

LABOUR GAZETTE

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[No. 1

The Month in Brief

STRIKE IN COTTON MILLS

At the time of going to Press the general strike in the textile mills in Bombay City still continues. The prospects of a settlement being arrived at are however a little more hopeful. Negotiations have been proceeding between representatives of the Strike Committee and a Sub-Committee of the Millowners' Association and some progress has been made in arriving at an agreement on the details of the standardisation scheme. Both parties are meeting the Honourable Sir Gulam Husain Hidayatullah, General Member, on October 4th.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE TEXTILE AND ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES

In the textile industry except in Bombay City where the General Strike was in progress, the supply of labour was equal to the demand during the month of August 1928. The average absenteeism was 3·66 per cent. for Ahmedabad, 2·17 per cent. for Viramgaum, 14·37 per cent. for Sholapur and 9·43 per cent. for Broach.

In the engineering industry in Bombay City the supply of both skilled and unskilled labour was adequate. Absenteeism was 10·83 per cent. in the engineering workshops, 5 per cent. in the Marine Lines Reclamation of the Development Directorate, 14·47 per cent. in the Bombay Port Trust Docks and 7·40 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 5·00.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBER

In September 1928, the Bombay Working Class Cost of Living Index Number was 145 as against 146 in the preceding month. The Index Number for food articles only was 141.

INDEX NUMBER OF WHOLESALE PRICES

The Wholesale Prices Index Number in Bombay for August 1928 was 146.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

There were six industrial disputes in the month of August 1928. The number of workpeople involved was 18,382 and the number of working days lost 4,151,334.

BALANCE OF TRADE

During August 1928, the visible balance of trade including securities, in favour of India amounted to Rs. 421 lakhs.

The Cost of Living Index for September 1928

A FALL OF ONE POINT

Increase over July 1914 — { All articles 45 per cent.
Food only 41 per cent.

In September 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 lower than in the preceding month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the general index number was 146 in August and 145 in September 1928. The general index is thus 48 points below the high-water mark (193) reached in October 1920 and 9 points lower than the twelve-monthly average for the year 1927.

As compared with August 1928, the index number for all food articles declined by 1 point to 141. Rice recorded a rise of one point, wheat and gram remained stationary while jowari, bajri and turdal declined by 4, 2 and 4 points respectively. The combined average for all food-grains stood at 122 as against 121 in the previous month. Among other food articles, there was a fall of 8 points in refined sugar but the price of raw sugar (gul) showed no change. Salt and ghee declined by 4 points each and tea and mutton by 6 and 5 points respectively. The price of the remaining articles was practically stationary during the month under review. The index number for the "other food" group fell by 2 points to 174.

The "fuel and lighting" index number declined by 7 points to 151 due to a decrease in the price of firewood and coal. The index number for "Clothing" fell by 2 points to 157.

All items : Percentage increase over July 1914

	1921	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	54
February ..	62	65	55	56	57	54	55	48
March ..	60	65	54	54	59	55	55	45
April ..	60	62	56	50	58	53	53	44
May ..	67	63	53	50	56	53	52	47
June ..	73	63	52	53	54	55	54	46
July ..	77	65	53		57	57	56	47
August ..	80	64	54	61	52	55	57	46
September ..	85	65	54	61	51	55	54	45
October ..	83	62	52	61	53	55	51	
November ..	82	60	53	61	53	54	50	
December ..	79	61	57	60	55	56	51	
Yearly average ..		64	54	57	55	55	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 August 16 and September 15.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX—SEPTEMBER

Articles	Unit of quantity	Annual consumption (Mass Units) (in crores)	Price per Unit of Quantity			Price × Mass Unit		
			July 1914	August 1928	Sept. 1928	July 1914	August 1928	Sept. 1928
Cereals—			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Rice	Maund	70	5.594	6.698	6.781	391.58	468.86	474.67
Wheat	"	21	5.594	6.667	6.667	117.47	140.01	140.01
Jowari	"	11	4.354	4.833	4.667	47.89	53.16	51.34
Bajri	"	6	4.313	5.229	5.146	25.88	31.37	30.88
Total—Cereals						582.82	693.40	696.90
Index Numbers—Cereals						100	119	120
Pulses—								
Gram	Maund	10	4.302	6.250	6.250	43.02	62.50	62.50
Turdal	"	3	5.844	8.250	8.005	17.53	24.75	24.02
Total—Pulses						60.55	87.25	86.52
Index Numbers—Pulses						100	144	143
Other food articles—								
Sugar (refined)	Maund	2	7.620	13.094	12.500	15.24	26.19	25.00
Raw Sugar (Gul)	"	7	8.557	13.094	13.094	59.90	91.66	91.66
Tea	"	5	40.000	77.776	75.214	1.00	1.94	1.88
Salt	"	5	2.130	3.412	3.313	10.65	17.06	16.57
Peet	Seer	28	0.323	0.510	0.510	9.04	14.28	14.28
Mutton	"	33	0.417	0.792	0.771	13.76	26.14	25.44
Milk	Maund	14	9.198	17.583	17.583	128.77	246.16	246.16
Ghee	"	14	50.792	91.667	89.287	76.19	137.50	133.93
Potatoes	"	11	4.479	7.740	7.740	49.27	85.14	85.14
Onions	"	3	1.552	3.573	3.573	4.66	10.72	10.72
Cocunut Oil	"	4	25.396	27.974	27.974	12.70	13.99	13.99
Total—Other food articles						381.18	670.78	664.77
Index Numbers—Other food articles						100	176	174
Total—All food articles						1,024.55	1,451.43	1,448.19
Index Numbers—All food articles						100	141	141
Fuel and lighting—								
Kerosene oil	Case	5	4.375	6.688	6.688	21.88	33.44	33.44
Firewood	Maund	48	0.792	1.281	1.193	38.02	61.49	57.26
Coal	"	1	0.542	0.771	0.760	0.54	0.77	0.76
Total—Fuel and lighting						60.44	95.70	91.46
Index Numbers—Fuel and lighting						100	158	151
Clothing—								
Chudders	Lb.	27	0.594	0.938	0.906	16.04	26.05	24.46
Shirtings	"	25	0.641	1.042	1.042	16.03	26.05	26.05
T. Cloths	"	36	0.583	0.922	0.906	20.99	33.19	32.62
Total—Clothing						53.06	84.57	83.13
Index Numbers—Clothing						100	159	157
House-rent	Per month	10	11.302	19.440	19.440	113.02	194.40	194.40
Index Numbers—House-rent						100	172	172
Grand Total						1,251.07	1,826.10	1,817.18
Cost of Living Index Numbers						100	146	145

The following table shows the price levels of articles of food in August and September 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 :—

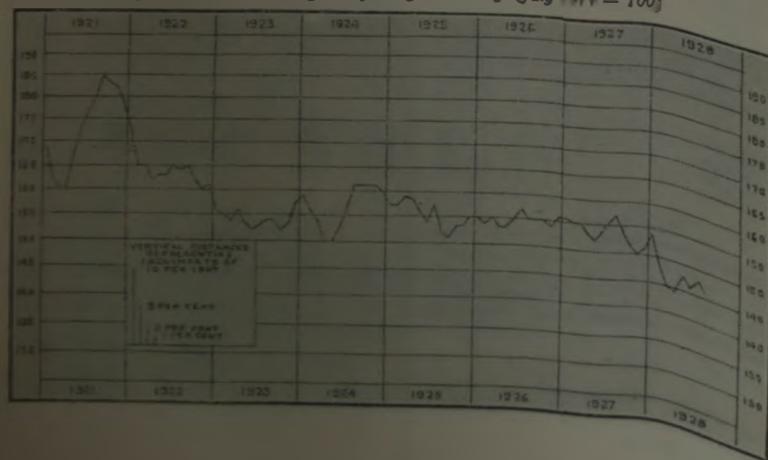
Articles	July 1914	August 1928	Sept. 1928	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in 1928 over or below August 1928	Articles	July 1914	August 1928	Sept. 1928	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in 1928 over or below August 1928
Wheat	100	119	119	..	Beef	100	158	158	..
Jowari	100	111	107	- 4	Mutton	100	190	185	- 5
Bajri	100	121	119	- 2	Milk	100	191	191	..
Gram	100	145	145	..	Ghee	100	180	176	- 4
Turdal	100	141	137	- 4	Potatoes	100	173	173	..
Sugar (refined)..	100	172	164	- 8	Onions	100	230	230	..
Raw sugar (gul).	100	153	153	..	Cocconut oil ..	100	110	110	..
Tea	100	194	188	- 6	All food articles (weighted average)..	100	142	141	- 1

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

Rice 17, Wheat 16, Jowari 7, Bajri 16, Gram 31, Turdal 27, Sugar (refined) 39, Raw Sugar (gul) 35, Tea 47, Salt 36, Beef 37, Mutton 36, Milk 48, Ghee 43, Potatoes 42, Onions 57 and Cocconut Oil 9

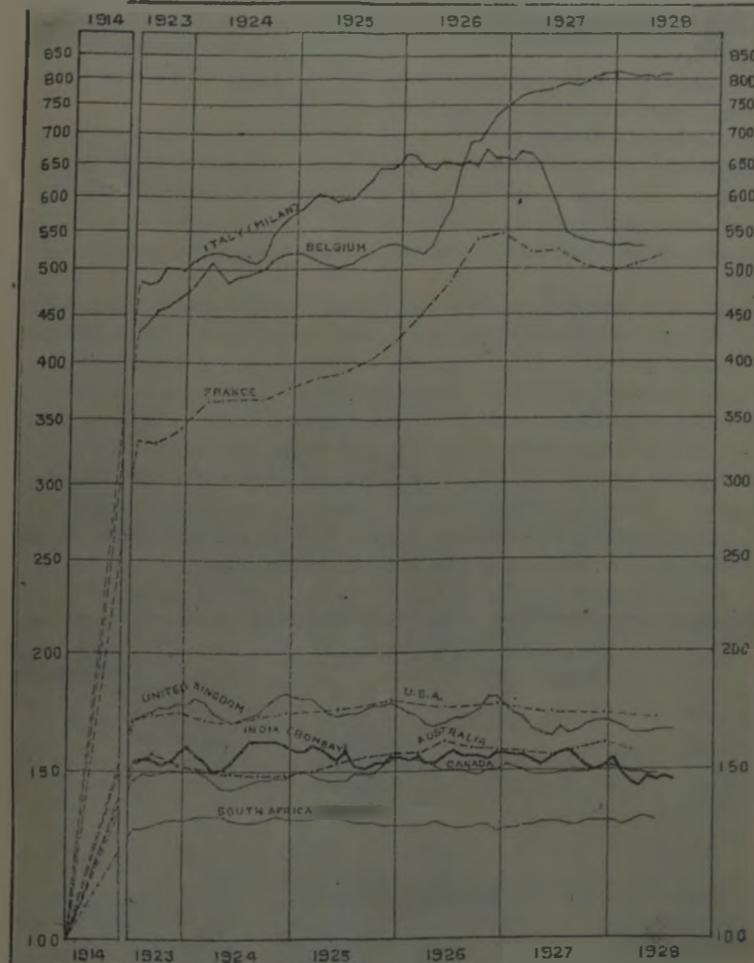
The purchasing power of the rupee being taken as 16 annas in July 1914, its purchasing power in the month under review was 11 annas for all items and 11 annas 4 pies for food articles only.

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



Comparison with the Cost of Living in Other Countries

The diagram on this page shows the comparative levels of the cost of living Index Nos. in Bombay and certain 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—Ministry of Labour Gazette, (2) New Zealand—Census and Statistics Office, Wellington (by cable), (3) South Africa—Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics, (4) U.S.A.—Monthly Bulletin issued by the Bureau 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 Gazette, 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

.. 46 per cent.

In August 1928, the index number of wholesale prices in Bombay was 146 as against 147 in the previous month. As compared with July 1928, the index number for the food group showed no change but the non-food index recorded a fall of two points. The general index number was 117 points below the highest peak (263) reached in August 1918 and one point below the twelve-monthly average for the year 1927.

As compared with the previous month, the index number for food grains advanced by 1 point to 130 due to a rise of 1 point in Cereals and of 3 points in Pulses. There was a fall of 1 point in rice and of 4 points in barley but wheat, jowari and gram recorded a rise of 2, 7 and 6 points respectively. The price of bajri and turdal remained stationary during the month under review.

There was a rise of 3 points in the "Sugar" group due to a rise in the price of both refined sugar and gul. The "other food" index declined by 5 points owing to a fall of 12 points in turmeric and of 4 points in ghee.

Under the non-food group, there was a fall of 3 points each in Oilseeds and Cotton manufactures and of 18 points in Raw cotton. Other textiles, Other raw and manufactured articles and Hides and skins rose by 1, 6 and 9 points respectively while the index number for Metals remained the same. The index number for the "non-food" group stood at 147.

The subjoined table compares August 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	+ or - % compared with July 1928	+ or - % compared with Aug. 1927	Groups	Aug 1927	Nov 1927	Feb 1928	May 1928	July 1928	Aug 1928
1. Cereals	7	+ 1	- 8	1. Cereals	100	99	94	92	92	92
2. Pulses	2	+ 2	- 3	2. Pulses	99	105	103	99	94	96
3. Sugar	3	+ 2		3. Sugar	98	102	90	96	96	98
4. Other food ..	3	- 3	+ 19	4. Other food ..	103	99	99	115	126	122
All food ..	15			All food ..	100	100	95	99	100	100
5. Oilseeds	4	- 2	- 10	5. Oilseeds	102	94	89	94	94	91
6. Raw cotton ..	5	- 11	- 5	6. Raw cotton ..	106	115	109	110	113	101
7. Cotton manufactures	6	- 2	+ 1	7. Cotton manufactures	102	101	99	100	105	103
8. Other textiles .	2	+ 1	- 10	8. Other textiles.	101	96	89	95	90	91
9. Hides and skins	3	+ 6	+ 9	9. Hides & skins.	104	84	115	110	107	113
10. Metals	5	....	+ 1	10. Metals	94	94	93	93	96	96
11. Other raw and manufactured articles	4	+ 4	- 6	11. Other raw and manufactured articles	102	92	86	92	92	95
All non-food ..	29	- 1	- 2	All non-food ..	101	98	97	99	101	99
General Index No	44	- 1	- 1	General Index No.	101	98	97	99	100	99

* Actual prices will be found on pages 102-103. † Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on pages 104-105.

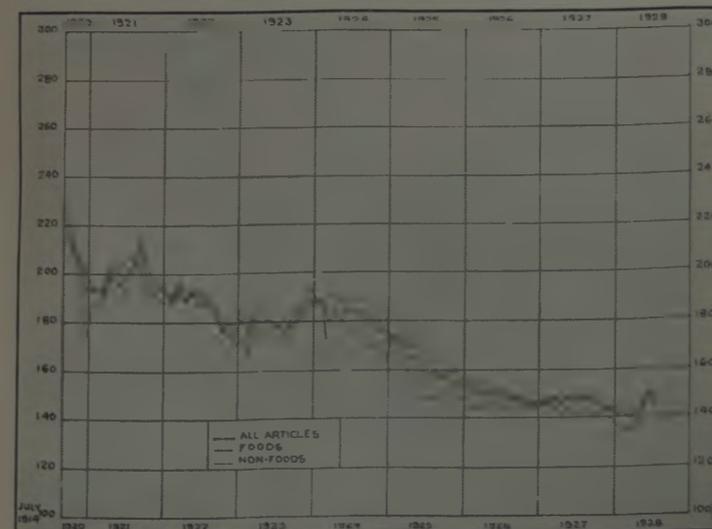
The following table is intended to show the annual movements in food, non-food and general wholesale prices:—

July 1914 = 100

		Food Index No.	Non-food Index No.	General Index No.
Twelve-monthly average for 1918 ..	..	171	234	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
Eight-monthly ..	1928 ..	140	146	144

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

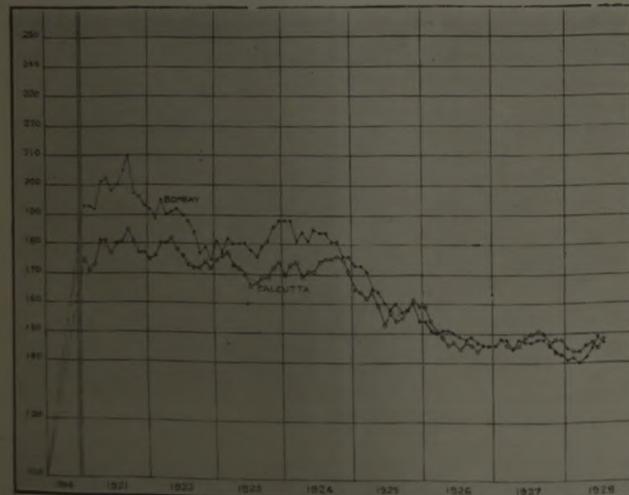


COMPARISON BETWEEN THE INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE
PRICES IN BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA

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

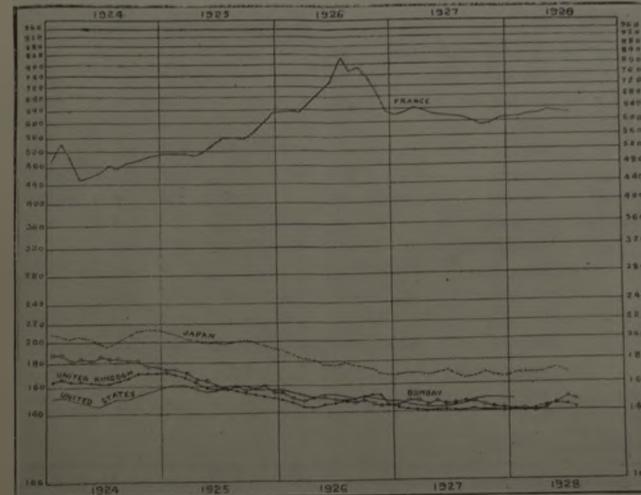
The items included in the indices are 44 for Bombay and 71 for Calcutta. The groups included in the Calcutta index but excluded from that for Bombay are tea (3 items), oil (2 items), jute-raw (3 items), jute manufactures (4 items) and building materials (1 item). There are no groups included in the Bombay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

The diagram is on an arithmetic and not a logarithmic scale



COMPARISON WITH WHOLESALE PRICES INDEX NUMBERS IN
OTHER COUNTRIES

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



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

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

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

2. RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN BOMBAY

Article	Grade	Rate per	Equiva- lent in tolas	July		Aug. 1928		Increase (+) decrease (-) in % 1928 over or	
				1914	1928	July 1914 July 1928			
				As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill.*	Paylee ..	204	5 10	7 0	6 10	+1 0	-0 2	
Wheat	Pisai Seoni* ..	.. ..	200	5 10	6 7	6 8	+0 10	+0 1
Jowari	Best Sholapuri ..	.. ..	200	4 3	4 9	4 10	+0 ..	+0 1
Bajri	Ghati .. ..	.. ..	204	4 7	5 3	5 4	+0 9	+0 1
Gram	Delhi* .. ..	.. ..	192	4 4	6 0	6 0	+1 8	..
Turral	Cawnpore .. ..	.. ..	204	5 11	8 4	8 5	+2 6	+0 1
Sugar (refined)	Java, white ..	Seer ..	28	1 1	2 0	1 10	+0 9	-0 2	
Raw Sugar (Gul)..	Sangli, middle quality	.. ..	28	1 2	1 9	1 10	+0 8	+0 1
Tea	Loose Ceylon, powder	Lb. ..	39	7 10	15 2	15 2	+7 4	..	
Salt	Bombay, black	Paylee ..	176	1 9	2 11	3 0	+1 3	+0 1	
Beef .. ..	.. ..	Lb. ..	39	2 6	4 0	4 0	+1 6	..
Mutton .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	39	3 0	6 1	6 2	+3 2	+0 1
Milk	Medium	Seer ..	56	2 9	4 11	4 11	+2 2	..	
Ghee	Belgaum, Superior ..	.. ..	28	7 1	13 5	12 10	+5 9	-0 7
Potatoes	Ordinary .. ..	.. ..	28	0 8	1 1	1 1	+0 5	..
Onions	Nasik .. ..	.. ..	28	0 3	0 6	0 6	+0 3	..
Cocoonut oil ..	Middle quality	.. ..	28	3 7	3 11	3 11	+0 4	..

Collection of prices.—The following are the areas and streets in which price quotations are obtained for articles other than butcher's meat:—

1. Dadar—Dadar Station Road.
2. Kumbharwada—Kumbharwada Road (North End).
3. Saitan Chowk—Kumbharwada Road (South End).
4. Elphinstone Road.
5. Naigum—Naigum Cross Road and Development Chawls.
6. Parel—Poisarwadi.
7. Fergusson Road.
8. DeLisle Road.
9. Superibag—Superibag Road.
10. Chinchpokli—Tarel Road.
11. Grant Road.
12. Nal Bazar.

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

The variations in prices during August 1928 as compared with the preceding month were within narrow limits. Rice declined by 2 pies per paylee, gram remained stationary, while all the other food-grains recorded a rise of 1 pie each per paylee. Amongst other food articles, refined sugar fell by 2 pies but raw sugar (gul) rose by 1 pie per seer. Salt was higher by 1 pie per paylee and mutton by 1 pie per lb.; but ghee registered a decrease of 7 pies per seer. The price of the remaining articles was practically stationary during the month under review.

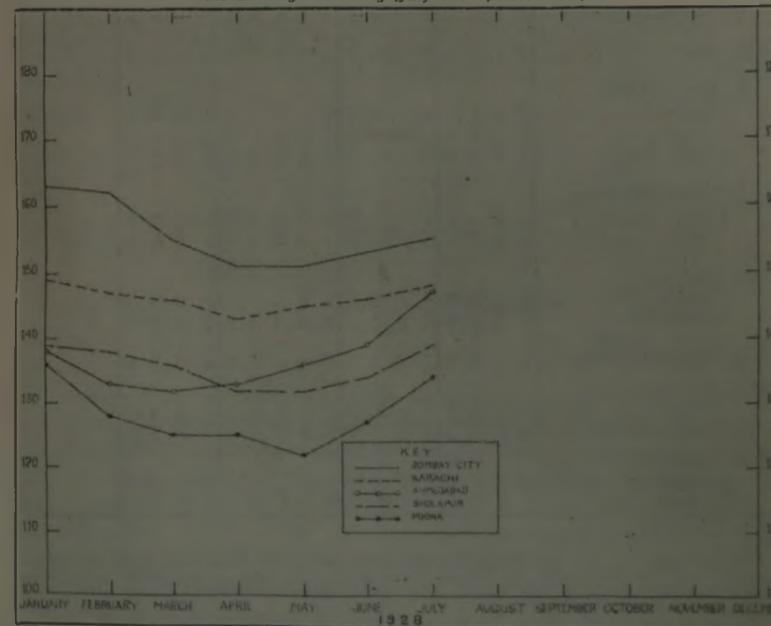
As compared with July 1914, all articles show a rise in prices. Mutton is more than double and onions are double the prewar price. Tea, milk and ghee have risen by more than 75 per cent.; sugar (refined), salt and potatoes by more than 60 per cent. and beef by 60 per cent. The price of cocoonut oil is 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," "Pisai Sarabatti" and "Punjab" variety respectively.

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

Articles	July 1928					August 1928				
	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
Rice (1) ..	150	120	130	152	132	150	120	130	159	146
Wheat (1) ..	143	136	131	133	119	143	132	131	123	128
Jowari ..	120	131	104	112	103	118	130	100	108	98
Bajri ..	132	139	121	87	114	132	141	121	90	106
Gram ..	163	142	105	121	107	163	142	108	121	113
Turdal ..	159	119	144	138	124	153	119	144	130	135
Sugar (re- fined) ..	167	157	159	145	144	167	140	145	128	120
Jagri (Gul) ..	148	135	120	121	150	148	135	129	133	150
Tea ..	190	225	200	171	200	190	225	200	171	200
Salt ..	131	145	151	158	147	131	145	151	159	153
Beef ..	163	180	100	201	141	163	180	100	201	141
Mutton ..	171	167	167	133	150	169	167	167	133	150
Milk ..	191	164	200	157	133	191	164	200	157	133
Ghee ..	162	158	180	163	144	170	158	176	163	144
Potatoes ..	150	144	218	143	172	159	136	263	250	208
Onions ..	184	141	111	114	105	184	159	111	114	105
Cocoonut oil.	112	108	160	109	100	112	108	160	109	100
Average— All food articles ..	155	148	147	139	134	155	147	149	144	137

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



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

PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON, 1928

Abbreviations S = Scanty. F = Fair. N = Normal. E = Excess.

RAINFALL DIVISION	JUNE			JULY			AUGUST				SEPTEMBER			OCTOBER								
	6th	13th	20th	27th	4th	11th	18th	25th	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th	5th	12th	19th	26th	3rd	10th	17th	24th	
I. BOMBAY PRESIDENCY																						
1 Sind (River * Rainfall)	E	E	E	E	N	F	F	N	N	N	N	F	F	F	E	E	F					
2 Gujrat	S	N	S	S	E	N	F	E	F	S	F	F	E	N	F	F	F					
3 Deccan	N	E	S	N	E	F	F	N	E	S	F	F	E	N	F	F	F					
4 Konkan	E	E	F	E	N	N	E	E	N	F	N	E	E	N	S	E	F					
II. MADRAS PRESIDENCY																						
1 Malabar	E	N	F	S	F	N	F	F	F	E	N	N	E	N	S	F						
2 Deccan	E	N	S	N	F	E	E	S	F	F	S	E	F	S	S	E	N					
3 Coast North	S	F	S	N	F	N	N	E	F	F	N	F	N	N	F	E	N					
4 South East	S	S	S	E	F	E	E	S	S	N	N	E	S	S	F	F	F					
III. MYSORE	E	N	S	E	N	E	F	F	N	E	E	E	S	S	S	F	S					
IV. HYDERABAD																						
1 North	S	E	S	E	E	F	N	F	F	F	S	N	E	F	S	E	E					
2 South	N	E	S	N	E	E	N	S	N	S	F	N	E	S	S	E	E					
V. CENTRAL PROVINCES																						
1 Berar	S	N	E	N	F	S	F	F	F	S	S	F	E	N	S	E	F					
2 West	S	N	S	N	E	S	F	E	E	S	S	E	N	N	S	S	N					
3 East	S	N	F	N	E	F	N	E	N	F	S	N	E	N	F	N	S	E				
VI. CENTRAL INDIA																						
1 West	S	E	S	F	F	E	E	E	E	S	S	E	E	E	S	S	N					
2 East	E	S	S	E	S	S	E	N	F	S	S	N	N	N	S	S	S					
VII. BENGAL PRESIDENCY	F	E	E	N	E	N	N	F	N	E	N	N	F	F	E	F	F					
VIII. ASSAM	F	F	F	N	E	N	N	F	N	E	E	F	F	F	E	N	N					
IX. BIHAR & ORISSA																						
1 Bihar	F	N	E	F	E	E	E	F	N	E	F	F	S	F	S	S	E					
2 Orissa	E	E	E	N	N	F	N	E	E	N	S	F	E	E	N	N	F					
3 Chota Nagpur	E	F	S	S	E	N	N	N	F	S	S	S	N	E	S	S	E					
X. UNITED PROVINCES																						
1 East	N	E	N	F	F	E	E	F	S	F	S	S	S	N	S	S	S					
2 West	E	N	F	F	F	E	N	N	N	S	S	F	F	F	S	S	S					
XI. PUNJAB																						
1 East & North	E	N	S	S	F	E	S	E	S	S	S	N	N	E	S	S	S					
2 South West	E	E	S	S	S	N	S	E	S	S	S	S	E	E	S	S	S					
XII. NORTHWEST FRONTIER	S	E	S	S	F	S	S	E	S	S	S	E	E	F	S	S	S					
XIII. RAJPUTANA																						
1 West	N	F	S	S	S	E	S	E	F	S	S	S	E	E	S	S	E					
2 East	S	E	S	S	F	S	F	N	N	S	S	E	E	E	S	S	E					
XIV. BURMA																						
1 Lower	E	E	F	N	F	F	N	N	N	N	N	F	E	N	F	N	F					
2 Upper	E	N	E	E	E	E	F	F	F	E	E	F	F	E	F	F						

NOTES—
 * The data for the Indus River refer to Calendar weeks.
 in the chart is a variation from 80 to 120 the true normal; "Excess" means more than 120% of 40 to 80%; "Scanty" below 40%. The values are communicated by the Director General of Observatories, Simla. Calculation is made in his office on the sum of the rainfall readings for recording stations in the Rainfall Divisions, excluding Hill Stations.
 The readings of levels of the Indus in are communicated by the Indus River Commission, and the normal and deviations from the normal are according to values for any given week ascertained from the P. W. D.

Labour Intelligence—Indian and Foreign
 Industrial Disputes in the Presidency

Disputes in August .. 6 Workpeople involved .. 170,982

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

I.—Industrial Disputes Classified by Trades

Trade	Number of disputes in progress in August 1928			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in August 1928	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in August 1928
	Started before August	Started in August	Total		
Textile	3	3	6	170,982	4,151,788
Transport					
Engineering ..					
Metal					
Miscellaneous					
Total	3	3	6	170,982	4,151,788

During the month under review the number of industrial disputes was six, of which two occurred in Bombay City, two in Viramgaum and one each in Ahmedabad and Sholapur. One of the disputes in Bombay City was a general strike which affected 68 cotton mills, two silk mills and one bleaching mill. The number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 170,982 and the number of working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days, less workers replaced) was 4,151,788.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

II—Industrial Disputes—Causes and Results, April 1928 to August 1928

	April 1928	May 1928	June 1928	July 1928	August 1928
Number of strikes and lock-outs ..	10	8	7	6	6
Disputes in progress at beginning ..	2	2*	4	4	3
Fresh disputes begun ..	8	6	3	2	3
Disputes ended ..	5	4	3	3	3
Disputes in progress at end ..	5	4	4	3	3
Number of workpeople involved ..	163,770	164,089	166,156	170,780	170,982
Aggregate duration in working days ..	1,314,041	4,243,194	4,111,847	4,141,454	4,151,788
Demands—					
Pay ..	4	3	3	2	3
Bonus ..	...	...	...	...	...
Personal ..	2	1	1	1	1
Leave and hours ..	...	...	...	...	...
Others ..	4	4	3	2	2
Results—					
In favour of employees ..	...	...	...	...	...
Compromised ..	...	...	...	...	...
In favour of employers ..	5	2	3	...	...

