in Bengal, were made to the High Court under Section 27 of the Act.

6. Occupational diseases have figured for the first time in connection with the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in India. It is reported from Bengal that a compositor in a printing press owned by the Local Government was found during the year to have fallen a victim to lead poisoning and a sum of Rs. 2730 was paid by the Local Government as compensation for permanent disablement. No case of occupational disease is included in the returns from Burma, but mention is made of the fact that cases of lead colic, plumbism and some mild forms of lead poisoning in the mines worked by the Burma Corporation at Nanyu have come to the notice of the Public Health Department.

7. The Act remained unchanged throughout the year, but a modification of which mention was made in the year in the working of the Act during 1926 was made during 1927 by the Government under Section 2(3) of the Act declaring the occupations of loading, unloading and fuelling any ship in any harbour, roadstead, or navigable water to be hazardous occupations. It is satisfactory to note from the Bengal Report that dock labourers, on whose account the notification was issued, form a large group of workers, with whom the Act is popular. Mention is also made in the same Report of the popularity of the Act among Indian lascars. The act is directly applicable only to lascars on ships registered in India, but maritime local Governments have been able to induce shipping companies which recruit lascars in India to insert in the Articles of Agreement of Indian lascars on ships registered in the United Kingdom an additional stipulation by which such lascars can claim to be compensated as workmen under the Indian Act and disputes regarding such compensation are to be decided by the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation in India.

8. No great difficulty was experienced in the administration of the Act during the year but suggestions have been received for the amendment of the Act in various directions. A Bill for making certain changes in the Act which are of a comparatively non-controversial character is at present before the Legislature and the Government of India have also under consideration certain proposals which involve changes of a radical nature in the Act.

STATEMENT I
Number of cases and compensation paid, 1927

	NUMBER OF CASES RESULTING IN				COMPENSATION PAID FOR			
	Death	Permanent disablement	Temporary disablement	TOTAL	Death	Permanent disablement	Temporary disablement	TOTAL
Adults	777	969	13,428	15,174	5,81,399 15 0	3,17,152 14 11	2,10,830 11 3	11,09,383 9 2
Minors	6	9	27	42	840 0 0	567 15 0	462 3 6	1,870 2 6

STATEMENT II

Proceedings before Commissioners

Applications for	Pending at commencement (Revised figures)	NOT CONTESTED							CONTESTED				Total disposed of	Pending at conclusion	
		Filed	Withdrawn	Dismissed for non appearance	Summarily dismissed under Rule 21	Dismissed under Rule 22	Admitted by opposite party	Allowed ex-parte	TOTAL	Allowed	Allowed in part	Disallowed			TOTAL
Award of compensation (under section 10).—															
Fatal accidents	42	269	12	6	3	2	106	17	168*	49	30	17	96	264	47
Permanent disablement	31	259	10	4	5	5	67	5	96	23	76	50	149	245	45
Temporary disablement	2	26	..	1	3	..	8	..	12	2	6	..	8	20	8
TOTAL	75	554	22	11	11	7	181	22	276	74	112	67	253	529	100
Distribution (under section 8)	90	491	1	1	1	..	408	72	483	18	..	1	19	502	79
Commutation (under section 7)	..	4	..	..	..	..	4	..	4	..	..	..	4	4	..
Review (under section 6)	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	..
Recovery of compensation (under section 31)	5	10	..	..	..	..	7	..	7	4	..	..	4	11	4
Others	10	179	..	..	..	..	156	1	172½	1	..	3	4	176	13
TOTAL	105	685	1	1	1	..	575	73	666	24	..	4	28	694	96
GRAND TOTAL	180	1239	23	12	12	7	756	95	942	98	112	71	281	1223	196

* Details for 22 cases are not available.

½ Includes 15 cases which cannot be brought under any of the columns.

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STATEMENT II

Registration of agreements

Applications for registration of agreements relating to	Pending at commencement (Revised figures)	Filed	Registered as filed	Registered after modification	NOT REGISTERED ON ACCOUNT OF		Total disposed of	Pending at conclusion
					Inadequacy	Other causes		
Payment of compensation for permanent disablement.	46	672	642	12	2	4	660	58
Payment of compensation for temporary disablement.	5	35	36	..	1	..	37	3
Commutation of half-monthly payments.	1	4	4	4	1

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Reviews of Books and Reports

Index Numbers showing the Changes in the Cost of Living of Industrial Workers at Nagpur and Jubbulpore. (Department of Industries, Central Provinces, Bulletin No. 3, Nagpur, Government Press, 1929, pp. 77, price Re. 1)

The Department of Industries, Central Provinces has recently issued a Bulletin containing the working class cost of living index numbers at Nagpur and Jubbulpore. In order to compile the index numbers, family budget investigations were conducted at both towns. The budgets were collected by non-official Investigators of the Department, assisted by the Young Men's Christian Association, Professors of Economics, managers of certain concerns, etc. The persons covered by the enquiry were those working in factories and having a monthly income of less than Rs. 100. The number of budgets accepted for final tabulation was 1002 in the case of Nagpur and 507 in the case of Jubbulpore.

The index number consists of 35 articles in the case of Nagpur and 34 in the case of Jubbulpore, where Jowar has been omitted. It is divided into the following four groups: Food, fuel and lighting, clothing and miscellaneous. The food group contains 23 items (22 in the case of Jubbulpore); the fuel and lighting group contains 3 items; the clothing group contains 6 items; and the miscellaneous group contains 3 only. House-rent has been excluded from the index partly because of the impossibility of getting regular statistics regarding monthly fluctuations and partly because it is not such an important item in the Central Provinces as in places like Bombay and Calcutta. The items included in the Nagpur index represent about 82 per cent. of the total family expenditure while the items included in the Jubbulpore index represent about 80 per cent. of the total family expenditure.

The weights adopted for the index are the actual quantities consumed by the families of the different items included in the index and are derived from the results of the budget investigations. The consumption figure taken is the figure of the average annual consumption.

The base period chosen is the month of January 1927. As regards prices to be used for the index, it is pointed out that the utmost care has been taken to collect reliable prices. The retail prices for wheat, rice, jowar, turdal, salt and firewood are taken from the fortnightly figures in the Government Gazette. The prices for the clothing group (excepting sarees) are obtained from the Empress Mills. The price-quotations for sarees are obtained from local dealers. The prices of the remaining articles are collected by actual enquiry in the markets.

An attempt was made to ascertain the prices prevailing in the prewar month July 1914 and to prepare an index number for this month. Price-quotations have also been obtained for the years 1925 and 1926 and the index numbers for these years have been worked out. The prices for July 1914, 1925 and 1926 have been obtained from the account books of the shop-keepers dealing with the labouring population.

The Bulletin contains eleven tables and an Appendix. Table I shows the percentage expenditure under different heads at Nagpur and Jubbulpore. It is seen from this table that the percentage distribution of expenditure is as follows:—

	Nagpur	Jubbulpore
Food	52.0	50.0
Fuel and lighting	12.0	12.0
Clothing	12.0	12.0
Miscellaneous	24.0	26.0

It may be pointed out here that the figure for total miscellaneous under Jubbulpore has been given as 915.1 on page 16 of the bulletin. It is obviously a mis-print for 15.19.

