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# LABOUR GAZETTE

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

VOL. VII]

BOMBAY, SEPTEMBER, 1927

[No. 1

## The Month in Brief

### COTTON YARN BILL

The Cotton Yarn Bill has been passed by both Houses of the Indian Legislature.

### EMPLOYMENT IN THE TEXTILE AND ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES

In the textile industry as a whole the supply of labour was equal to the demand during the month of August 1927. The average absenteeism was 7·68 per cent. for Bombay City, 2·56 per cent. for Ahmedabad, 0·72 per cent. for Viramgaum, 12·39 per cent. for Sholapur and 8·60 per cent. for Broach.

In the engineering industry in Bombay City the supply of both skilled and unskilled labour was adequate. Absenteeism was 11·15 per cent. in the engineering workshops, 5 per cent. in the Marine Lines Reclamation of the Development Directorate, 9·15 per cent. in the Bombay Port Trust Docks and 7·80 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 7·60.

### WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX

In September 1927, the Working Class Cost of Living Index Number was 154 as against 157 in the preceding month. The Index Number for food articles only was 151.

### INDEX NUMBER OF WHOLESALE PRICES

The Index Number of Wholesale Prices in Bombay was 148 for the month of August 1927.

### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

There were eight industrial disputes in the month of August 1927. The number of workpeople involved was 4326 and the number of working days lost 64,338.

### BALANCE OF TRADE

During August 1927, the visible balance of trade, including securities, in favour of India amounted to Rs. 319 lakhs.

# The Cost of Living Index for September 1927

## A FALL OF THREE POINTS

Increase per cent. over July 1914 .. All articles .. 54 per cent.  
 .. Food only .. 51 per cent.

In September 1927,\* 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 3 points lower than in the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914 the general index number was 157 in August and 154 in September 1927. The general index is thus 39 points below the high-water mark (193) reached in October 1920 and one point lower than the twelve-monthly average for the year 1926.

The index number for all food articles recorded a fall of 4 points. Cereals declined by 4 points due to a decrease of 2 points in rice, 10 points in wheat, 6 points in jowari and 8 points in bari. Both gram and tur dal fell by 7 points each. Among other food articles, there was a decrease of 8 points in sugar (refined) but raw sugar (gul) showed no change. Tea was lower by 10 points and salt and potatoes declined by 13 points each. Mutton and ghee registered decreases of 5 and 4 points respectively. The remaining articles were practically steady during the month under review. The "Other food" index was 180 as against 184 in August 1927. There was a rise of 11 points in the index number for "Clothing" owing to an increase in the prices of all the articles included in that group. The "fuel and lighting" index remained unchanged at 166.

All items : Percentage increase over July 1914

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
January ..	83	69	73	56	59	57	55	56
February ..	81	62	65	55	56	57	54	55
March ..	77	60	65	54	54	59	55	55
April ..	72	60	62	56	50	58	53	53
May ..	73	67	63	53	50	56	53	52
June ..	81	73	63	52	53	54	55	54
July ..	90	77	65	53	57	57	57	56
August ..	91	80	64	54	61	52	55	57
September ..	92	85	65	54	61	51	55	54
October ..	93	83	62	52	61	53	55	
November ..	86	82	60	53	61	53	54	
December ..	81	79	61	57	60	55	56	
Yearly average ..	83	73	64	54	57	55	55	

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 x Mass Unit		
			July 1914	August 1927	September 1927	July 1914	August 1927	September 1927
Cereals	Maund	70	Rs. 5.594	Rs. 7.693	Rs. 7.615	Rs. 391.58	Rs. 533.85	Rs. 533.85
		21	5.594	7.432	6.865	117.47	144.17	144.17
		11	4.354	5.692	5.443	47.89	62.66	59.67
		6	4.313	5.771	5.446	25.88	34.63	32.69
Index Numbers—Cereals		..	..	..	100	156	152	
Pulses	Maund	10	4.302	6.740	6.474	43.02	67.40	64.74
		3	5.644	9.214	8.813	17.53	27.64	26.44
		..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Index Numbers—Pulses		..	..	..	100	157	151	
<b>Other food articles—</b>								
Sugar (refined) ..	Maund	2	7.620	13.693	13.094	15.24	27.31	26.19
Raw Sugar (Gul) ..	..	7	8.557	13.693	13.693	59.90	95.85	95.85
Tea ..	..	..	40.000	79.917	76.068	1.00	2.00	1.90
Salt ..	..	5	2.130	3.693	3.412	10.65	18.47	17.06
Beef ..	Seer	28	0.323	0.510	0.510	9.04	14.28	14.28
Mutton ..	..	33	0.417	0.823	0.802	13.76	27.16	26.47
Milk ..	Maund	14	9.198	17.583	17.583	128.77	246.16	246.16
Ghee ..	..	13	50.792	101.787	99.406	76.19	152.68	149.11
Potatoes ..	..	11	4.479	8.333	7.740	49.27	91.66	85.14
Onions ..	..	3	1.552	3.573	3.573	4.66	10.72	10.72
Coconut Oil ..	..	4	25.396	27.974	27.974	12.70	13.99	13.99
Total—Other food articles		..	..	..	..	381.18	700.36	686.87
Index Numbers—Other articles		..	..	..	..	100	184	180
Total—All food articles		..	..	..	..	1,024.55	1,587.29	1,547.83
Index Numbers—All food articles		..	..	..	..	100	155	151
<b>Fuel and lighting—</b>								
Kerosene oil ..	Case	5	4.375	7.656	7.656	21.86	38.28	38.28
Firewood ..	Maund	48	0.792	1.281	1.281	38.02	61.99	61.99
Coal ..	..	1	0.542	0.771	0.771	0.54	0.77	0.77
Total—Fuel and lighting		..	..	..	..	60.44	100.54	100.54
Index Numbers—Fuel and lighting		..	..	..	..	100	166	166
<b>Clothing—</b>								
Chadders ..	..	27	0.594	0.922	0.984	16.04	24.69	26.57
Shirts ..	..	25	0.641	0.990	1.037	16.03	24.75	25.93
T. Cloths ..	..	36	0.583	0.859	0.958	20.99	30.92	33.77
Total—Clothing		..	..	..	..	53.06	80.56	86.27
Index Numbers—Clothing		..	..	..	..	100	152	163
House-rent		10	11.901	19.440	19.440	113.02	194.40	194.40
Index Numbers—House-rent		..	..	..	..	100	172	172
Grand Total		..	..	..	..	1,251.07	1,962.79	1,929.04
Cost of Living Index Numbers.		..	..	..	..	100	157	154

The following table shows the price levels of articles of food in August and September 1927 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 :—

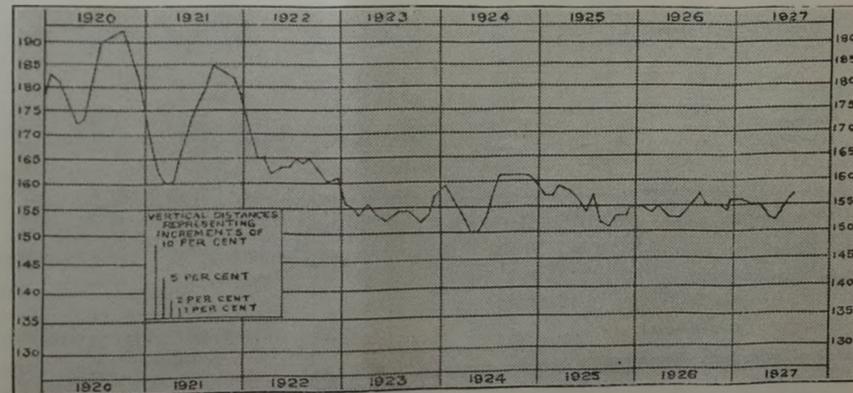
Articles	July 1914	August 1927	September 1927	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in September 1927 over or below August 1927	Articles	July 1914	August 1927	September 1927	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in September 1927 over or below August 1927
Rice	100	138	136	-2	Salt	100	173	160	-13
Wheat	100	133	123	-10	Beef	100	158	158	..
Jowari	100	131	125	-6	Mutton	100	197	192	-5
Bajri	100	134	126	-8	Milk	100	191	191	..
Gram	100	157	150	-7	Ghee	100	200	196	-4
Turdal	100	158	151	-7	Potatoes	100	186	173	-13
Sugar (refined)	100	180	172	-8	Onions	100	230	230	..
Raw sugar (gul)	100	160	160	..	Cocoanut oil	100	110	110	..
Tea	100	200	190	-10	All food articles (weighted average)	100	155	151	-4

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

Rice 26, Wheat 19, Jowari 20, Bajri 21, Gram 33, Turdal 34, Sugar (refined) 42, Raw Sugar (gul) 37, Tea 47, Salt 37, Beef 37, Mutton 48, Milk 48, Ghee 49, Potatoes 42, Onions 57, Cocoanut Oil 9.

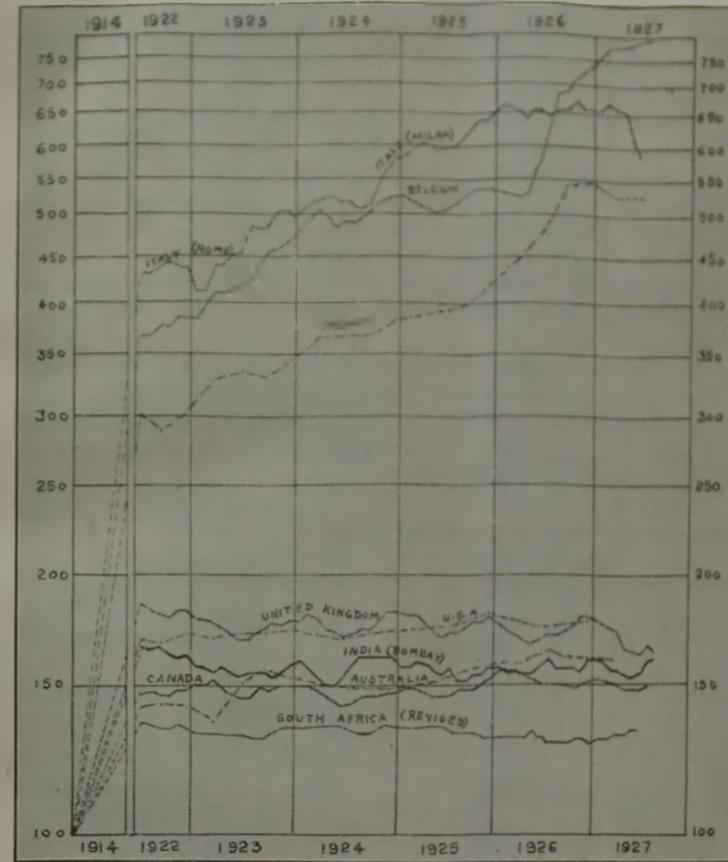
The purchasing power of the rupee being taken as 16 annas in July 1914, its purchasing power in the month under review was 10 annas 5 pies for all items and 10 annas 7 pies for food articles only.

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



### Comparison with the Cost of Living in other Countries

The diagram shows the comparative levels of the cost of living in Bombay and certain other world centres from the middle of 1922. 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) All other countries—from the Ministry of Labour Gazette, United Kingdom. In the case of Italy the Index No. was for Rome up to June 1923, and thereafter 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

A rise of one point

In August 1927, the index number of wholesale prices in Bombay was 148 as against 147 during the last two months. As compared with the previous month, there was a rise of 2 points in the food group and of one point in the non-food group. The general index number was 115 points below the highest peak (263) reached in August 1918 and one point below the twelve-monthly average of 1926.

The index number for food-grains advanced by 3 points due to a rise of 3 points in Cereals and of 2 points in Pulses. Rice, wheat, jowari, and barley recorded increases of 2, 5, 4 and 3 points respectively. Gram rose by 7 points but turdal was cheaper by 4 points. The price of bajri was practically steady during the month under review.

There was a rise of 2 points in the "Sugar" group due to an increase of 3 points in sugar (refined) and of one point in gul. There was a fall of 6 points in ghee but a rise of 3 points in turmeric. The "other food" index fell from 162 to 161.

Under the non-food group, there was a rise of 5 points in Raw cotton, of 4 points in Cotton manufactures and of 3 points in Hides and skins. Other textiles, Metals and Other raw and manufactured articles declined by 4, 1 and 3 points respectively during the month. The index number for the non-food group stood at 150.

The subjoined table compares August 1927 prices with those of the preceding month and the corresponding month last year:—

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay \* 100 = average of 1926

Groups	No. of items	+ or - % compared with July 1927	+ or - % compared with Aug. 1926	Groups	Aug. 1926	Nov. 1926	Feb. 1927	May 1927	July 1927	Aug. 1927
1. Cereals	7	+2	-4	1. Cereals	101	99	102	99	95	97
2. Pulses	2	+2	-2	2. Pulses	106	106	109	101	102	104
3. Sugar	3	-2	-10	3. Sugar	97	101	93	88	87	88
4. Other food	3	-1	+10	4. Other food	97	97	99	103	107	107
All food	15	+1	-1	All food	100	99	101	99	97	97
5. Oilseeds	4	-	7	5. Oilseeds	100	98	107	108	107	107
6. Raw cotton	5	+3	+7	6. Raw cotton	106	84	89	101	110	114
7. Cotton manufactures	6	+2	-6	7. Cotton manufactures	101	89	93	92	93	95
8. Other textiles	2	+3	+6	8. Other textiles	95	96	99	104	104	101
9. Hides and skins	3	+2	+11	9. Hides & skins	86	97	91	100	94	96
10. Metals	5	-1	-8	10. Metals	97	99	105	97	90	89
11. Other raw and manufactured articles	4	-2	+5	11. Other raw and manufactured articles	97	105	105	105	105	103
All non-food	29	+1	+1	All non-food	98	97	98	99	95	99
General Index No.	44	+1	....	General Index No.	99	98	99	99	99	99

\* Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on page 88.

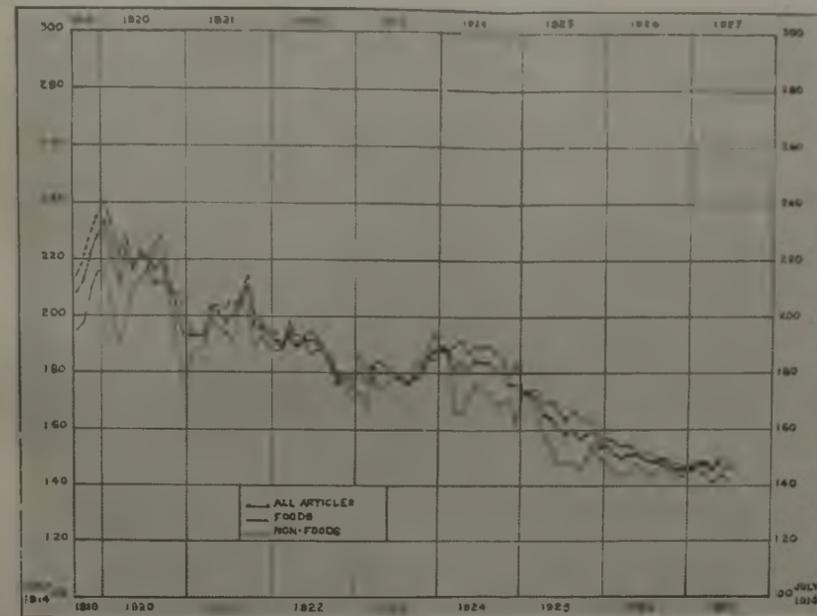
The following table is intended to show the annual movements in food, non-food and general wholesale prices

July 1914 = 100

	Food	Non-food	All articles
Twelve-monthly average 1918	171	269	236
" " 1919	202	233	221
" " 1920	306	219	216
" " 1921	193	201	199
" " 1922	186	187	187
" " 1923	179	182	181
" " 1924	173	188	182
" " 1925	155	167	163
" " 1926	145	152	149
Eight-monthly " 1927	144	149	147

The diagram below shows the course of the changes in the Index Numbers for Foods, Non-foods and all articles in the Bombay wholesale market from September 1919.

Wholesale Price Index Numbers, Bombay

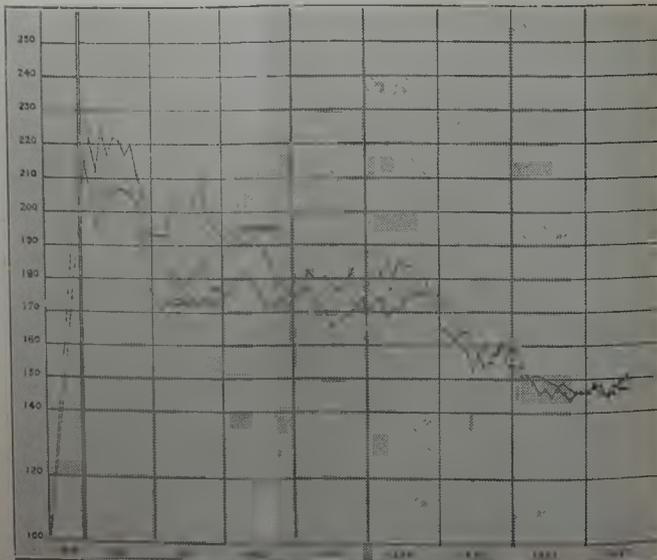


COMPARISON BETWEEN THE INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE  
PRICES IN BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA

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.

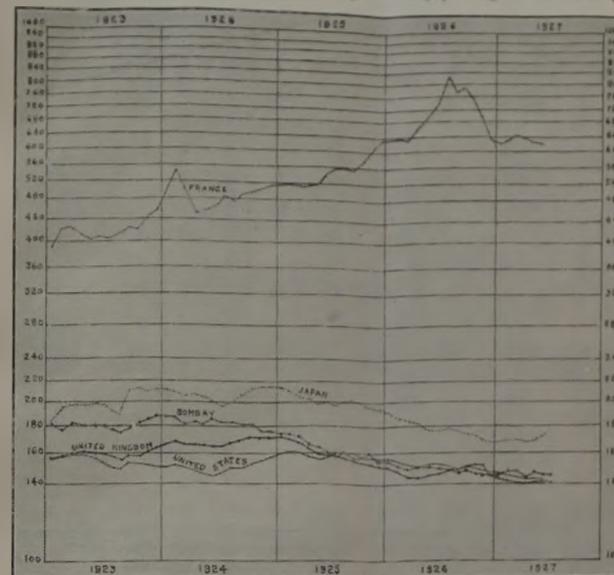
The items included in the indices are 44 for Bombay and 71 for Calcutta. The groups included in the Calcutta index but excluded from that for Bombay are tea (3 items), oil (2 items), jute-raw (3 items), jute manufactures (4 items) and building materials (1 item). There are no groups included in the Bombay 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. During June and July 1927 prices in Bombay were lower than those in Calcutta.

*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), the Director, Labour Office, Dutch East Indies (by letter); 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	Equivalent in tolas	Decrease or increase since 1927				
				July 1914	July 1927	Aug. 1927		July 1927
				As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.
Rice	Nangoon Small-mill.	Paylee	208	5 10	8 0	8 0	+ 2 2	..
Wheat	Prat Seons	..	204	5 10	7 7	7 7	+ 1 9	..
Jowari	Best Sholapuri	..	196	4 3	5 8	5 7	+ 1 4	- 0 1
Bajri	Ghata	..	208	4 7	6 0	6 0	+ 1 5	..
Tea	..	..	158	4 4	6 2	6 4	+ 2 0	+ 0 2
Turki	Cawnpore	..	208	5 11	9 4	9 7	+ 3 8	+ 0 3
Sugar (refined)	Java, white	Seer	28	1 1	1 11	1 11	+ 0 10	..
Raw Sugar (Gul)	Sangli, middle quality	..	28	1 2	1 11	1 11	+ 0 9	..
Tea	Loose Ceylon, powder	Lb.	39	7 10	15 2	15 7	+ 7 9	+ 0 5
Salt	Bombay, black	Paylee	176	1 9	3 0	3 3	+ 1 6	+ 0 3
Beef	..	Lb.	39	2 6	4 2	4 0	+ 1 6	- 0 2
Mutton	..	..	39	3 0	6 8	6 5	+ 3 5	- 0 3
Milk	Medium	Seer	56	2 9	4 11	4 11	+ 2 2	..
Ghee	Belgaum, Superior	..	28	7 1	13 11	14 3	+ 7 2	+ 0 4
Potatoes	Ordinary	..	28	0 8	1 1	1 2	+ 0 6	+ 0 1
Onions	Nasik	..	28	0 3	0 6	0 6	+ 0 3	..
Cocoanut oil	Middle quality	..	28	3 7	4 0	3 11	+ 0 4	- 0 1

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.                        | Ferguson Road.             |
| 2. Kumbharwada—Kumbharwada Road (North End).        | DeLisle Road.              |
| 3. Saitan Chowki—Kumbharwada Road (South End).      | Suparibag—Suparibag Road.  |
| 4. Elphinstone Road.                                | Chinchpokli—Parel Road.    |
| 5. Naigam—Naigam Cross Road and Development Chawls. | Grant Road.                |
| 6. Parel—Poibawdi.                                  | Nal Bazaar—Sandhurst Road. |

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 1927 as compared with the previous month were within narrow limits. Under food-grains, gram and turdal rose by 2 and 3 pies respectively per paylee while the price of rice, wheat and bajri showed no change. Jowari declined by one pie per paylee. Amongst other food articles, tea advanced by 5 pies per lb. and salt by 3 pies per paylee. Beef and mutton recorded decreases of 2 and 3 pies respectively per lb. Potatoes and ghee averaged higher by 1 and 4 pies respectively per seer. The price of cocoanut oil was lower by one pie per seer.

As compared with July 1914, all articles show a rise in prices. Mutton and ghee are more than double and onions are double the prewar price. Sugar (refined), tea, salt and milk have risen by more than 75 per cent.; and raw sugar (gul), beef and potatoes by more than 50 per cent. The rise in the prices of food-grains is between 30 and 60 per cent. The price of cocoanut oil is only 9 per cent. above its prewar level.

\* The equivalent in tolas shown in column 4 relates to Punjab gram.

## COMPARATIVE RETAIL PRICES

The following table compares the retail food prices in Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona with those in Bombay in July and August 1927 (Bombay prices = 100). It will be seen that the average retail price levels in all the centres were below the level of Bombay in July and August 1927—

Bombay prices in July 1927 = 100

Bombay prices in August 1927 = 100

Articles	Bombay prices in July 1927 = 100					Bombay prices in August 1927 = 100				
	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona	Average	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona	Average
Cereals										
Rice	100	104	104	109	105	100	104	104	109	105
Wheat	100	76	83	96	105	100	78	83	96	105
Jowari	100	77	86	99	76	100	78	88	99	74
Bajri	100	84	89	74	88	100	87	96	70	82
Average—Cereals	100	85	93	87	94	100	87	93	86	92
Pulses										
Gram	100	82	79	85	83	100	81	74	81	81
Turdal	100	98	99	110	114	100	102	96	106	124
Average—Pulses	100	94	89	98	99	100	92	85	94	103
Other articles of food—										
Sugar (refined)	100	85	93	97	95	100	83	93	93	88
Jagri (Gul)	100	62	78	64	65	100	64	78	62	68
Tea	100	103	103	118	108	100	100	100	114	105
Salt	100	65	67	103	85	100	60	62	95	79
Beef	100	105	60	47	70	100	117	69	49	74
Mutton	100	73	73	59	66	100	81	76	61	80
Milk	100	45	57	65	76	100	43	70	65	76
Ghee	100	74	86	77	75	100	72	84	79	73
Potatoes	100	10	74	98	64	100	86	91	87	70
Onions	100	91	70	86	74	100	110	70	83	71
Cocoanut oil	100	90	102	112	98	100	92	95	114	100
Average—Other articles of food	100	79	79	84	80	100	83	81	82	80
Average—All food articles	100	82	83	86	85	100	85	84	84	86

Actual retail prices at these centres will be found among the miscellaneous tables at the end of the Gazette. The relative prices show a considerable difference at the different centres. As compared with the previous month, the relative average for all food articles rose by one point each at Poona and Ahmedabad and by 3 points at Karachi but declined by 2 points at Sholapur. Referring back to August 1926, it is found that in relation to Bombay, the average for all food articles is lower by 4, 9, 10 and 10 points respectively at Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona.

Of individual articles, the relative price of wheat remained stationary except at Karachi. Bajri and turdal recorded a rise at Karachi and Poona respectively but both fell at the remaining three centres. The relative price of beef and mutton increased, that of gram, tea and salt declined while that of rice was stationary at all the four mofussil centres. Potatoes fell at Sholapur and cocoanut oil at Ahmedabad but both were higher at the other centres. Milk rose at Ahmedabad, was steady at Sholapur and Poona and decreased at Karachi. The relative prices of ghee and sugar (refined) were lower except at Sholapur and Ahmedabad respectively.

PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON, 1927

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

RAINFALL DIVISION	JUNE			JULY			AUGUST				SEPTEMBER			OCTOBER									
	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th	6th	13th	20th	27th	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st	7th	14th	21st	28th	5th	12th	19th	26th	
I. BOMBAY PRESIDENCY																							
1 Sind (River Rainfall)	N	N	S	S	S	F	N	N	N	N	E	E	S	N	F	N	N	N					
2 Gujarat	S	N	N	F	F	F	N	E	E	S	N	F	F	S	S	S	S	S					
3 Deccan	N	F	F	F	F	E	N	S	E	S	S	N	S	F	S	N	E						
4 Konkan	F	S	N	N	E	E	N	S	N	S	S	F	F	N	S	S	N						
II. MADRAS PRESIDENCY																							
1 Malabar	E	E	F	F	S	E	N	N	S	F	N	F	E	S	S	E	E						
2 Deccan	S	S	E	E	S	E	E	F	F	N	S	F	F	S	S	F	E						
3 Coast North	S	S	N	E	E	E	N	E	E	F	N	E	N	F	F	E	E						
4 South East	S	N	F	F	E	E	S	N	F	E	F	F	S	F	S	N	N						
III. MYSORE	S	F	F	F	S	E	F	F	F	N	N	S	S	S	S	S	E						
IV. HYDERABAD																							
1 North	S	F	F	E	E	N	N	S	E	N	S	F	N	S	S	S	F						
2 South	S	F	F	E	E	E	N	E	N	S	E	F	F	F	S	S	E						
V. CENTRAL PROVINCES																							
1 Berar	S	S	F	E	E	E	E	S	N	S	F	S	S	S	S	E	E						
2 West	S	S	F	E	F	E	E	N	E	S	F	F	F	E	S	S	S						
3 East	S	S	F	E	N	F	E	N	E	S	E	E	E	E	F	S	S						
VI. CENTRAL INDIA																							
1 West	S	S	S	N	S	N	F	S	E	F	E	E	E	E	F	S	S						
2 East	E	S	S	F	S	S	N	N	E	F	S	F	E	E	F	S	S						
VII. BENGAL PRESIDENCY	F	E	F	N	F	F	E	S	N	E	F	N	S	F	E	N	F						
VIII. ASSAM	S	E	N	N	E	E	E	E	S	E	N	E	F	N	E	N	N						
IX. BIHAR & ORISSA																							
1 Bihar	F	E	S	F	S	S	E	N	F	E	F	F	F	S	E	F	S						
2 Orissa	S	F	S	N	F	N	E	S	E	N	S	E	N	E	E	S	S						
3 Chota Nagpur	F	S	S	F	F	F	E	F	E	E	S	N	E	F	N	S	S						
X. UNITED PROVINCES																							
1 East	E	S	S	N	S	N	E	N	F	F	F	F	F	N	E	S	S						
2 West	E	S	S	E	S	F	N	E	N	F	F	F	N	F	N	N	S						
XI. PUNJAB																							
1 East & North	E	S	F	S	S	N	E	N	E	F	F	E	S	E	S	S	S						
2 South West	E	N	F	S	F	S	N	F	E	N	S	S	N	E	S	S	S						
XII. NORTHWEST FRONTIER	N	S	S	S	N	N	N	S	F	S	S	F	S	E	S	S	E						
XIII. RAJPUTANA																							
1 West	S	S	E	S	S	S	N	F	E	F	S	N	E	E	S	S	S						
2 East	S	S	S	F	F	E	S	F	E	F	S	E	E	E	N	S	S						
XIV. BURMA																							
1 Lower	E	N	N	F	F	N	N	F	F	N	N	N	N	F	S	S	S						
2 Upper	E	F	F	F	F	F	F	N	E	E	N	E	E	E	F	F	F						

NOTES—  
 "Normal" in the chart is a variation from 80 to 120% of the true normal; "Excess" means more than 120% of the normal; "Fair" from 40 to 80%; and "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 Sind are communicated by the Indus River Commission, and the normal and deviations from the normal are calculated 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 8 Workpeople involved 4326

At the end of this issue will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during August 1927, 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 1927, and working days lost.

I.—Industrial Disputes Classified by Trades

Trade	Number of disputes in progress in August 1927			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in August 1927	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in August 1927
	Started before 1st August	Started in August	Total		
Textile	....	7	7	4,151	64,163
Transport	....	....	....	....	....
Engineering	....	1	1	175	175
Metal	....	....	....	....	....
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	....
Total ..	....	8	8	4,326	64,338

During the month under review the number of industrial disputes was eight, seven of which occurred in textile mills. Three of the disputes occurred in Ahmedabad, one in Broach, and the rest in Bombay. The number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 4326 and the number of working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days, less workers replaced) was 64,338.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

II—Industrial Disputes—Causes and Results, April 1927 to August 1927

	April 1927	May 1927	June 1927	July 1927	August 1927
Number of strikes and lock-outs ..	4	6	6	5	8
Disputes in progress at beginning ..	1	..	2	..	..
Fresh disputes begun ..	3	6	4	5	8
Disputes ended ..	4	4	6	5	6
Disputes in progress at end ..	..	2	..	..	2
Number of workpeople involved ..	1,738	3,479	578*	5,271	4,320
Aggregate duration in working days ..	3,298	29,688	694	14,218	64,338
Demands—					
Pay ..	1	4	4	2	3
Bonus ..	..	..	..	..	..
Personal ..	2	2	1	1	2
Leave and hours ..	..	..	..	..	..
Others ..	1	..	1	2	3
Results—					
In favour of employees ..	..	1	2	..	2
Compromised ..	2	1	1	1	1
In favour of employers ..	2	2	3	4	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 1926 ..	3	3	3	3,558	100	..	..
October ..	7	7	7	14,358	86	14	..
November ..	4	4	3	3,094	67	..	33
December ..	2	1	2	1,251	50	50	..
January 1927 ..	5	5	4	16,507	100	..	..
February ..	4	3	2	775	50	50	..
March ..	7	5	6	5,987	83	..	17
April ..	4	3	4	3,298	50	..	50
May ..	6	6	4	29,688	50	25	25
June ..	6	4	6	694	50	33	17
July ..	5	5	5	14,218	80	..	20
August ..	8	8	6	64,338	50	33	17

\* This figure excludes the number of workpeople involved in the two disputes which ended on 1st June 1927, causing no time-loss during the month.

† 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 (4,062,870) in respect of the number of working days lost through strikes in this Presidency since April 1921 was reached in February 1924 whereas the lowest level (390) was reached in May 1924.

#### GENERAL REVIEW OF DISPUTES

The number of industrial disputes involving stoppages of work reported as beginning during the month of August 1927 was 8 as compared with 5 in the previous month. The total number of workpeople affected by these disputes, directly and indirectly, was 4326 and the aggregate time-loss amounted to 64,338 man-days. Three of these disputes arose over questions relating to wages, two over questions respecting the employment of particular persons and the remaining disputes were due to other causes. Settlements were effected in the case of 6 disputes during the month. Of these disputes, two ended in favour of the workers, three in favour of the employers and the remaining dispute terminated in a compromise.

#### Progress of Individual Disputes

##### BOMBAY

Four disputes were in progress in Bombay City during the month under review. One of these disputes occurred in the Apollo Mill. With a view to encourage efficiency the management asked the weavers to operate on three looms each instead of two and promised to give them an increase of 20 per cent. in their wages. As a protest against the introduction of the new system, 427 weavers struck work on the 1st August and demanded the continuance of the old system. Their request was not acceded to by the management and the weavers therefore went away quietly at noon. The management put up a notice in the afternoon stating that the new system would be brought into effect from the next month and that those who were not willing to work under that system would be discharged on the 4th September. On the 3rd, the strikers presented a petition to the Agents through the superintendent of the mill, pointing out that under the new system of working some weavers would be left without employment and the old system should therefore be continued. In reply, the management notified the workers that the old system could not be continued in view of the desirability of giving effect to the recommendations of the Indian Tariff Board (Textile Industry) regarding the increasing of efficiency of the operatives. It was also stated that the outstanding wages of the strikers would be paid to them on the 4th.

On the 4th, the strikers met and decided not to accept their outstanding wages when offered by the management. They also issued a Marathi handbill pointing out that the introduction of the new system would lead to a possible reduction of 25 per cent. in their wages and soliciting the general support of other millhands in Bombay. Owing to the strike of the weavers the spinners had no work to do and the management, therefore, closed the mill. Meetings of the strikers were held from day to day during the subsequent ten days and several persons interested in labour questions advised the men to remain firm and united. The mill remained closed during the period. About 50 men became members of the Gurni

Kamgar Mahamandal as a result of the appeal made by the leaders. On the 8th, another Marathi handbill was widely distributed among the millhands pointing out the injustice on the part of the management in asking the weavers to work on three looms instead of two and appealing for the sympathy and support of the other millhands. On the 9th, a deputation of the workers' representatives waited upon the agent of the mill who explained to them that the new system was advantageous both to the employers and the employed. He assured the deputation that if any weavers were thrown out of work under the new system he would find employment for them in one of the other mills under his agency. He, however, expressed his inability to continue the old system. The result of the meeting was communicated to the strikers on the next day but the men were firm in their resolve to continue the strike till the notice regarding working on three looms was withdrawn. On the 11th, another handbill in Marathi was again distributed by the strikers in the mill areas. It set forth the details of the interview which the deputation of the strikers' representatives had with the management and pointed out that the new system would not only reduce the earnings of weavers but that it would also have an adverse effect on their health. It exhorted the other millhands to help the strikers in their fight against the injustice of the employers. As a rejoinder to this handbill the management issued a Marathi leaflet refuting the objections raised against the introduction of the new system and asking the strikers to resume work. This had no effect on the strikers.

On the 13th, the strikers went in procession accompanied by music and passed through several roads in the mill areas with a view to enlisting the sympathy of their fellow-workers. At the conclusion of the procession the millhands were addressed by several labour leaders who asked them not to resume work until the old system was restored and until a scheme of sickness insurance was started. The management reopened the mill on the 14th with 350 hands in the spinning department. The number of hands working in the mill increased to 400 on the 15th. The Girmi Kamgar Mahamandal again issued a fresh handbill in reply to the leaflet issued by the management. This stated that a cut of Rs. 12 and Rs. 24 in the monthly earnings of the weavers working on three and four looms respectively would result under the new system. The management notified the strikers that their outstanding wages would be paid on the next day. On the 16th only the spinning department of the mill was working with 500 hands. None of the strikers accepted their wages. A meeting of the millhands was held in the evening and the leaders appealed to them to support the cause of the strikers and to contribute to their relief. During the subsequent three days there was no change in the situation and the strength of the spinning department increased to 650. The management again closed the mill on the 21st on account of the strike and notified that the mill would remain closed until further notice and that the outstanding wages of the workers would be paid to them provided they gave two days previous notice.

In order to complete the work on hand the management employed 50 new hands on the 23rd and 70 more on the 24th. A big meeting of the millhands was held on the 23rd at which several labour leaders delivered

speeches. They requested the workers of the other mills to help the strikers by giving them "badli" work and proposed that tickets should be issued for a "strikers' relief fund." There was no change in the situation during the rest of the month. Attempts made by certain labour leaders to persuade the other millhands to strike work in sympathy with the strikers met with no response. On the 31st, the management put up a notice saying that the mill would be re-opened on the 1st September for those weavers who desired to resume work, but the notice was destroyed by someone at night. The strike was in progress at the close of the month under review.

The second strike took place in the Manchester Mill, the management of which asked some 54 weavers to work on three looms each instead of two from the 1st August. The mill was working normally up to the 4th but when the weavers learned that their fellow-workers in the Apollo Mill had gone on strike as a protest against the introduction of the new system they also struck work on the 5th demanding the continuance of the old system. The management put up a notice informing the strikers that their outstanding wages would be paid to them on the 6th. The mill had to be closed on account of the strike. The men joined the strikers of the Apollo Mill in all their activities during the month. There was no change in the situation till the 14th. The strikers assembled at the mill every morning and dispersed quietly shortly afterwards. The mill remained closed till the 15th. None of the strikers received their wages when offered to them. On the 15th, the mill was restarted with 800 operatives in the spinning department. The management again notified that the outstanding wages of the weavers for the months of July and August would be paid on the 16th but the strikers refused to accept their wages. Except the weaving department the rest of the mill continued working from the 15th. There were no further developments in the strike situation till the 25th. On that day, 175 strikers accepted their outstanding wages. In the evening a meeting of about 400 millhands was held when Mr. Joglekar, amongst others, explained the strike situation and appealed to the workers from the Rachel and the Alexandra Mills to come out on strike in sympathy with the strikers of the Manchester Mill. Mr. Mayekar brought to the notice of the meeting the unjust discharge of three female reelers of the Alexandra Mill and supported the appeal made by Mr. Joglekar. The attempts by certain strikers and their leaders to persuade the workers of the Rachel and the Alexandra Mills to strike work were unsuccessful. On the 26th, 165 more strikers accepted their outstanding wages. During the succeeding days of the month the strikers began gradually to resume work until on the 30th there were in all 300 weavers, who had previously gone on strike, working in the mill. The strike continued into the next month.

The third strike occurred in the New City of Bombay Mill. The pay tickets for the month of July were distributed to the operatives of the mill on the 11th August when 234 operatives of the roving department, alleging that their wages had been reduced, struck work and demanded more wages for the month of July. The mill was closed on account of a Hindu holiday on the 13th and on the 14th the superintendent of the mill explained

to the strikers that the apparent decrease in their wages was due to a reduced outturn per head as a result of the manufacture of a finer count of yarn during July and he promised to restart the manufacture of the yarn of the usual count. Satisfied at this, the strikers resumed work. The strike thus ended in a compromise.

The fourth strike occurred in an engineering workshop in Bombay. On the 8th August, 175 workers of the boiler department in the workshop of Messrs. Richardson & Cruddas struck work at about 8 a.m. on account of alleged ill-treatment by the foreman. In the evening the proprietor met the strikers and promised that they would not be ill-treated in future. The strikers were satisfied at this and resumed work on the following day. The strike ended in favour of the workers.

#### AHMEDABAD

During the month under review there were three disputes in progress in Ahmedabad. One of these occurred in the Aryodaya Spinning and Manufacturing Co., Ltd. The management dismissed a jobber in the throstle department for unsatisfactory work and employed a new jobber in his place on the 10th August. On the morning of the 11th, 150 operatives of the throstle department struck work in sympathy with the dismissed jobber and demanded his re-instatement. Fifty additional workers joined the strike at 9 a.m. The management engaged 33 new hands and put up a notice to the effect that as the men had gone on strike without previous notice they should resume work before noon and that in default of their doing so they would have to pay a fine of Rs. 2 each before being re-employed. The assistant secretary of the local Labour Union advised the strikers to resume work and 99 strikers accordingly resumed work in the afternoon. On the next day 32 additional new hands were engaged and 40 other strikers resumed work subject to the conditions of the notice. The remaining strikers who sought the help of the Labour Union were advised to resume work. They thereupon approached the manager and informed him that they would abide by the conditions of the notice and resume work. They were re-employed in the evening of the 12th. The strike ended in favour of the employers.

The second strike was in the Ahmedabad Jupiter Spinning, Weaving and Manufacturing Mill. The manufacture of a new variety of cloth was started in the mill and the weavers consequently demanded an increase of two pies per yard in the rate of wages. Two representatives of the weavers approached the manager in connection with their demand but it is alleged, they were not given a hearing. As a result, 194 weavers struck work on the 18th August. On the next day all the strikers resumed work and the manager promised to increase the rate of wages as demanded. This strike ended in favour of the workers.

The third strike occurred in the Rajnagar Spinning, Weaving and Manufacturing Co., Ltd., on the 29th August. The management dismissed a mukadam of the winding department and engaged a new man in his place. The labourers did not like to work under the new mukadam and 40 winders struck work in the morning and demanded the re-instatement of the dismissed mukadam. The management employed 40 new hands

through the new mukadam and put up a notice in the afternoon warning the strikers that if they did not resume work before noon on the next day their outstanding wages would be forfeited. As a result of the notice all the strikers resumed work unconditionally at 1 p.m. on the 30th and the strike ended in favour of the employers.

#### BROACH

The operatives of the mule section of the spinning department of the Whittle Mills No. 2 demanded higher rates of wages and as their demand was not granted by the management 33 of them struck work on the 11th August. The management first tried to reason with them and afterwards notified that their outstanding wages would be forfeited if they did not resume work but the strikers remained firm. There was no change in the situation during the subsequent two days but on the 14th ten strikers returned to work in the afternoon and by the 16th all but three strikers had resumed work unconditionally and the strike practically came to an end. The result of this dispute was in favour of the employers.

### Employment Situation in August 1927

#### 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 118 or 80·27 per cent. of the mills reported as working during the month of August 1927. The average absenteeism in the textile industry as a whole amounted to 7·35 per cent. as against 7·99 per cent. in the month of July 1927.

In Bombay City out of 77 mills which were working during the month, 76 or 98·70 per cent. furnished returns. The supply of labour was reported as adequate by a large majority of the mills and the average absenteeism amounted to 7·68 per cent. as compared with 8·36 per cent. during July.

In Ahmedabad 59 mills were working during the month and 32 or 54·24 per cent. furnished information. Absenteeism amounted to 2·56 per cent. during the month under review. The supply of labour was equal to the demand. The percentage absenteeism for the month of July which could not be given owing to the unsettled conditions in the industry in the last week of that month has now been worked out and amounts to 2·99 per cent.

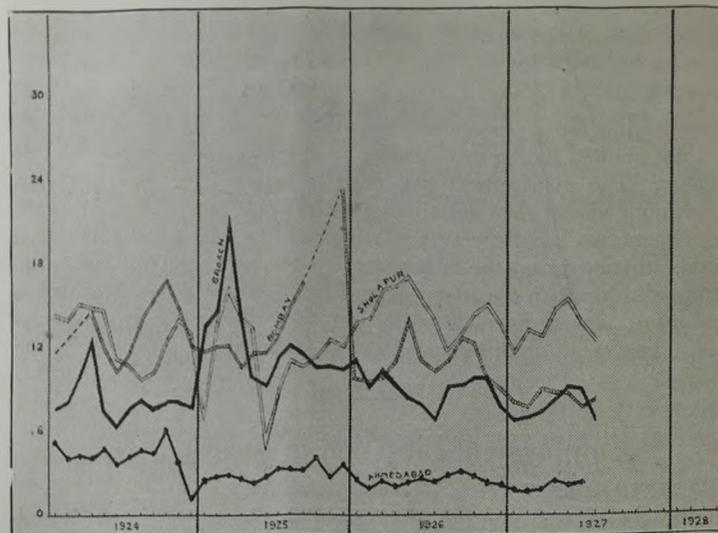
Returns were submitted by all the mills in Sholapur. None of these mills reported any shortage in the supply of labour and the average percentage absenteeism amounted to 12·39.

Only one of the two mills in Viramgam furnished information. The percentage absenteeism amounted to 0·72.

All the three mills in Broach supplied information. The supply of labour was equal to the demand and the average absenteeism amounted to 8·60 per cent. as against 7·07 per cent. in the preceding month.

Taking the industry as a whole the supply of labour was equal to the demand 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 engineering workshops was 11.15 per cent. as against 12.60 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 9.15 per cent. The average absenteeism in the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust amounted to 7.80 per cent.

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

#### Workmen's Compensation

*Details of Compensation and Proceedings during August 1927 under the Workmen's Compensation Act (Act VIII of 1923)*

This article contains the summary of compensation statistics for the month of August 1927. Information was furnished by all Commissioners except one in the Presidency and out of a total number of 49 cases disposed of during the month 46 were reported by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner in Bombay. It must be remembered that these are not the numbers of cases which came within the purview of the Courts of the Commissioners, but of cases actually disposed of. The cases which were transferred from one Commissioner to another have not been included in the statistics. The gross amount of compensation

awarded during the month was Rs.13,667-7-0 as against Rs.19,222-12-0 in the previous month and Rs.14,218-5-0 in August 1926. Out of 49 cases in which compensation was claimed 10 were fatal accidents and the remaining 39 of permanent partial disablement. No case of occupational disease has come up since January 1925. The number of compensation cases in the textile industry amounted to 26 and in other industries to 23. The corresponding figures for August 1926 were 18 and 17.

The total number of claimants for compensation in all the cases disposed of during the month was 49 of whom 46 were adult males, one adult female and the remaining two males under 15 years of age.

Out of the cases disposed of during the month under review, 32 were original claims and 17 registration of agreements. Compensation was awarded in 25 cases, agreements were registered in 17 cases, and the remaining 7 cases were dismissed.

#### Accidents in the Bombay Presidency

STATISTICS FOR MAY TO AUGUST 1927

*(Supplied by the Chief Inspector of Factories)*

The preliminary 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 from May to August 1927 in Bombay City, Ahmedabad, Karachi and other centres of the Presidency. During May to August 1927 there were 1288 accidents in Bombay City. The injuries caused by these accidents were fatal in 7 cases, serious in 198 cases and minor in 1088 cases. Three hundred and sixty or 28 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 71.7 per cent. in workshops, 26.6 per cent. in textile mills and 1.7 per cent. in miscellaneous concerns.

During the four months under review there were in all 131 accidents in Ahmedabad of which 128 occurred in textile mills and the rest in miscellaneous concerns. Out of the total number of accidents, 90 were due to machinery in motion and 41 to other causes. One of these accidents proved fatal, 74 caused serious and the rest minor injuries.

In Karachi there were 19 accidents, out of which 7 occurred in railway workshops and 12 in miscellaneous concerns. Out of the total number of accidents 6 were due to machinery in motion and the remaining 13 to other causes. Eleven of these accidents caused serious and the rest minor injuries.

In the other centres of the Presidency there occurred 247 accidents of which 66 were in textile mills, 153 in workshops and 28 in miscellaneous concerns. Machinery in motion was the cause of 78 accidents, while other causes were responsible for the remaining 169 accidents. The injuries caused by these accidents were fatal in 2 cases, serious in 85 cases and minor in 163 cases.

## Prosecutions under the Factories Act in the Bombay Presidency, August 1927

### AHMEDABAD

The spinning master of a cotton mill was prosecuted under section 41 (f) for breach of Section 18 (1) (c) read with Rule 33 (ii) for not maintaining self-locking apparatus in efficient order whereby a person was injured. The spinning master was convicted and fined Rs. 150.

### BRCACH

The manager of a cotton ginning and pressing factory was prosecuted under Section 41 (a) for breach of Section 24 (a) read with Rule 75 for employing women before the legal specified hours. The manager was convicted and fined Rs. 50 in each of thirteen cases.

The manager of the same factory was also prosecuted under Section 41 (a) for breach of Section 22 for employing certain persons on a Sunday without a holiday. He was convicted and fined Rs. 150.

### BIJAPUR

The occupier of an oil mill and ginning factory was prosecuted under Section 41 (a) for breach of Section 24 (a) read with Rule 75 for employing women before the legal hours specified. He was convicted and fined Rs. 5 in each of four cases.

## Labour News from Ahmedabad

### THE LABOUR UNION

The Labour Union sent round its workers to collect information regarding the damage caused by the floods to working class tenements. According to the statistics collected by them more than 4200 working class tenements have fallen down. Of these, 1500 were owned by labourers. The rest were occupied by them as tenants. The damage to working-class property is estimated at Rs. 4 lakhs. Statistics of loss incurred by workers due to the falling houses are being published in the *Majur Sandesh*. Naroda, Gomtipur and Jamalpur are the chief working class localities most severely affected by the floods.

About 20,000 working class people (men, women and children taken together) have been rendered homeless. As stated in the *Labour Gazette* for August 1927 their immediate wants were supplied by the Labour Union and a few philanthropic millowners. The Bombay Textile Labour Union also sent a small sum to the Labour Union for purposes of immediate relief.

As regards housing, some workers are living with their relatives or friends and are put to great trouble for want of adequate water-supply and conservancy facilities. Others are still living in their dilapidated tenements exposed to the inclemencies of the weather. The Municipal Health Department is taking active measures to check the spread of disease by chlorinating the water-supply and filling up ditches and muddy pools near mill chawls. A few workers are reported to have raised loans at

high rates of interest (25 per cent.) to re-build their tenements. Notwithstanding the sudden shortage of houses it is fortunate that rents have not yet gone up except in a few stray cases.

The housing problem is acute and relief measures at present take the form of (1) advancing loans without, or at low rates of, interest, (2) selling building materials at concession rates or distributing them free, (3) organizing co-operative housing societies, (4) requesting the Municipality to enforce the building bye-laws strictly, to push on its town-planning schemes and to undertake the building of new sanitary houses and (5) constructing temporary sheds for immediate relief.

The Ahmedabad Housing Loan Fund Committee whose operations will extend to all classes of people has decided to grant advances to deserving individuals as well as co-operative societies in the form of building materials, etc., ordinarily up to Rs. 2500 and in exceptional cases up to Rs. 5000 but in no case more than two-thirds of the market value of the mortgaged property, free of interest to the very poor and at not more than three per cent. to others and repayable in progressively increasing instalments within ten years—the one important condition of the loan being that houses built should not infringe sanitary laws. The Labour Union is reported to have furnished the Committee with details of loans required by labourers and asked for a loan of Rs. 39,000. The Committee's loan operations will commence after *Divali*. In the meantime enquiries are being made into the financial condition of those that have applied for loans. At the request of the Labour Union the Millowners Association has recommended to its members the granting of loans without interest to mill workers owning houses for repairing or rebuilding them. Mills also have called for applications for loans from workers. The Labour Union is trying its best to educate workers to become more honest and punctual in the repayment of loans.

The Ahmedabad District Relief Fund Committee has ordered a large stock of corrugated iron sheets and is selling them at Rs. 5 per maund. The Committee is prepared to bear a loss of Rs. 5000 in this way. Dealers in corrugated iron sheets are trying to undersell the Committee. The Committee has further requested Government to distribute corrugated iron sheets free to really deserving people in consultation with it and thus supplement its work.