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.)
September 1927 ..	8	6	7	23,156	86	14	...
October ..	7	6	5	4,297	100	...	...
November ..	5	3	5	2,103	100	...	...
December ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
January 1928 ..	3	3	1	377,121	...	...	100
February ..	10	8	8	249,063	87	13	...
March ..	14	12	12	72,239	92	8	...
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	...

* These 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 August 1928 was three as against two in the previous month. The number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 904 and the number of working days lost amounted to 2200. One of the disputes arose over a question of wages, one over a question regarding the employment of an individual and one over a "miscellaneous cause". In addition, three disputes, including the General Strike in the Bombay textile mills, involving 170,078 work-people in all, were in progress at the beginning of the month under review and resulted in a time loss amounting to 4,149,588 man-days. Out of the six old and new disputes, settlements were arrived at in three cases. The results were favourable to the employers in two cases and to the workers in one case.

Progress of Individual Disputes

BOMBAY

There were two industrial disputes in progress in Bombay City during the month under review. One of these was the continuation of the General Strike in the Textile Industry. The millowners put up notices on the 3rd intimating that the mills would be re-opened by groups from the 6th on the New Standard Muster and Standard Rates of wages as framed by the Millowners' Association. An assurance was given that there would be adequate police protection for all workers who were willing to resume work. The Joint Strike Committee held frequent meetings of the strikers and issued Marathi leaflets exhorting the millhands to refrain from returning to work until their demands were granted. Picketing at the mills was also strengthened. According to programme the millowners opened four groups of mills on the 6th, 8th, 10th and the 13th but, owing to the efforts of the strike leaders, none of the strikers turned up for work. At this stage Dr. Deshmukh, the President of the Bombay Municipal Corporation, conducted negotiations with the representatives of the Joint Strike Committee as well as of the Millowners' Association with a view to persuading them to agree to the appointment of a Conciliation Board by Government in order to bring about a settlement of the dispute.

At this stage in accordance with the promise given to the Legislative Council at the last Poona session, Government called a conference of representatives of the millowners and the Strike Committee in order to ascertain whether both parties were agreeable to a Conciliation Board, and if so, what the terms of reference to that Board should be. The Conference took place at the Secretariat on August 15th and 16th and a report was published in the August issue of the *Labour Gazette* on page 1044.

The Conference having failed to arrive at a settlement Dr. Deshmukh arranged for informal discussions between Mr. F. Stones of Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co. and certain representatives of the Strike Committee, with an ex-mill manager as adviser to the latter, regarding the fairness of the standard rates of wages prepared by the millowners. On the 28th, the Strike Committee decided to evolve their own scheme of standardisation and appointed a Sub-committee for the purpose. Towards the close of the month the Joint Strike Committee also appointed a Strike Settlement Committee with instructions to adopt a conciliatory policy and to endeavour to bring about a settlement with the millowners on the grant of either of the three following terms:—

- (1) Pre-strike wages, that is to say, the wages which the labourers drew in March 1928 plus some percentage over it; or,
- (2) The millowners' standardised wages plus some percentages over the same; or,
- (3) Wages which prevailed in 1925.

The Joint Strike Committee distributed relief doles to the strikers five times during the month. The total number of instances in which relief was given amounted to about 130,000. The funds at the disposal of the Committee were fast running out and as a consequence, only rice was doled out to the strikers on one occasion. The Mayor's Relief Fund Committee continued to feed the strikers' children. During the month under review, the number of children fed from the Fund amounted to nearly 10,000 per day. This strike continued into the next month.

The second dispute was the continuation of the strike of the millhands of the Swadeshi Mill and the Kurla Spinning and Weaving Mill at Kurla. There was no change in the strike situation during the month under review. As usual a few workers of each mill turned up for work daily but the mills remained closed. Picketing was carried on as usual. On the 14th, two picketers were arrested by the Police for obstructing an employee of the Swadeshi mill from going into the mill for work. This dispute continued into the next month.

AHMEDABAD

There was one industrial dispute in progress in Ahmedabad and it occurred in the New Swadeshi Weaving, Spinning and Manufacturing Mill. The management of the mill dispensed with the services of a weaving master on the 26th July. On the instigation of the dismissed weaving master, a weaver started playing mischief in the mill. This weaver was dismissed on the 5th August. Thereupon 334 weavers struck work in sympathy and demanded his reinstatement. The management dispensed with the services of the strikers on the 7th and notified that their outstanding wages would be paid on the 8th. The strike thus ended in favour of the employers.

VIRAMGAUM

Two disputes were in progress in Viramgaum during the month under review. In the Chandroday Mill, 285 weavers struck work in the afternoon on the 2nd alleging reductions in wages. They demanded that the old rates of wages should be continued. There was no change in the situation

till the 6th on which date a settlement was arrived at on the basis that the strikers should be given wages at the old rates which were in accordance with the usual rates of wages paid in the Ahmedabad mills. The result of this dispute was in favour of the workers.

The second was a dispute which affected the Chandroday Mill for the second time during the month under review. On the 7th, 285 weavers again struck work protesting against the system of operatives being obliged to take passes from the mill authorities for going out of the mill during working hours. They stated that the system did not obtain in the Ahmedabad mills and should therefore be done away with. The management began to engage new hands in place of the strikers, who, however, issued handbills stating that their wages had been reduced and that they had been harassed by the management in several other ways; and requesting outsiders not to accept employment in their place in the mill. The management were, nevertheless, able to secure the necessary number of new hands and by the 16th the weaving department resumed normal working. The strike ended in favour of the employers.

SHOLAPUR

The dispute in the Sholapur textile mills was in progress during the month under review. The Vishnu Mill was reopened on the 2nd when 1200 hands resumed work unconditionally. During the same day 150 additional hands resumed work. On the 3rd, 25 more hands returned to work and all the departments of the mill were working. The attendance at the mill dwindled to 600 on the 6th but again rose to 1300 on the 8th and to 1500 on the 9th. There was practically no change in the attendance at this mill during the rest of the month.

On the 8th, 170 weavers of the Jam Mill joined the strike. The ring department of the mill was also affected and was closed on the 21st for want of workers. The attendance in this department improved during the following days and normal working was resumed on the 28th.

On the 22nd, 363 weavers and 344 reelers of the Narsinggirji Mill struck work as they did not get any reply from the management to certain representations made by them. None of the strikers resumed work during the rest of the month, but the mill continued working partially.

The Laxmi Mill continued to remain closed. Daily meetings of the strikers were held by the local Labour Union whose officials exhorted the men to remain firm till their demands were granted. Some of the labour leaders connected with the conduct of the General Strike in the Bombay textile mills also addressed certain meetings of the strikers whom they exhorted to carry on the fight to a finish. They suggested that a general strike of all the millhands in Sholapur would enable the strikers to gain their objects, and advised the men to start picketing the mills. The Labour Union enlisted volunteers from amongst the strikers and started a campaign of organised picketing from the 25th. Despite the picketing carried on by the strikers, the affected mills continued working with partial complements. Certain picketers were arrested for causing obstruction to traffic on the public roads, and were fined. The Union volunteers, thereupon began to picket the chawls occupied by the millhands. The managements

of the affected mills engaged motor lorries to carry willing workers, especially half-timers and women, to the mills and back to their homes. They also appointed their own men to induce the strikers to resume work and to see that those millhands who were willing to return to work were not molested by the Union's volunteers. Relief doles consisting of 4 to 8 seers of jowari and $\frac{1}{2}$ a seer of dal were distributed by the Labour Union to some needy strikers on the 16th, the 23rd and the 24th. This dispute continued into the next month.

We are asked to state with reference to the report, published on p. 1042 of our issue of August, of the Sholapur mill strike that work was resumed in pursuance of a compromise arrived at between the workers and the management. The latter has never recognised the Labour Union as such. Normal working was resumed on the 6th and not the 10th.

Accidents

STATISTICS FOR MAY TO AUGUST 1928

(Supplied by the Chief Inspector of Factories)

The statistics of accidents in factories and workshops in the Bombay Presidency published at the end of this issue, contain details of accidents reported during the four months, May to August 1928, in Bombay City, Ahmedabad, Karachi and other centres of the Presidency. During May to August 1928 there were 1095 accidents in Bombay City. The injuries caused by these accidents were fatal in 4 cases, serious in 104 and minor in 987 cases. One hundred and seven or 10 per cent. of the accidents were due to Machinery in motion and the rest to other causes. The largest number of accidents occurred in workshops, the percentages in different classes of factories being 94 per cent. in workshops, 2 per cent. in textile mills and 4 per cent. in miscellaneous concerns.

During the four months under review there were in all 154 accidents in Ahmedabad of which 151 occurred in textile mills and the rest in miscellaneous concerns. Out of the total number of accidents, 101 were due to Machinery in motion and 53 to other causes. Five of these accidents proved fatal, 98 caused serious and the rest minor injuries.

In Karachi there were 18 accidents, out of which 10 occurred in workshops and 8 in miscellaneous concerns. Out of the total number of accidents, four were due to Machinery in motion and the remaining 14 to other causes. Nine of these accidents caused serious and the rest minor injuries.

In the other centres of the Presidency there occurred 218 accidents of which 59 were in textile mills, 125 in workshops and 34 in miscellaneous concerns. Machinery in motion was the cause of 71 accidents, while other causes were responsible for the remaining 147 accidents. The injuries caused by these accidents were fatal in 2 cases, serious in 72 cases and minor in 147 cases.

Prosecutions under the Indian Factories Act in August

AHMEDABAD

The occupier and the manager of a cotton ginning factory were prosecuted under Section 41 (a) for breach of Section 24 read with Rule 75 for employing certain women before the legal hours. They were both convicted and fined jointly Rs. 40 in each of seven cases.

The manager of a cotton pressing factory was prosecuted under Section 41 (f) for breach of Section 18 (1) (a) for not fencing the engine-fly wheel. The manager was convicted and fined Rs. 50.

BELGAUM

The manager of a cotton ginning factory was prosecuted under Section 41 (a) for breach of Section 24 read with Rule 75 for employing certain women after the legal hours. He was convicted and fined Rs. 25 in each of six cases.

DHARWAR

The manager of a cotton ginning factory was prosecuted under Section 41 (a) for breach of Section 26 for employing certain persons out-side the hours specified in the time-table. He was convicted and fined Rs. 5 in each of six cases.

The manager of a second ginning factory was prosecuted under Section 41 (a) for breach of Section 22. The manager was convicted and fined Rs. 5 in each of six cases.

EAST KHANDESH

The manager of a cotton ginning factory was prosecuted under Section 41 (g) for breach of an order under Section 19-A of the Act prohibiting the admission of young children into the ginning house where the machinery was at work, whereby a girl was injured and died subsequently of the injuries received. The manager was convicted and fined Rs. 75. The Court awarded Rs. 60 out of the fine to be paid to the father of the girl as compensation.

Employment Situation in August

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 45 or 66·18 per cent. of the mills reported as working at the various centres of the Presidency except Bombay City where the General Strike in the Textile Industry was in progress throughout the month. On account of this fact, the Presidency average of percentage absenteeism in the Textile Industry as a whole has not been worked out for the month of August.

As all the mills but one in Bombay City were affected by the General Strike, no statistics of absenteeism have been compiled for this centre.

In Ahmedabad 59 mills were working during the month and 38 or 64·41 per cent. furnished information. Absenteeism amounted to 3·66 per cent. as against 3·49 per cent. in July 1928. The supply of labour was equal to the demand.

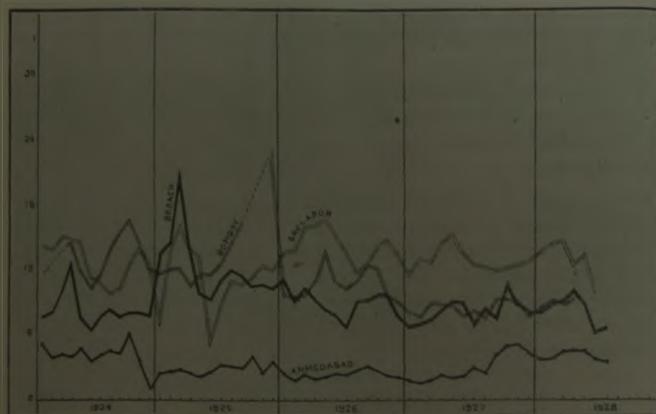
Returns were submitted by five mills in Sholapur. None of these reported any shortage in the supply of labour and the average percentage absenteeism amounted to 14·37.

Information was supplied by only one mill in Viramgaum which was working during the month. The percentage absenteeism amounted to 2·17 as against 1·75 in July 1928.

Only one mill in Broach supplied information and reported that the supply of labour was adequate. The absenteeism amounted to 9·43 per cent. as against 6·71 per cent. in the preceding month.

Taking the industry as a whole, the supply of labour was adequate in all the centres studied.

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



THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

In the Engineering industry in Bombay City the supply of labour was adequate. The average absenteeism in representative workshops was 10·83 per cent. as against 11·12 per cent. in the previous month. In the Marine Lines Reclamation Scheme absenteeism was 5 per cent. and in the Bombay Port Trust Docks it amounted to 14·47 per cent. The average absenteeism in the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust was 7·40 per cent.

The Karachi Port Trust found both skilled and ordinary labour available in plenty. On an average 5 per cent. of the labourers absented themselves from work during the month under review.

Labour News from Ahmedabad

There have been several disputes lately in Ahmedabad which have not reached the point of a strike or lock-out, as negotiations between the Labour Union and the employers have resulted in settlements being arrived at.

A noteworthy feature of recent labour disputes has been that the intervention of the Millowners' Association was sought in all cases and ultimatums were issued by the Labour Union to the Millowners' Association as well as to the mills concerned demanding replies within a fixed time limit and threatening them with strikes or other extreme measures in case of non-compliance. This is indicative of the new spirit the Union is developing and which is reflected in the following resolutions passed by the Council of Representatives of the Labour Union. It is claimed that the recent disputes as well as the resolutions passed have effected a salutary change in the attitude of millowners towards the Labour Union. Opposition to organizing the Union in mills is said to be dwindling. A free translation of the important portions of the resolutions is given below :

1. If more than sixty per cent. of the workers of a mill are members of the Union an effort should be made to enrol the remaining members also. If, in spite of the effort, they do not join the Union the Secretary is authorized to arrange for the Unionists to refuse to work with the non-Unionists. As it is not desirable that the Union should depend upon the sympathy of the mills only the Secretary is recommended to enlist members by localities also side by side with enrolling members by mills.

2. In order to put an end to the practice of taking bribes at the time of engaging workers, the Union should arrange for supplying labour and open a Labour Exchange for this purpose.

3. In order to further the propaganda work of the Union and to assist in its other activities a Volunteer Corps should be established.

4. In order that there may be no necessity for a general strike and to ensure the success of a particular strike all millworkers should take a vow not to act as black-legs in case any mill refuses to accept the demand of the Union for arbitration and a strike has therefore to be declared.

The above resolutions relate mainly to the Thrustle Union. Forms have been printed for taking the signatures of workers promising not to act as black-legs. About one hundred volunteers have already enlisted themselves and they are being trained and taught *lathi-play*.

Agricultural Outlook in the Presidency

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

The weather and crop reports received so far go to show that excellent rains have now been received almost throughout the East Deccan and the

Karnatak where they were badly wanted and the agricultural outlook, in consequence, is now generally satisfactory almost throughout the Presidency.

The situation regarding crops and rainfall, as it appears at the present moment in the various divisions of the Bombay Presidency, may be briefly summarised as follows :—

Gujarat.—Since the submission of the last report the standing crops are developing generally satisfactorily owing to beneficial rains at end of August. The weather has been almost clear during the last fortnight with the result that weeding and other agricultural operations continued smoothly. The crops at present are in a promising state, except in South Surat and Ahmedabad where more rain is still needed for the rice crop.

Konkan.—The condition of all the crops is generally satisfactory almost everywhere during the period under review. The rainfall has been sufficient and well distributed and the general agricultural outlook is quite satisfactory in consequence.

Deccan and Karnatak.—In the Western portion of these two divisions the crops have been progressing well generally but their position was rather unsatisfactory especially in the more eastern tracts of these two divisions owing to want of sufficient moisture till about the middle of September. The general complaint was that, though the crops somewhat improved by rains at end of August, the rain was not as substantial or general as it should have been and the situation was thus one of suspense and anxiety till about the middle of September. Fortunately this complaint has, however, been removed by the excellent rains received during the last few days and the outlook is generally excellent.

Labour Situation in Japan

SEAMEN STRIKE FOR MINIMUM WAGES

A seamen's strike of unprecedented extent in Japan terminated on 8th June 1928 with the establishment, for the first time in that country, of a minimum wage scale for maritime workers.

On 9th May, the Seamen's Union presented to the Japanese Shipowners' Association and to the Kawasaki Steamship Company, which is not a member of the Association, a demand for the institution of a minimum wage scale. The Seamen's Union is a well-organised body with a total membership of nearly 55,000. The Japanese Shipowners' Association is composed of 174 separate steamship concerns (excluding the companies in receipt of a Government subsidy, such as the *Nippon Yusen Kaisha* and the *Osaka Shosen Kaisha*), owning 936 vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 3,072,000 (nearly 75 per cent. of Japan's total tonnage).

The Kawasaki Steamship Company accepted almost the whole of the Union's demands; but the decision of the Shipowners' Association was delayed because of the difficulty of securing unanimity in such a large body. The dispute was finally referred for settlement to the Joint Maritime Board.

Conciliation officers were elected by both sides, and negotiations took place from 31st May to 5th June. Both sides proved unyielding, however, and a strike was declared on 5th June. It is reported that nearly 300 vessels were held up in various Japanese ports.

The gravity of the situation finally led shipowners and seamen to submit the points in dispute to the arbitration of a neutral body composed of Government officials and businessmen, through whose influence the following minimum wage scale, to become effective from 1st July, was accepted :—

Minimum Monthly Wages of Seamen (in yen)

Class of crew	Sea service	Size of vessel		
		More than 500 tons	1,500 to 3,500 tons	More than 3,500 tons
Leading fireman, boatswain	8 years	65	70	75
Carpenter	..	60	65	70
Helmsman, oiler, cook	4 years	50	55	57
Sailor, fireman, cook's mate	1½	35	38	40
Steward	1½	35	38	38

(From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, August 13, 1928.)

Workmen's Compensation Act

Details of Proceedings

Information furnished by all the Commissioners in the Presidency for the month of August 1928 shows that out of 44 cases disposed of during the month 36 were reported by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner in Bombay. The cases which were transferred from one commissioner to another have not been included in the statistics. The gross amount of compensation awarded in lump sums was Rs. 22,173-1-0 as against Rs. 23,064-15-0 in the previous month and Rs. 13,667-7-0 in August 1927. Out of the 44 cases in which compensation was claimed, 17 were in respect of fatal accidents, two of temporary disablement and 25 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 38. The corresponding figures for August 1927 were 26 and 23.

The total number of claimants for compensation in all the cases disposed of during the month was 44, of whom 42 were adult males, one an adult female and one a female below 15 years of age.

Out of the cases disposed of during the month under review, 23 were original claims, 16 registrations of agreements and 5 miscellaneous applications. Compensation was awarded in 26 cases, agreements were registered in 17 cases and one case was dismissed.

Administration of the Workmen's Compensation Act

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1927*

The following is the text of the Report submitted to Government by the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, Bombay, covering the year 1927.

Returns

Return "A"—The number of applications pending at the commencement of the year was 26 as against 19 in the previous year. During the year under report 329 applications were filed and 7 were received for disposal from other Commissioners under section 21 (2) of the Act as against 242 and 7 respectively during the preceding year. Of the total number of the 362 applications, 54 were in respect of fatal accidents for which compensation not having been deposited under section 8 (1), the dependants took action as provided in Rule 8 (1) of the Workmen's Compensation Rules, 1924; 144 applications related to accidents resulting in permanent disablement; 6 to temporary disablement; 150 applications were for distribution of compensation deposited under section 8 (1); 7 for recovery of compensation already awarded under section 31 and the remaining 1 was miscellaneous. The corresponding figures for the last year were 55, 92, 13, 101, 5 and 2 respectively.

Of these 362 applications, 14 were transferred to other Commissioners for disposal; 9 were withdrawn; 2 were summarily dismissed under Rule 21; 183 were admitted by the opposite party; 4 were allowed *ex-parte* and 116 applications were contested, thus leaving a balance of 34 applications pending at the close of the year.

Of the 116 applications that were contested, 22 were allowed in full, 68 in part and the remaining 26 applications were dismissed.

Of the 131 applications for distribution that were disposed of during the year, 3 applications were sent to officers authorised under Rule 20, for recording evidence. In no case of distribution the employers desired to be made a party to the distribution proceedings during the whole year.

Of the 7 applications for recovery, in 3 the amount of compensation was deposited on receipt of notice. In 1 the recovery was made by Collector and the remaining 3 were pending.

The miscellaneous application was for modifying the order for distribution already passed. It was, however, dismissed. The total number of applications disposed of during the year, was 328 as against 242 in the previous year. The court fees recovered on all these applications amounted to Rs. 800-6-0 as against Rs. 638-10-0 in the previous year.

It appears from the statements of deposits received and disposed of that at the beginning of the year there was a balance of Rs. 30,279-8-0 in the hands of the Commissioners in respect of deposits received under section 8 (1) and 8 (2) as against Rs. 20,540-6-0 in the previous year. During the year under report, Rs. 1,88,080-13-2 were deposited of which Rs. 1,56,515-3-0 represented deposits under section 8 (1) in respect of fatal accidents and Rs. 31,565-10-2 under section 8 (2) for non-fatal

* Copies of the Report can be had from the Superintendent of Government Printing and Stationery, Bombay, Price Rs. 8 or 10d. per copy.

accidents as against Rs. 1,17,273 and Rs. 20,986-13-6 respectively received during 1926. Of the total amount of Rs. 2,18,360-5-2, Rs. 1,88,632-13-2 were paid to different claimants thus leaving a balance of Rs. 29,727-8-0 in the hands of the various Commissioners in the Presidency. Out of the amount of Rs. 1,88,632-13-2, that was paid out Rs. 4822-8-0 were returned to different employers under section 8 (4) in respect of 7 deposits as no dependants came forward to claim the deposits.

Of the 35 applications that were either withdrawn or dismissed after contest, in 6 the employers made *ex-gratia* payments amounting to Rs. 2320 to the applicants looking to their helpless condition though under the Act the applicants had no claims whatsoever.

Out of the 68 applications that were allowed in part, 6 were referred to the arbitration of the Commissioners under Rule 35 of the Workmen's Compensation Rules.

Since the introduction of the Act, there has been no case of commutation under section 7 or of review under section 6.

Return "B."—At the commencement of the year, there were 17 applications for registration of agreements pending as against 9 in the previous year. All these were in respect of permanent disablement. During the year under report 244 applications were received of which 241 related to cases of permanent disablement and the remaining 3 were in respect of cases of temporary disablement for commutation of half-monthly payments. During the year, in 234 cases agreements were registered of which 232 were registered as filed and 2 were registered after modification. In 1 case the agreement was not registered on account of inadequacy of compensation agreed upon. In that case, however, an order for additional compensation was made in favour of the workman under section 28 (1) (d) of the Act. This left a balance of 26 applications pending for registration at the end of the year as against 17 in the preceding year. The amount of compensation involved in all these 234 agreements that were registered came to Rs. 52,639-11-8 as against Rs. 45,499-10-5 in the last year.

Return "C."—During the year under report, compensation was awarded in 273 cases as against 196 in 1926. Of these 273 cases, 268 were in respect of adults and 5 in respect of minors. Of the 268 cases in respect of adults, 4 related to temporary disablement, 103 were in respect of permanent disablement and 161 related to fatal accidents. Of the 5 cases in respect of minors, 4 related to permanent disablement, the remaining 1 being of fatal accidents. The corresponding figures for temporary disablement, permanent disablement and fatal accidents in respect of adults in the preceding year were 6, 66 and 122 respectively and those in respect of minors were 1 for permanent disablement and 1 for fatal accidents. It is apparent from this return that the largest number of workmen who received compensation during the year belonged to the class whose wages were Rs. 25 per month and next to that was the class of persons whose monthly wages were Rs. 20 as in the last year. In only 5 cases of fatal accidents maximum compensation was given. In no case of non-fatal accidents maximum compensation was given during the year.

A comparative statement (Appendix "A") of proceedings before the Commissioners for 1925, 1926 and 1927 will show that there is a general increase in the work. A marked increase, however, will be found in the number of applications for permanent disablement. The number rose from 66 in 1926 to 132 in 1927. This appears to be due to the Act getting wider publicity. Similar increase will be observed in the number of applications for distribution. This number rose from 92 in 1926 to 132 in the year under report, which shows that employers in general are taking less contentious attitude and are helping a great deal in the administration of the Act in its right spirit.

The number of applications for registration of agreements will also be found to be slightly increased. The number of agreements rose from 121 in 1925 to 214 in 1926 and 244 in 1927. The rise, however, is in proportion to the increase in the number of accidents resulting in permanent disablement.

During the year under report so far as this office is aware only 1 appeal has been filed in the High Court against the decisions of the Commissioner by the employer and it is still pending; the 1 that was pending last year was decided by the High Court. In that case the order appealed against was confirmed with costs.

Returns under section 16.—As in the last year forms of returns were sent to about 1400 employers. About 100 employers submitted returns though no forms were supplied to them. Most of these employers were insured for the purposes of compensation and the returns were submitted by the Insurance Companies in pursuance of the amended notification of the Government of India regarding the submission of returns. In all, returns were received from about 1100 employers only. Of these 1100 returns, 390 were received only after reminders were sent. During the year under report about 125 factories remained closed; about 175 employers did not submit returns at all. Of the 125 factories that remained closed, forms sent to about 30 factories were returned undelivered either as they were closed or there was change in address. On the whole, however, the attempt to bring to the notice of the employers the provisions of section 16 and the notification issued thereunder has had a satisfactory result in getting statistics.

From the consolidated statement attached to the report, in respect of these 1100 returns it will appear that the average number of workmen employed daily was as follows:—382,424 adults and 7987 minors were employed in factories; 10,633 adults and 4 minors were employed in mines; 4270 adults and 1 minor were employed in tramways; 7377 adults and 25 minors were employed in the port trust and 1350 adults and 8 minors were employed in other miscellaneous concerns. The total number of accidents in all these concerns was 3189 of which 76 were fatal, 250 resulted in permanent disablement and 2863 in temporary disablement as against 4299, 59, 184 and 4056 respectively in the preceding year. The compensation paid for these accidents was Rs. 58,248 in respect of fatal accidents; Rs. 58,884-13-10 for permanent disablement and Rs. 48,997-13-5 for temporary disablement as against Rs. 42,311-8-0, Rs. 43,769-3-11 and Rs. 46,011-3-5 respectively paid in the preceding

year. These figures do not include the number of accidents to persons employed in connection with the services of railways and the compensation paid for them, as returns in that respect are submitted direct to the Railway Board.

Though the number of returns received for the year under report exceeds that received for the preceding year by more than 50 per cent., there is no proportionate increase in the number of employees. This may be due to the introduction of the new form of return. The old form required only the number employed. The new form, however, requires emphatically the average number of workers employed daily. It might, therefore, be that in the last year's returns the number given was not the average number but actual number. These returns show a notable decrease in the number of accidents. If the figures of accidents resulting in death, permanent disablement and temporary disablement are taken separately it will be seen that the number of fatal accidents rose from 59 to 76; that of permanent disablement from 184 to 251. Only the number of accidents resulting in temporary disablement decreased from 4055 in 1926 to 2863 in 1927. The amount of compensation paid in respect of all these accidents was more by Rs. 33,038-11-11 than that given in the preceding year.

No case of industrial diseases has so far come up for decision nor has any case been reported by any employer.

During the year under report, the Commissioner had to go out on 12 occasions for hearing cases in the Districts under his jurisdiction and had to visit places of accidents in connection with local inspection on 24 occasions.

Under section 20 (2) persons possessing expert knowledge were called as assessors to help the Commissioner in holding enquiries only on one occasion.

The sympathetic co-operation on the part of the Millowners Mutual Insurance Association, Bombay, the Bombay Claims Bureau representing a large number of Insurance Companies and various other Insurance Companies on the one hand and the Labour Union, Ahmedabad, the Social Service League, Bombay, and the Bombay Claims and General Agency on the other helped in no small measure to decide claims for compensation in a satisfactory manner to all concerned. Special mention also should be made of the very sympathetic attitude taken by the B. B. and C. I. Railway in the settlement of claims under this Act. The Commissioner received valuable help from the Factories Department generally. Specially Mr. Johnstone, the Chief Inspector of Factories, gave very useful advice.

One feature in connection with the administration of this Act that deserves to be noted is that an appreciable number of serious accidents take place in small concerns that are not covered by this Act. These are purely industrial accidents resulting from the use of machinery worked with electricity or oil engines as motive power. With the spread of the use of oil engines and the introduction of electricity in District Towns and other places in the Presidency, these accidents are bound to increase.

Return A

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Proceedings before the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation in
Return of cases filed

1. Application for the registration of agreements should not be entered
2. Proceedings should only be entered under distribution if they are in a form they should be done under Award of Compensation.

Applications	Filed	Transferred to other Commissioners for disposal	Dismissed for non-appearance	Dismissed	
				Rule 21	Rule 22
Award of compensation (under section 10):					
Fatal accidents					1
Permanent disablement ..		1			
Temporary disablement ..					1
Total ..		1			
(under	132	13			
	7				
	1				
		13			

Old Custom House,
Bombay.

ACT (VIII OF 1923)

the Bombay Presidency for the year ending 31st December 1927

in this statement.

continued to dependents of the deceased workmen where the employer is liable by Rule 6 (2).

