

The Cost of Living Index for December 1928

DEC., 1928

A RISE OF ONE POINT
 Increase over July 1914 ... 46 per cent.
 ... Food only ... 45 per cent.

In December 1928,* the average level of total 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 higher than in the preceding month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914 the general index number was 147 in November and 148 in July 1914 the (193) reached in October 1920 and 6 points lower than the monthly average for the year 1927.

As compared with November 1928, the index number for all food articles recorded a rise of 1 point. The index number for Cereals advanced by 3 points due to a rise in the price of all the four cereals included in the index. But Pulses showed a slight decrease owing to a fall of 2 points in tur dal. The combined average for all food grains was 135 as against 125 in the preceding month. Among other food articles, there was a fall of 7 points in raw sugar (gul) but refined sugar was steady at 15. Salt and mutton recorded a rise of 5 and 3 points respectively. Trade was practically stationary during the month under review. The index number for the "other food" group stood at 173.

The "fuel and lighting" index number remained stationary at 144. The index number for "clothing" advanced by 2 points to 160 owing to a rise in the price of all the articles included in that group.

All Items - Preliminary Increase since July 1914

	1914	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
January ..	69	73	56	59	57	55	56	55
February ..	62	65	55	56	57	54	56	55
March ..	60	65	54	54	59	55	55	55
April ..	60	62	56	50	58	53	55	55
May ..	67	63	53	50	56	53	53	55
June ..	73	63	52	53	54	55	52	54
July ..	77	65	53	57	57	57	54	56
August ..	80	64	54	61	52	55	57	56
September ..	85	65	54	61	51	55	57	56
October ..	83	62	52	61	53	55	54	56
November ..	82	60	53	61	53	55	51	56
December ..	79	61	57	60	55	56	51	56
Yearly average ..	73	64	54	57	55	55	54	47

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

*The prices on ...

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX—DECEMBER

Articles	Unit of quantity	Annual consumption (Mass Units) (in crores)	Price per Unit of Quantity			Price x Mass Unit		
			July 1914	Nov. 1928	Dec. 1928	July 1914	Nov. 1928	Dec. 1928
Cereals—	Maund	70	Rs. 5.594	Rs. 6.865	Rs. 6.943	Rs. 391.58	Rs. 480.55	Rs. 486.01
Rice	"	21	5.594	7.000	7.333	117.47	147.00	153.99
Wheat	"	11	4.354	4.750	4.917	47.89	52.25	54.09
Jowari	"	6	4.313	5.229	5.719	25.88	31.57	34.31
Total—Cereals ..	..	..	..	..	..	582.82	711.17	728.40
Pulses—	Maund	10	4.302	7.031	7.031	43.02	70.31	70.31
Tur dal	"	3	5.844	8.172	8.089	17.53	24.52	24.27
Total—Pulses ..	..	..	..	..	..	60.55	94.83	94.58
Index Numbers—Pulses ..	..	..	..	..	..	100	157	156
Tea	Maund	2	7.620	11.906	11.906	15.24	23.81	23.81
Salt	"	7	8.557	14.287	13.693	59.90	100.01	95.85
Beef	Seer	5	40.000	76.495	76.068	1.00	1.91	1.90
Mutton	"	28	2.130	3.219	3.313	10.65	16.10	16.57
Milk	Maund	33	0.417	0.510	0.510	9.04	14.28	14.28
Ghee	"	14	9.198	17.585	17.585	13.76	23.89	24.42
Potatoes	"	11	50.792	89.880	88.693	128.77	246.16	246.16
Onions	"	11	4.479	7.141	7.141	76.19	134.52	133.04
Coconut Oil	"	3	1.552	3.573	3.573	4.66	10.72	10.72
	"	1	25.396	27.974	27.974	12.70	13.99	13.99
Total—Fuel and lighting ..	..	..	..	..	..	381.18	664.24	659.29
Total—Clothing ..	..	..	..	..	..	100	174	173
Total—House-rent ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,024.55	1,470.24	1,482.27
Total—Fuel and lighting ..	..	..	..	..	..	100	144	145
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	0.760	0.760	0.54	0.76	0.76
Total—Fuel and lighting ..	..	..	..	..	..	60.44	86.48	86.48
Shirts	..	..	..	..	..	100	143	143
T. Cloths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total—Clothing ..	..	..	..	..	..	53.06	83.88	84.97
House-rent	Per month	10	11.302	19.440	19.440	113.02	194.40	194.40
Total—House-rent ..	..	..	..	..	..	100	172	172
Grand Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,251.07	1,825.00	1,848.12
Cost of Living Index Numbers ..	..	..	..	..	..	100	147	148

The Cost of Living Index for December 1928

A RISE OF ONE POINT

In December 1928,* 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 higher than in the preceding month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914 the general index number was 147 in November and 148 in December 1928. The general index number is thus 33 points below the high-water mark (1913) reached in October 1920 and 6 points lower than the previous monthly average for the year 1927.

As compared with November 1928, the index number for all food articles recorded a rise of 1 point. The index number for Cereals advanced by 3 points due to a rise in the price of all the four cereals included in the index. But Pulses showed a slight decrease owing to a fall of 2 points in tur dal. The combined average for all food grains was 128 as against 125 in the preceding month. Among other food articles there was a fall of 7 points in raw sugar (gul) but refined sugar was steady at 150. Salt and mutton recorded a rise of 5 and 3 points respectively. Tea fell by 1 point and other articles of the "other food" group stood at 173.

The "fuel and lighting" index number remained stationary at 143. The price index for "clothing" advanced by 2 points to 160 owing to a rise in the price of all the articles included in that group.

	Percent increase over July 1914						
	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
January ..	62	65	56	59	57	55	56
February ..	60	65	54	54	59	55	55
March ..	60	62	56	50	58	53	53
April ..	67	63	53	50	56	53	52
May ..	73	63	52	53	54	55	54
June ..	77	65	54	61	52	55	56
July ..	80	64	54	61	51	55	57
August ..	85	65	54	61	53	55	54
September ..	83	62	52	61	53	55	51
October ..	82	60	53	61	53	54	50
November ..	82	61	57	60	55	56	51
December ..	79	61	57	60	55	56	51
Yearly average ..			54				54

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

*The prices on which the index is based are those collected between November 16 and December 15

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX—DECEMBER

Articles	Unit of quantity	Annual consumption (in crores)	Price per Unit of Quantity			Price in Mill. Rs.		
			July 1914	Nov. 1928	Dec. 1928	July 1914	Nov. 1928	Dec. 1928
Cereals	Mauud	70	Rs. 5.594	Rs. 6.865	Rs. 6.943	Rs. 391.58	Rs. 480.55	Rs. 486.01
		21	5.594	7.000	7.333	117.47	147.00	153.99
		11	4.354	4.750	4.917	47.89	52.25	54.09
		6	4.313	5.229	5.719	25.88	31.37	34.31
Pulses	Mauud	10	4.302	7.031	7.031	43.02	70.31	70.31
		3	5.844	8.172	8.089	17.53	24.52	24.27
		Total—Pulses				60.55	94.83	94.58
Tea	Seer	2	7.620	11.906	11.906	15.24	23.81	23.81
		7	8.557	14.287	13.693	59.90	100.01	95.85
Salt	Mauud	50	40.000	76.495	76.068	1.00	1.91	1.90
		5	2.130	3.219	3.313	10.65	16.10	16.57
Beef	Mauud	28	0.323	0.510	0.510	9.04	14.28	14.28
		33	0.417	0.724	0.740	13.76	23.89	24.42
Milk	Mauud	14	9.198	17.583	17.583	128.77	246.16	246.16
		11	50.792	89.880	88.693	76.19	134.82	133.04
Fuel and lighting	Per month	10	4.479	7.141	7.141	49.27	78.55	78.55
		3	1.552	3.573	3.573	4.66	10.72	10.72
Clothing	Per month	1	25.396	27.974	27.974	12.70	13.99	13.99
House-rent	Per month					381.18	664.24	659.29
						100	174	173
Total—Fuel and lighting	Per month					1,024.55	1,470.24	1,482.27
						100	144	145
Firewood	Case	5	4.375	6.594	6.594	21.88	32.97	32.97
		48	0.792	1.099	1.099	38.02	52.75	52.75
Coal	Mauud	1	0.542	0.760	0.760	0.54	0.76	0.76
Total—Fuel and lighting	Per month					60.44	86.48	86.48
						100	143	143
Clothing	Per month	27	0.594	0.938	0.953	16.04	25.33	25.73
		25	0.641	1.037	1.042	16.03	25.93	26.05
		36	0.583	0.906	0.922	20.99	32.62	33.19
Total—Clothing	Per month					53.06	84.97	84.97
						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	Per month					1,251.07	1,835.00	1,840.12
						100	147	147

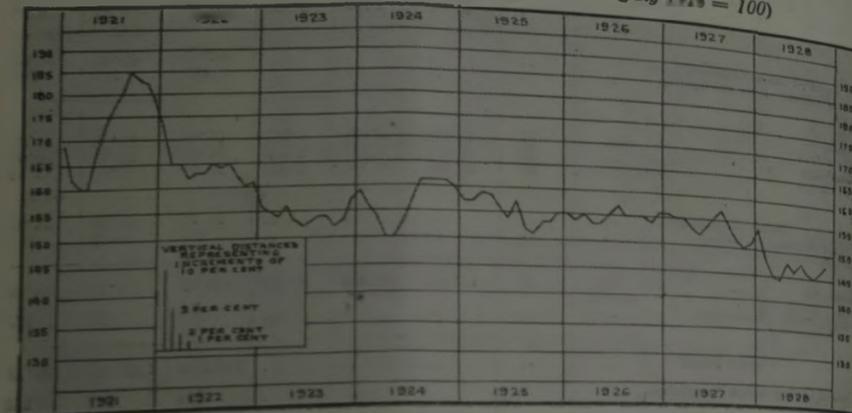
The following table shows the price levels of articles of food in November and December 1928 as compared with the price level for July 1914, which is taken as 100. The levels are calculated from the prices of articles per standard (or railway) maund or seer :—

Articles	July 1914	Nov. 1928	Dec. 1928	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in Dec. 1928 over or below Nov. 1928
Rice	100	123	124	+ 1
Wheat	100	125	131	+ 6
Jowari	100	109	113	+ 4
Bajri	100	121	133	+12
Gram	100	163	163	
Turdal	100	140	138	- 2
Sugar (refined) ..	100	156	156	
Raw sugar (gul) ..	100	167	160	- 7
Tea	100	191	190	- 1

Articles	July 1914	Nov. 1928	Dec. 1928	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in Dec. 1928 over or below Nov. 1928
Salt	100			
Beef	100			
Mutton	100	151	156	+ 5
Milk	100	158	156	- 2
Ghee	100	174	177	+ 3
Potatoes	100	191	191	
Onions	100	177	175	- 2
Cocoanut oil	100	159	159	
All food articles (weighted average) ..	100	110	110	
		144	145	+ 1

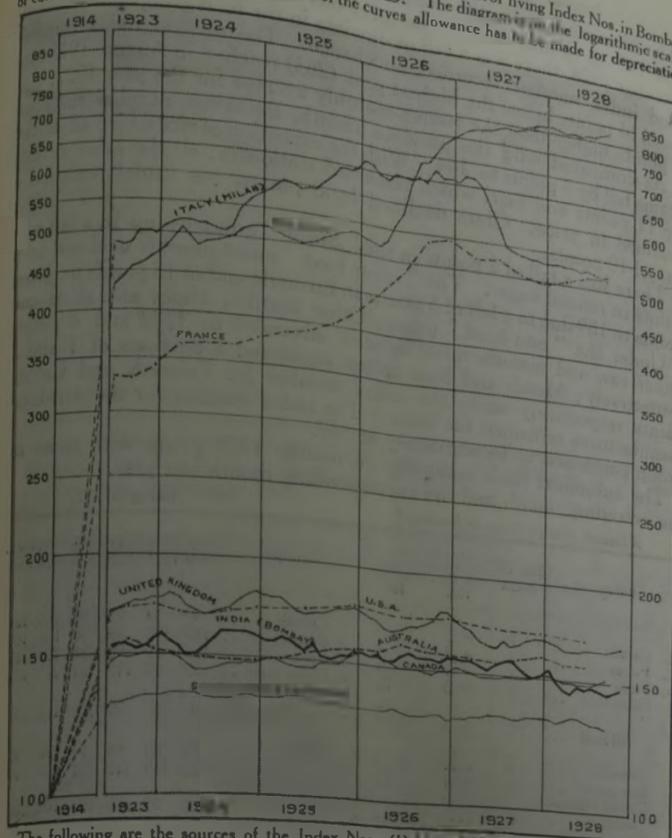
The amount purchasable per rupee was less than the amount purchasable in July 1914 by the following percentage differences :—
 Rice 19, Wheat 24, Jowari 12, Bajri 25, Gram 39, Turdal 28, Sugar (refined) 36, Raw Sugar (gul) 37, Tea 47, Salt 36, Beef 37, Mutton 44, Milk 48, Ghee 43, Potatoes 37, Onions 57 and Cocoanut Oil 9.
 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 10 pies for all items and 11 annas 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 world centres from the middle of 1923. The diagram is on the logarithmic scale. In considering the position and movements of the curves allowance has to be made for depreciation of currency.



The following are the sources of the Index Nos. : (1) United Kingdom—The Labour Gazette, (2) New Zealand—Census and Statistics Office, Wellington (by 11), (3) South Africa—Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics, (4) U. S. A.—Monthly Bulletin of Labor Statistics, (5) Canada—The Labour Gazette, published by the Department of Labour, Canada, (6) Australia—Monthly Bulletin of Statistics published by the League of Nations, (7) All other countries—from the Ministry of Labour, United Kingdom. In the case of Italy the Index No. is for Milan. The India figure is for Bombay only.
 In all cases the Index Number is for working classes only. The actual Index Numbers for twelve world centres will be found among the tables at the end of the volume. The centres for which figures are published are India (Bombay), the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Belgium, Norway, Switzerland, South Africa, France (Paris) and the United States of America. The Labour Office also maintains a register wherein the Index Numbers for all countries for which figures are available are recorded.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

1. WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY *

Increase over July 1914 .. 49 per cent.

In November 1928, the index number of wholesale prices in Bombay was 149 as against 150 in the previous month. As compared with October 1928, there was a fall of 4 points in the food group but the non-food index number recorded no change. The general index number was 114 points below the highest peak (263) reached in August 1918 and 2 points higher than the twelve-monthly average for the year 1927. As compared with the previous month, the index number for food grains fell by 3 points to 144. With the exception of rice which advanced by 11 points and bajri which remained stationary, all the other cereals declined in price. Gram declined by 8 points, but turdal recorded a rise of 10 points.

There was a fall of 2 points in the "Sugar" group owing to a fall of 4 points in refined sugar. The "other food" index number declined by 6 points to 189 due to a fall of 5 points in turmeric and of 13 points in ghee. Under the "non-food" group, Other textiles, Hides and skins and Other raw and manufactured articles advanced by 1, 3 and 4 points respectively; Metals and Raw cotton registered a decrease of 1 and 2 points respectively while the index number for Oilseeds and Cotton manufactures remained the same. The index number for the non-food group continued to be stationary at 147.

The subjoined table compares November 1928 prices with those of the preceding month and the corresponding month last year.

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay †

100 = Average of 1927

Groups	No. of items	compared with Oct. 1928	compared with Nov. 1927	Groups	Nov. 1927	Feb. 1928	May 1928	Aug. 1928	Oct. 1928	Nov. 1928
1. Cereals	7	-3	+3	1. Cereals	99	94	92	92	104	101
2. Pulses	2	+1	+4	2. Pulses	105	103	99	96	108	109
3. Sugar	3	-1	+5	3. Sugar	102	90	96	98	109	107
4. Other food ..	3	-3	+22	4. Other food ..	99	99	115	122	125	121
All food ..	15	-	+7	All food ..	100	95	99	100	110	107
5. Oilseeds	4	-	+2	5. Oilseeds ..	94	89	94	91	96	96
6. Raw cotton ..	5	-1	-13	6. Raw cotton ..	115	109	110	101	101	99
7. Cotton manufactures ..	6	-	+2	7. Cotton manufactures ..	101	99	100	103	104	104
8. Other textiles ..	2	+1	-8	8. Other textiles ..	96	89	95	91	87	88
9. Hides and skins	3	+2	+41	9. Hides & skins ..	84	115	110	113	116	118
10. Metals	5	-1	+2	10. Metals ..	94	93	93	96	97	96
11. Other raw and manufactured articles	4	+3	+1	11. Other raw and manufactured articles	92	86	92	95	90	93
All non-food ..	29	-	+1	All non-food ..	98	90	90	99	99	99
General Index No.	44	-1	+3	General Index No.	98	92	99	99	102	101

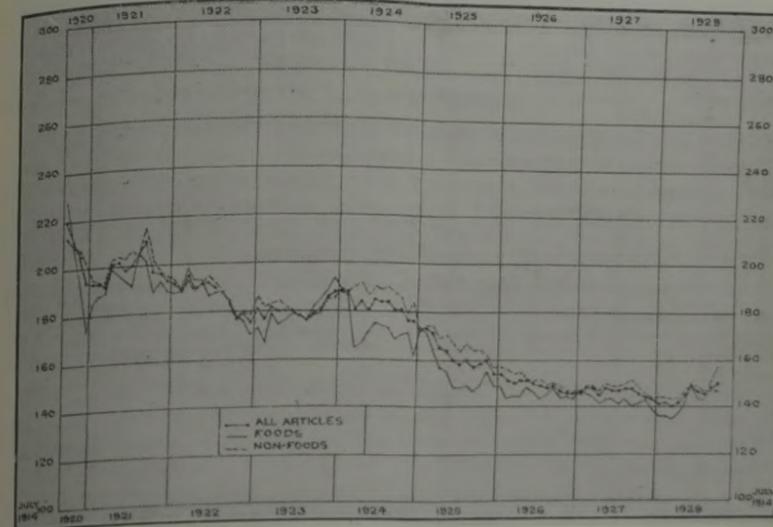
* Prices in Bombay. † Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on pages 400-401.

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.
Twelve-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
Eleven-monthly " 1928 ..	144	146	145

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 1920.

Wholesale Price Index Numbers, Bombay

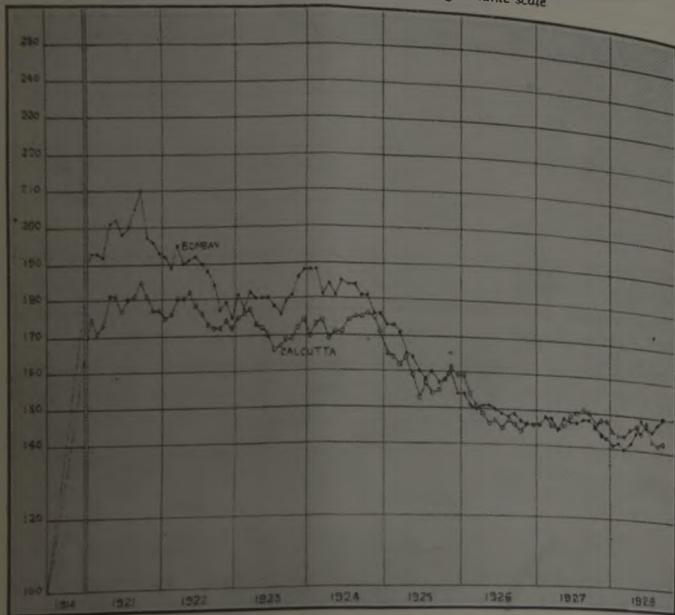


COMPARISON BETWEEN THE INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESAL
PRICES IN BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA

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.

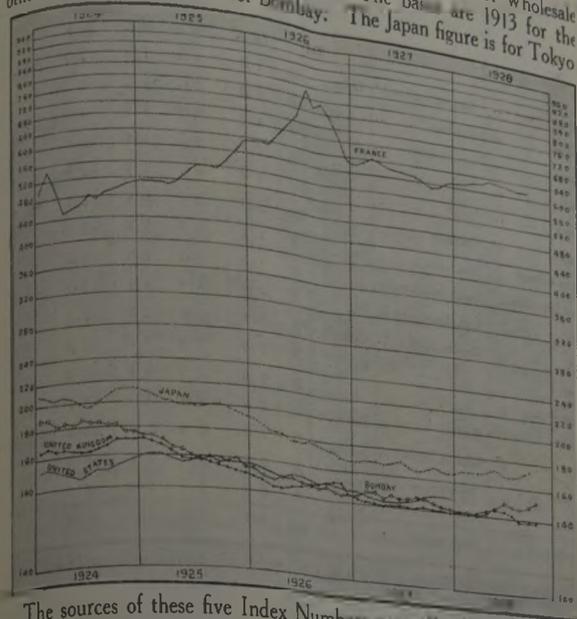
The items included in the indices are 44 for Bombay and 71 for Calcutta. The groups included in the Calcutta index but excluded from that for Bombay are tea (3 items), oil (2 items), jute-raw (3 items), jute manufactures (4 items) and building materials (1 item). There are no groups included in the Bombay 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 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 WHOLESAL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

The following diagram illustrates the comparative level of Wholesale Price 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	Equivalent in tolas	July 1914		Oct. 1928		Nov. 1928		Increase (+) or decrease (-) in Nov. 1928 over or below July 1914	
			As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.		
Rice	Small-mil.	Paylee	204	5 10	6 11	7 0			+1 2	+0 1
Wheat	Pissi Saora	"	200	4 3	4 9	4 9			+0 6	+0 1
Jowari	Sholapur	"	204	4 7	5 5	5 4			+0 9	"
Bajri	Ghati	"	192	4 4	6 7	6 9			+2 5	-0 1
Gram	Dahi*	"	204	5 11	8 7	8 4			+2 5	+0 2
Turdal	"	Seer	28	1 1	1 8	1 8			+0 7	-0 3
Sugar (refined)	Java, white	"	28	1 2	1 11	2 0			+0 10	"
Sugar (raw)	Loast Ceylon, powder	Lb.	39	7 10	14 9	14 11			+7 1	+0 2
Tea	Bombay	Paylee	176	1 9	2 10	2 10			+1 1	"
Salt	"	Lb.	39	2 6	4 0	4 0			+1 6	"
Beef	"	"	39	3 0	5 9	5 8			+2 8	"
Mutton	"	Seer	56	2 9	4 11	4 11			+2 2	"
Milk	Medium	"	28	7 1	12 8	12 7			+5 6	"
Ghee	Balgaum, Superior	"	28	0 8	1 0	1 0			+0 4	-0 1
Potatoes	Ordinary	"	28	0 3	0 6	0 6			+0 3	"
Onions	Nasik	"	28	3 7	3 11	3 11			+0 4	"
Cocoanut oil	Middle quality	"	28	3 7	3 11	3 11			+0 4	"

The following are the areas and streets in which price quotations are obtained for articles other than butchers' meat:

1. Fergusson Road.
2. DeLisle Road.
3. Superibag—Superibag Road.
4. ...
5. ...
6. ...
7. Fergusson Road.
8. DeLisle Road.
9. Superibag—Superibag Road.
10. ...
11. ...

collected from the Central Municipal Markets. The number ... 100. The prices are collected by the Investigators

The variations in prices during November 1928, as compared with the preceding month were within narrow limits. Under food grains, rice and wheat advanced by one pie each per paylee gram recorded a rise of 2 pies per paylee while bajri and turdal declined by 1 and 3 pies respectively per paylee. The price of jowari showed no change. Among other food articles, mutton fell by 1 pie per lb. and ghee by 1 pie per seer. Raw sugar (gul) was higher by 1 pie per seer and tea by 2 pies per lb. The price of the remaining articles was practically stationary during the month.

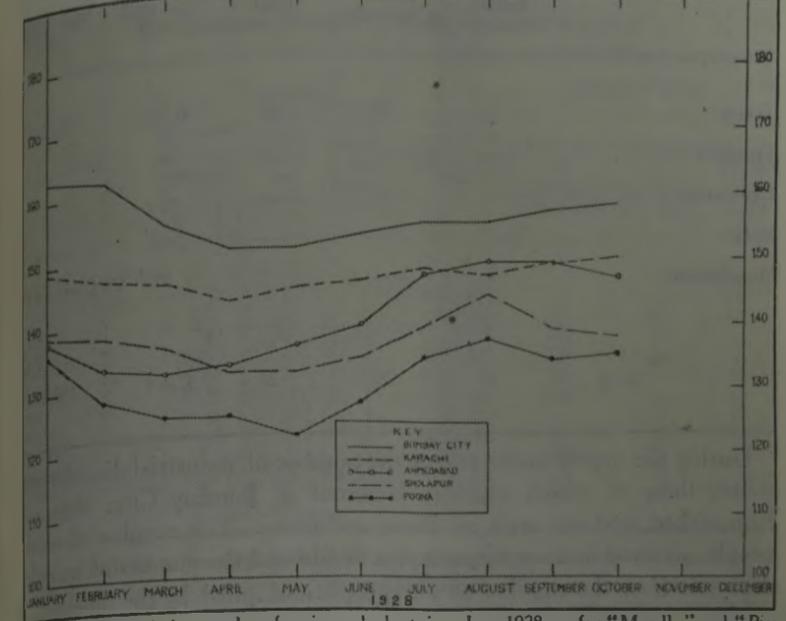
As compared with July 1914, all articles show a rise in prices. Onions are double the prewar price. Tea, mutton, milk and ghee have risen by more than 75 per cent; raw sugar (gul) and salt by more than 60 per cent; and beef and potatoes by 60 and 50 per cent, respectively. The price of cocoanut oil is only 9 per cent. above its prewar level.

* In the case of rice, wheat and gram, the equivalents in tolas shown in column 4 relate to "Mandla," "Pissi Sarabatti" and "Punjab" variety respectively.

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

Articles	October 1928					November 1928				
	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
Rice (1)	150	120	130	152	151	150	110	130	159	151
Wheat (1)	140	146	145	123	140	143	148	140	123	136
Jowari	118	131	114	110	107	118	130	117	110	104
Bajri	132	142	131	93	106	132	136	111	95	106
Gram	172	162	121	136	132	168	175	123	133	133
Turdal	153	125	144	138	140	153	123	144	138	140
Sugar (refined)	167	138	138	114	116	167	138	138	119	116
Jagri (Gul)	162	135	138	144	171	167	135	138	153	150
Tea	190	225	200	171	200	190	225	200	171	200
Salt	131	145	151	152	159	131	145	151	150	150
Beef	179	180	100	201	141	179	180	100	201	141
Mutton	169	167	167	133	158	169	167	167	133	158
Milk	191	172	200	147	133	191	155	200	142	131
Ghee	170	156	157	163	129	170	156	144	163	129
Potatoes	159	134	210	125	88	159	131	210	125	104
Onions	184	169	94	128	120	184	166	89	123	131
Cocoanut oil	112	108	160	109	100	112	108	160	109	100
Average—All food articles	158	150	147	138	135	158	151	147	138	135

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



The Bombay index numbers for rice and wheat since June 1928 are for "Mandla" and "Pissi Sarabatti" varieties instead of for "Rangoon Small Mill" and "Pissi Seoni" respectively.

Labour Intelligence—Indian and Foreign Industrial Disputes in the Presidency

Disputes in November .. 23 Workpeople involved .. 37,414

At the end of this issue will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during November 1928, 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 November 1928, and the number of working days lost.