Table II shows the average annual consumption of selected items per family at Nagpur and Jubbulpore. In the absence of any table showing the local weights and measures, it is difficult to compare the quantities consumed by the industrial labourers in Nagpur and Jubbulpore with those in Bombay City. The table, however, shows that while at Nagpur rice is the most important staple, in Jubbulpore its place is taken by wheat. The consumption of milk and tea appears to be almost negligible in Nagpur.

Table III gives the cost of living index numbers at Nagpur with January 1927 prices = 100. The figures have been worked back to July 1914. It is seen that in the case of Nagpur the July 1914 index number comes to 70 with January 1927 prices = 100.

Table IV gives the cost of living index numbers at Jubbulpore with January 1927 prices = 100. Here also figures have been worked back to July 1914, the index number for which month comes to 64.

Tables V and VI show the cost of living index numbers at Nagpur and Jubbulpore with July 1914 prices = 100. It is seen that for October 1928 which is the last month for which figures have been worked out, the cost of living index number at Nagpur stood at 139 while that at Jubbulpore stood at 149.

Table VII (which has been called statement No. VII) gives comparative index numbers with July 1914 prices = 100 for the various cities in India and abroad for which index numbers are available.

Table VIII contains cost of living index numbers at Nagpur with January 1927 prices = 100 worked out month by month from February 1927 to October 1928. This table clearly indicates the method followed in the compilation of the index number. Table IX gives similar figures for Jubbulpore.

Tables X and XI contain the cost of living index number for Nagpur and Jubbulpore with July 1914 = 100. The figures are worked out only for the two months January 1927 and February 1927. It is not understood as to what special purpose is served by these tables unless it is intended to show what the actual prices were in July 1914.

The Appendix at the end of the Bulletin contains some miscellaneous information based on the results of the family budget investigations.

The first table in the Appendix gives the classification of the families by income classes. It is seen from this table that the bulk of the families have an income of less than Rs. 50 per month, the highest number of families at Nagpur falling in the income group Rs. 20 and below Rs. 30 and at Jubbulpore in the group below Rs. 20. The second table in the Appendix shows the composition of the families in Nagpur and Jubbulpore. In Nagpur, in the 1002 families considered, there were 1469 adult males, 1467 adult females, 782 male children under 18 and 616 female children under 14. In Jubbulpore in the 507 families considered, there were 648 adult males, 593 adult females, 349 male children under 14 and 312 female children under 14. Table 3 in the Appendix shows the average number of persons per family at Nagpur and Jubbulpore. It is seen that in Nagpur there are 1.47 adult males, 1.47 adult females, 0.78 male children under 14 and 0.61 female children under 14 per family, while in Jubbulpore there are 1.28 adult males, 1.17 adult females, 0.69 male children under 14 and 0.62 female children under 14 per family. The last table in the Appendix shows the number of families according to number of earning members. It is seen that at Nagpur of the 1002 families, in 465 there was only one earning member, in 410 there were two, in 99 there were three and in 28 more than three, while at Jubbulpore of the 507 families considered, 302 contain one earning member, 147 contain two, 45 contain three and 16 contain more than three earning members.

Geneva Labour Conference

INDIAN DELEGATION

The Indian delegation to the twelfth session of the International Labour Conference which will open at Geneva on 30th May will, it is officially stated, be composed as follows:—

To represent the Government of India:

Delegates.—Sir Atul Chatterjee, High Commissioner for India, Dr. R. P. Paranjpye, Member, India Council.

Adviser and Substitute Delegate.—Mr. A. G. Clow, I.C.S.

Advisers.—Colonel H. H. Hudson, Deputy Traffic Manager, Calcutta Port Trust and Mr. A. Dibdin, India Office, London.

To represent Employers:

Delegate.—Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai.

Advisers.—Mr. P. Mukherjee, President, Punjab Chamber of Commerce, Delhi, Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, M.L.A., and Mr. B. Das, M.L.A.

To represent Workers:

Delegate.—Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A.

Advisers.—Mr. B. Shiva Rao, President, Madras Labour Union, Mr. V. R. Kallappa, Treasurer, All-India Railwaymen's Federation, Mr. Abdul Matin Choudhury, M.L.A., and Mr. G. Sethi. Mr. Dibdin will also act as Secretary to the Delegation. (From "Times of India," Bombay, April 19, 1929.)

Current Periodicals

Summary of titles and contents of special articles

THE LABOUR MAGAZINE—VOL. VII, NO. 12, APRIL 1929. (The Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party, London.)

- Special Articles:* (1) *Nursery Schools for Mining Villages*, by Katharine Bruce Glasier pp. 531-534.
 (2) *The Tories and Housing*, by George Hicks (General Secretary, Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers)—The nature of the housing problem; the present state of housing accommodation; the slums; the betrayal of the building industry. pp. 535-538.
 (3) *Tory Futility at Geneva*, by "Observer."—Points from the debate. pp. 539-542.
 (4) *A Speech for a Consistent Conservative on the Abolition of State Aid*, by R. B. Suthers. pp. 543-545.
 (5) *Iron and Steel—The Facts*, by Tom Myers.—Coke and ores; world iron ore reserves; royalties; freight and rail charges; over-capitalisation; combinations; conclusion. pp. 546-548.
 (6) *Mr. Lloyd George and Unemployment*, by Sir Oswald Mosley, M.P. pp. 556-560.
Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

INDUSTRIAL WELFARE—VOL. XI, NO. 124, APRIL 1929. (Industrial Welfare Society, London.)

- Special Articles:* (1) *The Dyeing and Cleanings Industry*.—Superannuation; summer holidays; medical attention for junior workers; education of junior workers; first aid; girl guides; social welfare. pp. 118 & 119.
 (2) *Electrical Equipment for Canteens*. pp. 120-122.
 (3) *New Methods of Administration*.—Centralised labour department; staff pensions; employee bonus; benevolent fund; apprentices; dinner hour talks. pp. 123 & 124.
 (4) *The Dust Problem in Paper Mills*. pp. 127-129.
 (5) *Welfare on a Small Scale*.—No strikes or lock-outs; registration of factories; organized emigration; a successful club; financing the club; permanent secretary-in-charge; house committees; a pioneer scheme. pp. 130 & 131.
 (6) *Workmen's Compensation*.—Children's allowance; acting in breach of regulations; disfigurement and compensation; duties of medical referees; tunnelling is not mining; workman in poor state of health. pp. 132-134.
 (7) *The Rivalry of Office and Works*. pp. 135-136.
 (8) *Vocational Psychology*.—Measuring innate ability; necessity for percentile ranking; method of testing; an experiment. pp. 136 & 137.
Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

THE JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE—VOL. XI, NO. 3, MARCH 1929. (Harvard School of Public Health, Baltimore.)

- Special Articles:* (1) *Cross Connections between Industrial and Public Water Supplies*, by E. Sherman Chase (Metcalf & Eddy, Engineers, Boston, Mass.).—Types of cross connections; out-breaks of disease due to cross connections; regulation of cross connections—conflicting interests, state health department regulations, action by professional societies; double check valves; fire pump chlorinator; conclusion. pp. 85-91.
 (2) *The Dust Hazard in the Abrasive Industry: Second Study* by W. Irving Clark, M.D. (Norton Company, Worcester, Mass.).—Conclusions. pp. 92-96.
 (3) *Absenteeism in Coal Miners*, by H. M. Vernon, M.D., and T. Bedford, Ph.D. (Investigators for the Industrial Fatigue Research Board, London, assisted by C. G. Warner, B.Sc.).—Introduction; absenteeism due to all causes combined; absenteeism due to sickness; absenteeism due to accidents; absenteeism due to voluntary causes; conclusion; bibliography. pp. 97-105.
Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

THE QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL GAZETTE—VOL. XIV, NO. 3, MARCH 25, 1929. (Department of Labour, Brisbane.)