Admitted by opposite party	Allowed ex-parte	Total	CONTESTED			Total disposed of	Pending at conclusion	Court fees paid
			Allowed	Allowed in part	Dismissed			
8			6	17	5	28	43	Rs. a. p.
41	4	49	12		20	82	131	187 10 0
3		4				1	5	225 2 0
52	4	68	18	68	25	111	179	1 8 2 0
131		144					144	25 420 14 0
			4			4	4	3 3 8 0
					1	1	1	0 8 0
131		144	4		1	5	149	9 379 8 0

N. M. PATVARDHAN,
Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation,
Bombay.

Return B

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT (VIII OF 1923)

Registration of agreements by the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation in the Bombay Presidency for the year ending 31st December 1927

Applications for registration of agreements to	Pending at commencement	Filed	Registered as filed	Registered after modification	NOT REGISTERED ON ACCOUNT OF		Total disposed of	Pending at conclusion
					Inadequacy	Other causes		
Payment	17	241	230	2	1	..	233	25
Compensation temporary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Commutation of half-monthly payments	..	3	2	..	..	..	2	1

N. M. PATVARDHAN,

Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation,
Bombay.Old Custom House,
Bombay.

Return C

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT (VIII OF 1923)

Proceedings before the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation in the Bombay Presidency for the year ending 31st December 1927

Instances of persons in each wage class to whom compensation was awarded

(Commutation, Review, etc., cases should be excluded)

	Assumed wage (see Schedule IV)	Number of Persons			
		For temporary disablement	For permanent disablement	For fatal accidents	Total numbers
ADULTS.	Rs. a. p.				
	8 0 0	..	1	3	4
	10 0 0	..	2	5	7
	12 0 0	..	7	24	31
	15 4 0	..	2	30	45
	20 0 0	..	15	34	66
	25 0 0	..	32	19	32
	30 0 0	..	13	15	24
	35 0 0	..	7	8	17
	40 0 0	..	2	7	12
	46 4 0	..	7	5	12
	55 0 0	..	3	2	5
	65 0 0	..	1	5	13
	75 0 0	..	..	..	..
83 5 4	..	..	..	..
Total, Adults	..	4	103	161	268
MINORS.	Rs. a. p.				
	8 0 0	..	..	..	..
	10 0 0	..	..	..	..
	12 0 0	..	2	..	2
	15 4 0	..	..	..	..
	20 0 0	..	1	..	1
	25 0 0	..	1	..	1
	30 0 0	..	..	..	..
	35 0 0	..	..	..	..
	40 0 0	..	..	..	..
	46 4 0	..	..	..	..
	55 0 0	..	..	..	..
	65 0 0	..	..	..	..
	75 0 0	..	..	..	..
83 5 4	..	..	..	..
Total, Minors	..	..	4	1	5
Grand Totals	..	4	107	162	273

N. M. PATVARDHAN,

Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation,
Bombay.Old Custom House,
Bombay.

Consolidated statement of Returns furnished by
Province.—Bombay

	Numbers employed	Numbers resulting in			Compensation Rs. a. p.
		Death	Permanent disablement	Temporary disablement	
<i>Factories</i>	382,424	70	241	2,787	53,148 0 0
Adults ..	7,987	.....	3	3	.....
Minors ..	.....	.....	.....	23	.....
<i>Miner</i>	10,633	.....	.....	.....	.....
Adults ..	4	.....	.....	.....	.....
Minors ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<i>Transport</i>	4,270	3	2	30	2,700 0 0
Adults ..	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Minors ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<i>Port Trust</i>	7,337	3	4	17	2,400 0 0
Adults ..	25	.....	.....	.....	.....
Minors ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<i>Others</i>	1,350	.....	.....	3	.....
Adults ..	8	.....	.....	.....	.....
Minors ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total, Adults ..	406,054	76	247	2,860	58,248 0 0
Total, Minors ..	8,025	.....	3	3	.....

Old Custom House,
Bombay.

COMPENSATION

relating to period from 1st January to 31st December 1927

Presidency

paid for		Diseases					
		Numbers resulting in			Compensation paid for		
Permanent disablement	Temporary disablement	Death	Permanent disablement	Temporary disablement	Death	Permanent disablement	Temporary disablement
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	..	..	..	..	..	..
56,477 11 10	47,724 13 7	..	.....	.....	..	.....	.....
76 2 0	206 3 2	..	.....	.....	..	.....	.....
.....	177 11 9	..	.....	.....	..	.....	.....
.....
714 0 0	511 12 11	..	.....	.....	..	.....	.....
.....
1,617 0 0	315 10 0	..	.....	.....	..	.....	.....
.....
.....	61 10 0	..	.....	.....	..	.....	.....
.....
58,808 11 10	48,791 10 3	..	.....	.....	..	.....	.....
76 2 0	206 3 2	..	.....	.....	..	.....	.....

N. M. PATVARDHAN,
Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation,
Bombay.

Appendix A

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Comparative statement of the proceedings before the Commissioners years 1927.

Applications for	Pending at commencement	Filed	Transferred to other	Received for disposal from other Commissioners	Withdrawn	Dismissed on appearance	Summarily		Admitted by opposite party
							under Rule 21	under Rule 22	
Award of Compensation (under section 10)									
Fatal accidents	2 5 49 45	52 49 2	..	1 ..	6 4	..	1 ..	..	8 18 15
Permanent disablement	11 6 84 66	132 84 66	1 ..	1 ..	3 4 1	1 ..	..	..	41 24 22
Temporary disablement	1 13 9	5 13 9	..	..	..	..	1 2	..	3 .. 2
Total	14 11 146 120	189 146 120	1 1 2	1 3	9 4 5	1 ..	2 2	..	52 42 39
Distribution (under section 8)	12 5 2	132 92 103	13 6 1	6 4 3	1 ..	..	2	..	131 82 100
Commutation (under section 7)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Recovery of compensation (under section 31)	3	7 2 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 2
Others	1 2 4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	12 8 2	140 96 112	13 6 1	6 4 3	1	..	..	..	131 82 102

Old Custom House,
Bombay.

ACT (VIII OF 1923)

for Workmen's Compensation in the Bombay Presidency for the 1926 and 1925

Allowed ex-parte	Total	CONTESTED				Total disposed of	Pending at conclusion	Court fees paid	Year
		Allowed	Allowed in part	Dismissed	Total				
..	15	6	17	5	28	43	11	187 10 0	1927
2	18	8	15	12	35	53	2	117 8 0	1926
..	21	7	6	4	17	40	5	102 8 0	1925
4	49	12	50	20	82	131	13	225 2 0	1927
3	30	7	36	8	51	81	11	185 2 0	1926
..	26	3	24	7	34	60	6	129 12 0	1925
..	4	..	1	..	1	5	1	8 2 0	1927
..	2	3	3	4	10	12	1	5 0 0	1926
..	2	3	2	2	7	9	..	6 0 0	1925
4	68	18	68	25	111	179	25	420 14 0	1927
5	50	18	54	24	96	146	14	307 10 0	1926
..	49	13	32	13	58	109	11	238 4 0	1925
..	144	..	..	..	..	144	6	375 8 0	1927
..	89	..	..	..	..	89	12	329 0 0	1926
..	102	..	..	..	..	103	5	252 8 0	1925
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1927
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1926
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1925
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1927
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1926
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1925
..	..	4	..	..	4	4	3	3 8 0	1927
..	..	3	..	..	3	5	..	1 0 0	1926
..	2	..	..	..	..	2	3	2 8 0	1925
1	1	..	..	1	1	1	..	0 8 0	1927
2	2	..	1	1	2	2	..	1 0 0	1926
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 0 0	1925
1	144	4	..	1	5	149	9	379 8 0	1927
2	90	3	..	3	6	96	12	331 0 0	1926
..	106	..	1	1	2	109	8	257 0 0	1925

N. M. PATVARDHAN,
Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation,
Bombay.

Appendix A—contd.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT (VIII OF 1923)

Comparative statement of applications for registration of agreements for the years 1927, 1926 and 1925

Applications for registration of agreements relating to	Pending at commencement	Filed	Registered as filed	Registered after modification	NOT REGISTERED ON ACCOUNT OF		Total disposed of	Pending at conclusion	Year
					Inadequacy	Other causes			
Payment of compensation for permanent disablement.		241	230	2	1	..	233	25	1927
		210	199	2	1	..	202	17	1926
	3	116	107	2	1	..	110	9	1925
Payment of compensation for temporary disablement.									1927
									1926
									1925
Commutation of half-monthly payments.		3	2				2	1	1927
		4	4				4		1926
		5	5				5		1925

N. M. PATVARDHAN,

Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation,
Bombay.

Old Custom House,
Bombay.

Failure to give Notice

QUESTION OF SUFFICIENT CAUSE

IN THE COURT OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION, BOMBAY

Application No. 271/B 26 of 1928 for order to deposit compensation under section 8 (1) of Act VIII of 1923.

Durbaldas Sukhali, father of the deceased workman
Devidin Durbaldas, residing at Kalyan.. .. Applicant

against

The G. I. P. Railway by their Agent .. Opposite Party.

Claim—Rs. 750

In this case the dependants of Devidin Durbaldas claimed compensation for his death by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment with the opposite party. The cause of the injury was that when the deceased was working in the Boiler Shop at the Parel Workshops a piece of iron fell on his foot, causing a wound which subsequently became septic and caused his death.

The Railway Company in their written statement admitted the accident and admitted that the man died as the result thereof. But they stated that the accident was not reported, that although adequate provision for free medical treatment was available the man did not avail himself of it but continued at work until eight days after the accident and that his death resulted from his negligence to have the wound attended to before it turned septic. They also pleaded that notice of the accident was not given in accordance with section 10 of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

In the course of his judgment the Commissioner said: "As regards the written statement by the opposite party, that part of it which relates to the negligence of the workman in not obtaining medical treatment cannot be pleaded as a defence where want of notice is also pleaded. That defence is made available by section 11 of the Act where, after notice has been given, an injured workman refuses or neglects treatment. The circumstances as set out in the written statement may be a reason for pleading want of notice under section 10 but they do not of themselves constitute a defence, where that section is also pleaded. The only issue in dispute therefore is whether notice was given in accordance with section 10 of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923."

The Commissioner then reviewed the English Law on the question of notice pointing out that in Great Britain even if notice were not given as soon as practicable and for reasonable cause, the workman could be excused if it was shown that the employer was not prejudiced by want of notice. It was important to remember this distinction because the cases which had been cited were those decided under the English Act of 1906. By the English Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923, however, the question of notice was very considerably simplified. By that Act a notice has to

be posted in every factory, workshop, etc., giving a summary of the requirements of the Workmen's Compensation Act with regard to the giving of notice of accidents and the making of claims. It also provided that the want of or any defect or inaccuracy in the notice of an accident should not be a bar to the maintenance of proceedings for the recovery of compensation if it could be shown that the employer had knowledge of the accident from any source at or about the time of the accident, and notice could be given orally to the employer or to any foreman or other official under whose supervision the workman was employed. For facilitating the giving of notice of accidents a book has to be kept at every factory or workshop, etc., in which the prescribed particulars of the accident could be entered by the injured workman or some other person acting on his behalf, and such an entry was sufficient notice for the purpose of the Act.

The Commissioner pointed out that the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923 contained no provisions of this kind. If it did, the decision in this and in similar cases would be much easier than it is, and the possibilities of hardship being suffered by workmen and their dependants materially reduced. All that the Indian Act says is that the notice must be given in the prescribed form as soon as practicable after the happening of the accident, but that the Commissioner may excuse the not giving of notice as soon as practicable if he is satisfied that the failure to do so was due to sufficient cause. It should be remembered, too, that an objection based on the absence of notice is not to be regarded as a mere technicality. This was very emphatically laid down by the Court of Appeal in the case of *Burvill vs. Vickers, Ltd.*, 9 B. W. C. C., page 50. There Lord Justice Warrington, referring to some remarks made by the County Court Judge says: "He seems to have regarded the objection as to absence of notice as a merely technical objection and, not only that, but as an objection which it was wrong in a moral sense to raise, one therefore to which he ought not, unless he was driven thereto, to give effect. In that view he was, in my opinion, acting contrary to the express provisions of the Statute and to many expressions of opinions in this Court, and he has succeeded in exposing the applicant to a very serious risk of losing the award in her favour."

"It is clear from the wording of section 10, sub-section 2 of the Indian Act," said the Commissioner, "that the notice must be given in writing. It is common knowledge, supported by official reports and statistics, that the standard of literacy among the working classes is extremely low, and it is probable that only a very small percentage of the workmen entitled to receive compensation under the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act could themselves give the notice which is required. This Court is aware from its records that notice in writing is invariably given only when a claim for compensation is about to be made through a Claims Agency or a Trade Union or some other source, certainly not by the individual workman. The Legislature, in framing this legislation, must have been aware of these facts and it seems, therefore, to be plain that mere illiteracy cannot ordinarily be regarded as sufficient cause for not giving notice as prescribed, otherwise the giving of notice as prescribed by the Act would be the exception and not the rule, and it is not open to an officer interpreting judicially an act

of the legislature to assume that a provision was made in the Act which it was intended should be ignored. The Act therefore contemplates that notice should ordinarily be given in writing but its absence under certain extraordinary circumstances can be excused. It has, therefore, been the practice of this Court to excuse the absence of written notice as soon as practicable after the happening of the accident where the employer has had constructive notice, for example, when the injury was treated in the first instance by the employers own medical man or where the injured man has been sent to hospital from the employers premises or where a foreman or somebody in authority has been shown to have been aware of the accident. In interpreting the words 'sufficient cause' the greatest possible latitude has been allowed and it should be stated, in fairness to employers, that it is very rarely indeed that the question of want of notice has been raised; never, to my recollection, in any case where the employer was not sincerely of the opinion that he had been prejudiced by want of notice. In this case the issue has been raised, for reasons which appear to me to be perfectly right and proper, and in considering whether the objection that has been taken should prevail it must be remembered that the absence of notice is not a mere technicality.

"What then are the facts in this case? The workman received an injury on the 18th of April by a piece of iron falling on his foot. There is a dispensary belonging to the employers practically on the premises but the workman did not go there on that day. He continued to carry on his work in the Boiler Shop until the 26th of April. On that day he went to the dispensary and was attended by Dr. Dhunjibhoy who found a contused wound on the right leg just above the inner ankle. The man stated that he had been hurt 8 days previously. Dr. Dhunjibhoy says that there was localised sepsis of the wound, which he treated. The man did not attend the next day, as he was told to, but he came on the 28th, by which time the condition of the wound had become very serious, and he was sent to the employers' hospital at Byculla. Dr. Dhunjibhoy did not think that on the 26th April the wound was in a sufficiently bad condition to necessitate the man being sent to hospital and he attributed the extremely bad state of the wound on the 28th to some dirt getting in under the bandage which he placed on the wound on the 26th. Dr. F. B. Ambler, District Surgeon of the G. I. P. Railway, saw the man in hospital on the 29th April. He found severe inflammation and swelling of the dorsum of the foot extending up the leg. He thought there was an abscess directly under the wound, and had an incision made, and blood and pus evacuated. Next day he found that the parts which were found swollen on the 29th were breaking down. Extensive incisions were made to let the pus out. Gangrene set in, but the man was too ill for an amputation to be performed and he died on the 4th of May. Dr. Ambler stated definitely that had the wound been properly treated from the first it would have been a trivial matter. Any wounds of the extent of this one, if properly treated from the first, would give hundred per cent recoveries. No important structures were injured and Dr. Ambler was of opinion that death was caused by the wound being neglected. He also says that the dispensary is about a hundred yards from the works and any workman who attends the dispensary

for an injury does not lose pay while it is being treated. Dr. Ambler did not think that the condition of the wound on the 28th was due to anything particular, e.g., dirt getting into the wound from the time it was treated on the 26th. The man was very ill on the 29th, more so than the local condition would seem to warrant.

"No notice of the accident was given to the employers until the 21st of June when the Workmen's Claims Bureau wrote to the employers on behalf of the dependants of the deceased workman.

"These then are the facts. Dr. Ambedkar in his argument contended that there is reasonable cause excusing absence of notice of accident if it can be shown that the injury resulting from the accident was latent and therefore not at first apparent, or that it appeared to be so trivial that it would not be reasonable to expect the workman to give notice of it. In support of his argument he cited three cases. The first is the leading case of *Burvill vs. Vickers, Ltd.*, 9 B. W. C. C., page 50; and the others, *Eydmann vs. the Premier Accumulator Co., Ltd.*, 9 B. W. C. C., page 385; and *Mills vs. the Dinnington Main Coal Co., Ltd.*, 10 B. W. C. C., page 153. In considering these and other cases it should be remembered that they were appeals from arbitrators on the point whether or not there was evidence on which the arbitrator could or could not find that the employer was prejudiced by the absence of notice. They do not really cover this case, because under the Indian Act, as I have pointed out, there is no necessity to find that an employer was or was not prejudiced. The only point is whether the failure to give notice was due to sufficient cause and even under the English Act if reasonable cause is found, the question of prejudice does not arise. Prejudice is only material in the absence of reasonable cause. But there are certain dicta by the Court in these cases which are valuable in considering the question of reasonable cause." The Commissioner then reviewed these cases in detail and distinguished them from the facts as disclosed in the present case. He then said:—

"In this case there is an entire absence of any evidence explaining the failure to give notice. It has been argued that these workmen are illiterate and ignorant, but the legislation which I have to administer was passed with that knowledge. Moreover, it has been clearly laid down that ignorance of rights under the Workmen's Compensation Act is neither "mistake" nor "reasonable cause"—*Roles vs. Pascall*, 4 B. W. C. C., page 148—so that the fact, if it were a fact, although no evidence has been given on that point, that the workman did not understand either his rights under the Act or the procedure to be adopted, cannot amount to sufficient cause. There is no evidence as to why he did not give notice between the 18th of April and the 26th of April, assuming that attendance at the dispensary on the latter date could be regarded as reasonable cause for failure to give the notice required under the Act. There is evidence that on the 18th he was advised to go to the dispensary but said that he thought the accident was trivial, but there is no evidence to show that the injury after that time gave no pain or was not serious, except the fact that the man continued at work. The condition of the leg on the 26th of April seems to negative that suggestion. The only sufficient cause suggested by counsel is that

the deceased was an ignorant workman who did not know his rights or how to go about claiming them. As I have pointed out, ignorance of the rights conferred by the Act cannot be held to be "sufficient cause" and there is no evidence whatever before me which would entitle me to draw the conclusion that the failure to give notice as prescribed by the Act,—or even constructive notice,—as soon as practicable, was due to sufficient cause. I have therefore come reluctantly to the conclusion that notice of the accident was not given in the manner prescribed as soon as practicable after the happening thereof and that there was no sufficient cause for it not being given. The claim for compensation must therefore fail.

"It is a matter for regret that the simplified procedure with regard to notice laid down in the English Act of 1923 has not been adopted in India where simplicity of procedure is so desirable. The giving of notice as soon as possible is rightly insisted upon, not only for the protection of the employer, but for the benefit of the workman, in order to ensure that he receives medical advice at the earliest possible moment. This case clearly illustrates how essential that is. But the procedure laid down is quite unsuitable to Indian conditions and, although Commissioners under the Act have gone as far as they possibly can in carrying out the intention of the Act, namely, to give compensation to workmen injured in the course of their employment, they are bound to act judicially and therefore cannot entirely ignore an express provision in the legislation they are interpreting. *Dura lex, sed lex.*

"In this case, I have had, with regret, to dismiss the claim. The Railway Company is a State Railway and is compelled to take the defence that the law permits it to take. From my knowledge of the fairness, even the generosity, with which they treat employees who are injured and whose injury they are aware of, I think the defence which they pleaded in this case was raised with regret and I hope that if it is possible for some compensation to be given to the dependants that the Railway Company will give it, as this is eminently a case where it should be given.

Mr. Walker said he did not ask for costs.

The application was therefore dismissed with no order as to costs.

Wage Reductions forbidden by Law

The Head of the Italian Government recently forwarded to the Prefects throughout the Kingdom a Circular forbidding any further reduction in the wages of any class of workers, on the ground that the economic situation from now on would enable all requirements to be met without recourse to new sacrifices on the part of the workers. The same instructions have been issued to the provincial federations of the Fascist Party by Mr. Turati, the General Secretary. (*From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, August 20, 1928.*)

Industrial Transference Board Report

The Industrial Transference Board was appointed by the Minister of Labour on 6th January 1928, "for the purpose of facilitating the transfer of workers, and in particular of miners, for whom opportunities of employment in their own district or occupation are no longer available." The Board have now presented a Report to the Minister.

In an introductory section, the Board observe that the present unemployment situation differs from previous "slumps" in being largely concentrated in a few—but those basic—industries; in many other industries there has been active progress.

The Board conclude, on the basis of the information in the possession of the Ministry of Labour and the Mines Department, that it would be unwise to estimate the permanent surplus in the coal-mining industry at any figure below 200,000. To this must be added a probable permanent surplus in shipbuilding, iron and steel, and heavy engineering; the number of men wholly unemployed in these industries at the end of May was over 100,000—of whom, however, some may expect to be re-absorbed. The Board also think it probable that ultimately certain sections of the textile industry must be prepared to face a permanent contraction of their personnel; but the extent of the surplus, if any, in these industries is hypothetical.

The surplus in the coal industry is mainly concentrated in large blocks in a few areas, *viz.*, over 40,000 (in mid-May) in Northumberland and Durham, about 55,000 in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and about 25,000 in Scotland. The surplus in the iron and steel and shipbuilding industries is probably for the most part in Northumberland and Durham, in South Wales, and on the Clyde. The age-distribution of the miners wholly unemployed in May was, roughly, 23 per cent. between 18 and 25; 26 per cent. between 26 and 35; 29 per cent. between 36 and 50; and 21 per cent. between 51 and 65.*

The Board repudiate the impression, which they found in the minds of many, that unemployed workers in the heavy industries, and particularly in the coal industry, are of indifferent employment value. "From our own knowledge," they say, "we can affirm with confidence that this view of the qualities of these workers is based on ignorance, if not on mere prejudice. . . . Regarded as a type, the British miner is an example to his fellows. Part of his inheritance. . . is an instinctive loyalty to his comrades, and a capacity for similar loyalty to his employers, so long as unimaginative handling is not permitted to alienate his sympathy."

The Board refer to the agreement made between the Ministry of Labour and the Mining Association on 20th July 1927, limiting the influx of men over 18 from other industries into the coal-mining industry; but they fear that the industry may not be able to make any great contribution towards the absorption of its own surplus during the next two years. They therefore examine other means which have been suggested for limiting

* The proportion of miners under 18 recorded as wholly unemployed at the same date was only 1 per cent.; but this figure is unrepresentative, owing to the fact that juveniles are not insured under the Unemployment Insurance scheme until the age of 16.

the surplus: (i) by raising the school-leaving age; (ii) by providing pensions for persons of 60 and over; and (iii) by establishing new industries in the depressed areas. On the first two they find themselves unable to make any recommendations. The third alternative they commend to the notice of employers seeking sites for new factories; and point out that such employers will find power, houses, and a working population, all ready to hand.

Too much reliance should not be placed on a reduction of the surplus in the heavy industries by measures taken within those industries; principally because the unemployment therein is "frozen" by close concentration in and around the coalfields. "In many of the districts," the Board consider, "the idea of a cyclical or transient depression must now be recognised quite unflinchingly as no longer tenable. The transfer of men to districts not enjoying immunity from unemployment but bearing a relatively lighter load, is the essential and immediate aim of any transfer policy; and the search for openings of employment must not begin or end with the heavy industries. . . . but must extend to the length and breadth of the land."

A transference policy must rest upon three factors: (a) the man's willingness to move; (b) the active help of employers and workers in all industries, and of all agencies and private persons who can give the man an opportunity of employment, here or overseas; and (c) help, where necessary, by training or by grants towards the cost of moving. Nothing should be done to anchor men to their home district by holding out an illusory prospect of employment. The Board therefore reject relief works in the depressed areas as unsound policy; they are temporary, and leave the situation much as before. If they are to be undertaken at all they should be undertaken in areas where employment is relatively good.

The Board deal at some length with the objection that vacancies in other districts can only be filled at the expense of people already in employment, or seeking employment, in the new area. The employment market, they suggest, is not a static and limited thing; there is a ceaseless ebb and flow of employment, and each man taken on is adding to a flowing stream, not driving another out of a space of fixed dimensions. There are many potential vacancies in industry "at the margin," which materialise upon the appearance of a suitable man. The depressed areas contain many men of the highest employment value, and organised transfer offers employers an opportunity of strengthening their labour personnel. It is positively uneconomic to leave in areas where a trade revival is unlikely a reserve of labour which could be made available for industrial development elsewhere.

In this connection the Board draw attention to the differences between the level of unemployment (in May, 1928) in London and the Midlands—ranging from 2·4 per cent. in Hertfordshire and 4·8 per cent. in Greater London to a maximum of 6·9 per cent. in Warwickshire—and the level in South Wales and in Durham and Northumberland. Here the county averages range from 16·7 per cent. to 24·2 per cent.; while certain towns run to much higher figures, *e.g.*, Merthyr Tydfil, 62·3 per cent.; Blaina, 48·6 per cent.; Bishop Auckland, 42 per cent.

The absorption even of such a large number as 200,000 is not an impossible task. Every week in the year there are at least 120,000 labour engagements. Moreover, the general absorptive capacity of industry is on the increase: during the four years from July 1923 to July 1927, industry added rather over 850,000 persons to its employed personnel. Further, the rate of increase in the population is slackening; the number of potential recruits for industry is therefore falling, and will continue to fall for some years.

The Board pass in review the existing machinery assisting the transfer of labour in this country—the Employment Exchange system, the training centres for adults, the juvenile unemployment centres, the women's training centres; and then proceed to consider possible extensions of these facilities. The Board appeal to all employers to acquaint themselves fully with the machinery of the Employment Exchanges, and to communicate to the Exchanges their requirements for men, both to make good wastage and to undertake new work.

The Board refer to the cost of moving, and (in some cases) of keeping up two homes. At their suggestion, accordingly, authority has been obtained for advances to be made by way of loan through the Employment Exchanges in suitable cases towards the cost of removal expenses, and towards the maintenance for short periods of the families of married men who take up employment at a distance; also for advances of wages to married men who have to wait several days before their first payment of wages.

The Board commend the training centres for adults and the juvenile unemployment centres as bridges from the depressed areas to other employment, and they recommend an extension of these centres wherever it may be necessary.

The Board then turn to consider the openings for employment in this country. They lay stress on the limited part the State can play in finding openings for employment. "State agencies and State action can help, but the problem of unemployment in the depressed industries is one which can only be solved if the whole community realises its existence and consciously resolves to grapple with it."

The juvenile problem is "the most manageable in size, though in many ways the most urgent, of the various parts of the whole transfer problem." One difficulty, however, is that many vacancies otherwise suitable do not afford a wage sufficient to meet the cost of board and lodging away from home. Here some employers have offered to pay an extra allowance to juveniles transferred from the depressed areas. The Board hope these offers will be extended; and they suggest that part of the funds collected in response to the Lord Mayor's appeal might be used, in such cases, to bridge the gap between the wage offered and the cost of maintenance. The Board appeal to Local Education Authorities (who in many of the large industrial towns in England and Wales, outside London, are responsible for the work of placing juveniles), to co-operate with the Ministry of Labour in this matter.

The older men—men over 36—represent more than half the total of those likely to form the surplus, and they constitute the most difficult part

of the problem. The Board have examined the possibilities of land settlement on agricultural small holdings as a contribution towards the problem; but they hesitate to recommend this expedient, largely on the ground of expense. The Board find more prospect of success on forest holdings, and recommend that every effort should be made to create, during the next three years, sufficient forest holdings for at least 1000 families from the depressed areas.

On behalf of these older men, the Board make a special appeal for co-operation from all employers. Very many of these men are still in the prime of their industrial life and activity, and want work. Many have young children not yet of an age to earn for themselves or to make any contribution towards the upkeep of their homes. "Active co-operation is required, not only from employers, large and small, but from all individuals who are in a position to offer work. . . . Apart from private employment there are, it is estimated, some 120,000 employers of labour who normally employ more than five workers. If only even half of these. . . . would give employment to one man or two men from the depressed areas, a real step would have been taken towards a solution."

The Board then turn to the question of oversea migration. They are careful to point out that there is no question here of dumping unemployables. "The body of unemployed is not a standing army of vagrants and loafers, but a number of genuine industrial workers whose composition is constantly changing. . . . There is no country which would not be fortunate, and should not be glad, to receive many of the men with whom our inquiries have brought us into contact."

The outstanding fact in the emigration situation is that British migration into the Dominions has fallen markedly since the War, while foreign migration has proportionately increased. Thus, migrants from the United Kingdom into Canada averaged over 100,000 a year during the years 1909-13; since 1922, they have averaged slightly over 50,000; and this, though British migration since 1923 has had the benefit of assistance under the Empire Settlement Act, 1922, while there was no such assistance in pre-war years. Continental migration into Canada, on the other hand, has only declined from an average of about 70,000 to an average of about 55,000 a year, in the same two periods. The Board regard this situation as "deeply disturbing." They find the fundamental conditions for an increase of migration to be twofold: financial, and psychological. The financial conditions are that the passage rates must be within the reach of the ordinary man, that a man should have the minimum of outfit necessary for his start in a new country, and a small sum of money to fall back upon after arrival. As regards the psychological difficulties, the Board observe that people cannot be brought to believe that the Dominions want them if they are confronted with what appears to be "a formidable tangle of procedure," involving expense, delay, and often an embarrassing publicity. "All the controversial talk about migration, all the complications and delays and disappointments, at present attendant upon the schemes of assisted passages under the Empire Settlement Act, . . . have undoubtedly induced a general mood of doubt and reluctance, that may set into a definite unwillingness. . . . unless migration can be promptly

made cheap and easy . . . There is no part of our proposals in regard to migration that we regard as more important than the steady encouragement of the normal flow of migration through unofficial channels, and the need of Governmental authority to limit its intervention to what is required to prevent abuse, and, to the extent that may be necessary, to provide special assistance." Appendices to the Report give (i) the principal figures of immigration into Canada, Australia, and New Zealand for a series of years; and (ii) particulars of the procedure to be followed by intending British migrants into Canada and into Australia. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, August 1928.)

Absenteeism in British Collieries

The following is a summary of a report which has recently been published by the Industrial Fatigue Research Board:—

The absenteeism of nearly 23,000 miners, working at a group of ten collieries, was studied for periods of 21 months to six years. It was found that the total absenteeism of the men varied with the depth of the workings. In coal face workers the time lost at a depth of 650 feet averaged 13·8 per cent., whilst that at a depth of 2160 feet came to 17·0 per cent., or 23 per cent. more. The haulage men and others working underground showed less absenteeism, but a greater variation, for absenteeism in the deepest pits was 46 per cent. greater than in the shallowest pits.