I.—Industrial Disputes Classified by Trades

Trade	Number of disputes in progress in November 1928			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in Nov. 1928	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in Nov. 1928
	Started before November	Started in November	Total		
Textile	2	20	22	36,956	156,714
Transport	....	....	....	....	....
Engineering ..	....	....	....	....	....
Metal	....	....	....	....	....
Miscellaneous	1	....	1	458	141
Total ..	3	20	23	37,414	156,855

During the month under review the number of industrial disputes was twenty-three of which eighteen occurred in Bombay City, three in Ahmedabad, and one each in Poona and Barsi. The number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 37,414 and the number of working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days, less workers replaced) was 156,855.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

II.—Industrial Disputes—Causes and Results, July 1928 to November 1928

	July 1928	August 1928	September 1928	October 1928	November 1928
Number of strikes and lock-outs ..	0	6	5	14	23
Disputes in progress at beginning ..	4	3	2	4	3
Fresh disputes begun ..	2	3	2	10	20
Disputes ended ..	3	3	1	11	16
Disputes in progress at end ..	3	3	4	3	7
Number of workpeople involved	170,780	170,982	171,289	175,965	37,414
Aggregate duration in working days ..	4,141,454	4,151,788	4,088,637	1,258,581	156,855
Demands—					
Pay ..	2	3	4	6	16
Bonus ..	....	....	....	....	....
Personal ..	2	1	....	4	6
Leave and hours ..	....	....	....	....	....
Others ..	2	2	1	4	1
Results—					
In favour of employees ..	1	1	....	1	4
Compromised ..	2	....	....	4	3
In favour of employers ..	....	2	1	6	9

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.)
December 1927 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
January 1928 ..	3	3	1	377,121	..	..	100
February ..	10	8	8	249,083	87	13	..
March ..	14	12	12	72,239	92	..	..
April ..	10	8	5	1,314,041	100	..	..
May ..	8	6	4	4,243,194	50	..	50
June ..	7*	3	3	4,211,847	100	..	..
July ..	6	2	3	4,141,454	..	33	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	56	25	19

* 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 November 1928 was twenty as compared with ten in the previous month. The number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 36,896 and the time loss amounted to 156,714 man-days. Fifteen of these disputes arose over wages questions, four over questions regarding the employment of individuals and one was due to a "miscellaneous cause." In addition, three disputes which originally involved 518 workpeople, were in progress at the beginning of the month under review and resulted in a time-loss amounting to 141 man-days. Settlements were arrived at in 16 out of the 23 old and new disputes. The results were favourable to the employers in 9 cases, to the workers in 4 cases while compromises were effected in the remaining 3 cases.

Progress of Individual Disputes

BOMBAY

There were 18 disputes in progress in Bombay City during the month under review. One of these disputes occurred in the Kohinoor mill. When the weekly advances were paid to the weavers on the 1st November, the men complained that they had not been paid at the rate of Rs. 1-8-0 per day in accordance with the agreement arrived at on the 4th October, 1928. The management explained to them that there was no reduction in their wages, but this did not satisfy them. All the weavers, numbering 800, struck work on the 2nd, and also brought out 500 spinners by throwing bobbins at them. On the 3rd, 300 other workers also struck work and the mill was therefore closed. The Officials of the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union carried on negotiations with the management, and they also represented the men's additional grievances including retrenchment of sweepers, refusal of employment to old hands, and restoration of the old working hours in the mechanical and folding departments. On an examination of the accounts of the mill, the officials of the Union were satisfied that there was no reduction in the rates of wages. The management promised to redress all the other grievances of the men except the one relating to the hours of work in the mechanical and folding departments which, they considered, was a question for decision by the Bombay Strike Enquiry Committee. On the morning of the 6th, the strikers were informed by their leaders of the result of the negotiations, and specially of the fact that there had been no reduction in their wages. Thereupon all the strikers resumed work. The strike ended in favour of the employers.

The second dispute took place in the Bombay Cotton mill. About 60 old weavers who turned up for work on the 2nd November were refused employment by the management on the ground that they did not turn

up within a reasonable time after the general strike was over. On the 3rd, 424 weavers struck work demanding the re-employment of the 60 old hands. The other departments of the mill were not affected. As a result of the intervention of the men's leaders, the management agreed to provide employment for the old hands in one or other of the mills under their control. Satisfied with this proposal, the strikers resumed work on the 6th. The strike ended in favour of the workers.

The third was a dispute which occurred in the Pralhad mill on the 5th November. Three hundred operatives of the spinning department struck work demanding the employment of 15 spare hands, stating that they could not carry on work without additional assistance. Their request was refused by the management. The officials of the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union interviewed the management who agreed to engage 15 additional hands. Thereupon all the strikers resumed work at 1 p.m. on the 6th. The strike ended in favour of the workers.

The fourth dispute affected the Standard Mill where, on the 8th, 589 weavers suddenly struck work in the morning, alleging that their rates of wages had been reduced to the extent of 4 pies per lb. of cloth produced by them. Some of the strikers became rowdy and threw stones at the mill offices causing injuries to eight persons. The management therefore closed the mill. The situation remained unchanged till the 15th, on which date the dispute was referred to the Bombay Strike Enquiry Committee who decided that Messrs. Stones and Dange should jointly interview the Liquidator of the mill company with a view to arriving at a settlement. The strikers were advised by their leaders to collect a strike fund at the rate of Re. 1 per weaver. There was no change in the strike situation during the rest of the month and the mill continued to remain closed. The dispute continued into the next month.

The fifth dispute arose in the Elphinstone mill on the 9th. All the operatives were given their pay tickets for the balance of the wages for October. The operatives of the frame department, 187 in number, struck work complaining that they had not been adequately paid for October. The strikers went into the other departments of the mill and brought out the men working there. Consequently the mill stopped working. An official of the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union interviewed the management on behalf of the strikers on the 10th and he informed the men that there had been no reduction in their wages, and advised them to resume work. Some of the weavers then complained that they did not get good material for work, and on that ground, the strikers refused to resume work. At a meeting of the strikers held in the evening of the 10th, the men were again advised by their leaders, to resume work and not to go on strike without first consulting the Union. As a result of this advice, all the strikers resumed work on the 11th. The strike ended in favour of the employers.

The sixth dispute occurred in the Ruby Mill. On the 11th when the pay-tickets for October wages were distributed to the operatives, 150 men of the ring department struck work complaining that they had not been adequately paid. They also demanded the renewal of the old weekly bonus of 6 annas for regular attendance. As their demands were not acceded

to by the management, the strikers remained idle in the mill. In the evening 160 female reelers also struck work as the management told them that, from the 15th November, they would be given only 5000 lbs. of yarn for work instead of 7000 lbs. There was no change in the situation till the 16th, on which date, as a result of the negotiations carried on with the management by certain labour leaders, it was agreed that the operatives of the ring department should be paid a weekly bonus at the rate of four annas and that the female reelers should be given sufficient work. Thereupon the strikers resumed work on the same day and the strike thus ended in a compromise.

The seventh dispute occurred in the Spring Mill. On the 11th November, the mill did not work in the morning on account of a breakdown in the engine but in the evening the spinners refused to resume work without specifying any reasons. The management therefore announced that the operatives who absented themselves from work on the 11th would not get their wages for that day. As a protest against this, 1500 spinners struck work on the 15th. Owing to the strike of the spinners there was not sufficient material for work in the weaving department, and consequently the mill was entirely closed. The Secretary of the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union, who interviewed the Management in the matter, communicated to the strikers that the Management were not willing to pay them wages for the 11th November. The strikers, however, determined to continue their strike and the mill continued to remain closed. The strike situation was discussed at a Special Sitting of the Bombay Strike Enquiry Committee held on the 21st. The Committee decided that the dispute was a direct breach of the agreement arrived at on the 4th October and exhorted the labour representatives to try to bring about a better understanding between the workers and their employers. No settlement was, however, arrived at. On the 22nd the Management notified the strikers that the mill would be reopened only if the jobbers gave an assurance in writing that the men were willing to resume work peacefully and on the old terms. The Secretary of the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union gave an assurance to the Management on behalf of the operatives, that they would work peacefully and would not come out on strike without previous notice. He also advised the strikers to resume work. Consequently, when the mill was reopened on the 27th, all the strikers resumed work. The strike thus ended in favour of the employers.

The eighth was a dispute which took place in the Maneckji Petit Mill. On the 17th November, 350 weavers suddenly struck work in the afternoon, stating that the rates of wages for October had been reduced. They demanded payment at the rates of March 1927. The Superintendent of the mill explained to them that their wages had been calculated at the rates of March 1927 and that if there were any differences, they would be rectified on the 19th. This did not satisfy the men. The majority of the weavers were willing to continue their work and started their machines but some discontented weavers began to throw wheels, shuttles and bobbins, causing injuries to three supervisors. On the arrival of

Police, the strikers threw stones at them also, with the result that two Police Officers and some constables were injured. The Police, however, succeeded in clearing the men out of the mill which thereafter remained closed. The Bombay Girni Kamgar Union carried on negotiations with the management and arrived at a settlement on the basis of a compromise. As a result, all the strikers resumed work on the 21st and the strike ended in a compromise.

The ninth dispute occurred in the Sir Shapurji Broacha Mills where 550 weavers struck work on the 19th November, complaining that the rates of wages for certain sorts of cloth were low, and demanding an increase of 2 pies per lb. of cloth produced. As the management refused to accede to the demands of the men, the strikers went into the other departments of the mill and stopped work there by throwing bobbins at the workers. Though advised by the Secretary of the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union to resume work pending the result of his negotiations with the management, the strikers refused to do so and left the mill in the evening. On the 20th, the mill except the weaving department, worked as usual. As a result of the negotiations carried on by the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union with the management, the latter agreed that every facility would be given to the weavers to attain the same efficiency as in March and April 1928, so that they might earn wages not less than those earned in March 1927. This was communicated to the strikers by the Secretary of the Union who asked them to resume work on the 22nd. All the strikers resumed work accordingly and the strike ended in favour of the employers.

The tenth dispute occurred in the Madhorao Scindia Mill. The weavers demanded that a list of rates should be put up for their information and the management agreed to do so on the 22nd. As the list was not put up as promised, 550 weavers struck work on the 23rd November. It was explained to the men that the delay was due to the sudden death of the Superintendent and that the list would be put up on the next day. This did not satisfy the strikers who left the mill quietly. Thereupon, the management arranged to put up a list of rates in the weaving department by the evening of the 23rd. On the 24th, the weavers assembled at the mill but did not resume work on the ground that certain rates were low. On the management promising to consider their grievances, the strikers resumed work. The strike thus ended in favour of the workers.

The eleventh was a dispute which took place in the Morarji Goculdas Mill. The weavers, numbering 800, struck work on the 24th November, demanding an increase in the rates of wages for certain new sorts of cloth turned out. On the 26th, the strikers brought out the operatives of the spinning department by means of shouting and whistling and also attacked certain departmental officers and threw stones at the boiler house damaging a few glass panes. The management therefore stopped the engine on that day. On the 27th, a settlement was arrived at, as a result of the negotiations carried on by the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union with the management. One of the terms of settlement was that the list of rates should be revised as agreed to between the Union's representative

and the management. All the strikers resumed work on the 28th the terms of settlement arrived at on the previous day. The strike thus ended in a compromise.

The twelfth dispute occurred in the New Great Eastern Mill on the 26th November. The weavers in this mill, numbering 520, also struck work demanding increases in respect of certain new varieties of cloth turned out by them. Their request was refused by the management and the strikers brought out the men working in the other departments on the 27th, by means of shouting and whistling. Some of the labour leaders interviewed the management but could not come to terms. Owing to the strike, the mill remained closed. As a result of further negotiations carried on by the labour leaders, the management agreed to grant increases varying from $\frac{1}{2}$ a pie to one pie in respect of the rates of the new sorts of cloth introduced in the mill, but the strikers refused to return to work until their demands were fully granted. On the 30th, the management agreed to grant increases from $\frac{1}{2}$ a pie to 3 pies in the rates of weaving and also to engage 34 additional hands in the spinning department. Thereupon all the strikers resumed work at 1 p.m. on that day. The strike thus ended in favour of the workers.

The thirteenth dispute affected the Simplex Mill, where also the weavers struck demanding increases in the rates of wages. The strike began on the 26th and involved 650 weavers in the first instance. The strikers disturbed the spinning department, and, by means of whistling and shouting, brought out the men working there. The labour leaders, who interviewed the management in regard to the strike situation, could not arrive at a settlement. The strikers were therefore advised by their leaders to formulate their grievances and place them before the Union. There was no change in the situation and the mill continued to remain closed till the end of the month. This strike continued into the next month.

The fourteenth was a dispute which occurred in the Gold Mohur Mill. The weavers demanded the dismissal of the head jobber who was stated to have ill-treated the weavers and extorted money from them. As the management refused to accede to their request, 510 weavers struck work on the 26th. The strike spread to the other departments as well and consequently the entire mill had to be closed. There was no change in the situation till the 29th, on which date the head jobber against whom the weavers had complained, tendered his resignation. In view of this, the strikers were advised by their leaders to resume work. The strikers did not, however, resume work on the 30th, but received their fortnightly wages and complained that their wages had been reduced. This strike continued into the next month.

The fifteenth dispute was in the Currimbhoy Mill. The weavers of this mill complained that the rates in respect of certain new sorts of cloth were low, and 547 of them struck work on the 28th, demanding an increase of 4 pies per lb. The management refused to grant their request, and the strikers therefore induced the spinners also to stop work. On the arrival of the police, the strikers left the mill quietly in the evening. The mill

remained closed during the remaining days of the month and the strike continued into the next month.

The sixteenth was a dispute in which 30 winders of the Hindustan Mill struck work on the 28th November demanding an increase in their rates of wages. Their request was refused by the management. On the 30th, all strikers resumed work unconditionally. The strike thus ended in favour of the employers.

The seventeenth dispute occurred in the Pabaney Mill where 500 weavers struck work on the 30th, demanding increases in the rates of wages. The strikers also induced the operatives working in the other departments of the mill to down tools. Consequently, the entire mill had to be closed. This dispute continued into the next month.

The eighteenth dispute also took place on the 30th November and affected the Pearl Mill. The weavers, numbering 880, struck work demanding an increase in the rates of wages, which the management, however, refused to grant. Owing to the instigation of the strikers, the other operatives of the mill also stopped work and the mill was closed. This dispute continued into the next month.

AHMEDABAD

Three industrial disputes were in progress in Ahmedabad during the month under review. One of these was a continuation of the dispute in the Becharadas Spinning and Weaving mills. There was no change in the situation during the month. The mills continued working as usual whereas the strikers carried on picketing at the mills. On the 25th, the Secretaries of the Labour Union interviewed the Agent of the mills in connection with the dispute. Although an agreement was arrived at on all the disputed points, the negotiations, however, broke down as the management could not guarantee to take back all the strikers immediately. This dispute continued into the next month.

The second was a continuation of the dispute in the Ahmedabad Fine Spinning and Weaving mills. On the 1st, the management engaged a new jobber with ten new hands in place of the strikers. The services of the strikers were dispensed with on the 2nd, and the strike terminated. The result of this dispute was in favour of the employers.

The third dispute occurred in the Ahmedabad New Standard mills. A mukadam of the winding department was dismissed for unsatisfactory work, and 10 winders struck work on the 20th and demanded his reinstatement. The management engaged ten new hands in place of the strikers on the same day, and informed the strikers on the 21st that their services were no longer required. This dispute ended in favour of the employers.

POONA

The dispute in the General Workshops of the Kirkee Arsenal, which had commenced during October, terminated during the month under review. On the 1st, 277 skilled workmen, in all, resumed work and out of 150 other strikers who offered themselves for work, only 40 were admitted. On the 2nd, the workshops resumed normal working. The dispute thus ended in favour of the employers.

SHOLAPUR DISTRICT

During the month under review, there was an industrial dispute in progress in the Barsi Spinning and Weaving Mill. On the 15th, 70 operatives struck work demanding increased wages. The number of strikers increased to 264, on the 16th. The mill worked with 468 hands on the 18th, and with 521 on the 19th. On the 20th, except 48 hands, all the rest of the operatives were working in the mill. The remaining strikers also offered themselves for work on the 26th, but the management proposed to take only as many of them as were required. The dispute thus terminated in favour of the employers.

Prices in the Bombay Presidency, 1927-1928

Retail Prices.—In March 1928, the prices of food-grains in the Presidency showed a distinct decline as compared with the corresponding month last year. The unweighted index number* of the prices of six† food-grains recorded a fall in each of the four Divisions and in Bombay City. The index number for the Presidency (excluding Bombay City) fell from 144 in March 1927 to 130 in March 1928. The retail prices of eleven articles of food included in the index* for the "Other food" group‡ showed a marked fall in the four Divisions and also in Bombay City and the index number for the Presidency (excluding Bombay City) fell from 158 in March 1927 to 148 in March 1928.

Northern Division.—The index number of food-grains and for the "Other food" group fell in March 1928 by 18 and 13 points respectively as compared with the corresponding month of the previous year. All the districts in this Division reported a downward tendency in the prices of food-grains. Owing to sufficient and well distributed rainfall in Thana, the price of rice was slightly lower and the price of nagli also fell as the outturn of the crop was good. The garden products of the same district, however, did not show any noticeable difference in price. The price of ghee remained almost steady except in Ahmedabad where it slightly declined. The price of fodder in the Kaira District was moderate throughout the year under review.

Central Division.—A distinct fall in the prices of food-grains in this Division was noticeable due to a favourable season and the index number declined by 21 points from 141 in March 1927 to 120 in the corresponding month of 1928. The index number of "Other articles of food" fell from 149 in March 1927 to 140 in March 1928. The prices of jowari and bajri in East Khandesh did not show a downward tendency and rice (1st sort) and turdal were dearer in West Khandesh than in the previous year. In Satara and Ahmednagar districts, the price of rice showed no change. On the whole the Kharif crop in the Sholapur district was fair and the outturn

* Arithmetical averages. The price-quotations used are those printed in the Government Gazette.

† These are: Rice, Wheat, Bajri, Jowari, Gram and Turdal.

‡ Includes Sugar (refined), Sugar (raw), Tea, Salt, Beef, Mutton, Milk, Ghee, Potatoes, Onions and Coconut Oil.

Note.—The prices used are those prevailing in the district headquarter towns of the various divisions.

the rabi crop was also good. Milk and raw sugar (gul) were cheaper while ghee was dearer in this district. The supply of fodder was adequate at Satara and the prices of Kadbi ranged from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 per hundred bundles.

Southern Division.—There were no appreciable fluctuations in the prices of food-grains in this Division but the index numbers of the prices of food-grains and other articles of food fell by 10 and 12 points respectively in March 1928 as compared with the corresponding month of the previous year. The price of the principal food-grains showed a slight rise owing to insufficient rainfall in some parts of the Dharwar district. The three garden products of the Kanara district, viz., betelnut, cardamom and pepper showed a distinct rise as compared with the previous year. A slight rise was noticeable in the price of ghee in Ratnagiri. Paddy was cheaper in Kolaba while Kadbi and grass showed no appreciable change in price in the Belgaum district.

Sind.—The index numbers for food-grains and the "Other food" group were, in March 1928, 140 and 156 respectively as compared with 146 and 166 respectively during the corresponding month of the previous year. There was a decline in the price of wheat in this Division with the exception of the Hyderabad district, where it rose owing to the damage caused to the rice crops by the exceptionally heavy rains. The price of rice, which was steady in Larkana, rose in Hyderabad and Karachi, while it showed a declining tendency in the remaining districts. The price of jowari rose in Karachi, was steady in Hyderabad and Larkana but fell in Nawabshah and Sukkur. Jowari was cheaper in the Upper Sind Frontier, due to a larger area having been brought under cultivation. In Karachi fodder was sold at Rs. 22 per 1000 lbs. as against Rs. 20 during the previous year.

Bombay City.—The general level of retail prices of food-grains in March 1928 (129) was lower by 13 points as compared with March 1927. The "Other food" index stood at 170 as against 186 in the preceding year. The working class cost of living index which takes into account food, fuel and lighting, clothing and house rent fell from 155 in March 1927 to 145 in March 1928. The following tables give the unweighted index numbers of the prices of six food-grains and eleven other food articles:—

Index Numbers of Retail Prices of Food-grains*

July 1914=100

Divisions	March 1926	March 1927	March 1928
Northern Division	147	143	125
Central Division	137	141	120
Southern Division	138	143	133
Sind	144	146	140
Presidency (excluding Bombay City)	141	144	130
Bombay City	132	142	129

* Food-grains included are: Rice, Wheat, Jowari, Bajri, Gram and Turdal.

Index Numbers of Retail Prices of Other Food Articles*

July 1914=100

Divisions	March 1926	March 1927	March 1928
Northern Division	167	165	152
Central Division	158	149	140
Southern Division	158	156	144
Sind	169	166	156
Presidency (excluding Bombay City)	163	158	148
Bombay City	184	186	170

Wholesale Prices.—Wholesale prices in Bombay City fluctuated during the year under review and the "All food" index fell by 9 points to 135. Among articles of food there was a marked fall in cereals and sugar, while the "Other food" group rose by 12 points. Oilseeds declined by 20 points and raw cotton rose by 30 points. The other groups included under "All non-foods" recorded a fall with the exception of "Hides and skins" which rose by 3 points. The non-food index number stood at 143 in March 1928 as against 149 for the corresponding month of the previous year, and the general index number declined by 8 points from 148 to 140 in March 1928. The changes in the index numbers of the different groups included in the Bombay Wholesale Prices Index are set out in the following table:—

Group Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in Bombay City

July 1914=100

Groups	March 1926	March 1927	March 1928	Increase (+) or decrease (−) in points in March 1928 over or below March 1927
Cereals	148	148	128	−20
Pulses	117	133	129	−4
Sugar	146	135	122	−13
Other food	152	149	161	+12
All food	144	144	135	−9
Oil seeds	127	144	124	−20
Raw cotton	144	132	162	+30
Cotton manufactures	186	163	162	−23
Other textiles	145	134	124	−21
Hides and skins	147	137	140	+3
Metals	151	156	132	−24
Other raw and manufactured articles	153	161	132	−29
All non-foods	154	149	143	−6
All articles	150	148	140	−8

* Other food articles included are Sugar (refined), raw sugar (gul), tea, salt, beef, mutton, milk ghee, potatoes, onions and cocoanut oil.

The outturn of seed cotton (kapas) in Broach was not favourable owing to heavy rains in the month of August 1927 and the price of cotton which fell from Rs. 180 to 191 per bhar in the beginning of the cotton season—fell somewhat. The price of clean cotton in Surat rose from Rs. 11-0 to Rs. 50-10-0 per Indian maund during the year under review and reached the level of 1925-26. In West Khandesh also the price of cotton advanced from Rs. 22 to Rs. 28 per Indian maund. Compared with March 1927, wholesale prices in Karachi showed a declining tendency. The food index fell by 6 points and stood at 131 in March 1928, which was the lowest level reached during the preceding 12 months. The non-food index remained stationary at 137 and the general index number declined by 2 points and stood at 135 in March 1928.

The following table shows the food, non-food and general index numbers wholesale prices in Karachi—

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in Karachi

July 1914=100

Groups	March 1926	March 1927	March 1928	Increase (+) or decrease (−) in points in March 1928 over or below March 1927
Foods	144	137	131	−6
Non-foods	140	137	137	0
All articles	142	137	135	−2

Employment Situation in November

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 121 or 81·21 per cent. of the mills reported as working during the month of November 1928. The average absenteeism in the textile industry as a whole amounted to 8·64 per cent.

In Bombay City out of 78 mills which were working during the month 70 or 89·74 per cent. furnished returns. The supply of labour was reported as adequate by a large majority of the mills and the average absenteeism amounted to 9·37 per cent. during the month under review.

In Ahmedabad 61 mills were working during the month and 41 or 67·21 per cent. furnished information. Absenteeism amounted to 3·88 per cent. as against 3·86 per cent. in October 1928. The supply of labour was equal to the demand.

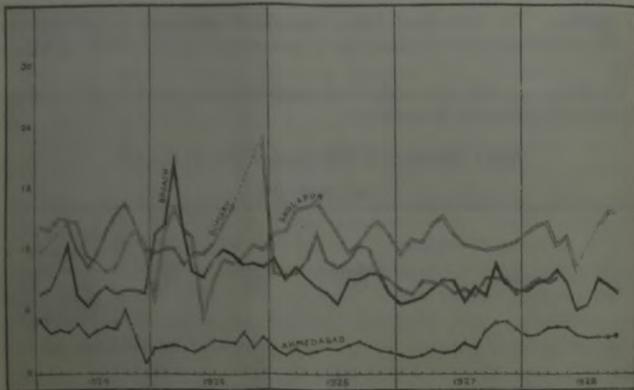
Returns were submitted by all the mills in Sholapur. Except in the case of one mill, no shortage in the supply of labour was reported and the

average percentage absenteeism amounted to 14.63 as against 15.80 in the previous month.

Information was supplied by only one mill in Viramgaum, which was working during the month. The percentage absenteeism amounted to 3.16 as against 3.67 in October 1928.

One of the three mills in Broach which furnished information reported that the supply of labour was inadequate. The absenteeism amounted to 6.66 per cent. as against 7.76 per cent. in the preceding month.

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



THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

In the engineering industry in Bombay City the supply of labour was adequate. The average absenteeism in representative workshops was 13.20 per cent. as against 12.24 per cent. in the previous month. In the Marine Lines Reclamation Scheme absenteeism was 5.00 per cent. and in the Bombay Port Trust Docks it amounted to 11.57 per cent. The average absenteeism in the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust was 8.90.

The Karachi Port Trust found both skilled and ordinary labour available in plenty. On an average 9.00 per cent. of the labourers absented themselves from work during the month under review.

Wages of Indian Labourers in Malaya

The Honourable Mr. E. F. W. Cillman, Controller of Labour for Malaya, has arrived in India and will discuss with the Government of India the question of introduction of standard living wages to Indian labourers in such estates of Malaya as have not already introduced them; also the question of exempting Malaya from the operation of the sex ratio clause of the Indian Emigration Act—Associated Press. (From "Indian Daily Mail," Bombay, November 23, 1928.)

Prosecutions under the Indian Factories Act in November

AHMEDABAD

The manager of a cotton mill was prosecuted under section 41 (f) for breach of section 18 for not fencing the hoist. The manager was convicted and fined Rs. 100.

The manager of a second cotton mill was prosecuted under section 41 (f) for breach of section 18 for not fencing a hoist whereby an operative was killed. The manager was convicted and fined Rs. 300 and the Court awarded Rs. 200 out of this fine as compensation to deceased's heirs.

The manager of a third mill was prosecuted under section 41 (a) for breach of section 23 (b) for employing certain children without certificates at night. The manager was convicted and fined Rs. 40 in each of three cases.

Labour News from Ahmedabad

The Labour Union has decided to demand a substantial increase in the wages of all operatives in cotton mills.

The arbitrators have given their award in regard to the collection of subscriptions in the mill premises through the agents of the Union. They have decided that, as the present method is likely to give rise to disorder in mills, the mills should collect subscriptions from members of the Union according to the following system. The Union is to submit a list of members to the mills. Within two weeks after receipt of the list the mills are to inform the Union of the names of workers who deny having joined the Union. The Union will then intimate to the mills any alterations that may be found necessary in the list. The mills are to collect subscriptions from members on each pay day according to the scale fixed by the Union. Within a reasonable time before pay day the mills are to send to the Union a list of workers who have left the mills and the names of those who have been newly engaged. The Union will then intimate to the mills the names of members among the newly engaged workers. Cases of disputed membership which cannot be decided between the Union and the mills in the first instance or between the Union and the Millowners' Association are to be submitted to the arbitrators for final decision. Pending the award of the arbitrators the mills are to continue collecting subscriptions in disputed cases also. In case the award goes against the Union the subscription previously collected will be refunded. The subscriptions shall be paid to the Union by cross cheque. If the Union decides to collect any contribution in addition to the subscription the mills are to collect the same from such of the members as are willing to pay. If necessary a clerk of the Labour Union may be present at the time of collecting subscriptions. The above system is to be given a trial for at least six months. After that period is over the arbitrators will consider any objections raised by the mills or the Union against the system.

Agricultural Outlook in the Presidency

The following summary of conditions in the Presidency during the period ending 20th December 1928 has been supplied by the Director of Agriculture :—

Gujarat.—Light to fair rain was received in many places at the end of November. This rain was somewhat unwelcome to crops lying on threshing yards or ready for harvest. The harvesting of *kharif* crops continued. The *rabi* crops were progressing generally well. The condition of irrigated crops was also satisfactory.

Konkan.—Since submission of the last report some light rain was received at some coastal stations in the division but practically none elsewhere. The harvesting of early crops was nearly completed and their threshing was in progress. The garden crops were in a satisfactory condition nearly everywhere.