The Labour Union has drawn up a scheme for the formation of co-operative housing societies among labourers. Under the scheme the interest charged on loans by Government is to be reduced from 5½ to 4 per cent., advances are to be free from interest for the first two years, loans are to be granted to the extent of 80 per cent. of the cost of the house and land and the re-payment of loans is to be spread over fifteen to twenty years. The scheme remains to be approved by Government. A model tenement of chunam with one sitting-room and a kitchen, verandahs on both sides, a small garden and plenty of open space with all sanitary conveniences is said to cost Rs. 800. It is estimated that in about twenty years' time the houses so built will be owned by workers by paying Rs. 6 per month. It is doubtful whether a large number of workers will come forward to take advantage of this co-operative housing scheme.

The work of constructing temporary sheds for immediate relief was suggested by the Labour Union to the Millowners Association. The Association appointed a sub-committee to investigate the matter and also issued a circular to the mills requesting them to ascertain whether workers required temporary quarters for immediate accommodation. Leaflets have been distributed among workers asking them to inform the mills of their names, locality and other details of their damaged tenements, their present residence and the number of people living there so that arrangements may be made for accommodating them elsewhere. The sub-committee is willing to arrange for the building of Rajnagar Mill No. 2 which is lying vacant to be partitioned into small tenements and let out to needy workers but it is understood that no workers are willing to come and occupy the place. Many mills say that their workers do not require temporary sheds. One or two mills are arranging to accommodate workers mostly in existing chawls. The Labour Union says that there is great need for 90 tenements on Naroda Road side, 50 in Gomtipur, 45 behind the Madhoobhai Mill and 40 in Jamalpur. It has already constructed 88 tenements and found workers to live in them. It is stated that some workers prefer, for various reasons, living in their dilapidated tenements to taking advantage of the quarters provided by the Union. They are under the impression that they lower themselves in the estimation of people by seeking accommodation in such quarters. Fifty-eight more tenements are being built. The tenements are built of corrugated iron sheets with partitions of white-washed gunny-bags. They are well ventilated and are 12 feet long, 12 feet broad and 9 feet high. The Municipality has arranged for sanitary conveniences in these quarters. Each of these tenements is said to cost Rs. 80. The cost is at present met by the Labour Union but it is likely that the District Relief Fund Committee will help the Union. These tenements look much better than most of the so-called permanent tenements of workmen. Four mills have lent their lands for the construction of these temporary sheds. The Superintendent of Police has allowed the use of the compound wall in front of the Gaekwar Haveli for this purpose. The necessary permission for the construction of these tenements was granted by the Collector and the Municipal authorities immediately. The President and the Engineer of the Municipality inspected the tenements and suggested suitable improvements.

The work done by the Labour Union at the time of distress deserves praise. It helps workmen without distinction of caste or creed. Hindus (including depressed classes) and Mahommadans receive help at its hands without the least partiality. Members as well as non-members are being helped. For some time past the *Majur Sandesh* is being published twice a week in order to give information regarding the damage due to floods and to instruct workers as to the best methods of rebuilding their houses with due regard to sanitary laws and obtaining loans, if necessary, for this purpose. The illustrated issue of the *Majur Sandesh* contains photographs showing some chawls entirely washed out by the floods, some mill and private chawls constructed in utter disregard of all principles of sanitation and some of the temporary quarters newly constructed by the Union. The Union requested the Millowners' Association to pay the workers for the

three days of heavy rains when mills were closed and workers could not attend to their duty. The Association has recommended to the mills that workers may be paid for two days. Paying for those compulsory holidays will benefit only time-workers. Not even half a dozen mills have so far paid for these days. Most mills are waiting for other neighbouring mills to set the example of paying for those holidays.

#### THE POSTAL AND R.M.S. UNION

Some of the members of the Union who were affected by the floods have taken an advance of two months' pay from Government. The loan is without interest and repayable in twelve monthly instalments. The Union has contributed Rs. 200 for the Flood Relief Fund started by the Presidency Association.

#### THE GUJARAT POSTMEN'S UNION

Postmen were put to a severe strain during the floods. When houses were tumbling down and rain was pouring heavily they discharged their duties conscientiously at great risk to their lives. They have applied to the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs to grant them a gratuity in recognition of this meritorious service. About 40 of them have taken two months' pay as advance without interest. About 25 of them have applied for loans from the Posts and Telegraphs, Gujarat and Kathiawar Flood Relief Fund.

#### DAMAGE TO MILLS

The damage caused by the rains to mills is comparatively slight. Only one mill collapsed, the damage incurred thereby being estimated at Rs. 50,000. Another mill could not work for about a fortnight owing to the cellar being full of water. Some mills had to pump out water from the cellar with the help of Municipal fire-engines but started work soon after the rains were over. Before commencing regular work the Factory Inspector had asked the mills to take the precautions of seeing that the mill buildings were not damaged by the floods and of working with as few men as possible in the first instance as an experimental measure.

### Agricultural Outlook in the Presidency

The following summary of conditions in the Presidency during the period ending 20th September 1927 has been supplied by the Director of Agriculture.

"The weather and crop reports received so far go to show that good rains have been received during the last week, in large portion of the Deccan and Karnatak, benefiting the standing crops. The rain has not been general and more is still needed in large areas in both the divisions, but where received it has certainly done much good. In the Konkan, there has been a general deficiency of rains during the period under review and the crops here now need rain urgently for their proper development. In North Gujarat, insects have appeared on crops and good showers are here needed to check the pest. Similarly rain is needed for the rice crop

in Surat district. The actual situation as it appears at the present moment in the different divisions of the Bombay Presidency may be briefly summarised as follows :—

*Gujarat.*—Rainfall amounting to about two inches was received in parts of North Gujarat on the last two or three days of August and in the beginning of September. This hindered the resowing of crops in the *Bhal* and *Chawal* tracts of Ahmedabad and in some other places in the North. Except for this, however, the resowing in the flood-affected areas proceeded smoothly and is now nearly finished. In the area not affected by floods, that is the districts south of Broach the standing crops are all doing well except rice in the south of Surat which requires further rain for its development. Very recently, there is a complaint of insects having appeared on crops in North Gujarat and for checking this insect pest some sharp showers of rain are needed here.

*Konkan.*—Since the submission of the last report there has been only light rain in most parts of the division. The crops are in fair condition for the time being but want rain urgently for their proper development.

*Deccan and Karnatak.*—Some good rain has been received in parts of both these divisions, in the second and third weeks of September, benefiting the standing crops. The rain has not yet been quite general and more is still needed over large areas in both the divisions. Much, hence, depends on what rains are received here in the near future. The grasshopper attack reported last time has not yet subsided and is reported to be on an increase in the Nasik District in the Deccan.

## Questions in the Legislature

### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Kumar Ganganand Sinha : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether or not they have received any information regarding the appointment of a correspondent of the International Labour Office in India in pursuance of the Resolutions passed by the International Labour Conferences ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay the same on the table ?

(c) What hand, if any, have the Government in such an appointment ? If the appointment has been made will the Government be pleased to state the name and qualification of the Correspondent ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) The Governing Body of the International Labour Office has decided to create a correspondent's office in Delhi in 1928.

(b) This information will be found in the Report of the Director of the International Labour Office for 1927. I do not propose to lay the Report on the table.

(c) No appointment has yet been made, and the Government of India understand that it is the Director's intention that the correspondent should, if possible, be appointed in 1928 after a period of training in his office. The Director intends to consider in this connection the claims of those Indians who recently applied for a higher grade appointment in the

International Labour Office, but the appointment will not necessarily be made from among these candidates. These applications were received at the request of the Director by an officer of the Government of India and were forwarded to the Director with a report upon them : they were not examined by Government.

Kumar Ganganand Sinha : Have the Government been in communication with the International Labour Office with regard to the conditions of Labour in India in pursuance of the Resolutions passed in the International Labour Conferences ? How far has the matter progressed ? How is the matter to be investigated and by whom ? What have Government so far done to help the inquiry ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : I presume that the Honourable Member is referring to the documentary enquiry which is being conducted by the International Labour Office into conditions of labour in a number of Asiatic countries, including India. The Government of India have been in communication with the International Labour Office on the question, and they understand that the enquiry is in progress. They have supplied the International Labour Office, from time to time, with a large amount of documentary material bearing on labour conditions in India and are endeavouring to collect further information desired by the Director of the International Labour Office.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Is it a fact that about August 1924, the Government drafted a Bill for the regulation of trade disputes in India ? If so, what has happened to it ; and is there any such measure likely to come up before the House ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : A Bill relating to the investigation and settlement of trade disputes was drafted by the Government of India in August 1924. Thereafter it was circulated to local Governments and published for criticism. A number of criticisms were received and it is probable that as a result of these criticisms it will be necessary to modify the original proposals. In this connection, the provisions of the law recently passed in England are also being examined. A Bill dealing with this subject will in all probability be introduced in the next session of this House.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : (a) Are Government aware that on account of their having ratified a Convention regarding unemployment passed at the International Labour Conference at Washington they have undertaken the responsibility of furnishing the statistics about unemployment in the country to the International Labour Office and to establish Public Employment Agencies ?

(b) If so, will they be pleased to state how they have discharged their responsibility in this matter ?

(c) Are Government aware that a Committee appointed by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office has made comments on the conduct of the Government of India in this matter ?

(d) If so, will they be pleased to state what the comment is ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) Yes.

(b) In the manner explained to the Legislative Assembly by Sir Thomas Holland during the discussion of this Convention on 19th February 1921.

(c) and (d) The Committee commented on the position of India in respect of this Convention. It would take too long to read the whole of the Committee's observations, but I am sending a copy to the Honourable Member. After referring to the action taken in India the Committee added—

"The Committee notes that the Government of India appears to have interpreted the Convention as only involving an obligation to create employment exchanges to the extent to which circumstances may render them necessary. Nevertheless the Office might be instructed to enquire whether the development of industry in India in the last few years may not have modified somewhat the situation which led the Government of India to decide the question of the creation of employment exchanges negatively."

I may add that the Conference was informed that the Government of India would have no objection to an enquiry on the lines suggested.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will Government be pleased to state: (a) How many employees of the various Railway Workshops were deprived of their employment on account of retrenchment during 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926?

(b) How many Cotton Textile Factories were closed during the years 1925 and 1926 and the number of employees of these factories?

(c) How many mines in India have ceased to work during 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926 and the total number of their employees?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) As a measure of retrenchment 782 men were discharged from the Bengal-Nagpur Railway workshops in 1923 and 367 from the Assam-Bengal Railway workshops in 1923, 68 in 1924 and 41 in 1925. It is possible, though not very likely, that retrenchment was also the cause of the discharge of 69 men from the South Indian Railway workshops and 20 men from the Eastern Bengal Railway workshops in 1923, but I will obtain the exact facts if the Honourable Member desires. Other discharges in the years mentioned by the Honourable Member on these and the remaining State owned railways, except the M. & S.M. Railway, were not due to a policy of retrenchment but to other causes, chiefly the re-organisation of the workshops or the fact that there was not sufficient work offering. The Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway have not yet supplied information on this point but it will be communicated to the Honourable Member as soon as it is received.

(b) The Government of India understand that six cotton textile factories were closed during 1925 and eleven during 1926 in the Bombay Presidency. The number of employees affected was 3622 and 7100 respectively. These figures include one mill which was burnt down.

The Government of India are not in possession of similar statistics for the rest of India.

(c) I lay on the table a statement giving the number of mines governed by the Indian Mines Act which were opened and closed annually in the period 1923-26.

Information of the number of employees who were engaged in the mines which were closed is not available. But the total number of persons

employed in coal mines fell by about 12,000 between 1923 and 1926 and the total number of persons employed in other mines rose by about 37,000 in the same period.

Year	Closed	Opened or re-opened	Net reduction or addition per annum
<i>Coal Mines</i>			
1923 ..	182	63	- 119
1924 ..	102	81	- 21
1925 ..	118	65	- 53
1926 ..	122	48	- 74
<i>Other Mines</i>			
1923 ..	94	179	+ 85
1924 ..	185	405	+ 220
1925 ..	261	439	- 178
1926 ..	347	340	- 7

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will Government please state if the amendment of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act is under the consideration of Government?

(b) If so, by what time are they likely to introduce an amending Bill?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) The present intention of Government is to introduce an amending Bill in the next Delhi session.

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to Government reply to starred question No. 339 on the 14th February 1927, regarding the introduction of legislation for the prompt payment of wages, will Government please state:—

(a) if the replies from all Local Governments have been received; and

(b) if so, whether the subject has been discussed by the Standing Advisory Committee attached to the Department of Industries and Labour and whether they propose to introduce the Bill in the current session?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) The subject was discussed with the Standing Advisory Committee in September 1926. I would remind the Honourable Member that the discussion of my motion for the election of a Standing Advisory Committee for my Department was twice adjourned during last session and that in consequence, my Department has been without a Committee since the second Assembly was dissolved. I hope, when the Committee is elected, to discuss the question again with them. No bill will be introduced in this session.

Mr. V. V. Jogiah: (a) Is it a fact that the delegates on behalf of the Government of India at the last International Labour Conference of the League of Nations accepted the principles underlying the final questionnaire as drafted? If so, has the Government of India taken steps to consult Provincial Governments and Labour Organisations and public opinion in general?

(b) Is it a fact that the International Labour Conference recently held has passed conventions and recommendations regarding "Sickness Insurance," and if so, will the Government of India as a signatory to the League of Nations ratify the said conventions and recommendations?

(c) Was the complaint made by the Workers' Delegate from India at the last International Labour Conference that even though the Government of India has repealed the law relating to penal sanctions for breach of contract of service, some Local Governments have still these Acts in force, and if so, do the Government of India intend to direct the Local Governments to repeal them?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) I presume that the Honourable Member is referring to the questionnaire relating to Minimum Wages. The representatives of the Government of India indicated that they were in favour of the questionnaire being sent out, but the Government of India did not accept any principles in this connection nor am I clear that any principles can be regarded as underlying a series of questions. The Government of India have only recently received the questionnaire and I am not yet able to say if it will be possible for them to consult local Governments. There is no intention of consulting labour organisations or public opinion at this stage. The time allowed is extremely short and employers and labour organisations are separately represented at Geneva.

(b) Two Conventions and a Recommendation relating to Sickness Insurance were adopted. The Government of India have not yet had the opportunity of examining these and I am unable to say whether they will propose ratification of the Conventions or not. Recommendations are not capable of ratification.

(c) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative. So far as the Government of India are aware, the only Acts of the type to which reference was made are the Madras Planters' Act, the repeal of which is under consideration in the Madras Legislative Council, and the Coorg Labour Act which will automatically cease to be operative on the 1st April 1931.

## Conditions in the Indian Textile Industry

### BRITISH TRADE UNION REPORT

The United Textile Factory Workers' Association of Great Britain recently published the Report of an investigation made on behalf of the Association by Mr. J. Hindle and Mr. M. Brothers, who were appointed to visit India in 1926. The Report contains the following passages—

### GENERAL CONDITIONS

Taken as a whole, the mills in India compare favourably as regards building construction, modern machinery, and up-to-date labour-saving devices with the mills in Lancashire. Eighty per cent. of textile operatives are men or boys. Women as a rule are only employed as reelers and winders.

Four times the number of operatives per loom or spindle are employed in mills in India than are necessary in Lancashire. The Indian textile operative lacks the skill, stability and stamina of our workpeople.

### HOURS OF LABOUR

The textile mills have a sixty hour working week of ten hours per day for six days. A few work eleven and twelve hours per day, but they are only a small percentage and do not materially alter the above statement. Although the engines run ten hours per day, the operative does not work continually the whole of the day, time being allowed for prayers, bathing, smoking, etc. It is questionable if more than eight hours' productive labour is obtained from the individual operative. In order that the spindles and looms may be kept running the management must employ extra labour.

One of the first things to arrest our attention was the large number of people squatting in the mill yard and standing about inside the mill, apparently having no particular machine under their supervision.

### AVERAGE WAGES FOR A MONTH OF 26 DAYS

	£	s.	d.
Mixing and Blowing Room	2	0	9
Strippers and Grinders	2	5	0
Cardroom Frame Tenters	2	8	0
Ring Spinners	2	0	9
Mule Spinning (one minder, six piecers, and two creelers to pair of mules)—			
Minder	3	7	6
Piecers	2	0	9
Creelers	1	10	0

The system of recruiting labour lends itself to many abuses, and operatives have often to pay bribes to obtain or retain their employment. Ninety per cent. of operatives are in debt to moneylenders, who charge interest at the rate of from 150 to 300 per cent. per annum. Most of the essentials of life are purchased on credit system at enhanced prices. The wages are, as a rule, paid monthly, and fourteen days' wages are kept in hand. Wages paid weekly would do much to break down moneylenders and credit storekeepers.

Fining is excessive. In some cases the whole of the workpeople are subject to fines, even though they have produced good cloth; in other cases cloth examiners depend upon money received as fines for their wages.

### HOUSING

Eighty per cent. of textile operatives in Bombay live in chawls of various types, mostly 10 feet by 10 feet. Rents vary from 4s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. per month. In densely populated areas bad lighting, bad sanitation and overcrowding is the rule. The very best chawls considered from English standards are bad and undesirable; others are dungeons in squalid surroundings. It makes one shudder to think what would happen in case of small-pox or other infectious diseases.

To fully understand the conditions, personal inspection is necessary. Bustees are small gipsy-like dwellings, built of mud, bamboo canes and other materials, and are in many cases owned by the occupier. There are no sanitary arrangements, and these huts would disgrace the wigwam of a North American Indian.

The houses owned by mills are better and cheaper than those that are owned by private individuals. The Government of Bombay built tenement blocks with rooms 12 feet by 12 feet for the working classes, and charge an uneconomic rent. Out of 16,000 rooms, 11,000 are unoccupied. In order to build these blocks, a tax of 1s. 6d. per bale of cotton is imposed. One shilling and six pence per 1,000 gallons of water must be paid by mills in Bombay for all water used in mills or houses.

If it were not for the glorious sunshine provided by nature, and which the natives do all in their power to shut out of their hovels, the sickness and death-rate would be appalling. Fortunately, the children can leave the dark alleys to play in the full rays of the sun.

Workers do not take advantage of the improved conditions. In spite of dirt and discomfort, the poorer people prefer to live in privately-owned dwellings. They claim they have more freedom and independence. In the Government chawls and those owned by mills there is more supervision, and tenants are not allowed to take in lodgers.

Due regard must be paid to the customs of the people in their native villages previous to their immigration to the textile districts.

#### WELFARE WORK

Most mills undertake welfare work and provide houses at nominal rent for their lowest paid workers. A few provide houses for the whole of their workpeople, medical attention being free to the workers and their families. In some mills there are hospitals, creches and schools. The amount of welfare work done depends on the outlook of the management. Many managers are of the opinion that it is a sound business proposition to care for the health of their operatives, the cost being recovered by the increased efficiency due to improvement in the health and intelligence of their workpeople.

#### FAMILY LIFE

In many Hindu families the whole of the members (including married sons) hand over their earnings to the father, who assumes responsibility for the maintenance of all his household. By this system the cost of living is reduced, and none of the family is allowed to starve.

#### TRADE UNIONS

Many of the Trade Unions were established in or since 1918, the principal incentive being that the cost of living increased in greater ratio than wages. Wages and cost of living having somewhat adjusted themselves, Trade Unionism is not at the moment making progress, and is at a very low ebb. Their work is more political and social than industrial. We did not find any textile Trade Union that was managed and controlled by the operatives. The lack of education of the worker prevents him from taking responsible positions in his Trade Union.

Politicians and social reformers take interest in and control the Unions, often to the detriment of the worker. The workers are split in factions, and we often found two rival Unions purporting to represent the workers of the same trade in the same city. It is only fair to state that there are many public-spirited men giving valuable services without any ulterior motive.

The Indian workers have no National Unemployment or Health Insurance Acts.

A Workmen's Compensation Act became operative in 1924. Trade Union officials advise and act on behalf of members for the purpose of securing compensation. There are no Minimum Wage Acts or standard lists, nor are there any agreements between employers' and employees' associations. Recently, the Trade Union Act has been placed upon the Statute Book. By this Act, trade unions are for the first time recognised as within the law.

#### COMPETITION

There is little direct competition between Manchester and India, but the rivalry of Japan is severe.

Japan has an undue advantage due to the fact that her cotton mills run 22 hours per day. Under this arrangement less capital is necessary, and overhead charges are considerably reduced.

If and when the Washington Convention Agreement to work 48 hours per week is ratified, Lancashire will be in a position to compete with Japan on more equal terms. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, August 22, 1927.)

### Indian Immigrant Labour in Ceylon

We have received the Administration Report of the Controller of Indian Immigrant Labour for the year 1926. It contains much useful information regarding the method of recruiting immigrant labour and their social and economic conditions. During the year under report no legislation specially affecting Indians was passed, but there is at present a bill before the Legislative Council which makes the balance of wages due after deducting the value of advance of rice, etc., payable on or before the 10th day of the month following that in which the wages are earned. It also insists on payment of such balances in full into each labourer's hands, but allows no part of the balance to be withheld even with the labourer's consent. It simplifies the system of Indian labour registration and gives the Controller power to prosecute offenders for offences committed under the Labour Ordinances. It also proposes the prohibition of labour in the case of children under ten years of age. It is expected that this bill will become law in the current year.

The hours of work for labourers in Ceylon are not limited by law. The labourers on estates, generally begin work at 6-30 in the morning and work till 4 in the afternoon. They get an hour in the afternoon for the midday meal. The Controller is of opinion that even if hours of work were fixed by law on Ceylon estates their enforcement would be most difficult.

As regards the protection of women and children on estates the Medical Wants Ordinance of 1912 places on planters the legal duty of providing medical aid for labourers in need of such and of providing free maternity benefit, namely, sufficient food and lodging for one month, absence from work for one month, and of seeing that all children under the age of one year receive proper care and nourishment. On nearly all estates the money grant is given at times of childbirth in addition to the above, and further absence from work and other comforts where needed are provided. Night-work is practically unknown on estates except at very busy times in tea factories. Work is then done in relays and wages at higher than the usual rates are paid for such labour.

The Ceylon Government at the request of the Government of India proposes to make it illegal for children under ten years of age to work and to compel them to go to school instead. It is believed that the enforcement of this law will be strongly resisted by the parents especially on tea estates where children earn wages by doing light work.

As regards the living-in conditions of Indian labourers, Ordinances Nos. 9 and 10 of 1912 compel planters who employ Indian labour to house their estate employees properly. Legal regulations subsidiary to the ordinances enact that living rooms shall not be less than 10 feet by 12 feet in floor area and that there shall be a clear space of at least 40 feet around a group of labourers' dwellings. Statistics collected from 1626 estates show that from 1st January 1922 to the end of the year 1926 about 96,755 rooms were constructed or reconstructed at a cost of Rs. 32,944,818. It is expected that the total cost of housing labourers on estates will be in the neighbourhood of five crores of rupees.

In Ceylon there are no public schemes for insurance against sickness, old age or accident, nor is there national health insurance of the type generally adopted in Western countries, but free treatment of sick labourers is provided by the Government hospitals, dispensaries, homes, etc. Indian estate labourers are legally entitled to free medical aid. They are also entitled to be offered six days' work a week, or wages in lieu thereof if work is not available. Indians who are too old to work properly are repatriated at public expense if they so desire. The Government levies no contributions from employers or employees to meet the cost of the comprehensive public curative and health systems in force except in the case of proprietors of tea, rubber and cacao estates. In order to meet the cost of medical care of Indian estate labourers an export duty of 15 cents per lbs. 100 is levied in the case of tea and cacao and of 75 cents per lbs. 100 in the case of rubber.

### Residences for Labour

#### CEYLON SCHEME

The Controller of Indian Immigrant Labour, Mr. T. Reid, some time ago gave notice of the motion in the Legislative Council for leasing Crown lands without competition to owners of estates for housing resident labour. The terms were the lease to be an annual rent to be assessed at 6 per cent.

of the market value and be subject to revision every ten years, the value of the timber on the land and the cost of survey to be paid by the lessee, the lessee to have no claim for compensation should the lease be determined, and the land to be used for no other purpose except providing housing on the gardens for resident labourers. Such leases were to be granted subject to the condition that no land shall be leased which was required for the immediate or future needs of the neighbouring villages, that objections to the lease shall first be called, that no land shall be leased to any owner of an estate exceeding a total area calculated at the rate of one-tenth per acre for each adult male resident labourer, that the lease may be determined by the Government or estate owner on three months' notice, or by the Government without notice, if any breach of the terms or conditions is committed or if the housing conditions be not approved by the Controller of Indian Immigrant Labour.

The scheme was strongly criticised in a section of the press and one newspaper calculated that 81,288 acres would be affected. The motion was withdrawn at the meeting of the Legislative Council on 24th August 1927 and referred to the Land Commission.

In June this year on a motion by the Honourable Mr. E. W. Perera, a Commission was appointed to inquire and report, *inter alia*, on the land laws of Ceylon, with particular reference to the "Waste Land Ordinance." On an interim report issued by the Commission an Ordinance has been passed to prevent improvident alienation of unsettled land and to ensure the retention by the villagers and other small holders of sufficient land for the support of themselves and their families. It is provided that no alienation of unsettled land after 10th August will be valid unless with the written consent of the Government Agent. The refusal of consent is subject to an appeal to the Governor in the Executive Council, whose decision shall be final. (From "Madras Mail," Madras, August 28, 1927.)

### Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Act in England

The Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Bill received the Royal Assent on the 29th July.

Section 1 declares a strike illegal if it

(i) has any object other than or in addition to the furtherance of a trade dispute within the trade or industry in which the strikers are engaged; and

(ii) is a strike designed or calculated to coerce the Government either directly or by inflicting hardship upon the community.

An illegal lock-out is defined in exactly similar terms; and it is declared illegal to commence, or continue, or to apply any sums in furtherance or in support of, any such illegal strike or lock-out.

A trade dispute is not to be deemed to be within a trade or industry unless it is a dispute between employers and workmen, or between workmen and workmen, in that trade or industry which is connected with the employment or non-employment, or the terms of the employment, or with the conditions of labour, of persons in that trade or industry.

Without prejudice to the generality of the expression "trade or industry," workmen are to be deemed to be within the same trade or industry if their wages or conditions of employment are determined in accordance with the conclusions of the same Joint Industrial Council, Conciliation Board, or other similar body, or in accordance with agreements made with the same employer or group of employers.

Penalties are provided against any person who declares or instigates an illegal strike or lock-out, or incites others to take part in or otherwise acts in furtherance of such a strike or lock-out; but it is provided that no person shall be deemed to have committed an offence under this section or at common law by reason only of his having ceased work or refused to continue to work or to accept employment. The provisions of the Trade Disputes Act, 1906, and of the second proviso to Section 2 (i) of the Emergency Powers Act, 1920, are not to apply to any act done in contemplation or furtherance of an illegal strike or lock-out; but no person is to be deemed to have committed an offence under any regulations made under the Emergency Powers Act, 1920, by reason only of his having ceased work or having refused to continue to work or to accept employment.

Section 2 provides that no person refusing to take part, or to continue to take part, in an illegal strike or lock-out shall be subject to expulsion from any trade union or society, or to any fine or penalty, or to deprivation of any right or benefit to which he or his legal personal representatives would otherwise be entitled, or liable to be placed in any respect either directly or indirectly under any disability or at any disadvantage as compared with other members of the union or society. This section is made retrospective as respects any strike or lock-out since the 1st May 1926, which is declared illegal by the Act.

Section 3 declares it to be unlawful for one or more persons (whether acting on their own behalf or on behalf of a trade union, or of an individual employer or firm, and notwithstanding that they may be acting in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute) to attend at or near a house or place where a person resides or works or carries on business or happens to be, for the purpose of obtaining or communicating information or of persuading or inducing any person to work or to abstain from working, if they so attend in such numbers or otherwise in such manner as to be calculated to intimidate any person in that house or place, or to obstruct the approach thereto or egress therefrom or to lead to a breach of the peace. "To intimidate" is defined as meaning to cause in the mind of a person a reasonable apprehension of injury to him or to any member of his family or to any of his dependants or of violence or damage to any person or property; and the expression "injury" includes injury to a person in respect of his business, occupation, employment, or other source of income, and includes any actionable wrong. It is also declared unlawful for one or more persons, for the purpose of inducing any person to work or to abstain from working, to watch or beset a house or place where a person resides or the approach to such a house or place.

Section 4 provides that it shall not be lawful to require any member of a trade union to make any contribution to the political fund of a trade union unless he has given notice, in a prescribed form, of his willingness to

contribute thereto. Contributions to the political fund must be made separately from any contributions to the other funds of the union.

Section 5 prohibits established civil servants from being members, delegates, or representatives of any organisation of which the primary object is to influence or affect the remuneration and conditions of employment of its members, unless the organisation is an organisation of which the membership is confined to persons employed by or under the Crown and is an organisation which complies with such provisions as may be contained in the regulations for securing that it is in all respects independent of, and not affiliated to, any such organisation as aforesaid the membership of which is not confined to persons employed by or under the Crown or any federation comprising such organisations, that its objects do not include political objects, and that it is not associated directly or indirectly with any political party or organisation.

Section 6 makes it unlawful for any local or other public authority to make it a condition of the employment or continuance in employment of any person that he shall or shall not be a member of a trade union, or to impose any condition upon persons employed by the authority whereby employees who are or are not members of a trade union are liable to be placed in any respect either directly or indirectly under any disability or disadvantage as compared with other employees. It is also made unlawful to make membership or non-membership of a trade union a condition of any contract with a local or other public authority. Another sub-section of this section provides penalties against any person employed by a local or other public authority who wilfully breaks a contract of service with that authority, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that the probable consequence of his so doing, either alone or in combination with others, will be to cause injury or danger or grave inconvenience to the community.

Section 7 empowers the Attorney-General (in Scotland, the Lord Advocate) to apply for an injunction to restrain any application of the funds of a trade union in contravention of the Act.

Section 8 defines a "strike," for the purposes of this Act, as meaning the cessation of work by a body of persons employed in any trade or industry acting in combination, or a concerted refusal, or a refusal under a common understanding, of any number of persons who are, or have been, so employed, to continue to work or to accept employment. "Lock-out" is defined as meaning the closing of a place of employment or the suspension of work, or the refusal by an employer to continue to employ any number of persons employed by him in consequence of a dispute, done with a view to compelling those persons, or to aid another employer in compelling persons employed by him, to accept terms or conditions of or affecting employment. A strike or lock-out is not to be deemed to be calculated to coerce the Government unless such coercion ought reasonably to be expected as a consequence thereof. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, August, 1927.)

### Holidays with Pay in Luxemburg

The Luxemburg Act of 6th December 1926, concerning annual holidays with pay for workers, having encountered certain practical difficulties as regards its execution, the Director General of Labour has issued instructions for the purpose of removing these difficulties and securing a uniform application of the Act.

The first section of these instructions, which are dated 21st May 1927, states that the Act applies to all wage-earners in industry and commerce, to artisans and to State and municipal employees.

Seasonal workers (who are excluded from the application of the Act) are considered to be workers in the following industries:—

- (1) The building and public works industry, with the exception of work carried on in industrial undertakings by the permanent staff, and of certain categories of workers permanently employed by builders, such as locksmiths, joiners, etc., when the number of such workers normally employed in the same undertaking exceeds 20;
- (2) stone and sand quarries;
- (3) rural brickworks;
- (4) straw hat factories;
- (5) preserve factories;
- (6) cheese-making undertakings;
- (7) hotels in spas and tourist centres;
- (8) the clothing industry.

It is provided as a limiting condition that such industries must be regularly subject to periods of complete unemployment, the total duration of which is at least two months per year.

By the phrase "undertakings normally employing 20 workers or less" (also excluded from the benefits of the Act), should be understood undertakings in which the number of workers occupied during the greater part of the year does not on an average exceed 20.

To be entitled to an annual holiday with pay, each wage-earner must be able to prove a minimum number of days' work per year. This minimum has been fixed at 270 days for miners and 280 days for other wage-earners. Account will be taken, however, of absence due to sickness or accident or authorised by the employer and of unavoidable absences, for which the wage-earner has not been able to demand previous authorisation. The right to a holiday remains unaffected in the event of a change in management if there has been no rupture of agreement.

The worker loses his right to a holiday:—

- (1) if he cannot claim to have worked the annual minimum number of days;
- (2) if he has himself terminated his agreement and has not been re-engaged in the three months immediately following the stoppage of work, or if he was dismissed for reasons serious enough to give the employer the right to dismiss him without notice.

The duration of the holiday is based entirely on the principle of seniority, that is to say, on the actual years of service of the wage-earner. Years of service previous to the entry into force of the Act of 6th December 1926

are to be taken into consideration in calculating the length of the holiday. Sundays and public holidays are not counted as part of the annual holiday and are not paid for.

The intention of the authors of the Act is that the annual holiday should be given for rest and recreation, and should mark a new stage in the evolution of labour legislation. It would therefore be contrary to the spirit of the Act if the wage-earner used his holidays for some other purpose than their proper object, either in giving them up for some special indemnity or in profiting by his paid holidays to take on some other paid work.

Overtime work to compensate for hours of work lost as a result of the compulsory holiday must be paid for at an increased rate, which should not be less than 30 per cent. of the workers' wage. Such overtime hours may be worked without special authorisation. Nevertheless, the employer must previously submit to the factory inspector a detailed schedule of the overtime hours to be worked by each wage-earner who is entitled to a holiday. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, August 1, 1927.)

### Industrial Disputes in Germany

During the year 1926 comparatively few strikes and lock-outs occurred in Germany, the general situation having been unfavourable for demands for improvements in conditions of employment.

The following table summarises the labour disputes ending in 1925 and 1926 respectively:—

Year	No. of strikes and lockouts	No. of undertakings involved	Persons participating*	Working days lost
1925	1,766	25,214	758,071	16,856,000
1926	365	2,872	91,205	1,354,000

The disputes were almost entirely restricted to workers in manufacturing industry, commerce and transport. The number of persons participating was distributed as follows:—

Year	Workers in industry or transport	Agricultural workers	Salaried employees
1925	756,680	1,017	374
1926	90,432	264	509

In 1926, the number of strikers was highest in transport, namely, 17,517; the building trades followed with 5,696 persons participating in strikes. The textile trades, on the other hand, were most severely affected by

\* Total of the maximum number of persons involved in the individual disputes.

lock-outs; of the total number of persons locked-out (36,614), 22,519 were textile workers.

Industrial labour disputes involving 6486 persons were settled in favour of the workers, while disputes involving 12,745 persons terminated in favour of the employers. The large majority of disputes ended in a compromise. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, August 22, 1927.)

### Wage Changes in Germany

In the industries covered by the returns of the German Federal Statistical Office, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in April 1927 resulted in increases of hourly rates and weekly full-time wages, the rates being as follows:—

Industry	Skilled Workers		Unskilled Workers	
	Rate per Hour	Rate per Week	Rate per Hour	Rate per Week
	Pf.	M.	Pf.	M.
Mining .. .. .	106·6	51·18	61·1	36·30
Metal .. .. .	96·2	48·10	67·4	33·61
Chemical .. .. .	92·3	44·30	77·7	37·30
Building .. .. .	118·8	56·73	96·7	46·18
Wood working .. .. .	100·8	47·91	87·4	41·54
Paper making .. .. .	73·2	35·14	65·7	31·54
Textile: Males .. .. .	66·8	32·06	55·9	26·83
Females .. .. .	52·3	25·10	41·4	19·87
Brewing .. .. .	105·6	50·69	93·3	44·77
Sugar, confectionery, etc. .. .. .	89·1	42·77	76·9	36·91
Printing .. .. .	102·9	49·40	89·6	43·01
Cardboard: Males .. .. .	77·4	37·15	65·8	31·58
Females .. .. .	50·9	24·43	42·0	20·16
State railways .. .. .	86·9	44·68	69·6	35·78
Weighted average .. .. .	98·3	47·97	70·0	36·01

The rates of wages of building trades workers were increased in most of the towns covered by the returns. Other important increases were reported in the paper-making industry in southern and western Germany, Saxony, Silesia, etc., in the metal industry, and in the textile industry in various towns. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, July 11, 1927.)

### A Circular on the Italian "Labour Charter"

The Italian Prime Minister has sent to Prefects and Trade Unions a circular concerning the validity of the provisions of the "Labour Charter."

Some of these provisions, he says, namely, practically all contained in the first ten paragraphs, are already incorporated in the Act and Regulations relating to trade unions. Their validity depends directly on the legislation in which they are embodied. The other provisions of the Charter, while they do not yet correspond to legislative provisions, all express principles which the Fascist State proposes to transform into concrete legislation.

The Prime Minister therefore calls upon trade unions of all grades henceforth to bring their activity into conformity with the Charter, and to observe its provisions in drawing up collective agreements, in so far as they do not conflict with the provisions in force, to be amended later. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, July 25, 1927.)

### Trade Unions in Austria

The General Federation of Trade Unions in Austria (*Gewerkschaftskommission*) recently published its annual report for 1926, with statistics of the membership and finances of the affiliated Unions.

The number of affiliated central unions fell from 45 at the end of 1925 to 43 at the end of 1926, and the number of local unions increased from 8 to 9.

The total membership at the end of 1926 was 756,392, as compared with 807,515 at the end of 1925, a decrease of 51,123 or 6·3 per cent. The number of male members was 588,473, a decrease of 33,120 or 5·3 per cent., as compared with the previous year, and the number of female members was 167,919, a decrease of 18,003 or 9·7 per cent.

The following table shows the aggregate income and expenditure of all unions during the years 1924, 1925 and 1926:—

	Income	Expenditure	Expenditure in proportion to income
	<i>Schillings</i>		
1924	14,936,214	10,454,795	70·0 per cent.
1925	20,582,452	16,884,170	82·0 per cent.
1926	21,483,970	16,967,458	78·5 per cent.

In 1926 the total amount of unemployment benefit paid by the unions was 3,069,387 *schillings*; sick benefit amounted to 399,065 *schillings*; invalidity benefit to 423,497 *schillings*, and distress benefit to 888,100 *schillings*. The total expenditure on benefits was 5,034,212 *schillings*, equal to about 30 per cent. of the total expenditure.

The number of journals published by the trade unions was 54, as in 1925. Four publications are issued weekly, 22 fortnightly or twice monthly, 1 every third week, 22 monthly, and 2 bi-monthly, and 3 are non-periodical. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, July 18, 1927.)

## Rationalization of Industry

### RESOLUTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

Among the important matters considered by the International Economic Conference, which met in Geneva during May last, was the problem of reducing costs of production without injuring the interests of the consumer or the work. The question was discussed by the Industry Commission of the Conference, which considered the subject from three standpoints; (1) Rationalization, (2) international industrial agreements, and (3) the collection and exchange of information on industrial conditions. The following is an abstract of the section of the Commission's report relating to rationalization, which is understood to mean "the methods of technique and of organization designed to secure the minimum waste of either effort or material."

#### GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The Conference unanimously recognized the benefits of rationalization and of scientific management, and it asserted the urgent need of greater, more far-reaching, and better co-ordinated efforts in this field.

While conscious of the advantages of rationalization, both in the lowering of costs of production and of prices and in expanding markets, the Conference was not blind to the temporary unfavourable consequences which its application might involve in the case of certain categories of workers. Though, both directly and as consumers, the latter should in due course obtain their share of the advantages of a better organization of production, it was held that they might be adversely affected for a time by temporary unemployment while readjustments were being made. In the following resolutions, special account is taken of the legitimate anxiety which may thus be occasioned.

In view of the importance of this question of rationalization, the Conference considered it desirable that the Economic Organization of the League should keep in touch with the institutions specially concerned with this subject, and should include a note of its development in its reports on industrial conditions.

#### RESOLUTIONS

The Conference considers that one of the principal means of increasing output, improving conditions of labour and reducing costs of production is to be found in the rational organization of production and distribution.

The Conference considers that such rationalization aims simultaneously—

- (1) at securing the maximum efficiency of labour with the minimum of effort;
  - (2) at facilitating, by a reduction in the variety of patterns (where such variety offers no obvious advantage), the design, manufacture, use, and replacement of standardized parts;
  - (3) at avoiding waste of raw materials and power;
  - (4) at simplifying the distribution of goods;
  - (5) at avoiding in distribution unnecessary transport, burdensome financial charges, and the useless interposition of middlemen.
- Its judicious and constant application is calculated to secure—

(1) to the community greater stability and a higher standard in the conditions of life;

(2) to the consumer lower prices and goods more carefully adapted to general requirements;

(3) to the various classes of producers higher and steadier remuneration equitably distributed among them.

It must be applied with the care which is necessary in order, while at the same time continuing the process of rationalization, not to injure the legitimate interests of the workers; and suitable measures should be provided for cases where during the first stage of its realization it may result in loss of employment or more arduous work.

It requires, further, so far as regards the organization of labour in the strict sense of the term, the co-operation of employees and the assistance of trade and industrial organizations and of scientific and technical experts.

The Conference accordingly recommends that Governments, public institutions, trade and industrial organizations, or public opinion as the case may be—

(1) should lead producers to direct their endeavours along the lines indicated above, and, in particular—

(a) to encourage and promote in every way the investigation and comparison of the most adequate methods and most practical processes of rationalization and of scientific management, and of the economic and social results obtained thereby;

(b) to apply these endeavours in industry, agriculture, trade and finance not merely to large but also to medium and small undertakings, and even to individual workers and handicraftsmen, bearing in mind the favourable effects which they may have in household organization and amenities;

(c) to give special attention to measures of a kind calculated to ensure to the individual the best, the healthiest, and the most worthy employment such as vocational selection, guidance, and training, the due allotment of time between work and leisure, methods of remuneration giving the worker a fair share in the increase of output, and generally conditions of work and life favourable to the development and preservation of his personality;

(2) should carry on systematically, on an international as well as a national basis, the standardization of materials, parts, and products of all types which are of international importance, in order to remove the obstacles to production and trade which might arise from a purely national policy of standardization;

(3) should undertake on an international basis investigations for ascertaining the best methods employed and the most conclusive results obtained in every country in the application of the principles set out above, utilizing the investigations already made in certain countries and encouraging the exchange of information among those concerned;

(4) should spread in all quarters a clear realization of the advantages and the obligations involved in rationalization and scientific management as well as of the possibility of their gradual achievement. (*From "Social and Industrial Review," Pretoria, August 1927.*)

## Women's Work in Japan

### RESOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION

The Twelfth Meeting of the Commission on Women's Labour Problems of the Japanese Association for International Labour Legislation was held in Tokyo on 4th June 1927 under the chairmanship of Miss N. Kawasaki.

Discussion took place on matters relating to the protection of women workers in silk spinning factories. The members of the commission who had visited and investigated some of the silk spinning factories in Nagano, Gunma and other prefectures, reported separately on the working conditions of women, and on hours of work, holidays, wages, recruiting of workers, safety, sanitation, and dormitories.

At the close of the meeting, the Commission adopted the following resolution:—

In spite of the fact that the silk spinning industry is the most important industry in this country, and that its prosperity greatly depends upon the toil and endeavours of young women workers, of whom there are about 300,000, their conditions of work are not only very bad and do not compensate them for their toil and endeavour, but their situation is such as to frequently endanger even their chastity.

The Commission on Women's Labour Problems of the Japanese Association for International Labour Legislation considers that the following measures are most urgent and necessary for the improvement of the working conditions of women in silk spinning factories, and requests the government authorities and employers concerned to put these improvements into practice:—

- (1) The appointment of women factory inspectors;
- (2) The employment of women superintendents or forewomen;
- (3) The protection and encouragement of private organisations for the protection of women workers;
- (4) The encouragement of the co-operative working and management of spinning factories;
- (5) The reduction of hours of work in spinning factories to 11 per day;
- (6) Holidays for all workers on the same day;
- (7) A minimum wage;
- (8) The revision of the method of calculating wages;
- (9) The abolition of the practice of compulsory savings kept by the factory owners;
- (10) The strict observance of rest intervals and intervals for meals;
- (11) The improvement of sanitary equipment, etc., in working places and dormitories of factories;
- (12) Strict observance of the principle of the physical examination of workers and the notification of cases of sickness;
- (13) The establishment of seasonal employment exchange offices;
- (14) The improvement or abolition of the system of making loans in advance to workers on their recruitment;

(15) The creation of societies for the protection of women workers in localities where they are recruited;

(16) Strict enforcement of the regulations for the control of the recruiting of workers;

(17) Revision of the regulations concerning dormitories attached to factories;

(18) The employment of women as caretakers in dormitories attached to factories. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, August 8, 1927.)

### Scope of the Japanese Factory Act

The amended Japanese Factory Act, which was enforced as from 1st July 1926, covers all factories in which ten or more persons are normally employed. Previously only factories in which fifteen or more persons were normally employed were covered by the Act.

The increase in the number of factories and workers affected by the Act is shown in the following table published by the Bureau of Social Affairs in the April number of *Rodo Jihu*:—

Number of factories and workers covered by the Amended Factory Act on 1st October 1926

	Number of factories	Number of workers
Factories where 10 or more persons are employed	27,924	1,623,441
Factories where less than 10 persons are employed, but are engaged in dangerous or unhealthy processes	21,725	80,096
Total ..	49,649	1,703,537

Number of factories and workers covered by the Factory Act at the end of 1925

	Number of factories	Number of workers
Factories where 15 or more persons are employed	18,791	1,493,163
Factories where less than 15 persons are employed but are engaged in dangerous or unhealthy processes	8,285	87,081
Total	27,076	1,580,244

It will be seen that between the end of 1925 and October 1926 the number of factories covered by the Act increased by 22,573, and the number of workers by 173,293. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, August 8, 1927.)

### Labour Statistics of the Bank of Japan

The Bank of Japan has compiled labour statistics since November 1921. Although the work was much interrupted by the disastrous earthquake and fire of 1923, it has since then been resumed and constantly improved, so that the investigation at present covers more than 3,200 factories and approximately 950,000 workers, or 90 per cent. of the total number of workers engaged in factories normally employing 50 workers or more.

The Bank recently decided to publish monthly the results of its investigation. The chief purpose of the enquiry is to determine the index numbers of workers employed, of their wage rates and of actual earnings, by obtaining from all factories employing 50 or more workers monthly information of the number of workers engaged and discharged, the actual number of workers at the end of each month, their aggregate working days and the averages of daily wage rates and of actual daily earnings, classified according to sex. In calculating the average wage rate, the sum of the average daily wage rates of all factories is divided by the total number of factories involved; in the case of the average actual earnings, the sum of the products of the average daily wage of each factory multiplied by the aggregate number of working days of that factory is divided by the aggregate working days of the total number of workers. The annual average of these monthly average figures in 1926 is taken as 100, and the index numbers of workers employed, wage rates and actual earnings are calculated on this basis, classified according to sex, localities and important industries.

Below are given the index numbers calculated in this way from March 1926 to February 1927:—

Year and Month	Workers	Wage Rates	Actual Earnings
1926			
March .. .. .	100·1	99·7	101·3
April .. .. .	101·7	99·6	99·2
May .. .. .	101·4	100·0	99·7
June .. .. .	100·8	100·2	99·8
July .. .. .	99·9	100·2	99·2
August .. .. .	99·1	100·2	99·3
September .. .. .	100·3	100·2	98·9
October .. .. .	99·6	100·3	100·3
November .. .. .	99·2	100·2	100·5
December .. .. .	98·4	100·2	103·3
1927			
January	97·6	100·2	99·8
February		100·1	102·8

(From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, August 1, 1927.)

### Japanese Labour Census

The Japanese Bureau of Statistics recently announced that the second triennial labour census will be taken on 10th October 1927 throughout Japan. The Bureau is now making elaborate arrangements to ensure the success of the undertaking. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, August 1, 1927.)

### The Trade Union Movement in Czechoslovakia

In a report issued recently by the Confederation of Czechoslovak Trade Unions, the development of the trade union movement of Czechoslovakia is dealt with. The following is a summary of the principal contents of the report:

The economic position of Czechoslovakia has resulted in the trade union movement being relatively less united than in any other country. Not merely do nationalist and religious differences exist, but also division on account of political tendency. Nevertheless, the Confederation of Czechoslovak Trade Unions has succeeded in organising 600,000 worker members. The federations of trade unions in Czechoslovakia are as follows:—

- (1) The Confederation of Czechoslovak Trade Unions (affiliated with the International Federation of Trade Unions, Amsterdam), comprising 74 organisations with 766 members;
- (2) The Czechoslovak Labour Confederation (an organisation associated with the National Socialist Party of Czechoslovakia), comprising 67 organisations with 307,236 members;
- (3) The General Confederation of Christian Social Trade Unions, comprising 23 organisations with 113,869 members;
- (4) The Confederation of Salaried Employees and Civil Servants, comprising 55 organisations with 86,913 members;
- (5) The National Union of Trade Unions, comprising three organisations with 25,759 members;
- (6) The Republican Union (Agrarian Party), comprising four organisations with 50,185 members;
- (7) The Slovak Union of Trade Unions, comprising six organisations with 46,363 members;
- (8) The Confederation of German Trade Unions, comprising 18 organisations with 51,109 members;
- (9) The International Organisation of Trade Unions, established by the Communist Party and affiliated to the Moscow International, comprising 15 organisations with 201,035 members.

There are also four other organisations, with approximately 50,000 members. There are also approximately 200,000 non-affiliated trade unions. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, August 15, 1927.)

### International Federation of Textile Workers

The General Council of the International Federation of Textile Workers met at Stockholm on 27th and 28th June last.

Mr. Tom Shaw, the International secretary, submitted a report on the work of the organisation in recent months, and gave an account of his trip to India, where he had gone to study the conditions of life and work of textile workers.

The General Council considered the desirability of sending a delegation to America, to study on the spot the situation of the textile industry, and if possible, to bring about the affiliation of the American organisation to the Textile Workers' Federation.

The General Council also discussed the questions to be placed on the agenda of the forthcoming International Textile Workers Congress. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, August 15, 1927.)

### Agricultural Census of the World

Agricultural statistics will be collected simultaneously in practically all countries of the world in 1930, when a world census of agriculture, the first attempt of its kind, will be taken. Of 200 countries listed by the International Institute of Agriculture, only 60 have ever taken an agricultural census and less than 40 have taken one since 1900. Of those, not more than four happened by chance to have a census in the same year and no two have taken it in the same manner. The standard form which will be used in recording data from all countries consists of questions with regard to size of farm, distribution of farm land as under cultivation, meadow, timber, or waste area, production of each crop in the cultivated area, and number, age and sex of each kind of livestock. (From "Irish Trade Journal," August 1927.)