Absenteeism from sickness varies greatly with the underground temperature. A rise of 13 deg. F. in the dry bulb temperature was associated with a 63 per cent. increase of sickness in the coal face workers, whilst a rise of 10 deg. was associated with a 74 per cent. increase of sickness in the other underground men. Presumably this influence depends chiefly on the sudden change of temperature experienced by the men on coming to the surface.

Absenteeism from sickness is associated with air velocity, for the average time lost by underground workers other than those at the coal face was 85 per cent. greater at a velocity of 260 feet than at one of 90 feet. This effect of air currents is probably due to the liability of the very lightly clad men to catch chills.

Absenteeism from accidents is likewise related to air velocity. Accidents to underground men other than those at the coal face increased steadily at all velocities from 70 feet per minute upwards, and at a velocity of 264 feet they were 68 per cent. more numerous than at one of 87 feet.

Accident frequency varies greatly with underground temperature, though accident severity shows but little response as the effect is confined to minor accidents. In comparison with the number of minor accidents (causing less than 10 days' disablement) which occurred at the lowest temperatures (64 deg. d.b. and 61 deg. w.b.) those occurring at the highest temperatures (80 deg. d.b. and 71 deg. w.b.) were 4·3 times more numerous. Accidents causing 10 to 19 days' disablement were, however, only 2·0 times more numerous at the highest temperatures, and those causing 20 to 59 days' disablement were 1·5 times more numerous. Major accidents, causing 60 days' more of disablement, were of almost exactly the same frequency

at the highest temperatures as at the lowest ones. The probable explanation of this remarkable differential effect of temperature is discussed in detail.

There is a close correlation ($r=+·95$) between depth of workings and dry bulb temperature. At depths of 500, 1500 and 2500 feet the mean temperature was 63·6 deg., 76·3 deg. and 89·0 deg. respectively. Hence it follows that the frequency of accidents is highly correlated with depth. Minor accidents (causing less than 10 days' disablement) were four times more numerous at a depth of 2200 feet than at one of 670 feet, whilst major accidents were unaffected.

The accident rate is greatly affected by the thickness of the seam. One seam was found to vary in thickness from 44 to 72 inches at six collieries, and the accidents from falls of coal and side were four times more numerous when the seam was at its thickest than when at its thinnest. This effect was just as marked on major accidents as on minor ones.

The average output of coal per man at the coal face varied in the proportion of 1 to 2 at different pits, and accident frequency varied with output. At pits where output was 50 per cent. greater than in other pits, the minor accidents (causing less than 10 days' disablement) were three times more numerous, but accidents causing 20 or more days of disablement showed no increase.

Accident frequency is related to labour turnover, for minor accidents causing less than 20 days' disablement were three times more numerous at pits where the annual labour turnover was 20 per cent. or more, than at those where it was less than 10 per cent. However, accidents causing over 20 days' disablement were not affected.

Accident rates vary considerably with the age of the men, and reach a minimum at the age of 30 to 39. In comparison with this minimum, coal face workers over 60 years of age showed a 41 per cent. excess in frequency rate, and a 100 per cent. excess in severity rate, whilst the other underground men showed smaller increments.

Accident frequency varies greatly at different hours of the shift, and in coal face men working at high temperatures it reached a maximum in the last full hour of work but one. In those working at low temperatures it did not reach a maximum till the last full hour.

The time lost by "voluntary" absenteeism (i.e., all absenteeism not definitely attributed to sickness and accidents) was found to vary with the distance walked by the men underground, for men who walked 2800 yards showed 58 per cent. more absenteeism than the men who walked 1330 yards. It is related to labour turnover, the men at pits with an annual turnover of 27 per cent. showing 24 to 75 per cent. more voluntary absenteeism than those at pits with a turnover of 10 per cent. Again, it is related to the distance of the men's homes from the collieries, men living 2·6 miles away showing 80 per cent. more voluntary absenteeism than those living 1·6 miles away. It is likewise influenced by the proximity of large towns.

Surface workers showed less absenteeism from voluntary causes than underground men, but greater seasonal fluctuations in absenteeism from sickness.

Labour Conditions in China

The April 1928 issue of the *Monthly Labour Review* contains an interesting article on the above subject by S. K. Sheldon Tso. It is pointed out that since Western influences introduced the factory system in China, a great many industrial evils similar to those which existed a hundred years ago in Western countries have come into being.

Broadly speaking, Chinese labourers can be classified into four main divisions: (1) independent labourers, (2) industrial labourers, (3) agricultural labourers, and (4) coolie labourers. The independent labourers work on a small scale for an independent livelihood usually buying their own materials, manufacturing their own goods and selling the finished products directly to the consumers. The industrial labourers are mainly machine operators in various industries and are also engaged as operatives in textile mills.

The agricultural labourers constitute the great majority of the Chinese working class population. They can be divided into four groups: (a) farmers doing their own work on their own land, (b) husbandmen who are tenants of a landlord to whom ordinarily they give two-thirds of the crop reserving one-third for themselves, (c) long period labourers who sign an agreement with their employer to work for him for a period of one year or longer, and (d) short period labourers who have had no special training in farming and who sign no agreement with employers. The word "coolie" in Chinese signifies "sweating" and coolie labourers are mostly unskilled persons who earn a bare subsistence by their strenuous work.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The most important problem that the Chinese labouring class is facing is unemployment. Although accurate information on the extent of unemployment is not available, the writer of the article thinks that the extent of unemployment is at present very great.

In discussing the causes of unemployment it is pointed out first of all, that the replacement of handicraft production by modern machines has deprived the handicraftsmen of their work. Secondly, the rapid growth of population is a factor contributing to the present over-supply of labour. Thirdly, there is a lack of adequate facilities with which to fit workmen for modern methods of production and the workmen, skilled in their handicrafts alone, are not able to change their methods of work in a short period of time. Fourthly, the increase of seasonal trade requires a large number of workers at certain periods after which they are discharged. This is a very vital factor in producing unemployment. Fifthly, Civil Wars have been a potent cause of unemployment, and finally, owing to the increase in the number of strikes in a large number of cases the employers, recognizing the over-supply, have discharged strikers on the slightest pretext.

WOMEN LABOURERS

In the textile industry a large proportion of the operatives are women and children. The average wage received by women in the industrial

cities varies from 20 to 40 cents per day. The length of the working day for women varies in different localities and factories. But as a rule it consists of 12 hours, usually from 5 in the morning to 6 o'clock in the evening with an hour's intermission at noon.

Although there are no accurate statistics to show the number of working children in China, the information published by the Shanghai Municipal Council shows that there are in that city 1,68,885 children who are employed in the factories of that city. The industries that commonly employ children are textile and tobacco mills, candle factories, straw hat factories, toy shops and book binding shops. The wages of the children are far below those of the adult workers the maximum being 20 cents per day and the minimum 6 cents, or on an average a daily wage of about 13 cents. The number of hours of work for children varies from 12 to 16 per day and according to a report made by a Commission appointed by the Municipal Council of Shanghai many children of not more than 6 years of age work both day and night.

A Child Labour Reform Movement was started by Y. W. C. A. workers but the lack of co-operation between the Chinese authorities and the Municipal Council of the International Settlement stood in the way of effective legislation. The factory regulations promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce in March 1923 are as yet merely provisional although the Peking Government has never relaxed its effort to make them effective. The greatest difficulty in their application is the question of jurisdiction over foreign-owned industries.

HOURS OF LABOUR

In the case of independent hand workers such as tailors and blacksmiths working hours per day range from 14 to 16. Industrial workers' hours differ in the various industries. Those employed in factories of the Chinese Government work from 9 to 12 hours and those employed in factories owned by private capitalists work from 10 to 16 hours per day. Agricultural workers also have long working hours varying from 12 to 18 per day. Coolie labourers work as many as 18 hours per day. Night work is common in textile and some other factories.

WAGES

The wage payment systems in China are very complicated. Generally speaking wages are given either in kind or in money. In the less developed sections of China the former method is in use where payments consist of clothes, rice and other commodities. In sections where modern means of communication are provided, wages are generally paid in money. It is pointed out however that wherever the method of payment in kind is used the old harmonious spirit between employers and employees still prevails.

Speaking generally, the wages paid are exceedingly low. In connection with the question of wage payments mention should be made of the bonus system which has been in use in China since times immemorial. At the end of each year the workers receive a certain percentage of their wages but it is understood that in a year of business depression no bonus can be expected. A reward or gratuity is also given for (a) obeying the rules and

regulations of the establishment, (b) for increasing their productivity, (c) for producing goods of better quality, and (d) for continuous service over a long period. Such rewards differ from the bonus in this that they are given irrespective of the business conditions of the factory. If however, a labourer's work is found unsatisfactory, his wages for one day five days or even ten days may be withheld by his employer.

Labour Situation in the United States

COTTON GINS

The Bureau of Labour Statistics of the United States Department of Labour made a study of wages and hours of labour in the cotton-ginning industry during the autumn of 1927. The results of this study were published in the May number of the *Monthly Labor Review*.

The cotton-ginning industry is seasonal. The period of operation for a gin may be as much as five months, starting in the late summer. The length of the season is subject to slight variations due to weather conditions causing early or late maturity of the cotton plant. At the beginning of the cotton-picking season the gins operate only part time, but as the supply of cotton increases, working hours grow longer until the maximum supply is received and the gins operate at full capacity. Gins do not operate on Sundays, except occasionally during the busiest part of the season or when cleaning up and repairs may be necessary on that day. As the cotton is ginned on the day it is brought in, the gin sometimes operates late into the night or, during the busy season, a night shift is organised. As the cotton supply declines, the gin gradually works shorter hours and on fewer days until the season closes.

The investigations made by the Bureau of Labour Statistics cover ten States—Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas—where data were obtained for a one-week period, in either August, September, October or November, relating to 76 establishments and 459 workers, of whom about one-half were white. No bonuses were paid, and extra pay for overtime was given in one establishment only, in which the ginner received a 20 per cent. and the other employees about a 37 per cent. higher rate for Sunday work or any time over 12 hours a day.

The nominal full-time working hours of 35 out of the 76 establishments visited were 12 hours a day and 72 hours a week; of 33 establishments 10 hours a day and 60 hours a week; the other 8 establishments had various nominal full-time hours.

The data obtained show that in the 76 establishments covered by the survey, 459 employees worked an average of 5·8 days per week; the average full-time hours per week were 66·2, but the average actual hours worked per week were 64·5. Full-time earnings per week would have amounted to \$19·40; actual earnings were 29·3 cents. an hour and \$18·94 a week. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, August 13, 1928.)

The Welfare Burden of Japanese Cotton Mills

Lancashire has learned to take a keen interest in conditions in the cotton mills of competing countries, and much of this interest is concentrated on the mills of Japan. Japanese competition has been severest in the Far Eastern markets, which mean so much to Lancashire, and it has been frequently asserted that cheap labour is at the root of Japan's success. The article which we print below suggests that this is far from being the case, since the inefficiency of Japanese labour and the very high expenditure which is required for what may be called "welfare" tend to offset the difference between the actual wages paid in Lancashire and in Japan. If this is true—and the gist of our contributor's remarks on this subject comprises little that has not been said before in official and semi-official reports—then the outlook for Lancashire in competition with Japan seems to be brighter. The Japanese mills have not been doing very well for several months, and our correspondent suggests that their troubles have been increased by the legal necessity of maintaining their labour for some months after the time when it became apparent that some reduction of staff was called for. In addition, it must be remembered that nightwork is to be abolished next year, so that the slight advantage from the working to two shifts will disappear, and it is probable that there will be a positive disadvantage in the fact that individual mills, unless they have doubled their spindleage and are able to retain the same number of workers as they have at present, will be saddled with twice as much welfare accommodation and equipment as their staff requires.

The most striking part of the account, in our view, is that which states that Japan's chief competitive advantage emanates from the successful buying of raw cotton. This is an aspect of cotton spinning and manufacturing to which far too little attention is paid in Lancashire, though it must be admitted that a lot of mills have not sufficient resources to be able to engage in dealings in the raw material on the most advantageous terms. But, even so, buying of raw cotton is a business which should be studied much more carefully, and our contributor, in the following article, has done a good service in drawing attention to it:—

There has lately been much discussion as to the effect on the Lancashire mills of Japanese competition. While not professing to have any technical knowledge of cotton spinning, I had the somewhat rare privilege of being conducted over one of the biggest cotton mills in Japan, and I am able to relate a few facts as to the state of cotton production in that country, with particular reference to labour conditions.

The Fujigasu Spinning Company (which has also nearly 3,000 looms) spins both cotton and silk, but while the number of spindles for silk spinning is just under 100,000, that for cotton spinning is rather over 500,000, and the number of looms for cotton weaving is also roughly five times the number for silk weaving. I do not propose to discuss silk production, but will confine myself as far as possible to the cotton spinning and weaving sections of the mill, though when referring to labour conditions the cotton and silk sections must be considered together, as there are not separate figures for each of them.

The machinery, most of which is made in England, is of the very latest pattern, probably in many cases more up to date than that in most Lancashire mills, owing to the fact that the Japanese mill started so much later than they did. The mill consumes about 15,000,000 lb. of cotton a year, the consumption of American being twice that of Egyptian. In 1927 it produced cotton yarn to the value of just over £1,000,000, besides £90,000 worth of dyed, bleached, and mercerised yarn, £280,000 worth of grey cloth, and £216,000 worth of dyed, bleached, and mercerised cloth. Of the five main buildings connected with the factory, one is devoted entirely to bleaching, dyeing, and

mercerising. As a sidelight on the question of competition it is interesting to note that nearly the whole production of the Fuji mills is for home consumption. Very little is sent abroad, even to China, so that the competition with British firms is confined almost entirely to the Japanese market. So much for the actual figures of production. The question that is interesting Lancashire to-day is why Japanese mills are able to continue making profits when Lancashire mills are forced to work short time, and even then are run at a tremendous loss. The Lancashire factory owners lay a great deal to the charge of "sweated labour" in other countries and high wages in their own, and nowhere is there said to be more "sweated labour" than in Japan. What are the facts?

Before considering the question of labour conditions, there is one exceedingly interesting fact to notice with regard to the profits made by Japanese mills. I was told by the manager of the mill that the actual spinning and weaving business was showing no profit at all, but only just making both ends meet. All the profits are being made on successful buying of raw cotton. The buyers have evidently managed to judge the raw cotton market correctly, and their profits have come solely from their luck or good judgment in buying raw cotton at the moments when it has stood at its lowest. Instead of selling it again they have used it to keep their mills going, but the result is the same as if they had been gambling in raw cotton and their luck had held. They have added nothing to their profits by manufacturing yarn and cloth in their mills. But even to have shown no loss in this is something which has not been known in Lancashire for the last few years, and even successful buying of raw cotton has been offset by a loss in its conversion into yarn and cloth. What is it that makes Japanese mills more successful than our own to-day? Is it cheap labour?

The number of operatives employed in the Fuji mills is 5872, of whom 1554 are men and the rest "girls." They work in two shifts, one from 6 a.m. till 5 p.m. (with an hour's rest during the day), and the other from 7 p.m. till 6 a.m. (also with an hour's rest). In other words, there are two ten-hour shifts. Now here at once British employers of labour will ask "How can we be expected to compete with factories which have a ten-hour day?" And it seems that they have a very good case. But I was informed by the manager of this Japanese mill that there are twice as many operatives per thousand spindles in his mill (and, presumably, therefore, in other Japanese mills) as in British mills. If this fact is taken into consideration a very different state of affairs arises. Though from the worker's point of view the hours are as long, from the point of view of the employer they are only half the length. In ten hours the operatives only do as much work as British workers do in five hours, so that the employer is only getting the value of a five-hour day. Naturally these figures may be rather exaggerated, but it is probable that the employer certainly does not get more than a seven-hour day's value in work, which is considerably less than the value obtained by the British employer from his operatives. So much for the question of hours.

The question of wages is far more complicated. At first sight it seems that the Japanese workers are grossly underpaid. The men get approximately £5 and the girls just over £3 a month. There are also a number of girls (nearly 3500 out of 4500) who get the same wage and are also boarded in dormitories, for which advantage they have to agree to a two years' contract. But we must consider the "extras" that the Japanese workers receive. There is, first of all, a compulsory health insurance, as in England, towards which the employer contributes 4 per cent. of the wages he pays and each worker 4 per cent. of the wages he or she receives, while the Government gives 10 per cent. of the total final cost per annum. But this is nothing peculiar to Japan. What are peculiar are the almost paternal care taken of the workers and the laws regulating their dismissal. In this factory there are, first of all, the dormitories. The girls in these, besides getting free board in exchange for a two years' contract, are able to buy their food from the firm at a cost of 30s. a month instead of 40s., which is the cost of food for the non-dormitory employees. Being right out in the middle of the country the firm has to arrange for the whole supply of food for the operatives, which is in itself a tremendous business. Those operatives not in dormitories have a dining-room separate from that of the dormitory girls, in which they can eat either their own food or that which they buy from the firm, which provides a kitchen for them. But besides getting free board and cheap lodging the dormitory girls get their wages in advance, so that the company cannot dismiss them suddenly without losing all the money it has advanced.

But both dormitory girls and other employees have certain further provisions made for them. There is a hospital with 10 doctors and 35 nurses, and the operatives and people living round about can receive treatment at one-tenth of the normal cost. There are free schools of one-year courses which children between 15 and 20 can attend. If they attend these they are required to do six hours' study, and are only made to do two hours' work a day in the factory while their one-year course lasts. There is also a free technical school which has a two-year course of four hours a day (with four hours' work in the factory). It can thus be seen that the operatives are well looked after both from the point of view of education and physical comfort, and that the company expends considerably more on them than the amount which appears on the wage bill.

But the most interesting as well as the most costly part of the extras spent by the company on their workers is that necessitated by the system of "notice." A slump in England is followed by wholesale dismissals of workers, as the factories cannot afford to keep on the same number of employees as in the prosperous seasons when demand is greater than supply. But in Japan this is not the case. Every employer of labour has to give his employees either so much pay or so much "notice" before

dismissing them. The amount varies with the length of time the man has been employed. For every year that he has worked for the firm he must get either a month's notice or a month's pay. Thus it can be seen that it is rather an expensive proposition for a Japanese employer to order wholesale dismissals of his operatives. It is better for him to keep them on during the bad seasons than to dismiss them and re-engage them or engage others when trade recovers. This rule, of course, gives an incalculable degree of security to the Japanese workman. But it costs the Japanese employer considerable sums of money, all of which must be added to his total wage bill when comparing it with that of his British rival. The amount is, of course, difficult, if not impossible, to estimate, varying as it does with the degree of prosperity of the trade. But the time when it hits him most is undoubtedly that when trade is at its lowest ebb, as at present.

It can be seen that the "extras" which employers of labour in Japan have to incur add much to their production costs. It is true that there are many small cotton mills in Japan which lack many of these amenities for the workers. Factory inspection is not on the same level as in England, and those factories which have fewer than 100 employees escape it entirely. But it is the large and successful cotton mills which are our main competitors, and it is they who are said to capture our markets by "sweated labour." What I want to emphasise is that the charges levelled against Japanese employers by the Lancashire employers are most misleading. I visited a well-known Japanese factory expecting to find thousands of workmen living under conditions worse than those in Britain during the middle of the nineteenth century. I found in all I visited, and more particularly in the cotton mill, that labour conditions were, in their own way, as good as or even better in many respects than those in England, and that the final cost of labour was little, if at all, below that prevailing in British factories and mills.

(From "Commercial," Manchester, August 9, 1928.)

Dispute in Massachusetts Cotton Industry

The textile industry in the New England States has been depressed for some months; the workers have been on short time, and wages were reduced in the mills in a number of towns by an average of 10 per cent. during December and January last. One report gives the number of textile operatives affected by the reduction as 50,000. When, on 9th April, the New Bedford Cotton Manufacturers' Association announced a wage cut of 10 per cent., the workers, who are better organised in New Bedford than elsewhere, decided to strike, and about 30,000 operatives ceased work on 16th April. The employers state that the reduction in wage rates is necessary to enable them to compete successfully with manufacturers in other States, where wages reductions have already been accepted and where legislation permits longer hours of work than in Massachusetts. New Bedford is primarily dependent upon its textile mills, and the cessation of work for so long a period is having serious consequences. The operatives are receiving no strike pay, but a relief fund has been organised to deal with necessitous cases. On 9th July the employers re-opened the mills, but were unable to induce the operatives to return to work. The determination of the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration to make an investigation into the questions at issue, after a proposal to submit the dispute to arbitration had been rejected by both sides, was approved by employers and workers on 3rd August. The results of the investigation are not yet known.

The average weekly wage for all occupations in the cotton textile industry in New Bedford is stated to have been 19.74 dollars in 1925, 19.01 dollars in 1926, and 19.90 dollars in 1927. Before the wage-cuts, full time weekly earnings in New Bedford are stated to have been as follows:—loom fixers 30 dollars, card grinders 20 dollars, warper tenders 17.65 dollars, cloth room operatives 11 dollars. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, August 1928.)

Industrial and Commercial Census in Italy

In October 1927, a general census was taken throughout Italy of workshops and industrial enterprises, commercial, transport and banking undertakings and all other forms of economic activity, exclusive of undertakings of a purely agricultural nature.

The first results of the census, giving the number of undertakings of the various categories and the persons occupied therein, are tabulated below. The President of the Central Institute of Statistics, Rome, states that, in comparison with the results of the 1911 census, the largest increases are shown in the metallurgical, building, textile and clothing trades.

Nature of Undertaking	Number of Undertakings	Number of Persons occupied
<i>Industrial Undertakings</i>		
Industries connected with Agriculture	10,399	45,810
Fishing	17,812	42,348
Mines and Quarries	3,865	97,175
Woodworking and Allied Undertakings	102,620	284,931
Food and Allied Undertakings	81,386	339,520
Leather, Hides, Feathers, etc.	7,926	53,626
Printing and Paper Trades	10,224	103,378
Iron, Steel and Metallurgical	7,724	121,452
Engineering	60,771	468,699
Non-Metalliferous Mineral Products	17,350	170,907
Building and Construction	16,431	328,734
Textile	10,355	636,687
Clothing	191,075	490,798
Health and Local Services	36,215	94,697
Chemical	5,136	97,319
Light, Power and Water Supply	5,972	62,501
Transport and Communication	106,605	514,729
Others	1,486	12,190
Total	728,150	3,965,501
<i>Commercial Undertakings</i>		
Credit, Exchange and Insurance	15,361	62,131
Wholesale Commerce	65,668	115,446
Auxiliary Commercial Activities	48,166	67,711
Retail Commerce	780,097	63,454
Hotels, Restaurants, etc.	128,122	241,875
Entertainments	5,646	12,700
Miscellaneous	11,614	49,750
Total	821,666	1,640,290
Total, Industrial and Commercial Undertakings	1,549,816	5,605,791

(From "Ministry of Labour Gazette London, July 1928.)

Industrial Conference in New Zealand

A special Sub-Committee set up by the National Industrial Conference recently held in New Zealand recently submitted a report containing unanimous recommendations on the subjects of Unemployment Relief, Emigration and the Workmen's Compensation Act.

As regards unemployment, the Committee were agreed that the problem of unemployment in the Dominion was acute and recommended that the Government should provide out of the consolidated funds such sums as were necessary to cope with the situation. They pointed out further that exact statistical information was not available and in order to enable them to formulate a permanent scheme to deal with the recurring problem of seasonal and periodic unemployment the Government's Statistical Department should forthwith concentrate upon the collection and compilation of accurate data. They also recommended that a careful investigation should be made to decide the most suitable form of productive work under State control which would absorb from time to time labour temporarily not required in industry and that for this purpose the Government should appoint immediately a Committee of three, consisting of a Government representative and one representative each of employers and workers.

As regards emigration, they recommended (1) that the strictest possible supervision of the nomination system for all classes of migrants both as regards the emigrant and the ability and capacity of the nominators to perform the obligations should be observed; (2) that there should be an efficient medical examination of all migrants which should take place at the port of embarkation by medical officers appointed by the New Zealand Government; (3) that immigration should be regulated in accordance with the state of the labour market in New Zealand and with due regard to the ability of the Dominion to absorb the immigrant with employment; and (4) that the Immigration Department should be given control of health examination and financial qualifications of juvenile and adult immigrants, whether assisted or otherwise.

As regards the Workmen's Compensation Act, they recommended (1) that insurance be compulsory subject to exception where an employer can satisfy a competent authority that the worker is adequately covered; (2) that Government should carefully investigate the principles, working and cost of the Ontario system of Workmen's Compensation, with a view to finding out whether its provisions might, with advantage, be adopted in the Dominion; and that in any case it was desirable that medical, surgical and hospital services necessary as a result of an injury and for the rehabilitation of the injured worker should be provided for, provided always that whatever scheme of insurance was adopted it should cover all classes of workers as at present covered by the New Zealand Act; and (3) that in cases of lump sum payments the court be empowered to make the payments in such a way as would give protection to all dependants appointing, if necessary, guardians for children.

As regards the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, the Sub-Committee were unable to arrive at a unanimous recommendation. (Abstracted from "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, August 20, 1928.)

Maternity Benefit for Factory Women

Bill Referred to Select Committee

Mr. R. S. Asavale, M.L.C. (Bombay City, North), was granted leave on the 19th March 1928 to introduce his Bill in the Legislative Council to regulate the employment of women in factories some time before and some time after confinement and to make provision for the payment of maternity benefit. The following is the text of the Bill together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons.—

BILL No. VI OF 1928

A Bill to regulate the employment of women in factories some time before and some time after confinement and to make provision for the payment of maternity benefit.

WHEREAS it is expedient to regulate the employment of women in factories some time before and some time after confinement and to make provision for the payment of maternity benefit during the period of absence from work due to advanced state of pregnancy and confinement; And Whereas the previous sanction of the Governor General required by Section 80-A of the Government of India Act and the previous sanction of the Governor required by section 80-C of the said Act have been obtained for the passing of the Act;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. *Short title, extent and operation.*—(a) This Act may be called the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1928

(b) It extends to whole of the Presidency of Bombay.

(c) It shall come into force on the 1st day of January 1929.

2. *Definition.*—In this Act:

(a) "Factory" means a factory as defined in the Indian Factories Act (XII of 1911);

(b) "Qualified Medical Practitioner" means a qualified medical practitioner as defined in the Workmen's Compensation Act (VIII of 1923);

(c) "Benefit" means benefit as provided for by this Act;

(d) "Employer" includes an "Occupier" of a factory as defined in the Indian Factories Act; or the "Manager" of a factory (XII of 1911);

(e) "Inspector of Factories" means an Inspector as defined by the Indian Factories Act (XII of 1911);

3. *Restriction on the employment of women six weeks before and after confinement and the grant of Maternity Benefit during the period.*—In any factory a woman—

(a) shall not be knowingly employed during the six weeks following her confinement;

(b) shall have the right to leave her work if she produces a medical certificate from a qualified medical practitioner stating that her confinement will probably take place within six weeks;

(c) shall, while she is absent from her work in pursuance of sub-section (a) and (b) of this section, be paid by the Government in accordance with rules made for this purpose out of a fund to be established for this purpose and called Maternity Benefit Fund, benefit sufficient for the full and healthy maintenance of herself and her child, the amount of which shall be determined in accordance with rules made by the Government.

4. *Payment of Maternity Benefit in case of a woman's death during the Maternity Benefit period.*—If a woman dies at her confinement or during the period for which she is entitled to benefit, the remaining sums due as maternity benefit shall be paid to the person who undertakes the care of the child in accordance with rules made by the Government.

5. *No notice of dismissal of a woman to be given or to expire during Maternity Benefit period.*—Where a woman is absent from her work in accordance with sub-section (a) or (b) of section 3, it shall not be lawful for her employer to give her notice of dismissal during such absence or at such a time that the notice would expire during such absence.

6. *Penalties.*—An employer contravening any provision of this Act or any rule made thereunder shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

7. *Rules.*—The Government shall make rules—

(1) for the establishment of a maternity benefit fund; for fixing the amount of contribution to be paid to it by each factory; for the collection of the contribution and for the management and safe custody of the fund;

(2) for determining the manner of payment of the benefit to the person entitled to receive it;

(3) for fixing the amount of benefit to be paid under this Act.

8. The Inspectors of Factories shall have and perform the same powers and duties for the purpose of section 3, sub-section (a), (b) and section 5 of this Act as they have and perform for the purpose of the Indian Factories Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The object of this Bill is two-fold; firstly, it is intended to prohibit the employment of women in those industries the work in which is regulated by law, six weeks after confinement and to enable them to leave work six weeks before confinement and to prevent them from being dismissed from service during the days of their absence from work due to their advanced state of pregnancy and confinement. Secondly, during the period of their absence due to abovementioned reasons women workers should be provided with financial help sufficient to maintain themselves and their children in healthy condition. The money necessary for this purpose is to be raised by the Government by levying contributions upon the industries covered by the Bill in the form of a small cess on the products of the industries or in some other convenient form to be decided by the Government. The amount to be given to each woman entitled to receive the benefit and the manner of payment and other matters connected with the Bill are left to be settled by rules made by Government.

The Bill seeks to carry out some of the proposals contained in the Draft Convention passed at the first International Labour Conference held at

Washington in 1919. If India desires to secure her proper place among the civilised nations of the world, she cannot plead her inability to treat her women workers in the way in which civilised nations are expected to do. Moreover, there seems to be a natural desire in the country for rapid industrialisation. But if industrialism is to be an unmixed blessing to the working classes, timely provision must be made to avoid and counteract the evils incidental to the introduction of the new system. There is no doubt that if women continue their long and arduous work in factories and other organised industries even in advanced state of pregnancy and immediately after confinement, their health and the health of their children will not fail to suffer.

Provision of maternity benefit during the days of enforced absence is necessary, as, without such provision, mere prevention of work will be a measure of doubtful utility. It is but fair that the financial burden of the provision of the maternity benefit should fall upon industries that employ women with their natural sex disabilities. Moreover, as only a small proportion of women, out of the total number of women employed, will be eligible for the maternity benefit during the course of the year, the incidence of the burden will be very small. To prevent women workers from being dismissed some time before they become entitled for the maternity benefit or it is necessary that the maternity benefit should be paid out of the general fund and not by individual employers. As the welfare of labour is a Provincial subject, it is only proper that the working out of the scheme for the maternity benefit should be dealt with by the Bombay Government.