Deccan and Karnatak.—During the period under review some light to fair rain was received at the end of November in places in the North Deccan, while a very heavy hail storm occurred during the first week of December in parts of Khandesh. This storm caused damage to a varying extent to the standing crops, fruit-trees, etc. Elsewhere there was practically no rain in either of these two divisions. The *rabi* crops were in a fair to good condition generally but except in Khandesh they required rain in many places for further development. Harvesting and threshing of crops continued generally. The irrigated crops were reported to be satisfactory.

Workmen's Compensation Act

Details of Proceedings

Information furnished by all the Commissioners in the Presidency for the month of November 1928 shows that out of 34 cases disposed of during the month 24 were reported by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner in Bombay. The gross amount of compensation awarded in lump sums was Rs. 18,276-0-0 as against Rs. 20,945-2-0 in the previous month and Rs. 26,245-5-0 in November 1927. Out of the 34 cases in which compensation was claimed, 11 were in respect of fatal accidents, one of temporary disablement, one of permanent total disablement and 21 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 6 and in other industries to 28. The corresponding figures for November 1927 were 20 and 37.

The total number of claimants for compensation in all the cases disposed of during the month was 35 of whom 32 were adult males, two adult females and one a female below 15 years of age.

Out of the cases disposed of during the month under review, 16 were original claims, 17 registrations of agreements and one a miscellaneous application. Compensation was awarded in 15 cases, agreements were registered in 17 cases, one case was dismissed and one was allowed to be withdrawn.

Reference to High Court

TRADE OR BUSINESS OF A RAILWAY COMPANY

CIVIL REFERENCE No. 11 OF 1928

Rabia, widow of Mahomed Tahir Applicant ;

versus

The Agent, G.I.P. Railway Opposite party.

Messrs. W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works .. Contractors with the opposite party.

Reference made by the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation in Bombay, under Section 27 of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923 for decision by this Court.

Messrs. A. A. Adarkar and K. R. Bhende, for the applicant.

Counsel Mr. Binning with Messrs. Little & Co., for the opposite party.

1st October 1928.

(Coram : Marten, C. J., and Murphy, J.)

(Per Marten, C. J.)—In this reference the question whether the G.I.P. Railway are liable to the representatives of the deceased workman depends on the word "ordinarily" in section 12 (1) of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. The G.I.P. Railway gave out certain work to a contractor, and the question arises whether the execution of that work was "ordinarily part of the trade or business of the principal, namely, the G.I.P. Railway.

The work in question was the erection of steel towers to carry overhead cables in connection with the electrification of the G.I.P. Railway line beyond Kalyan. Hitherto the motive power beyond Kalyan has been steam, or oil, and the line is now to be electrified. The precise facts as found by the Commissioner are :—

"The G.I.P. Railway, in connection with the electrification of their lines are building a Power Station near Kalyan and are constructing a transmission line to carry electric power to various sub-stations on the railway. The work of constructing this transmission line has been entrusted on a contract to Messrs. W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works, and the deceased was employed by Messrs. Henley's as a fitter. His work was to assist in the erection of the steel towers which will carry the overhead cable. These towers are not erected on the railway track but on land adjacent thereto, the distance from the railway lines varying from 400 to 700 feet. While carrying material from the store near Kalyan Station to the site of the work he was knocked down by a train and killed."

It may be noted that these particular steel towers are not on the railway track itself, but are 400 to 700 feet therefrom. Further, they are for the purpose of carrying the overhead cable from the Kalyan Power Station to various sub-stations on the Railway, and, though it is not so specifically

department of the Government shall, for the purpose of this Act, unless a contrary intention appears, be deemed to be the trade or business of such authority or department. Stopping there, that is quite clear and no argument to the contrary has been presented to us. The object of this definition, however, was to prevent any contention to the effect that a Government department does not carry on a trade or business. But I am quite unable to accept the deduction which the Commissioner draws from those premises. In my judgment the word "ordinarily" in section 12 applies just as much to a Government department as it does to any other principal. Consequently, assuming that the running of the G.I.P. Railway and the construction of these steel towers are part of the trade or business of the Government Department in question, yet it still remains to be considered whether the particular work contracted out to these contractors is *ordinarily* part of the trade or business of the principal. For the reasons already given in my judgment it is not *ordinarily* part of their trade or business. Consequently in this respect, the decision of the Commissioner cannot, I think, be upheld. It follows that in my judgment the appeal must be allowed and that the issues submitted to us should be answered as follows:—

- (a) No as regards the G.I.P. Railway.
- (b) Yes as regards the G.I.P. Railway.
- (c) Yes as regards the G.I.P. Railway.

I make this qualification because we are not concerned with any other Railway Company except the G.I.P. Railway, and accordingly I do not propose to answer the questions in the general form in which they have been submitted to us.

It is not necessary for us nor is it part of our duty to inquire why the applicant sued the G.I.P. Railway instead of the contractors, Messrs. W. T. Henley's, but we may express the hope that as this case is regarded—so we understand—as a test case, the parties concerned may see their way to give a reasonable compensation to the dependants of this unfortunate deceased workman, although so far as the present case goes, it appears to us that there is no legal liability on the G.I.P. Railway, whether or no there is on the contractors, Messrs. Henley's, who are not before us.

Judgment (Per Murphy, J.).—This is a reference made by the Commissioner under section 27 of the Workmen's Compensation Act (VIII of 1923). Three points have been submitted for decision by this Court. They are detailed at the end of the learned Commissioner's judgment.

The main point in the reference is as to the meaning which we should assign to the word "ordinarily" used in section 12 (1) of the Act. The claimant's son was admittedly killed by being run over by a passing train, when in the employ of Messrs. W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works, who were contractors working for the Railway Administration in erecting steel towers intended to carry the current required for electrifying the line between Kalyan and Karjat. The point is, whether the carrying out of this work can be said to be included in the expression "ordinarily part of the trade or business" of the Railway Administration. I agree with

the view just expressed in the judgment delivered by the learned Chief Justice that his meaning cannot be assigned to the expression in question. The ordinary trade or business of the Railway Administration is the carriage of passengers and goods, and the maintenance of the line necessary for this purpose.

Mr. Binning has insisted that, though possibly when the Railway Administration takes over these particular towers their maintenance will be part of its trade or business, the distinction really lies in the fact that the work has not yet been completed or handed over but is actually in the hands of the contractors. In other words, the contractors were carrying out this work as part of their ordinary trade, or business. The position of the Railway Administration is, that when the work is ultimately completed it will take it over. They are in really much the same position, as against the contractors, as they would be against other contractors who might supply them with Railway sleepers or similar material. In other words, the stage at which they can use these towers has not yet been reached, and until it has been, the Railway Administration cannot be said to have been connected with this work as part of their trade or business. This is the view which has been taken in the English cases which have been cited in the learned Chief Justice's judgment. Under the old English Act, which has since been amended, there was a saving clause in the words "ancillary or incidental to the trade or business" and the cases which have been cited by the learned Commissioner really bear on the interpretation of these words. I think that the effect of the word "ordinarily" used in section 12 (1) of the Indian Act is very similar.

On the other two points I also agree with the judgment just delivered by the learned Chief Justice. Section 2 (2) was intended to include Government departments which are engaged in work with a commercial object, but I do not think it imposes on such a Government department a duty other than that imposed on private traders or corporations, so as to deprive such a department of the saving contained in section 12 (1). I concur in the answers which have been given to the reference in the judgment of His Lordship the learned Chief Justice.

Compensation for Permanent Disability INJURY NOT CAUSING LOSS OF EARNINGS

IN THE COURT OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Veerchand Amichand, residing at Fatmabai's Chawl,
Chorwadi, DeLisle Road, Bombay Applicant;

against

Messrs. Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co. Safe
Factory, Near Bombay Gas Works, Lal Baug,
Bombay Opposite party.

Claim—Rs. 840.

This is a difficult case, raising several points of interest in the interpretation of the Workmen's Compensation Act and the principles

upon which compensation is awarded. The applicant who is a smith was thrown out of work by the strike in the cotton mills in Bombay, and he obtained employment with the opposite party. While so employed, he was injured by several steel cupboards falling on him, as a result of which he sustained a fracture of the 3rd and 4th lumbar vertebræ, with a fracture of the transverse processes of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th lumbar vertebræ. He was sent to hospital where he remained about a month. He then went to his village for some weeks, returning to Bombay some time in September. He obtained employment with two different employers and, when the strike was over, resumed work at the Jacob Sassoon Mill where he was formerly employed. The only issue in this case is whether there is any permanent disability and if so, to what extent. The evidence is that he is earning the same wages, and doing the same work, as he did before in his employment. Ordinarily that would have disposed of the case. The general principles upon which compensation for workmen is based is that it is not compensation for the injury but a compensation for the consequences resulting from the injury, such consequences disclosing themselves in the form of inability to earn wages due to the injuries sustained (*Harwood v. The Wyken Colliery Co.*, 2 K. B. 158). The Act does not provide for complete compensation such as would be given in cases of neglect, where the person who is negligent has to give what, in the opinion of the jury, is full and complete compensation to the persons injured for the injuries sustained. Where, therefore, as in this case, we find a workman doing the same work for the same wages as before the accident or, in fact, as in this case, receiving 50 per cent. more wages than he was receiving at the time he met with the accident, ordinarily, as I say, no compensation would be payable. It has been argued for the applicant that even if he is earning as much as before, yet, having regard to Section 2 (1) (g) of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act, which defines permanent disablement as a condition which reduces a worker's earning capacity in every employment which he was capable of undertaking at the time of the injury, compensation must be payable in this case because the man can no longer lift heavy weights. What in effect this argument amounts to is that a skilled worker must always be compensated on the basis of unskilled work. Every man of good physique is "capable of undertaking" unskilled manual labour such as the lifting of heavy weights, the carrying of heavy loads, etc. Therefore, if Mr. Bhende's argument is correct, a stalwart spinner or a sturdy fitter who sustained an injury, say, to his leg, which left a permanent weakness but which in no way prevented him from earning full wages as a spinner or a fitter, would be entitled to full compensation because he could no longer do the work of a dock labourer or a coolie. The proposition has only to be stated in those terms to show that the Act cannot be read in any such way. If such an interpretation is given to Section 2 (1) (g), then clearly Schedule I has no meaning. That Schedule lays down the compensation that must be paid where certain injuries result from an accident. Thus, a man who loses his leg below the knee is awarded compensation on the basis of 50 per cent. total disablement. In fact he may be 100 per cent. disabled from working

in unskilled trades but he is not for that reason, even though he was originally an unskilled worker, awarded compensation on the basis of total disablement.

In this case, however, medical evidence has been called on behalf of the applicant to show that the injury has left definite permanent disablement behind it. There is a curvature of the spine and a weakness in the leg, producing a condition which is bound to have a deleterious effect on the man's capacity for work. I have no power, as I should have, if I were administering the English Act, to make a suspended award of a nominal amount in order that, later on, I might determine the exact amount of the permanent disability. I can only deal with the permanent disability as presented to me now. Dr. Joglekar has made a careful and detailed examination and he estimates the man's loss of earning capacity at 50 per cent. Translating that in terms of money, it means that, where he is now earning Rs. 60, his value in any labour market reasonably accessible to him is only Rs. 30. Here again we get a curious result, because he was only earning Rs. 40 in the employment which is the subject of this application. Therefore, if he is now capable of earning Rs. 30, his disability, so far as this case is concerned, would appear to be only 25 per cent. and not 50 per cent., which appears to be a *reductio ad absurdum*. Having seen the applicant in the witness box and knowing that he made every effort to obtain employment after his accident and took any employment that came along and is still working, although the evidence is that he suffers some amount of pain and discomfort as the result of the injury, one must come to the conclusion that he is not malingering or endeavouring to obtain compensation in order to avoid work. Had he not obtained employment but had contented himself with saying that he could not work, then the evidence of Dr. Joglekar would certainly have conveyed to my mind the impression that the man was not working because he could not work. Dr. Joglekar's evidence is uncontradicted. The opposite party, after the case was adjourned for judgment, forwarded me a copy of a certificate from some doctor who says that he can find no permanent injury. I have not considered whether or not such a document can be placed on the file because, unless the opposite party are prepared to produce their doctor for cross-examination, I should give no weight to his bare opinion in the face of the evidence of Dr. Joglekar, who is highly qualified and appears to give his evidence only after a very careful examination and study of the case. I have, therefore, come to the conclusion that the applicant has, as a result of the injury, suffered permanent partial disablement.

The next question is as to the amount of compensation. Dr. Joglekar has mentioned several possibilities, such as *osteo arthritis* which may arise out of the man's condition and I think that, in arriving at his estimate of 50 per cent. disability, he has taken those matters into consideration. I do not think that I should do so. They are possibilities only. They do not represent conditions as they exist to-day. Having given the case very careful consideration, I am of opinion that compensation should be awarded on the basis of 25 per cent. permanent disability, with the

wages taken at Rs. 40. I, therefore, award him Rs. 40 less Rs. 5 already paid. I allow Rs. 35 as costs.

DEC. 1928

J. F. GENNINGS

Workmen's Compensation in Great Britain

A LABOUR BILL

The British Trades Union Congress at its annual session in September 1928 approved the text of a Bill to amend the law relating to workmen's compensation. The Bill has been drafted, after three years of discussion by a joint committee of the Trades Union Congress, the Labour Party and the Parliamentary Labour Party, and will be presented to Parliament at the earliest favourable opportunity.

The Bill is avowedly based on the Workmen's Compensation Act of Ontario, which has been in operation for thirteen years, and is regarded by the model for the legislation of other provinces, and is regarded by the Canadian workers as highly satisfactory. Accordingly, the Bill sets up a Board to administer compensation, and makes provision for a State Accident Fund. The existing rates of compensation are raised considerably, and provision is made for special medical treatment not already available under the National Health Insurance Act. Except for the fact that no right to artificial limbs is given and no provision is made for extra compensation where the accident victim needs constant attendance, the Bill would appear to be in harmony with the International Draft Convention on Workmen's Compensation of 1925. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, November 12, 1928.)

Relief Works in India

The Government of India recently forwarded to the International Labour Office, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention concerning unemployment, a statement showing the number of persons employed on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief in certain districts in Bengal and the Central Provinces and two States in Central India, for the period January to August 1928.

The statement, which gives weekly figures in each case, shows that the number of persons employed on relief works, including private works in Bengal varied between 33,942 (week ending 25th April) and 536 (week ending 1st August). In the Central Provinces, the number exceeded 10,000, and in seven of those weeks exceeded 20,000. No record is given of persons in receipt of gratuitous relief in Bengal. In the Central Provinces, the number employed on relief works varied between 6316 (week ending 2nd May) and 18,202 (week ending 16th May) and in 16 out of the 17 weeks covered by the report was in excess of 10,000. The number in receipt of gratuitous relief rose gradually from 1114 in the week ending 30th May to 4607 in the week ending 22nd August. In the case of the two Central Indian States, the number employed on relief

works rose from 8816 for the week ending 14th June and then fell to 9655 for the week ending 4th July. The relief works were discontinued in the week ending 16th May to 17,734 for the week ending 16th May. The number in receipt of gratuitous relief being given in those States (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, October 22, 1928.)

Working Hours in Jute Mills

SIXTY-HOUR WEEK

At a meeting of the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta, held on 7th November 1928, the following resolution was unanimously passed:— "This meeting agrees to work 60 hours a week from July 1, 1929, subject to confirmation by the Inchcape group and by Birkmyre. Mr. J. Sime presided and all the Calcutta mills were represented at the meeting. The decision of the Association was awaited with considerable interest by the bazar. A large number of people collected outside the office of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the scene resembled that witnessed annually at Writers' Buildings in Dalhousie Square on the occasion of the publication of the jute forecast.

The new arrangement did not come as a surprise in the Calcutta mills. For some time past reports were current that frequent meetings between the heads of the local firms were being held in London to consider this question, that a decision had been reached among them and that an increase to 60 hours was as good as a settled fact. The only uncertainty, however, was in regard to the date when the new arrangement should be brought into force. There was, it is said, a sharp difference of opinion among the mills. Some of them wished the new arrangement to take effect from February 1929, while others were for July 19.

At the meeting on 7th November 1928 there was practically complete unanimity of opinion as regards the question of increasing the hours from 54 to 60, and the only controversy was in regard to the date when the new arrangement should come into effect. While the majority were in favour of 1st July 1929, several others, including the Inchcape group, stood out for February 1929. After some discussion the final decision was reached.

The immediate effect of the news of the mills having agreed to work 60 hours from 1st July next year was a strengthening of prices in hessian and jute shares. Hessian futures which in the morning touched Rs. 14-8, jumped up to Rs. 15-4 and Howrah shares, which had gone down to Rs. 54-4, improved to Rs. 56-12. Towards the close, however, there was a somewhat weaker tendency.

In view of the great anxiety felt by a number of hessian dealers, who according to custom in Calcutta, had contracted to buy for future deliveries, the notice of eight months that the trade will now get is welcomed as a statesmanlike gesture of sympathy with the predicament of an important section of the trade. (From "Statesman," Calcutta, November 8, 1928.)

All-Ceylon Trade Union Congress

The first session of the All-Ceylon Trade Union Congress held at Colombo began on 26th of October, Mr. A. E. Goonesinghe presiding. Mr. C. H. Z. Fernando, Chairman of the Reception Committee, sketched briefly the birth and rise of Labour Movement in Ceylon. He said that it was in 1922 that a modest beginning was made by Mr. Goonesinghe by starting the Ceylon Labour Union and it has now been doing very good work. Whatever reforms might be granted, that manhood suffrage and the Committee System must remain. If these are not given, they would rather go without any reforms. Mr. Goonesinghe, the President, welcomed the inauguration of an Employers' Federation and expressed his readiness to co-operate with it. He thought no better plan could be conceived to establish friendly relations between the employer and the employee. He denounced separatist tendencies in forming separate unions for Indian workmen. He hoped that clerks would refuse to be employed as blacklegs when there was a struggle between labour and capital. He appealed to the mercantile clerks and others of their status to join the Trade Union Congress, and help themselves to better their lot. The absence of any legislation in the matter of the right of combination, of workmen's compensation, of hours of work, of arbitration courts in industrial disputes, made it difficult for workers to secure their rights and privileges. The Legislature had failed in its obligations towards them. He hoped, the new Labour Party recently formed there, would try to secure workmen their rights. He concluded his speech by an appeal to the workers to unite in their own interest. (From "All-India Trade Union Bulletin," Bombay, November 1928.)

Study of Economic Problems in Japan

By a Japanese Imperial Ordinance promulgated on 7th September 1928 there was established as a Government institution an Economic Commission (*Keizai Shingikai*) for the investigation of economic conditions and questions.

The Commission, the creation of which is stated to be due to the prevalence of social unrest attributable to economic difficulties, will be composed of about twenty members of the Cabinet and influential business men, and its proceedings will be conducted under the supervision of the Prime Minister.

Its chief function will be to investigate, at the instance of the several Ministers, problems relating to the development of industries, the increase of efficiency in production, equitable distribution, the completion of arrangements for the application of measures of social reform, and other economic problems having a direct bearing on the stability of the social system. The findings of the Commission on any given question submitted to it will be presented in a report to the Minister by whom the enquiry is originated. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, October 29, 1928.)

Labour in Tanganyika in 1927

The annual report of the Labour Department and the report by His Britannic Majesty's Government to the Council of the League of Nations on the administration of Tanganyika territory contain information regarding labour conditions in Tanganyika.

The Labour Department was created in the year 1926. At first its activities were looked upon with suspicion both by employers and employees. The Department has, however, now won the confidence of both and the results have been eminently satisfactory. A general improvement has taken place in the management of labour and the labour supply is appreciably better than it was two years ago. Feeding has improved, with a corresponding fall in the sick-rate and lastly, in certain areas, at any rate, the efficiency percentage of the labour force has been definitely raised.

The total number of contract labourers employed during the year was 18,031; approximately four times this number emigrated from their home districts to distant employment areas. There was, in addition, an elusive contribution to the labour force of a very large number of natives, working for a few days in each month, equal to about ten thousand regular workers. Between 4000 and 5000 natives emigrated to Zanzibar for short periods. Twenty-one thousand were employed in domestic service. Thirteen thousand were employed in various occupations such as mines, wharf labour and minor works. The Government Departments employed a monthly average labour force of 14,556. Only about 78,000 porters were engaged, their average period of employment being just over six days.

The Labour Commissioner considers that the position of the contract labourers and the observation of his obligations continues to be most unsatisfactory. Though legal penalties exist the contract can be broken with practical impunity which is a legitimate cause of complaint to the employer and is demoralising to the native.

The Labour Department paid particular attention during the year to the question of the employment of children. Child labour is to be found in Tanganyika territory in two forms: (a) the utilising of young people for such work as coffee picking during the busy season, and (b) the employing of lads who have accompanied their fathers or brothers to work. The Commissioner's conclusion on this question of child labour is that it at present exists only in a very rudimentary form and that there is very little reason for objection at present though developments should certainly be watched.

During the year, a Motor Drivers' Union was formed of South African mechanics and a strike for higher wages was attempted. The Labour Commissioner describes as a more interesting and far more desirable movement the foundation on one plantation of Tribal Welfare Societies. The funds are collected by a monthly subscription from every member and are banked with the Manager. Beyond acting as banker, the

Manager attempts no control of these funds. The total number of members of all Societies was 644 men and 147 women with a total cash balance of sh. 3222.

Considerable attention was paid during the year to the question of disease as affecting the labour supply. In the past scurvy had caused great loss of efficiency but the position has now become satisfactory. Improvements have already been effected in regard to the prevention of beriberi and yaws. Efforts have been also made to increase the medical facilities at the important employing centres. Most of the larger estates have hospitals where all except the most serious cases can be treated. In the smaller estates steps have been taken to secure that each estate has simple remedies on hand for immediate use and that all cases of any seriousness are sent to the nearest Government hospital for treatment on payment by the estate.

The wages paid to unskilled labourers in September 1927 varied in the different districts from a minimum of sh. 6 to a maximum of sh. 30, rations being provided. Semi-skilled workers received up to sh. 50 per month. The Labour Commissioner reports that seasonal fluctuations affect wages to a considerable extent. The pay given may appear low but it must not be forgotten that practically the whole of the workers' expenses are covered. If a comparison is made with the cost of living and of taxation, the Tanganyika native can be said to be well-paid. (*Abstracted from the "International Labour Review," Geneva, September 1928.*)

Protection of Japanese Fishermen

The Japanese Department of Agriculture and Forestry has decided to draft a Bill for presentation to the Imperial Diet for the improvement of the conditions of life and work of certain classes of fishermen.

It should be explained that hitherto the Department of Communications has been responsible, under the provisions of the Shipping Act, for dealing with vessels engaged in fishing. The Act does not extend to fishing boats of less than 20 tons, and it is fishing boats of less than that tonnage which form approximately four-fifths of the total fishing fleet of Japan. As a result of their exclusion from the Shipping Act, fishermen employed in such vessels have been unprotected, and, it is stated, subject to conditions of a very unsatisfactory nature. The number of men to whom this applies is estimated at about 1,400,000.

The Bill which is being drafted for their protection includes provisions for the establishment of a Joint Inspection Board, representing the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the Department of Communications, to supervise fishing boats of less than 20 tons; measures for safeguarding the lives and belongings of fishermen employed in small boats; and measures for the granting of loans to fishermen in order to enable them to acquire their boats on mortgage. (*From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, October 15, 1928.*)

Employment Situation in Russia

TRADE UNION CRITICISMS

The problem of unemployment was discussed at the fourth plenary meeting of the Central Council of Trade Unions of the Soviet Union, which was held in Moscow from 12th to 16th June 1928.

It was reported that the number of unemployed trade unionists increased from 1,500,000 on 1st October 1927 to 2,000,000 on 1st January 1928. The increase was partly due to seasonal unemployment during the winter months, which, it was estimated, accounted for 340,000 of the 500,000 increase. It was stated, however, that, apart from seasonal workers, the number of unemployed members considerably exceeded 1,000,000. Of this total, 25 per cent., were skilled industrial workers. Six per cent. of the members of the miners' and textile workers' unions were unemployed.

There were also 14,000 engineers out of work, in spite of the lack of skilled workers. They were for the most part young and inexperienced persons. Unemployed intellectual workers and salaried employees were in a very difficult position, having very little chance of finding employment on account of the demand for economy and rationalisation.

It was stated that the persistence of unemployment was principally due to over-population in rural districts and the consequent exodus from the country to the towns, and aggravated by the excessive labour turnover in industry, the abuse of over-time and so-called temporary work, and the defective working of the employment exchanges.

Complaints were made of numerous irregularities in the work of the employment exchanges, and the opinion was expressed that they did not carry out in a satisfactory manner their task of placing workers in employment. Mr. Melnichansky, President of the Textile Workers' Union, described the premises occupied by the exchanges as cesspools. Mr. Schmidt, People's Commissary for Labour, stated that the conditions under which the exchanges worked contributed largely to the difficulties of their task. "Flea-pits" and "doss-houses" were frequently to be found in the vicinity, and this brought the unemployed persons under the evil influence of disreputable elements, hooligans and counter-revolutionaries. He knew of hardly any officials in employment exchanges who had not been subjected to violence by unemployed persons.

Members of the Council reported to the meeting numerous cases of embezzlement and favouritism on the part of officials in employment exchanges. Mr. Kartachev stated that investigations of the exchanges in Dnepropetrovsk, Kazan and Kursk had brought to light revolting scenes of drunkenness and debauchery on the premises. Women who entered the exchanges were exposed to outrage and sometimes to violation.

Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Bakhutov, Assistant Commissary for Labour, admitted the truth of these assertions, but added that the officials in the exchanges, who were few in number and badly paid, were frequently quite incapable of observing the regulations. They were constantly receiving from the trade unions, the Communist Party, the political police or the State authorities, requests or even orders to place such and such a person in employment, regardless of the date of his registration or his qualifications.

The exchanges could not work properly unless the trade unions co-operated with the Commissariat for Labour.

A resolution was adopted calling for

- Investigation of the causes of labour turnover ;
- Reduction of facilities for the admission to trade unions of seasonal and rural workers ;
- Prohibition of the registration of unemployed seasonal workers in exchanges except during their working season ;
- Removal of the obligation for unemployed members of trade unions to register in order to retain the privileges of trade union membership ;
- The replacement of elderly workers by young persons, through the extension of old-age and invalidity pensions ;
- More energetic measures for the retraining of unemployed persons ;
- Increase of unemployment allowances for skilled workers, primarily for industrial workers ;
- More energetic measures to combat the abuse of temporary work and overtime. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, August 20, 1928.)

Unemployment Census in Russia

A census of unemployed members of Russian trade unions was taken in November 1927, and a more detailed enquiry was made covering between 20 and 30 per cent. of the unemployed members. The results of these investigations, which did not extend to commercial or clerical employees, or agricultural workers, were published in *Trud*.

AGE

The average age of the persons unemployed was found to be 31·4 years, 32·4 for men, and 30·2 for women. The percentage between 18 and 22 years of age was 23·5 (32·3 for railwaymen and 27 for metal workers, building workers and leather workers). The percentage of unemployed male workers over fifty years of age was 9·6 (22·3 in the so-called auxiliary occupations—janitors, cleaners and night watchmen).

Of the women unemployed, 53·8 per cent. were between 23 and 39 years of age. The group between 18 and 22 years of age accounted for 37 per cent. of the unemployed women in the sugar industry, 33·3 per cent. in the wood industry, 35 per cent. in the building trades, and 27·7 per cent. in the hotel and restaurant industry.

DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

The average duration of unemployment was nine months (one year for women and 6·3 months for men). Women were found to be unemployed for longer periods than men in all trades.

Of the total, 43·3 per cent. reported unemployment for less than three months (52·2 per cent. in the case of men), and 25·2 per cent. had been unemployed for over a year (16 per cent. in the case of men and 37 per cent. in the case of women). Unemployment for a period exceeding two years was reported in the case of 17·6 per cent. of the women.

The average duration of unemployment was 3·3 months in the building trade, 5·4 months in the mining industry, 5·7 months in the wood-working industry, 19 months among postal, telegraph and telephone workers, 17 months among clothing workers, and 13 months among

As regards men, there were only three trades (printing, clothing and leather) in which more than 30 per cent. reported uninterrupted unemployment for a period exceeding one year. As regards women, however, 72·8 per cent. in the postal, telegraph and telephone services, 55·7 per cent. in the printing trades, 54·6 per cent. in the clothing trades, and 50·7 in the teaching profession, had been unemployed for over a year.