- Special Articles:* (1) *Industrial Arbitration in New Zealand: A Review of the Proceedings of the National Industrial Conference, 1928*, by W. H. Cocker. pp. 128-132.
 (2) *The Wage Act (South Africa) in Working: Wage Board's Activities Surveyed*.—The field of investigations; stimulus to establishment of industrial councils; relations with Minister of Labour; the procedure adopted by the Wage Board; difficulty of wage regulation in South Africa; some results of wage board activities as reflected by statistics; progress of clothing industry; results satisfactory; safeguarding employees; regulation of wages of unskilled workers; conclusion. pp. 133-135.
Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

Current Notes from Abroad

UNITED KINGDOM

In the industries in which statistics are regularly compiled by the Ministry of Labour, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation during March resulted in a reduction of about £3850 in the weekly full-time wages of 60 000 workpeople, and in an increase of £400 in those of 16000 workpeople.

There were reductions in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for certain classes of workpeople employed in the boot and shoe repairing and brush and broom making trades in Great Britain. Other groups of workpeople whose wages were reduced included commercial road transport workers in certain towns in Lancashire and 'turn u' workpeople in the Manchester district. Workpeople whose wages were increased included certain classes of adult timeworkers employed in the textile bleaching, dyeing, etc., industries in Scotland, and blastfurnace workers in Cumberland. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette" London, 31st 1929.)

At 2nd April the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 62 per cent above that of July 1914, as compared with 66 per cent a month ago and 64 per cent a year ago. For food alone the corresponding figures were 50, 57 and 55.

The fall in the level of prices since a month ago is due largely to the disappearance of the severe weather conditions and to the operation of the seasonal influences usual at this period of the year. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, April 1929.)

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Ministry of Labour as beginning in March, was 28. In addition, 12 disputes which began before March were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in March (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 19,100, and the aggregate duration of all disputes during March was about 133,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of 9100 workpeople involved and 78,000 working days lost in the previous month, and with 38,000 workpeople involved and 168,000 days lost in March 1928.

The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in the first three months of 1929 was about 314,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was about 32,000. The figures for the corresponding period of 1928 were 325,000 days and 58,000 workpeople, respectively. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette, London," April 1929.)

DETAILED STATEMENT OF THE QUANTITY (IN POUNDS) AND THE COUNTS (OR NUMBERS) OF YARN SPUN BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

Count or Number	Month of March			Twelve months ended March		
	1927	1928	1929	1927	1928	1929
Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
No. 1 to 10	6,393	4,501	5,573	22,341	71,252	40,893
No. 11 to 20	18,922	14,952	15,243	216,172	204,715	131,080
No. 21 to 30	15,265	13,672	14,067	71,203	178,702	122,302
No. 31 to 40	1,629	2,219	2,818	19,663	25,666	25,213
Above 40	975	737	894	10,007	10,391	8,798
Waste, etc.	99	111	92	1,237	1,174	663
Total	43,283	36,192	38,687	512,022	491,840	329,855

MUMBAI CITY

Count or Number	Month of March			Twelve months ended March		
	1927	1928	1929	1927	1928	1929
Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
No. 1 to 10	5,643	3,808	4,866	72,798	61,759	32,436
No. 11 to 20	12,816	9,119	9,471	153,361	131,024	61,897
No. 21 to 30	9,242	8,005	7,188	104,049	107,483	47,059
No. 31 to 40	764	1,135	1,285	9,201	12,280	8,566
Above 40	455	353	453	4,307	5,028	3,134
Waste, etc.	89	111	92	1,143	1,173	661
Total	29,009	22,531	23,355	344,859	318,747	153,753

AHMEDABAD

Count or Number	Month of March			Twelve months ended March		
	1927	1928	1929	1927	1928	1929
Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
No. 1 to 10	191	198	201	2,560	2,324	2,410
No. 11 to 20	3,480	3,313	3,014	40,002	39,908	39,410
No. 21 to 30	4,728	4,462	5,281	50,260	55,662	58,194
No. 31 to 40	610	746	1,152	8,261	9,623	12,640
Above 40	373	238	320	4,825	3,595	4,064
Waste, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	9,382	8,957	9,968	105,908	111,112	116,718

DETAILED STATEMENT OF THE QUANTITY (IN POUNDS) AND DESCRIPTION
OF WOVEN GOODS PRODUCED
BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

Description	Month of March			Twelve months ended March		
	1927	1928	1929	1927	1928	1929
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	1,070	854	840	21,328	23,412	11,032
Chudders	1,067	1,080	1,077	17,224	18,156	12,800
Dhotis	7,159	6,683	7,258	89,841	94,513	75,743
Drills and jeans	1,345	1,646	1,532	13,369	15,985	11,548
Cambrics and lawns	22	73	27	351	723	542
Printers	226	176	138	2,078	1,918	1,898
Shirtings and long cloth	9,629	8,383	8,369	109,517	113,833	76,576
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	1,530	1,232	1,082	16,995	15,949	10,109
Tent cloth	89	150	94	1,341	764	882
Other sorts	631	518	727	5,628	5,638	5,604
Total	22,768	20,795	21,144	277,672	290,891	206,734
Coloured piecegoods	10,608	9,288	8,710	121,786	120,625	71,119
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	182	255	310	2,635	2,758	1,855
Hosiery	27	39	50	274	372	477
Miscellaneous	245	296	192	2,900	3,453	1,877
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	234	237	205	2,016	3,492	1,995
Grand Total	34,064	30,910	30,611	407,283	421,591	284,057

BOMBAY CITY

Description	Month of March			Twelve months ended March		
	1927	1928	1929	1927	1928	1929
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	923	658	649	18,544	18,343	6,476
Chudders	722	712	671	11,795	12,551	5,027
Dhotis	2,179	2,185	2,171	28,058	31,597	15,242
Drills and jeans	1,242	1,535	1,386	12,229	14,908	9,855
Cambrics and lawns	15	47	18	75	389	234
Printers	7,536	6,045	5,132	84,778	82,776	36,856
Shirtings and long cloth	1,277	891	694	12,477	11,073	4,985
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	84	147	89	1,155	654	827
Tent cloth	348	274	388	3,184	3,273	2,212
Other sorts						
Total	14,326	12,494	11,198	172,295	175,564	81,714
Coloured piecegoods	7,088	5,862	5,156	86,482	82,770	37,023
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	178	111	282	2,542	2,681	1,561
Hosiery	7	10	10	67	121	77
Miscellaneous	198	210	121	2,362	2,710	1,001
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	132	117	65	1,371	2,091	701
Grand Total	21,929	18,924	16,832	265,119	265,937	122,077