(Signed) R. S. ASVALE, M.L.C.,
Bombay.

DEBATE IN THE COUNCIL

In moving the first reading of the Bill in the July session of the Legislative Council, Mr. Asavale pointed out that in his opinion women workers should get help from those people for whom they worked throughout their lives. He said that it was a simple measure that the Bill advocated but it was scanty relief that it provided. He gave the example of Russia where women workers were granted benefit 3 months before and 3 months after delivery. In the Bombay Presidency among the persons working in factories about 15 to 20 per cent. were women and only 5 to 7 per cent. of them would require maternity benefit. The cost of the scheme would, therefore, not be much more than Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500 a year for each mill.

Mr. J. C. Swaminarayan (Ahmedabad District) supported the principle of the bill. He had however slight objections to the present bill and therefore moved the following amendment:—For sub-section (c) of Section 3 substitute the following: (c) Shall, while she is absent from her work in pursuance of sub-sections (a) and (b) of this Section be paid by her employer in accordance with the rules made for that purpose by Government, benefit sufficient for the full and healthy maintenance of herself and her child provided that in case of dispute the employee concerned shall have a right of appeal to the Commissioner, appointed under the Workmen's Compensation Act, whose decision shall be final.

Dr. M. K. Dixit (Surat City) thought it was unfair that a woman worker in a factory should be given preference to women working in other spheres of life. He opposed the suggestion of establishing a fund on the lines of the Workmen's Compensation Act and said that it would work very harshly on the factory owners and he therefore suggested that maternity benefit should be given only occasionally when special necessity arose. Otherwise, he thought, every woman would be enjoying a three months holiday and receiving benefit almost every year or even every ten months. He however pointed out that if the bill passed into law a special contribution on factories and industries would be levied and as there was already a great deal of foreign competition the effect would be that with an additional increase in the cost of production the foreign competition would be all the greater. Dr. Dixit also pointed out that legislation of this kind had not been passed in any other province of India and therefore if such legislation were enacted by the Legislative Assembly the burden would be more or less equally spread over all the provinces alike and the fear of the danger of inter-provincial competition would be minimised if not altogether removed. He however did not oppose the motion for referring the bill to a Select Committee.

Mr. Sakarlal Balabhai (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association) said that if such legislation were considered to be necessary he would suggest that the Legislative Assembly was the proper body to deal with it.

Mr. S. K. Bole supported the first reading of the bill and opposed the amendment. He said that in the mills and factories women had to stand and work and the standing position in the case of expectant mothers was not healthy. Medical opinion showed that the children borne by women factory workers weighed less than the children borne by other women. He pointed out that a lady doctor was appointed by the Government of Bombay to make a report on the conditions of women workers and that the lady doctor in her report had recommended the establishment of maternity benefits for the welfare of women workers. He further referred to the resolution dealing with maternity benefits passed by the International Conference and said that in all the European countries in the world after the passing of this resolution similar measures were adopted.

Mr. N. M. Joshi had moved a similar bill in the Legislative Assembly but during the discussion of that bill some members from other provinces took objection to the measure and asked Mr. Joshi to get it passed in his own province. Mr. Joshi thereupon withdrew the bill. It would appear from this, Mr. Bole pointed out, that the local Council was the proper place for the discussion of a bill of that kind.

In emphasizing the necessity for granting maternity benefit, Mr. Bole said that women workers in the Presidency had not only to attend to their mill work but also to their household work and therefore maternity benefits were more necessary here than in European countries. He also pointed out that the Industrial Disputes Committee appointed by Government had recommended the establishment of maternity benefits for women workers.

Mr. P. J. Marzban (Bombay City, South) opposed the bill. He said that at the present time there was a tendency to shift the domestic

responsibilities of the head of the family to the factory owner, or the school master. He thought that the result of the bill, if passed, would be to a premium on promiscuity. In his opinion the bill was not necessary because he knew of instances in which women workers attended work two days before confinement and rejoined a fortnight after delivery.

Mr. H. B. Shivdasani (Surat District) supported the amendment moved by Mr. Swaminarayan. He said that he could not see why a distinction should be made between workers who were injured while working in mills and workers who were proposed to be benefited by the maternity benefit legislation. He expressed the view that instead of having a provincial measure of this kind it should be an all-India measure. If this was not done, he thought, it would be imposing a further hardship on employers in this Presidency.

The Honourable Sir Ghulam Hussain (General Member) while sympathising with the underlying principle of the bill opposed it. He said that the bill was beset with insuperable difficulties and to give effect to its provisions was outside the pale of practical politics. He asked the Council whether work in factories was responsible for maternity. He further asked whether India wanted to become like Russia in which case it would be necessary to pool and distribute all the wealth in the land and when that happened he would have no objection at all to such legislation. He further said that so far as his information went, even those countries which were members of the International Conference had not given effect to such legislation. In his view if the legislation were adopted it would be impossible to give effect to the various provisions of the bill. He pointed out that a large number of women were employed in factories and the requirements of maternity for which the factory owners were not responsible would cost them a very large sum of money. The cost involved would be not only for the wages to be paid but also for the provision for supervising machinery which would have to be set up.

Criticising the amendment, Sir Ghulam Hussain pointed out that the amendment laid it down that the employer was to pay in accordance with the rules which were to be made by a third party namely Government. The rules themselves, as indicated in the amendment, were very vague. He thought that the interpretation of the rules would lead to quarrels between employers and the employees and this would naturally lead to delay in the settlement of the claims.

Coming to the financial aspect of the proposal Sir Ghulam Hussain asked how maternity benefits were to be provided. If it was by additional taxation on indigenous industries, in view of the prevailing depression, the result of such a measure would be that industries would be crippled if not crushed. If industries suffered because of this additional cess, the greatest sufferers would be the workers themselves. Besides this, if employers were forced to pay an additional tax for their women labourers they would resort to doing away with female labour or reducing their wages or reducing their number. In any case it would be the women labourers themselves who would suffer if the bill passed into law.

As regards the resolution which was passed at the International Conference in regard to India and which was referred to by Mr. Bole,

Sir Ghulam Hussain pointed out that the resolution was passed on the representation of the Indian Delegates. In pursuance of that resolution the Government of India made a very exhaustive enquiry into the question. Almost all the local Governments which were consulted agreed that the object of such legislation was a laudable one but they expressed the opinion that it would be difficult to give effect to it. Legislation for granting maternity benefits was in advance of public opinion and that it was not practical. He thought that many women lady doctors would be necessary with a large and costly staff for supervising the scheme and the bill if passed into law would afford many opportunities for its evasion both by the employers and the employees. He pointed out further that voluntary effort was being made in various places in Bombay and Ahmedabad, where hospitals were being provided for women labourers, where creches were also established and where in some cases women workers were also given maternity benefit before and after confinement.

Mr. K. F. Nariman (Bombay City, South) supported the bill. He said that the many difficulties referred to by the General Member would be easily surmounted by discussing the provisions of the bill in the Select Committee.

Mr. Lalji Naranji (Indian Merchants' Chamber) while expressing sympathy with the object of the bill opposed it. He said that as Government were responsible for preservation of law and order they were equally responsible for the welfare of trade and industry which gave employment to several hundreds of thousands of people in the Presidency. He thought that by passing such legislation the industries in the Presidency would be placed in a disadvantageous position and labourers would suffer by means of unemployment. He thought that the financial aspect of the question had not been properly considered. While he was not against giving maternity benefit to the workers he was not in favour of imposing fresh burdens on the industries. Nor did he think it was possible for payment to be made from general revenues because the general revenues were unable to bear the burden. He also referred to the practical difficulty of including ginning factories which worked for only three months in the year in the scheme.

Mr. N. A. Bechar (Karachi City) supported the bill. He said that the representative of the Indian Merchants' Chamber while emphasizing the necessity of keeping the industries prosperous had forgotten that the welfare and prosperity of the industries also depended upon the welfare and prosperity of labour. He pointed out that in England something like six pounds were paid per expectant mother. In his opinion if Government decided to pay Rs. 30 to Rs. 35 per factory woman the total cost would not come to more than two lakhs.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj Abdullabhoj Laljee (Bombay City) while expressing sympathy with the object of the bill said that owing to trade depression many mills had to be closed down with the result that about 40,000 people were out of employment. He thought that additional burdens on the industry at the present juncture would lead to more unemployment.

Mr. W. Ellis Jones asked the house to reject the bill *in toto* as he thought that the cotton trade in the Presidency was already very seriously

handicapped and a grave injustice to the industry might be done if any further load was placed upon it in the shape of a tax.

Mr. A. D. Sheth (Ahmedabad District) supported the bill. He said that the General Member who opposed the bill had not produced any facts or figures in support of the contention that the bill if passed would break the back of the industry of the Presidency. He pointed out that there was nothing in the bill which taxed the industry. The bill was altogether silent on that point and as a matter of fact the burden had been put on the Government and Government were asked to decide how to fix the taxation. He therefore suggested to the house that the bill be referred to the Select Committee where many of the details could be thrashed out.

Mr. Haji Mir Mahomed Baloch (Karachi City) supported the bill.

Mr. J. B. Petit (Bombay Millowners' Association) opposed the first reading of the bill and also the amendment moved by Mr. Swaminarayan. He pointed out that he was first of all entirely and absolutely opposed to the principle underlying the bill. Nor was he convinced of the necessity of such a measure and he was not prepared to admit that it was incumbent upon the factories employing women workers to give them the benefits contemplated by the bill. He thought that it was primarily and wholly the duty of the State or the local body concerned to do so. He did not understand why the provisions of the bill should apply only to factories and not to other establishments. But he said that even if the mover of the bill had made provision for women employed in other establishments he would have still opposed the bill for the simple reason that no case had been made out for it. He pointed out that a measure of this character, in order to be effective, just and equitable, should be an all-India measure. Besides this, in view of the fact that the industries of the Presidency were already labouring under very serious disadvantages it was not fair to put especially the premier industry of the Presidency under further disadvantages by placing on the Statute Book measures of this character the incidence of which was ultimately bound to add to its difficulties and privations.

As regards the financial aspect of the question, Mr. Petit said that he did not understand how several speakers had arrived at the total figure of the cost at about rupees two to four lakhs. According to him the cost would be at least 12 lakhs though this was a very rough calculation.

Coming to the principle of the bill, Mr. Petit pointed out that it was a mistake to say that the Washington Conference had made the conferment of such benefits obligatory upon the countries that were represented there. He said that as far as he could remember no such resolution was passed as regards maternity nor was there any mandate to any of the nations that joined the Conference to carry out any such measure in any shape or form. Nor did he consider that the benefit which was sought by the measure under discussion to be given to women employed in factories of such an urgent and pressing character as to justify the Council hastily making a departure of this kind. He asked the House whether conditions prevalent at the present moment in the factories were so very bad as to necessitate such a revolutionary measure on the part of the House without sufficient enquiry and examination. He said that his information was that women

employed in factories and other establishments requiring strenuous work were already in the habit of taking rest whenever it was found necessary for them to do so in the interest of their health and particularly during the periods of maternity. Finally, Mr. Petit pointed out that the important principle involved in the legislation was whether the industries that employed men and women for their purpose are responsible for giving such benefits to their employees or whether it was the duty of the Government or the local bodies concerned to do so. He thought that before accepting a measure of this description the House should have in its possession the various details arising out of it and should have a precise idea of its basis and ultimate effects as also of the manner in which it was to be applied. On these grounds he opposed the first reading of the bill and expressed the hope that the house would reject it.

Mr. S. C. Joshi in supporting the bill pointed out that the necessity of the measure had been admitted by the Convention passed by the International Conference at Washington and that such benefits had been introduced by legislation in various Western countries. The object of the bill, he considered, was to improve the economic condition of Indian workers, who, on account of their poverty were not in a position to take the necessary rest which was required by women workers before and after delivery. By the present measure the efficiency of the Indian workers could also be increased. Besides this, the fact that many millowners had introduced small maternity benefit schemes for their workers showed that the millowners themselves considered such a measure necessary. As regards the financial aspect of the question he thought that it might be considered in the Select Committee.

As regards the objection that such a measure should not be confined only to the Bombay Presidency, Mr. Joshi said that the Bombay Presidency had got a large number of employees and as such it ought not to wait till the measure was brought in the Central Legislature. But even if such a measure were brought in the Central Legislature there was nothing to prevent its application only to Bombay or to some other provinces.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in supporting the first reading of the bill admitted that though maternity could not be considered an accident it did not follow from that that women were not entitled to get the benefit which the proposed bill desired to confer upon them. Burden of the scheme ought to be largely borne by the Government as the conservation of the people's welfare was primarily the concern of the Government and in every country, therefore, where maternity benefit had been introduced, the Government had been subjected to a certain amount of charge with regard to it. Dr. Ambedkar was not however prepared to admit that the employer who employed women was altogether free from the liability of such a benefit in the interests of the women, the reason for this being that the employer was able to get *pro rata* larger benefits out of women than he could get by employing men. As regards the economic effects of the bill, Dr. Ambedkar could not agree with the Honourable the General Member that it would result in the reduction of wages but he pointed out that even if it did it would mean that the burden on the industries to a certain extent would be shifted on to the consumers. As regards the

was being taxed for the benefit of another class. In his opinion unless a bill was brought which divided the burden between the various bodies, it could not be supported. As regards the Washington Convention, he referred to a chart published by the *Industrial and Labour Information* for the year 1924 and said that the countries including England which were more industrialised and more economically advanced than India had not introduced such legislation and had not thrown the burden on the employers. As regards the question as to why relief should be given to lady doctors and not to factory workers, Sir Ghulam Hussain said that while female factory workers were not permanent but casual workers the case of lady doctors was different as their service was pensionable. He thought that if employers were penalised for employing women workers the result would be that they would cease to employ them. As regards the suggestion that the bill should be referred to a Select Committee and details thrashed out, Sir Ghulam Hussain said that as the principle of the bill was quite wrong that could not be done. He thought that the cost of the scheme would come to about 13 to 18 lakhs a year according to the figures quoted by Mr. Bechar. If this additional burden was imposed on industries, he asked the House whether the industries would be able to bear it. He warned the House not to consider the bill in a light hearted manner and said that there was already very great depression, there was a great deal of unemployment and there would be greater unemployment in the Presidency if the bill was passed.

Coming to the provisions of the bill, he thought that they were not practicable and would lead to fraud in many cases. The bill had left almost everything for Government to decide and had given them a blank cheque to do anything they liked. By doing this, he thought, the Council had deprived itself of an important privilege. He therefore opposed the bill.

After the General Member's speech the President put Mr. Swaminarayan's amendment to the House which was lost. The original motion was thereupon put to vote and was carried by 50 votes to 40.

State Aid to Industries in Bengal

The following Statement of Objects and Reasons explains the scope and purpose of the Bengal State Aid to Industries Bill, 1928 :—

The object of the Bill is to obtain statutory power to enable State aid to be given mainly for the purpose of encouraging cottage industries and industries on a small scale, in the shape of loans, guarantees, the provision of a hire-purchase system, etc. It is proposed to set up a Board of Industries to advise Government on applications for such aid.

The Bill is modelled on the Madras State Aid to Industries Act, 1923, and the Bihar and Orissa State Aid to Industries Act, 1923. (*From Capital, Calcutta, September 5, 1928.*)

Representation of Labour in the Bombay Municipality

Bill Referred to Select Committee

The following Bill, for the introduction of which leave was granted to Mr. Syed Munawar at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 6th August 1927, was read for the first time in the July 1928 session of the Legislative Council and referred to a Select Committee.

BILL No. XXVII OF 1927

A Bill 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, in the manner hereinafter provided; it is hereby enacted as follows :—

1. In section 5 (1) of the said Act the clause "The Corporation shall consist of one hundred and six councillors" shall be substituted by "The Corporation shall consist of one hundred and ten councillors."

2. In the same section 5 (1) of the said Act, before the Clause "And ten co-opted councillors elected by " the following shall be added :—

"Four shall be representatives of labour employed in different trades and industries in the City who shall be nominated by Government in consultation with the respective labour organisations."

3. In section 5 (1) of the said Act, the following words shall be added to the clause "Seventy-six councillors elected at Ward elections" :—

"Each ward being entitled to return such number of representatives as may be justified by the proportion which its population bears to the total population of the City." (Schedule B of the Act be revised accordingly.)

4. In paragraph 1 of section 11 (2) of the said Act, the word "Ten" shall be substituted by the word "Three."

5. These changes in the qualifications of electors and addition to and redistribution of seats shall come into force with effect from the municipal general elections of 1929.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The object of introducing this Bill is explained in relation to each of the several amendments proposed under the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2.—In view of the fact that labour interests as such have not been recognised in the City of Bombay Municipal Act, as in the case of Local and Imperial Legislatures, and also of the fact that the three capitalist bodies, viz., the Chamber of Commerce, the Indian Merchants Chamber, and the Bombay Millowners' Association, have been provided with representation in the said Act, it is considered desirable and fair, that there should be at least four representatives of labour in the Bombay Municipal

Corporation. The total number of seats in the Corporation have been increased by four, namely, seats allotted to labour, in order that the existing arrangement in other respects may not be disturbed.

Clause 3.—This change is intended to rectify the arbitrary allocation of seats at present in force.

Clause 4.—This change is necessary in view of the facts, (1) that at present the qualifications of voters at the City Municipal Ward elections are the same, as that of voters at Provincial Council elections, though the matters coming for discussion before the Legislative Council are much more important, and of less immediate interest to individual voters, than the matters which are usually discussed and decided in the Municipal Corporation. It is therefore just and fair that the qualifications should be lower in the case of the latter, than in the case of the former. (2) That when the qualification of the monthly rental of not less than Rs. 10 was laid down in the Act, the rents of houses in Bombay had considerably gone up. Now that the rents have been reduced, and thousands of people who were formerly paying Rs. 10 or over per month are now paying less; also that the rate of rent in the chawls built by Development Department, Improvement Trust, and some private landlords has been reduced, a large number of people who formerly exercised municipal franchise in the city will have to be disenfranchised if the figure of rental stated in the Act is retained.

(Signed) SYED MUNAWAR.

Revised Mining Regulations in Japan

It is reported from Japan that the Bureau of Social Affairs decided to promulgate the revised Mining Regulations on 1st July 1928.

It may be remembered that a commission composed of Government officials and mineowners recently recommended the revision of the Mining Regulations with a view to abolishing night work and underground work for women and young persons under 16 years of age. On the plea that any sudden change would involve the mining industry in serious difficulties, it was agreed that the revision was to become effective 5 years after its promulgation. Women and young persons will thus cease to be employed on night work and underground work in Japanese mines as from 1st July 1933.

It was also agreed that the maximum working hours of all underground workers regardless of age or sex should be fixed at ten, including one hour of rest, but that this restriction, which introduces a radical innovation in Japanese legislation, should become effective two years after the revised regulations were issued. The hours of work in all Japanese mines will therefore be limited to ten, including one hour of rest as from 1st July 1930.

It should be noted that previous legislation in Japan imposed no limitation on hours of work for adult male workers in any industrial or mining undertakings. The present measure is thus a new departure in the history of labour legislation. (From "Industrial and Labour Information" Geneva, August 13, 1928.)

Standard of Living of Cotton Mill Workers in Sholapur City

Report of the Labour Office*

The Labour Office conducted an enquiry into family budgets of cotton mill workers in Sholapur in the year 1925 through its Lady Investigators who filled in the schedule specially drawn up for the purpose. In all 1133 family budgets were collected. Out of these 78 were found unsatisfactory and only 1055 were accepted for final tabulation, 902 for cotton mill workers in the City proper and 153 for the families living in the Criminal Tribes Settlement.

The Report is divided into two parts. Part I deals with the 902 cotton mill workers' family budgets and Part II deals with the 153 families living in the Criminal Tribes Settlement.

Part I of the Report

The majority of the families or 69·1 per cent. of the total have a monthly income of between Rs. 20 and Rs. 50, 8·3 per cent. of the families have an income of below Rs. 20, 11 per cent. have an income of between Rs. 50 and below Rs. 60, while 11·6 per cent. of the families have an income varying from Rs. 60 to Rs. 90 per month.

Of the families considered, 80·7 per cent. were Hindu and 19·1 per cent. Muhammadan. Over 60 per cent. of the families come from the city itself or the surrounding villages, and a little over 32 per cent. hail from the Deccan, particularly from Hyderabad territory which is very close to the Sholapur district.

THE FAMILY

The average number of persons in a cotton mill worker's family in Sholapur is 4·68, out of whom 4·57 persons live in the family and 0·11 away from the family. Of the 4·57 persons living in the family, 1·60 are adult males, 1·54 adult females and 1·43 children below 14 years of age.

A classification of families according to their constitution shows that 43·79 per cent. are natural families and 56·21 per cent. joint families. In the case of natural families, in 59·8 per cent. the husband is the only earner, in 26·5 per cent. both the husband and the wife earn, in 9·7 per cent. a grown up unmarried son helps the family and in only 4 per cent. are children under 14 years of age wage earners. As regards joint families, in 17·18 per cent. of the cases the head of the family is the only earner and in 10·69 per cent. of the cases the head and his wife are the only earners. In the remaining cases other members of the family are also wage earners.

In natural families in 91 or 24 per cent. of the cases the family consisted of husband and wife only, in 102 or 26·9 per cent. of husband, wife and one child, in 94 or 24·8 per cent. of husband, wife and 2 children, in 45 or 11·9 per cent. of husband, wife and 3 children, in 30 or 7·9 per cent.

* Copies of the Report can be obtained from the Labour Office, Secretariat, Bombay, or from the Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Bombay.

of husband, wife and 4 children and in 3 per cent. of the cases it consisted of husband, wife and more than 4 children.

Working class families are not entirely dependent on the earnings of the head of the family. Of the 4.57 persons in the family, 1.96 are workers and 2.61 dependants. In every 100 families there are 149 male, 42 female and 5 child workers. The most common number of wage earners in the families is one or two, although occasionally as many as seven wage earners are found in one family.

EARNINGS OF THE FAMILY

The earnings of individuals in the family vary greatly. Some earn less than Rs. 6 per month while others earn as much as Rs. 84 per month. The most common wage is between Rs. 15 and Rs. 21 in the case of men and Rs. 6 and Rs. 12 in the case of women workers.

EXPENDITURE OF THE FAMILY

The following table shows the percentage distribution of expenditure on the various groups of articles included in the family budget

Groups	Percentage expenditure on each group
Food	.. 49.25
Fuel and lighting	.. 9.60
Clothing ..	.. 11.86
Bedding and household necessities	.. 1.00
House-rent	.. 6.27
Miscellaneous	.. 22.02
All groups	100.00

It will be seen from the above table that nearly half the expenditure is on food. The next important group from the point of view of expenditure is miscellaneous. The proportion of expenditure on this group to total expenditure seems large but it must not be forgotten that it includes such big items of expenditure as interest on loans, travelling, etc.

HOUSING

The housing conditions of workers in Sholapur are in many ways superior to those of workers in Bombay and Ahmedabad. The town itself is not congested and there is sufficient room for expansion. All the mills in Sholapur City provide housing for their employees and nearly 12 per cent. of the employees are housed in buildings supplied by the employers. The majority of the workers in Sholapur live in 2 (i.e., counting a closed verandah as a room) or more rooms. In Bombay City, on the other hand, according to the family budget investigation conducted by the Labour Office nearly 97 per cent. of the families live in one-roomed tenements. In Ahmedabad also according to the Rent Enquiry conducted by the Labour Office in the year 1926, 80 per cent. of the working classes live in one-roomed tenements.

Not only is the housing accommodation more spacious in Sholapur than in Bombay and Ahmedabad but it is also cheaper than at both these centres. Nearly 65 per cent. of the families pay a monthly rent of less than Rs. 3, 24 per cent. pay more than Rs. 3 and less than Rs. 4 per month and the

rest pay more than Rs. 4 per month. The average floor space per room is 92 square feet and the average floor space available to each individual is 36 square feet. In Bombay City, on the other hand, the average floor space per room occupied by the working classes is 104 square feet and the floor space available per individual is 24.7 square feet.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The average cotton mill worker in Sholapur appears cleaner and more robust than his prototype in Bombay and Ahmedabad. This is no doubt due to numerous causes not the least important among which are better climate, better housing, less consumption of liquor and facilities for physical development.

The practice of administering opium to children is much more common in Sholapur than in Bombay City. Opium is given to a child from the fifth day of its birth till it reaches the age of two. Indebtedness also which is a characteristic of workers in this Presidency is not absent even among the cotton mill workers in Sholapur. From the figures collected during the enquiry it is seen that over 60 per cent. of the workers are in debt.

Part II of the Report

There are two Criminal Tribes Settlements in Sholapur, one known as the Kalyanpur Settlement and the other the Umedpur Settlement which had in 1925, according to the Criminal Tribes Settlement Officer, a population of 1720 and 2164 respectively. The budgets collected for the purposes of this enquiry were from families living in the Kalyanpur Settlement only.

An analysis of these 153 budgets by income groups shows that the majority of the families have an income below Rs. 40 per month. The percentage of families having an income of Rs. 40 and above is only 19 while in the case of the other cotton mill workers in Sholapur it is as high as 43.1.

The average Settlement family consists of 4.90 persons of whom 1.52 are adult males, 1.57 adult females and 1.81 children. There are no dependants living away from the family. Of the 4.90 persons in the family, 1.93 are workers and 2.97 dependants.

INCOME OF THE FAMILY

The most common wage earned in the mills by adult males varies from Rs. 15 to Rs. 21 and from Rs. 6 to Rs. 9 in the case of females.

EXPENDITURE OF THE FAMILY

The following table shows the distribution of expenditure on the various groups included in the family budget of the Settlement families :—

Groups	Percentage expenditure on each group
Food	.. 53.27
Fuel and lighting	.. 10.96
Clothing ..	.. 11.30
Bedding and household necessities	.. 1.03
House-rent	.. 2.36
Miscellaneous	.. 21.08
All groups	.. 100.00

There is very little variety in the diet of the Settlement families. They consume only a few kinds of food, the staple, as in the case of the Sholapur workers, being jowari. Over a quarter of the total expenditure, and nearly one-half of the expenditure on food, is incurred on jowari alone. The other important item of expenditure is mutton, which accounts for 7.71 per cent. of the monthly expenditure. The Settlement families do not appear to spend anything on tea at all and their expenditure on sugar, milk, ghee, etc., is almost negligible.

HOUSING

The Settlement authorities do not supply houses to all the inmates of the Settlement. A few chawls have been built but the majority of the families live in huts which they themselves build on plots of land leased out to them at a nominal monthly rent. The rent varies from 7 annas to 10 annas per month for a plot of land.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The inmates of the Settlement are very much addicted to drink and no less than 88 per cent. of the families reported expenditure on liquor. They are also heavily indebted, 63 per cent. of the families being in debt.

Unemployment in Japan

PROPOSED RELIEF MEASURES

Three proposals for the relief of unemployment are under consideration by the Japanese Bureau of Social Affairs.

The first proposal is to curtail public works when business conditions are favourable and prices high, in order to reserve the available funds for expenditure in periods of depression when prices are low and unemployment prevalent.

The second proposal calls for the amendment of the Commercial Code so as to require commercial and industrial undertakings to limit the rate of dividends when business is prosperous and profits high, and to devote a part of the surplus funds to the provision of indemnities on dismissal for employees who may be discharged when business is slack.

The third proposal is that a system of unemployment insurance be introduced. This is considered impracticable, however, in the present financial situation.

There are approximately 300,000 unemployed persons in Japan, according to the estimate of the Bureau of Social Affairs. Heretofore, the relief of unemployment has been mainly a function of the State employment exchanges. During the winter months public works have been started with the aid of State subsidies, in order to furnish employment to casual workers in large cities. These, however, were hardly adequate to meet the situation and it has been keenly felt that the inauguration of relief measures of a more positive character is necessary. (*From Industrial and Labour Information, Geneva, August 20, 1928.*)

Industrial Unrest in India

I. Labour Troubles at Jamshedpur

II. Strike in the East Indian Railway Workshops

In the July 1928 issue of the *Labour Gazette* the Labour Office declared its intention of publishing a series of articles dealing with each of the big industrial disputes that have occurred in India since the beginning of this year and the first article dealt with the Jamshedpur lockout. The second article published in the issue for August gave a continuation of the dispute at Jamshedpur and dealt with the strike and the lockout in the East Indian Railway Workshops at Lillooah and Asansol. The present article gives a continuation of the dispute which, at the moment of writing, is still in progress at Jamshedpur and also gives the concluding portion of the note on the labour troubles on the East Indian Railway. The next article in this series to be published in the October issue of this journal will give a continuation of the Jamshedpur strike and will also deal with the strike on the South Indian Railway.

I

LABOUR TROUBLES AT JAMSHEDPUR

(Continued from page 1105, August 1928 issue of the *Labour Gazette*.)

Out of about 26,000 employees of the Tata Iron and Steel Co. at Jamshedpur, 9236 attended the Works on the 11th August. In view of the continued improvement in the figures of attendance the strikers at a meeting held on the 12th decided to resort to more intensive picketing even in the prohibited areas and not to be afraid of courting arrest. As a result of this the attendance fell to 8724 on the 13th. The Company issued the following statement to the Press on the 14th:—

"The Board of Directors of the Tata Iron and Steel Co. announce that their attention has been called to a statement issued by the strikers' committee and recently published in some of the newspapers and also circulated as a pamphlet in Bombay, which, among other inaccuracies and misleading statements, greatly under-estimates the saving which will result at Jamshedpur from the reduction of the number of men and very seriously exaggerates the losses which have been brought about by the strikes. This statement has been issued for the purpose of undermining the credit of the Company in the hope that the shareholders may bring pressure to bear on the Company to yield to the demands of the men.

"The statement claims that in the four months, April, May, June and July, the Company has lost Rs. 120 lakhs. In order to assure their shareholders the Board of Directors announce that whereas they had anticipated a profit of Rs. 60 lakhs during these four months, the results of the first three months (April, May and June) show a total loss of about Rs. 1 lakh and the results for July (for which final figures are not yet available) will show a loss of about Rs. 5 lakhs, the total result being a loss of Rs. 66 lakhs by comparison with what the position would have

been had no strike occurred. These figures take into account all Works expenses and liabilities. The statement also claims that the annual saving to the Company by the reduction in the number of men will be only Rs. 7 lakhs. The true figure is about Rs. 15 lakhs.