### Cost of Living in France

The technical committee set up by the French Ministry of Commerce has issued a most interesting report on the cost of living in that country. The committee insists on stabilization of the French currency as the first essential to any reform, but after that it recommends the simplification of taxation, the avoidance of further increases in taxation and Customs duties, abolition of the Octroi, reduction of railway rates on essential commodities, development of internal water transport, and development of supplies from the colonies. A reform in the relations between producers and distributors is also advocated with standardization of manufacture with the object of reducing prime costs. (From "Times Trade and Engineering Supplement," London, August 13, 1927.)

### Deductions from Wages or Payments in Respect of Fines

In the issue of the *Labour Gazette* for August 1927, we published the classified views on fifteen points connected with the subject of Deductions from Wages or Payments in respect of Fines of the principal non-official organisations consulted with regard to the various questions raised in the circular letter of the Government of India which was published in the issue of the *Labour Gazette* for November 1926. The views of these organisations on the remaining points are reproduced below :

#### Deductions for Supply of Materials and Tools

##### LABOUR INTERESTS

*Bombay Textile Labour Union*

No deductions should be allowed in respect of materials supplied by the employer to the worker.

#### Deductions in Respect of Rents for Housing Provided by Employers

##### LABOUR INTERESTS

*Social Service League, Bombay*

Deductions from wages for rents for housing accommodation supplied to the employees, provided that the houses are decent and that the provision of sanitary conveniences is adequate, should be allowed under the Indian Truck Act under contemplation with the necessary safeguards. It is necessary to emphasise the points regarding the decency of the accommodation provided and also the question of sanitary convenience in view of the wretched housing accommodation in the form of hovels without sanitary conveniences provided even by such rich corporations as the railway companies for their coolies and other menial employees. In many cases the employees have to accept the accommodation provided in the absence of any housing in the neighbourhood if they wish to retain their jobs. These deductions should be allowed on the conditions already stated provided that workers signify their willingness in writing to agree to these deductions being made from their wages and also provided that such deductions are not a condition of employment, the arrangements in this matter being quite voluntary.

#### Deductions for Supply of Medicines and Medical Attendance

##### LABOUR INTERESTS

*Bombay Textile Labour Union*

The Union disapproves of any deductions made on account of the supply of medicines and medical attendance.

*Girni Kamgar Mahamandal*

The employer should not be allowed to make any deductions from a worker's wages for the provision of medicines and medical attendance. Most mills in Bombay provide these facilities free of charge and it does not seem necessary that the few mills who do make these charges should continue doing so.

*Social Service League, Bombay*

The summary prepared by the Labour Office does not state whether, in the concerns where deductions on this account are effected from the workers' wages, such deductions are made from the wages of all the workers employed or only from the wages of those workers who are supplied with medicines and medical attendance during the period covered by the wage contract. If the latter is the case the bargain is voluntary and nothing can be said against it except that it is in the interest of the employer as well as the employees that there should be free provision for the medical relief of the latter. On the other hand, if deductions for the supply of medicines and medical attendance are made from the wages of all workmen at a uniform rate irrespective of the fact whether one takes advantage of the facilities or not, the practice is undesirable. Firstly, it is objectionable because the levy is compulsory. Secondly, the workmen have to pay the quota out of their wages even if the arrangements at the mill dispensary are not satisfactory, the workers having no voice in its management. If it is not a free bargain it should not be tolerated.

(In all cases where such deductions are made, the deductions are general to all employees in the establishment concerned, but in some cases workers earning less than the stated wage are exempted. In this connection please see the summary prepared for the Labour Office enquiry into Welfare Work in the Bombay Presidency published in the issue of the *Labour Gazette* for January 1927—Officer-in-Charge, Labour Office.)

**Deductions for Supply of Food Grains****LABOUR INTERESTS***Social Service League, Bombay*

Deductions from wages for the supply of food grains on a voluntary basis from the cheap grain shops attached to mills and other establishments may be allowed under the contemplated Indian Truck Act with proper safeguards provided that such deductions are not a condition of employment, the arrangements in this matter being quite voluntary.

**Deductions for Supply of Water****LABOUR INTERESTS***Bombay Textile Labour Union*

All deductions for the supply of water should be prohibited.

**Deductions for Contributions to Provident Funds****LABOUR INTERESTS***Social Service League, Bombay*

Deductions for contributions to provident funds may be permitted under the Act provided the workers signify their willingness in writing

to have these deductions made from their salaries and if such deductions are not made a condition prior to employment, all arrangements in this connection being quite voluntary.

**Deductions for the use of Reading Rooms and Libraries****LABOUR INTERESTS***Bombay Textile Labour Union*

The Committee of the Union are not in favour of allowing the employers to make deductions in respect of the provision of reading rooms and libraries unless the workers have an adequate control over the schemes provided by the employer.

*Girni Kamgar Mahamandal*

No deductions should be allowed for the use of reading rooms and libraries unless the workers concerned have a controlling voice in the maintenance of institutions on account of which the deductions are made.

*Social Service League, Bombay*

Deductions from wages for the use of reading rooms and libraries should be permitted under the Act in the case of those workers who show their willingness in writing to agree to these deductions and provided that these deductions are not made a condition prior to employment and that arrangements in connection with the same are quite voluntary.

**Deductions for Education****LABOUR INTERESTS***Bombay Textile Labour Union*

The Committee of the Union is not in favour of allowing the employers to make any deductions from the wages of the workers for the provision of education for their children unless the workers themselves have an adequate control over the schemes instituted for this purpose.

*Girni Kamgar Mahamandal*

No deductions should be allowed for education unless the workers concerned have a controlling voice in the maintenance of institutions on account of which the deductions are made. In all cases where such deductions are made they should be made only by a contract that has been agreed to between employer and employee prior to engagement.

*Social Service League, Bombay.*

Deductions from salaries of better paid employees for the school fees of their children in the institutes attached to the organisations concerned may be permitted under the Act provided that the workers signify their willingness in writing to have these deductions made from their salaries and if it is not a condition of employment, the arrangement being quite voluntary.

## Deductions for Compulsory Contributions to Charity

### LABOUR INTERESTS

#### *Bombay Textile Labour Union*

Collections for charitable purposes or for presents to the superior mill authorities are sometimes made with the knowledge and connivance of the employers. Such collections should be stopped. The prohibition may not stop the evil altogether; but it will surely minimise it. All deductions for compulsory contributions to charity should also be prohibited.

#### *Girni Kamgar Mahamandal*

"A point on which my Committee hold very decided views is the question of compulsory contributions to charity. My Committee do not see why an employee should be compelled to subscribe to a charity of an employer's choosing. All deductions on this account should be prohibited by law."

#### *Social Service League, Bombay*

Deductions from wages for contributions to charitable purposes must be legally prohibited. The employer or the management should not be free to make such deductions even under the plea that they are voluntary, for in the case of illiterate or low-paid employees, the power vested in the management to make such deductions is likely to be abused by the jobbers, mukadams and the subordinate staff, it being difficult to distinguish between compulsion and voluntary consent. If the employees themselves wish to contribute to charities they may do so outside the premises by handing their contributions or subscriptions out of their pockets, but there should be no deductions on that account in the paysheet. It is a notorious fact that a number of professional promoters of charity funds, the *bona fides* of not a few of whom are questionable, are always on the look-out for hauling up big industrial establishments in their nets and the workmen have to contribute to such charities at the bidding of their superiors.

## Deductions for Entertainments provided by Employer

### LABOUR INTERESTS

#### *Bombay Textile Labour Union*

All deductions for entertainments provided by the employer for their employees should be prohibited. These amenities should be given by the employer free of charge.

#### *Social Service League, Bombay*

Deductions from wages for entertainments must be legally prohibited. The conditions respecting entertainment in some mills are scandalous. Some jobbers are in the habit of arranging dramatic performances, *tamashas*, etc., on the contract system and when they do this business they

practically compel the men working under them to purchase tickets for such performances and recover the prices of the tickets on the pay-day getting profits out of such transactions. Of course, these deductions are not made in the pay sheets but the amounts are recovered from the men on the spot, i.e., in the very premises of the works as soon as they receive their wages.

## The "Double Khada" Rule

(Forfeiture of two days' wages for one day's absence)

### EMPLOYERS' INTERESTS

#### *Bombay Millowners' Association*

The only undesirable feature in the conditions prevailing in the Bombay Presidency is that in certain factories the "double khada" rule is observed which implies that two days' wages are deducted for each day's absence without leave. So far as the committee of the Bombay Millowners Association are aware, no such rule is in force in the mills situated in the city and island of Bombay, and if any definite instances are furnished to the Committee, of members of the Association deducting two days wages for one day's absence, they will be pleased to make the necessary enquiries into the matter.

### LABOUR INTERESTS

#### *Bombay Textile Labour Union*

In many cases non-attendance is fined according to the "double khada" system—loss of two days' wages for each day's absence without leave. It is prevalent in the mills in Sholapur city and also in various mills and factories in all parts of the Presidency. The practice also obtains in some of the Bombay mills. This system constitutes a double wrong upon the worker. In the first place, the mills have not, so far as the Committee is aware, a regular system of leave. In some departments "leave chits" are given to the workers by the head jobbers or jobbers and they are given to the timekeepers; but in other departments even this crude method is not followed. Leave is generally asked and given orally. The Union has some cases on its record in which it is found that leave given before is subsequently denied and the workers are penalised. The Committee admits that occasions occur, such as sudden illness or domestic difficulties in which the workers have to remain absent without previous intimation. If the workers are to be penalised for such absence without leave, there ought to be a corresponding provision prohibiting the employers from dismissing or suspending workers without notice. So long as this corresponding provision does not exist and so long as the regular system of leave is not instituted, it is hardly fair to penalise the workers for absence without leave. Secondly, to deduct two days' wages for one day's absence is, in the opinion of the Committee, legally and morally wrong. To deprive a worker of his one day's earned wages merely because he absented himself some other day is a cruel punishment, and this should be legally abolished.

#### *Ahmedabad Textile Labour Union*

In the case of absence the workman not only loses his wages for the days of absence with or without leave, but in addition he loses the bonus which

can be earned by full attendance. Many mills do not go any further than this ordinarily, but a considerable number give undue importance to absence on the day immediately preceding or following a holiday and deduct two days' wages for one day of absence. This practice should be forthwith stopped and absence on these days should not be treated in a manner different from that on other days. It should be made impossible for an employer to make, on account of absence in any circumstances, a deduction of twice the amount of wages for the period of absence.

If in the interest of efficiency the loss of wage is not a sufficient corrective, attendance bonuses may be so regulated as to make the amount of loss to the workman increase with the number of days of absence. Deductions in the local mills sometimes take very cruel and ludicrous shapes. A workman absent on the first day of a new wage period loses in a number of mills about 20 per cent. of the wages for the whole of that period.

#### *Girni Kamgar Mahamandal*

From the information made available in the summary it is not known as to how far the Bombay mills reported that this practice was observed. The experience of the members of the Union shows that workers in Bombay mills are also fined two days' wages for one day's absence in many cases. This is an obnoxious system and should be altogether abolished. It is difficult for my Committee to reconcile themselves to a worker losing his pay for actual work done by him in addition to his pay for his period of absence.

#### *Social Service League, Bombay*

The "double khada" rule is obviously unfair and should not be tolerated at all. It means that a man is deprived of the wages earned by him by doing a full day's work simply on the ground that he failed to put in an appearance on some other day. Both the loss to the worker and the gain to the employer are grossly disproportionate. To tolerate the rule of "double khada" is to allow the employer to exploit the workers' difficulty or weakness for his unlawful gain. The injustice of this course is greater when some employers treat their workmen only as day labourers and do not give a month's notice to the employees before turning them out of their employment.

### Withholding of Wages

#### LABOUR INTERESTS

##### *Bombay Textile Labour Union*

In several mills absence of more than three days is punished by withholding wages. The withholding of wages for disciplinary purposes compels the worker to borrow money on interest to meet his needs. The interest he pays in this way amounts practically to a deduction which is absolutely unfair and arbitrary. This system of withholding wages should be prohibited under the Act.

##### *Girni Kamgar Mahamandal*

The system of withholding wages obtains in several mills in Bombay City. This punishment is inflicted generally for absence of more than

three days. This arrangement operates very harshly inasmuch as a worker who has his wages coming to him on the 12th or 13th of the month has to wait for 10 or 15 days more to get them. It intensifies his economic difficulties and he is generally compelled to resort to the moneylender to whom he has got to pay heavy interest charges for any loans that he may take from him. The interest which a worker has to pay thus operates as a fine and therefore the system ought to be prohibited.

#### *Social Service League, Bombay*

In some mills there is a practice of stopping the payment of wages in case the days of absence are more than three days a month. The wages in such cases are not paid on the usual pay-day but after the 25th upto the last day of the month. These wages are due to the workmen for the work done by them during the previous month and therefore it means that they receive their monthly wages after about a month from the date they became due to them. This is a kind of indirect fine of a disciplinary nature as the delay in payment compels the men to borrow money on interest to meet their needs till they receive their wages and the amount of interest they have to pay in respect of such loans practically amounts to deductions from their wages though the loss suffered by them in cash is no gain in cash to the employer. Withholding of wages may be prohibited by law, and this may reasonably be covered in the contemplated Indian Truck Act.

#### *Kamgar Hitu ardhak Sabha*

The system of withholding wages by way of penalty for irregularity in attendance should be done away with and Government should take early steps to prevent it by legislation.

### Forfeiture of Wages

#### LABOUR INTERESTS

##### *Bombay Textile Labour Union*

Forfeiture of wages is a kind of punishment which is prescribed for more than one offence. This is a cruel punishment and must be stopped. To forfeit the wages of a worker earned after hard labour hardly stands the test of justice and fair play, and cannot be defended either morally or legally. Besides, this punishment is given even for minor offences. This and similar punishments are very arbitrary, have no method or system behind them and can be inflicted at the discretion of the mill officials.

##### *Ahmedabad Textile Labour Union*

In Ahmedabad, forfeitures of wages arrears on the ground of cessation of service without notice account for nearly two-thirds of the whole amount of the fines realized under the head of discipline. In the majority of cases the practice is nothing short of a gross abuse of authority. The workpeople are mostly illiterate. Few of them know precisely what the rules are and it is an extremely difficult and costly matter to serve a written notice on the mills. The difficulty is increased when the workman having gone to his village on leave finds it impossible to return in time. The

mills on the other hand have no uniform or systematic procedure. An oral notice is often disregarded and is difficult to prove, when a claim is made later on. The pity is that sometimes a workman is driven out by ill-treatment or refusal to grant necessary leave, etc., and then with the object of forfeiting his wage arrears he is considered to have left without notice. But when one considers that an employer rarely, if ever, gives notice or pay in lieu thereof to a workman whose services are dispensed with on grounds of retrenchment or unsatisfactory work, the expectation of a notice from the workman appears to be singularly unjust. A contract cannot be unilateral. The injustice and illegality extend to the amount of deduction in lieu of notice. A fortnightly paid worker has to lose sometimes twenty or more days' pay.

In the opinion of the Union the law should lay down for deductions under this head a maximum of 20 per cent. of the wages due for a single wage period, and this should be permitted only when the employer provides notice forms and free clerical facilities. The rule of deductions should not apply to a workman who is not in a position to avail himself of the facilities as when on leave in his village; nor if a workman cannot exercise a similar right against his employer.

#### *Girni Kamgar Mahamandal*

The Committee of the Union most emphatically object to forfeitures of wages. The experience of the members of the Union shows that the punishment of forfeiture of wages is inflicted in several instances for very trivial reasons. If a worker is absent from work for a few days without leave he is dismissed from the mill and his wages are forfeited. If a worker goes on leave to his native country without taking his wages, they are forfeited if he does not return within a period of three or six months. Wages are for work actually done and it is most unjust and unfair on the part of an employer to deprive a man of his earned wages.

Forfeitures of wages are also inflicted for some of the graver offences with or without dismissal. The Committee agree that an employer should have the power of dismissal as a last resort for a bad worker, but it cannot agree to the wages of that worker for the number of days of work he has put in being forfeited. If an employer has any grievance against an employee for which he feels that his wages should be forfeited as compensation, the employer should take the action which he considers necessary under the ordinary civil law of the country, but he should not be allowed to forfeit the worker's wages at his own sweet will.

#### *Social Service League, Bombay*

The textile mills in Bombay City have printed rules and regulations governing conditions of employment and dismissals with or without forfeiture of wages, etc. It is a question whether some of the rules and regulations so put up are just and fair. For instance, the forfeiture of wages, due to a workman, after six months, is arbitrary and neither morally nor legally right. If a workman who has suddenly left Bombay on account of some private business, domestic difficulty or sickness and is detained at his native place for over six months, returns to Bombay and claims the

wages due to him, he is generally told that his wages have been forfeited since he failed to claim them within six months from the date they had become due.

## Advances and Interest on Advances

### LABOUR INTERESTS

#### *Bombay Textile Labour Union*

The Committee of the Union disapproves of the system of charging interest on advances and also of allowing pedhiwalas or grain-dealers to carry on their money-lending business in the mills, and it recommends that the system of charging interest on advances given by mills and factories to their workers should be legally prohibited.

#### *Girni Kamgar Mahamandal*

Employers should not be permitted to charge any interest whatever on advances that may be granted by them to their employees.

#### *Social Service League, Bombay*

The reason why the necessity of granting advances against wages due arises is that wages are not paid as they become due. After the calendar month is completed the wages are withheld for about a fortnight. In the face of this fact, to charge interest on such advances is quite unjust. The rate of interest charged in the Ahmedabad mills, viz., varying from 18 per cent. to 150 per cent. per annum is usurious. Those employers who charge interest on advances may be said to be taking undue advantage of their workmen's neediness. Whether the employers carry on this business themselves or allow privileged pedhiwalas or grain-dealers to do it, the workers have to suffer all the same. The root cause of the evil, viz., the delay in payment of wages after they become due, must be removed and the practice of charging interest on advances must be stopped through legislation. In this connection it may be mentioned by the way that where vested interests are created by this practice it is not possible to introduce the Co-operative Credit movement among the workers. In some mills jobbers, head jobbers, naikins (forewomen) and the higher officers also carry on the business of money-lending and naturally this leads to much corruption.

## The "Havala" System

(Pay Order Ticket in lieu of cash)

### LABOUR INTERESTS

#### *Bombay Textile Labour Union*

This is a system by which the jobber or head jobber or mukadam undertakes to pay off, at a rate of interest which is generally one anna per rupee, the worker who is either dismissed or otherwise severs his connection with the mill in the middle of the month, his earned wages for which he would have been required to wait till pay-day in the next month, and the said jobber, head jobber or mukadam recovers the wages he had paid to him from the mill in due course by showing a letter of authority which

he has secured from the worker. This system has come into existence on account of the fact that the worker is not given his due wages at the time he is dismissed or leaves the mill. The interest he pays to the jobber is a kind of deduction which he has to suffer owing to this objectionable practice. In a few mills "havala" is taken departmentally or semi-departmentally. The Union are of opinion that this system should be prohibited under the contemplated legislation.

*Girni Kamgar Mahamandal*

An intimate question in connection with the payment of earned wages is the pernicious "havala" system which obtains in the textile industry. A worker who gives due notice to his employer to leave a mill at a certain date does not get the wages that are due to him when he leaves. Instead of this he gets a discharge pass which he has to hand over to the timekeeper. He is then asked to call on the regular pay-day for the payment of the wages that may be due to him. If the worker should intend to leave Bombay to go to his native place, as he generally does, he requires the wages that are coming to him. But as he does not get these wages he has to raise what is due to him by other means. He does this by "havala"—signing a chit of authority to some jobber or outside pedhiwala to collect the money for him on pay-day. In return for the service which is rendered to him he has to pay a heavy rate of interest. Cases are known where weavers who were due to receive sixty or seventy rupees had to submit to a deduction of four or five rupees on the amount of pay due to them for discount or interest. Very often these "havalas" are cashed by the mills themselves at a discount of one anna in the rupee. The committee of the Union recognise that it may be necessary for an employer to withhold the wages of a worker who leaves the service of a mill without giving due notice; but in all cases where the proper formalities have been complied with the Committee feel sure that Government will recognise that all payments of due wages should be immediately made. In order to prevent this system it will be necessary for Government not only to abolish the system altogether, but also to make arrangements with regard to the payment of the wages to these workers who may be entitled to them on the regular pay-day. This could be done by prescribing that mill authorities should remit the wages of the worker which may be due to him to the address which the worker may leave with the authorities. This should prevent the system of "havala" being carried on outside the law.

*Social Service League, Bombay*

In a number of mills in Bombay discharged workmen do not receive their due wages when they leave, but they have to wait for them till the regular pay-day, which is generally between the 10th and 15th of the following month. Most of the workmen who get discharge passes have to leave for their native places and cannot afford to wait till pay-day. Some jobber then takes a letter of authority from the discharged workman for receiving his wages on his behalf on pay-day and advances the amount of his wages after deducting interest which is usually at the rate of one anna per rupee. Some jobbers who have cash to spare or who have regular

dealings with the Marwaris, or other professional money-lenders, carry on this trade and make good profit. Justly speaking, the workmen are entitled to have their wages paid to them at the time when they leave employment, and no deduction should be permitted to be made from the wages of the worker who is made to wait for his earnings till the next pay-day.

*Kamgar Hitwardhak Sabha*

Some legislative measures are needed to check the system of "havala" which prevails in textile mills. Discharged workmen are not paid their wages and are compelled to wait for two or three weeks till the day when the regular wages of the employees are paid. This is a hardship on the discharged men who cannot afford to wait till pay-day and they have to give a "havala" or letter of authority to some jobber or mukadam, for receiving their wages on their behalf. The jobber or mukadam, in consideration of the service he renders charges heavy interest; and the poor workmen are mulcted of a part of their earnings for no fault of their own. It is essential that this practice should be abolished by law and that employers of labour be compelled by legislation to pay wages without any delay to their discharged workers.

### Prevention of Monetary Transactions amongst the Workers

#### LABOUR INTERESTS

*Bombay Textile Labour Union*

Many objectionable monetary transactions go on in the mill premises between the workers on the one hand and jobbers, head jobbers, mukadams or even some privileged outsiders on the other. The receipt of bribes at the time of employment and during its continuance, money-lending, acting as agents of dealers in cloth and grain, providing them with customers from the workers and standing sureties for the payments of amounts due from such customers and getting commissions from dealers for these facilities—all these transactions should be prohibited under the law.

*Social Service League, Bombay*

The proposed legislation should also aim at making illegal any monetary transactions except those that may be allowed by the Act, between any of the workmen or workwomen on one side and their jobbers, mukadams, naikins (forewomen), officers or any outsiders on the other in the premises of the establishments concerned. This restriction is quite necessary since some of the deductions are as undesirable and as unjustifiable as the others, but are not openly made on the paysheet. Many of the jobbers, mukadams, naikins and officers are in the habit of taking bribes from the workmen or women employed under them for giving them employment, and some of them also carry on the business of money-lending; some act as agents of dealers in cloth and grain providing them with customers from amongst the men or women working under them, standing as sureties for the payment of amounts due from customers for goods supplied to

them on credit and getting commissions from the dealers. Generally all these amounts are recovered in the premises on the pay-day. Instances are known of the naikins in some mills having been allowed to bring cloth-dealers into the mills' premises for the sale of their wares among the women workers. On the pay-day the jobbers and the naikins having such dealings with the workpeople are busily engaged in collecting their dues from the persons working under them. Even though such transactions are legally prohibited the evil may not disappear altogether. The same transactions may be carried on outside the premises. Still if they are prohibited in the premises the said undesirable practices may be restricted to some extent. Should such practices be legally prohibited at least the management which connives at them at present will discourage them and the workers' atmosphere will be cleared of some of the undesirable influences which prevail at present resulting in corruption and exploitation of the worker.

### Bonus for Better Work

#### LABOUR INTERESTS

##### *Ahmedabad Textile Labour Union*

In the Ahmedabad Textile mills the flyer frame operatives and weavers draw their wages by piece, *i.e.*, in proportion to the quantity of work turned out. So far as quantity is concerned the interests of the mill and those of the operative are identical. The best way of stimulating production would be to pay a graduated and progressive production bonus and weed out people whose output habitually falls below a certain minimum standard. No employer should be permitted to fine for slow work. In point of fact it is usually a grievance of the men that the quality of materials and the condition of machinery are often such as to diminish production and cause loss of earnings. It is reasonable to expect that a provision would be made by law to compensate employees who suffer loss owing to defects of materials or machinery.

### Scope of the Measure

#### LABOUR INTERESTS

##### *Bombay Textile Labour Union*

As regards the scope of this measure the Committee of the Union is of the opinion that it should be extended to all concerns, establishments and factories coming under the Indian Factories and Mines Acts, and also to organised and semi-agricultural undertakings like plantations, also to large shops and stores, Indian and European restaurants, all railway establishments, tramways, other Public utility services, municipalities, other offices, in short, to all establishments employing all kinds of wage earners. If this is not done, the Committee is afraid that the legislation may largely fail of its purpose.

Seamen should also be brought under the Act.

##### *Girni Kamgar Mahamandal*

With regard to the question of the types and classes of establishments and concerns which should be covered by the legislation, it is recognised

that if such legislation was made to cover every class of establishment where workers are employed on wages, the expenses of the administration of the Act would be too heavy for the finances of the country to bear at present. The Committee of the Union therefore agree with the suggestion of the Government of India that all factories and mines should be covered in the first instance. The Government of India may, however, consider whether railways cannot be included if the administration of the Act as far as Railways are concerned is entrusted to inspectors under the control of the Railway Board. Enlightened employers like municipalities, port trusts and other large Government and non-Government organisations would fall into line if Government sent them copies of the legislation and directed that the system of fining should be practised in accordance with the requirements of the Act. The Act should, however, definitely lay down that local Governments should have the power, by special notification, to include within the scope of the Act, any class or classes of establishments in any part of the country where an abuse of the system is discovered.