DETAILED STATEMENT OF THE QUANTITY (IN POUNDS) AND DESCRIPTION
OF WOVEN GOODS PRODUCED—contd.
AHMEDABAD

Description	Month of March			Twelve months ended March		
	1927	1928	1929	1927	1928	1929
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	19	34	28	751	1,092	2,081
Chudders	292	288	331	4,241	4,183	5,994
Dhotis	4,077	3,671	4,159	50,574	50,364	50,072
Drills and jeans	37	11	60	322	251	760
Cambrics and lawns	6	26	9	269	329	293
Printers	132	98	49	1,080	911	897
Shirtings and long cloth	1,571	1,830	2,566	18,417	23,727	32,473
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	190	245	252	3,532	3,648	3,728
Tent cloth				21	59	3
Other sorts	192	147	223	1,432	1,480	2,168
Total	6,516	6,350	7,677	80,639	86,044	98,469
Coloured piecegoods	2,346	2,209	2,331	22,629	23,067	20,771
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	2	1	10	19	16	117
Hosiery	20	28	40	205	251	400
Miscellaneous	44	83	70	482	653	799
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	99	120	139	627	1,378	1,277
Grand Total	9,027	8,791	10,267	104,601	111,409	121,833

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS IN APRIL 1929

Name of concern and locality	Approximate number of workpeople involved		Date when dispute		Cause	Result	Number of working days lost during the month	Total number of working days lost in the dispute on termination
	Directly	Indirectly	Began	Ended				
<i>Textile Industry</i>								
			1929	1929				
1. The Spring Mill, Naigaum, Bombay.	600	4,200	1 Mar.		Demand for re-instatement of a spinner.	No settlement reported ..	80,727	
2. The Textile Mill, Parbhadevi, Road, Bombay.	185	2,615	2 Mar.		Demand for re-instatement of two operatives.	Do. ..	31,762	
3. The Century Mill, De-Lisle Road, Bombay.	1,350	5,150	12 Mar.		Demand for re-instatement of dismissed men.	Do.	102,691	
4. The Prabhat Mill, Tardeo, Bombay.	60		2 Apr.	3 Apr.	Demand for an increase in wages.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	90	
5. The Jam Mill, Sholapur.	700	528	3 Apr.	5 Apr.	Do.	The strike ended in favour of the workers.	1,842	1,842
6. The Satya Mill, De-Lisle Road, Bombay.	376		8 Apr.	16 Apr.	Do.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	1,145	1,145
7. The Prabhat Mill, Tardeo, Bombay.	362	738	11 Apr.	20 Apr.	Do.	The strike ended in favour of the workers.	7,150	7,150
8. The New Kaiser-I-Hind Mill, Ghorupdeo Road, Bombay.	35		16 Apr.	25 Apr.	Demand for better wages ..	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	115	115
9. The Morari Cocoidar Mill, Supari Baug Road, Bombay.	505	3,495	18 Apr.		Proposed retrenchment of old hands.	No settlement reported ..	34,738	
10. General Strike, Bombay :—								
(a) 41 Cotton mills	74,675		26 Apr.	}	Alleged victimisation of Unionist workers and demand for re-instatement of old hands.	Do. ..	333,446	....
(b) 13 Cotton mills	19,084		27 Apr.					
(c) 7 Cotton mills	9,634		29 Apr.					
(d) 1 Cotton mill	1,420		30 Apr.					
11. The Bhagirath Spinning and Weaving Mill, Jalgaon.	194	264	28 Apr.		Demand for better wages	Do. ..	1,374	....
<i>Engineering</i>								
12. The Alcock Ashdown, and Company, Mazagon, Bombay.	400		1 Mar.	8 Apr.	Demand for the continuance of the old working hours.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	662	10,650

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WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN BOMBAY

Article	Grade	Rate per	Prices in the month of				Index numbers				
			July 1914	Apr. 1928	Jan. 1929	Mar. 1929	July 1914	Apr. 1928	Mar. 1929	Apr. 1929	
			Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.					
Cereals—											
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	Maund	4 11 3	5 7 7	5 0 11	4 15 3	100	116	108	105	
Wheat	Delhi No. 1	Cwt.	5 9 6	7 5 3	9 0 9(7)	9 0 9(7)	100	131	162	162	
	Khandwa Seed	Candy	45 0 0	62 8 0	85 0 0	72 8 0	100	183	189	161	
	Jubbulpore		40 0 0	46 8 0	51 0 0	51 0 0(8)	100	116	128	128	
Lower (1)	Cawnpore	Maund	3 2 6	3 11 3	4 3 9	4 5 5	100	117	134	137	
Barley			3 4 6	4 2 0	5 3 0	4 8 10	100	126	158	139	
Bajri	Chati		3 4 6	4 0 4	5 4 8	5 8 1	100	123	161	168	
	Index No.—Cereals		....	....	....	....	100	130	149	143
Pulses—											
Gram	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	Maund	4 3 9	5 1 3	5 13 1	5 14 10	100	120	137	140	
Turdal	Cawnpore		5 10 5	8 7 5	7 9 11	7 9 11	100	150	135	135	
	Index No.—Pulses		....	....	....	....	100	135	136	138
	Index No.—Food grains		....	....	....	....	100	131	146	142
Sugar—											
Sugar (refined)	Mauritius	Cwt.	9 3 0	....	....	....	100	....	....	....
Do. (do.)	Java, white		10 3 0	15 10 0	13 14 0	13 8 0	100	153	136	133	
Do. Raw (Gul)	Sangli or Poona	Maund	7 14 3	7 14 3	9 8 5	10 3 3	100	100	121	129	
	Index No.—Sugar		....	....	....	....	100	127	129	131
Other Food—											
Turmeric	Rajapuri	Maund	5 9 3	11 0 4	12 6 1	11 6 10	100	198	222	205	
Cheese	Deshi		45 11 5	70 0 0	72 13 9	68 9 2	100	153	159	150	
Salt	Bombay (black)		1 7 6	2 0 0	1 14 0	1 14 0	100	135	128	128	
	Index No.—Other food		....	....	....	....	100	162	170	161
	Index No.—All Food		....	....	....	....	100	137	148	144
Oilseeds—											
Linseed	Bold	Cwt.	8 14 6	10 7 0	10 10 0	10 13 0	100	117	119	121	
Rapeseed	Cawnpore (brown)		8 0 0	10 6 0	9 14 0	10 0 0	100	130	123	125	
Poppy seed			10 14 0	15 12 0	21 0 0	19 0 0	100	154	193	175	
Gingelly seed	White		11 4 0	12 7 0	11 12 0	11 10 0	100	111	104	103	
	Index No.—Oilseeds		100	128	135	131	