It will be seen that the strikers double the losses to the Company and halve its gains. The Company has offered very good conditions to the men it wishes to retain and ample compensation to those who are to be reduced and shareholders are urged to realise that any yielding by the Company on the essential issues would only plant the seeds of repeated trouble in the future."

On the 17th August the Company issued the following statement over the signatures of Mr. N. B. Saklatwala, Sir Fazulbhoj Currimbhoy, Sir Lallubhai Samaldas, Sir Phiroze Sethna, Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas, Sir Ibrahim Rahimtulla, Sir M. Visveshwaraya and Mr. J. D. Chandy, Directors of the Tata Iron and Steel Company, Ltd., then in Bombay.

"We, the Directors of the Tata Iron and Steel Co., now present in Bombay, wish to state our individual and personal conviction that in regard to the labour troubles which have prevailed at the Company's Works at Jamshedpur since February last, the Board have shown every consideration for labour and have done everything for them which is within the power of the Company. We wish to make clear our conviction that the Company cannot make further concessions without serious consequences to the industry.

"The crucial issues are

"(1) the reduction of surplus men by the Company and (2) the claim on behalf of the men for full pay for the strike period.

"As regards (1), the Board announced in October 1926 that they proposed to obtain the reduction by not filling vacancies as they occurred. Owing to the fact that vacancies among the semi-skilled and skilled workmen are not as frequent as amongst unskilled labour, the Management was not able to reduce the total labour force by more than 1600 men in the 18 months during which this policy was in operation. The Board deliberately adopted this policy with the full knowledge that it was expensive for the Company but their sole aim in adopting such a policy was to avoid hardship to the workmen. As the Company was working at a profit, the Board felt that they were justified in being considerate to labour in this matter. But in spite of this consideration the men struck work in various departments between February and May last and later on as a whole on 25th May and 1st June last and threatened future hartals at short intervals. As the men chose thus to stop the operation of the Works, the Board felt, in justice to the Company, that there was no alternative but to effect the reduction required by the Tariff Board in their last report before the Works started again.

"It will be remembered that in the announcement of 26th June the Board said that they would reduce the total labour force by about a quarter, but on the 28th July the Chairman of the Board announced that the reduction would be limited to 18 per cent. We are convinced that this reduction is imperative in the interests of proper organisation and

efficiency in the Works. We wish to emphasise that the Company is not seeking to make any profit by the proposed reduction. The estimated saving in wages by the reduction of 18 per cent. is Rs. 15 lakhs a year. Out of this amount Rs. 5 lakhs will be used to provide increments for the lower-paid men and the remaining Rs. 10 lakhs a year as bonus on production to be divided amongst the Indian workmen only. The standard production required for this bonus during 1928-29 is 40,000 tons per month. In the months of December and January last the average production of finished steel was 40,000 tons, and it will thus be seen that the earning of this increment is within the reach of the men concerned with ordinary effort and efficiency. What the Company aims at is to encourage efficiency of work and to secure a staff of better-paid workmen who may be expected to work whole-heartedly for the development of the industry.

"As regards the claim for payment of wages during the strike period, we wish to state with the fullest sense of responsibility that this claim cannot be granted in any circumstances. Any yielding on this issue would, in our opinion, make the existence of large scale industries in India impossible.

"Unfortunately persistent agitation has been conducted in Jamshedpur during the last few months, which is still misleading the men. Mr. C. F. Andrews, President of the Jamshedpur Labour Association, expressed himself thoroughly satisfied with the bonus scheme declared by the Company and desired it to be followed up with increments to the lower-paid workmen, which have been given effect to, as announced by the Chairman on July 28th. Since Mr. Andrews left Jamshedpur negotiations have taken place at intervals, but we found during recent conversations that the attitude adopted by the spokesmen claiming to represent labour was so unreasonable that further discussions had to be discontinued. A stage is now reached when we consider it necessary in the interests of the workmen to emphasise that they will be well advised to return to work by the 20th instant, failing which the Company will have no option but to engage the necessary fresh men. Much as we regret the present situation we are unanimously convinced that the only course now left open to us is to put the announcement of 11th August into full effect."

On the 19th August Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose accompanied by Mr. Samsuddin of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee arrived at Jamshedpur and addressed a meeting of the strikers. Mr. Bose said that when the majority of the labourers had struck work, rightly or wrongly, there was no reason why the minority should run counter to their suffering brethren and continue to work. Alluding to the attitude of the recognised Labour Association towards the strike, he said that the organisation existed for the men and not the men for the organisation. The voice of 30,000 workmen had to prevail over technicalities held out by the Labour Association. Mr. Bose cited, as an instance, the last coal strike in England and said that the Labour Association should understand the fact that if the strike at Jamshedpur was successful, all would benefit and not any single

section of workers. He exhorted the Bengali workers who had not so far joined the strike to join hands with the other strikers and to follow Mr. Homi's lead to bring the strike to a successful end. Referring to the ultimatum given by the Directors in their statement of the 17th August, he said that he could not believe that it was really an ultimatum, as he understood that some Directors of the Company were actually in sympathy with the strikers. He therefore thought that a united stand would lead them to success.

As a result of Mr. S. C. Bose's visit to Jamshedpur those workers of the Company who had been attending the Works during the last few days again decided to go on strike with the result that the attendance at the Works on the 20th August fell to 3299. The executive committee of the Jamshedpur Labour Association requested Mr. S. C. Bose to accept the presidency of the Union during the absence of Mr. C. F. Andrews and assured him of its support in his guiding the present struggle as its President. Immediately after Mr. Bose's nomination as President a meeting of the Managing Committee of the Association passed the following resolution :—

"The Executive Committee of the Labour Association fully approves of the action of its members and of other labourers in Jamshedpur in withdrawing from the Works as a reply to the notice issued by the Directors on the 17th August and is of opinion that as long as a satisfactory settlement is not arrived at, they should continue to keep away from the Works altogether."

On the 22nd the attendance improved to 6165 with the result that picketing was further intensified. Some sabotage was resorted to during the next few days and telephone wires were found cut at various places. The new Punjabi recruits who offered themselves for employment were particularly molested by the picketers and one of them was stabbed near the market in broad daylight.

There was no material change in the situation during the next few days but the attendance showed a slight improvement every day and on the 31st it amounted to 8194.

On the 1st September Mr. N. B. Saklatwala, Sir Lallubhai Samaldas and Mr. Alexander, the General Manager of the Steel Works at Jamshedpur, had an informal discussion with the Committee of the Indian Chamber of Commerce at Calcutta on the strike situation. The proceedings of the conference were confidential but it was thought that the situation might improve in the light of the discussions that had taken place. Some of the members of the Indian Chamber are reported to have pointed out that any loss to the Tatas, which was a national concern, would react adversely on all Indian industries. There had already been a heavy loss to India as foreign manufacturers had in the meantime taken the position which the Tatas had lost in the market. They urged the necessity of settling the dispute to the satisfaction of both the parties. On the same day Mr. S. C. Bose made the following statement at Lucknow :—

"The Jamshedpur situation has reached a deadlock. The workers are firm and resolute, and as long as their legitimate and reasonable

demands are not satisfied they are not expected to yield. The Management, on the other side, are also unbending and the result is that an important industry, which claims to be called a national industry, is faced with ruin. If the deadlock is continued the consequences to that industry and to the shareholders can easily be imagined. The loss already incurred is considerable. I would have been the first to recommend cessation of the struggle to the workers if the Management had shown a spirit of conciliation and compromise, but unfortunately they have been adamant. It is to the interest both of the workers and the shareholders to effect a speedy settlement, and the only party who do not realise sufficiently the gravity of the situation so as to bring about an early compromise is the Management. The only way out of the impasse is for the Directors to come to the spot, and face the realities of the situation. They can, if they are so inclined, arrive at a settlement on the spot in consultation with the Management.

After the informal discussions with the Indian Chamber of Commerce at Calcutta, the Directors of the Company returned to Jamshedpur where they invited Mr. S. C. Bose to meet them and to discuss the situation further. A prolonged conference took place from the 2nd to 5th September and among those present were Mr. Madan Mohan Burman and Mr. Anandji Haridas, in addition to the Company's Directors, the General Manager and the President of the Labour Association. The discussions at the conference were confidential but Mr. Bose in a Press interview stated that labour was firm and determined not to give up the fight at all till its reasonable demands were met. He stated that if the negotiations broke down, he intended to proceed to Bombay in order to place the case of the Jamshedpur labourers before the Bombay public.

On the 5th September the attendance at the Works amounted to 8820. At the moment of writing this dispute is still in progress.

II

LABOUR TROUBLES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

(Continued from page 1116, August 1928 issue of the Labour Gazette.)

On the 1st June the East Indian Railway Local Stores at Asansol were affected and 150 men struck work in sympathy with the employees of the Lilloah workshops. The Ondal shops were reopened on the same day and about 100 strikers resumed work. In accordance with a previous notification issued by the Agent of the East Indian Railway the remaining strikers at Ondal were dismissed and were asked to vacate their Railway residential quarters.

On the 2nd June, the Government of India issued a communique fully approving the action taken by the Agent with regard to the disturbances that had taken place on the Railway. The men who had resumed work on the previous day at the Ondal workshops again went on strike owing to intimidation by other strikers. On the 5th June, Mr. K. C. Mitra, Secretary of the E. I. Railway Labour Union, issued leaflets exhorting the men to organise a general strike over the whole line as a fitting reply to the

obduracy of the Railway and Government authorities. He also sent messages to foreign labour organisations pointing out that about 21,000 railway men, 10,000 mill workers, 8000 jute workers and 3000 cotton workers were on strike in Bengal and appealing for financial assistance for relief work. The total foreign contributions received towards the strikers' relief fund up to this date amounted to £734 from Moscow and £250 from the British Trade Union Congress.

There was no change in the situation at Lillooah during the next few days. The management of the Wellington Jute Mills granted an increase of one anna in the rates of wages and the workmen who had gone on strike in that Mill resumed work on the 6th June. On the 7th, a number of retail shops were looted by Railway strikers and three of them were arrested by the Police. The efforts to bring out all the men at the Railway workshops at Asansol proved abortive. At a meeting of the strikers held on the 9th Mr. Mitra announced that an amount of Rs. 15,000 had been received from foreign labour organisations towards the strikers' relief. Four hundred and fifty men at the Asansol workshops struck work in sympathy with the Lillooah men. Picketing was continued intensively and was extended on the 12th to Messrs. Burn & Co.'s workshops at Howrah. Anglo-Indian lads were recruited in place of the men who had absented themselves from the Asansol shops. There was a slight improvement at Messrs. Burn & Co.'s workshops on the 13th and the Police offered to escort loyalist workers who were willing to continue work at Asansol. In view of this the strike leaders concentrated their attention at Asansol where the situation became more serious on the 14th. The management in accordance with a circular issued by the Agent employed some new hands on a permanent basis in place of the strikers. Meetings were held every day at which speeches were delivered advising the strikers to hold out till their minimum demands were granted. The management at Asansol accommodated those loyal workers who were afraid of intimidation from the strikers in the workshops and gave them rations.

On the 15th June Mr. Arun Chandra Singha, Zemindar of Paikpara, interviewed the Agent with a view to mediate between the strikers and the management but the negotiations broke down on the question of the reinstatement of dismissed workers. On this point the Agent stated that he could not comply with the demands of the workers but said that the dismissed men would be taken back as and when vacancies occurred. There was no change in the situation till the 20th when 400 men resumed work at the Asansol shops. On the 21st, against the advice of their leaders 400 men went into the Lillooah workshops of whom 200 resumed work while the rest remained idle. As a result of this partial resumption of work, the strike leaders made arrangements to increase gangs of picketers in order to avoid a general resumption. Picketing was, therefore, vigorously carried on and several loyal workers were assaulted by the strikers. Notwithstanding this, 80 men of the Lillooah Power House and 38 men of the Lillooah workshops and Block Signal department resumed work on the 22nd. Three picketers were arrested for rioting. Owing to fear of intimidation from the strikers 200 men slept in the workshops on the night of the 21st and resumed work on the 22nd. On the 23rd, the trouble spread

further afield at Asansol and 500 men employed by the contractors of the Engineering department refused to work. As a result of continued intimidation and assaults on Lillooah workers the situation at Ondal and Asansol became graver culminating in considerable violence at Asansol on the 30th when a serious fracas took place between the workers and the Police. The strikers in the Jute Mills resumed work on the 27th and normal working was restored at the Wellington Mills by the 29th June.

On the 30th, Mr. Mitra sent a telegram to His Excellency the Viceroy praying for an interview in connection with the strike. On the same day His Excellency the Governor of Bengal held a conference with various civil and Railway officials at which the strike situation was reviewed at length.

Several hundreds of men were reported to have resumed work at Ondal and Asansol on the 2nd July and as a result of this Mrs. Santosh Kumari Gupta addressed a meeting of the strikers at Lillooah advising them to remain firm. The attendance at Lillooah improved slightly on the 3rd when 215 men had resumed work excluding the Chinese workmen. There was a serious affray between the Police and the strikers at Asansol on the 4th when three persons were injured. The attendance at Lillooah improved to 372 on the 7th.

On the 8th July the E. I. Railway night Express train from Howrah to Gaya was wrecked near Belur, eight miles from Calcutta, owing to a rail having been removed. As a result, 20 persons were killed and more than double the number injured. The East Indian Railway strikers were suspected of this act of sabotage and public opinion condemned the men. On the evening of the 9th, the East Indian Railway Labour Union decided to call off the strike and to order an unconditional resumption of work on the next day in view of the fact that the Agent promised to consider the men's grievances if they resumed work immediately. As a result of this, 5000 men resumed work at the Lillooah workshops on the morning of the 10th. The attendance at Lillooah improved to 8593 on the next day and the situation at the Railway shops at Howrah and at the workshops of Messrs. Burn & Co. and Messrs. Jessop and Company was almost normal. On the 13th July the number attending at Lillooah improved to 9100.

Following the advice given by the East Indian Railway Labour Union at a meeting of the workers, a deputation of the workers waited on the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer at Lillooah on the 24th and requested him to enquire into their grievances and to give them a reply. The authorities posted a notice on the 26th in reply stating that the men were wrong in their impression that any promise had been given to them to give a reply to their pre-strike demands so soon after resumption of work. The men were advised to submit their grievances to the Employment Officer at Lillooah. With regard to the men's request for re-engagement of the dismissed men at Ondal and Asansol, the notice stated that these men would be re-employed when vacancies occur. With regard to their demand for withdrawal of the cases instituted against turbulent strikers in the courts, the men were informed that the Railway authorities had nothing to do with the matter.

At a meeting of the strikers held on the 29th July it was announced by some of the Union leaders that the "higher authorities" had already sanctioned two months' wages for the strike period and a general increase of 25 per cent. in wages but that the "local authorities" were holding these concessions over. The men were accordingly exhorted to press their demands on the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, East Indian Railway, at Lillooah. Following this advice the workers collected in front of the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office on the 30th and insisted on an immediate announcement. They were told that they had been misinformed about these imaginary concessions. The workers thereupon wanted a reply to their "demands" and were told to submit them through the Employment Officer. The men declined to do so and refused to leave the workshops but they were eventually cleared through magisterial intervention. The authorities closed the workshops on the 31st and announced that the Railway administration had decided to continue the lockout for a week in the first instance. A deputation of the workers subsequently presented themselves at the office of the Chief Mechanical Engineer and submitted a petition addressed to the Agent, East Indian Railway, containing the following demands:—

- (1) wages for the period of the last strike;
- (2) an increase of 25 per cent. in wages;
- (3) reinstatement of the men dismissed at Ondal and Asansol;
- (4) recognition of the East Indian Railway Labour Union;
- (5) a minimum monthly wage of Rs. 30 with full pay for Sundays and other holidays;
- (6) provision of free residential quarters or, in lieu thereof, a house-rent allowance of 20 per cent. on wages; and
- (7) fifteen days' casual leave, one month's sick leave, and one month's privilege leave on full pay during the year.

The deputation was informed that a reply to the demands would be notified in due course. At a meeting of the strikers held on the 1st August Mr. K. C. Mitra, the Secretary of the Union, disowned responsibility for the present trouble and admitted that there was no cause for the present *satyagraha* for which some mischief-makers were responsible. On the same day the Agent left for Simla and discussed the position with the Railway Board on the 3rd. On the 6th August the Agent issued a notice at Lillooah announcing (1) that owing to disorderly conduct shown on the 30th July, 54 workers (names given) were dismissed and that they would receive settlement regarding pay, etc., on application, and (2) that the workshops would be re-opened on the 8th August. In reply to the men's petition submitted on the 31st July, the Agent announced that besides re-affirming the assurances previously given regarding non-victimization and the re-employment of the dismissed men at Ondal and Asansol, the Railway administration rejected all the other requests made in the petition. It was also stated that as the result of an investigation of the pay of certain classes of staff in the Lillooah workshops and of the staff in other workshops in Calcutta, the following improvements in the daily

scales of the following grades would be given effect to from the 1st August 1928:—

- (1) Coolies, 9-1-11 annas existing daily rates, 10½-1-11 annas, new daily rates;
- (2) strikers, 10-1-11 annas existing daily rates, to 12-1-13 annas, new daily rates;
- (3) Paint Shops Rubbers, 10-1-11 annas existing daily rates, 12-1-13 annas, new daily rates.

An enquiry into the housing conditions of the workshop staff at Lillooah was promised. The notice also stated that in the event of further disorders on the reopening of the workshops persons found responsible would be dismissed at once and that in the event of a general disturbance or stoppage, the shops would be closed at least for one month. Persons unwilling to return on the terms specified were advised to tender their resignations and receive settlements of their dues in due course. Those who would not return to work by the 15th August would be considered as having resigned from service.

Mr. K. C. Mitra explained the terms of the Agent's notice at a meeting of the workers held on the 7th and it was decided to resume work on the next day and to press for the reinstatement of the 54 dismissed workers. The workshops were reopened on the 8th and the men allowed to resume work. The 54 dismissed men submitted an appeal for reinstatement. At the moment of writing it is not known what action was taken with regard to this appeal.

Amendment to Australian Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act

An Act to amend the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, which was passed on 22nd June 1928, and came into force on 13th August 1928, increases the penalties for strikes and lockouts; forbids, under penalty, the boycotting (declaring "black") of goods, firms or places; and holds an organisation responsible for the acts of its officials or members unless it has expelled the offending persons, who thus become individually responsible for their actions and can be penalised for them.

Another section of the Act provides that, when ten members of an organisation so desire, they may apply for a secret ballot of all the members of the organisation on any point affecting a dispute, and that, should the organisation refuse to conduct the secret ballot when ordered to do so by the Court of Arbitration, it may be held under the control of one of the officers of the Court. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, August 1928.)

Factories in the Bombay Presidency

Annual Report for the year 1927

The Annual Factory Report of the Bombay Presidency for the year 1927 has been published. The Report shows that the number of factories subject to the control of the Factories Act have increased from 1522 to 1596, a net increase of 74. This increase was mainly due to the erection of new ginning and pressing factories particularly in the area served by the Nira Canal and to the registration of a number of small factories employing about 20 persons.

The number of operatives employed shows little variation from the previous year. The total number employed in all industries was 3,81,868 as compared with 3,82,255 in the previous year. The number employed in cotton mills was 2,45,509 as compared with 2,45,122 in the previous year. Employees in the Bombay mills decreased from 1,48,254 to 1,45,005 while in Ahmedabad they increased from 57,723 to 59,716. The opening of mills in Khandesh and Sholapur added also to employment in the textile industry. The number of operatives in the ginning and pressing industry decreased from 47,457 to 46,535. The match industry employed over 7363 persons in the factories, but, in addition, approximately 2000 persons found employment outside the factories in the Bombay Suburban area in the manufacture of boxes with materials supplied by the factories. Women formed 20·9 per cent. of the factory population and showed a slight decrease from the ratio of 21·2 per cent. in the previous year. This decrease is due to diminished activity in the cotton ginning and pressing industry in which a relatively high proportion are employed. The total number of women employed was 80,155 of whom 34,571 were in Bombay and 45,584 in the mofussil. The total number of children employed in factories was 6322 of which 164 were in Bombay and 6158 in the mofussil. The number of child workers again showed a decrease as about 750 fewer children were employed during the year. The prosecutions instituted last year in Ahmedabad against the parents and guardians of children for allowing them to work in two factories appear to have had a beneficial result since no such case was detected during the year under report. Ten factories were prosecuted during the year for irregularities with respect to the employment of children and 43 convictions secured. Eight were also prosecuted for offences relating to the employment of women and 82 convictions resulted.

The Factory Department have devised a scheme for testing the age of children presenting themselves for examination before the Certifying Surgeons. Children presenting themselves for certification seldom possess birth certificates and the estimation of a child's age is largely a matter of opinion. It was considered some time ago that the standard of height and weight for assumed age adopted in Bombay was too severe. On the other hand in several areas it was thought that the standard was far too lax. Accordingly the Certifying Surgeons in Bombay and Ahmedabad were asked to obtain records of height and weight of school children from the same classes from which child labour is recruited and whose ages were

definitely known. The result of their enquiries shows that children appear to grow 2 each year between the ages of 12 and 15 and to gain 5 lbs. in weight between 12 and 13 and 6-7 lbs. between 13 and 14. The following standard has been devised for the guidance of Certifying Surgeons throughout the Presidency:—

Age	Height in inches	Weight in lbs.
12	52	50
13	54	64
14	56	67

The enquiry is the first of its kind in India and proved the original contention, *viz.*, that the Bombay standard was too high and mofussil standards often too low. An interesting result noted in the course of enquiry was that the physique of school children in Ahmedabad was superior to that in Bombay and that the physique of school children of the depressed classes in Ahmedabad is practically identical with that of the higher castes.

VENTILATION

During the year a greater advance in the provision of comfortable working conditions in textile factories was made than in any previous year. This was particularly the case in Ahmedabad where in the weaving departments of mills working conditions had been very trying. It is pointed out that by the end of the year 9 mills will have installed special humidifying, cooling and ventilating plant in their weaving sheds and 3 in their spinning departments. In addition, 14 other weaving sheds will have improved the gutter system with increased ventilation. The new mills being erected in Ahmedabad will be satisfactorily ventilated, cooled and humidified on modern lines. By the end of the year 33 mills will have either more efficient plant than formerly or have experimental plant under test. It appears that the Agents in Ahmedabad have now realised that improvements are necessary to secure a more contented labour force and it has been abundantly demonstrated that an outlay on efficient ventilation combined with cooling is reflected in increased production. The Chief Inspector reports that in one weaving shed an increased production of 4·6 per cent. was solely attributed to the improvement in working conditions consequent on the improvement in ventilating arrangement. It was reported to him by an Agent that whereas in one of his sheds the production was constantly lower than in the other, it has, since the installation of ventilating and cooling plant, been considerably higher. A second mill reported an increase of practically 9 per cent. in the weaving production after a similar installation. A third Agent has been so impressed with the results obtained in his weaving shed by increased production which benefits himself and his employees alike, that he is contemplating ventilating and cooling his spinning departments on modern lines. The Chief Inspector of Factories points out that he was considerably impressed with the change in a number of Ahmedabad mills effected by the adoption of decent ventilating and cooling system. He says that the usual practice of slacking for several hours per day has been almost stopped and operatives pay much closer attention to work, earn more, and are certainly more contented.

SANITATION

There was a general improvement in sanitation due to the efforts of the Department and to more attention having been paid to the usually difficult problem of maintaining decent sanitary conditions with often a lack of the necessary facilities combined with ignorance and indifference on the part of the employees. In Ahmedabad a number of managers deserve credit for maintaining a fair standard notwithstanding difficulties with sweepers and the absence of a water borne sewage disposal system in the greater portion of the mill area. An extension of the Municipal drainage in this City would be of immense benefit to the mills and would also enable them to dispose of their trade waste in a more satisfactory manner than at present.

During the year a greater advance in the provision of comfortable working conditions in textile factories has been made than in any previous year. Particularly has this been the case in Ahmedabad, where, in the weaving department of mills, working conditions have been very trying. It is hoped that by the end of the present year nine mills there will have installed special humidifying, cooling and ventilating plants in their weaving sheds and three in their spinning departments. In addition 14 other weaving sheds will have improved their gutter systems with increased ventilation. The new mills that are being erected in Ahmedabad will be satisfactorily ventilated, cooled and humidified on modern lines. Thus by the end of the year, 33 mills will have either more efficient plant than formerly or have experimental plant under test. The mills in Sholapur have installed several special ventilating, cooling and humidifying plants that have almost revolutionized the working conditions from the point of view of comfort. Plants suitable for the hot and dry climates of Ahmedabad and Sholapur will not be so effective in Bombay. Two mills have however recently adopted somewhat similar systems. It is hoped to effect material improvements in weaving sheds in Bombay by means of air movement created by fans attached to looms and several managers are experimenting with these.

WAGES AND STRIKES

Wages generally remained steady throughout the year. The most important strikes occurred in two Bombay mills controlled by a large firm of Managing Agents. An attempt was made to introduce the recommendations of the Tariff Board respecting an increase in efficiency as an alternative to a reduction in wages. In at least one of the mills every effort was made by the management to secure efficiency. The arrangements made benefited the employer and the employee alike, says the report. Working costs were reduced but the employees received better wages. The strikes, which lasted throughout August, ended in favour of the employers. The system was extended to other mills under the same Agents but was followed in the early part of this year by an unsuccessful strike in all their mills.

ACCIDENTS

A steady advance in the fencing of machinery has been made, but there was an increase in the number of accidents. The figures show that there were, during the year 1927, 59 fatal, 1169 serious and 3572 minor making

a total of 4800 accidents against 49 fatal, 875 serious and 3060 minor, total 3984 accidents in 1926. This increase is however more apparent than real and is due to the operation of several causes. Improved reporting, increasing carefulness on the part of employers in the treatment of accidents and the extreme liberality of the railway companies in Bombay may be cited as the principal causes accounting for the increase in reported accidents. The railways in Bombay reported injuries to 2119 persons *i.e.*, nearly half the total, but of these only 257 were in anyway connected with machinery and these were chiefly due to flying particles from emery wheels, lathes and the like.

The safety posters prepared for use in the engineering shops of railways have been well received and have been obtained and posted in a number of other engineering shops. The Millowners' Mutual Insurance Association have recognised the value of posters as an aid in the reduction of accidents and have agreed to bear the cost of the preparation of four posters for the textile industry.

HOUSING OF FACTORY HANDS

The continued depression in industry has doubtless hindered activities in the provision of housing. In Ahmedabad, however, two Agents are erecting 450 suitable rooms, while the Agent of a Khandesh mill who had erected 89 quarters (69 one-roomed and 20 two-roomed) prior to 1927, has erected additional 75 quarters in blocks of six or seven on plans prepared by the Surveyor to Government. The Certifying Surgeon, Ahmedabad, who has collected information, states that over 3500 rooms have been built in the past by millowners. The greatest advance as regards the question of housing is however due to the Government of India in connexion with their factories for printing stamps and currency notes at Nasik Road where a new town housing nearly 3000 persons has arisen.

In Bombay the chief development in recent years has been the Industrial Housing Scheme inaugurated by Government. Two hundred and seven chawls with 16,524 rooms have been built. Out of 207 chawls built, 123 have been occupied.

WELFARE WORK

The volume of welfare work undertaken by factories has shown little, if any, diminution. Practically all Bombay mills maintain dispensaries which are to be found in 30 of the Ahmedabad mills. The welfare work undertaken in Sholapur has been noted in previous reports. Two mills in Ahmedabad maintain well-equipped hospitals. The Jubilee mill has a hospital of 16 beds with a staff of two doctors, two nurses and a compounder. A maternity scheme has also been started whose value is reflected in the following figures. Six thousand four hundred and ninety-six patients were treated in the dispensary in 1926 while 77 indoor patients were admitted to the hospital in the last two months of 1927. Of these 19 were maternity cases.

Few large factories in Bombay employ children. Eight mills in Ahmedabad maintain schools and a few mills in other localities. Infant schools are attached to some of the creches in Bombay and Ahmedabad,

the ones in the Advance and Jubilee mills in the latter city being worthy of special mention.

The Labour Union in Ahmedabad has continued its educational activities. Eleven day schools and 15 night schools were maintained and education was imparted to over 1200 students about equally divided between the day and night schools. The periodical medical examination of painters in railway workshops employed on lead processes has continued.

PROSECUTIONS

Two hundred and thirty-seven prosecutions were instituted against 46 factories by the full-time staff. They were all successful except one in which the manager absconded. Fines ranged from Re. 1 to Rs. 200 and totalled Rs. 4125.

Census of Woollen and Worsted Production

The first of a series of Preliminary Reports on the Census of Production taken in the Irish Free State in 1926 deals with the woollen and worsted industry.

The importance of this Report does not lie in the magnitude of the output covered, but in the details which are furnished respecting materials used, wages paid, persons employed, and machinery installed—details which in the case of the Census of Production for the United Kingdom cannot be required compulsorily from persons making returns. Thus, Irish Free State wool textile manufacturers were required to give particulars of materials used (quantity and value) under 14 headings. They had also to state, separately, the amounts paid in salaries and in wages. Under persons employed, they had to distinguish between working proprietors, administrative staff, direct operative staff, and auxiliary workers (carters, warehousemen, etc.). Particulars of machinery had to be given in six classes, and mills are also grouped according to the number of days worked in the year and the number of hours worked in the week.

The Report covers the operations of 41 woollen and worsted factories, accounting for practically the whole of the production of woollen and worsted goods (exclusive of hosiery and carpets) in the Irish Free State in 1926. These 41 factories are dealt with in respect of certain of the general results obtained, in three groups according to the number of persons employed, and a useful comparison is thus secured.

WAGES AND EMPLOYEES

The total of salaries and wages paid in 1926 to persons employed in the factories was £209,532. The total number of persons employed in the industry in the week ended 16th October 1926, was 2364, of whom 246 were proprietors or salaried employees and 2118 were wage-earners. Of the total of 2364, males numbered 1279, of whom 1166 were above 18 years of age. (From "Board of Trade Journal," London, July 12, 1928.)