LENGTH OF MEMBERSHIP

The following table shows the length of membership in trade unions of the unemployed persons covered by the enquiry :—

Union	Percentage with uninterrupted trade union membership since					
	1917-earlier	1917-1921	1922-1923	1924-1925	1926	1927
Average for 21 unions ..	8·2	18·4	13·6	26·6	20·2	14·0
Eleven industrial unions ..	11·0	17·1	14·6	28·4	18·5	10·4
Building workers ..	1·8	5·4	9·7	27·3	26·4	29·4
Transport and postal services ..	11·9	19·9	14·2	18·6	20·6	14·8
Teaching, fine arts and medicine ..	4·5	32·9	15·0	23·0	15·4	9·2
Municipal workers ..	6·1	20·3	17·7	26·4	18·7	10·8
Hotel and restaurant workers ..	4·0	7·5	8·7	29·6	29·1	21·1

According to *Trud*, the fact that 34·2 per cent. of the unemployed members had been trade unionists for not more than two years was a proof of the excessive labour turnover in industry and administration, and it was consequently the duty of the trade unions to exercise closer supervision over the engagement and dismissal of workers.

FAMILIES

Of the persons covered by the enquiry, 25·6 per cent. lived alone, 42 per cent. supported families, and 32·2 per cent. were assisted by members of their families. The percentage of unemployed persons with dependants was 63 among local transport workers (lorry drivers, dockers, etc.), 58·7 among seamen and boatmen, 28 in the teaching profession, 25·7 in the textile trades, and 36·8 in the clothing trades.

Of the unemployed women, 22·1 per cent. had dependants, 28·8 per cent. lived alone, and 49 per cent. were supported by their families. Of the men, 17·1 per cent. were assisted by their families, 59·1 per cent. had dependants, and 22·9 per cent. lived alone. In the textile trades, only 38·3 per cent. of the unemployed male workers had dependants. In the other trades, the percentage varied between 50 and 60, and reached 68·1 among seamen and boatmen, 68·3 in the food and drink trades, and 72·6 among local transport workers. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, August 20, 1928.)

The exchanges could not work properly unless the trade unions co-operated with the Commissariat for Labour.

A resolution was adopted calling for :—

Investigation of the causes of labour turnover ;

Reduction of facilities for the admission to trade unions of seasonal and rural workers ;

Prohibition of the registration of unemployed seasonal workers in exchanges except during their working season ;

Removal of the obligation for unemployed members of trade unions to register in order to retain the privileges of trade union membership ;

The replacement of elderly workers by young persons, through the extension of old-age and invalidity pensions ;

More energetic measures for the retraining of unemployed persons ;

Increase of unemployment allowances for skilled workers, primarily for industrial workers ;

More energetic measures to combat the abuse of temporary work and overtime. (From "Industrial and Labour Information" Geneva, August 20, 1928.)

Unemployment Census in Russia

A census of unemployed members of Russian trade unions was taken in November 1927, and a more detailed enquiry was made covering between 20 and 30 per cent. of the unemployed members. The results of these investigations, which did not extend to commercial or clerical employees, or agricultural workers, were published in *Trud*.

AGES

The average age of the persons unemployed was found to be 31·4 years, 32·4 for men, and 30·2 for women. The percentage between 18 and 22 years of age was 23·5 (32·3 for railwaymen and 27 for metal workers, building workers and leather workers). The percentage of unemployed male workers over fifty years of age was 9·6 (22·3 in the so-called auxiliary occupations—janitors, cleaners and night watchmen).

Of the women unemployed, 53·8 per cent. were between 23 and 39 years of age. The group between 18 and 22 years of age accounted for 37 per cent. of the unemployed women in the sugar industry, 33·3 per cent. in the wood industry, 35 per cent. in the building trades, and 27·7 per cent. in the hotel and restaurant industry.

DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

The average duration of unemployment was nine months (one year for women and 6·3 months for men). Women were found to be unemployed for longer periods than men in all trades.

Of the total, 43·3 per cent. reported unemployment for less than three months (52·2 per cent. in the case of men), and 25·2 per cent. had been unemployed for over a year (16 per cent. in the case of men and 37 per cent. in the case of women). Unemployment for a period exceeding two years was reported in the case of 17·6 per cent. of the women.

The average duration of unemployment was 3·1 months in the building trades, 5·4 months in the mining industry, 5·7 months in the wood-working industry, 19 months among postal, telegraph and telephone workers, 17 months among clothing workers, and 13 months among printers.

As regards men, there were only three trades (printing, clothing and leather) in which more than 30 per cent. reported uninterrupted unemployment for a period exceeding one year. As regards women, however, 72·8 per cent. in the postal, telegraph and telephone services, 55·7 per cent. in the printing trades, 54·6 per cent. in the clothing trades, and 50·7 in the teaching profession, had been unemployed for over a year.

LENGTH OF MEMBERSHIP

The following table shows the length of membership in trade unions of the unemployed persons covered by the enquiry :—

Union	Percentage with uninterrupted trade union membership since					
	1917 or earlier	1917-1921	1922-1923	1924-1925	1926	1927
Average for 21 unions	8·2	18·4	13·6	26·6	20·2	14·0
Eleven industrial unions	11·0	17·1	14·6	28·4	18·5	10·4
Building workers	1·8	5·4	9·7	27·3	26·4	29·4
Transport and postal services	11·9	19·9	14·2	18·6	20·6	14·8
Teaching, fine arts and medicine	4·5	32·9	15·0	23·0	15·4	9·2
Municipal workers	6·1	20·3	17·7	26·4	18·7	10·8
Hotel and restaurant workers	4·0	7·5	8·7	29·6	29·1	21·1

According to *Trud*, the fact that 34·2 per cent. of the unemployed members had been trade unionists for not more than two years was a proof of the excessive labour turnover in industry and administration, and it was consequently the duty of the trade unions to exercise closer supervision over the engagement and dismissal of workers.

FAMILIES

Of the persons covered by the enquiry, 25·6 per cent. lived alone, 42 per cent. supported families, and 32·2 per cent. were assisted by members of their families. The percentage of unemployed persons with dependants was 63 among local transport workers (lorry drivers, dockers, etc.), 58·7 among seamen and boatmen, 28 in the teaching profession, 25·7 in the textile trades, and 36·8 in the clothing trades.

Of the unemployed women, 22·1 per cent. had dependants, 28·8 per cent. lived alone, and 49 per cent. were supported by their families. Of the men, 17·1 per cent. were assisted by their families, 59·1 per cent. had dependants, and 22·9 per cent. lived alone. In the textile trades, only 38·3 per cent. of the unemployed male workers had dependants. In the other trades, the percentage varied between 50 and 60, and reached 68·1 among seamen and boatmen, 68·3 in the food and drink trades, and 72·6 among local transport workers. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, August 20, 1928.)

Scientific Management

THE PROBLEM OF RATIONALISATION IN RUSSIA

At its session of 25th-31st August 1928, the Central Control Committee of the Russian Communist Party considered the problem of the rationalisation of industry.

Mr. Kuybyshev, Chairman of the Supreme Economic Council, recalled that, according to the resolution adopted by the Central Committee of the Communist Party in March 1927, rationalisation of industry should involve three classes of measures: (1) establishment of new and entirely modern undertakings; (2) reconstruction of existing undertakings; and (3) reorganisation of labour in undertakings which cannot be reconstructed.

The Soviet economic system lacked the capital to undertake extensive measures of initiation or reconstruction, and therefore the management of industry devoted themselves to the reorganisation of labour in existing undertakings and to the mechanisation of certain processes of manufacture. Some success had been achieved in this sphere. On the other hand, little had been achieved in the direction of standardisation, though it offered great scope.

Mr. Kaganovitch, of the Commissariat for Workers' and Peasants' Inspection, explained the results of an enquiry undertaken by the Commissariat into the progress of rationalisation and reconstruction. Although the undertakings chosen for inspection were selected from the most efficient, the results had been far from satisfactory. Even in the textile factory at Tver, which won the first prize in the scientific management competition, the results were very poor. The reconstruction of this undertaking had required a sum more than double the budget estimate, and the increase in production, which was expected to amount to 21·14 per cent., was only 5·62 per cent. The relative efficiency of the new equipment was 15 per cent. less than before. In general, there was a disproportion between the size of the sums devoted to reconstruction and the smallness of the results hitherto obtained.

As regards standardisation, practically nothing had yet been done.

RESOLUTIONS

In the resolutions adopted the Committee declared that rationalisation of industry was of capital and decisive importance, but that the magnitude and the speed of the efforts made up to the present in this sphere were utterly inadequate and did not correspond to the tasks at present created by the building up of the socialist economic system. In particular, a reduction in the cost of production was long overdue.

The causes of this failure were defined as the absence of clear instructions on the part of the higher economic bodies, the lack of collective plans and schemes, and the want of energy on the part of the managers of undertakings and of trusts. To these reasons were added others of an "objective" kind, such as the inadequacy both in numbers and quality of the technical staff and of skilled workers, the relaxation of discipline in industry, the general economic condition of the country, etc. Finally, the organs of the Communist Party and of the trade unions had not given enough attention to questions of rationalisation.

The committee held that it was essential to hasten the work of rationalisation. For this purpose it was necessary to make better use of existing machinery, to mechanise and standardise manufactures, and to cause undertakings to specialise and production to be concentrated. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, November 19, 1928.)

Family Budgets in South Africa

AN OFFICIAL ENQUIRY

The Office of Census and Statistics of the Union of South Africa is conducting a comprehensive enquiry into budgets of family expenditure in South Africa during the months of August, September and October 1928.

Attention is called to the recommendation of the Third International Conference of Labour Statisticians, held in 1926 under the auspices of the International Labour Office, that all countries should revise their systems of compiling cost-of-living index numbers in 1930. This recommendation has been adopted by South Africa, and the present enquiry is being undertaken to provide the necessary basis for the revised series of index numbers. The monthly index of retail prices published by the Statistics Office, it may be noted, plays a very important part in deliberations between employers and employees on wage questions, and is specifically recognised in certain agreements under the Industrial Conciliation Act.

The enquiry now in progress is limited to families, living in towns or villages, with incomes of not more than £600 a year, and with at least one child.

The enquiry is an entirely voluntary one, no use being made of the compulsory clauses of the Statistics Act.

The questionnaire consists of two parts. The first part covers general information, such as the place of residence, occupation of the head of the family, and the size of family. It includes questions with regard to the total amount of the income of the family, together with the amounts derived from various sources. Certain questions deal with housing and furniture. Various questions are also asked with regard to expenditure during the preceding twelve months on such commodities as wearing apparel, crockery, holiday travel, medical attendance, school charges, taxation and insurance premiums.

Part two of the questionnaire deals with foodstuffs, drink and tobacco, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items. For these a statement of the actual expenditure during the three months August, September and October, is requested. Wherever possible, information as to the quantity as well as the cost of purchases is desired.

The divisional and industrial inspectors of the Department of Labour who are stationed in the principal centres of population have been asked to interest themselves actively in the investigation and to give assistance to persons willing to furnish information. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, October 29, 1928.)

Employment in the United States

The comprehensive analysis of wages, hours of work and employment in the United States* which has been carried out by the National Industrial Conference Board, makes all the more obvious the lack of statistical knowledge concerning unemployment in that country. An index of employment is presented in this volume which is based upon reports from industrial plants employing 771,000 persons in 1927. Taking employment in June 1920 as 100, a decline to 95.6 was recorded at the end of the same year. Employment continued to decrease till the third quarter of 1921, when the index figure was 61.4. A recovery of business increased employment consistently till the middle of 1923 with an index figure of 91.5. A decline followed, which brought unemployment in the slack period of 1924 down to 70.8. Throughout 1925 an upward movement ensued and the activity of 1926 was reflected in the relatively high index of 85.3 in the first part of the year. The change since that date has been less rapid and has shown itself in a gradual settling down to a level of about 80 per cent. of the employment in June 1920. The index fell to 78.9 in the last quarter of 1927, but in the first quarter of the year 1928 showed a slight recovery, and in the month of March stood at 81.2.

There is a lack of complete correspondence between general business activity and the movement of employment in manufacturing industries. It is possible, therefore, that special conditions have to some extent governed the amount of employment in such industrial undertakings. What these special conditions are is manifest in the following table:

Product for wage-earner and horse-power installed in manufactures
(United States Bureau of the Census)

Census Year	Wage-earners Average Number		Index Numbers Base, 1919=100	
	Number of Wage-earners	Volume of Product	Product per Wage-earner	Horse-power installed
1919	8,989,536	100.0	100.0	100.0
1921	6,937,688	77.2	79.3	102.7
1923	8,768,491	97.5	122.1	125.2
1925	8,383,781	93.3	128.6	137.8

† Not enumerated.

The reduction in the number of wage-earners between 1919 and 1921 reflected the distressed condition of industry in the latter year. In what are, however, usually considered fairly normal years, 1923 and 1925,

* Wages in the United States, 1914-1927. National Industrial Conference Board Inc. New York. 1929.

number of wage-earners engaged in manufactures fell below the number employed in 1919. The product of industry, on the other hand, showed a normal increase from 1919 to 1925, while the product per worker increased 37.8 per cent. For later years comprehensive figures are not available but the index of manufacturing production for 1927 shows practically no change when compared with 1925.

A decrease of employment in manufacturing does not necessarily signify a decrease of employment in all occupations, and that unemployment generally cannot have been considerable even last year, when it was said to have been so, seems indicated by the stability of wages during 1927. Hourly earnings in the twenty-five industries covered by the investigations of the National Industrial Conference Board, were highest at the end of 1920 when they stood at a point nearly 150 per cent. higher than in 1914. In the next two years some decrease was recorded, but since 1922 there has been a gradual rise in the hourly earnings until, in the latter part of 1926 and 1927, wages were at a higher point than at any time since 1920, being on an average 57 cents an hour, the difference in hourly wages between skilled and unskilled labour being about 15 cents per hour. Average weekly earnings are, of course, affected by the number of hours worked each week, and these have decreased from 51.5 hours in 1914 to 47.3 hours at the end of 1927 (a decrease of one hour being recorded over the latter year alone), while average weekly earnings have increased from \$12.54 in July 1914, to \$26.89 at the end of 1927. The cost of living index shows a one-third increase in real wages since 1914.

Special conditions in the building industry have been as favourable to the wage-earners so occupied in the United States as they have in this country. Corresponding to the different degrees of skill required in the numerous building trades, the average hourly rates of pay vary from 69 cents an hour for labourers to 162.3 cents an hour for plasterers. The present level of real wages in building occupations is approximately the same as in manufacturing. The labour problem in the anthracite coal mining industry is frequently made obvious by disputes concerning wages. It is, therefore, of interest to note that there has been a greater rise of hourly earnings in anthracite coal mining than in other industries. Since 1914, with but one exceptional period "real" hourly earnings of all wage-earners in the anthracite mining industry have consistently advanced until they are now 80 per cent. above those of 1914. Other activities, the wage rates of which are analysed in this study, include the railway service, the production and distribution of gas and electricity, and agriculture. For a number of other fields of activity no information is available. Among the chief of these are the mining of metals and bituminous coal, quarrying petroleum production, and various occupations which fall into the category of personal service. (From "Statist," London, November 3, 1928.)

Employment in the United States

The comprehensive analysis of wages, hours of work and employment in the United States* which has been carried out by the National Industrial Conference Board, makes all the more obvious the lack of statistical knowledge concerning unemployment in that country. An index of employment is presented in this volume which is based upon reports from industrial plants employing 771,000 persons in 1927. Taking employment in June 1920 as 100, a decline to 95·6 was recorded at the end of the same year. Employment continued to decrease till the third quarter of 1921, when the index figure was 61·4. A recovery of business increased employment consistently till the middle of 1923 with an index figure of 91·5. A decline followed, which brought unemployment in the slack period of 1924 down to 70·8. Throughout 1925 an upward movement ensued and the activity of 1926 was reflected in the relatively high index of 85·3 in the first part of the year. The change since that date has been less rapid and has shown itself in a gradual settling down to a level of about 80 per cent. of the employment in June 1920. The index fell to 78·9 in the last quarter of 1927, but in the first quarter of the year 1928 showed a slight recovery, and in the month of March stood at 81·2.

There is a lack of complete correspondence between general business activity and the movement of employment in manufacturing industries. It is possible, therefore, that special conditions have to some extent governed the amount of employment in such industrial undertakings. What these special conditions are is manifest in the following table:

Product for wage-earner and horse-power installed in manufactures
(United States Bureau of the Census)

Census Year	Wage-earners Average Number		Index Numbers Base, 1919=100		
	Number of Wage-earners	Volume of Product	Product per Wage-earner	Horse-power installed	
1919	8,989,536	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0
1921	6,937,688	77·2	79·3	102·7	†
1923	8,768,491	97·5	122·1	125·2	112·8
1925	8,383,781	93·3	128·6	137·8	122·1

† Not enumerated.

The reduction in the number of wage-earners between 1919 and 1921 reflected the distressed condition of industry in the latter year. In what are, however, usually considered fairly normal years, 1923 and 1925,

* Wages in the United States, 1914-1927. National Industrial Conference Board Inc. New York. \$2·50.

the number of wage-earners engaged in manufactures fell below the number employed in 1919. The product of industry, on the other hand, showed a normal increase from 1919 to 1925, while the product per worker increased 37·8 per cent. For later years comprehensive figures are not available but the index of manufacturing production for 1927 shows practically no change when compared with 1925.

A decrease of employment in manufacturing does not necessarily signify a decrease of employment in all occupations, and that unemployment generally cannot have been considerable even last year, when it was said to have been so, seems indicated by the stability of wages during 1927. Hourly earnings in the twenty-five industries covered by the investigations of the National Industrial Conference Board, were highest at the end of 1920 when they stood at a point nearly 150 per cent. higher than in 1914. In the next two years some decrease was recorded, but since 1922 there has been a gradual rise in the hourly earnings until, in the latter part of 1926 and 1927, wages were at a higher point than at any time since 1920, being on an average 57 cents an hour, the difference in hourly wages between skilled and unskilled labour being about 15 cents per hour. Average weekly earnings are, of course, affected by the number of hours worked each week, and these have decreased from 51·5 hours in 1914 to 47·3 hours at the end of 1927 (a decrease of one hour being recorded over the latter year alone), while average weekly earnings have increased from \$12·54 in July 1914, to \$26·89 at the end of 1927. The cost of living index shows a one-third increase in real wages since 1914.

Special conditions in the building industry have been as favourable to the wage-earners so occupied in the United States as they have in this country. Corresponding to the different degrees of skill required in the numerous building trades, the average hourly rates of pay vary from 69 cents an hour for labourers to 162·3 cents an hour for plasterers. The present level of real wages in building occupations is approximately the same as in manufacturing. The labour problem in the anthracite coal mining industry is frequently made obvious by disputes concerning wages. It is, therefore, of interest to note that there has been a greater rise of hourly earnings in anthracite coal mining than in other industries. Since 1914, with but one exceptional period "real" hourly earnings of all wage-earners in the anthracite mining industry have consistently advanced until they are now 80 per cent. above those of 1914. Other activities, the wage rates of which are analysed in this study, include the railway service, the production and distribution of gas and electricity, and agriculture. For a number of other fields of activity no information is available. Among the chief of these are the mining of metals and bituminous coal, quarrying petroleum production, and various occupations which fall into the category of personal service. (From "Statist," London, November 3, 1928.)

Strikes and Lockouts in the United States, 1916 to 1927

The basic information regarding industrial disputes in the United States during the period 1916 to 1927 has been obtained chiefly from the following sources: Labour papers and trade-union journals; trade periodicals; lists of strikes issued by labour, trade, and other organizations; clipping bureaus; daily papers from the more important industrial cities in the United States; reports from the Conciliation Service of the United States Department of Labour; and through correspondence. For the years 1926 and 1927 data are shown only for disputes involving six or more workers and lasting for one day or more, no distinction being made between strikes and lockouts.

The number of disputes beginning in 1927 is materially less than for any of the other years covered by the bureau's compilations. This is shown by the statement below, giving index numbers (on the basis of 1916=100) of the disputes occurring each year

					Relative number of disputes
1916	..	..	..	..	100
1917	..	..	..	..	117
1918	..	..	..	..	88
1919	..	..	..	..	96
1920	..	..	..	..	90
1921	..	..	..	..	63
1922	..	..	..	..	29
1923	..	..	..	..	41
1924	..	..	..	..	33
1925	..	..	..	..	34
1926	..	..	..	..	27
1927	..	..	..	..	19

(From "Monthly Labour Review," Washington, July 1928.)

Emergency Relief for Czechoslovak Textile Workers

In view of the difficult situation of unemployed persons in the linen and cotton industries, many of whom have exhausted their statutory right to unemployment benefit, the Czechoslovak Government has granted unemployed textile workers in the districts of North-East Bohemia, which are principally affected, emergency relief at the cost of the State amounting to five crowns a day for married workers and three crowns a day for unmarried workers. The Textile Workers' Union has asked for modification of the system of unemployment insurance. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, October 22, 1928.)

Economic Policy in Bulgaria

An Act was promulgated in Bulgaria on 7th June 1928 for the protection and encouragement of Bulgarian industries transforming raw or semi-manufactured materials.

The Act covers 21 groups of industrial undertakings. Certain privileges, such as facilities for acquiring building sites at low prices, the construction of roads, the reduction of transport charges on the railways, fiscal relief, immunity from customs duties for machinery and raw materials, special conditions for the exploitation of natural resources, and preference in the allocation of contracts for public supplies, are granted to undertakings using motors of a capacity of ten horse power, employing not less than ten workers during six months of the year, and showing an inventory with a minimum valuation of 20,000 gold levas. The same privileges are granted to artisans' co-operative societies and certain classes of agricultural co-operative societies.

For the application of this legislation, an advisory Industrial Council will be set up in the Ministry of Commerce. The Council will consist of five high officials of the Ministry, an official of the Customs Department and an expert chemist from the University; the Sophia Chamber of Commerce, the Chambers of Commerce of the various localities in which industries are established, the Federation of Bulgarian Industries and the Federation of Artisans' Co-operative Societies and Agricultural Chambers will also be represented.

Undertakings which benefit by the provisions of the Act are required to keep detailed registers of their commercial and financial operations and statistics of the workers employed, and to submit a report once a year to the Ministry. They will receive concessions for the supply of certain articles to specified districts for at least fifteen years. They will construct houses for workers and instal various facilities for the improvement of the living conditions of the workers. In the absence of sufficient resources, the protected industries may borrow for these purposes from the Social Insurance Fund.

All industrial undertakings profiting by the provisions of the Act must, during the first five years, employ at least 75 per cent. Bulgarian subjects; beginning with the sixth year the workers employed must be all Bulgarians. The technical staff must be 50 per cent. Bulgarians during the first five years and 75 per cent. afterwards. These percentages may be altered by the Ministry. The administrative staff must be recruited exclusively from among Bulgarian subjects, with the exception of managers and assistant managers, who may be foreigners. Protected undertakings are required to admit Bulgarian experts and chemists who have completed their studies to practical work, with a view to supplying the technical staff needed by Bulgarian industries. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, September 17, 1928.)

Lower Wages but Dearer Labour in Japan

A COMPARISON WITH LANCASHIRE

In spite of longer hours and an apparently lower wage scale, cotton mill labour in Japan, because it is less efficient, costs something like 50 per cent. more than in Lancashire. Moreover, the Japanese wage is not so far below the British as is generally believed. The English millowner wipes out his obligation to a ring spinner by paying her an average wage of 29s. a week and contributing 1s. 2d. for health, pension, and unemployment insurance, an outlay of 362d. a week, or 60·3d. a day. The average wage of girl ring spinners in Japan is 1·27 yen a day, or 28·89d. Pensions and insurance bring the total to 31·57d. a day. By this method of reckoning, wages here are more than double those in Japan. Such is not the case. The Japanese employer still has numerous other obligations to meet, and by the time he has met them the cost of a day's labour by a girl spinner has risen to 40 6d.

Japan's system is not that of Lancashire. In Japan practically all female cotton mill labour is based on a two or three years' contract. Recruiting officers comb the country districts. The father of a large family may be in need of money, as fathers of large families often are. He is able to raise a lump sum from the cotton company, and his daughter perhaps 18 years of age, enters into a contract to extinguish that debt. She is sent to one of the company's mills and there housed in a dormitory with several hundred other girls. In the Oyama Mill (598,404 spindles and 3200 looms) of the Fuji Gas Spinning Company, for example, there are 2895 dormitory girls and 1423 others. The others, generally speaking, are the wives and daughters of male workers and live in houses provided by the company on a basis similar to that of the dormitories. Mr. C. Kimura, Director of the Toyo Spinning Company, which employs 39,174 operatives, told me recently that in erecting a new mill an allowance of 20 yen (approximately 40s.) a spindle must be made for the construction of dormitories.

In most cases the girl operative is cut off from the world when she enters the employment of a company. Many of the mills are in small villages on the outskirts of the great centres of population. They have few amusements other than those provided by the owners. The largest and best mills (the only ones which are real competitive factors in the world market) accordingly make every provision for the health and happiness of their workers. Each plant includes a theatre and a model hospital, while sanatoria are maintained at seaside and mountain resorts. Food is sold to the workers well below market prices. The Fuji mill mentioned above sustains a loss of 9s. a month on each worker's meals. The food subsidy of the Toyo Company, with its 39,174 employees, is £81,130 a year. Working clothes are provided at less than cost. Company schools enable dormitory girls to continue their education, while ambitious youths may take technical courses to fit them for executive positions. Workers' children are cared for in company kindergartens.

M. Sanji Muto, President of the Kanegafuchi Spinning Company, and Kimura have given me figures on the carrying charges per operative in their respective organisations. They are as follows:—

	Toyo	Kanegafuchi (In yen)
Lodging (including dormitories and company buildings provided for the workers, with lighting, heating, water, insurance, taxes and other charges)	·082	·060
Subsidy for food sold below cost	·060	·090
Working clothes	·001	·001
Special allowances (including wedding and birthday presents, retirement and annual bonuses, prizes for attendance and relief works).	·110	·170
Hospitals, sanatoria, and nurses' training schools	·037	·040
Entertainments (including clubs, gardens, theatres, motion pictures, sports, trips, and other recreation)	·010	·080
Education	·006	(1)
Kindergartens	·002	(1)
Children's nursing home	·001	(1)
Pensions	·078	·060
Recruiting	·037	·037
Health insurance	(2)	·030
Supplies	(3)	·009
Total in addition to wages per day	·424	·577

In view of the wide differences between the Toyo and Kanegafuchi items for special allowances and entertainment it is perhaps worthy of mention that the latter company has never had a day of labour trouble in the last thirty years, and has paid no dividend smaller than 35 per cent. in the last ten years.

Toyo reports 1·34 yen as the average daily wage for female spinners. With the carrying charge above adjusted to include health insurance the cost of a day's labour is 1·794 yen, or 40·81d. Kanegafuchi pays an average wage of 1·20 yen to the same class of operative, bringing its corresponding cost to 1·777 yen, or 40·43d. On the basis of these two figures 40·6d. a day is taken as the average cost of girl spinners in Japan. Japanese mills therefore enjoy an apparent advantage of 33 per cent. in labour costs over Lancashire. If we insert into the equation the additional factor of the working day, with 9½ hours for Japan and eight for Lancashire, we find something like this:—

Wages	Hours	Ratio	
60·3	9·5	572·9	176 Lancashire
		or	
40·6	8	324·8	100 Japan

(1) Probably included under special allowances.

(2) Not mentioned by Toyo. For purposes of this survey Toyo total should be increased to 454 yen.

(3) Included under lodging.

Lancashire labour costs on this basis are 76 per cent. higher than those of Japan.

But there is another factor to be considered—that of efficiency. The Japanese system does not promote it. Hardly has a girl become an efficient ring spinner when her contract expires, and she returns to her country home and marries.