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	Good	Candy	251 0 0	375 0 0	370 0 0	346 0 0	100	149	147	138
	Fully good		222 0 0	343 0 0	324 0 0	309 0 0	100	155	146	139
	Saw-ginned		230 0 0	391 0 0	349 0 0(5)	349 0 0(5)	100	170	152	152
	Machine-ginned		205 0 0	318 0 0	290 0 0	274 0 0	100	155	141	134
	Do.		198 0 0	317 0 0	270 0 0	252 0 0	100	160	136	127
	Index No.—Cotton		....	....	....	....	100	158	144	138
	Twist	Lb.	0 12 9	1 0 9	1 2 0	1 2 0	100	131	141	141
	Grey shirtings	Piece	5 15 0	9 6 0	9 10 0	9 10 0	100	158	162	162
	White mulls		4 3 0	8 6 0	8 12 0	8 14 0	100	200	209	212
	Shirtings		10 6 0	18 6 0	18 10 0	18 8 0	100	177	180	173
	Long Cloth (3)		0 9 6	0 15 0	0 15 6	0 15 6	100	158	163	163
	Chudders (4)		0 9 6	0 14 3	0 14 9	0 15 0	100	150	155	158
	Index No.—Cotton manufactures		....	....	....	....	100	162	168	169
	Index No.—Textiles—Cotton		....	....	....	....	100	160	157	155
Other Textiles—										
Sill	Manchow	Lb.	5 2 6	6 2 11	6 2 11	6 2 11	100	120	120	120
Do	Mathow Lari		2 15 1	3 13 10	3 10 1(6)	3 10 1(6)	100	131	123	123
	Index No.—Other Textiles		....	....	....	....	100	126	122	122
Hides and Skins—										
Hides, Cow	Tanned	Lb.	1 2 6	1 8 5	1 11 10	1 5 5	100	132	181	116
Do. Buffalo	Do.		1 1 3	1 5 3	0 14 11	1 2 5	100	123	86	107
Skins, Goat	Do.		1 4 0	2 8 7	3 0 7	2 15 10	100	203	243	239
	Index No.—Hides and Skins		....	....	....	....	100	153	160	154
Metals—										
Copper braziers		Cwt.	60 8 0	60 8 0	83 0 0	67 0 0	100	160	137	111
Iron bars			4 0 0	6 0 0	7 0 0	7 0 0	100	150	175	175
Steel hoops			7 12 0	9 0 0	8 10 0	8 10 0	100	116	111	111
Galvanised sheets			9 0 0	11 14 0	11 14 0	12 2 0	100	132	132	135
Tin plates		Box	8 12 0	14 8 0	13 12 0	13 12 0	100	166	157	157
	Index No.—Metals		....	....	....	....	100	133	142	138
Other raw and manufactured articles—										
Coal (2)	Bengal	Ton	14 12 0	21 0 0	17 12 0	19 8 0	100	142	120	132
Do.	Imported		19 11 6	19 10 7	19 13 3	18 8 11	100	100	101	132
Kerosene	Elephant Brand	2 Tins	4 6 0	5 2 0	6 9 6	6 9 6	100	117	151	151
Do.	Chester Brand	Case	5 2 0	8 8 6	8 11 6	8 11 6	100	166	170	170
	Index No.—Other raw and manuf. articles		....	....	....	....	100	131	136	137
	Index No.—Food		100	137	148	144
	Index No.—Non-food		100	144	146	144
	General Index No.		100	142	147	144

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* In the absence of price-quotations for the grade 6/600 the price quoted for white mulls is for the grade 6,000/56 since June 1925 and for 6,000/54 x 19 since October 1927.
 * Since October 1925, the price-quotations for raw cotton are for the following five varieties, viz., Broach, Fully good; Cembra, Fine; Dharwar, Saw-ginned, F. G.; Khandesh, Fully good; Bengal, Fully good.
 (1) Quotation for Singapore quality since March 1926. (2) Since June 1925, the quotation is for the "C" brand. (3) Quotation for 1925. (4) Quotation for 1926. (5) Quotation for 1927. (6) Quotation for 1928. (7) Quotation for January 1929. (8) Quotation for March 1929.

WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN KARACHI*

Article	Grade	Rate per	Price in the month of				Index numbers			
			July 1914	Apr. 1928	Mar. 1929	Apr. 1929	July 1914	Apr. 1928	Mar. 1929	Apr. 1929
			Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.				
Cereals—										
Rice (1)	Larkana No. 3	Candy	39 0 0	66 4 0	55 4 0	54 4 0	100	170	142	139
Wheat, white	5% barley, 3% dirt, 30% red	"	31 8 0	41 0 0	45 0 0	40 4 0	100	130	143	128
" red	5% barley, 3% dirt, 92% red	"	31 4 0	42 4 0	46 8 0	41 8 0	100	130	143	128
" white	2% barley, 14% dirt	"	32 8 0	32 4 0	39 4 0	39 12 0	100	126	154	156
" red	2% barley, 11% dirt	"	32 4 0	34 12 0	45 12 0	35 0 0	100	131	173	132
Jowari	Export quality	"	25 8 0							
Barley	3% dirt	"	26 8 0							
Index No.—Cereals			....	....	....	....	100	137	151	137
Pulses—										
Gram (2)	1% dirt	Candy	29 8 0	35 12 0	50 0 0	41 0 0	100	121	169	139
Sugar—										
Sugar	Java white	Cwt.	9 2 0	14 12 6	13 5 6	13 1 0	100	162	146	143
"	" brown	"	8 1 6	13 10 0	12 7 0	12 7 0	100	168	154	154
Index No.—Sugar			....	....	....	....	100	165	150	149
Oilseeds—										
Cotton seed		Maund	2 11 3	3 6 0	3 6 0 (3)	3 6 0 (3)	100	125	125	125
Rapeseed, bold	3% admixture	Candy	51 0 0	64 8 0	66 10 0 (4)	66 10 0 (4)	100	126	131	131
Gingelly seed	Black 9% admixture	"	62 0 0	74 8 0	78 0 0	76 0 0	100	120	126	123
Index No.—Oilseeds			....	....	....	....	100	124	127	126
Textiles—										
Jute bags	B. Twills	100 bags	38 4 0	52 0 0	52 12 0 (6)	52 12 0 (6)	100	136	138	138

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Textiles—Cotton—										
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind	Maund	20 4 0	34 14 0	29 14 0	29 14 0 (7)	100	172	148	148
(b) Cotton manufactures										
Drills	Pepperell	Piece	10 3 6	17 12 0	17 8 0 (5)	17 8 0 (5)	100	174	171	171
Shirtings	Liepmann's	"	10 2 0	19 0 0	18 0 0	18 8 0	100	188	178	183
Index No.—Cotton manufactures			....	....	....	....	100	181	175	177
Index No.—Textiles—Cotton			....	....	....	....	100	178	166	167
Other Textiles—Wool	Kandahar	Maund	28 0 0	38 0 0	39 0 0	39 0 0	100	136	139	139
Hides										
Sind		Maund	21 4 0	21 12 0	21 8 0 (6)	21 8 0 (6)	100	102	101	101
Punjab		"	21 4 0	21 12 0	21 8 0 (6)	21 8 0 (6)	100	102	101	101
Index No.—Hides			....	....	....	....	100	102	101	101
Metals—										
Copper Braziers..		Cwt.	60 8 0	60 12 0	77 0 0	73 0 0	100	100	127	121
Steel Bars		"	3 14 0	6 6 0	7 0 0	7 0 0	100	165	181	181
" Plates		"	4 6 0	7 4 0	7 0 0	7 0 0	100	166	160	160
Index No.—Metals			....	....	....	....	100	144	156	154
Other raw and manufactured articles										
1st class Bengal		Ton	16 0 0	19 4 0	19 4 0	19 4 0	100	120	120	120
Chester Brand		Case	5 2 0	8 6 0	8 9 0	8 9 0	100	163	167	167
Elephant		2 Tins	4 7 0	6 4 0	6 7 0	6 7 0	100	141	145	145
Index No.—Other raw and manufactured articles			....	....	....	....	100	141	144	144
Index No.—Food			100	135	144	132
Index No.—Non-food			100	140	141	141
General Index No.			100	138	142	138

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* From 1928 onwards prices are quoted in terms of the index for want of quotation. (1) Quotation for Sukkur white since August 1926. (2) Quotation for 3 and 4% admixture since August 1928. (3) Quotation for 3% admixture since August 1928. (4) Quotation for 3% admixture since August 1928. (5) Quotation for August 1928. (6) Quotation for January 1929. (7) Quotation for March 1929.