##### *Social Service League, Bombay*

In view of the fact that the system of fines is prevalent in a number of establishments other than those coming under the Indian Factories Act and the Indian Mines Act, and in some of them to a greater extent than in the establishments coming under the said Acts, the Committee of the League do not agree to the proposal that the scope of the legislation should not be extended beyond industrial establishments such as factories and mines which are regularly inspected by a special staff. It is quite necessary that the Truck Act should be applicable to all establishments employing labour.

### Method of Enforcement

#### EMPLOYERS' INTERESTS

##### *Municipal Commissioner, Bombay Municipality*

The legislation should provide for officers authorised to hear appeals if the fine exceeds a certain limit say one week's salary. If model rules are framed by Government, the managers of factories may be asked to adopt them. If, on the other hand, the factories are allowed to frame the rules in accordance with the provisions of the Act, the power of approving them finally should be reserved with Government as in the case of mofussil Municipal rules.

#### LABOUR INTERESTS

##### *Bombay Textile Labour Union*

The power to enforce the provisions of the Truck Act should be vested in Factory Inspectors and Chief Inspectors and Inspectors of Mines, and in the case of establishments and factories over which they have no jurisdiction special inspectors under this Act should be appointed for the purpose.

If an employer or his representative fails to comply with the provisions of the Act he should be liable on summary conviction to a fine.

The responsibility to prove that the worker was guilty of indiscipline or that his carelessness was responsible for goods being damaged, should be with the employer. In Germany the employer is legally required to prove either negligence or wilful damage on the part of the worker. Neglect is regarded as having taken place if the customary precautions have been omitted. The employer cannot make any deduction from wages before a decision of the court.

It should be open to an employee who may be fined to have recourse to a law court for the recovery of the amount of fine which he feels was unjustly imposed or which he thinks, was imposed without an agreement.

Each factory or establishment should have a Committee with the workers' representatives thereon elected through unions where they exist to hear the complaints of fines.

#### *Ahmedabad Textile Labour Union*

An aggrieved workman should be entitled to approach the Factory Inspector or other officer entrusted with the administration of the law. There should be provision for an appeal in a regular court.

The Act will of course lay down only the policy and purpose of the legislation, but each local Government can embody details suitable to varying conditions in the rules which may be framed separately for each important industry.

An individual worker or the Union to which he belongs should have the right to make a complaint to the authority entrusted with the administration of the Act. Provision should also be made for the compulsory establishment of "Works Committees" without whose aid it would not be possible to administer the Act properly.

#### *Girni Kamgar Mahamandal*

It will be necessary to provide for definite penalties under the proposed legislation in order to compel employers to conform with the requirements of the Act. The general power of prosecution should rest with Government Factories' or Mines' Inspectors, but a worker should be allowed to claim a reduction or refund of any unjust fine that may be inflicted on him by a method of summary procedure in the law courts.

#### *Social Service League, Bombay*

In order to make the legislative measures in respect of deductions from wages effective, it is the opinion of the Committee that as far as the factories and the mines governed by the Factories and Mines Acts are concerned, the Inspectors should be empowered to enforce conditions laid down under the Truck Act as regards contracts between employers and their workmen in respect of deductions from wages, the registers to be kept as required under the Act, the notices put up for the information of the employees, notification by the employer to the employee fined as to the reason and amount of fine and the utilisation of the amount of fines. As regards other establishments one special officer may be appointed in each of such towns and districts as possess a good number of establishments employing industrial labour and in the towns and the districts where the

number of such establishments is very small, the duties may be delegated to anyone of the existing officers there.

It should be open for an employee who has been fined to have recourse to a law court for the recovery of the amount of fine which he feels was unjustly imposed upon him. As regards the responsibility for damaged materials, etc., the employer must be able to prove that the damage did not occur in the ordinary course of events nor by accident, but was due to negligence or wilful damage. As regards disciplinary fines the employer must be able to prove that the employee fined was really guilty of the breach of discipline complained of and that the amount of fine was not excessive considering the nature of the offence committed. With regard to other deductions the employer must be able to prove that they were equitable and made in accordance with the previous agreement voluntarily entered into by the employee, the voluntary consent being in consideration of some benefit to the latter and the deduction agreed to being of such nature as allowed under the Truck Act.

## Trade Unionism in Japan

According to information compiled by the Bureau of Social Affairs of the Japanese Department of the Interior, there were, at the end of 1926, 488 important trade unions in Japan, with an aggregate membership of 284,739.

These figures represent a decrease of 25 unions and an increase of 13,000 members as compared with the situation at the end of June in the same year. The decrease in the number of unions may be accounted for by the fact that smaller unions are gradually amalgamating with larger ones or with federations.

The following table shows the number and membership of the unions in question, classified according to industries:—

Industry	Number of Unions	Membership
Machinery and Tools	76	97,085
Chemicals	49	9,506
Dyeing	20	11,700
Food	13	4,888
Gas	95	15,393
Mining	8	7,966
Gas and Electricity	4	3,074
Transport	60	107,226
Communications	1	651
Civil engineering	38	3,904
Others	124	23,346
	488	284,739

(From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, July 18, 1927.)

## Workmen's Compensation Act

### Results of 18 months' working

The Indian Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, came into force on 1st July 1924. The provisions of the Act have been discussed in full detail in previous issues of the *Labour Gazette*.\* The results of the working of the Act in the Bombay Presidency during the 6 months, July to December 1924, and during the year 1925 have been given in the issues of the *Labour Gazette* for September 1925 and November 1926. The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour have now published the results of the working of the Act for the whole of India for these 18 months. It is pointed out in the prefatory note that considerable difficulty has been experienced by local Governments in securing satisfactory returns and that while it cannot be asserted that the tables are quite complete for the industries which they cover, they are sufficiently accurate to enable a reliable estimate to be formed of the extent to which the provisions of the Act have been utilised.

During the period under review the provisions of the Act were extended by notification under section 2 (3) of the Act to persons employed as van peons, sorters, mail-guards and inspectors in the Railway Mail Service. The operation of the Act was also extended by the Government of Burma to the Federated Shan States with effect from the 12th May 1925. Action was also taken to bring the Act into conformity with the convention relating to occupational diseases adopted by the Seventh Session of the International Labour Conference held at Geneva in 1925. The Government of India note goes on to point out that "prior to the coming into force of the Act, considerable doubt was felt regarding the possibility of an Act of this kind working smoothly in India. The migratory habits of the workers, their general illiteracy and the paucity of medical men give rise to difficulties that are absent in the Western Countries on which legislation of this type is necessarily modelled, and the distinctive features of the Act designed to meet these difficulties were admittedly experimental in character. Further, Acts of this kind have been associated in some other countries with extensive litigation and there was an obvious danger that this weakness would appear in India. As full use is not yet being made of the Act, it is as yet too early to say that the endeavours made to meet the peculiar conditions of India have been completely successful; but the administration of the Act, so far, has given rise to remarkably little difficulty, and there is every reason to believe that, in its main features, the Act is well adapted to meet the need it was created to satisfy. A number of suggestions have been made for its improvement in respect of details, and these are receiving the consideration of the Government of India." The following table shows the number of cases in which

\* *Ibid* Issues of the *Labour Gazette* for July, November, December 1924 and January 1925.

compensation was paid in the latter half of 1924 and in the whole of the year 1925, classified according to the nature of injuries sustained:—

Number of Cases in which Compensation was paid

Period	Number of cases resulting in						Total	
	Death of		Permanent disablement to		Temporary disablement to		Adults	Minors
	Adults	Minors	Adults	Minors	Adults	Minors		
July to December 1924	327	4	165	5	4,250	26	4,742	35
1925	736	10	904	18	12,363	44	14,003	72
Eighteen months ended December 1925.	1,063	14	1,069	23	16,613	70	18,745	107

The figures given in this table do not, it is stated, cover all the classes of workmen who are protected by the Act, but they include the more important classes, namely, workers in factories, mines and docks and on railways and tramways. The number of claims that could be put forward by the other classes to which the Act applies is comparatively small. It may be noted that the period of 18 months under review saw a remarkable increase in the extent to which workmen availed themselves of the benefits of the Act. The number of cases in which compensation was paid in the latter half of the year 1924 amounted to 4777 and in the year 1925 to 14,075. The greatest number of cases in which compensation was paid related to temporary disablement, the percentages to the totals being 89.51 and 88.15 respectively for the two periods under report. Cases of compensation for fatal accidents numbered 331 or 6.93 per cent. for the period July to December 1924 and 746 or 5.30 per cent. for the year 1925. It is remarked that even in 1925 a large number of workmen and their dependants who were entitled to compensation failed to take advantage of the provisions of the law especially in the case of the less serious accidents. In certain cases of fatal accidents, a number of dependants who could have preferred successful claims failed to do so presumably on account of their ignorance of the law. With regard to the class of employees who secured compensation, a considerable proportion consisted of the less highly paid workmen and their dependants. In 63 per cent. of the cases coming within the purview of Commissioners the wage of the workman concerned was, on an average, less than Rs. 27-8-0 per month and in 46 per cent. of the cases it was less than Rs. 22-8-0 per month. It is, therefore, obvious that with the progressive realisation of the benefits of the Act, the poverty of a large number of workmen and their dependants will not be a serious obstacle in the way of securing their rights.

Section 3 (2) of the Act deals with compensation for occupational diseases. During the period under review, there has been no case in which compensation was claimed for occupational diseases specified in the Act.

The amounts of compensation paid according to the nature of injuries sustained were as follows :—

Period	Amount of compensation paid for							
	Death of		Permanent disablement to					
	Adults	Minors	Adults	Minors				
	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.
July to December 1924	1,00,675	4 0	200	0 0	27,124	5 6	3,150	0 0
1925	4,35,164	0 4	200	0 0	2,38,888	2 6	3,852	7 0
Eighteen months ended December 1925	5,35,839	4 4	400	0 0	2,66,012	8 0	7,002	7 0

Period	Amount of compensation paid for							
	Temporary disablement to		Total					
	Adults	Minors	Adults	Minors				
	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.
July to December 1924	55,760	3 7	476	10 9	1,83,585	12 7	3,826	10 9
1925	6,67,200	3 0	330	1 0	8,41,261	7 10	4,382	8 0
Eighteen months ended December 1925	7,22,960	6 7	806	11 9	10,24,847	4 5	8,209	2 9

Section 4 of the Act deals with the method of computation of the amounts of compensation payable in cases of different kinds of injuries. Over 14,000 persons are reported to have received compensation in 1925 and the total number of applications filed for the award of compensation was 284. It is a satisfactory feature of the working of the Act during the period under review that in the great majority of cases compensation was paid without the intervention of the Commissioner. During the period July to December 1924, a total amount of Rs. 1,87,412-7-4 was paid by way of compensation as against Rs. 8,45,643-15-10 in the year 1925. The largest amount of compensation paid in each of the periods under review was in connection with fatal accidents, the percentages to the totals in the two periods being 53·83 and 51·48 respectively. In the case of minors, the amounts of compensation paid in either period were least in the case of fatal accidents and were greatest in the case of permanent disablement. The proportion of the total amount of compensation paid in 1925 to that paid in the latter half of 1924 is indicative of the fact that, when the Act was first introduced, it was little understood either by workmen or by their employers. The activities of insurance companies and of labour organisations are in part responsible for the improvement shown in 1925. The prefatory note adds that, but for a few exceptions, trade unions have not yet realised the possibilities which the Act offers to them of doing work which in addition to being extremely valuable to the workmen would demonstrate in a striking manner the advantages of organisation.

The following table shows the number of original applications received and disposed of :—

### Original Applications

Applications for	Received during		Transferred to other Commissioners during		Disposed of during		Pending at the end of the period	
	July to Dec. 1924	1925	July to Dec. 1924	1925	July to Dec. 1924	1925	July to Dec. 1924	1925
	<i>Award of compensation (under Section 10) for—</i>							
Fatal accidents . . .	15	173*	..	18	10	119	5	36
Permanent disablement	11	103	..	..	11	92	..	11
Temporary disablement	7	13	..	..	7	13	..	..
<i>Distribution (under section 8)</i>	70	353†	..	3	62	300	8	50
<i>Commutation (under section 7) . . .</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Review (under section 6)</i>	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
<i>Recovery of compensation (under section 31)</i>	..	9	..	..	..	5	..	4
<i>Others</i> . . . . .	3	12‡	..	..	2	10	1	2
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	106	664	..	21	92	539	14	104

The total number of original applications which came under the purview of the Commissioners in 1925 was 664 as compared with 106 for the period July to December 1924. During the latter period, 92 or 86·79 per cent. of the applications were disposed of; and in 1925, excluding 21 applications which were transferred to other Commissioners, 539 or 81·17 per cent. were disposed of, leaving a balance of 104 at the end of the year. Out of the applications disposed of in the period July to December 1924, in 62 or 67·4 per cent. of the cases simple distribution of the amounts deposited by the employers to the dependants of the deceased workmen was effected. In 28 or 30·4 per cent. of the cases compensation was awarded under section 10 of the Act. No applications for commutation under section 7, or for review under section 6 or for recovery of compensation under section 31 were filed during the period. In the year 1925 compensation was awarded in 224 or 41·56 per cent. of the cases disposed of. Simple distribution of the deposited amounts was effected in 300 or 55·66 per cent. of the cases. One application for review under section 6 which was filed during the year was pending at the close of the period. Out of the 92 cases in the latter half of 1924 and 539 cases in the year 1925 which were finally disposed of, claims were contested in 14 and 100 cases respectively. In the remaining cases the employers did not contest the claims of workers

\* 5 cases were pending at commencement.

† 8 cases were pending at commencement.

‡ 1 case was pending at commencement.

and their dependants. The manner of the disposal of the non-contested cases is shown in the following table :—

*Disposal with regard to Non-Contested Cases*

Applications for	Total number of non-contested cases disposed of in		Number of applications								
			Withdrawn		Dismissed		Admitted by opposite party		Allowed in part		
	July to Dec. 1924	1925	July to Dec. 1924	1925	July to Dec. 1924	1925	July to Dec. 1924	1925	July to Dec. 1924	1925	
Award of compensation (under section 10) for—											
Fatal accidents	8	87	..	8	2	5	6	64	..	10	
Permanent disablement	2	39	..	4	..	3	2	28	..	4	
Temporary disablement	4	5	..	..	..	1	4	4	..	..	
Distribution (under section 8)	62	295	..	2	1	3	48	257	13	33	
Commutation (under section 7)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Review (under section 6)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Recovery of compensation (under section 31)	..	5	..	3	..	..	..	2	..	..	
Others	2	3	..	2	2	..	..	4	..	2	
Total	78	439	..	19	5	12	60	359	13	49	

The figures shown in the above table under the heading "Number of applications dismissed" require explanation. These figures include cases which were summarily dismissed under rule 21, those dismissed under rule 22 and those dismissed for non-appearance. Rule 21 lays down that "the Commissioner may, after considering the application and the result of any examination of the applicant under rule 20, summarily dismiss the application, if, for reasons to be recorded, he is of opinion that there are no sufficient grounds for proceeding thereon." Rule No. 22 states that "if the application is not dismissed under rule 21, the Commissioner may, for reasons to be recorded, call upon the applicant to produce evidence in support of the application before calling upon any other party, and, if upon considering such evidence the Commissioner is of opinion that there is no case for the relief claimed, he may dismiss the application with a brief statement of his reasons for so doing." In the year 1925, in 359 or 81·78 per cent. of cases the claims preferred were admitted by the opposite party. Similar figures for the period July to December 1924 are 60 or 76·92 per cent. of cases. *Ex-parte* judgments were made in 16·67 per cent. and 11·16 per cent. of the cases in 1924 and 1925 respectively. Few cases were dismissed in either period, the percentage of dismissed cases in the latter half of 1924 being 6·41 per cent. and in the year 1925, 2·73 per cent.

In contested cases the claims preferred were either allowed in full or in part or were not allowed at all. The manner of disposal of the contested cases is shown in the following table—

*Disposal with regard to Contested Cases*

Applications for	Number of applications		Number of cases in which compensation was						
			Allowed in full		Allowed in part		Not allowed		
	July to Dec. 1924	1925	July to Dec. 1924	1925	July to Dec. 1924	1925	July to Dec. 1924	1925	
Award of compensation (under section 10) for—									
Fatal accidents	2	32	2	12	..	10	..	10	
Permanent disablement	9	53	..	5	5	32	4	16	
Temporary disablement	3	8	..	3	..	2	5	3	
Distribution (under section 8)	..	5	..	2	..	2	..	1	
Commutation (under section 7)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Review (under section 6)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Recovery of compensation (under section 31)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Others	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	
Total	14	100	2	22	5	47	7	31	

There was no contested case in either period for commutation under section 7 or for review under section 6 or for recovery of compensation under section 31. During the period July to December 1924 there was no contested case with regard to the distribution of deposited amounts, but, in 1925, there were 5 such cases, in 2 of which compensation was allowed in full, in 2 others in part, while in the remaining case it was not allowed. The figures show that the largest number of contested cases in either period under review related to injuries resulting in permanent disablement. In the latter half of 1924, out of 9 contested cases of compensation for permanent disablement, 5 were allowed in part, while no compensation was allowed in the rest of the cases. In 1925, out of 53 claims only 5 were allowed in full and 32 in part, the rest being rejected. On the whole, claims were allowed in full in 22 per cent. of the contested cases during the year 1925, in part in 47 per cent. and rejected in 31 per cent. The corresponding figures for the six months ended December 1924 are 14·29 per cent., 35·71 per cent. and 50 per cent. respectively.

Section 28 of the Act deals with the question of registration of agreements. It lays down that "where the amount of any lump sum payable as compensation has been settled by agreement, whether by way of redemption of a half-monthly payment or otherwise, or where any compensation has been so settled as being payable to a person under a legal disability, a memorandum thereof shall be sent by the employer to the Commissioner, who shall, on being satisfied as to its genuineness, record

the memorandum in a register in the prescribed manner." Any such agreement which has been registered shall be enforceable under the Act notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Contract Act, 1872 or in any other law for the time being in force. The following table presents the statistics of the applications for registration of agreements

*Applications for Registration of Agreements*

Applications for registration of agreements relating to	Number of applications							
	Pending at commencement of		Filed during		Disposed of during		Pending at conclusion of	
	July to Dec. 1924	1925	July to Dec. 1924	1925	July to Dec. 1924	1925	July to Dec. 1924	1925
Payment of compensation for permanent disablement.	..	6	38	383	32	360	6	29
Payment of compensation for temporary disablement.			3	25	3	19		6
Commutation of half-monthly payments.			7	19	6	20	1	
Total ..		7	48	427	41	399	7	35

It must be remembered that in the case of fatal accidents employers have to deposit the amount of compensation with the Commissioners concerned. The method of registering memoranda of agreements is, therefore, applicable to cases of injuries other than fatal accidents. Out of 48 applications filed during the last six months of the year 1924, 38 or 79·17 per cent. were with regard to payment of compensation for permanent disablement. Of these, 32 or 84·21 per cent. were disposed of during the period. During 1925, out of 427 applications filed, 383 or 89·70 per cent. related to the payment of compensation for permanent disablement and of these 360 or 93·99 per cent. were disposed of. On the whole, during the period of 18 months under review, 440 or 91·29 per cent. out of a total number of 482 applications for registration of agreements were disposed of, leaving only 42 or 8·71 per cent. pending at the conclusion of the period.

Under section 28 of the Act, Commissioners are invested with the power to register memoranda of agreements either as filed or after modification where it is considered necessary or to reject them altogether. Clauses (b) and (d) of sub-section 1 of section 28 make provision with regard to this matter. If a workman seeks to record a memorandum of agreement between his employer and himself for the payment of compensation and the employer proves that the workman has, in fact, returned to work and is earning the same wages as he did before the accident and objects to the recording of such memorandum, the memorandum shall only be recorded, if at all, on such terms as the Commissioner thinks just in the circumstances. If it appears to the Commissioner that an agreement as to the payment of a lump sum whether by way of redemption of a half-monthly payment or

otherwise, or on agreement as to the amount of compensation payable to a person under any legal disability, ought not to be registered by reason of the inadequacy of the sum or amount or by reason of the agreement having been obtained by fraud or undue influence or other improper means, he may refuse to record the memorandum of the agreement and may make such order, including an order as to any sum already paid under the agreement, as he thinks just in the circumstances. In the following table it is shown how far the Commissioners utilised the special powers invested in them under this section of the Act :—

*Disposal of Applications for Registration of Agreements*

Applications for registration of agreements relating to	Number of applications									
	Total disposed of in		Registered as filed in		Registered after modification in		Not registered owing to			
	July to Dec. 1924	1925	1925	July to Dec. 1924	1925	July to Dec. 1924	1925	July to Dec. 1924	1925	Other causes
Payment of compensation for permanent disablement.	32	360	30	355	1	3	..	2	1	..
Payment of compensation for temporary disablement.	3	19	3	15						
Commutation of half-monthly payments.	6	20		20						
Total	41	399	33	390						

From the above table it is seen that in the majority of cases, the memoranda of agreements were registered as filed. In less than 1 per cent. the memoranda were modified before registration, and the number of agreements not registered owing to inadequacy of the amount or other causes was a little below 3 per cent. All agreements relating to payment of compensation for temporary disablement submitted in the last 6 months of the year 1924 were registered as filed. None of the six agreements relating to commutation of half-monthly payments received in 1924 were registered, while all the 20 agreements received in this connection in 1925 were registered as filed.

In section 30 of the Act provision is made for appeals from the orders of the Commissioner. It is laid down that an appeal shall lie to the High Court and that the period of limitation for an appeal under this section shall be 60 days. No report was, however, received by the Government of India of any appeal or reference having been the subject of a decision in a High Court up to the end of the year 1925. This is largely due to the fact that the great majority of claims were not contested.

## Industrial Relations in the United States

The International Labour Office has just issued a very interesting report\* on the above subject. It is divided into eight chapters and there are four appendices at the end, the first one giving a short bibliography on the subject, the second dealing with the question of hours and wages, the third dealing with the employee representation plans and the fourth dealing with selected employee stock-ownership and profit sharing plans.

It is pointed out that the United States is not a country but a continent and that it is difficult to deal with the industrial relations in the United States in a general way. The country is too big, too heterogeneous, too individualistic, to enable its industrial relations to be summed up in any convenient formula. There are no rules to which numerous exceptions could not be found whether as regards wages or hours or any other factor in industry. All that is attempted in the present study is, therefore, to point out certain prevailing tendencies and principles by sifting a mass of variegated and sometimes contradictory data.

The second chapter which deals with the economic conditions of the United States contains two interesting tables which point out the growth and the prosperity of America as an industrial country during the last few years. It is seen that while in the year 1913 the percentage of world production for which America was responsible was only 35·9, in the year 1925 the percentage was 38·7. Although there has been a great growth in America's output of raw materials or semi-manufactured articles, the growth of its manufacturing industry has been much more rapid.

As regards wage rates and earnings in America, the distinction between skilled and unskilled workers is greater here than in many other countries. Skilled labour is more scarce than unskilled labour, the consequence being that the skilled man possesses a disproportionate value based on scarcity and commands a correspondingly high price. Besides this, the reason why the skilled worker gets a better wage is that he alone possesses any effective trade union organisation in most industries. An examination of the wages of the skilled worker seems to suggest that they are higher in those trades where a degree of organisation exists, notably the building and printing trades, and that they are accompanied by shorter hours of work.

As in the case of the unskilled worker so also in the case of women, the wages are comparatively low. The average weekly earnings of women in the cotton industry of the North are 15·55 dollars a week or a little more than the minimum wage of 14·40 dollars fixed by the Massachusetts Wage Board for women in the jewellery trade. In other industries women's remuneration varies from 13 to 20 dollars a week, but in the men's clothing trade where women are organised in trade unions their average earnings for all occupations are as high as 24·28 dollars. It is thus seen that in America while the skilled worker is well compensated there are a multitude of workers who have not yet come to share in the general prosperity of the nation.

\* Industrial Relations in the United States by H. B. Butler, C.B., Deputy Director of the International Labour Office, Studies and Reports Series A No. 27, Geneva, 1927, Price 2s. 6d.

As regards the efficiency of the worker the author points out that according to an enquiry recently conducted by the Department of Labour it is seen that within the last ten years, the production of the individual workman has increased in the following proportions as compared with the prewar period, taking 1914=100.

Iron and steel	.. 159	Flour milling	140
Automobiles	.. 272	Cane sugar refining	128
Boots and shoes	.. 106	Slaughtering and meat	
Paper and pulp	.. 134	packing	127
Cement	.. 161	Petroleum refining	183
Leather	.. 126		

### Trade Unions

A great majority of the trade unions are grouped in the American Federation of Labour. As at present constituted, the Federation consists of 107 self-governing national and international trade unions. In addition, it comprises 380 local trade and federal unions which receive a charter from the Federation and are governed directly by it.

For the most part each union is autonomous and quite free to manage its own affairs without any reference to other unions engaged in the same industry except in cases where Joint Boards or District Councils exist.