According to the report on cotton-spinning in Japan issued by the Cotton Yarn Association, Manchester, in August, Japan in 1926 employed 36.2 workpeople for 1000 ring spindles, double shift. Eliminating the engine and boiler room, mixing and scutching room hands, as well as those engaged in reeling, bundling, and testing, we find the average Japanese mill in that year employed 15.6 card-room and spinning-room operatives per 1000 spindles. The Cotton Yarn Association further declared that Lancashire would do the same work with five or six operatives. For the purposes of this survey the higher figure is taken. Let us look at our ratios once more—

Wages	Hours	Efficiency	Ratio		
60.3	9.5	6	3437.4	100	Lancashire
			=	or	
40.6	8	15.6	5066.9	147	Japan

Thus actual labour performed costs the millowner 47 per cent. more in Japan than it would in Lancashire.

Then why is Lancashire losing markets to Japan? The question is inevitable, but I do not propose to attempt to answer it. I can only point out that the big mills in Japan are in a strong financial position, able to assume huge raw cotton commitments when prices fall to levels they think reasonable; that they are equipped with the most modern plant, so that machinery can reduce (and in some cases wipe out) the disadvantage of inefficient labour; and that good management has given them low fixed charges. (From "Commercial," Manchester, November 8, 1928.)

International Labour Office CORRESPONDENT'S OFFICE IN INDIA

The International Labour Office has just opened a Correspondent's Office in India.

The setting up of this Office was decided on by the Governing Body of the Office, for the purpose of tightening the existing bonds between India and the Organisation. The Delhi Correspondent's Office will facilitate relations between the International Labour Office and the public services and industrial associations of India. It will also serve as a permanent centre for information and documentary material.

The opening of this office in India, as well as the visit of Mr. Albert Thomas to the Far East, go to show the importance which the International Labour Office attaches to labour problems in far-off countries, and the world-wide nature of its work. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, November 26, 1928.)

Seamen's Insurance Bill in Japan

The Japanese Bureau of Social Affairs has drafted a Seamen's Insurance Bill which provides for compulsory insurance against sickness, injury, invalidity, old age, and death (survivors' pensions). It is proposed to bring the Bill, after examination by the Commission on Labour Insurance, before the next session of the Imperial Diet. It is not expected that the scheme will be put into operation before 1930. The most important provisions are chiefly analysed below.

SCOPE

Insurance is compulsory for ships' officers whose annual salary does not exceed 1800 yen and for all seamen employed on Japanese sea-going ships except certain small vessels. A person who ceases to be compulsorily insurable may continue to insure voluntarily.

SICKNESS AND INJURY BENEFITS

Medical aid is granted until recovery, if the sickness or injury arises out of the employment. In other cases, medical aid lasts for not more than 180 days in respect of the same sickness or injury.

A daily cash benefit of 60 per cent. of wages is paid during temporary incapacity for work, as long as medical aid is granted. If the sickness or injury does not arise out of the employment, a waiting period of three days is imposed.

INVALIDITY BENEFITS

In case of permanent incapacity, reducing earning power by two-thirds or more, a pension of 25 to 33½ per cent. of wages, according to the degree of incapacity, is granted. If the degree of incapacity is greater than one-third but less than two-thirds, a lump sum of 100 to 200 per cent. of annual wages, according to the degree of incapacity, is granted. If the incapacity does not arise out of the employment, a minimum period of insurance must have been completed. If the incapacity does arise out of the employment, the pension or lump sum is increased by 50 per cent.

OLD-AGE PENSION

On reaching the age of 60 a seaman becomes entitled to an old-age pension of 33½ per cent. of his annual wages, on condition that the minimum period of insurance has been completed.

BENEFIT ON CEASING TO BE INSURABLE

Seamen who have been insured for a prescribed period and then cease to be insurable are entitled to a cash benefit on leaving insurance.

FUNERAL BENEFIT

The dependants of a deceased seaman are entitled to a funeral benefit equal to one month's wages, but not less than 50 yen.

SURVIVORS' PENSIONS

Survivors' pensions are granted to the amount of 10 per cent. of wages for one dependant and 6½ per cent. of wages for an additional dependant

(maximum, 16½ per cent. of wages for all dependants). Widow, descendants and brothers and sisters under 16, and ascendants or widower who are invalid or over 60 are deemed to be dependants. If the death does not arise out of the employment, a minimum period of insurance must have been completed. If the death does arise out of the employment, the pensions are increased by 50 per cent.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The contribution is shared as follows : seaman, 40 per cent. ; shipowner, 40 per cent. ; State, 20 per cent. The shipowner's share may be increased in respect of seamen receiving low wages or in respect of extra risk arising out of the construction of the ship or the course of the voyage. The seaman's share of the contribution is deducted from his wages by the shipowner. The State is the sole insurance carrier. (From *Industrial and Labour Information*, Geneva, November 12, 1928.)

Conditions in the Mexican Textile Industry

A collective agreement intended to regulate future relations between employers and workers in the Mexican textile industry was concluded on 7th September 1928.

The agreement expressly reserves to employers the management of undertakings. It provides for the establishment within the undertakings of workers' unions, constituted according to Article 123 of the Federal Constitution. The workers in each undertaking will nominate an official representative, whose duty it will be to discuss with the management the problems to which the working of the agreement may give rise. The management may not interfere in the internal organisation of the unions.

The admission of new workers into any undertaking must be the subject of agreement between the management and the union. Before being definitely engaged, the workers must undergo a medical examination (showing in particular that they are free from tuberculosis, syphilis or leprosy), pass through a probationary period of 30 days, and join the union.

The agreement fixes the wages that each class of workers is to receive. Wages must be paid each week without deduction. The employers must provide the workers with clean and healthy quarters. The workers are entitled to a paid holiday of six days in the year.

The agreement embodies the principle of the 48-hour week and the compulsory weekly rest ; it fixes the times of entering and leaving work-places as well as the periods of rest which must be granted during the day's work.

The agreement forbids the employment of women and of children less than sixteen years of age at unhealthy or dangerous work. It requires for working women a compulsory rest of three months before confinement and two months after, and grants them an allowance of one month's wages. Nursing mothers have the right to two periods of rest during the day.

The employers undertake to institute courses of vocational training for their workers.

Any disputes which may arise will be submitted to joint works committees consisting of representatives of the management and of the union. The decisions of these committees will be binding. No strike may be declared until the committee has made a decision.

For the investigation of disputes which the joint works committee fails to solve, the agreement provides for the creation of district joint committees. A national joint committee of the textile industry is established to supervise the enforcement of the agreement. (From *Industrial and Labour Information*, Geneva, November 26, 1928.)

Price Fixing in Italy

As a result of proposals of the National Trade Union Committee, the Italian Minister of National Economy recently issued instructions to the provincial governors relating to the fixing of prices.

In future the provincial trade union committees will have no control over prices, and will confine themselves to co-ordinating and encouraging trade union activity in the provinces. The fixing of the prices of the principal food products and supervision of markets will henceforth be a function of the provincial economic councils, which are presided over by the governors.

Within each economic council a permanent price committee will be established for this purpose. It will be presided over by the governor, or, in his absence by the vice-president of the provincial economic council, and will be composed of members of the different sections of the council who are experts on the subject of food. This committee will meet each week, to determine the cost price of food products of prime necessity and to fix the basic price at which such products may be retailed.

To ensure the collaboration of local political authorities and price committees, the provincial governors will see that the secretaries of the provincial Fascist federations share in the work of these committees. Section 4 of the Royal Decree No. 2174 of 16th December 1926, which provides that an understanding must be reached between the local authorities and the provincial economic councils before the definite fixing of retail prices of the principal food products, is again put in force. The clauses relating to the deliberations of trade union bodies in regard to prices are implicitly repealed. The local magistrates retain the right to regulate maximum prices themselves. The deliberations of the provincial economic councils will retain their technical character.

The basic prices decided upon by the councils and communicated to the authorities according to the procedure in force will be applied by the latter, who must take into account all the expenses which may influence the cost of goods before consumption, and must allow a fair profit to the retailer. In fixing wholesale prices, the authorities will follow the rules laid down by the National Statistical Institute. Local authorities will refrain from fixing maximum prices for articles not sold by retail and therefore not affecting consumers, or when the observance of fixed prices appears unnecessary or economically dangerous for the district. (From *Industrial and Labour Information*, Geneva, November 19, 1928.)

Representation of Labour in the Bombay Municipality

The text of Mr. Syed Munawar's Bill further to amend the City of Bombay Municipal Act which was read for the first time in the July 1928 session of the Bombay Legislative Council and referred to a Select Committee was published in the September 1928 issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The report of the Select Committee was discussed in the September session of the legislative council and the Bill as finally amended was read for the third time and passed into law. The Act was assented to by the Governor General on the 7th November 1928 and is reprinted below:—

An Act further to amend the City of Bombay Municipal Act (Act No. III of 1888).

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the City of Bombay Municipal Act, 1888 (Bom. III of 1888), in the manner hereinafter provided; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. *Short title.*—This Act may be called the City of Bombay Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1928.

2. *Amendment of section 3 of Bom. III of 1888.*—To section 3 of the City of Bombay Municipal Act, 1888 (Bom. III of 1888), hereinafter called the said Act, the following clauses shall be added as clauses (ee), (ff) and (gg), namely:—

(ee) "Registered trade union" means a trade union of manual workers employed in trade or industry, registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 (XVI of 1926), or other law for the registration of trade unions for the time being in force.

(ff) "Delegate" means a person elected by the members of a registered trade union as a member of the electoral college under the provisions of section 21-A.

(gg) "Electoral college" means a body of delegates elected by registered trade unions for the purpose of electing councillors to the Corporation.

3. *Amendment of section 5 of Bom. III of 1888.*—In sub-section (1) of section 5 of the said Act,

(a) for the words "one hundred and six," the words "one hundred and eight," shall be substituted;

(b) for the word "sixteen" the word "fourteen" shall be substituted; and

(c) below the words "one by fellows," the following shall be inserted, namely:—

"four councillors elected by delegates."

4. *New section 11-A of Bom. III of 1888.*—After section 11 of the said Act, the following section shall be inserted:

"11-A. *Qualifications of voters at election of delegates.*—Every member of a registered trade union shall be entitled to be enrolled as a voter in the electoral roll of the registered trade union and when so

enrolled shall be entitled to vote at the election of delegates, provided—

(1) that he has been a member for six months immediately preceding the 1st day of September 1928 and for the purpose of future elections for six months immediately preceding the first day of September in the year in which the electoral roll of delegates is published; and

(2) that he has had a place of residence in the city for six months immediately preceding the first day of September aforesaid."

5. *New section 14-A of Bom. III of 1888.*—After section 14 of the said Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

"14-A. *Qualifications for election as a councillor by delegates.*—A person shall not be qualified to be elected as a councillor by the delegates unless he is a voter as prescribed by section 11-A and enrolled in the electoral roll of delegates."

6. *New section 21-A of Bom. III of 1888.*—After section 21 of the said Act, the following shall be inserted, namely:—

"21-A. *Procedure regarding election of delegates and councillors.*—The election of the delegates, and of councillors by the delegates shall be made in accordance with the following provisions, namely:—

(a) The councillors shall be elected by an electoral college of delegates constituted as provided in the following clauses.

(b) Every registered trade union which had on the first day of September not less than 100 and not more than 200 members on its register of members entitled to vote under section 11-A shall be entitled to elect one delegate to the electoral college.

For every complete multiple of 200 such members in addition to the original 200 such union shall be entitled to elect one additional delegate.

(c) For the purposes of this election, any two or more registered trade unions may combine to elect delegates, and shall be deemed to be one registered trade union, provided that—

(i) the number of members entitled to vote of each of such registered trade unions is less than 100;

(ii) notice of such combination is given to the Commissioner three days before the electoral roll of such trade unions is submitted to him.

(d) Within seven days of the coming into operation of this Act, and, for the purposes of future elections, before the first day of September the Commissioner shall call on every registered trade union to prepare and submit within ten days the electoral roll of its members entitled to vote at the election of delegates. A copy of such roll shall from the same day be kept at the office of the registered trade union open to the inspection of any member of that trade union or of any other registered trade union.

(e) Any member of the registered trade union aggrieved by any entry or omission shall make an application to the Commissioner not later than three days after the date fixed for such submission. The Commissioner shall thereupon decide the matter, and his decision shall be final and conclusive.

(f) The electoral roll of the registered trade union shall be corrected in accordance with the decision passed by the Commissioner and shall thereafter be the electoral roll of the registered trade union. Such roll shall be kept at the office of the registered trade union open to the inspection of any member.

(g) The Commissioner shall then decide and inform each registered trade union how many delegates it is entitled to elect to the electoral college.

(h) Thereafter, within ten days, the members of each registered trade union shall elect the specified number of delegates. Every such elector shall have as many votes as there are delegates to be elected by the registered trade union in which he votes, and shall be entitled to accumulate all of them upon one candidate, or to distribute them amongst the candidates as he pleases.

(i) The registered trade union shall immediately report the names of the delegates to the Commissioner. The election of members whose names are so reported shall not be open to question, in any court or otherwise.

(j) The Commissioner shall then prepare and publish a nominal roll of delegates so elected constituting the electoral college. The roll shall show by which registered trade union each delegate was elected, and shall state his address.

(k) On or before the 15th of January 1929 and for the purpose of future elections on or before the 20th day of December the Commissioner shall give notice by advertisement in the local papers of the publication of the said roll and the place at which and the fee for which copies of it may be obtained.

(l) The election of the four councillors by the electoral college of delegates shall take place fourteen days after the ward elections.

(m) Save as herein otherwise provided all the provisions of this Act with regard to ward elections, including those relating to electoral roll, nominations, elections, appeals and expenses, shall, so far as possible, apply to the election of councillors by the electoral college of delegates.

Labour Courts in Italy

The Italian Government recently approved regulations proposed by the Minister of Justice for the application of the Royal Decree of 26th February 1928 relating to the settlement of individual labour disputes.

Both lower and higher courts are to set up special sections to hear and settle such disputes, which will thus be dealt with by magistrates specially competent in matters relating to labour contracts. Greater uniformity in practice will also be secured. The judges will be assisted in each case by two experts belonging respectively to the classes of employers and workers. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, October 15, 1928.)

Standard and Cost of Living of the Working Classes in Rangoon

Report of the Burma Labour Statistics Bureau*

The Burma Labour Statistics Bureau has recently published a very valuable report on the above subject. It is divided into three parts. Part I contains a discussion on the standard of living in Rangoon based upon the results of a family budget enquiry conducted by the Bureau during the years 1926 and 1927; Part II deals with the cost of living in Rangoon and Part III describes in considerable detail the conditions of factory and other kinds of labour in Rangoon. The numerous charts, statistical tables and appendices enhance the value of this very detailed report.

STANDARD OF LIVING IN RANGOON

In order to ascertain the standard of living of the working classes in Rangoon a family budget investigation was conducted by the Bureau, the scope of which was very wide. The classes of persons covered were: (a) skilled and unskilled labourers in factories, (b) miscellaneous and industrial labourers employed outside factories, (c) casual workers, and (d) independent workmen such as craftsmen employed in the various cottage industries. Shop-keepers and assistants and domestic servants were not included.

The factory labour in Rangoon is mainly Indian, about 95 per cent. of the unskilled labour and 70 per cent. of the skilled labour being Indian. The casual labourers, especially coolies, are also Indians but those employed in cottage industries are usually Burmese. The most important races among the Indian working classes in Rangoon are the Telugus, Hindustanis, Chittagonians, Tamils and Uriyas.

The enquiry was conducted on the basis of a sample. In the case of Indian budgets it was decided to collect 4 per cent. of the estimated number of workmen and the sample finally achieved was between 3 and 4 per cent. For the Burmese budgets, a 6 per cent. sample was taken. In all 4309 budgets were collected out of which 3317 were for Indians and 992 for Burmese. The majority of the married Indian labourers who go to Burma leave their wives and children in India and the Indian budgets collected were therefore mostly single budgets. From the Burmese labourers only family budgets were collected. The one general restriction that was placed on the type of family was that it should contain no boarders or lodgers. The method of conducting the investigation was similar to the one followed by the Bombay Labour Office. A form was drawn up and information was collected by house to house visits by the Investigators of the Bureau. The Investigators collected a particular number of budgets from each race, and class of labour as decided before

*Report of an Enquiry into the Standard and Cost of Living of the Working Classes in Rangoon, by J. J. Bennison, Officer-in-Charge, Labour Statistics Bureau, Burma, Rangoon, Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma, 1928, pp. 221, price Rs. 3.

starting the enquiry. In this way, which is that of *purposive selection*, a representative sample was obtained.

Although in the majority of budgets the information collected was based on estimates supplied by the worker, in some cases it was obtained from actual records. For example, for each of the Indian races a number of budgets were obtained in which the food expenditure was based on records. In the budgets used in the supplementary Burmese enquiry, the Investigators visited the family daily for a whole month and noted the expenditure incurred the previous day on articles such as food, fuel and lighting and items of the miscellaneous group which were purchased almost daily. By adding the stock at the beginning of the month to the purchases during the month and subtracting the stock at the end of the month, the amount actually consumed during the month was obtained.

RESULTS OF THE ENQUIRY

The results of the main and supplementary enquiries have been given separately. The former includes the Burmese family budget enquiry, the Indian single-men's budget enquiry, the Tamil and Telugu family budget enquiry and the Indian occupational budget enquiry. The latter deals with Burmese budgets selected from those used in the main enquiry.

BURMESE FAMILY BUDGETS

The average Burmese family is composed of 3.71 persons or 3.01 units. The number of persons in the lowest income class is 5.35 as compared with 2.23 in the highest class. It appears from the table showing the composition of the families according to income classes that the larger number of persons in the lower income classes is due to the larger number of persons under 18 in them. For instance, in 100 families in the highest income class there are 104 men and 100 women 18 years of age or over, but only 19 persons under 18, whereas in the lowest income class the number of men is 117, the number of women is 133 and the number of persons under 18 is 285.

Of the 3.71 persons in the average family, 1.54 are earners and 2.17 dependants. The average number of earners in the lowest income class is 1.64 and in the highest it is 1.27.

The classification of families according to the number of earners and non-earners shows that more than half the families have only one wage-earner, more than a third have two, and less than 10 per cent. have three or more.

As regards the average income of the family, this varies from Rs. 54-11-5 in the lowest income class to Rs. 65-13-8 in the highest income class. The average income for all families is Rs. 58-8-3 of which Rs. 52-8-4 or about 90 per cent. is provided by men, Rs. 5-11-11 or about 10 per cent. by women and annas 4 or less than half per cent. by children.

The following table shows the percentage expenditure on groups of articles for Burmese working class families in Rangoon and the working class families in Bombay:—

	For Burmese families	Bombay*
Food	52.7	56.8
Clothing	10.6	9.6
House-rent	13.9	7.7
Fuel and lighting	5.2	7.4
Household requisites	2.6	.. .
Miscellaneous	15.0	18.5

It will be seen from the above comparative table that the average Burmese family spends a smaller percentage on food and fuel and lighting, but a greater percentage on house-rent and clothing. The percentage for miscellaneous items is slightly less than in Bombay but this is due to the fact that there is very little expenditure on liquor by Burmese families whereas in Bombay it amounts to 4.1 per cent. of the total expenditure.

EXPENDITURE ON FOOD

For all incomes, the average monthly expenditure per family on food is Rs. 29-14-6, the main items being, Rs. 9-0-8 on rice, Rs. 5-13-4 on fish, Rs. 3-5-10 on meat, Rs. 2-4-5 on sesamum oil, Rs. 2-6-5 on vegetables and fruits, Re. 0-13-9 on salt, spices and condiments, and Rs. 5-4-7 on food bought and consumed away from home of which as much as Rs. 2-2-1 is spent on cups of tea.

The nutritive value as expressed in calories of some of the more important articles of food was worked out with the help of the Harcourt Butler Institute of Public Health. The total number of calories consumed per day per unit varies from 2292 in the lowest income class to 3168 in the highest. The number for all incomes is 2592 which is much smaller than the number consumed by the Indian races, the smallest for these races being 2962 for Chittagonians.

EXPENDITURE ON CLOTHING

The expenditure per man, per woman, and per child comes to Rs. 2-6-0, Rs. 1-12-2, and Re. 0-11-2 respectively. Men and women in the highest income class spend about twice as much on clothing as those in the lowest income class. For all incomes, woman's expenditure on clothing is about three-quarters that of a man.

EXPENDITURE ON RENT

The average expenditure per family on rent is Rs. 7-14-3. There is considerable variation in the rents paid by Burmese working class families

*In the Bombay enquiry, household requisites were divided between clothing and miscellaneous groups, bedding being included under clothing, and cooking utensils and furniture under miscellaneous items.

in Rangoon. Some families live in very inferior quarters and pay less than a rupee per month, while others pay as much as Rs. 20 or more. In order to reduce expenses, the Burmese families often join together and share a room. About 9 per cent. of the families live in their own houses, about 15 per cent. in free quarters provided by employers and the remaining 76 per cent. in rented houses.

EXPENDITURE ON FUEL AND LIGHTING

Expenditure on fuel and lighting is mainly on firewood and kerosene oil. This group accounts for about 5 per cent. of the total expenditure and this percentage does not vary much from one income class to another.

EXPENDITURE ON HOUSEHOLD REQUISITES

This group accounts for about 2½ per cent. of the total expenditure. The most usual items in it are mats, blankets, pillows, cooking pots and furniture. Only one family in 16 uses cots or charpoys and about 2 in 5 mattresses. Sheets are usually made of long cloth and are used in a little more than half the families. Mosquito nets are made of long cloth or mull. Netting is very rarely used, partly because it is too expensive and partly because a thicker material is often preferred. Nets are used in a little more than half the families.

EXPENDITURE ON MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

The most important item of expenditure in this group is tobacco, the average expenditure per family on it being Rs. 2-6-5. Most of the families spend money on betel, the average per family being annas 12. There is no expenditure on liquor. Expenditure on medicines is found in about 14 per cent. of the families. Most of the large industrial establishments supply medicines free and there are also Corporation and other dispensaries from which free supplies may be obtained. Expenditure on education is found in only about 12 per cent. of the families.

INDIAN SINGLE BUDGETS

The tabulations of these budgets show that the average monthly income of the different Indian races is as follows: Tamils Rs. 27-7-8, Telugus Rs. 23-14-10, Uriyas Rs. 35-9-3, Hindustanis Rs. 26-0-1, and Chittagonians Rs. 29-5-3. Many of the Hindustanis, however, earn a considerable amount by lending money, but information regarding these additional earnings could not be obtained. The larger income of the Uriyas is due to the fact that they are usually found only in the better-paid occupations. The average monthly expenditure is as follows: Tamils Rs. 17-12-3, Telugus Rs. 29-11-10, Uriyas Rs. 20-2-8, Hindustanis Rs. 14-13-5, and Chittagonians Rs. 17-5-1. Tamils and Telugus save about a third of their income whereas Uriyas, Hindustanis and Chittagonians save more than 40 per cent. In each case about three-quarters of this is remitted to India. About 90 per cent. of the Tamils, Telugus and Uriyas and more than 95 per cent. of the Hindustanis make remittances to India regularly.

The following table shows the percentage expenditure on the various groups by the Indian races

Percentage Expenditure on Groups

Race	Percentage expenditure on					
	Food	Clothing	Rent	Fuel and lighting	Household requisites	Miscellaneous
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Tamils	54·0	5·9	7·4	5·0	2·3	25·4
Telugus	53·6	6·2	7·4	4·7	2·0	26·1
Uriyas	51·2	6·7	7·9	4·8	2·1	27·3
Hindustanis	61·0	9·4	10·2	5·9	2·6	10·9
Chittagonians	60·0	9·7	7·5	4·6	2·2	16·0

A striking feature of the above table is the very much greater percentage of expenditure on miscellaneous by Tamils, Telugus and Uriyas. This is mainly due to the large expenditure of these races on liquor, tobacco and betel which amounts to 14 per cent., 16 per cent., and 12 per cent. respectively of the total expenditure.

EXPENDITURE ON VARIOUS GROUPS

As regards expenditure on food, the average monthly expenses for the various races are as follows:—Tamils Rs. 9-9-6, Telugus Rs. 10-9-3, Uriyas Rs. 10-5-4, Chittagonians Rs. 10-6-3, and Hindustanis Rs. 9-0-9. All Indians, with the exception of about 6 per cent. of the Hindustanis eat rice. *Arhar* dhal is taken by all Indian, with the exception of Chittagonians only about half of whom take it. Refined sugar is usually taken only in cups of tea or coffee bought outside, but a few Tamils, Uriyas and Hindustanis buy *gur* and make tea or coffee themselves. About a quarter of the Hindustanis take fresh fish but practically all the other main races take fish either fresh or salted. Meat is taken by practically all the Tamils, Telugus and Chittagonians and by about 80 per cent. of the Uriyas but only by about 10 per cent. of the Hindustanis. All races except Hindustanis spend a fair amount on food consumed away from home, the greater part being on cups of tea.

The average monthly expenditure on clothing is as follows:—Tamils Rs. 1-0-9, Telugus Rs. 1-3-7, Uriyas Rs. 1-5-9, Hindustanis Rs. 1-6-4 and Chittagonians Rs. 1-10-11. The average monthly expenditure of a Burman on clothing is Rs. 2-6-0.

The average monthly expenditure on rent is as follows:—Chittagonians Rs. 1-4-10, Tamils Rs. 1-5-1, Telugus Rs. 1-7-3, Hindustanis Rs. 1-8-2 and Uriyas Rs. 1-9-4. About three-quarters of the Hindustanis and Chittagonians, half of the Tamils and Telugus, and a third of the Uriyas live in free quarters supplied by employers, while about 4 per cent. of the Tamils but less than one per cent. of the other races have their own houses. The majority of these live in rented buildings usually in lodging

houses registered by the Corporation. The conditions under which they live in these registered buildings are appalling.

The expenditure on fuel and lighting is mainly on firewood and kerosene oil and is less than a rupee per month.

The expenditure on household requisites is annas 6 per month or just over 2 per cent. of the total expenditure. The usual articles are a charpoy or a mat, a blanket, and a few cooking pots. Pillows and sheets are sometimes used. Practically all the Chittagonians use pillows. The furniture is usually a box. Mosquito nets are hardly ever used.

As regards expenditure on miscellaneous items, the main items of expenditure in this group are liquor, (Tamils, Telugus and Uriyas only) tobacco and betel. The expenditure of the Chittagonians and the Hindustanis on liquor is almost nil; that of Telugus is the highest, being Rs. 2 per month, of Tamils Rs. 1-7-5 per month, and of Uriyas Re. 0-15-5 per month. Both country and foreign liquor is consumed.

TAMIL AND TELUGU FAMILY BUDGETS

The number of family budgets collected for Tamil and Telugu families were 157 and 139 respectively. The average number of persons in a Tamil family comes to 3.62 and that in a Telugu family comes to 3.17. For Tamil families the average income is Rs. 41-4-9 of which Rs. 5-8-2 or about 13 per cent. is earned by women and practically nothing by children. For Telugu families the average income of the family is Rs. 45-5-10 of which 16 per cent. is earned by women and nearly 2 per cent. by children. All Tamil and Telugu men are earners, their average earnings being Rs. 35-11-9 and Rs. 37-6-8 respectively. The average earnings of the Tamil and Telugu earning women are Rs. 13-1-8 and Rs. 15-9-8 respectively. The main sources of the income of Tamil women are the carrying of coal and paddy. Telugu women, on the other hand, rarely engage in hard manual labour. Their earnings are usually obtained by selling cheroots, pickles, firewood, etc.

Tamil families manage to save about 13 per cent. and Telugu families 15 per cent. of the monthly income but while Tamil families remit to India less than 2 per cent. of their income Telugu families remit just over 8 per cent.

The percentage expenditures on food and miscellaneous items are greater and less respectively than the corresponding percentages in the case of the single budgets.

INDIAN OCCUPATIONAL BUDGETS

A few single-men's occupational budgets of the Indian races are separately tabulated. The occupations considered are coal carriers, paddy carriers, hand-cart pullers, skilled factory workers, rice bag carriers, stevedore and wharf coolies, rickshaw pullers, Corporation coolies, cargo boatmen, unskilled factory workers, tramway workers, durwans and peons, gharrywallas, tindals, firemen and oilmen. The number of budgets tabulated for each of these occupations and races varies from 29 to 47.