WHOLESALE PRICES INDEX NUMBERS IN BOMBAY BY GROUPS

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Month	reals	Pulses	Sugar	Other food	Index No., food	Oilseeds	Raw cotton	Cotton manufactures	Other textiles	Hides and skins	Metals	Other raw and manufactured articles	Index No., non-food	General Index No.
1926														
April ..	144	119	150	156	144	131	138	183	143	171	151	150	155	151
1927														
April ..	144	125	134	150	141	143	128	161	136	142	149	156	147	145
May ..	145	127	132	155	143	145	142	149	142	148	147	159	150	148
June ..	143	129	129	164	143	145	142	139	142	137	142	159	149	147
July ..	139	129	130	162	141	143	154	163	142	139	142	159	150	148
August ..	142	131	132	161	143	145	159	167	138	142	140	155	150	148
September ..	135	125	133	165	140	141	179	167	141	140	144	153	152	148
October ..	136	135	132	162	141	136	183	172	141	140	133	153	152	148
November ..	140	139	138	155	143	131	172	166	131	115	134	140	145	146
December ..	134	138	131	157	139	130	168	164	130	121	132	139	144	143
1928														
January ..	130	140	123	153	136	129	166	164	124	141	132	132	144	141
February ..	133	136	121	156	136	124	163	162	122	157	133	131	144	142
March ..	128	129	122	161	135	124	162	162	124	140	132	132	143	140
April ..	130	135	127	162	137	128	158	164	126	153	133	131	144	142
May ..	130	131	129	180	141	132	165	162	126	153	133	131	144	142
June ..	136	126	152	197	150	130	167	169	130	151	133	140	147	145
July ..	130	124	129	196	143	131	169	172	123	146	137	140	149	149
August ..	131	127	132	191	143	128	151	169	124	155	137	140	147	146
September ..	140	134	136	194	150	132	150	168	120	155	138	143	147	148
October ..	148	143	147	195	157	134	151	170	120	159	138	143	147	148
November ..	144	144	145	189	153	134	149	170	120	162	137	142	147	150
December ..	146	142	129	168	148	134	143	171	122	165(a)	138	137	147	147(a)
1929														
January ..	152	143	131	180	154	137	141	171	119	162	137	134	146	148
February ..	153 (a)	138	131	176	152 (a)	140	142	170	122	177	139	133	146	149(a)
March ..	149	136	129	170	148	133	144	168	122	160	142	136	146	147
April ..	143	138	131	161	144	131	138	169	122	154	138	137	144	144

(a) Revised figures.

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COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS FOR INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Name of country	India (Bombay)	United Kingdom	Canada	Australia	New Zealand	Italy (Rome)	France (Paris)	South Africa	U. S. of America
Items included in the index	light, clothing and rent	Food, rent, fuel, light, clothing and miscellaneous	Food, fuel, light and rent	Food and rent	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, heat, light, rent and mi	Food, clothing, light, fuel and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, heating and light-ing, rent and miscellaneous
1914 July ..	100	100	100	(a) 100(f)	(b) 100	(b) 100	(c) 100	(d) 100	(e) 100
1915 ..	104	125	97	119	(f) 108	99	116	146	103
1916 ..	108	148	102	115	117	116	146	190	114
1917 ..	118	180	130	116	128	146	197	253	106
1918 ..	149	203	146	118	144	197	204(a)	222	118
1919 ..	186	208	155	132	157	205	275	222	126
1920 ..	190	252	190	154	182	313	307	224	155
1921 ..	177	219	152	152	178	387	379	200	133
1922 ..	165	184	147	140	159	429	366	164	135
1923 ..	153	169	146	151	158	(h) 487	429	164	130
1924 ..	157	170	144	149	160	512	493	169	132
1925 ..	157	173	146	153	163	598	509	168	133
1926 ..	157	170	150	(a) 161	(i) 163	649	637	162(a)	130
1927 ..	156	166	149	151	161	548	790	160	132
1928									
January ..	154	168	151	157	161	532	813	161	132
February ..	148	166	150	157	161	533	811	160	131
March ..	145	164	149	157	162	531	806	160	131
April ..	144	164	149	157	162	531	807	160	131
May ..	147	164	148	157	162	526	805	160	133
June ..	146	165	148	157	162	530	811	161	132
July ..	147	165	148	157	161	526	819	161	131
August ..	146	165	150	155	161	526	825	161	131
September ..	145	165	151	155	162	528	834	162	131
October ..	146	166	152	155	162	534	845(k)	162	131
November ..	147	167	152	155	162	538	852	162	131
December ..	148	168	152	155	162	538	852	162	131
1929									
January ..	149	167	152	155	161	541	856	161	131
February ..	149	166	151	155	161	541	859	161	131
March ..	148	162	151	155	161	541	862	161	131
April ..	147	162	151	155	161	541	862	161	131
May ..	147	162	151	155	161	541	862	161	131

(a) From 1914 to 1926 figures relate to second quarter. (b) First half of 1914. (c) From 1915 to 1919 June figures are given. (d) June 1914=100. (e) Average for 1914=100. (f) Average 1915 is the base. (g) The figures for Italy from July 1923 are for Milan. (h) Revised from March 1922. (i) Revised figures. (j) Figures from 1915 to 1926 refer to August. (k) Figures from 1915 to 1926 refer to December. (l) First half of the year. (m) Yearly averages for the years 1918-1926. (n) June figures.