The American Federation of Labour at present comprises a very small proportion of the unskilled labour of the country and has little hold on some of the most important industries, such as iron and steel, automobile and electrical equipment. It largely represents the American-born worker and contains a comparatively small percentage of the immigrant and negro section of the population except among the mine workers. Outside the fold of the American Federation of Labour there are about a million workers organised in independent unions, of which two groups, namely, the Railway Brotherhoods and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, are important.

The aim of American Trade Unionism is a new ordering of industrial society in which the workers' organisations will have a recognised part and functions. It is opposed to any revolutionary change in the present social scheme and looks to an evolution which will introduce a new regime in industry, and, until that goal is reached, regards antagonism between capital and labour as wasteful but inevitable.

The trade unions in America have displayed considerable activity in providing for the protection of their members and their dependents in the event of sickness, unemployment, old age and death. Some of them indeed were in their origin primarily Mutual Benefit Societies ensuring their members against industrial risk, which, at that time, the ordinary insurance companies declined to cover.

One of the most remarkable features of American labour which has attracted a great deal of attention is the institution of Labour Banks. The first Labour Bank was founded in Cleveland in 1920 by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. At the present time the Brotherhood owns twelve banks with an aggregate capital of 4,150,000 dollars, holds deposits exceeding 40,000,000 dollars, and controls 10 investment

corporations with a capital of 26½ million dollars. The example of locomotive engineers has been followed by others and the total resources of all the Labour Banks now exceed 120,000,000 dollars. The dividends of most Labour Banks are limited to 10 per cent., their motive being service rather than profit.

In the year 1926 the strength of Trade Unionists in the United States according to the official return of the Department of Labour, was 4,443,523, of whom 3,383,997 were in the American Federation of Labour. It is believed that less than 25 per cent. of the industrial wage earners are organised in trade unions. The greater part of this 25 per cent. are skilled workers while the unskilled workers are devoid of organisations in most industries.

#### *Employee Representation*

The term "Employee Representation" in its usual sense denotes the association of employer and employed by means of some representative body elected only by the workmen in a particular shop. The most important point is the scope and powers of these bodies whatever their precise constitution. In almost every case they deal with grievances, safety, welfare and kindred subjects.

The general testimony of managers who have tested the working of Employee Representation is that it has greatly reduced the number of grievances and has, at the same time, conduced to the peaceable settlement of those that arise.

Many of the large corporations in America have adopted schemes of Employee Representation. According to the survey carried out by the National Industrial Conference Board there were 814 representative plans in existence in 1924 covering about 1,177,000 workers. Since that time there has been a slight increase bringing in another 230,000 workers, but even so, in not more than 10 per cent. of American industry is Employee Representation to be found.

#### *Personnel Management*

The peculiar conditions which have obtained in America since and during the war have led to the elaboration of a new science known as "Personnel Management." This has, in large measure, been due to the considerable shortage of labour and its high turnover experienced during and since the war. Factories in which the annual turnover was from 100 to 200 per cent. were common and in some cases the turnover was as high as 300 per cent. In other words, on an average every job was done by three different men in the space of 12 months. The desire to cut down the turnover was one of the strongest incentives towards adopting a more scientific method of Personnel Management. It was chiefly in the big corporations that the new methods were put into operation, which now employ a Labour Manager to supervise the industrial relations throughout the whole of their plants.

Personnel Management can be divided into three classes: (1) the scientific determination of working conditions, (2) the establishment of benefits such as life insurance, etc., of which the cost is borne wholly or partly by

the employer and (3) the establishment of Works Committees or other representative schemes for ensuring contact between the men and the management.

The study of the working conditions begins with the establishment of an Employment Department for selecting workers, fitting them to their jobs, watching their progress and analysing the causes of their resignation or discharge. The second important function of the Labour Manager in this respect is to secure the fixing of such hours, rest periods, holidays and other establishment conditions as will ensure the maximum output and will avoid its being prejudiced by unnecessary fatigue. The Labour Manager looks not only to the efficiency and comfort of the individual worker, but pays attention to the training and adaptation of the foreman and the Managerial staff.

The most striking phase of Personnel Management and the fight to reduce labour turnover is the extent and rapidity with which the practice of covering the risk of their employees is spread among the larger employers in America. These schemes have materially improved the position of the workers where they have been inaugurated and they have had the effect of attaching the workers more closely to the establishments which provided such schemes. The commonest form of benefit is life insurance either provided directly by the employer or more usually accompanied by group insurance through an ordinary insurance company. In some cases the policy is paid for entirely by the employer, but more generally by joint contributions. At the present time more than three million workers are protected by group insurance policies while the dependents of many more are entitled to death benefits under the Mutual Benefit or Employers schemes.

Another method of interesting employees in the concerns in which they are employed is through the distribution or sale of stock. In 1926 the holdings of individual workers amounted to more than 700,000,000 dollars of the stock of various factories.

It will be seen that Personnel Management is based on purely business considerations. Its aims are not humanitarian. Its primary object is better production and lower cost. It has also incidentally the subsidiary but prominent objective of checking trade union activities.

## Reviews of Books and Reports

*The Cost of Living in Foreign Countries, National Industrial Conference Board, Inc., New York, 1927, pp. 402*

This excellent report is the fifth in the series of "Studies of Cost of Living" published by the National Industrial Conference Board. It is divided into three chapters. The first discusses the various methods of compiling index numbers of the cost of living, the second describes the methods followed by 42 countries in compiling index numbers and the third chapter gives the summary and conclusions.

The principal merit of the report lies in its very clear and lucid exposition of a difficult and complicated subject. It aims more at stating facts rather than expressing opinions and thus furnishes the reader with a mass of carefully collected data. The numerous statistical tables in the report which give the current index numbers in various countries add greatly to its utility and make it a convenient book of reference on the subject of cost of living index numbers.

## Current Periodicals

### Summary of titles and contents of special articles

**THE LABOUR MAGAZINE—VOL. VI, NO. 4, AUGUST, 1927. (The Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party.)**

- Special Articles:* (1) *Lords Reform and Tory "form": The Truth about a Plot against the People*, by Capt. Wedgwood Benn, D.S.O., D.F.C. pp. 147 and 148.  
 (2) *Back to Socialism: A Plea for "Moral Uplift" in Labour Party Propaganda*, by Herbert Morrison, J.P., L.C.C. pp. 149 and 150.  
 (3) *Impressions of the Workers' Olympiad*, by the Rt. Hon. F. O. Roberts, J.P., M.P. pp. 151-154.  
 (4) *South Africa: Some Impressions of the Native Question*, by H. Sanderson Furniss (Late Principal, Ruskin College, Oxford.) pp. 155-157.  
 (5) *Cotton, Wheat, and Waterways*, by J. T. Walton Newbold. pp. 158-160.  
 (6) *Sean O'Casey: The Dramatist of the Dublin Tenements*, by R. M. Fox. pp. 161-163.  
 (7) *Twenty-One years of Rural Fighting*, by R. B. Walker. pp. 164 and 165.  
 (8) *Socialism in the Empire*, by W. Arthur Peacock. pp. 166 and 167.  
 (9) *The Problem of Machinery*, by George W. Thomson (Editor of the "Draughtsman," the organ of the Association of Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen.) pp. 172-175.  
 (10) *In the "Eight-Fifteen": A Little Talk about Lords*, by T. S. Dickson. pp. 176 and 177.  
*Routine Matter*—As in previous issues.

**INDUSTRIAL WELFARE—VOL. IX, NO. 103, JULY, 1927. (The Industrial Welfare Society, London.)**

- Special Articles:* (1) *Voluntary Contributors and the Pensions Act*. pp. 215 and 216.  
 (2) *Illumination and Fine Work, with special reference to the lighting of printing works*, by H. C. Weston (Investigator to the Industrial Fatigue Research Board and the Illumination Research Committee). pp. 217-219.  
 (3) *Works and Staff Committees*, by E. J. Fox (Managing Director, The Stanton Ironworks Company, Limited). A typical set of rules. pp. 220-224.  
 (4) *Welfare in the Dyeing and Cleaning Industry—IV. Holiday fund; benevolent fund; pensions; the Achille Serre social and athletic association; fire brigade*. pp. 224-229.  
 (5) *Welfare Work in the Moving Picture Industry*, by Robert R. Hyde. pp. 230-235.  
*Routine Matter*—As in previous issues.

**INDUSTRIAL WELFARE—VOL. IX, NO. 104, AUGUST, 1927. (The Industrial Welfare Society, London.)**

- Special Articles.* (1) *Spa Treatment for Insured Persons*, by John Hatton (Honorary Secretary, British Spas Federation, Director of the Baths, Bath.) pp. 249-253.

- (2) *Group Life Insurance*, by A. B. Culley, F.I.A. pp. 253-255.  
 (3) *Welfare in a Nottingham Firm*. pp. 255-259.  
 (4) *A London Scheme*. pp. 259-262.  
 (5) *The Foreman and Accident Prevention*. pp. 262-264.  
*Routine Matter*. As in previous issues.

**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR REVIEW—VOL. XVI, NO. 2, AUGUST, 1927. (International Labour Office, Geneva.)**

- Special Articles:* (1) *The Tenth Session of the International Labour Conference*.—Composition of the conference; credentials of delegates—complete delegations; sickness insurance; the double-discussion procedure; freedom of association; minimum wage-fixing machinery; standing orders of the conference; the language question; reports under article 408; the director's report; resolutions; conclusion. pp. 153-187.  
 (2) *The Evolution of a Wage-Adjustment System: II*, by J. R. Bellerby.—IV. Criteria of justice—(i) disputes which are substantially of the nature "wage-earners versus non-wage-earners"; (ii) intermediate cases, and disputes of the type "wage-earners versus other wage-earners"; V. the final decision—(i) disputes which are substantially of the nature "wage-earners versus non-wage earners"; (ii) intermediate cases, and disputes of the type "wage-earners versus other wage-earners"; general conclusion concerning the final decision of the board, the method of procedure. pp. 196-215.  
 (3) *The Correlation between Seasonal Unemployment and Certain Social and Economic Phenomena*, by Dr. Jaroslav Janke (of the Czechoslovakian Ministry of Social Welfare). pp. 216-232.  
 (4) *Calendar Reform*, by J. H. Richardson, Ph.D. (Research Division, International Labour Office)—Calendar units; defects of the present Gregorian calendar; investigations by the League of Nations; proposals for reform; the stabilisation of Easter. pp. 233-244.  
 (5) *The Report of the Unemployment Insurance Committee in Great Britain*. pp. 245-251.  
 (6) *Industrial Inspection in Czechoslovakia in 1925*.—Work of the inspectorate; the industrial situation and the labour market; apprenticeship; employment of women and children; hours of work and holidays; wages; hygiene and safety; home work; works councils; collective agreements; labour disputes; housing and welfare; special inspectorates. pp. 252-259.  
*Routine Matter*—As in previous issues.

**THE JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE—VOL. IX, NO. 7, JULY, 1927. (Harvard School of Public Health, Baltimore.)**

- Special Articles:* (1) *Backache due to Industrial Injuries*, by Samuel Kleinberg, M.D. (New York City)—Establishing genuineness of complaint of backache—bed-ridden cases, ambulatory cases; etiology and pathology of backache—backache due to bone lesion, backache due to lesion of soft tissues; consideration of disability and compensation—duration of symptoms and disability, disposition of case. pp. 267-286.  
 (2) *The Wet Kata-Thermometer as an Index of the Suitability of Atmospheric Conditions for Heavy Work*, by H. M. Vernon, M.D. (Investigator to the Industrial Fatigue Research Board, London).—Introduction; working capacity of coal miners in relation to wet kata cooling power; working capacity of coal miners in relation to effective temperature; influence of muscular work in the laboratory on effective temperature; air conditioning in mines; physiologic importance of effective temperature index; conclusion. pp. 287-296.  
 (3) *Temperature, Humidity, and Air Movement in Industries: The Effective Temperature Index*, by C. P. Yaglou (Department of Ventilation and Illumination, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston Mass.).—Introduction; effective temperature index—controversy on the kata-thermometer and the effective temperature index, comfort zone, influence of clothing on the comfort zone; physiologic responses of men at rest in relation to effective temperature—metabolism in relation to effective temperature and the comfort zone; physiologic responses of men at work in relation to effective temperature—acclimatization to high temperatures and adaptation to muscular exercise; work output in relation to effective temperature—influence of air movement and of clothing on output; conclusions. pp. 297-308.  
*Routine Matter*.—As in previous issues.

**THE JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE—VOL. IX, NO. 8, AUGUST, 1927. (Harvard School of Public Health, Baltimore.)**

- Special Articles:* (1) *Silicosis and Tuberculosis as seen in the Granite Workers in Barre, Vt.*, by William McFarland, B.A., M.D.—General considerations—past studies of silicosis; etiology of silicosis; atmospheric pollution of granite plants—tuberculosis death rate in Vermont; simple silicosis—diagnosis, pathology; complications of silicosis—silicosis with tuberculosis, diagnosis course of the disease, pathology; fallacious ideas with regard to silicosis and tuberculosis; tuberculosis in families of granite cutters; summary and conclusions. pp. 315-330.  
 (2) *Metal Fume Fever: IV. Threshold Doses of Zinc Oxide, Preventive Measures, and the Chronic Effects of Repeated Exposures*, by Philip Drinker, Robert M. Thomson and Jane L. Finn. (Department of Ventilation and Illumination, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Mass.—Introduction;

experimental procedure—generation and measurement of zinc oxide fume settling curves, inhalation method, measurement of severity of reaction, manner of breathing and minute-volume; threshold dose; preventive measures—fume concentration and length of exposure, acquired resistance respirators, effect of sweating; effect of repeated inhalations of zinc oxide; summary. pp. 331-344.

(3) *The Storage Battery Industry*, by Alice Hamilton, M.D.—Introduction; description of processes in storage battery industry; storage battery industry in the United States in 1914 and in 1918; English accumulator factories; a German factory; storage battery industry in the United States in 1926; summary. pp. 346-369.

*Routine Matter*—As in previous issues.

**THE LABOUR GAZETTE—VOL. XXVII, NO. 7, JULY, 1927. (The Department of Labour, Canada.)**

*Special Articles:* (1) *Strikes and Lockouts in Great Britain and Other Countries*.—Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States; Austria; Belgium; Netherlands; Poland; Australia; India. pp. 714-716.

(2) *Progress of Labour in Canada, 1867-1927*.—Labour legislation; labour organisation; Department of Labour, Canada. pp. 717-722.

(3) *Labour Legislation in Alberta in 1927*.—Workmen's compensation; boilers act; factories act; mines act; mothers allowance act; theatres act; teachers' arbitration board; early closing of stores, etc., old age pensions; Dominion-provincial conference; compensation commission; proposed railway shop agreement. pp. 723-725.

(4) *Canadian Manufacturers' Association: Proceedings at Annual General Meeting, June, 1927*.—Industrial relations; industrial disputes investigation act. pp. 736 and 737.

(5) *League of Nations International Labour Organisation: Tenth Session of the International Labour Conference*.—Decisions of the conference; countries represented; Canadian delegation; appointment of committees; officers of the conference; address of chairman of the Governing Body; the president's address; the Director's report; Canadian delegate's address; Director's reply; credentials; Committee's report; sickness insurance; freedom of association; minimum wage-fixing machinery; standing orders of the conference; use of the German language; Turkey and the International Labour Organisation; resolutions of the conference; text of the draft convention concerning sickness insurance for workers in industry and commerce and domestic servants; text of the draft convention concerning sickness insurance for agricultural workers; text of the recommendation concerning the general principles of sickness insurance; annual report of the Director. pp. 745-768.

(6) *World Economic Conference at Geneva*.—Commerce; industry; agriculture. pp. 769-772.

(7) *Industrial Survey in New York State*.—Special legislation affecting women; industrial council commended; effects of "closed unions" in building trades. pp. 772 and 773.

*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 in July resulted in a reduction of £79,500 in the weekly full-time wages of 558,000 workpeople, and in an increase of nearly £2,000 in those of 92,000 workpeople. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, August, 1927.)

At 2nd August the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 64 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 66 per cent. a month ago and 70 per cent. a year ago. The corresponding figures for food alone were 56, 59 and 61 respectively. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, August, 1927.)

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Ministry of Labour as beginning in July was 22. In addition, 13 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 thrown out of work at the establishments where disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 25,000; and the aggregate duration of all disputes during July was about 104,000 working days. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, August, 1927.)

### OTHER COUNTRIES

The Bureau of Social Affairs of the Japanese Department of the Interior held a meeting on 30th March 1927 to prepare the programme of legislative and financial proposals to be presented to the Diet next year.

The principal items in the proposed programme are:

Seamen's Insurance Bill, to assist sick, injured, disabled or aged seamen, and to extend to them protection similar to that provided in the Health Insurance Act for workers on land;

Poor Relief Bill;

Bill for the Protection of Children;

Trade Union Bill;

Bill concerning Relief for Unemployed Workers, designed chiefly for the protection and relief of casual workers;

Bill to amend the Juvenile Delinquents Act;

Creation of division or section in the Bureau to deal with migration.

Establishment of an inspection office for intelligence tests for school children, with a view to assisting the work of the employment exchanges for young persons. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, June 27, 1927.)

## PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS IN AUGUST 1927

Name of concern and locality	Approximate number of work-people involved		Date when dispute		Cause	Result
	Directly	Indirectly	Began	Ended		
1. The Apollo Mill, DeLisle Road, Bombay.	427	1,823	1 Aug.	1927	Introduction of a new system of working by which each weaver is to work on three looms instead of two.	No Settlement reported.
2. The Manchester Mill, Chinchpokli, Bombay.	400	800	5 Aug.		Do.	No Settlement reported.
3. The Aryodaya Spinning and Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Asarva Road, Ahmedabad.	200	..	11 Aug.	12 Aug.	Demand for reinstatement of a dismissed Jobber.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.
4. The Whittle Mills No. 2, Broach.	33	..	11 Aug.	16 Aug.	Demand for higher wages.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.
5. The New City of Bombay Mill, Chinchpokli, Bombay.	234	..	12 Aug.	14 Aug.	Alleged reduction in wages.	The strike ended in a compromise.
6. The Ahmedabad Jupiter Spinning, Weaving and Manufacturing Mill, Dudheshwar Road, Ahmedabad.	194	..	18 Aug.	19 Aug.	Demand for an increase in the rate of wages.	The strike ended in favour of the employees.
7. The Rajnagar Spinning, Weaving and Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Idgah Road, Ahmedabad.	40	..	29 Aug.	30 Aug.	Protest against the dismissal of a Mukadam.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.
8. Richardson and Cruddas Workshop, Nesbit Road, Mazgaon, Bombay.	175	..	8 Aug.	9 Aug.	Alleged ill-treatment of the workers.	The strike ended in favour of the employees.

## ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES\*

## 1. Bombay City

Class of Factory	Machinery in motion		Other causes		Fatal		Serious		Minor		Total No. of persons injured	
	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927
	I. Textile Mills—	(b) 169(a)	(b) 211(a)	102(a)	124	8	3	113	89	154	246	275	338
Cotton Mills ..	..	7	..	..	..	..	2	3	5	4	7	7
Woollen Mills ..	4	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Others ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	173	218	105	125	8	3	115	92	159	251	282	346
II. Workshops—	15	17	145	143(a)	1	2	28	30	131	129	160	161
Engineering ..	92	112(a)	585	606	1	1	87	66	589	693	677	759
Railway ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1
Mint ..	1	3	2(a)	1	..	..	2	1	3	3	5	4
Others ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	110	133	712	790	2	2	117	97	724	826	843	925
III. Miscellaneous—	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Chemical Works ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Flour Mills ..	2	3	4	2	..	1	3	2	3	2	6	5
Printing Presses ..	..	5	10	..	..	..	7	7	8	7	15	15
Others ..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	10	9	10	13	..	2	10	9	11	11	21	22
Total, All Factories ..	293	360	847	928	10	7	242	198	894	1,088	1,146	1,293

## 2. Ahmedabad

Class of Factory	Machinery in motion		Other causes		Fatal		Serious		Minor		Total No. of persons injured	
	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927
	I. Textile Mills—	83(a)	88	51	40	2	1	71	71	62	56	135	128
Cotton ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	83	88	51	40	2	1	71	71	62	56	135	128
II. Miscellaneous—	2	2	1	1	..	..	2	3	1	..	3	3
Match Factories ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Flour Mills ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oil Mills ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Engineering ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	2	2	1	1	..	..	2	3	1	..	3	3
Total, All Factories ..	85	90	52	41	2	1	73	74	63	56	138	131

\* The figures for May to August are preliminary.  
 Explanation:—(a) 2 persons injured by one accident.  
 (b) 3 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 1927	May to Aug 1927	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927
I. Workshops—												
Railway and Port Trust	3	2	6	5				5	9	2	9	7
Engineering			1								1	
Total ..	3	2	7	5			1	5	9	2	10	7
II. Miscellaneous ..	2	4	4	8			2	6	4	6	6	12
Total ..	2	4	4	8			2	6	4	6	6	12
Total, All Factories ..	5	6	11	13			3	11	13	8	16	19

## 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 1927	May to Aug 1927	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927	Jan to April 1927	May to Aug 1927
I. Textile Mills—												
Cotton Mills	34	32	(d)16	20	14		30	28	19	24	63	52
Others	7	11	4	3			5	2	6	12	11	14
Total ..	41	43	20	23	14		35	30	25	36	74	66
II. Workshops—												
Railway	11	14	103	114		1	16	29	98	98	114	128
Arms and Ammunition	1	2	7	11			2	3	6	10	8	13
Others	3	6	4	6		1	3	4	4	7	7	12
Total ..	15	22	114	131		2	21	36	108	115	129	153
III. Miscellaneous—												
Ginning and Pressing Factories..	7	2	(c) 6	1	6		2	1	8	2	16	3
Paint Works	5	(b)11	12	(a)14	1		7	18	9	10	17	28
Others												
Total ..	12	13	18	15	7		9	19	17	12	33	31
Total, All Factories ..	68	78	152	169	21	2	65	85	150	163	236	250

Explanation:—(a) 2 persons injured by one accident.  
 (b) 3 persons injured by one accident.  
 (c) 4 persons injured by one accident.  
 (d) 13 persons injured by one accident.