Unemployment in Travancore

Report of Enquiry Committee *

As a result of a resolution passed by the Legislative Council of Travancore in the year 1926, a Committee was appointed to enquire into the problem of unemployment in the Travancore State and to suggest remedial measures. At its first meeting the Committee appointed a sub-Committee to draft the questionnaire. After the Committee had approved of the draft questionnaire prepared by the sub-Committee copies of it were sent to 770 persons and bodies. One hundred and thirty-eight persons sent their replies to the questionnaire. The Committee also took oral evidence from 64 witnesses. The following summary of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee is reprinted for general information:—

1. The scope of the inquiry included (a) Graduates, (b) Intermediates, and E. S. L. C. holders, (c) those who have passed the Vernacular Higher Examination, (d) V. S. L. C. holders, (e) Lawyers, Doctors, Teachers, Engineers, (f) Technically or commercially qualified persons.
2. Unemployment among the educated classes does not mean destitution or starvation. It means the failure of numbers of young men and women of various educational qualifications to get the kind of work the earnings of which will fairly correspond to the efforts and sacrifices involved in acquiring these qualifications and to the standard of living customary in the grade of society to which they belong. Unemployment in this sense exists to a considerable extent.
3. From the data available and the materials collected it is seen that the number seeking employment every year is about 3500 and the number finding employment is about 1360, the number not likely to find employment being 2140.
4. It is estimated that over 220 graduates seek employment every year, while only 100 of them are likely to be absorbed in the Government service or in the private schools.
5. The average annual output of E. S. L. C. holders seeking employment is 1760 and the approximate number likely to be employed in Government service and in private schools is about 440. While the average annual output of V. S. L. C. holders is 1012, only about 38 per cent. of this number is likely to be absorbed.
6. The number of B.L.'s and pleaders has increased by nearly 50 per cent. during the last six years, while the corresponding increase in the number of suits and appeals has been only about 12 per cent. and obviously there is considerable underemployment and consequent lowness of remuneration among lawyers.
7. There is little or no unemployment among those trained in the Commercial School at Alleppey. Persons trained in the Mechanical Section of the Sri Mulam Technical School find it extremely difficult

* Report of the Unemployment Enquiry Committee, Travancore, 1928.

to get suitable employments, but the men trained in the Civil Engineering side are easily absorbed in the P. W. D. Not many pupils trained in the Carpentry and Smithy School at Quilon have set up as carpenters.

8. It is calculated that the average annual output of girls and young women possessing educational qualifications is about 450 and the number likely to be absorbed is about 180. Taking graduates and E. S. L. C. holders alone, the number seeking employment annually is 50 and the number of annual vacancies likely to occur is about 40. The Committee, while it welcomes the announcement of the decision of Government to throw out certain appointments to qualified women, would deprecate any sweeping change of policy in this direction.

9. The problem of unemployment is an all-India problem and must be traced to general fundamental causes affecting the whole country.

10. The supply of educationally qualified persons seeking employment has been, in recent years, greatly in excess of the demand for their services. The causes of this maladjustment are:—

(i) Increase in population.

(ii) Slowness of the official and professional class in adjusting itself to changed conditions.

(iii) The inadequacy of the income derived from land by the landholding and cultivating classes owing to increase in the size of their families, rise in the standard of living and the rise in the cost of living and the consequent necessity for young men of the landholding classes to leave their homes in search of alternative sources of income. It is also feared that the ordinary forms of agriculture are proving to be unremunerative owing to various adverse circumstances.

(iv) Education and especially English Education had, till very recently, a ready vocational value as a passport to Government employment, the professions or clerical service under private agencies. The situation has now changed but the supply has not readily adjusted itself to the demand.

(v) The attractiveness of Government service.

(vi) Social and political awakening among educationally backward communities.

(vii) Deterioration in educational standards during the last 10 or 15 years is a powerful aggravating cause of the present situation.

11. There is need for caution in criticising the educational system. It must however be admitted that the present system of education has neglected the formation and training of character and that its contribution to economical development has been disappointing.

12. Under the existing social and economic conditions the demand for the services of educated classes is strictly limited.

13. Various considerations point to the conclusion that Travancore is overpopulated under existing economic conditions and that overpopulation is one of the major causes of the problem under investigation.

14. Public opinion should be more fully awakened to the fact of overpopulation than it appears to be at present and the economic policy of the State should be shaped in the light of this outstanding fact.

15. Government should consider the feasibility of an organised scheme of emigration to the high-land regions of the State and explore the facilities for emigration outside the State.

16. All classes of our society and especially the lower classes should be enabled and educated to attain a higher standard of living.

17. The question of unemployment in Travancore is a social and economic problem, not an industrial problem as in western countries. The effects of unemployment are serious and cumulative in character. Our recommendations are designed to relieve the present distress and to prevent unemployment becoming a matter of serious concern in the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

18. We recommend an experiment in land colonisation with a view to attract unemployed educated youths to the land. Special consideration should be shown to applications for land or agricultural loans received from individuals among the educated unemployed.

19. Educational qualifications should be prescribed for posts such as constables, mochees, petty excise officers, peons, etc., registered vakil gumasthas and document writers, for which no such qualifications are being insisted upon now, and the E. S. L. C. and V. S. L. C. holders should be preferred for such posts, due regard being had for the special requirements, if any, of particular departments.

20. A Committee should be appointed to report on the desirability of introducing competitive examinations for every grade of Government service and of appointing a small Civil Service Commission for the regulation and conduct of such examinations.

21. An employment bureau should be established for clerical and other appointments outside Government service and outside the State and a small bureau to serve the needs of qualified women. The Pleadership class in the Trivandrum Law College should be abolished.

22. Government is requested to arrange for the reservation of a few seats for Travancoreans every year in the Madras Medical, Engineering and Veterinary and Coimbatore Agricultural Colleges and the Tata Institute at Bangalore and pay, if necessary, annual subsidies to those institutions in return for the privilege. A few Government scholarships may be instituted to be held by Travancore students undergoing training in technical institutions in foreign countries.

23. The following recommendations for educational reform may be placed before the proposed Education Commission for consideration and report before Government takes action on them:—

(i) No pupil should be given admission to the same class for more than two years and candidates should not be allowed to appear more than twice for the E.S.L.C., V.S.L.C., and Vernacular Higher Examinations.

(ii) Better qualified, better trained and better paid teachers should be appointed in the schools.

(iii) Primary education, especially in rural areas, should be brought into closest touch with the needs and realities of rural life.

(iv) English and Vernacular Middle Schools in predominantly rural areas should be converted into "Agricultural-bias" schools on the Punjab

model if after a study of the working of such schools by two officers of the Education and Agricultural departments, deputed for the purpose, the introduction of such schools here is recommended.

(v) The amalgamation of the English and Vernacular Middle schools.

(vi) The applicability of the recommendations of the Sadler Commission, in particular the possibility of making the vernaculars the media of instruction, while retaining English as a compulsory second language.

(vii) Better provision should be made for the teaching of science.

(viii) Adult education should be taken more seriously than it is now, more funds being allotted for the purpose.

(ix) With a view to give a vocational bias to pupils in our schools suitable provision should be made for teaching Elementary Mechanics at least in a few selected schools.

(x) The establishment of "Continuation schools" for providing vocational and general education to boys belonging to occupational castes.

(xi) Consideration of the practicability of introducing Captain Petavel's Scheme of Educational Colonies.

(xii) Modifications of the scheme of fee concessions to backward and depressed classes.

(xiii) Reforms in the existing system of female education.

24. An all-round intensive development of the economic resources of the country on modern lines is the best remedy for unemployment, and the Committee desires that that should be the foremost aim and not remain, as at present, one of the various subsidiary aims of governmental activity.

25. There should be an increase of staffs and funds for the Development Departments and a standing Committee of the Development Departments presided over, if possible, by the Dewan to mobilise the resources and energies of those departments for economic development.

26. The Committee recommends that Government consider the advisability of inaugurating the movement usually called "Rural Reconstruction" or "Rural uplift" and in particular the bringing into effect of the Village Panchayat Regulation as early as possible.

27. (A) When the Report of the Royal Agricultural Commission is published, a Committee should be appointed to consider how far the recommendations contained in it can be given effect to in Travancore.

The proposed Committee should also examine the practicability of the following suggestions:—

(i) Transfer of the granting of agricultural loans to the Department of Agriculture.

(ii) There should be a separate head of expenditure under irrigation and a special branch of the P. W. D. or the Agricultural department should undertake the whole minor irrigation of the State, the entire expenditure being borne by Government.

(iii) The creation of Forest Panchayats to facilitate the supply of manure and the provision of grazing grounds.

(iv) The revival of subsidiary occupations.

(v) Legislation for the cultivation of puduval lands, sold or to be sold, which may be left uncultivated.

(B) An expert committee should be appointed to enquire whether the existing system and methods of land revenue assessment are sound and in line with the systems of progressive countries.

(C) With a view to meet the most pressing need of agriculture the Committee suggests that the memorandum and draft bill prepared by Mr. I. C. Chacko, Director of Industries, be examined by Government and, if found satisfactory, given effect to with the least possible delay.

28. Government be requested to conduct an industrial survey of the State by an expert or experts.

29. The Alleppey firms should be induced to allow the students of the local Commercial School to learn and pick up experience as apprentices during the period of their course and the representatives of employers should be invited to come into closer touch with the school.

30. The major share of the clerical and technical appointments on the Trivandrum-Shencottah Railway should be claimed for qualified Travancoreans.

31. The Committee hopes that the scope for private medical practitioners will be considerably widened when the proposed schemes for modifying the practice of the free supply of medicine in Government medical institutions, for the registration of medical practitioners and for introducing a system of rural medical aid, come into effect.

32. Government be requested to consider the advisability of providing scope for the service of educated Hindu young men of high intellect and character in our temples and other religious institutions.

33. Finally, the educated classes should learn to revolutionise their outlook, to work harder and to become truly productive.

United States Immigration

IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR IMMIGRANTS

A new policy of providing all aliens authorised to enter the United States, except those who go solely for the purpose of study, with identification cards to be issued by the American consuls before departure, has been adopted by the United States Bureau of Immigration and came into force on 1st July 1928. It forms the subject of General Order No. 106 entitled "Immigrant Identification Cards." The new system has been explained by Mr. George J. Harris, Acting Commissioner of Immigration, who stated that the new card would afford the immigrant a convenient and immediate means of identifying himself as an immigrant alien admitted.

The new Order has aroused great interest and in some quarters great opposition. (*From "Monthly Record of Migration," Geneva, August 1928.*)

Reviews of Books and Reports

Report on the working of the Department of Industries of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st December 1927, Nagpur 1928

The Report of the Director of Industries, Central Provinces, has recently been published. It shows that during the year under report the number of registered factories rose from 747 to 800. There was an increase in the number of rice mills in Chhattisgarh and a tendency to start factories in outlying places instead of in large industrial centres.

Conditions of work within and outside factories showed improvement. Housing conditions, however, continued to be unsatisfactory, as owing to trade depression factory owners were not able to invest money for workmen's housing.

During the year there were two strikes in spinning and weaving mills. One of the strikes resulted in a compromise and the other ended in favour of the employers.

As regards industrial education, it is pointed out that although the number of Government and Government aided schools remained the same, during the year Government passed a scheme for extending the period of training at industrial schools from 2 to 3 years. The estimated cost of this scheme is Rs. 51,226 recurring and Rs. 64,850 non-recurring.

During the year the work of introducing improved appliances among handloom weavers continued and 107 villages were visited by the textile staff of the Department. In addition to this the Department is also considering the improvement of other cottage textile industries such as Dyeing and Printing, Niwar making, Rope making, Knitting and Durrie making.

It appears that a report on the cost of living index numbers for working classes in Nagpur and Jubbulpore is shortly to be published. A State Aid to Industries Bill is at present under the consideration of the Central Provinces Government.

Current Periodicals

Summary of titles and contents of special articles

THE LABOUR MAGAZINE—VOL. VII, NO. 4, AUGUST 1928. (The Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party, London.)

- Articles: (1) *Twenty-Five Years of Political Change*, by Herbert Tracey. pp. 147-150.
 (2) *The Problem of the Russian Trade Unions*, by Edgar T. Whitehead. pp. 151-154.
 (3) *The Welfare of the Blind*, by P. J. Dollan. (Chairman of Committee, Glasgow City Council).
 (4) *The Industrial Tower of Babel*, by R. M. Fox. pp. 163-165.
 (5) *A Danish Alsace-Lorraine*, by Carl Angel Andersen. (Foreign Editor, "Socialdemokraten," Copenhagen.) pp. 166 and 167.
 (6) *The Disappearance of Rural England*, by R. B. Sathers. pp. 172-174.
 Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

INDUSTRIAL WELFARE—VOL. X, NO. 115, AUGUST 1928. (The Industrial Welfare Society, London.)

- Special Articles: (1) *Women Committees*, by Mr. B. B. Blackburn. (Managing Director, Best and Lloyd, Ltd.); Dr. C. Carpenter. (President, South Metropolitan Gas Co.); Mr. John W. Cole.

(Managing Director, Spirella Co. of Great Britain, Ltd.); Mr. Geoffrey Le M. Mander. (Director Mander Bros., Ltd., Wolverhampton.); Mr. Loris E. Mather. (Turman, Mather and Platt Limited.); Mr. Angus Watson. (Chairman, Angus Watson & Co., Ltd.). pp. 205-210.

- (2) *A Canteen Problem: Why and when canteens are not patronised*, by W. J. Hiscox. pp. 211-213.
 (3) *Work Magazine Difficulties*, by Eric N. Simons. pp. 213-216.
 (4) *Safe Clothing for Women Workers*. pp. 217-219.
 Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

INDUSTRIAL WELFARE—VOL. X, NO. 116, AUGUST 1928. (The Industrial Welfare Society, London.)

Special Articles: (1) *Abnormal Sickness among Typists: account of a preliminary investigation by the Industrial Welfare Society into some causes of and remedies for, certain high sickness rates among girls doing typing and similar work*. pp. 241-244.

- (2) *Canteen for a Clerical Staff*. pp. 249-251.
 (3) *Works Committees*, by Mr. W. T. Bell. (Chairman and Managing Director, Robey and Company, Ltd.); Mr. E. J. Fox. (Managing Director, The Stanton Ironworks Company, Ltd.); The Honourable Henry Mond. (Director, Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.). pp. 251-253.

(4) *Delicate Eyework and Efficiency: an interesting experiment with glasses for the relief of eyestrain among persons performing very fine work; an account of the attitude of the workers and of the increased output obtained*. pp. 257-259.

- (5) *Accidents and Acetylene*. pp. 260-262.
 Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

MONTHLY LABOUR REVIEW—VOL. XXVI, NO. 4, APRIL 1928. (U. S. Department of Labour, Washington.)

Special Articles: (1) *Measures to combat Unemployment in Europe*, by Peter A. Speck.—Great Britain: temporary measures to provide employment; permanent or preventive measures; Germany: temporary measures to relieve unemployment; expansion of regular work; other measures; Hungary: measures against unemployment; Estonia: municipal measures for providing work for unemployed; national schemes to combat unemployment. pp. 1-14.

(2) *Health and Recreation Activities in Industrial Establishments*.—Medical and hospital service; sick leave with pay; vacations with pay; lunch rooms; recreation; group life insurance and disability funds; education; encouragement of thrift; administration of personnel work; conclusion. pp. 14-21.

(3) *Unemployment in the United States: Report of the Secretary of Labour*.—Report of Commissioner of Labour Statistics; part-time employment. pp. 22-31.

(4) *Retirement Systems for Municipal Employees*.—Scope of systems; employee representation in management; character of plans and source of funds; conditions for retirement; conditions for superannuation or service retirement; conditions for disability retirement; retirement allowances; allowances for disability retirement; refunds; provision for dependents. pp. 38-43.

(5) *Present Labour Conditions in China*, by S. K. Sheldon Tso, LL.B., M.A., Ph.D.—Classes of labour; unemployment; causes of unemployment; woman and child labour; hours of labour; wages; increase in cost of living; real wages; average annual income in China. pp. 44-55.

(6) *Hours and Earnings in Slaughtering and Meat Packing, 1927*.—Guaranteed hours of pay; overtime; work on Sunday and holidays; statistics of wages and hours. pp. 104-115.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

LABOUR GAZETTE—VOL. XXVIII, NO. 7, JULY 1928. (The Department of Labour, Canada.)

Special Articles: (1) *Plan to make Arbitration Awards Enforceable in U. S. A.*—Conference at New York; principle approved. pp. 704-706.

(2) *Industrial Conferences in Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand*.—Great Britain; Australia; New Zealand. pp. 706-708.

(3) *Minimum Wages for Female Employees in Quebec: Orders governing the Textile Trade in Montreal and District and in rest of Province*.—Orders Numbers 5 and 6. pp. 713 and 714.

(4) *Workmen's Compensation in Alberta and British Columbia in 1927*.—Alberta; British Columbia—Extent of protection to workmen, accidents and claims, accident prevention and first aid. pp. 717-719.

(5) *Industrial Hygiene at McGill University*, by Frank G. Pedley, M.D., of the Industrial Clinic McGill University, Montreal. p. 723.

(6) *Getting Results in Accidents Prevention*, by Mr. A. C. Tagge (President, Canada Cement Co., Limited, Montreal).—Workmen's compensation; necessity for accident prevention; the foundation of safety work; experience at Port Colborne; other plants; safety trophies; co-operation. pp. 724-727.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

Current Notes from Abroad

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 during July resulted in an increase of about £53000 in the weekly mill-rate wage of 194,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of £2450 in those of 31,000 workpeople.

The principal increase affected men 21 years of age and over employed as plain timeworkers in federated shipbuilding yards in England and Scotland, most classes of skilled timeworkers receiving an increase of 1s 6d. per week, while the majority of semi-skilled men and labourers received increases varying up to the same amount. Similar increases applied to adult timeworkers employed in the shipbuilding industry at Belfast. There were small increases in the cost-of-living wage of workpeople employed in the textile bleaching, dyeing, printing, etc., industry of Yorkshire, Lancashire and Scotland, the increases amounting to under ½ per cent. on current wages in Yorkshire, and 1s per week in the case of men, and 2d. per week in the case of women, in Lancashire and Scotland. Other bodies of workpeople whose wages were increased included lambs wool and worsted yarn makers in Lancashire and workpeople employed in wholesale warehouses at Manchester. The principal bodies of workpeople affected by reductions in wages were shale miners and shale oil workers in Scotland, iron millmen in Cumberland and Cumberland, iron puddlers and millmen in the West of Scotland, and men employed by public works contractors in London. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, August 1928.)

The average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 55 per cent above that of July 1914 as compared with 65 per cent a month ago and 61 per cent a year ago. For food alone the index number for 1st August was 56, as compared with 57 a month ago and 51 a year ago. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, August 1928.)

The number of workpeople who were engaged in work reported to the Ministry of Labour as being in dispute in July was 11. In addition, 42 disputes which began before July were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in July (including workpeople through whom work at the establishments in which disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was 21,600, and the aggregate duration of all disputes during July was about 227,000 working days. This compares with 100,000 working days lost in the previous month and 104,000 days lost in the previous year. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, August 1928.)

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

Count or Number	Month of July			Four months ended July		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
1 to 10	7,380	7,081	728	27,301	25,500	5,226
11 to 20	10,400	17,481	5,920	73,274	72,878	29,064
21 to 30	15,500	15,433	6,307	62,000	63,077	30,572
31 to 40	1,200	2,177	1,373	6,813	8,387	6,213
Above 40	400	916	500	3,218	3,795	2,213
Waste, etc.	70	130		466	453	92
Total	35,150	43,218	14,828	173,072	174,090	73,368

BOMBAY CITY

Count or Number	Month of July			Four months ended July		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
1 to 10	7,065	6,218	362	24,377	22,422	2,714
11 to 20	11,300	12,189	177	49,318	49,581	7,208
21 to 30	9,900	9,921	386	38,663	39,617	6,422
31 to 40	1,133			3,075	3,852	997
Above 40	429			1,193	1,801	417
Waste, etc.	130			424	453	92
Total	31,138	30,020	362	117,050	117,726	17,850

AHMEDABAD

Count or Number	Month of July			Four months ended July		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
1 to 10	148	195	845	1,273	18,927	4,047
11 to 20	3,372	2,658	3,456	13,310	17,182	1,271
21 to 30	4,292	4,179	4,780	17,182	17,182	1,271
31 to 40	712	1,094	2,947	1,271	1,271	1,271
Above 40	441	344	349	1,557	1,557	1,271
Total	10,065	11,670	9,874	35,841	35,841	11,271

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

Description	Month of July			Four months ended		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	1,511	2,823	439	4,024	7,563	
Chudders	1,868	2,115	660	6,233	6,773	
Dhotis	8,059	8,017	5,872	30,973	32,515	
Drills and jeans	709	1,202	308	3,845	5,005	
Cambrics and lawns	37	71	40	93	182	
Printers	135	74	177	720	565	
Shirtings and long cloth	10,585	9,415	3,841	42,697	40,529	
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	1,221	1,286	662	4,561	5,591	
Tent cloth	72	8	31	156	204	
Other sorts	405	468	299	1,904	1,986	
Total	24,602	25,479	12,329	95,206	100,913	
Coloured piecegoods	9,128	10,161	3,043	36,955	40,135	
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	208	220	25	1,166	893	
Hosiery	19	24	44	99	123	
Miscellaneous	236	279	79	945	1,139	
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	144	324	53	715	1,451	690
Grand Total	34,337	36,487	15,573	135,086	144,654	68,268

BOMBAY CITY

Description	Month of July			Four months ended		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	1,111	2,387	91	3,593	5,905	767
Chudders	1,364	1,454	84	4,488	4,827	767
Dhotis	2,528	3,215	257	9,516	11,689	767
Drills and jeans	632	1,103	189	3,507	4,702	1,593
Cambrics and lawns	4	28	8	18	70	36
Printers	8,074	7,133	589	33,323	30,698	5,867
Shirtings and long cloth	791	899	138	3,169	4,158	1,053
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	69	5	11	132	178	93
Tent cloth	241	301	58	1,102	1,167	
Total	15,074	16,525	1,425	58,848	63,334	13,237
Coloured piecegoods	6,394	7,488	509	25,814	27,851	5,683
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	200	219	10	1,128	883	242
Hosiery	4	7	2	19	14	14
Miscellaneous	184	233	1	111	919	131
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool			4	413	887	199
Grand Total	24,719	27,472	1,951	86,995	93,911	19,506

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

Description	Month of July			Four months ended July		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	30	79	108	95	132	201
Chudders	386	507	386	1,352	1,409	1,507
Dhotis	4,477	3,687	4,664	17,606	16,218	16,694
Drills and jeans	28	28	31	120	117	85
Cambrics and lawns	32	44	31	72	108	138
Printers	75	33	87	394	234	386
Shirtings and long cloth	1,929	1,772	2,809	7,080	7,200	8,407
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	341	241	392	1,063	1,023	1,274
Tent cloth	1		3	7	5	3
Other sorts	87	98	151	448	535	577
Total	7,386	6,489	8,662	28,237	26,981	29,272
Coloured piecegoods	Pounds	1,634	1,446	1,411	7,375	6,651
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	"	1			5	5
Hosiery	"	15	16	42	80	86
Miscellaneous	"	50	37	74	170	209
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	"	20	75	47	294	483
Grand Total	9,106	8,063	10,236	36,161	35,471	36,838

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS IN AUGUST 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>Industry</i>								
			1928	1928				
1. General Strike, Bombay—								
(a) 10 cotton mills	20,262		16 Apr.		Introduction of new systems of work in accordance with the recommendations of the Textile Tariff Board, and alleged reductions in rates of wages and increases in hours of work.	No settlement reported	3,838,744	
(b) 8 cotton mills and Indian Bleaching Mill.	17,834		17 Apr.					
(c) 1 cotton mill	5,774		18 Apr.					
(d) 2 cotton mills	5,750		19 Apr.					
(e) 3 cotton mills	5,525		21 Apr.					
(f) 23 cotton mills	47,199		23 Apr.					
(g) 14 cotton mills and Choi Silk Mill.	26,631		24 Apr.					
(h) 6 cotton mills and Alliance Silk Mill.	17,713		25 Apr.					
(i) 1 cotton mill	956		26 Apr.					

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2. Strike in Sholapur Mills—								
(a) The Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Mills.	2,500	5,500	21 Apr.	6 July	Alleged reduction in wages.	The strike in the Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Mills ended in a partial compromise and some of the strikers of the Vishnu mill resumed work un-conditionally. No settlement reported in the case of the disputes in the other mills affected.	172,932	
(b) The Vishnu Mill		3,914	21 June		Assault on a worker by the management. Alleged reduction in wages.			
(c) The Laxmi Mill	600	2,830	16 July					
(d) The Jam Mill	578		17 July					
(e) The Narsinggirji Mill.	1,000		18 July					
3. Strike in Kurla Mills—								
(a) The Swadeshi Mill.	3,337	375	14 May		Demand for an increase in wages.	No settlement reported	137,912	
(b) The Kurla Spinning and Weaving Mill		1,800	17 May					
4. The Chandroday Mill, Viramgaum.								
	285		2 Aug.	6 Aug.	Reduction in wages	The strike ended in favour of the workers.	713	713
5. The New Swadeshi Weaving, Spinning and Manufacturing Mill, Naroda Road, Ahmedabad.								
	334		5 Aug.	7 Aug.	Demand for reinstatement of a dismissed weaver.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	334	334
6. The Chandroday Mill, Viramgaum.								
	285		7 Aug.	16 Aug.	Demand for the cessation of the practice of issuing passes for going out of the mill during working hours.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	1,153	1,153

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ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES *

1. Bombay City

Class of Factory	No. of accidents due to				Nature of injury						Total No. of persons injured		
	Machinery in motion		Other causes		Fatal		Serious		Minor		Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928	
	Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928	Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928	Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928	Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928	Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928			
I. Textile Mills—													
Cotton Mills	97	8	80(a)	13(a)	4	..	79	12	97	10	180	22	
Woolen Mills	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others	1	..	3	3(a)	..	..	1	2	3	2	4	4	..
Total ..	100	8	83(a)	16(a)	4	..	82	14	100	12	186	26	
II. Workshops—													
Engineering	12	16	134	135(a)	..	1	35	15	111	111	146	153	
Railway	75	69	632(a)	761(a)	2	1	89	42	619	796	710	839	
Mint	6	..	12	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	90	778(a)	918(a)	2	3	127	64	745	952	874	1,019	
Chemical Works	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Flour Mills	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Printing Presses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	9	26(a)	34(a)	..	1	17	26	27	23	44	50	
Total All Factories ..	210	107	887(a)	968(c)	6	4	226	104	872	987	1,104	1,095	

2. Ahmedabad

Class of Factory	No. of accidents due to				Nature of injury						Total No. of persons injured		
	Machinery in motion		Other causes		Fatal		Serious		Minor		Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928	
	Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928	Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928	Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928	Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928	Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928			
I. Textile Mills—													
Cotton	79	99	48	52	2	5	90	96	35	50	127	151	
Total ..	..	99	48	52	2	5	90	96	35	50	127	151	
II. Miscellaneous—													
Match Factories	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Flour Mills	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oil Mills	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Engineering	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	2	1	1	..	..	1	2	..	1	1	3	
Total All Factories ..	79	101	49	53	2	5	91	98	35	51	128	154	

* The figures for May to August are preliminary.
 Explanation:—(a) 2 persons injured by one accident. (b) 7 persons injured by one accident. (c) 8 persons injured by one accident.

ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES—(contd)

3. Karachi City

Class of Factory	No. of accidents due to				Nature of injury						Total No. of persons injured		
	Machinery in motion		Other causes		Fatal		Serious		Minor		Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928	
	Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928	Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928	Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928	Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928	Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928			
I. Workshops—													
Railway and Port Trust	..	2	3	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Engineering	1	..	6	8	..	..	1	6	6	4	7	10	
Total ..	1	2	9	15	..	..	1	6	6	4	7	10	
II. Miscellaneous—													
Total ..	6	2	12	6	..	..	1	3	17	5	18	8	
Total All Factories ..	7	4	18	14	..	..	2	9	23	9	25	18	

4. Other Centres

Class of Factory	No. of accidents due to				Nature of injury						Total No. of persons injured		
	Machinery in motion		Other causes		Fatal		Serious		Minor		Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928	
	Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928	Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928	Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928	Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928	Jan to April 1928	May to Aug 1928			
I. Textile Mills—													
Cotton Mills	41	34	18(b)	25(b)	1	..	29	24	31	37	61	61	
Others	10	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	15	15	20	..	
Total ..	51	34	28(b)	25(b)	1	..	34	24	46	37	81	61	
II. Workshops—													
Arm and Ammunition	17	11	91	102	..	..	15	19	93	94	108	113	
Others	1	1	7	2	..	..	2	1	6	2	8	3	
Total ..	21	13	117	112	..	..	21	23	117	102	138	125	
III. Miscellaneous—													
Engineering	2	3	4(b)	2	1	..	7	5	..	..	8	5	
Paint Works	15	21	14	8(a)	..	..	2	18	20	11	29	30	
Others	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	17	24	18(b)	10(a)	1	2	25	25	11	8	37	35	
Total All Factories ..	89	71	163(b)	147(a)	2	2	80	72	174	147	256	221	

Explanation:—(a) 2 persons injured by one accident. (b) 3 persons injured by one accident.

WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN BOMBAY

Article	Grade	Unit	Prices in the month of				Index numbers				
			July 1914	Aug. 1927	July 1928	Aug. 1928	July 1914	Aug. 1927	July 1928	Aug. 1928	
			Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.					
Cereals—											
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	Maund	4 11 3	6 4 11	5 4 2	5 3 10	100	134	112	111	
Do.	Delhi No. 1	Cwt.	5 9 6	7 12 9	7 10 9(5)	7 10 9(5)	100	139	137	137	
Do.	Khandwa Seoni	Candy	45 0 0	82 8 0	80 0 0	82 8 0	100	183	178	183	
Do.	Jubbulpore		40 0 0	52 8 0	49 0 0	49 0 0	100	141	123	123	
Jawari (1)	Cawnpore	Maund	3 2 6	4 7 1	3 6 2	3 9 7	100	141	107	114	
Barley ..		"	3 4 6	4 5 5	4 0 4	3 14 8	100	132	123	119	
Beiri ..	Ghati	"	3 4 6	4 7 1	4 3 9	4 3 9	100	135		129	
	Index No.—Cereals						100	142	130	131	
Pulses—											
Gram ..	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	Maund	4 3 9	4 13 11	4 15 7	5 3 0	100	115	117	123	
Turdial ..	Cawnpore	"	5 10 5	8 4 1	7 6 6	7 6 6	100	146	131	131	
	Index No.—Pulses						100	131	124	127	
	Index No.—Food grains						100	140	129	130	
Sugar—											
Sugar (refined)	Mauritius	Cwt.	9 3 0				100				
Do. (do.)	Java, white	"	10 3 0	15 0 0	13 10 6	13 12 0	100	147	134	135	
Do. Raw (Gul)	Sangli or Poona	Maund	7 14 3	9 4 0	9 12 9	10 3 3	100	117	124	129	
	Index No.—Sugar						100	132	129	132	
Other Food—											
Turmeric	Rajapuri ..	Maund	5 9 3	8 8 1	15 10 4	14 15 5	100	152	280	268	
Ghee ..	Deshi	"	45 11 5	88 9 2	74 4 7	72 13 9	100	194	163	159	
Salt ..	Bombay (black)	"	1 7 6	2 0 0	2 2 0	2 2 0	100	136	145	145	
	Index No.—Other food						100	161	196	191	
	Index No.—All Food						100	143	143	143	
Oilseeds—											
Linseed	Bold	Cwt.	8 14 6	10 11 0	10 9 6	10 0 0	100	120	119	112	
Rapeseed	Cawnpore (brown)	"	8 0 0	11 6 0	10 10 0	10 10 0	100	142	133	133	
Poppy seed		"	10 14 0	18 0 0	17 2 0	17 0 0	100	166	157	156	
Gingelly seed	White	"	11 4 0	16 4 0	12 13 0	12 9 0	100	144	114	112	
	Index No.—Oilseeds						100	143	131	128	

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Textiles—Cotton—										
(a) Cotton, raw—†										
Broach	Good	Candy	251 0 0	380 0 0	401 0 0	350 0 0	100	151	160	139
Oomra	Fully good	"	222 0 0	348 0 0	377 0 0	331 0 0	100	157	170	149
Dharwar	Saw-ginned	"	230 0 0	387 0 0	399 0 0	349 0 0	100	168	173	152
Khandesh	Machine-ginned	"	205 0 0		357 0 0	357 0 0 (6)	100		174	174
Bengal	Do.	"	198 0 0		330 0 0	280 0 0	100		167	141
	Index No.—Cotton, raw						100	159	169	151
(b) Cotton manufactures—										
Twist	40 s	Lb.	0 12 9	1 2 0	1 3 0	1 2 0	100	141	149	141
Grey shirtings	Fair 2,000	Piece	5 15 0	8 15 0	9 10 0	9 11 0	100	151	162	163
White mulls*	6/600	"	4 3 0	9 0 0	8 12 0	8 12 0	100	215	209	209
Shirtings	Liepmann's 1,500	"	10 6 0	17 12 0	19 0 0	18 10 0	100	171	183	180
Long Cloth (3)	Local made 36" x 37½ yds.	Lb.	0 9 6	0 15 6	0 15 9	0 15 6	100	163	166	163
Chudders (4)	54" x 6 yds.	"	0 9 6	0 15 0	0 15 6	0 14 9	100	158	163	155
	Index No.—Cotton manufactures						100	167	172	169
	Index No.—Textiles—Cotton						100	164	171	161
Other Textile—										
Silk	Manchow	Lb.	5 2 6	6 11 6	6 1 4	6 0 3	100	130	118	117
Do.	Mathow Lari	"	2 15 1	4 4 10	3 12 3	3 13 3	100	146	128	130
	Index No.—Other Textiles						100	138	123	124
Hides and Skins—										
Hides Cow	Tanned	Lb.	1 2 6	1 9 2	1 11 5	1 10 7	100	136	148	144
Do. Buffalo	Do.	"	1 1 3	0 14 1	0 14 0	0 14 6	100	82	81	84
Skins, Goat	Do.	"	1 4 0	2 9 8	2 9 10	2 15 3	100	208	209	236
	Index No.—Hides and Skins						100	142	146	155
Metals—										
Copper braziers		Cwt.	60 8 0	55 8 0	59 12 0	60 0 0	100	92	95	99
Iron bars		"	4 0 0	6 4 0	7 0 0	7 4 0	100	156	175	181
Steel hoops		"	7 12 0	9 8 0	8 12 0	8 12 0	100	123	113	113
Galvanised sheets		"	9 0 0	12 8 0	11 14 0	11 9 0	100	139	132	128
Tin plates		Box	8 12 0	14 8 0	14 8 0	14 8 0	100	166	166	166
	Index No.—Metals						100	135	137	137
Other raw and manufactured articles—										
Coal (2)	Bengal ..	Ton	14 12 0	21 0 0	21 0 0	20 12 0	100	142	142	141
Do.	Imported	"	19 11 6	22 9 0	18 4 2 (a)	23 4 11 (a)	100	114	93	118
Kerosene	Elephant Brand	2 Tins	4 6 0	7 10 6	6 11 0	6 11 0	100	175	153	153
Do.	Chester Brand	Case	5 2 0	9 12 6	8 12 0	8 12 0	100	191	171	171
	Index No.—Other raw and manfd. articles						100	156	140	146
	Index No.—Food						100	143	143	143
	Index No.—Non-food						100	150	149	147
	General Index No.						100	148	147	146

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(1) Quotation for Sholapur quality since March 1926. (2) Since June 1925, the quotation is for Bengal, 1st Class Jheria. (3) Quotation for 37" x 37½ yds. since March 1926 (4) Quotation for 50" x 6 yds. since March 1926. (5) Quotation for May 1928. (6) Quotation for July 1928.
 * In the absence of price-quotations for the grade 6,600 the price quoted for white mulls is for the grade 6,000/56 since June 1925 and for 6,000/54 x 19 since October 1927.
 † Since October 1925, the price-quotations for raw cotton are for the following five varieties, viz., Broach, Fully good; Oomra, Fine; Dharwar, Saw-ginned, F. G.; Khandesh, Fully good; Bengal, Fully good.
 (a) The difference in the prices of this item is due to most of the imports in August 1928 being of English coal and those in July being of African coal.

WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN KARACHI*

Article	Grade	Rate per	Prices in the month of				Index numbers				
			July 1914	Aug. 1927	July 1928	Aug. 1928	July 1914	Aug. 1927	July 1928	Aug. 1928	
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.					
<i>Cereals—</i>											
Rice (1)	Larkana No. 3	Candy	39 0 0	64 12 0	59 12 0	59 4 0	100	166	153	152	
Wheat, white	5% barley, 3% dirt, 30% red	"	31 8 0	41 4 0	38 4 0	37 12 0	100	131	121	120	
" red	5% barley, 3% dirt, 92% red	"	31 4 0	39 10 0			100	127			
" white	2% barley, 11% dirt	"	32 8 0	42 8 0	39 6 0	39 0 0	100	131	121	120	
" red	2% barley, 11% dirt	"	32 4 0	40 14 0			100	127			
lowari	Export quality	"	25 8 0	38 8 0	35 8 0	36 4 0	100	151	139	142	
Barley	3% dirt	"	26 8 0	33 12 0	32 8 0	30 0 0	100	127	123	113	
Index No.—Cereals							100	137	131	129	
<i>Pulses—</i>											
Gram (2)	1% dirt	Candy	29 8 0	37 4 0	37 8 0	38 0 0	100	126	127	129	
<i>Sugar—</i>											
Sugar	Java white	Cwt.	9 2 0	14 12 0	13 3 0	13 0 6	100	162	145	143	
	" brown	"	8 1 6	13 11 0	13 8 0 (5)	12 12 0	100	169	167	158	
Index No.—Sugar							100	166	156	151	
<i>Other food—</i>											
Salt		Bengal Maund	2 2 0	2 0 0	1 8 3	1 8 6	100	94	71	72	
<i>Oilseeds—</i>											
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	65 8 0	66 10 0 (4)	66 10 0 (4)	100	128	131	131	
Gingelly seed	Black 9% admixture	"	62 0 0	98 0 0	74 8 0	74 8 0	100	158	120	120	
Index No.—Oilseeds							100	137	125	125	
<i>Textiles—</i>											
Jute bags	B. Twills	100 bags	38 4 0	51 12 0	51 8 0	51 4 0	100	135	135	134	

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<i>Textiles—Cotton</i>										
(a) Cotton, raw ..	Sind	Maund	20 4 0	36 2 0	26 0 0	29 0 0	100	178	178	143
(b) Cotton manufactures										
Drills		Piece	10 3 6	15 8 0	17 12 0	17 8 0	100	152	174	171
Shirtings		"	10 2 0	18 0 0	18 8 0	18 0 0	100	178	183	178
Index No.—Cotton manufactures							100	165	179	175
Index No.—Textiles—Cotton							100	169	178	164
<i>Other Textiles—Wool</i>	Kandahar	Maund	28 0 0	38 0 0	36 0 0	36 0 0	100	136	129	129
<i>Hides—</i>										
Hides, dry	Sind	Maund	21 4 0	13 12 0	20 8 0	20 8 0	100	65	96	96
	Punjab	"	21 4 0	13 12 0	20 8 0	20 8 0	100	65	96	96
Index No.—Hides							100	65	96	96
<i>Metals—</i>										
Copper Braziers..		Cwt.	60 8 0	55 0 0	61 0 0	61 8 0	100	91	101	102
Steel Bars		"	3 14 0	6 4 0	6 10 0	6 10 0	100	161	171	171
" Plates		"	4 6 0	6 12 0	7 4 0	7 4 0	100	154	166	166
Index No.—Metals							100	135	146	146
<i>Other raw and manufactured articles—</i>										
Coal	1st class Bengal	Ton	16 0 0	22 0 0	19 4 0	19 4 0	100	138	120	120
Kerosene	Chester Brand	Case	5 2 0	9 10 0	8 9 0	8 9 0	100	188	167	167
"	Elephant "	2 Tins	4 7 0	7 8 0	6 7 0	6 7 0	100	169	145	145
Index No.—Other raw and manufactured articles							100	165	144	144
Index No.—Food							100	137	130	128
Index No.—Non-food							100	139	140	137
General Index No.							100	138	126	134

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*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 since April 1924. (3) Quotation for September 1927. (4) Quotation for May 1928. (5) Quotation for June 1928.

WHOLESALE PRICES INDEX NUMBERS IN BOMBAY BY GROUPS

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Month	Cereals	Pulses	Sugars	Other food	Index No., food	Oilsseeds	Raw cotton	Cotton manufactures	Other textiles	Hides and skins	Metals	Other raw and manufactured articles	Index No., non-food	General Index No.
1925 August	146	100	158	183	149	140	184	206	155	161	153	159	167	160
1926 August	148	133	146	146	145	134	149	178	130	128	147	148	149	148
September	156	130	156	148	148	140	149	173	133	134	146	151	150	149
October	145	129	144	146	143	132	149	165	134	147	148	152	149	147
November	144	133	152	146	144	131	118	157	131	144	150	160	147	146
December	143	131	156	144	145	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	152	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	163	141	149	137	142	149	147
July	139	129	130	162	141	143	149	163	142	139	136	159	149	147
August	142	131	132	161	143	143	159	167	138	142	135	156	150	148
September	135	125	135	165	140	141	163	172	141	140	133	153	152	148
October	136	135	132	162	141	136	179	167	141	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	164	124	141	132	132	144	141
February	133	136	121	155	136	124	163	162	122	137	131	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	135	132	131	144	142
May	130	131	129	160	141	132	165	164	130	131	133	140	149	147
June	136	126	127	167	139	130	160	167	130	147	137	140	149	147
July	130	124	129	196	143	131	169	172	123	148	137	146	149	147
August	131	127	132	191	143	128	151	169	124	135	137	146	147	146

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 (Paris)	U.S. of America
Items included in the index	Food, fuel, clothing and rent	Food, rent, fuel, light, clothing and miscellaneous	Food, fuel, light and rent	Food and rent	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, heat, light, rent and 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 and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, heating and lighting, rent and miscellaneous
1914 July	100	100	100	(a) 100 (f)	(b) 100	(c) 100	(d) 100	(e) 100	(f) 100	(g) 100	(h) 100	(i) 100
1915 "	104	125	97	119	(j) 108	117	116	103	(k) 117	103	103	(l) 100
1916 "	108	148	102	115	112	116	103	115	114	114	114	(m) 100
1917 "	118	180	130	116	128	146	103	106	106	106	106	118
1918 "	149	203	146	118	144	197	103	103	103	103	103	124
1919 "	186	208	155	132	157	205	103	103	253	204 (a)	118	199
1920 "	190	252	190	154	182	313	103	103	(d) 275	207	126	215 (a)
1921 "	177	219	152	152	178	367	103	103	222	224	136	200
1922 "	165	184	147	140	159	429	103	103	294	200	133	174
1923 "	157	170	144	149	160	512	103	103	249	164	(g) 135	170
1924 "	153	169	146	151	158	(h) 487	103	103	238	164	(i) 130	173
1925 "	157	173	146	153	163	596	103	103	249	169	(j) 132	173
1926 "	157	170	144	149	160	512	103	103	259	168	(k) 133	178
1927 April	153	165	148	(a) 161	(l) 161	649	103	103	657	220	(n) 162	(p) 176 (m)
May	152	164	148	161	161	612	103	103	774	201	138	173
June	154	165	148	155	155	548	103	103	785	201	160	173
July	156	166	149	157	157	548	103	103	790	203	160	173
August	157	164	149	157	157	543	103	103	787	203	160	173
September	154	165	149	157	157	537	103	103	794	197	161	173
October	151	167	149	157	157	536	103	103	804	191	161	173
November	150	169	150	157	157	536	103	103	809	195	162	173
December	151	169	151	159	159	531	103	103	812	195	162	172
1928 January	154	168	151	159	159	531	103	103	813	194	161	172
February	148	166	150	157	157	533	103	103	811	194	161	172
March	145	164	149	157	157	531	103	103	806	193	160	172
April	144	164	149	157	157	531	103	103	807	193	160	172
May	147	164	148	157	157	531	103	103	805	193	160	172
June	146	165	148	157	157	530	103	103	811	193	161	172
July	147	165	148	157	157	531	103	103	811	193	161	172
August	146	165	148	157	157	531	103	103	811	193	161	172
September	145	165	148	157	157	531	103	103	811	193	161	172

(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) Average 1913 is the base. (h) The figures for Italy for 1923 are for Milan. (i) Revised series from March 1922. (j) Revised figures. (k) Figures from 1915 to 1926 refer to August. (l) Figures from 1915 to 1926 refer to December. (m) First half of the year. (n) Yearly averages for the years 1918-1926. (p) June figures.

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INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Country	India	Japan	China (Shanghai)	Java (Batavia)	Australia	Egypt (Cairo)	United Kingdom (1)	France	Holland	Norway	Sweden	Canada (2)	United States of America (3)	
No. of articles	44	56	147	92	92	26	150	45	48	100	47	236	404	550
1913 Average ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	(a) 100	(f) 100	100	100	70 (g)
1914 ..	100	96	100	100	106	(g) 100	100	102	109	(a) 115	(f) 116	102	100	68
1915 ..	100	97	100	100	147	103	100	140	146	(a) 159	(f) 145	110	101	70
1916 ..	117	117	100	100	138	128	100	188	224	233	185	132	101	86
1917 ..	149	149	100	100	153	176	100	262	276	341	244	179	127	118
1918 ..	239	196	100	100	178	211	100	339	373	545	339	199	194	131
1919 ..	223	236	100	100	189	231	100	356	304	522	331	209	206	139
1920 ..	216	259	182	100	228	316	100	307	509	292	298	244	226	154
1921 ..	198	200	150	100	175	173	100	197	345	182	233	162	152	98
1922 ..	187	196	146	170	162	146	159	327	160	160	211	172	149	97
1923 ..	181	199	156	173	179	132	159	419	151	233	157	153	154	101
1924 ..	182	207	154	173	173	143	166	489	156	269	155	155	150	98
1925 ..	163	202	159	166	170	152	159	550	155	251	157	160	159	104
1926 ..	149	179	164	159	168	132	148	703	145	196	144	156	151	100
October ..	147	174	171	158	162	129	152	751	143	188	142	151	150	99
November ..	146	172	174	157	163	130	152	684	147	182	142	152	148	98
December ..	146	170	172	156	162	130	146	627	147	177	141	151	147	97
1927 January ..	146	170	173	156	162	126	144	622	145	170	140	151	147	98
February ..	148	171	172	156	160	124	143	632	146	165	140	150	146	96
March ..	148	171	175	154	157	124	141	641	144	160	139	149	145	95
April ..	(b) 145	170	173	154	159	122	140	636	143	159	138	149	144	94
May ..	148	171	173	155	160	124	141	628	145	160	139	152	144	94
June ..	147	172	169	155	163	123	142	622	149	159	140	154	144	94
July ..	147	170	171	153	169	118	141	620	151	160	141	152	145	94
August ..	148	168	171	154	173	117	141	618	149	161	144	152	147	95
September ..	148	169	172	153	178	120	142	600	150	158	145	151	149	97
October ..	146	170	169	152	181	118	141	588	150	157	143	152	150	97
November ..	144	169	166	151	174	115	141	594	151	157	143	152	150	97
December ..	143	168	164	150	170	114	140	604	151	156	142	152	149	97
1928 January ..	141	169	163	150	171	114	141	607	153	157	142	151	149	96
February ..	142	169	164	149	168	114	140	609	150	157	142	151	149	96
March ..	140	169	163	149	168	116	141	623	152	157	145	153	149	96
April ..	142	170	163	150	170	120	143	624	153	156	147	153	149	97
May ..	145	172	165	151	166	117	144	633	152	156	149	153	149	99
June ..	149	169	160	150	177	117	143	626	153	158	149	150	149	98
July ..	147	169	159	150	177	117	143	626	153	158	149	150	149	98
August ..	146	169	159	150	177	117	141	624	148	158	149	150	149	98

* July 1914 = 100. (a) Average for half year ended June 1914 = 100. (b) Revised figures. (c) The figures from 1914-1920 are for December. (d) February 1913 = 100. (e) Average January 1913 to July 1914 = 100. (f) Board of Trade. (g) Dominion Bureau of Statistics. (h) Bureau of Labor Statistics. (i) Average for year ended June 1914 = 100. (j) Revised Series—1926 = 100.

RETAIL FOOD INDEX NUMBERS FOR INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Name of country	India	Japan	China (Shanghai)	South Africa	New Zealand	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	..	..
	Dombay	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	(c) 100	(d) ..	100	(a) 100 (f)	100	100	100	(i) 100 (h)	
1915 ..	105	132	105	107	131	112	98	122	95	..	..	124	128	128
1916 ..	105	161	114	116	130	119	109	132	111	..	..	160	142	146
1917 ..	114	204	157	128	126	127	143	183	137	..	..	176	279	268
1918 ..	142	210	175	134	131	139	164	206	203	..	142	214 (g)	181	166		
1919 ..	187	209	186	139	147	144	186	261	206	..	176	279	268	187		
1920 ..	188	258	227	197	194	167	215	373	318	..	210	289	310	212		
1921 ..	174	220	148	139	161	164	145	306	402	100	982	319	297	253		
1922 ..	160	180	138	116	148	144	139	297	459	87	1,278	180	233	236		
1923 ..	148	162	137	116	164	142	144	321	(f) 496	105	1,105	140	233	184		
1924 ..	151	162	134	117	(e) 149	148	140	360	508	124	1,016	138	248	188		
1925 ..	152	167	141	116	156	154	156	421	602	133	1,107	152	260	169		
1926 ..	155	161	149	116	159	149	154	574	654	185	1,067	168	198	159		
1927 March ..	152	162	149	118	151	146	150	581	635	205	1,055	168	173	151		
April ..	151	155	146	119	151	145	150	580	617	204	1,034	169	151	152		
May ..	150	154	145	121	152	145	152	589	565	201	1,021	169	150	156		
June ..	151	154	146	120	153	145	155	580	541	207	1,035	172	151	157		
July ..	154	159	147	119	152	144	150	557	524	210	1,065	172	175	151		
August ..	155	156	147	118	155	144	149	539	518	204	1,121	175	152	157		
September ..	151	157	146	117	157	143	151	532	509	207	1,109	160	174	156		
October ..	148	161	148	119	159	143	153	520	509	210	1,120	173	155	159		
November ..	147	163	149	119	157	144	153	500	510	211	..	165	171	155		
December ..	149	163	151	119	155	146	153	523	513	211	1,140	171	154	160		
1928 January ..	151	162	151	119	154	146	152	530	514	210	1,097	170	170	153		
February ..	146	159	149	118	152	145	148	522	518	207	1,081	170	153	158		
March ..	142	155	147	118	153	145	148	524	516	201	1,091	172	171	157		
April ..	140	155	146	119	154	144	152	532	516	202	1,082	171	154	152		
May ..	144	154	146	120	154	147	151	546	519	199	1,074	172	155	156		
June ..	142	156	145	117	154	147	150	557	..	..	1,087	171	157	156
July ..	143	157	..	..	152	146	..	547	..	..	..	173	153	156
August ..	142	156	..	..	..	146	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	156
September ..	141	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	156

(a) Average for the year 1914. (b) Includes fuel and lighting. (c) January to June 1914. (d) Revised series—1921=100. (e) Figure for June. (f) The figures for Italy from July 1923 are for Milan. (g) Figure for August. (h) June 1914=100. (i) Revised figures. (j) The figures from January 1926 are for the Hague (base, January to July 1914=100).

RETAIL PRICES OF ARTICLES OF FOOD IN JULY AND AUGUST 1928*

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

Articles	Price per	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona	Bombay	Karachi	Sholapur	Poona
		July 1928	July 1928	July 1928	July 1928	July 1928	August 1928	August 1928	August 1928	August 1928
Cereals—										
Rice (1)	Maund	8 6 0 150	8 0 0 120	8 0 0 130	8 0 4 152	7 9 11 132	8 6 0 150		8 6 9 159	8 6 5 146
Wheat (1)	"	8 0 0 143	5 11 5 136	6 2 6 131	6 13 10 133	6 6 5 119	8 0 0 143		6 5 9 123	6 14 7 128
Jowari	"	5 3 8 120	4 12 5 131	3 15 2 104	3 3 4 112	3 8 4 103	5 1 11 118	3 12 11 100	3 1 7 108	3 6 1 98
Bajri	"	5 11 3 132	5 13 11 139	5 11 5 121	3 0 11 87	4 10 8 114	5 11 3 132	5 11 5 121	3 2 8 90	4 5 8 106
<i>Index No.—Cereals</i>		136	132	122	121	117	136	131	121	120
Pulses—										
Gram	Maund	7 0 3 148	5 6 9 142	4 3 4 105	5 3 0 121	5 3 0 107	7 0 3 163	5 6 9 142	4 5 2 108	5 3 0 121
Turdal	"	9 4 10 159	7 14 5 119	8 14 3 144	8 1 4 138	8 3 3 124	8 15 5 155	7 14 5 119	8 14 3 144	7 9 7 130
<i>Index</i>		161	131	125	130	116	158	131	126	124

Other articles of food—

Sugar (refined)	Maund	12 11 2 167	11 6 2 147	12 11 2 159	14 8 9 145	13 7 2 144	12 11 2 167	10 2 6 140	11 10 2 145	12 12 10 128	11 3 8 120
Jagri (gul)	"	12 11 2 148	9 6 7 147	10 10 8 120	9 6 7 121	10 8 5 150	12 11 2 148	9 6 7 135	11 6 10 129	10 5 2 133	10 8 5 150
Tea	Lb.	0 14 10 190	0 15 7 225	0 15 7 200	1 1 10 171	1 0 5 200	0 14 10 190	0 15 7 225	0 15 7 200	1 1 10 171	1 0 5 200
Salt	Maund	2 12 9 141	1 14 6 145	2 4 7 151	3 8 2 158	2 12 3 147	2 12 9 131	1 14 6 145	2 4 7 141	3 8 8 159	2 14 0 153
Beef	Seer	0 8 5 163	0 9 0 180	0 6 0 100	0 5 0 201	0 6 0 141	0 8 5 163	0 9 0 180	0 6 0 100	0 5 0 201	0 6 0 141
Mutton	"	0 11 5 171	0 10 0 167	0 10 0 167	0 8 0 133	0 9 0 150	0 11 3 169	0 10 0 167	0 10 0 167	0 8 0 133	0 9 0 150
Milk	Maund	17 9 4 191	7 4 4 164	10 0 0 200	11 6 10 157	13 5 4 133	17 9 4 191	7 4 4 164	10 0 0 200	11 6 10 157	13 5 4 133
Ghee	"	82 0 10 142	67 6 0 158	80 0 0 160	91 6 10 163	74 6 8 144	86 7 9 170	67 6 0 158	78 0 9 176	91 6 10 163	74 6 8 144
Potatoes	"	6 11 7 150	7 12 11 144	8 5 0 144	5 11 5 143	5 12 11 172	7 2 3 159	7 5 8 136	10 0 0 141	10 0 0 250	7 0 3 208
Onions	"	2 13 9 184	2 8 11 141	2 3 7 116	2 13 9 114	2 1 8 105	2 13 9 184	2 14 2 159	2 3 7 111	2 13 9 114	2 1 8 105
Cocoanut oil	"	28 9 1 112	26 10 8 108	32 0 0 100	29 1 5 109	28 1 1 100	28 9 1 112	26 10 8 108	32 0 0 100	29 1 5 109	28 1 1 100
<i>Index No.—Other articles of food</i>		161	147	141	147	144	162	156	164	156	146
<i>Index No.—All food articles (unweighted)</i>		155	148	147	139	134	155	147	149	144	137

*The sources of the price-quotations used in this table are the Monthly Returns of Average Retail Prices Current supplied by the Director of Agriculture, Poona.

(1) The Bombay price quotations for rice and wheat since June 1928 are for 'Mandla' and 'Pissi Sarbatti' varieties instead of for 'Rangoon small mill' and 'Pissi Sconi' respectively.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS IN BOMBAY GROUPS
Prices in July 1914 = 100

Months	Cereals	Pulses	Cereals and pulses	Other articles of food	All food	Lighting	Clothing	House-rent	Cost of living
1925	125	118	124	182	146	165	188	172	151
September	128	121	128	182	148	165	192	172	153
October	129	132	129	182	149	165	185	172	153
November	132	137	133	183	151	165	176	172	155
December	132	140	133	183	151	165	173	172	155
1926	132	136	132	181	150	165	172	172	154
January	132	136	133	182	151	165	174	172	155
February	132	133	132	180	150	165	175	172	153
March	132	133	132	177	150	164	170	172	153
April	133	138	133	177	150	164	162	172	155
May	133	139	134	182	152	164	160	172	157
June	134	145	135	187	155	164	160	172	155
July	135	141	136	181	153	164	160	172	155
August	135	145	136	179	152	164	160	172	155
September	135	150	136	180	153	164	159	172	155
October	135	152	135	180	152	164	156	172	154
November	133	152	135	180	152	164	148	172	156
December	134	155	136	184	154	166	148	172	156
1927	134	149	135	188	155	166	143	172	156
January	134	154	136	180	152	166	148	172	155
February	134	159	137	179	152	166	152	172	155
March	133	153	135	178	151	166	143	172	153
April	133	154	134	176	150	166	147	172	154
May	134	156	136	177	151	166	149	172	156
June	136	153	138	181	154	166	149	172	157
July	136	157	138	184	155	166	163	172	154
August	132	151	134	180	151	166	163	172	151
September	127	151	129	180	148	156	157	172	150
October	127	151	127	180	147	156	157	172	150
November	125	151	127	178	149	156	154	172	151
December	129	155	131	178	149	156	154	172	151
1928	132	160	135	180	151	156	152	172	154
January	127	152	129	174	146	144	151	172	145
February	123	146	126	171	142	144	153	172	144
March	121	147	124	168	140	145	155	172	147
April	123	153	126	175	144	145	155	172	146
May	122	142	124	172	142	158	156	172	147
June	120	144	123	177	143	158	158	172	146
July	119	144	121	176	142	158	159	172	146
August	120	143	122	174	141	151	157	172	145
September	120	143	122	174	141	151	157	172	145

LABOUR GAZETTE

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The Labour Gazette is a Journal for the use of all persons in industrial, domestic and mercantile establishments in matters relating to working hours.

BOMBAY, OCTOBER, 1928

[No. 2

Vol. VIII]

The Month in Brief

GENERAL STRIKE IN BOMBAY MILLS: WORK RESUMED
As the result of a conference between the Joint Strike Committee and the Millowners' Association, presided over by the Honourable Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatullah, General Member, and held at the Court of Enquiry on October 4th, it was decided that the strike should be called off pending the report of a Committee of Enquiry. Details of the settlement are given on another page. The Committee of Enquiry consisted of Sir Charles Fawcett, Judge of the High Court (Chairman), Mr. M. P. Khare, I.C.S. (retired) and Mr. B. S. Karant, who was a member of the Royal Commission on Agriculture.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE TEXTILE AND ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES
In the textile industry, except in Bombay City where the General Strike was in progress, the supply of labour was equal to the demand during the month of September 1928. The average absenteeism was 3.16 per cent. for Ahmednagar, 2.74 per cent. for Viramgaum, 15.88 per cent. for Shalapur and 2.75 per cent. for Hoshiarpur.
In the engineering industry in Bombay City the supply of both skilled and unskilled labour was adequate. Absenteeism was 11.71 per cent. in the engineering workshops, 9 per cent. in the Marine Lines Reclamation and Development Directorate, 13.49 per cent. in the Bombay Port Trust and 9.70 per cent. in the Civil Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust. In the engineering workshops of the Karachi Port Trust the percentage absenteeism was 6.40.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBER
In October 1928, the Bombay Working Class Cost of Living Index Number was 146 as against 145 in the preceding month. The Index Number for food articles only was 142.

INDEX NUMBER OF WHOLESALE PRICES
The Wholesale Price Index Number in Bombay for September 1928 was 146.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES
There were five industrial disputes in the month of September 1928. The number of workpeople involved was 152,200 and the number of working days lost 4,025,637.

BALANCE OF TRADE
During September 1928, the visible balance of trade, including insurance, in terms of trade amounted to Rs. 160 lakhs.