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INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Country	India (Bombay)	Japan	China (Shanghai)	Java (Batavia)	Australia	Egypt (Sairo)	United Kingdom (1)	France	Holland	Norway	Sweden	Canada (2)	United States of America (3)
No. of articles	44	56	147	92	92	26	150	45	48	100	47	236	404
1913 Average ..	100	100	(a) 100	100	100	100	100	100	100	(a) 100	(f) 100	100	100
1914 ..	100	96	.....	.....	106	(a) 100	.....	102	109	(a) 115	116	102	98
1915	97	.....	.....	147	103	.....	140	146	159	145	110	101
1916	117	.....	.....	138	128	.....	188	224	233	185	132	127
1917	149	.....	.....	153	176	.....	262	276	341	244	179	177
1918	238	.....	.....	178	211	.....	339	373	345	339	199	194
1919	236	.....	.....	189	231	.....	336	304	322	331	209	199
1920	216	.....	.....	228	316	.....	509	292	(c) 377	347	244	236
1921	198	.....	.....	175	173	.....	182	298	182	211	172	147
1922	187	.....	.....	162	146	.....	159	327	160	233	162	152
1923	181	.....	.....	179	152	.....	159	419	151	233	157	153
1924	182	.....	.....	145	166	.....	489	156	269	155	155	150
1925	203	.....	.....	173	173	.....	352	359	250	155	157	160
1926	202	.....	.....	166	170	.....	327	160	233	162	152	154
1927	189	.....	.....	159	168	.....	132	148	703	145	196	144
1928	147	.....	.....	170	153	.....	121	141	617	148	160	141
1929	170	.....	.....	171	153	.....	118	141	620	151	160	141
1930	168	.....	.....	168	171	.....	117	141	618	149	161	144
1931	148	.....	.....	172	153	.....	120	142	600	150	158	145
1932	146	.....	.....	166	153	.....	118	141	607	150	157	143
1933	144	.....	.....	169	151	.....	114	141	609	151	157	143
1934	143	.....	.....	164	150	.....	114	141	607	151	157	143
1935	141	.....	.....	163	150	.....	114	141	607	151	157	143
1936	142	.....	.....	164	149	.....	114	140	609	150	157	143
1937	140	.....	.....	163	149	.....	116	141	623	152	157	145
1938	143	.....	.....	163	150	.....	120	145	634	153	156	147
1939	142	.....	.....	163	150	.....	117	144	632	152	156	149
1940	145	.....	.....	166	151	.....	117	143	626	153	158	149
1941	149	.....	.....	169	160	.....	117	141	624	148	150	148
1942	147	.....	.....	159	150	.....	117	141	624	148	150	148
1943	146	.....	.....	157	148	.....	119	139	617	144	151	148
1944	148	.....	.....	174	156	.....	120	138	630	145	153	150
1945	148	.....	.....	174	156	.....	120	138	630	145	153	150
1946	149	.....	.....	173	159	.....	120	138	626	146	151	150
1947	148	.....	.....	174	159	.....	120	138	626	146	151	150
1948	148	.....	.....	174	159	.....	120	138	626	146	151	150
1949	149	.....	.....	173	159	.....	120	138	626	146	151	150
1950	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1951	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1952	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1953	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1954	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1955	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1956	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1957	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1958	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1959	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1960	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1961	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1962	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1963	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1964	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1965	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1966	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1967	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1968	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1969	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1970	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1971	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1972	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1973	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1974	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1975	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1976	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1977	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1978	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1979	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1980	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1981	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1982	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1983	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1984	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1985	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1986	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1987	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1988	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1989	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1990	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1991	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1992	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1993	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1994	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1995	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1996	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1997	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1998	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
1999	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150
2000	148	.....	.....	172	160	.....	120	138	624	146	151	150

* July 1914 = 100. (a) Average for half year ended June 1914 = 100. (b) Revised figures. (c) The figures from 1914-1920 are for December. (d) February 1913 = 100. (e) Average January 1913 to July 1914 = 100. (f) Average for year ended June 1914 = 100. (g) Revised figures. (h) The figures from 1914-1920 are for December. (i) Board of Trade. (j) Dominion Bureau of Statistics. (k) Bureau of Labor Statistics.

RETAIL FOOD INDEX NUMBERS FOR INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Name of country	India	United Kingdom	Canada	South Africa	Australia	New Zealand	United States of America	France (1)	Italy	Belgium	Finland	Holland	Norway	Sweden (2)	Denmark	Switzerland
No. of articles	17	20	29	18	46	59	43	13	9	..	37	27	..	51	..	
No. of stations	Bombay	630	60	9	30	25	51	Paris	Rome	59	21	Amsterdam	30	49	100	33
1914 July ..	100	100	100	(a) 100	100	100	100	100	(a) 100							

RETAIL PRICES OF ARTICLES OF FOOD IN MARCH AND APRIL 1929*

NOTE.—The figures in italics are index numbers of prices taking July 1914 prices as 100 in each case

Articles	Price per	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
		March 1929	March 1929	March 1929	March 1929	March 1929	March 1929	April 1929	April 1929	April 1929	April 1929
Cereals—											
Rice (1)	Maund	8 15 5 <i>160</i>	8 0 0 <i>120</i>	8 0 0 <i>130</i>	8 6 <i>159</i>	6 12 3 <i>117</i>	8 15 5 <i>160</i>	7 9 11 <i>114</i>	8 0 0 <i>130</i>	8 6 9 <i>159</i>	7 1 0 <i>122</i>
Wheat (1)	..	9 7 11 <i>170</i>	7 5 8 <i>175</i>	8 0 0 <i>170</i>	6 2 3 <i>119</i>	7 14 1 <i>146</i>	9 4 10 <i>166</i>	6 15 4 <i>165</i>	7 7 1 <i>158</i>	6 3 7 <i>121</i>	7 12 11 <i>145</i>
Jowari	..	5 9 1 <i>128</i>	5 3 11 <i>144</i>	5 2 7 <i>136</i>	3 13 5 <i>134</i>	4 8 5 <i>132</i>	5 6 2 <i>124</i>	5 1 11 <i>141</i>	5 0 0 <i>131</i>	3 10 10 <i>128</i>	4 8 0 <i>131</i>
Bajri	..	5 15 8 <i>139</i>	5 15 8 <i>142</i>	6 10 8 <i>142</i>	4 8 10 <i>129</i>	5 7 1 <i>133</i>	5 12 3 <i>134</i>	5 11 5 <i>136</i>	6 10 8 <i>142</i>	4 10 10 <i>133</i>	5 8 11 <i>135</i>
Index No.—Cereals	..	<i>149</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>132</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>135</i>	
Pulses—											
Gram	Maund	7 13 6 <i>182</i>	7 0 6 <i>185</i>	6 4 5 <i>157</i>	5 15 2 <i>138</i>	6 11 9 <i>138</i>	7 8 2 <i>175</i>	6 10 8 <i>175</i>	6 4 5 <i>157</i>	5 13 1 <i>135</i>	6 10 8 <i>137</i>
Turdal	..	8 15 5 <i>153</i>	8 6 9 <i>126</i>	8 14 3 <i>144</i>	8 1 4 <i>158</i>	8 7 10 <i>128</i>	8 15 5 <i>153</i>	8 0 0 <i>120</i>	8 14 3 <i>144</i>	8 0 4 <i>137</i>	8 10 0 <i>131</i>
Index No.—Pulses	..	<i>168</i>	<i>156</i>	<i>151</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>164</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>151</i>	<i>136</i>	<i>134</i>