It is seen from these budgets that many of the Telugus spend considerable sums on liquor and cups of tea. For instance, the average monthly expenditure of hand-cart pullers on liquor is Rs. 6-9-9 and on

tea Rs. 2-8-11, that is to say, about 30 per cent. of the total expenditure is on these two items. Rickshaw pullers spend more on tea than any other class of workers.

COST OF LIVING IN RANGOON

Part II of the report deals with cost of living in Rangoon. Section (a) of this part discusses the general theory of price index numbers while section (b) deals with the cost of living index numbers compiled for the various races and published in the statistical tables at the end of the report. Separate cost of living index numbers have been calculated for (a) Burmese, (b) Tamils, Telugus and Uriyas, (c) Hindustanis, and (d) Chittagonians, and budgets collected for these races have been used to determine the weights. The commodities included in the different index numbers represent more than 80 per cent. of the actual expenditures and the base year taken for the index is 1913. The index numbers are weighted averages, the weights adopted being the quantities of the articles consumed as shown by the budget enquiry. It will be seen from this that an assumption has been made to the effect that there has been no change in the standard of living since 1913 and that the quantities of the articles consumed in 1926-27 were the same as those consumed in 1913.

Great difficulty was experienced in securing the prices of articles during the base period. These were, however, obtained from the records kept by some of the retail shops. For some of the commodities the prices collected by the Corporation were used. The figures for rent were obtained from the Assessor to the Corporation.

As regards current prices, these are collected by the Investigators of the Bureau from certain shops. The number of such shops is not as large as might have been desirable but a few reliable prices are considered to be better than a large number of unreliable ones. The number of quotations taken during the month from each shop varies for the different commodities. For instance, in the case of rice, chillies, potatoes, onions, fish and beef the prices of which change fairly rapidly, ten quotations are taken during the month but for cheroots only two quotations are taken.

It is seen from the tables published at the end of the report that in the case of Burmese families the cost of living in March 1928 was 34 per cent. over 1913; in the case of Tamils, Telugus and Uriyas it was 36 per cent.; in the case of Hindustanis it was 48 per cent. and in the case of Chittagonians it was 36 per cent. over 1913. It will be noticed that the cost of living has increased more for the Hindustanis than for the other races. This is mainly due to the fact that they use ghee which has gone up appreciably in price whereas the other races use sesamum or mustard oil which have not gone up so much.

It appears from the figures quoted above that except for the Hindustanis, the cost of living has not increased in Rangoon so much as in Bombay City. The working class cost of living index number for Bombay City was 145 for March 1928 with July 1914 prices = 100.

CONDITIONS OF LABOUR IN RANGOON

Part III of the report describes the conditions of labour in some of the important occupations in Rangoon. The description given is most valuable as it helps the reader properly to interpret the numerous statistics published in the report. The kinds of labour dealt with in this section are: (1) factory labour, (2) labour employed outside factories and (3) casual labour.

FACTORY LABOUR

Labour in Rice Mills

Rice milling is the most important industry in Rangoon and in 1926 there were 51 rice mills there. It is a seasonal industry and the number of persons employed in it varies somewhat during the year. The majority of the labourers employed in rice mills are maistry coolies, i.e., coolies who are recruited and paid by the employers' labour contractors or maistries. The general practice in all rice mills of any size is for the employer to enter into a contract with a maistry for the supply of unskilled labour. In most contracts no mention is made of the number of workmen required; the maistry agrees to supply sufficient labour as and when required, day or night, at the piece rates laid down in the contract. A sum of money, usually between Rs. 3000 and Rs. 5000, is always deposited by the maistry with the firm as security for the due performance of his duties under the contract and this deposit is liable to be forfeited if the maistry fails to discharge his obligations. The person who arranges for the supply of labour at the mill is generally known as the head maistry. The head maistry is ordinarily paid a premium by each of the sub-maistries in charge of bagging and stitching, for the privilege of getting work. In a mill which runs for the greater part of the year and where the outturn is fairly large this premium may be as much as Rs. 500 per year.

Most of the paddy carriers are recruited in India. The sub-maistries either themselves go to India or send their agents there about October to negotiate with prospective recruits. These recruits are generally well known to the sub-maistries and are often residents of the same or a neighbouring village. Advances are paid to them, about Rs. 25 being the usual amount, but as much as Rs. 100 may be paid if the recruit has a little property. On arrival in the mill, the recruits are usually made to sign their names or give their thumb impressions on a printed form or agreement or on a piece of blank paper.

In addition to the men recruited in India, a fairly large number of paddy carriers is recruited locally. These coolies usually go to Rangoon independently of the maistries. They divide themselves into gangs each of which nominates a leader from amongst its members and they visit the mills just before they get busy, see the head maistry, and come to an understanding with him about the wages to be paid. They usually remain in the mill during the busy months only and are ordinarily given what is known as *backsheesh*. This *backsheesh*, which is first given as a loan, is eventually treated as a gift if the men receiving it serve under the head maistry until the close of the busy season. The head maistry holds the leader responsible for all his men. The practice in respect of *backsheesh* in almost all mills is for the head maistry to get the leader to sign an

on-demand promissory note, in which no amount is entered or a higher amount than the *backsheesh* is shown. This promissory note is returned or destroyed at the end of the busy season provided, of course, the men do not run away. The amount of *backsheesh* varies with the number of men in the gang, one containing 25 men being paid about Rs. 250 or Rs. 300 which comes to between Rs. 10 and Rs. 12 for each man. This *backsheesh* coolies get their pay at the same rates as the coolies recruited in India. Practically all the bagging and stitching coolies are recruited locally by the bagging and stitching sub-maistries who give them loans which are recovered from their wages. Ordinarily about Rs. 50 are advanced to each cooly at the beginning of the year.

Rates at which payments are to be made to the head maistries for the labour recruited by him are fixed. In addition to this all the big rice millers pay the head maistry a percentage surcharge on the amount of the bill. It is understood that at present this surcharge is 15 per cent. The head maistry always keeps the surcharge for himself but in addition he makes other deductions from the amount he receives from the employer. For instance, he either pays at lower rates than those at which the employer has paid him or he takes a percentage commission. In some cases he makes deductions in both ways. Other petty deductions are also made.

The deductions made by the sub-maistries are similar to those made by the head maistries. The sub-maistry either pays at lower rates than those at which the head maistry has paid him or he charges a percentage commission. Annas and pies are also neglected and in distributing the amount among the coolies, he takes two or more shares for himself. There are also other ways in which the head maistry and sub-maistries make a little out of the coolies. For instance, in almost all the mills, the sub-maistries themselves run a mess or arrange with cooks to supply food to the coolies. In both cases, the messing charges are deducted by the sub-maistry from the wages of the coolies and they naturally see that they do not lose over it. There is also a custom according to which the proceeds of a week's bill every year are kept by the head maistry. In return for this, he pays for the messing charges of the sub-maistries and the coolies, which, of course, are much less than he ordinarily pays for them. Wages in the busy season are usually paid by the head maistries and sub-maistries once a fortnight although the head maistry is paid by the employer every week. During the slack season there is no regular payment of wages to the coolies. They are given a rupee or two now and then to keep them from starving.

Practically all the paddy carriers and the bagging and stitching coolies are indebted to their sub-maistries. The paddy carriers recruited in India always arrive in Burma indebted to the sub-maistries and usually remain so for the rest of their lives. Accounts are not regularly kept by the sub-maistries and the coolies never know the exact extent of their indebtedness.

As a rule, the employers know little or nothing about the relations between the maistries and the coolies. The coolies are afraid to represent their grievances to the employers and the employers, on the other hand,

do not think it their business to interfere. They do not, of course, claim that the maistry system has no fault or that it is not expensive; but the majority are of the opinion that on the whole it works satisfactorily.

Labour in Saw Mills

Next in importance to rice mills is the saw milling industry. In 1926 there were 37 saw mills in Rangoon and the number of workmen employed was 7500. All the skilled and unskilled workers, other than Telugus and Uriyas, are recruited direct by the saw mills themselves. In the bigger saw mills the carrier is paid a monthly wage of Rs. 17 plus a bonus of Rs. 2 if he works for 25 days in a month. For every day's absence he loses, besides the wage of that day, annas 4 out of the Rs. 2 bonus. The pay of the maistry varies in different mills from Rs. 30 to Rs. 70.

LABOUR IN OTHER FACTORIES

As regards labour in other factories, the unskilled Burmese are mainly employed in match factories for filling boxes with matches. Except for a small number of workers who are paid by piece through their maistries or squad leaders, payment of wages is made direct to all workmen.

LABOUR EMPLOYED OUTSIDE FACTORIES

Shipping Labour

Shipping labour in Rangoon has been taken to include stevedore coolies, wharf coolies, cargo boatmen, and coal and salt coolies.

As regards the stevedore coolies, all the shipping companies, except the British India Steam Navigation Company, enter into a contract with a stevedore for proper storage in the hold or discharge out of it of the cargo carried by their steamers. The stevedore obtains his labour requirements through his head maistry who is in some cases on a contract with him. Stevedore coolies work in gangs, the strength of each gang varying with the commodity handled. Ordinarily there is one gang for each hatch. Stevedore gangs work in shifts, one from 6 or 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the other from 6 or 7 p.m. to 5 a.m., i.e., 10 to 11 hours a day. The demand for stevedore labour is not uniform, the busy season being from January to April, when there is a heavy export trade in rice. The stevedore coolie works on an average about 4 or 5 days in a week. The number of coolies engaged in stevedoring is between 3000 and 4000, the majority of whom are Telugus.

The wharf coolies are on the establishment of the labour contractor of the Port Commissioners and work in conjunction with the stevedore coolies. The contractor is under an agreement with the Port Commissioners for the performance of the work at the wharves on a prescribed tariff. He employs for the purpose 16 permanent gangs of 15 men each including the maistry. The maistries are paid Rs. 40 per month and the coolies Rs. 30 or Rs. 35. Besides these 240 labourers, he has about 60 gangs of similar composition who are engaged when required. In these gangs the maistries are paid Rs. 3 per day and the coolies Rs. 1-8-0. All these wharf coolies are Telugus.

Stevedore and wharf coolies are recruited locally. Normally no advances are given but small amounts are paid in advance to gang maistries

the busy milling season with the object of obtaining a hold on him. Advances are recovered from their bills.

The estimated number of cargo boatmen in Rangoon is 4800. They are mostly Telugus and are locally recruited. During the busy season—January to February or March—tindals are usually paid Rs. 25 and the crew Rs. 18 per month and for the rest of the year Rs. 20 and Rs. 14 respectively.

Coal and salt work is included in contracts entered into by the shipping companies with the stevedores. The latter obtain the supply of labour from a maistry whom they pay at so much per ton handled. When coal is discharged, from 14 to 20 men (Tamils) are employed at each hatch. The two winchmen and the foreman are paid a daily wage between Rs. 2-4 and Rs. 3 each. The men staying in the hold filling the tubs get Rs. 2 each per day.

The operations connected with the transport of coal or salt between the steamers and depots or godowns on the shore are carried out by the boat owners who enter into a contract with the importers for the purpose. For landing coal from the boats Tamils and Uriyas are ordinarily employed. They are usually recruited from India. The salt coolies, on the other hand, are usually Telugus and are recruited locally. They are paid at daily rates which vary from Re. 1 to Rs. 1-8.

LABOUR EMPLOYED BY PUBLIC BODIES

As regards the labour employed by public bodies, the Corporation is the largest employer of labour and employs about 5000 men, most of whom are Telugus. The Commissioners for the Port of Rangoon employ about 2250 workmen. The work carried out by the Development Trust is usually done by contractors, only a small number of workmen being employed direct.

TRANSPORT LABOUR

As regards transport labour, the only important organised transport service in Rangoon is maintained by the Electric Tramway Supply Company which provides employment for about 1500 skilled and 1100 unskilled workers. No contract labour is employed by this Company and all its operatives are recruited locally and paid direct.

CASUAL LABOUR

Casual labour considered here is of three kinds: Rickshaw pullers, hand-cart pullers, and sampanwallas. All the rickshaw pullers are Telugus. The number of rickshaw puller licenses at the end of 1927 was 8140. The number of actual pullers at the end of 1927 has been estimated at about 7000. For every rickshaw there are two pullers, one from 6 a.m. to 2 or 3 p.m. and the other from 2 or 3 p.m. till day-break. The hire charged for a new rickshaw is annas 14 during the day and Re. 1 for the night. As regards hand-cart pullers, they are mainly Telugus. The hand-cartmen are usually out with their carts by 7 a.m. and return about dusk. The hire charged by the owner for a hand-cart is Rs. 2 per week. The only other casual occupation in which a substantial number of men is engaged is that of sampanwallas. The number of

sampan registered in 1927 was 4415 and the number of sampanwallas is estimated at 5000.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN:

There are not many women and children employed in factories in Rangoon. A few Tamil women work as paddy carriers in rice mills and as coal carriers in depots and there are also some Burmese women in match factories. A few lads are employed as paddy carriers in rice mills and saw dust boys in saw mills but most of them are over 15 years of age.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

The supply of labour in Rangoon is usually adequate. In December and January there is sometimes a shortage of paddy carriers while in the rains there is usually a surplus. November and December are the heaviest months for the immigrant traffic and March, April and May the heaviest for emigrant traffic.

HOUSING.

In the large mills and factories some sort of housing accommodation is usually provided for the majority of workers but in the smaller mills and factories housing is either not provided at all or, if provided, can accommodate only a very small proportion. The accommodation provided is usually in the form of barracks which are suitable only for single men. In most of the rice mills married workers are employed but practically for all of them married quarters are not provided. These families put up improvised gunny blanket or matting partitions for purposes of privacy.

The Indian working classes who are not provided with quarters by employers usually obtain accommodation in the buildings registered in the Municipal books as 'Lodging houses.' It is not unusual to find a tenement room 12½' x 40' occupied by as many as 40 or 50 people. The practice is for the room to be taken up by a maistry at a fixed rent and with a view to making as much profit as possible he crams it with as many coolies as it will hold. In some rooms there are two sets of tenants, one set occupying it during the day and the other during the night. Families are often found in these lodging houses, gunny blanket partitions being erected to secure a certain amount of privacy. In the dry season, the men usually sleep on the foot-paths and pavements and use the rooms only for cooking food and for storing their belongings. But during the rains they crowd into these lodging houses until there is hardly an inch of space left either inside the room or outside on the stairs. In view of its important bearing on the general health of the City, this matter has recently been investigated and reported on by a Special Committee appointed by the Local Government to enquire into the public health of Rangoon.

SANITATION AND HEALTH

Except in 3 or 4 big factories where a resident doctor is employed, very little is done in the way of providing medical assistance to the labourers. In the other larger factories there is usually a visiting doctor

but he pays very little attention to the coolies and in many cases does not know the languages spoken by them. In the smaller factories there is no doctor at all.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Most of the married Indian labourers who come to Burma leave their wives and families in India. The ratio of males to females at the 1921 Census varied from about 2 to 1 in the case of Tamils and about 40 to 1 in the case of Chittagonians. The majority of Indian labourers have thus practically no home life during their sojourn in Burma and this is apparently largely responsible for many of their vices.

COMPETITION BETWEEN INDIAN AND BURMESE LABOUR IN INDUSTRY

According to the special Industrial Census taken in 1921 it is seen that Indians supplied 55 per cent. and the home races 36 per cent. of the skilled labour while in the case of unskilled labour Indians supplied 73 per cent. and home races nearly 23 per cent. Taking skilled and unskilled labour together, Indians supplied 69 per cent. and home races 26 per cent. The reason for the preponderance of Indian labour was due to the fact that the indigenous population was confining itself largely to agricultural extension. The conditions now appear to have changed. The land has not now the same attraction for the Burmans as it used to have and it is probable therefore that unless the methods of agriculture are improved, a keener competition will take place between the Burman and the Indian for a share in the urban life of the province, especially in the more skilled occupations. But although the Burmese may be expected to take an increasing share in industry, the province will be dependent on Indian labour for many years to come, especially for the hard monotonous unskilled work which is so distasteful to the Burman.

The Employment of Married Women in France

A PART-TIME SCHEME

The Bordeaux Trades Chamber, in the belief that the proper place for married women is the home, but that circumstances often make the earnings of such women essential if the family budget is to balance, has recently endeavoured to solve the problem of the married woman worker by means of what is called a *Bureau de Mi-temps* (Half-Time Office). The object is to encourage the creation of part-time employment in industry and commerce which will enable married women, and especially those with children, to work daily for a few hours and still have time to attend to their household duties and children. The experiment would seem to be the first of its kind in Europe, and the result will doubtless be watched with interest. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, November 26, 1928.)

Industrial Disputes in India

STATISTICS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED THE 30th JUNE 1928

The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour have published the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the quarter ended the 30th June 1928. There were 52 industrial disputes in progress during the quarter, involving 290,654 workpeople and resulting in a time loss amounting to 13,012,506 working days. The following tables show the general effects of the disputes (1) by Provinces and (2) by Classes of Establishments:—

General Effects of Disputes—By Provinces

Province	Number of disputes	Number of workpeople involved	Number of working days lost
Bombay	16	177,115	9,769,082
Bengal	23	74,576	2,297,209
Madras	4	6,227	13,954
Assam	1	561	1,505
Bihar and Orissa	4	27,450	815,800
Burma	1	278	556
Punjab	1	1,500	65,100
United Provinces	2	2,947	49,300
Total	52	290,654	13,012,506

General Effects of Disputes—By Classes of Establishments

Class of Establishments	Number of disputes	Number of workpeople involved	Number of working days lost
Cotton and Woollen Mills	16	182,138	9,905,469
Jute Mills	9	40,562	313,292
Engineering Workshops	6	35,170	1,432,928
Railways including Railway workshops	5	23,072	1,290,797
Mines	1	561	1,505
Other—Miscellaneous	16	9,712	70,020
Total	52	290,654	13,012,506

The largest number of disputes, 23, occurred in Bengal. Bombay comes next with 16 disputes. The number of workpeople affected by the disputes in Bombay was, however, more than twice the number affected by those in Bengal and the time loss was more than four times as much. If the statistics are considered according to Classes of Establishments disputes were most frequent in Cotton and Woollen Mills. The number of operatives of Cotton and Woollen Mills affected amounted to over 60 per cent. of the total number of workpeople affected by all the

disputes, and the loss in time suffered by the Cotton and Woollen Mill Industry amounted to more than 75 per cent. of the total time loss.

CAUSES OF DISPUTES

About fifty-two per cent. of the disputes arose over questions relating to wages and about twenty-one per cent. over questions regarding the employment of particular individuals. The causes of the disputes classified (1) by Provinces and (2) by Classes of Establishments are given in the two following tables:—

Causes of Disputes—By Provinces.

Province	Pay	Personnel	Leave and Hours	Others
Bombay	5	4	..	7
Bengal	15	4	..	4
Madras	2	..	..	2
Assam	1	..	..	..
Bihar and Orissa	4	..	..	..
Burma	..	..	..	1
Punjab	..	1	..	..
United Provinces	..	2	..	..
Total	27	11	..	14

Causes of Disputes—By Classes of Establishments

Class of Establishment	Pay	Personnel	Leave and Hours	Others
Cotton and Woollen Mills	4	6	..	6
Jute Mills	3	3	..	3
Engineering Workshops	5	..	..	1
Railways including Railway workshops	3	1	..	1
Mines	..	..	..	..
Other—Miscellaneous	12	1	..	3
Total	27	11	..	14

RESULTS OF DISPUTES

All but nine disputes ended during the quarter. In none of the disputes were the employees entirely successful, while in 12, or about 28 per cent. of the disputes they were partially successful. In the remaining disputes the results were entirely favourable to the employers. The details of

Industrial Disputes in India

STATISTICS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED THE 30th JUNE 1928

The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour have published the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the quarter ended the 30th June 1928. There were 52 industrial disputes in progress during the quarter, involving 290,654 workpeople and resulting in a time loss amounting to 13,012,506 working days. The following tables show the general effects of the disputes (1) by Provinces and (2) by Classes of Establishments :—

General Effects of Disputes—By Provinces

Province	Number of disputes	Number of workpeople involved	Number of working days lost
Bombay	16	177,115	8,300,000
Bengal	23	74,576	2,297,279
Madras	4	6,227	13,954
Assam	1	561	1,595
Bihar and Orissa	4	27,450	815,809
Burma	1	278	556
Punjab	1	1,500	65,000
United Provinces	2	2,947	49,300
Total	52	290,654	13,012,506

General Effects of Disputes—By Classes of Establishments

Class of Establishments	Number of disputes	Number of workpeople involved	Number of working days lost
Cotton and Woollen Mills	16	182,138	9,905,469
Jute Mills	9	40,562	313,292
Engineering Workshops	6	35,170	1,432,928
Railways including Railway workshops	5	23,072	1,290,797
Mines	1	1,500	65,000
Other Miscellaneous	16	9,712	70,020
Total	52	290,654	13,012,506

The largest number of disputes, 23, occurred in Bengal. Bombay comes next with 16 disputes. The number of workpeople affected by the disputes in Bombay was, however, more than twice the number affected by those in Bengal and the time loss was more than four times as much. If the statistics are considered according to Classes of Establishments disputes were most frequent in Cotton and Woollen Mills. The number of operatives of Cotton and Woollen Mills affected amounted to over 60 per cent. of the total number of workpeople affected by all the

disputes, and the loss in time suffered by the Cotton and Woollen Mill Industry amounted to more than 75 per cent. of the total time loss.

CAUSES OF DISPUTES

About fifty-two per cent. of the disputes arose over questions relating to wages and about twenty-one per cent. over questions regarding the employment of particular individuals. The causes of the disputes classified (1) by Provinces and (2) by Classes of Establishments are given in the two following tables :—

Causes of Disputes—By Provinces.

Province	Pay	Personnel	Leave and Hours	Others
Bombay	5	4	..	7
Bengal	15	4	..	4
Madras	2	..	..	2
Assam	1	..	..	..
Bihar and Orissa	4	..	..	..
Burma .. .. .	..	..	..	1
Punjab .. .. .	..	1	..	..
United Provinces .. .. .	..	2	..	..
Total	27	11	..	14

Causes of Disputes—By Classes of Establishments

Class of Establishment	Pay	Personnel	Leave and Hours	Others
Cotton and Woollen Mills	4	6	..	6
Jute Mills	3	3	..	3
Engineering Workshops	5	..	..	1
Railways including Railway workshops	3	1	..	1
Mines .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Other—Miscellaneous	12	1	..	3
Total	27	11	..	14

RESULTS OF DISPUTES

All but nine disputes ended during the quarter. In none of the disputes were the employees entirely successful, while in 12, or about 28 per cent. of the disputes they were partially successful. In the remaining disputes the results were entirely favourable to the employers. The details of

the results (1) by Provinces and (2) by Classes of Establishments, are as follows:—

Results of Disputes—By Provinces

Province	Number of disputes in which the employees were			Number of disputes in progress at end
	Successful	Partially successful	Unsuccessful	
Bombay	..	2	10	4
Bengal	..	6	14	3
Madras	..	1	2	1
Assam	1	..
Bihar and Orissa	..	1	2	1
Burma	1	..
Punjab	1	..
United Provinces	..	2	..	..
Total	12	31	9

Results of Disputes—By Classes of Establishments

Class of Establishments	Number of disputes in which the employees were			Number of disputes in progress at end
	Successful	Partially successful	Unsuccessful	
Cotton and Woolen Mills	..	3	9	4
Jute Mills	..	2	7	..
Engineering Workshops	5	1
Railways including Railway workshops	3	2
Mines
Other—Miscellaneous	..	7	7	2
Total	12	31	9

The following table shows the progress and the general effects of the disputes according to months:—

Progress and General Effects of Disputes according to Months

Month	Number of fresh disputes begun	Number of disputes ended	Number of disputes in progress at end	Number of workpeople involved	Number of working days lost
April ..	12	16	14	211,623	2,104,795
May ..	14	13	13	219,794	5,258,090
June ..	14	11	16	252,325	5,649,621
Quarter (April to June 1928) ..	12	40	43	290,654	13,012,506

Reviews of Books and Reports

Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Bihar and Orissa for the year 1927, Patna, 1928; Price Re. 1.

The number of registered factories working during the year was 269 as against 242 during the previous year.

The average daily number of persons employed in all the factories was 71,400 as compared with 74,323 during the previous year. Of the persons employed 64,155 were adult males, 6288 adult females and 1017 children. There was a fall as compared with the previous year both in the number of women and children employed and in the absence of any other discernible cause, this is ascribed to the enforcement of greater restrictions which the Act puts upon their labour as compared with men.

The general health of employees was normal. As regards ventilation and lighting, a considerable number of rice mills received orders to alter their arrangements for dealing with dust and in some cases marked improvement was made. A certain amount of improvement was also made in factory lighting in the smaller factories.

The annual wage returns showed increases in the wages of certain classes of workers.

The total number of accidents was somewhat less than in the preceding year, being 2053 as against 2223. Of the accidents, 36 were fatal, 346 serious and 1671 minor. In the iron and steel industry the accidents of all classes totalled 1514 or approximately 75 per cent. of the total number of accidents in the province. This figure is a slight improvement on the preceding year when there were 1671 accidents in the iron and steel industry. It is pointed out that the accident rate in the iron and steel industry is at present the subject of a special investigation.

Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Burma for the year 1927, Rangoon, 1928; Price Rs. 3.

The number of factories registered under the Factories Act was 1007. Of these, 940 were working during the whole or at certain seasons of the year. In addition to the registered factories there were nearly 300 small concerns, largely rice and saw mills, employing between 10 and 20 persons and escaping all legislative control. The Government of Burma has however now approved the proposal that small factories of certain specified classes employing fewer than 20 but not fewer than 10 persons, in which power machinery is used, should be declared to be factories under the Act.

The average daily number of persons employed was 101,353 of whom 89,772 were adult males, 10,492 adult females and 1089 children. Of all the industries, rice mills employed the largest number of employees, the number being 40,302.

The situation as regards the housing of industrial labour remained very much the same as in the previous year. The general health of the industrial workers appeared as usual to have followed closely that of the general public.

The total number of accidents during the year was 1452 of which 28 were fatal, 275 serious and 1149 minor. The number of accidents during the preceding year was 1388.

No strike of real importance occurred during the year.

* * *

Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in the Punjab for the year 1927. Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab, 1928; Price Re. 1-2-0

The report shows that during the year under report the total number of registered factories in the Punjab increased from 563 to 590, the increase being noticeable mainly in cotton ginning factories, ice factories and printing presses. The number of factories actually working, however, slightly decreased being 548 in 1926 and 546 in 1927. The total number of operatives employed in all factories decreased from 52,648 in 1926 to 50,088 in 1927. The decrease was due chiefly to the centralising of railway workshops, resulting in the closing down of loco and carriage and wagon workshops at Rawalpindi.

Water supply was found to be sufficient and satisfactory in all factories and lighting in almost all of them was generally found to be sufficient. Sanitary conditions in almost all factories were reasonably good.

The cost of unskilled labour remained unchanged while the wages of skilled labour, though better than those of 1925, were slightly below 1926. There was no outbreak of disease and the general health of operatives was good. It was brought to the notice of the Government that in order to ensure healthy conditions of work, it was necessary to control the construction of new factories and the conversion of existing buildings into factories. The matter is now under examination by Government. No improvement was noticeable in regard to the provision of quarters for factory employees particularly in seasonal factories.

As regards the hours of employment, in perennial factories they were found to be well within the demands of the Factories Act. Cotton ginning factories, however, were invariably found working for more than the prescribed 11 hours a day or 60 hours a week. The practice with many factory occupiers was to work as many hours as possible for two or three days, then close their factories until such a time as big stocks had accumulated. This method of work made the labourers suffer on account of enforced idleness for two or three days a week.

Thirty cases under the Indian Factories Act were instituted during the year against occupiers and managers of cotton ginning factories for working beyond prescribed hours.

The number of accidents rose from 523 in 1926 to 707 in 1927, due mainly to an increase in the number of minor accidents reported from the railway workshops at Mughalpura. Investigation into the causes of these accidents showed that the increase in the number of minor accidents was due to the fact that the workers themselves took interest in reporting every accident however trifling under the impression that they could claim compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, whereas before the introduction of this Act the operatives took no notice of a slight hurt or at the most received first-aid attention and continued their duties.

There was a great increase in the number of prosecutions, which rose from 37 in 1926 to 91 in 1927, of which 76 resulted in conviction. Of these, 25 cases were for the illegal employment and overworking of children and 7 for overworking of women.

* * *

Report on the Administration of the Indian Factories Act in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1927. Government Press, Nagpur, 1928; Price Rs. 1-12-0

The number of factories under the Act increased during the year from 747 to 800, the increase being mainly in the seasonal cotton ginning and pressing factories. The daily average number of persons employed was 68,603, of whom 43,276 were men, 23,627 women and 1700 children, as compared with 67,106 in 1926.

A distinct improvement in lighting arrangements was observed during the year although the standard in some of the old factories was still very low and in some cases it was found necessary to insist upon artificial means being used. As regards ventilation arrangements, they were satisfactory in the majority of factories. Improvements were also noticed in sanitation and flagrant breaches of the rules were not prevalent.

Many of the larger perennial factories provided ample and adequate housing accommodation for the employees. The seasonal factories confined their attention to the mechanical staff only and the rest of the operatives had to shift for themselves. Of these there were roughly some 7500 and it is pointed out that there is room for much improvement in the housing of these workers.

Six of the larger concerns provide creches in which about 225 babies are daily cared for. Only four factories grant maternity benefits to their female operatives. With the exception of the work done by the Empress Mills at Nagpur no appreciable progress was made as regards welfare work. There were ten primary schools attached to perennial factories in which 705 half-timers were being educated. It is noticed that there is a regular decrease every year in the number of pupils who are being educated in these schools.

During the year there was a fall in the wages of almost every class of worker. This was largely due to bad conditions of trade and in the case of unskilled labour to the importation of large numbers of coolies from the Chhattisgarh division.

During the year the total number of accidents was 293, of which 3 were fatal, 44 serious and 246 minor.

As regards the hours of employment, it is pointed out that in many of the seasonal factories it is doubtful whether Section 21 of the Act is properly observed and operatives given the rest they deserve and the law demands, except on occasions when an Inspector is known to be in the district. It is recommended that the only way to put a stop to this evil is for the *ex-officio* Inspectors to pay more surprise visits.

The number of strikes during the year were four, three of which occurred in the spinning and weaving mills and one in a railway workshop.

Current Periodicals

DEC., 1928

Summary of titles and contents of special articles

THE LABOUR MAGAZINE—VOL. VII, NO. 7, NOVEMBER 1928. (The Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party, London.)

- Special Articles: (1) *The Anglo-French Naval Agreement*, by "Sigma," pp. 291-295
- (2) *The Parties in Conference*, by Professor Harold J. Laski, pp. 296-298
- (3) *Five Questions*, by Edgar T. Whittabank, pp. 299-301
- (4) *Fuel, Power and Transport*, by J. T. Walton Newbold, pp. 302 and 305
- (5) *Britain's Bread Basket*, by Edward Hunter, pp. 304 and 305
- (6) *The Negro Renaissance*, by R. M. Fox, pp. 306-308
- (7) *The Affair of the "Stolen" State Papers*, by George Slocombe, pp. 309-311
- (8) *Austrian Socialists Close the Gates to Fascism*, by Dr. Oskar Pollak, pp. 319-321

INDUSTRIAL WELFARE—VOL. X, NO. 119, NOVEMBER 1928. (The Industrial Welfare Society, London.)

- Special Articles: (1) *Some Pension-fund Problems*.—Retirement after pension age; pension plus wages. pp. 354-356
- (2) *Mining Accident Research*.—Need for research; previous attempts at research; laboratories; electricity in coal mines. pp. 357-360
- (3) *Absenteeism in Collieries*.—Value of the report; influence of depth of working, dust and air velocity; effect of air velocity on accidents; temperature and depth of working; turnover; how accident frequency varies; voluntary absenteeism; seasonal fluctuations; further information desirable. pp. 361-364
- (4) *Group Insurance*.—Labour turnover; a contributory scheme; non-contributory scheme; endowment assurance; insurance at lower rate; appreciation by employees. pp. 365-369
- (5) *Defective Hand Tools*. pp. 373 and 374.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR REVIEW—VOL. XVIII, NOS. 4-5, OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1928. (International Labour Office, Geneva.)

- Special Articles: (1) *Employers' Organisations in Italy*, by G. Olivetti (Director of the International Labour Office).—Historical background; the consequences of the Act of 3rd April 1926; the general confederation of industry; conclusion; appendices pp. 483-488.
- (2) *The Financing of House Building in Countries with Rent Restriction Legislation*, by P. P. Pribram (Chief of the Statistical Section, International Labour Office). pp. 489-528.
- (3) *The Progress of Organisation among Intellectual Workers*.—The definition of an intellectual worker; the organisation of intellectual workers; social and economic demands of intellectual workers; the "unity of labour" and the international labour organisation. pp. 529-551.
- (4) *The Agricultural Workers Federation of Palestine*, by Dr. Walter Freuss. —General conditions in agriculture; agricultural workers and their problems; history of the agricultural workers' federation—before the war (1911-1914), during the war (1914-1918) after the war (1918-1928); organisation and activities of the agricultural workers' federation—trade union activities, colonising and educational activities. pp. 552-573.
- (5) *The Regulation of Hours of Work in European Industry: IV*.—Regulations on the remuneration for overtime; complete suspension; the enforcement of the regulations; establishment of a time table, factory inspection, penalties. pp. 574-610.
- (6) *The Finding of Employment for Artistes*. Austria; Belgium; Czechoslovakia; Denmark; France; Germany—dramatic and operatic artistes, musicians; Great Britain; Italy; Japan; Poland; Spain; United States—general conditions, variety artistes, musicians, dramatic and operatic artistes; conclusions. pp. 610-631.
- (7) *Labour Conditions in the Timber Industry in Argentina, Brazil, and the United States*. pp. 631-636.

MONTHLY LABOUR REVIEW—VOL. XXVII, NO. 1, JULY 1928. (U.S. Department of Labour, Washington.)

- Special Articles: (1) *Recreational Opportunities provided by City Park Systems*.—The park movement; extent of park planning; present park areas; municipal parks; limits and county park systems; recreation facilities in parks; park finances; early examples of town planning in the United States; obstacles to town planning. pp. 1-7.

- (2) *Industrialization of the Farther West*, by Elizabeth Stewart (United States Commissioner of Labor Statistics).—Mental health in the population; industrial application of mental tests; mental improvement in the schools; possible effects upon wage levels and employment. pp. 7-14.
- (3) *State and City Retirement Systems for Teachers*.—Scope of systems; date of establishment and membership; employee representation; management; character of plans and source of funds; contributions from state and city; expenses of administration; conditions for retirement—superannuation or superannuation; disability retirement allowances; disability retirement allowances; provision for dependents. pp. 15-26.
- (4) *Protection of Labour in Soviet Russia*.—Factory committees; safety and sanitation; factory inspection and administration of labour laws; working hours and rest periods; protection of women and children. pp. 27-33.
- (5) *Health Work in Soviet Russia*.—State health insurance; central health organization. pp. 41-46.
- (6) *English Study of Employability of Claimants for Unemployment Benefits*.—Age and unemployment rates; degree of employability; training received; general character of claimants for benefit. pp. 59-61.
- (7) *Care of the Unemployed in Sweden*.—Mass hurry for care of unemployed; basis of relief and procedure thereunder; wages on relief work; unemployment dole; assistance for unemployed; unpaid unemployed; labour disputes and unemployment; other assistance for unemployed. pp. 62-65.
- (8) *Strikes and Lockouts in the United States, 1916 to 1927*.—Month of occurrence, 1916 to 1927; place of occurrence of disputes; sex of persons involved; relative to labour unions; number of disputes; size of disputes; industries and occupations involved in labour disputes; termination of disputes, by month and season; duration of disputes; principal strikes and lockouts. pp. 82-96.
- (9) *Wages and Hours of Labour in Cottons and Oil Mills, 1927*. pp. 109-123.
- (10) *Labour Offices in United States and Foreign Countries*.—United States—Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Philippine islands, Porto Rico, Rhode island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming; Australia—Australia; Austria; Belgium; Bolivia; Brazil; Bulgaria; Canada—Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan; India; Ecuador; Egypt; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Great Britain; Greece; Guatemala; Haiti; Honduras; Hungary; India; Irish Free State; Italy; Japan; Korea; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Mexico; Netherlands; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Norway; Panama; Paraguay; Persia; Peru; Poland; Portugal; Rumania; Salvador, Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes; Siam; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Union of South Africa; Uruguay; Venezuela. pp. 178-198.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE—VOL. XXVIII, NO. 10, OCTOBER 1928. (The Department of Labour, Canada.)

- Special Articles: (1) *Report of Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources for 1927*. pp. 101-102.
- (2) *Minimum Wages for Women in Ontario: Annual Report of the Board for 1927*. pp. 103-107.
- (3) *Workmen's Compensation in Manitoba in 1927*.—Relation to cost to accident victims; compensable accidents in 1927. pp. 1072-1074.
- (4) *The Mining Industry in British Columbia in 1927*.—Summary of production, output, labour and employment; fatal accidents in mining industry; mine safety regulations and losses. pp. 1074-1076.
- (5) *Trades and Labour Congress of Canada—Resumé of the Proceedings of the 4th Annual Convention*.—Report of executive council; report of committee on executive council report; delegates; union labels; resolutions; marine regulations; fair wages; industrial disputes investigation act; old age pensions; refusal to confer with All-Canadian Congress; hours of labour; proposed ratification of I. L. O. conventions; opposition to same; no recognition of Soviet Russia; organizing campaigns; abolition of child labour; minimum wages; allowances and maternity benefits; workmen's compensation; health and safety; resolutions; Government officers elected. pp. 1077-1090.
- (6) *Trades Union Congress of Great Britain*.—Co-operation with employers; disruptive activities; unemployment; workmen's compensation; 8-hour day; relations with Russia—public control of transport; powers of general council. pp. 1097-1100.

Current Notes from Abroad

DEC 1928

INTERNATIONAL

The Committee of Experts on Native Labour attached to the International Labour Office will hold its second session in Geneva on 6th December.

The Committee, it will be remembered, was set up by a decision of the Governing Body of the Office early in 1926 for the purpose of consultation on problems connected with native labour. At its first session, held in July 1927 under the chairmanship of Mr. Gohr, Director General in the Belgian Ministry of the Colonies, the Committee gave its attention mainly to the question of forced labour. It expressed the opinion that, while the regulation of the system of forced labour was necessary in order to check abuses so long as the system existed, it was essential not to lose sight of the real object to be aimed at—to hasten the disappearance of forced labour in all its forms.

Following on this preliminary discussion, the Governing Body of the Office decided to place the subject of forced labour on the agenda of the 1929 General Session of the International Labour Conference, and the Office is now engaged in preparing the necessary "Grey" Report dealing with the law and practice in this matter for presentation to the Conference.

At its coming session, the Committee will be invited to resume its consideration of forced labour. It will also begin the study of the position of native workers recruited under a contract system—a delicate and complex problem but one which, having regard to certain undoubted abuses, calls for thorough examination. At the same time it is intended only to deal with the questions of recruitment and engagement, and to leave for a later session the consideration of the actual terms of contract. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, November 26, 1928.)

* * *

UNITED KINGDOM:

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Ministry of Labour, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in October resulted in an increase of £118 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 95,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of £140 in those of 16,350 workpeople.

The principal bodies of workpeople whose wages were increased were textile bleaching, dyeing, printing, etc., operatives in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Scotland, who obtained small increases under cost-of-living sliding scale arrangements; the increases amounted in Yorkshire to under 1 per cent. on the current rates, and in Lancashire and Scotland to 3d. per week in the case of men and women, respectively.

The principal reduction affected commercial road-transport workers in the Liverpool district who sustained a decrease of 2s. per week. The temporary deduction of 2½ per cent. from gross earnings which was applied to most classes of railway workers last August was extended during October to employees of the Metropolitan Railway, and to workpeople

employed in electricity generation stations belonging to the four main line companies. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, November 1928.)

* * *

At 1st November the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour was approximately 67 per cent. above that of July 1914, as compared with 66 per cent. a month ago and 69 per cent. a year ago. For food alone the corresponding figures were 59, 57 and 63. The rise in the percentage since 1st October was mainly due to seasonal increases in the prices of eggs. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, November 1928.)

* * *

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Ministry of Labour as beginning in October, was 27. In addition, 9 disputes which began before October were still in progress at the close of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in October (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 7000, and the average duration of all disputes during October was about 59,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of 10,800 workpeople involved and 56,000 working days lost in the previous month and with 10,500 workpeople involved and 40,000 days lost in October 1927. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, November 1928.)

OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

There is at present proceeding in the iron and steel industry of the Rhineland and Westphalia a dispute of the first magnitude. Over 200,000 workers employed in the largest iron and steel works in Germany have been locked out by their employers since the beginning of the month as the result of a conflict relating to wages. Apart from its gravity from the point of view of the industries directly and indirectly affected, the stoppage has an unusual importance in relation to the system of conciliation and arbitration as it has existed for some time past in Germany.

The main facts of the dispute may be stated briefly as follows. Towards the end of last September, the metal workers' unions gave notice for the termination of the existing collective agreement in which they demand an increase in wages for all adult workers.

Conciliation proceedings were instituted, and on 26th September an award was issued granting increases to certain workers only.

This award was accepted by the workers but rejected by the employers. Negotiations took place on 4th and 11th October, but no agreement was reached.

On 13th October the employers' organisation decided to declare a general lockout as from 1st November.

On the application of the workers, the Minister of Labour considered the question of declaring the award of 26th September to be of compulsory application, or, in effect, compulsory, and on 31st October—on the day of the lockout—this course was taken.

In spite of this the lockout took effect and continues. The employees have appealed to the labour court at Danbury to declare the award of the Minister void, on the grounds that it is economically unsound and inconsistent with existing agreements. The hearing of this case will begin on 16th November.

From the above outline it will be seen that in Germany, as in a number of other countries—Norway and Australia, for example—the question of conciliation and arbitration in industrial disputes has been brought to the forefront. According to a memorandum presented to the Government by the German employers, while they are not hostile to the principle of State machinery for the settlement of disputes, they are in favour of limitation of the power of the public authorities to declare the decisions of arbitrators to be binding. It remains to be seen how far they are successful in this regard. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva November 22, 1928.)

Exchange of Student Employees by Great Britain and France

The Governments of Great Britain and France recently concluded a new arrangement for facilitating the interchange of student employees between the two countries. Arrangements have been made from time to time with the authorities of certain countries to facilitate the reciprocal admission of student employees, and since March 1923, an arrangement of this nature between the British and French authorities has existed, allowing a limited number of French student employees to follow employment except in connection with hotels, restaurants and hair-dressing. From the end of 1924, difficulties in carrying out this arrangement arose owing to restrictions imposed on the visiting employees by both countries under the new arrangement.

French and British "student employees" may be permitted to take up employment in the country visited for a limited period, generally one year, in order to perfect themselves in the knowledge of its language or commercial and professional customs.

Student employment in any one country for the period of July to December 31, 1928, and is not thereafter to exceed 500 in a year. Student employees will be allowed to follow all employments and professions save those in which the employment of foreigners is forbidden by law. Special arrangements may be adopted by Great Britain with hotels and restaurants, hair-dressing establishments, banks and hospitals. The corresponding authorities of both countries undertake to assist their visitors to find employment. (From "Labour Gazette," Canada, October 1928.)

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

Count or Number	Month of October			Seven months ended October		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
	Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10	7,441	6,180	3,484	49,265	45,351	10,256
Nos. 11 to 20	19,924	17,321	10,889	131,279	125,432	51,373
Nos. 21 to 30	13,841	14,722	10,553	152,294	107,390	53,123
Nos. 31 to 40	1,783	2,063	2,504	11,978	14,904	11,705
Above 40	998	860	820	6,024	6,533	4,024
Waste, etc.		74	74	74	730	166
Total	44,083	41,220	28,324	301,594	300,340	130,647

BOMBAY CITY

	Pounds	Month of October			Seven months ended October		
		(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10	6,476	5,402	2,676	43,760	39,712	5,646	
Nos. 11 to 20	13,487	10,931	4,524	89,342	83,644	12,194	
Nos. 21 to 30	8,089	8,801	3,981	62,823	66,248	10,493	
Nos. 31 to 40	768	964	586	5,512	7,033	1,983	
Above 40	392	464	289	2,350	3,163	706	
Waste, etc.	88	74	74	686	729	166	
Total	29,300	28,676	15,130	204,473	200,529	31,188	

AHMEDABAD

	Pounds	Month of October			Seven months ended October		
		(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10	217	218	211	1,454	1,328	1,382	
Nos. 11 to 20	3,129	3,468	3,594	23,134	22,218	22,859	
Nos. 21 to 30	4,101	4,536	5,059	28,839	32,026	33,159	
Nos. 31 to 40	84	840	1,090	5,095	5,748	7,425	
Above 40	423	251	401	2,812	2,360	2,427	
Waste, etc.							
Total	8,664	9,313	10,355	61,334	63,680		

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

Description	Month of October			Seven months ended October		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	2,478	1,005	10,919	15,794	3,482	5,904
Chudders	1,642	1,357	11,274	11,966	9,624	3,176
Shirtings and long cloth	7,722	6,431	53,442	57,196	8,927	299
Drills and jeans	1,338	674	6,874	8,927	1,098	29,132
Cambrics and Printers	128	146	135	1,118	989	1,098
Sheetings and long cloth	2,762	8,990	6,107	68,625	68,613	29,132
Tent cloth	1,273	1,559	541	9,172	10,168	4,184
Other sorts	106	67	95	555	352	280
Total	22,946	24,376	16,891	165,178	177,643	89,545
Coloured piecegoods	10,596	10,526	5,197	67,017	72,474	26,254
Grey and coloured goods other than piecegoods	170	223	125	1,716	1,553	503
Hosiery	15	26	17	151	205	262
Miscellaneous	261	301	209	1,657	2,024	783
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	169	176	178	1,123	2,163	1,022
Grand Total	34,117	35,628	22,617	236,842	256,062	118,369

BOMBAY CITY

Description	Month of October			Seven months ended October		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	1,061	450	7,937	8,406	1,299	1,313
Chudders	2,621	1,022	16,633	20,212	3,862	2,323
Dhotis	1,267	519	6,302	8,345	2,323	48
Drills and jeans	34	8	26	203	48	8,395
Cambrics and lawns	6,489	2,691	53,080	50,275	8,395	1,367
Shirtings and long cloth	1,023	191	6,542	7,230	1,367	244
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	65	91	461	307	244	590
Tent cloth	230	167	1,678	1,883	590	19,441
Other sorts	14,450	14,755	4,905	102,394	109,427	8,544
Coloured piecegoods	7,613	7,410	2,171	47,693	51,423	378
Grey and coloured goods other than piecegoods	62	219	108	1,658	1,534	26
Hosiery	6	9	7	35	66	248
Miscellaneous	114	225	117	1,351	1,623	288
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	129	161	68	734	1,471	288
Grand Total	22,574	22,779	7,376	153,865	165,544	28,925

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

Description	Month of October			Seven months ended October		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	68	174	386	263	717	976
Chudders	437	430	756	2,509	2,550	3,537
Shirtings and long cloth	3,962	4,168	4,580	30,085	29,390	29,777
Dhotis	14	23	65	179	191	244
Drills and jeans	41	34	31	165	194	235
Cambrics and Printers	52	50	75	580	416	579
Sheetings and long cloth	1,376	1,916	3,376	11,681	13,836	17,130
Tent cloth	348	435	269	2,030	2,151	2,089
Other sorts	99	91	240	723	827	1,081
Total	6,397	7,321	9,778	48,225	50,287	55,651
Coloured goods, piecegoods	1,873	1,764	1,790	12,329	12,564	10,916
Grey and coloured goods other than piecegoods	1	1	7	9	8	12
Hosiery	9	16	10	116	139	236
Miscellaneous	44	67	68	285	355	478
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	14	1.9	379	675	724	724
Grand Total	8,363	9,183	11,762	61,343	64,028	68,017

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS IN NOVEMBER 1928

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>								
			1928	1928				
1. The Becharadas Spinning and Weaving Mills, Raikhad, Ahmedabad.	50	....	24 Oct.		Demand for reinstatement of dismissed men.	No settlement reported	Nil	..
2. The Ahmedabad Fine Spinning and Weaving Mills, Comtipur Road, Ahmedabad.	10	....	31 Oct.	2 Nov.	Demand for reinstatement of a dismissed jobber.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.		10
3. The Kohinoor Mill, Dadar, Bombay.	800	1,900	2 Nov.	6 Nov.	Alleged reduction in wages and other grievances.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	6,700	6,700
4. The Bombay Cotton Mill, Kalachowki Road, Bombay.	424	....	3 Nov.	6 Nov.	Refusal of employment to some old hands.	The strike ended in favour of the workers.	848	848
5. The Pralhad Mill, Fergusson Road, Bombay.	300	....	5 Nov.	6 Nov.	Retrenchment of hands ..	The strike ended in favour of the workers.	450	450
6. The Standard Mill, Parbhadevi Road, Bombay.	589	1,511	8 Nov.	....	Alleged reduction in wages.	No settlement reported	37,800	
7. The Elphinstone Mill, Parel, Bombay.	187	1,413	9 Nov.	11 Nov.	Demand for better wages.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	2,400	2,400
8. The Ruby Mill, Dadar, Bombay.	310	....	11 Nov.	16 Nov.	Demand for better wages.	The strike ended in a compromise.	540	540
9. The Spring Mill, Naigaum, Bombay.	1,500	3,300	11 Nov.	27 Nov.	Refusal to pay wages for one day.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	45,600	45,600
10. The Manekji Petit Mill, Tardeo, Bombay.	1,300	3,200	17 Nov.	11 Dec.	Demand for an increase in the rate of wages.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	1,600	1,600
11. The Sir Shapurji Broacha, Delisle Road, Bombay.	550	....	19 Nov.	22 Nov.	Demand for an increase in wages.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	1,500	1,727
12. The Barsi Spinning and Weaving Mill, Barsi, (Sholapur District).	264	34	15 Nov.	26 Nov.	Demand for reinstatement of a dismissed Mukadam.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	Nil.	Nil.
13. The Ahmedabad New Standard Mill, Ahmedabad.	10	..	20 Nov.	21 Nov.	Delay in putting up a list of rates.	The strike ended in favour of the workers.	550	550
14. The Madhorao Scindia Mill, Lower Parel, Bombay.	550	..	23 Nov.	24 Nov.	Demand for better wages.	The strike ended in a compromise.	8,800	8,800
15. The Morarji Goculdas Mill, Parel, Bombay.	800	3,200	24 Nov.	28 Nov.	Demand for better wages.	The strike ended in favour of the workers.	9,010	9,010
16. The New Great Eastern Mill, Parel Road, Bombay.	520	1,980	26 Nov.	30 Nov.	Demand for better wages.	No settlement reported	11,250	
17. The Simplex Mill, Arthur Road, Bombay.	650	1,850	26 Nov.	....	Demand for dismissal of a head labourer	No settlement reported	9,225	
18. The Gold Mohur Mill, Dadar, Bombay.	510	1,540	26 Nov.	....	Demand for better wages.	No settlement reported	4,599	
19. The Currimbhoy Mill, Delisle Road, Bombay.	547	2,519	28 Nov.	....	Demand for better wages.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	15	15
20. The Hindustan Mill, Ripon Road, Bombay.	30		28 Nov.	30 Nov.	Demand for an increase in rates of wages.	No settlement reported	1,800	
21. The Pabany Mill, Delisle Road, Bombay.	500	1,300	30 Nov.	....	Demand for an increase in rates of wages.	No settlement reported	2,500	
22. The Pearl Mill, Sun Mill Road, Bombay.	880	1,620	30 Nov.	....			
<i>Miscellaneous</i>								
23. The General Workshop of the Kirkee Arsenal, Kurkee, Poona.	458	....	11 Oct.	2 Nov.	Alleged reduction in wages.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	141	6,203

LABOUR GAZETTE

NOV 1928

NOV 1928

LABOUR GAZETTE

WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN BOMBAY

Article	Grade	Rate per	Prices in the month of				Index numbers				
			July 1914	Nov. 1927	Oct. 1928	Nov. 1928	July 1914	Nov. 1927	Oct. 1928	Nov. 1928	
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.					
Cereals											
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	Maund	4 11 3	6 4 11	5 8 7	6 1 2	160	134	118	129	
Wheat	Delhi No. 1	Cwt.	5 9 6	7 8 0	7 13 6(5)	7 13 6(5)	100	134	140	140	
Do.	Khandwa Seoni	Candy	45 0 0	75 0 0	107 8 0	90 0 0	100	167	239	200	
Do.	Jubbulpore	"	40 0 0	53 8 0	54 8 0	55 8 0	100	134	136	139	
Jowari (1)	Cawnpore	Maund	3 2 6	4 12 2	3 14 8	3 12 11	100	151	124	121	
Do.	"	"	3 4 6	4 0 4	4 7 1	4 5 5	100	123	135	132	
Bajri	Ghati	"	3 4 6	4 8 10	4 12 2	4 12 2	100	139	145	145	
	Index No.—Cereals						100	140	148	144	
Pulses											
Gram	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	Maund	4 3 9	5 6 4	6 2 2	5 13 1	100	127	145	137	
Turdal	Cawnpore	"	5 10 5	8 7 5	7 15 0	8 7 5	100	150	140	150	
	Index No.—Pulses						100	139	143	144	
Sugar											
Sugar (refined)	Mauritius	Cwt.	9 3 0				100				
Do. (do.)	Java, white	"	10 3 0	15 0 0	14 1 0	13 10 0	100	147	138	134	
Do. Raw (Cul)	Sangli or Poona	Maund	7 14 3	10 3 3	12 3 11	12 3 11	100	129	155	155	
	Index No.—Sugar						100	138	147	145	
Other Food											
Turmeric	Rajapuri	Maund	5 9 3	9 1 10	15 14 8	15 10 4	100	163			
Ghee	Deshi	"	45 11 5	71 6 10	74 4 7	68 9 2	100	156	285	280	
Salt	Bombay (black)	"	1 7 6	2 2 0	2 0 0	2 0 0	100	145	163	150	
	Index No.—Other food						100	155	195	189	
Oilseeds											
Linseed	Bold	Cwt.	8 14 6	10 3 0	10 9 0	10 13 6	100	143	157	153	
Rapeseed	Cawnpore (brown)	"	8 0 0	10 12 0	10 10 0	10 10 0(8)	100	114	119	122	
Poppy seed	White	"	10 14 0	17 0 0	18 12 0	19 0 0	100	134	133	133	
Gingelly seed	"	"	11 4 0	13 4 0	12 8 0	11 13 0	100	156	172	175	
	Index No.—Oilseeds						100	118	111	105	
							100	131	134	134	

398 LABOUR GAZETTE

DEC. 1928

(a) Cotton, raw—										
Broach	Good	Candy	251 0 0	435 0 0	351 0 0(5)	331 0 0(5)	100	173	132	132
Oomra	Fully good	"	222 0 0	361 0 0	351 0 0(7)	345 0 0(7)	100	163	149	142
Dharwar	Saw-ginned	"	230 0 0	339 0 0	345 0 0(6)	345 0 0(6)	100	192	152	152
Khandesh	Machine-ginned	"	205 0 0	339 0 0	357 0 0(6)	357 0 0(6)	100	165	174	174
Bengal	Do.	"	198 0 0	327 0 0	292 0 0	286 0 0	100	165	147	144
	Index No.—Cotton, raw						100	172	151	149
(b) Cotton manufactures—										
Twist	40 s	Lb.	0 12 9	1 1 0	1 2 6	1 2 9	100	133	145	147
Grey shirtings	Fair 2,000	Piece	5 15 0	9 10 0	9 10 0	9 10 0	100	162	162	162
White mulls	6/600	"	4 3 0	8 8 0	8 12 0	8 12 0	100	203	209	209
Shirtings	Liepmann's 1,500	"	10 6 0	18 3 0	18 10 0	18 10 0	100	175	180	180
Long Cloth (3)	Local made 36" x 54"	Lb.	0 9 6	0 15 3	0 15 9	0 15 6	100	160	166	163
Chudders (4)	54" x 6 yds.	"	0 9 6	0 15 3	0 15 0	0 15 0	100	160	158	158
	Index No.—Cotton manufactures						100	166	170	170
	Index No.—Textiles—Cotton						100	168	161	160
Other Textiles										
Silk	Manchow	Lb.	5 2 6	6 13 8	5 15 2	6 0 9	100	133	115	117
Do	Mathow Lari	"	2 15 1	3 12 3	3 10 1	3 10 1(8)	100	128	123	123
	Index No.—Other Textiles						100	131	119	120
Hides and Skins										
Hides, Cow	Tanned	Lb.	1 2 6	1 5 10	1 12 5	1 14 9	100	118	154	166
Do. Buffalo	Do.	"	1 1 3	0 13 1	0 14 11	0 14 8	100	76	86	85
Skins, Goat	Do.	"	1 4 0	1 14 6	2 15 3	2 14 9	100	152	236	234
	Index No.—Hides and Skins						100	115	159	162
Metals										
Copper braziers		Cwt.	60 8 0	61 0 0	62 0 0	64 0 0	100	101	102	106
Iron bars		"	4 0 0	6 4 0	7 4 0	7 4 0	100	156	181	181
Steel hoops		"	7 12 0	9 2 0	8 10 0	8 9 0	100	118	111	110
Galvanised sheets		"	9 0 0	12 0 0	11 10 0	11 12 0	100	133	129	131
Tin plates		Box	8 12 0	14 0 0	14 8 0	13 12 0	100	160	166	157
	Index No.—Metals						100	134	138	137
Other raw and manufactured articles										
Coal (2)	Bengal	Ton	14 12 0	21 0 0	20 12 0	21 12 0	100	142	141	141
Do.	Imported	"	19 11 6	21 2 1	17 11 4	20 9 2	100	107	90	104
Kerosene	Elephant Brand	2 Tins	4 6 0	6 6 6	6 9 6	6 9 6	100	146	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 manfd. articles						100	140	138	142
	Index No.—Food						100	143	157	153
	Index No.—Non-food						100	145	147	147
	General Index No.						100	144	150	149

LABOUR GAZETTE

399

* In the absence of a 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 1927, 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.
 (1) Quotation for Sholapur. (2) Since June 1925, the quotation is for Bengal, 1st Class Jheria. (3) Quotation for 37" x 37 1/2" yds. since March 1926. (4) Quotation for 50" x 6 yds. since March 1926. (5) Quotation for September 1928. (6) Quotation for July 1928. (7) Quotation for August 1928. (8) Quotation for October 1928.

WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN KARACHI*

Article	Grade	Rate per	Price in the month of				Index numbers			
			July 1914	Nov. 1927	Oct. 1928	Nov. 1928	July 1914	Nov. 1927	Oct. 1928	Nov. 1928
			Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.				
Rice (1)	Larkana No. 3	Candy	39 0 0	66 4 0	57 4 0	60 4 0	100	170	147	154
Wheat, white	5% barley, 3% dirt, 30% red	"	31 8 0	40 2 0	43 12 0	47 12 0	100	127	139	152
" red	5% barley, 3% dirt, 92% red	"	31 4 0				100			
" white	2% barley, 11% dirt	"	32 8 0	41 6 0	45 1 0	49 2 0	100	127	139	151
" red	2% barley, 11% dirt	"	32 4 0				100			
Jowari	Export quality	"	25 8 0	37 4 0	34 4 0	39 4 0	100	146	134	154
Barley	dirt	"	26 8 0	33 8 0	32 0 0	35 0 0	100	126	121	132
Index No.—Cereals			....	....	....	....	100	139	136	149
Pulses—										
Gram (2)	1% dirt	Candy	29 8 0	39 0 0	47 0 0	49 0 0	100	132	159	166
Sugar	Java white	Cwt.	9 2 0	14 2 0	13 1 6	12 14 6	100	155	143	141
"	" brown	"	8 1 6	13 4 0	11 14 0	11 14 0	100	164	147	147
Index No.—Sugar			....	....	....	....	100	160	145	144
Other—										
Salt		Bengal Maund	2 2 0	1 10 6	1 8 6	1 8 6	100	78	72	72
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	68 0 0	66 10 0 (4)	66 10 0 (4)	100	133	131	131
Gingelly seed	Black 9% admixture	"	62 0 0	79 0 0	74 0 0	78 0 0	100	127	119	126
Index No.—Oilseeds			....	....	....	....	100	128	125	127
Textiles—										
Jute bags	B. Twills	100 bags	38 4 0	50 12 0	46 12 0	53 8 0	100	133	122	140
Textiles—Cotton—										
Cotton, raw	Sind	Maund	20 0 0	20 0 0	29 0 0 (5)	31 12 0	100	178	145	157
Cotton manufactures—										
Shirtings	Pepperell	Pieces	10 3 6	10 3 6	11 8 0 (5)	17 8 0 (5)	100	153	171	171
"	Liepmann's	"	10 2 0	10 2 0	18 0 0	18 0 0	100	178	178	178
Index No.—Cotton manufactures			....	....	....	....	100	166	175	175
Index No.—Textiles—Cotton			....	....	....	....	100	170	164	169
Other Textiles—Wool	Kandahar	Maund	28 0 0	34 8 0	37 0 0	36 8 0	100	123	132	130
Hides, dry	Sind	Maund	21 4 0	19 0 0	18 8 0	19 8 0	100	89	87	92
"	Punjab	"	21 4 0	19 0 0	18 8 0	19 8 0	100	89	87	92
Index No.—Hides			....	....	....	....	100	89	87	92
Metals—										
Copper Braziers		Cwt.	60 8 0	57 0 0	61 8 0	62 8 0	100	94	102	103
Steel Bars		"	3 14 0	6 4 0	6 12 0	7 0 0	100	161	174	181
" Plates		"	4 6 0	7 4 0	7 8 0	7 8 0	100	166	171	171
Index No.—Metals			....	....	....	....	100	140	149	152
Other raw and manufactured articles	1st class Bengal	Ton	16 0 0	20 8 0	19 4 0	19 4 0	100	128	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	144	144	144
General Index No.			....	....	....	....	100	136	133	141
			....	....	....	....	100	136	136	139
			....	....	....	....	100	136	135	140

* Yarn (40 Grey, Plough) has been omitted from the index for want of quotation. (1) Quotation for Sukkur white, since August 1926. (2) Quotation for 3 per cent. mutual. (3) Quotation for September 1927. (4) Quotation for May 1928. (5) Quotation for August 1928.

400
LABOUR GAZETTE
DEC., 1928

LABOUR GAZETTE
401

WHOLESALE PRICES INDEX NUMBERS IN BOMBAY BY GROUPS

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Month	Cereals	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.
1925														
November ..	153	128	161	175	155	133	169	195	152	155	153	159	162	160
1926														
November ..	144	133	152	146	144	131	118	157	131	144	150	160	147	146
December ..	143	131	156	144	143	133	109	156	132	150	161	158	147	146
1927														
January ..	153	133	149	140	147	138	113	154	135	142	158	160	146	146
February ..	149	137	139	150	146	143	125	163	135	135	158	159	149	148
March ..	148	133	135	149	144	144	132	163	134	137	156	161	149	148
April ..	144	125	134	150	141	143	128	161	136	142	149	156	147	145
May ..	145	127	132	155	143	145	142	162	142	148	147	159	150	148
June ..	143	130	129	164	143	145	149	161	149	137	142	156	149	147
July ..	142	129	130	162	141	143	154	163	142	139	136	159	149	147
August ..	135	131	132	161	143	143	159	167	138	142	135	156	150	148
September ..	135	125	133	165	140	141	183	172	141	140	133	153	152	148
October ..	136	135	132	162	141	136	179	167	131	144	133	141	148	146
November ..	140	139	138	155	143	131	172	166	131	115	134	140	145	144
December ..	134	138	131	157	139	130	168	164	130	121	132	139	144	143
1928														
January ..	130	140	123	153	136	129	166	161	124	141	132	132	144	141
February ..	133	136	121	155	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	162	126	159	133	131	144	142
May ..	130	131	129	180	141	132	165	164	130	151	133	140	145	145
June ..	136	126	152	197	150	130	167	169	129	147	138	140	149	149
July ..	130	124	129	196	143	131	169	172	123	146	137	140	149	147
August ..	131	127	132	191	143	128	169	169	124	155	137	146	147	146
September ..	140	134	136	154	150	132	150	168	120	155	138	143	147	147
October ..	148	143	147	195	157	134	174	170	119	159	138	138	147	150
November ..	144	144	145	189	153	134	170	170	119	162	157	142	147	149

LABOUR GAZETTE

DEC. 1928

COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS FOR INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Name of country	India (Bombay)	United Kingdom	Canada	Australia	New Zealand	Italy (Rome)	Belgium	Norway	Switzerland	South Africa	France	U. S. of America
Items included in the index	Food, fuel, clothing and rent	Food, rent, clothing and miscellaneous	Food, fuel, light and rent	Food and rent	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, heat, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, light, fuel and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, heating, lighting and rent	Food, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, heating and lighting, rent and miscellaneous
1914 July	100	100	100	(a) 100(f)	(b) 100	(b) 100	(c) 100	100	(e) 100(k)	100(j)	100(j)	(g) 100
1915 ..	104	125	97	119	117	116	..	(d) 117	146	103	..	105(m)
1916 ..	108	148	102	115	117	116	..	..	..	106	..	118
1917 ..	118	180	130	116	128	146	..	..	..	114	..	142
1918 ..	149	203	146	118	144	197	..	..	253	118	..	174
1919 ..	186	208	155	132	157	205	..	(d) 275	204(o)	126	..	199
1920 ..	190	252	190	154	182	313	453	307	224	155	(p) 341	200
1921 ..	177	219	152	152	178	387	379	294	200	133	(p) 307	174
1922 ..	165	184	147	140	159	429	366	251	164	(r) 135	(p) 302	170
1923 ..	153	169	146	151	158	(h) 487	429	238	164	130	(p) 334	173
1924 ..	157	170	144	149	160	512	493	249	169	132	(p) 366	173
1925 ..	157	170	146	153	163	598	509	259	168	133	(p) 390	178
1926 ..	157	170	150	(a) 161	(l) 163	649	637	220	162(o)	130	(p) 385	176(m)
1927 ..	156	166	149	..	..	548	790	203	160	132	..	..
August ..	157	164	149	..	..	543	787	203	160	131	..	..
September ..	154	165	149	157	..	537	794	197	161	131	507	..
October ..	151	167	149	..	..	536	804	196	161	132	..	..
November ..	150	169	150	..	..	536	809	195	162	132	..	..
December ..	151	169	151	159	..	531	812	195	162	132	..	172
1928												
January ..	154	168	151	..	..	532	813	194	161	132	..	..
February ..	148	166	150	..	..	533	811	194	161	131	..	..
March ..	145	164	149	157	..	531	806	193	160	132	..	..
April ..	144	164	149	..	..	531	807	193	160	133	..	..
May ..	147	164	148	..	..	526	805	193	160	133	..	..
June ..	146	165	148	157	..	530	811	193	161	132	519	170
July ..	147	165	148	..	..	526	811	193	161	131	..	..
August ..	146	165	150	..	..	522	819	192	161	131	..	..
September ..	145	165	151	..	..	526	825	185	161	130	519	..
October ..	146	166	..	..	..	..	834	184	..	..	..	..
November ..	147	167	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
December ..	148	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(a) From 1914 to 1926 figures relate to second quarter. (b) First half of 1914. (c) April 1914. (d) From 1915 to 1919 June figures are given. (e) June 1914=100. (f) Average for 1914=100. (g) 1913=100. (h) The figures for Italy from July 1923 are for Milan. (i) Revised series from March 1922. (k) Revised figures. (l) Figures from 1915 to 1926 refer to August. (m) Figures from 1915 to 1926 refer to December. (n) First half of the year. (o) Yearly averages for the years 1918-1926. (p) June figures.

LABOUR GAZETTE

403

INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Country	India (Bombay)	Japan	China (Shanghai)	Java (Batavia)	Australia	Egypt (Cairo)	United Kingdom	France	Holland	Norway	Sweden	Canada (2)	United States of America (3)	
No. of articles	44	56	147	92	92	26	150	45	48	100	111	236	404	550
1913 Average	100	100	(d) 100	100	100	(e) 100	100	100	100	(a) 100	(f) 100	100	100	70 (g)
1915	97	96	100	100	106	103	102	102	109	115	116	102	101	68
1916	117	112	100	100	138	128	140	146	159	159	145	110	101	70
1917	149	149	100	100	153	176	188	224	233	244	244	179	127	86
1918	239	196	100	100	178	211	339	373	345	339	339	199	177	118
1919	223	236	100	100	189	231	356	304	322	331	331	209	206	139
1920	216	259	100	100	228	316	307	509	292	377	347	244	226	154
1921	198	200	100	100	175	173	197	345	182	298	211	172	147	98
1922	187	196	100	100	162	146	159	327	160	233	162	152	150	104
1923	181	199	100	100	173	179	159	419	151	233	157	152	149	97
1924	182	207	100	100	173	143	166	489	156	269	155	155	154	101
1925	163	202	100	100	170	152	159	550	155	251	157	160	159	98
1926	149	179	100	100	168	132	148	703	145	196	144	156	151	100
1927	146	170	100	100	162	126	144	622	145	170	140	151	147	97
January	148	171	100	100	160	124	143	632	146	165	140	150	146	96
February	148	171	100	100	157	124	141	641	144	160	139	149	145	95
March	(b) 145	170	100	100	159	122	140	636	143	159	138	149	144	94
April	148	171	100	100	160	124	141	628	145	160	139	152	144	94
May	147	172	100	100	163	123	142	622	149	159	140	154	144	94
June	147	170	100	100	153	118	141	620	151	160	141	152	145	94
July	148	168	100	100	173	117	141	618	149	161	144	152	147	95
August	148	169	100	100	178	120	142	600	150	158	145	151	149	97
September	146	170	100	100	181	118	141	588	150	157	143	152	149	97
October	144	169	100	100	151	74	115	594	151	157	143	152	150	97
November	143	168	100	100	150	170	114	604	151	156	142	152	149	97
December	141	169	100	100	150	171	114	607	153	157	142	151	149	96
1928	142	169	100	100	149	168	114	609	150	157	142	151	149	96
January	140	169	100	100	168	116	141	623	152	157	145	153	149	96
February	142	170	100	100	168	116	141	623	152	157	145	153	149	96
March	145	172	100	100	170	120	143	624	153	156	147	153	149	97
April	149	169	100	100	166	117	144	632	152	156	149	153	149	97
May	147	169	100	100	150	166	117	626	153	158	149	150	149	98
June	146	170	100	100	165	117	141	624	148	160	(h)	150	149	98
July	146	170	100	100	161	119	139	617	144	153	149	149	149	98
August	148	174	100	100	160	120	138	620	145	153	149	150	149	98
September	150	159	100	100	160	120	138	620	145	153	149	150	149	98
October	149	159	100	100	160	120	138	620	145	153	149	150	149	98
November	149	159	100	100	160	120	138	620	145	153	149	150	149	98
December	149	159	100	100	160	120	138	620	145	153	149	150	149	98

July 1918 = 100. (a) Average for the year 1914. (b) Includes fuel and lighting. (c) January to June 1914. (d) Revised figures. (e) The figures from 1914-1920 are for December. (f) February 1913 = 100. (g) Average January 1913 to July 1914. (h) Figure for August. (i) June 1914 = 100. (j) Revised series—1921 = 100. (k) Figure for June. (l) The figures for Italy from July 1923 are for Milan. (m) Figure for August. (n) June 1914 = 100. (o) Revised figures. (p) The figures from January 1926 are for the Hague (base, January to July 1914 = 100).

RETAIL FOOD INDEX NUMBERS FOR INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Name of country	India	United Kingdom	Canada	Africa	Australia	New Zealand	United States of America	France (b)	Italy	Belgium	Finland	Holland	Norway	Sweden (b)	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	(c) 100	(d) ..	100	(a) 100 (j)	100	100	100	(i) 100 (h)
1915	105	132	105	107	131	112	98	122	95	..	..	..	160	124	128	128
1916	105	161	114	116	130	119	109	132	111	..	..	..	176	142	146	146
1917	114	204	157	128	126	127	143	183	137	..	..	..	210	214 (g)	181	166
1918	142	210	175	134	131	139	164	206	203	..	..	..	279	268	187	187
1919	187	209	186	139	147	144	186	261	206	..	..	..	210	289	310	212
1920	188	258	227	197	194	167	215	373	318	..	..	..	211	319	297	253
1921	174	220	148	139	161	164	145	306	402	100	982	100	1,278	180	295	232
1922	160	180	138	116	148	144	139	297	459	87	1,105	140	1,016	140	233	179
1923	148	162	137	116	164	142	144	321	(f) 496	105	968	136	1,016	138	248	188
1924	151	162	134	117	(e) 149	148	140	360	508	124	1,016	138	1,016	138	248	188
1925	152	167	141	120	156	151	156	421	602	133	1,107	152	1,067	168	198	169
1926	155	161	149	116	159	149	154	574	654	185	1,067	168	1,067	168	198	159
1927	151	154	146	120	153	145	155	580	541	207	1,035	172	1,035	172	151	157
January	154	159	147	119	152	144	150	557	524	210	1,065	172	1,065	172	151	157
February	155	156	147	118	155	144	149	539	518	204	1,121	175	1,121	175	152	157
March	151	157	146	117	157	143	151	532	509	207	1,109	160	1,109	174	156	159
April	148	161	148	119	159	143	153	520	509	210	1,120	165	1,120	173	155	159
May	147	163	149	119	157	144	153	500	510	211	..	165	1,120	171	155	161
June	149	163	151	119	155	146	153	523	513	211	1,140	171	1,140	171	154	160
July	151	162	151	119	154	147	152	530	514	210	1,097	170	1,097	170	153	159
August	146	159	149	118	152	145	148	522	518	207	1,081	170	1,081	170	153	158
September	142	155	147	118	153	145	148	524	516	201	1,091	171	1,091	171	154	157
October	140	155	146	119	154	144	149	532	516	202	1,082	172	1,082	171	154	156
November	144	154	146	120	154	146	150	546	513	199	1,074	172	1,074	172	155	156
December	142	156	145	117	154	147	149	557	520	203	1,087	171	1,087	171	157	156
1928	143	157	146	116	152	147	151	547	513	204	1,116	164	1,116	173	157	157
January	142	156	149	115	150	147	151	540	506	206	1,152	170	1,152	170	156	156
February	141	156	150	115	150	147	155	544	513	208	1,136	159	1,136	164	155	156
March	142	157	150	115	150	149	155	566	513	208	1,136	159	1,136	163	153	146
April	144	159	150	115	150	149	150	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
May	144	159	150	115	150	149	150	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
June	145	159	150	115	150	149	150	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
July	145	159	150	115	150	149	150	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
August	145	159	150	115	150	149	150	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
September	145	159	150	115	150	149	150	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
October	145	159	150	115												

RETAIL PRICES OF ARTICLES OF FOOD IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1928*

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

Articles	Price per	Bombay	Karschi	Ahrmadabad	...	Poona	...	Karschi	...	Sholapur	Poona
		October 1928	October 1928	October 1928	October 1928	October 1928	October 1928	November 1928	November 1928	November 1928	November 1928
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cereals—											
Rice (1)	Maund	8 6 0 <i>150</i>	8 0 0 <i>120</i>	8 0 0 <i>130</i>	8 0 4 <i>132</i>	8 11 2 <i>151</i>	8 6 0 <i>150</i>	8 0 0 <i>110</i>	8 6 9 <i>130</i>	8 11 2 <i>151</i>	
Wheat (1)	"	7 13 2 <i>140</i>	6 2 6 <i>146</i>	6 12 11 <i>145</i>	6 5 9 <i>123</i>	7 8 6 <i>140</i>	8 0 0 <i>143</i>	6 3 5 <i>148</i>	6 15 4 <i>148</i>	7 4 11 <i>136</i>	
Jowari	"	5 1 11 <i>118</i>	4 12 5 <i>131</i>	4 5 2 <i>114</i>	3 2 5 <i>110</i>	3 10 9 <i>107</i>	5 1 11 <i>118</i>	4 11 4 <i>130</i>	4 7 1 <i>117</i>	3 2 5 <i>104</i>	
Bairi	"	5 11 3 <i>132</i>	5 15 8 <i>142</i>	6 2 6 <i>131</i>	3 4 1 <i>93</i>	4 5 8 <i>106</i>	5 11 3 <i>132</i>	5 11 5 <i>136</i>	6 2 6 <i>131</i>	4 5 8 <i>106</i>	
<i>Index No.—Cereals</i>		<i>135</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>136</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>132</i>	<i>122</i>	<i>124</i>
Gram	Maund	7 6 6 <i>172</i>	6 2 6 <i>162</i>	4 13 7 <i>121</i>	5 13 9 <i>136</i>	6 6 7 <i>132</i>	7 3 4 <i>168</i>	6 10 8 <i>175</i>	5 0 0 <i>125</i>	5 11 5 <i>133</i>	6 7 10 <i>133</i>
Turdal	"	8 15 5 <i>153</i>	8 5 0 <i>125</i>	8 14 3 <i>144</i>	8 1 4 <i>138</i>	9 3 7 <i>140</i>	8 15 5 <i>153</i>	8 3 3 <i>123</i>	8 14 3 <i>144</i>	8 1 4 <i>138</i>	9 3 7 <i>140</i>
<i>Index No.—Pulses</i>		<i>163</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>136</i>	<i>161</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>141</i>	<i>136</i>	<i>137</i>

Other articles of food—											
Sugar (refined) ..	Maund	12 11 2 <i>167</i>	10 0 0 <i>138</i>	11 0 7 <i>138</i>	11 6 10 <i>144</i>	10 13 7 <i>146</i>	12 11 2 <i>167</i>	10 0 0 <i>138</i>	11 0 7 <i>138</i>	11 11 9 <i>149</i>	10 8 5 <i>145</i>
Tea ..	Lb.	13 13 8 <i>162</i>	9 6 7 <i>135</i>	12 4 11 <i>138</i>	11 2 5 <i>144</i>	12 0 6 <i>171</i>	14 4 7 <i>167</i>	9 6 7 <i>135</i>	12 4 11 <i>138</i>	11 13 8 <i>153</i>	10 8 5 <i>150</i>
Tee ..	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>181</i>	1 14 6 <i>145</i>	2 4 7 <i>151</i>	3 6 1 <i>152</i>	2 15 11 <i>159</i>	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>
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 9 6 <i>158</i>
Milk	Maund	17 9 4 <i>191</i>	7 9 11 <i>172</i>	10 0 0 <i>200</i>	10 10 8 <i>147</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 5 2 <i>142</i>	13 5 4 <i>133</i>
Ghee	"	86 7 9 <i>170</i>	66 10 8 <i>156</i>	69 9 0 <i>157</i>	91 6 10 <i>163</i>	66 10 8 <i>129</i>	86 7 9 <i>170</i>	66 10 8 <i>156</i>	61 0 0 <i>144</i>	91 6 10 <i>163</i>	66 10 8 <i>129</i>
Potatoes	"	7 2 3 <i>159</i>	7 4 4 <i>134</i>	8 0 0 <i>210</i>	5 0 0 <i>125</i>	2 15 8 <i>88</i>	7 2 3 <i>159</i>	7 1 9 <i>131</i>	8 0 0 <i>210</i>	5 0 0 <i>125</i>	3 8 2 <i>104</i>
Onions	"	2 13 9 <i>184</i>	3 1 3 <i>169</i>	1 14 1 <i>94</i>	3 3 2 <i>128</i>	2 6 6 <i>120</i>	2 13 9 <i>184</i>	3 0 4 <i>166</i>	1 12 5 <i>89</i>	3 1 3 <i>123</i>	2 10 1 <i>131</i>
Cocanut oil	"	28 9 1 <i>112</i>	26 10 8 <i>108</i>	32 0 0 <i>160</i>	29 1 5 <i>109</i>	28 1 1 <i>100</i>	28 9 1 <i>112</i>	26 10 8 <i>108</i>	32 0 0 <i>160</i>	28 1 5 <i>109</i>	28 1 1 <i>100</i>
<i>Index No.—Other articles of food</i>		<i>165</i>	<i>157</i>	<i>156</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>138</i>
<i>Index No.—All food articles (unweighted) ..</i>		<i>158</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>151</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>135</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 and 'Pissi' respectively.

406

LABOUR GAZETTE

DEC. 1928

LABOUR GAZETTE

407

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS IN BOMBAY
BY GROUPS

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Months	Cereals	Pulses	Meat and pulses	Articles of food	All food	Fuel and lighting	Clothing	Housing	Total
1925	132	137	133	183	151	165	176	172	155
December									
1926									
December		140	133	183	151	165	173	172	155
January	132	136	132	181	150	165	172	172	154
February	132	136	133	182	151	165	174	172	155
March	132	133	132	180	150	165	175	172	153
April	133	138	133	177	150	164	170		153
May	133	139	134	182	152	164	162		153
June	134	145	135	187	155	164	160	172	157
July	135	141	136	181	153	164	160	172	155
August	135	145	136	179	152	164	160	172	155
September		150	136	180	153	164	159	172	155
October	133	152	135	180	152		156	172	154
November		134	155	136	184	154	166	148	172
December									
1927									
January	134	149	135	188	155	166	143	172	156
February	134	154	136	180	152	166	148	172	155
March	134	159	137	179	152	166	152	172	155
April	133	153	135	178	151	166	143	172	153
May	133	154	134	176	150	166	147	172	152
June	134	156	136	177	151	166	147	172	154
July	136	153	138	181	154	166	149	172	156
August	136	157	138	184	155	166	152	172	157
September	132	151	134	180	151	166	163	172	154
October	127	151	129	180	148	156	163	172	151
November	125	151	127	180	147	156	157	172	150
December	129	155	131	178	149	156	154	172	151
1928									
January	132	160	135	180	151	156	152	172	154
February	127	152	129	174	146	144	153	172	148
March	123	145	126	171	142	144	151	172	145
April	121	147	124	168	140	145	153	172	144
May	123	153	126	175	144	145	155	172	147
June	122	142	124	172	142	158	156	172	146
July		144	123	177	143	158	158	172	147
August		144	121	176	142	158	159	172	146
September	120	143	122	174	141	151	157	172	145
October	121	155	124	174	142	144	156	172	146
November	122	157	125	174	144	143	158	172	147
December	125	156	128	173	145	143	160	172	148

LABOUR GAZETTE

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

BOMBAY, JANUARY, 1929

[No. 5

VOL. VIII]

The Month in Brief

INDUSTRIAL UNREST IN BOMBAY CITY

For the first time since the resumption of work after the General Strike in the Textile Mills in Bombay City there was, during the last few days of January, complete peace and every mill worked with a full complement of hands. There were over forty strikes during December.

The Conciliation Committee continued its sittings during the month. The Millowners and the representatives of labour have yet to place their final arguments before the Committee but it is expected that the report of the Committee will be completed before the middle of March.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE TEXTILE AND ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES

In the textile industry, as a whole the supply of labour was equal to the demand during the month of December 1928. The average absenteeism was 6.00 per cent. for Bombay City, 3.84 per cent. for Ahmedabad, 15.44 per cent. for Sholapur and 6.47 per cent. for Broach.

In the engineering industry in Bombay City the supply of both skilled and unskilled labour was adequate. Absenteeism was 12.45 per cent. in the engineering workshops, 5 per cent. in the Marine Lines Reclamation of the Development Directorate, 15.47 per cent. in the Bombay Port Trust Docks and 8 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 10.7.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBER

In January 1929, the Bombay Working Class Cost of Living Index Number was 149 as against 148 in the preceding month. The Index Number for food articles only was 146.

INDEX NUMBER OF WHOLESALE PRICES

The Wholesale Prices Index Number in Bombay for December 1928 was 145.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

There were forty-four industrial disputes in the month of December 1928. The number of workpeople involved was 73,861 and the number of working days lost 364,875.

BALANCE OF TRADE

In December 1928, the visible balance of trade, including securities, in favour of India amounted to Rs. 88 lakhs.