Other articles of food—											
Sugar (refined)	Maund	11 11 7 <i>154</i>	9 13 6 <i>135</i>	10 5 2 <i>129</i>	10 10 8 <i>107</i>	11 3 8 <i>120</i>	12 0 6 <i>158</i>	10 0 0 <i>138</i>	10 5 2 <i>129</i>	10 10 8 <i>107</i>	11 3 8 <i>120</i>
Jagri (gul)	..	12 0 6 <i>141</i>	9 6 7 <i>135</i>	11 6 10 <i>129</i>	10 0 0 <i>129</i>	8 6 9 <i>120</i>	11 8 10 <i>135</i>	9 6 7 <i>135</i>	11 6 10 <i>129</i>	10 0 0 <i>135</i>	10 1 0 <i>143</i>
Tea	Lb.	0 14 10 <i>190</i>	0 15 7 <i>225</i>	0 15 7 <i>200</i>	1 1 10 <i>171</i>	1 0 5 <i>200</i>	0 14 10 <i>190</i>	0 15 7 <i>225</i>	0 15 7 <i>200</i>	1 1 10 <i>171</i>	1 0 5 <i>200</i>
Salt	Maund	2 12 9 <i>131</i>	1 14 6 <i>145</i>	2 4 7 <i>151</i>	3 5 4 <i>150</i>	2 15 11 <i>159</i>	2 10 4 <i>124</i>	1 14 6 <i>145</i>	2 4 7 <i>151</i>	3 3 9 <i>145</i>	2 9 11 <i>139</i>
Beef	Seer	0 9 3 <i>179</i>	0 9 0 <i>180</i>	0 6 0 <i>100</i>	0 5 0 <i>201</i>	0 6 0 <i>141</i>	0 9 3 <i>179</i>	0 9 0 <i>180</i>	0 6 0 <i>100</i>	0 5 0 <i>201</i>	0 6 0 <i>141</i>
Mutton	..	0 11 3 <i>169</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 8 0 <i>133</i>	0 9 6 <i>158</i>	0 11 3 <i>169</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 8 0 <i>133</i>	0 10 8 <i>178</i>
Milk	Maund	17 9 4 <i>191</i>	8 6 9 <i>150</i>	10 0 0 <i>200</i>	10 0 0 <i>138</i>	13 5 4 <i>133</i>	17 9 4 <i>191</i>	8 10 5 <i>195</i>	10 0 0 <i>200</i>	10 0 0 <i>138</i>	13 5 4 <i>133</i>
Ghee	..	78 6 9 <i>154</i>	71 1 9 <i>167</i>	64 0 0 <i>144</i>	91 6 10 <i>163</i>	66 10 8 <i>129</i>	78 0 9 <i>154</i>	71 1 9 <i>167</i>	64 0 0 <i>144</i>	91 6 10 <i>163</i>	66 10 8 <i>129</i>
Potatoes	..	7 14 1 <i>176</i>	6 6 5 <i>118</i>	5 8 3 <i>145</i>	6 2 6 <i>154</i>	4 1 9 <i>122</i>	7 2 3 <i>159</i>	6 10 8 <i>123</i>	5 0 0 <i>131</i>	5 0 0 <i>125</i>	3 12 11 <i>113</i>
Onions	..	3 9 2 <i>230</i>	3 8 11 <i>196</i>	3 10 10 <i>184</i>	3 7 1 <i>138</i>	2 1 8 <i>105</i>	3 9 2 <i>230</i>	2 11 0 <i>148</i>	2 13 9 <i>143</i>	2 13 9 <i>114</i>	1 9 8 <i>80</i>
Cocconut oil	..	28 9 1 <i>112</i>	25 9 7 <i>104</i>	32 0 0 <i>160</i>	29 1 5 <i>109</i>	28 1 1 <i>100</i>	28 1 1 <i>111</i>	25 9 7 <i>104</i>	32 0 0 <i>160</i>	29 1 5 <i>109</i>	28 1 1 <i>100</i>
Index No.—Other articles of food	..	<i>166</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>164</i>	<i>157</i>	<i>150</i>		<i>134</i>
Index No.—All food articles (unweighted)	..	<i>162</i>	<i>156</i>	<i>152</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>152</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>134</i>

*The sources of the price-quotations used in this table are the Monthly Returns of Average Retail Prices Current supplied by the Director of Agriculture, Poona.
(1) The Bombay price quotations for rice and wheat since June 1928 are for 'Mandla' and 'Pissi Sarbatti' varieties instead of for 'Rangoon small mill' and 'Pissi Seoni' respectively.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS IN BOMBAY BY GROUPS

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Months	Pulses	Cereals and pulses	Other articles of food	All food	Fuel and lighting	Clothing	House-rent	Cost of living
1926								
May	133	138	133	177	150	164	170	153
June	133	139	134	182	152	164	162	155
July	134	145	135	187	155	164	160	157
August	135	141	136	181	153	164	160	155
September	135	145	136	179	152	164	160	155
October	135	150	136	180	153	164	159	155
November	133	152	135	180	152	164	156	154
December	134	155	136	184	154	166	148	156
1927								
January	134	149	136	188	155	166	143	156
February	134	150	136	180	152	166	148	155
March	135	159	137	179	152	166	152	155
April	135	158	135	178	151	166	143	153
May	135	154	134	176	150	166	147	152
June	134	156	136	177	151	166	147	154
July	136	153	138	181	154	166	149	156
August	136	157	138	184	155	166	152	157
September	132	151	134	180	151	166	163	154
October	127	151	129	180	148	156	163	151
November	125	151	127	180	147	156	157	150
December	128	155	131	178	149	156	154	151
1928								
January	127	160	135	180	151	156	152	154
February	127	152	129	174	146	144	153	148
March	123	146	126	171	142	144	151	145
April	121	147	124	168	140	145	153	144
May	123	153	126	175	144	145	155	147
June	122	142	124	172	142	158	156	146
July	120	144	123	177	143	158	158	147
August	121	144	121	176	142	158	158	146
September	120	143	122	174	141	151	157	145
October	120	135	124	174	142	144	156	146
November	122	157	125	174	144	143	158	147
December	125	156	120	173	145	143	160	148
1929								
January	127	150	130	173	146	148	160	149
February	126	162	130	173	146	143	160	149
March	120	166	132	169	146	143	159	149
April	120	161	131	169	145	143	160	148
May	120	162	120	168	143	143	160	147

(a) Revised figure.

LABOUR GAZETTE

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

BOMBAY, JUNE, 1929

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Vol. VIII

The Month in Brief

STRIKE IN BOMBAY TEXTILE MILLS

H. S. Frederick Sykes, Governor of Bombay, on June 19, convened a conference of representatives of the principal public bodies and associations in Bombay, when the serious situation created by the strike was discussed and recommendations made to Government for dealing with it. The conference was adjourned to June 21st when His Excellency announced that Government had decided to appoint a Committee of Enquiry under the Trade Disputes Act to make, by Ordinance, intimidation a punishable offence and to introduce legislation with regard to picketing on the lines of the English Trades Disputes Act of 1927. At the time of going to Press 64 mills are working with 87,000 hands.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE TEXTILE AND ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES

In the textile industry, except in Bombay City where the strike affecting 64 mills was in progress, the supply of labour was equal to the demand during the month of May 1929. The average absenteeism was 4.15 per cent. in Ahmedabad, 1.56 per cent. for Viramgaum, 14.76 per cent. for Sholapur and 7.97 per cent. for Broach.

In the engineering industry in Bombay City the supply of both skilled and unskilled labour was adequate. Absenteeism was 15.26 per cent. in the engineering workshops, 5 per cent. in the Marine Lines Reclamation of the Development Directorate, 12.26 per cent. in the Bombay Port Trust Docks and 9.60 per cent. in the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust. In the engineering workshops of the Karachi Port Trust the percentage absenteeism was 9.00.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBER

In June 1929, the Bombay Working Class Cost of Living Index Number was 147, the same as in the preceding month. The Index Number for food articles only was 144.

INDEX NUMBER OF WHOLESALE PRICES

The Wholesale Prices Index Number in Bombay for May 1929 was 141.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

There were eleven industrial disputes in the month of May 1929. The number of workpeople involved was 130,222 and the number of working days lost 2,342,100.

BALANCE OF TRADE

During May 1929, the visible balance of trade, including securities, in favour of India amounted to Rs. 244 lakhs.