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

Count or Number	Month of July			Four months ended July		
	1925	1926	1927	1925	1926	1927
	Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10	6,561	7,891	7,081	25,921	27,301	25,500
Nos. 11 to 20	19,989	19,459	17,481	79,725	73,274	72,878
Nos. 21 to 30	14,123	15,300	15,433	58,072	62,000	63,077
Nos. 31 to 40	1,220	1,783	2,177	4,796	6,813	8,387
Above 40	477	910	916	1,774	3,218	3,795
Waste, etc.	85	89	130	137	466	453
Total ..	42,455	45,432	43,218	170,425	173,072	174,090

## BOMBAY CITY

Count or Number	Month of July			Four months ended July		
	1925	1926	1927	1925	1926	1927
	Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10	5,799	7,065	6,218	23,261	24,377	22,422
Nos. 11 to 20	12,955	13,302	12,189	52,774	49,318	49,581
Nos. 21 to 30	9,050	9,445	9,921	37,966	38,663	39,617
Nos. 31 to 40	640	899	1,133	2,606	3,075	3,852
Above 40	316	348	429	1,082	1,193	1,801
Waste, etc.	76	79	130	102	424	453
Total ..	28,836	31,138	30,020	117,791	117,000	117,226

## AHMEDABAD

Count or Number	Month of July			Four months ended July		
	1925	1926	1927	1925	1926	1927
	Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10	280	247	148	987	843	719
Nos. 11 to 20	4,006	3,372	2,658	15,081	13,310	12,481
Nos. 21 to 30	3,900	4,292	4,179	15,551	17,182	18,477
Nos. 31 to 40	394	734	712	1,455	2,977	3,248
Above 40	105	441	344	477	1,557	1,417
Waste, etc.						
Total ..	8,685	9,086	8,041	33,431	35,841	36,342

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

Description	Month of July			Four months ended July		
	1925	1926	1927	1925	1926	1927
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	1,252	1,511	2,823	3,751	4,024	7,563
Chudders	1,354	1,868	2,115	4,831	6,233	6,773
Dhotis	6,229	8,059	8,017	26,349	30,973	32,515
Drills and jeans	807	709	1,202	4,012	3,845	5,005
Cambrics and lawns	39	37	71	269	93	182
Printers	117	135	74	946	720	565
Shirtings and long cloth	8,172	10,585	9,415	33,202	42,697	40,529
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	865	1,221	1,286	4,018	4,561	5,591
Tent cloth	148	72	8	484	156	204
Other sorts	539	405	468	2,190	1,904	1,986
Total	19,522	24,602	25,479	80,052	95,206	100,913
Coloured piecegoods	8,424	9,128	10,161	30,595	36,955	40,135
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	247	208	220	1,040	1,166	893
Hosiery	19	19	24	71	99	123
Miscellaneous	81	236	279	539	945	1,139
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	60	144	324	225	715	1,451
Grand Total	28,353	34,337	36,487	112,522	135,086	144,654

## BOMBAY CITY

Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	1,008	1,371	2,387	2,940	3,593	5,905
Chudders	918	1,364	1,454	3,262	4,488	4,827
Dhotis	2,205	2,523	3,215	8,840	9,516	11,689
Drills and jeans	718	632	1,103	3,514	3,507	4,702
Cambrics and lawns	17	4	28	181	18	70
Printers	5			12		
Shirtings and long cloth	6,079	8,074	7,133	24,877	33,323	30,698
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	607	791	899	2,957	3,169	4,158
Tent cloth	111	69	5	366	132	178
Other sorts	216	241	301	928	1,102	1,107
Total	11,884	15,074	16,525	47,957	58,848	63,334
Coloured piecegoods	6,429	6,394	7,488	21,920	25,814	27,851
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	239	200	219	999	1,128	883
Hosiery	7	4	7	21	19	37
Miscellaneous	71	184	233	488	773	919
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	49	121	247	211	413	887
Grand Total	18,679	21,977	24,719	71,596	86,995	93,911

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

## AHMEDABAD

Description	Month of July			Four months ended July		
	1925	1926	1927	1925	1926	1927
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	66	30	79	214	95	132
Chudders	323	386	507	1,245	1,352	1,409
Dhotis	3,033	4,477	3,687	12,937	17,606	16,218
Drills and jeans	34	28	28	219	120	117
Cambrics and lawns	21	32	44	74	72	108
Printers	68	75	33	521	394	234
Shirtings and long cloth	1,747	1,929	1,772	6,471	7,080	7,200
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	241	341	241	977	1,063	1,023
Tent cloth	31	1		91	7	5
Other sorts	253	87	98	880	448	535
Total	5,817	7,386	6,489	23,629	28,237	26,981
Coloured piecegoods	1,190	1,634	1,440	5,532	7,375	7,639
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods		1		4	5	5
Hosiery	12	15	16	49	80	86
Miscellaneous	9	50	37	44	170	209
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	11	20	75	11	294	551
Grand Total	7,039	9,106	8,063	29,269	36,161	35,471

WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN BOMBAY

Article	Unit	Rate per	Prices in the month of				Sales in the month of			
			July 1944	Aug 1944	Sept 1944	Oct 1944	July 1944	Aug 1944	Sept 1944	Oct 1944
Indian No. 1 - Cane	100 lbs	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	
Indian No. 2 - Cane	100 lbs	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	
Indian No. 3 - Cane	100 lbs	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Indian No. 4 - Cane	100 lbs	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	
Indian No. 5 - Cane	100 lbs	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	
Indian No. 6 - Cane	100 lbs	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	
Indian No. 7 - Cane	100 lbs	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	
Indian No. 8 - Cane	100 lbs	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	
Indian No. 9 - Cane	100 lbs	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	
Indian No. 10 - Cane	100 lbs	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	
Indian No. 11 - Cane	100 lbs	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	
Indian No. 12 - Cane	100 lbs	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	
Indian No. 13 - Cane	100 lbs	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	
Indian No. 14 - Cane	100 lbs	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	
Indian No. 15 - Cane	100 lbs	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	
Indian No. 16 - Cane	100 lbs	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	
Indian No. 17 - Cane	100 lbs	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	
Indian No. 18 - Cane	100 lbs	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	
Indian No. 19 - Cane	100 lbs	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	
Indian No. 20 - Cane	100 lbs	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	

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Article	Unit	Rate per	Prices in the month of				Sales in the month of			
			July 1944	Aug 1944	Sept 1944	Oct 1944	July 1944	Aug 1944	Sept 1944	Oct 1944
Indian No. 21 - Cane	100 lbs	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	
Indian No. 22 - Cane	100 lbs	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	
Indian No. 23 - Cane	100 lbs	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Indian No. 24 - Cane	100 lbs	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	
Indian No. 25 - Cane	100 lbs	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	
Indian No. 26 - Cane	100 lbs	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	
Indian No. 27 - Cane	100 lbs	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	
Indian No. 28 - Cane	100 lbs	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	
Indian No. 29 - Cane	100 lbs	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	
Indian No. 30 - Cane	100 lbs	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	
Indian No. 31 - Cane	100 lbs	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	
Indian No. 32 - Cane	100 lbs	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	
Indian No. 33 - Cane	100 lbs	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	
Indian No. 34 - Cane	100 lbs	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	
Indian No. 35 - Cane	100 lbs	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	
Indian No. 36 - Cane	100 lbs	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	
Indian No. 37 - Cane	100 lbs	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	
Indian No. 38 - Cane	100 lbs	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	
Indian No. 39 - Cane	100 lbs	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	
Indian No. 40 - Cane	100 lbs	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	

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WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN KARACHI\*

Article	Grade	Rate per	Prices in the month of				Index Numbers				
			July 1914	Aug. 1926	July 1927	Aug. 1927	July 1914	Aug. 1926	July 1927	Aug. 1927	
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.					
<b>Cereals—</b>											
Rice (1)	Larkana No. 3	Candy	39 0 0	67 12 0	63 12 0	64 12 0	100	174	163	166	
Wheat, white	5% barley, 3% dirt, 30% red	"	31 8 0	42 8 0	40 12 0	41 4 0	100	135	129	131	
" red	1% barley, 3% dirt, 92% red	"	31 4 0	41 8 0	39 10 0	39 10 0	100	133	127	127	
" white	2% barley, 1% dirt	"	32 8 0	43 12 0	42 2 0	42 8 0	100	135	130	131	
" red	2% barley, 1% dirt	"	32 4 0	42 12 0	40 14 0	40 14 0	100	133	127	127	
Jowari	Export quality	"	25 8 0	39 4 0	38 0 0	38 8 0	100	154	149	151	
Barley	3% dirt	"	26 8 0	37 0 0	33 0 0	33 12 0	100	140	125	127	
Index No.—Cereals			100	143	136	137					
<b>Pulses—</b>											
Gram (2)	1% dirt	Candy	29 8 0	40 0 0	35 8 0	37 4 0	100	136	120	126	
<b>Sugar—</b>											
Suzor	Java, white	Cwt.	9 2 0	15 1 0	14 4 6	14 12 0	100	165	157	162	
"	" brown	"	8 1 6	14 2 0	13 7 0	13 11 0	100	175	166	169	
Index No.—Sugar			100	170	162	166					
<b>Other food—</b>											
Salt		Bengal Maund	2 2 0	1 11 0	1 14 0	2 0 0	100	79	88	94	
<b>Oilseeds—</b>											
Cotton seed		Maund	2 11 3	3 10 0	4 3 0	3 6 0	100	154	155	125	
Rapeseed, bold	3% admixture	Candy	51 0 0	65 0 0	65 0 0	65 8 0	100	127	128	128	
Gingelly	Black 9% admixture	"	62 0 0	97 0 0	97 0 0	98 0 0	100	156	158	158	
Index No.—Oilseeds			100	134	146	137					
<b>Textiles—</b>											
Jute bags	B. Twill	100 bags	38 4 0	50 0 0	49 8 0	51 12 0	100	171	129	133	

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<b>Textiles—Cotton</b>										
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind	Maund.	20 4 0	33 8 0	35 6 0	36 2 0	100	165	175	170
(b) Cotton manufactures										
Drills	Pepperill	Piece.	10 3 6	18 12 0	14 0 0	15 8 0	100	193	197	192
Shirtings	Liepmann's	"	10 2 0	20 0 0	17 0 0	18 0 0	100	198	198	178
Index No.—Cotton manufactures			100	191	193	175				
Index No.—Textiles—Cotton			100	182	180	169				
<b>Other Textiles—Wool</b>										
	Kandahar	Maund.	28 0 0	34 0 0	39 0 0	39 0 0	100	121	130	130
<b>Hides—</b>										
Hides, dry	Sind	Maund.	21 4 0	12 0 0	14 0 0	15 12 0	100	56	68	65
" "	Punjab	"	21 4 0	12 0 0	14 0 0	15 12 0	100	56	68	65
Index No.—Hides			100	56	68	65				
<b>Metals—</b>										
Copper Braziers		Cwt.	60 8 0	50 0 0	55 0 0	55 0 0	100	96	91	91
Steel Bars		"	3 14 0	7 14 0	6 4 0	6 4 0	100	152	154	154
Plates		"	4 6 0	5 0 0	6 12 0	6 12 0	100	126	134	134
Index No.—Metals			100	125	135	135				
<b>Other raw and manufactured articles—</b>										
Coal	1st class Bengal	Ton.	16 0 0	21 4 0	22 0 0	22 0 0	100	133	138	138
Kerosene	Chatter Brand	Case.	5 7 0	9 6 0	9 10 0	9 10 0	100	163	165	165
"	Elephant	2 Tins.	4 7 0	7 4 0	7 8 0	7 8 0	100	163	165	165
Index No.—Other raw and manufactured articles			100	160	165	165				
Index No.—General			100	142	135	137				
Index No.—Manufactured			100	136	139	139				
General Index No.			100	138	137	139				

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\* Some items, though listed, have been omitted from the index for want of quotations. (1) Quotations for Sukkur, white, since August 1926. (2) Quotations for 3 per cent, mutual since April 1924.

WHOLESALE PRICES INDEX NUMBERS IN BOMBAY BY GROUPS  
Prices in July 1914 = 100

Month	Cereals	Pulses	Sugar	Other food	Index No., food	Oil-seeds	Raw cotton	Cotton manuf-actures	Other textiles	Hides and skins	Metals	Other raw and manu-factured articles	Index No. non-food.	General index No.
1924 August	146	97	198	262	173	146	260	235	203	150	170	161	150	184
1925 August	146	100	158	183	149	140	184	206	155	150	170	159	150	160
September	143	104	159	176	146	136	181	205	155	151	153	159	151	157
October	147	111	151	176	146	130	(a) 191	203	153	161	153	159	167	160
November	153	128	161	175	155	133	169	195	152	155	150	159	(a) 164	(a) 158
December	149	122	148	168	149	129	159	191	148	149	150	155	157	154
1926 January	147	119	148	172	149	127	154	186	149	155	151	158	157	154
February	143	117	148	158	143	129	150	186	147	153	152	153	157	154
March	148	117	146	152	144	127	(a) 144	186	145	153	152	153	157	154
April	144	119	146	144	143	131	138	182	147	151	151	153	157	154
May	149	123	150	156	148	137	138	183	143	155	151	153	(a) 155	(a) 150
June	150	128	156	153	148	142	141	182	143	155	151	153	155	151
July	146	128	144	148	143	140	144	180	130	144	147	147	148	149
August	148	133	146	146	145	140	149	173	134	144	147	147	148	149
September	150	130	144	146	144	140	148	178	130	144	147	147	148	149
October	145	129	156	148	143	140	144	178	130	144	147	147	148	149
November	144	133	152	146	144	143	132	149	133	134	146	148	150	148
December	143	131	156	144	143	133	131	118	131	144	150	152	149	147
1927 January	153	133	149	140	147	138	109	156	132	150	161	158	147	146
February	149	137	139	150	146	143	113	154	135	142	158	160	146	146
March	148	133	139	149	144	144	132	163	135	135	158	159	149	148
April	144	125	134	150	141	143	128	161	134	137	156	159	149	148
May	145	127	132	155	143	143	142	162	136	142	148	147	147	148
June	143	130	129	145	141	143	142	162	142	148	148	147	147	148
July	139	129	132	161	143	143	154	161	149	137	147	159	150	145
August	142	131	132	161	141	143	154	163	142	139	144	156	149	147
						143	159	167	138	142	135	156	150	148

(a) Revised figures from October 1925 to March 1926.

INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Country	India (Bombay)	Japan	China (Shanghai)	Java (Batavia)	Australia	Egypt (Ca. ro)	United Kingdom (1)	France	Holland	Norway	Sweden	Canada (b)	State of (3)
No. of articles	44	56	147	†	92	26	150	45	48	100	47	236	404
1913 Average	100	100	(d) 100	100	100	100	100	100	100	(a) 100	(f) 100	100	100
1914	100	96	...	...	106	(c) 100	102	102	109	(e) 115	116	102	98
1915	...	97	...	...	147	102	140	146	159	159	145	110	101
1916	...	117	...	...	138	124	188	224	233	185	132	127	127
1917	...	149	...	...	153	169	262	276	341	244	179	177	177
1918	...	236	196	...	178	207	339	373	345	339	199	194	194
1919	...	222	236	...	189	226	356	304	322	331	209	206	206
1920	...	216	259	...	228	299	307	509	292	(c) 377	347	244	226
1921	...	199	200	...	175	180	197	327	182	298	211	172	147
1922	...	187	196	...	162	146	159	327	160	233	162	152	149
1923	...	181	199	...	176	179	131	419	151	233	157	153	154
1924	...	182	207	...	176	173	143	489	156	269	155	155	150
1925	...	163	202	...	170	152	159	550	155	251	157	160	159
September	...	157	201	...	175	170	152	556	155	231	151	157	160
October	...	(b) 158	200	...	171	153	155	572	154	221	148	157	158
November	...	(b) 160	197	...	174	145	154	605	154	217	150	161	158
December	...	(b) 154	194	...	168	140	153	633	155	218	149	164	156
1926 January	...	(b) 154	192	...	169	134	151	634	153	214	150	164	156
February	...	(b) 151	188	...	168	134	149	636	149	211	148	162	155
March	...	(b) 150	184	...	167	171	134	632	145	204	145	160	152
April	...	151	181	...	165	176	133	650	143	198	145	161	151
May	...	151	177	...	165	175	128	688	143	196	145	157	152
June	...	150	177	...	156	159	129	738	144	195	143	156	152
July	...	149	179	...	159	169	129	838	141	196	143	156	151
August	...	148	177	...	158	170	129	769	139	196	143	154	149
September	...	149	176	...	158	166	129	787	140	197	142	153	151
October	...	147	174	...	(b) 161	162	129	751	143	188	142	151	150
November	...	146	172	...	(b) 160	163	130	684	147	182	142	152	145
December	...	146	170	...	159	162	130	627	147	177	141	151	147
1927 January	...	146	170	...	159	162	126	644	144	170	140	151	147
February	...	148	171	...	(b) 160	157	124	632	146	165	140	150	146
March	...	148	171	...	157	157	124	641	144	160	139	149	145
April	...	(b) 145	171	...	173	157	122	637	143	159	138	149	144
May	...	148	171	...	173	158	110	629	145	160	139	152	144
June	...	147	173	...	160	158	163	642	142	160	134	144	144
July	...	147	173	...	156	...	...	623	141	141	141	152	145
August	...	148	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

\* 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. † The number of articles has increased from 67 in September 1924 to 74 since June 1926.

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COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS FOR INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Name of country	India (Bombay)	United Kingdom	Canada	Australia	New Zealand	Italy (Rome)	Belgium	Norway	Switzerland	South Africa	France (Paris)	U. S. of America
Items included in the index	Food, fuel, light, clothing and rent	Food, rent, fuel, light, clothing and miscellaneous	Food, fuel, light and rent	Food and rent	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, heat, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, light, fuel and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, heating, lighting and rent	Food, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, heating and lighting, rent and miscellaneous items
1914 July	100	100	100	(a) 100 (f)	(h) 100	(b) 100	(c) 100	100	(e) 100 (k)	100 (j)	100 (f)	(g) 100
1915 "	104	125	102	119	(i) 108	116	116	(d) 117	103	106	105	(m) 105
1916 "	108	148	107	115	117	128	146	146	190	114	118	118
1917 "	118	180	130	116	128	146	146	190	190	114	118	142
1918 "	149	203	146	118	144	197	197	253	204 (o)	118	174	174
1919 "	186	208	155	132	157	205	205	(d) 275	222	126	238 (n)	199
1920 "	190	252	190	154	182	313	453	307	224	155	(p) 301	200
1921 "	177	219	152	152	178	387	379	294	200	133	(p) 307	174
1922 "	165	184	147	140	159	429	366	251	164	(i) 135	(p) 302	170
1923 "	153	169	146	151	158	(h) 487	429	238	164	130	(p) 334	173
1924 "	157	170	144	149	160	512	493	249	169	132	(p) 366	173
1925 "	155	172	146	(a) 153	(l) 163	598	509	259	168 (o)	133	(p) 390	178 (m)
1926 March	155	172	154	156	163	654	521	225	163	131	451	175
April	153	167	152	156	163	642	529	221	162	131	451	175
May	155	168	150	161	163	652	558	220	162	131	451	175
June	157	170	150	161	163	650	579	218	162	131	451	175
July	155	170	150	161	163	649	637	210	162	130	451	175
August	155	170	150	161	163	652	681	219	161	130	451	175
September	155	172	149	158	163	657	684	217	161	130	451	175
October	155	174	148	157	163	672	705	218	161	131	451	175
November	154	179	150	157	163	657	730	217	161	131	451	175
December	156	179	151	157	163	657	741	213	161	129	451	176
1927 January	156	175	152	156	162	655	755	210	160	130	451	176
February	155	172	151	156	162	667	770	208	160	130	451	176
March	155	171	150	156	162	663	771	203	159	131	451	176
April	153	165	148	156	162	651	774	201	158	131	451	176
May	152	164	148	156	162	612	776	201	159	132	451	176
June	154	163	148	156	162	586	783	201	160	132	451	176
July	156	166	149	156	162	790	790	203	160	132	451	176
August	157	164	149	156	162	790	790	203	160	132	451	176
September	154	164	149	156	162	790	790	203	160	132	451	176

(a) From 1914 to 1925 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 from July 1923 are for Milan. (i) Revised series from March 1922. (j) Revised figures. (k) Figures from 1915 to 1925 refer to August. (l) Figures from 1915 to 1925 refer to December. (m) First half of the year. (n) Yearly averages for the years 1918 to 1925. (o) June figures.

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RETAIL FOOD INDEX NUMBERS FOR INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Name of country	India	United Kingdom	Canada	South Africa	Australia	New Zealand	United States of America	France (b)	Italy	Belgium	Finland	Holland	Norway	Sweden (c)	Denmark	Switzerland
No. of articles	17	20	29	18	46	59	43	13	9	..	37	27	..	51	..	..
No. of stations	Bombay	630	60	9	30	25	51	Paris	Rome	59	21	Amsterdam	30	49	100	33
1914 July	100	100	100	(a) 100	100	100	100	100	(c) 100	(d) ..	100	(e) 100 (j)	100	100	100	(i) 100 (h)
1915 "	105	132	105	107	131	112	98	122	95	..	..	..	160	124	128	..
1916 "	105	161	114	116	130	119	109	132	111	..	..	..	176	142	146	..
1917 "	114	204	157	128	126	127	143	183	137	..	..	..	214 (g)	181	166	..
1918 "	142	210	175	134	131	139	164	206	203	..	..	..	279	268	187	..
1919 "	187	209	186	139	147	144	186	261	206	..	..	..	210	289	310	212
1920 "	188	258	227	197	194	167	215	373	318	..	982	211	319	297	253	..
1921 "	174	220	148	139	161	164	145	306	402	100	1,278	180	295	232	236	211
1922 "	160	180	138	116	148	144	139	297	459	87	1,105	140	233	179	184	157
1923 "	148	162	137	116	164	142	144	321	(f) 496	105	968	136	218	160	188	166
1924 "	151	162	134	117	149 (e)	148	140	421	676	124	1,016	138	248	200	170	170
1925 "	152	167	141	120	156	154	159	421	676	133	1,107	152	260	169	163	169
1926 February	150	168	155	117	154	153	158	495	654	142	1,076	152	212	160	160	163
March	151	165	154	118	159	152	157	497	654	138	1,069	172	205	159	159	161
April	150	159	153	119	163	151	159	503	645	142	1,049	163	198	158	158	161
May	150	158	152	119	163	151	156	522	664	152	1,041	163	195	157	157	159
June	152	158	149	118	162	151	157	544	657	161	1,052	168	194	157	159	159
July	155	161	149	116	159	149	154	574	654	185	1,067	168	198	156	159	159
August	153	161	150	117	157	149	154	587	660	193	1,116	168	196	156	157	157
September	152	162	147	117	155	148	155	590	652	186	1,110	164	193	157	157	158
October	153	163	147	120	153	147	157	624	654	197	1,091	164	191	157	157	160
November	152	169	148	119	155	146	164	628	630	206	1,081	164	186	158	158	159
December	154	169	151	117	158	149	159	599	631	208	1,063	166	184	157	158	159
1927 January	155	167	153	116	158	148	158	592	625	208	1,064	166	180	156	158	158
February	152	164	151	117	153	146	153	585	642	212	1,064	166	177	153	157	157
March	152	162	149	118	151	146	151	581	635	205	1,055	168	173	151	156	156
April	151	155	146	119	151	145	151	580	617	204	1,034	162	169	151	152	156
May	150	154	145	121	152	145	152	589	565	201	1,021	162	169	150	156	156
June	151	154	146	120	153	145	153	580	541	207	1,035	162	172	151	157	157
July	154	159	147	120	153	145	153	580	541	207	1,035	162	172	151	157	157
August	155	156	147	120	153	144	153	580	541	207	1,035	162	172	151	157	157
September	151	156	147	120	153	144	153	580	541	207	1,035	162	172	151	157	157

(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 July 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).

LABOUR GAZETTE

RETAIL PRICES OF ARTICLES OF FOOD IN JULY AND AUGUST 1927

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

Articles	Price per	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
		July 1927	July 1927	July 1927	July 1927	July 1927	August 1927	August 1927	August 1927	August 1927	August 1927
<i>Cereals—</i>		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Rice .. ..	Maund	7 11 1 <i>138</i>	8 0 0 <i>120</i>	8 0 0 <i>130</i>	8 6 9 <i>159</i>	8 1 0 <i>140</i>	7 11 1 <i>138</i>	8 0 0 <i>120</i>	8 0 0 <i>130</i>	8 6 9 <i>159</i>	8 1 0 <i>140</i>
Wheat .. ..	"	7 6 11 <i>133</i>	5 10 7 <i>135</i>	5 2 6 <i>131</i>	7 1 9 <i>138</i>	8 0 0 <i>149</i>	7 6 11 <i>133</i>	5 12 8 <i>138</i>	6 2 6 <i>131</i>	7 1 9 <i>138</i>	8 0 0 <i>149</i>
Jowari .. ..	"	5 12 6 <i>133</i>	4 7 1 <i>122</i>	5 0 0 <i>131</i>	3 14 6 <i>136</i>	4 6 5 <i>128</i>	5 11 2 <i>131</i>	4 7 1 <i>122</i>	5 0 0 <i>131</i>	3 13 9 <i>134</i>	4 3 5 <i>123</i>
Bajri .. ..	"	5 12 4 <i>134</i>	4 13 7 <i>115</i>	5 11 5 <i>121</i>	4 4 0 <i>121</i>	5 1 2 <i>124</i>	5 12 4 <i>134</i>	5 0 0 <i>119</i>	5 9 1 <i>118</i>	4 0 10 <i>115</i>	4 12 0 <i>116</i>
<i>Index No.—Cereals ..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>132</i>
<i>Pulses—</i>											
Gram .. ..	Maund	6 9 0 <i>153</i>	5 6 1 <i>141</i>	5 2 7 <i>129</i>	5 8 9 <i>129</i>	5 7 1 <i>112</i>	6 11 10 <i>157</i>	5 7 6 <i>144</i>	5 0 0 <i>125</i>	5 7 4 <i>127</i>	5 7 1 <i>112</i>
Turdal .. ..	"	8 15 7 <i>154</i>	9 6 7 <i>141</i>	8 14 3 <i>144</i>	9 14 6 <i>170</i>	10 4 1 <i>155</i>	9 3 5 <i>158</i>	9 6 7 <i>141</i>	8 14 3 <i>144</i>	9 12 1 <i>167</i>	11 7 6 <i>174</i>
<i>Index No.—Pulses ..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>141</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>141</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>143</i>

<i>Other articles of food—</i>											
Sugar (refined) ..	Maund	13 11 1 <i>180</i>	11 10 2 <i>160</i>	12 12 10 <i>160</i>	13 5 4 <i>133</i>	12 15 3 <i>138</i>	13 11 1 <i>180</i>	11 6 10 <i>157</i>	12 12 10 <i>160</i>	12 12 10 <i>128</i>	12 0 6 <i>129</i>
Jaggi (gul) .. ..	"	13 11 1 <i>160</i>	8 6 9 <i>121</i>	10 10 8 <i>120</i>	8 12 3 <i>113</i>	8 13 10 <i>126</i>	13 11 1 <i>160</i>	8 12 3 <i>126</i>	10 10 8 <i>120</i>	8 6 9 <i>108</i>	8 5 8 <i>133</i>
Tea .. ..	Lb.	0 15 2 <i>194</i>	0 15 7 <i>225</i>	0 15 7 <i>200</i>	1 1 10 <i>171</i>	1 0 5 <i>200</i>	0 15 7 <i>200</i>	0 15 7 <i>225</i>	0 15 7 <i>200</i>	1 1 10 <i>171</i>	1 0 5 <i>200</i>
Salt .. ..	Maund	3 6 7 <i>160</i>	2 3 7 <i>169</i>	2 4 7 <i>151</i>	3 8 2 <i>158</i>	2 14 8 <i>155</i>	3 11 1 <i>171</i>	2 3 7 <i>169</i>	2 4 7 <i>151</i>	3 8 2 <i>158</i>	2 14 8 <i>155</i>
Beef .. ..	Seer	0 8 7 <i>166</i>	0 9 0 <i>160</i>	0 5 2 <i>86</i>	0 4 0 <i>160</i>	0 6 0 <i>141</i>	0 8 2 <i>158</i>	0 9 7 <i>191</i>	0 5 8 <i>94</i>	0 4 0 <i>160</i>	0 6 0 <i>141</i>
Mutton .. ..	"	0 13 8 <i>205</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 8 0 <i>133</i>	0 9 0 <i>150</i>	0 13 2 <i>197</i>	0 10 8 <i>178</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 8 0 <i>133</i>	0 10 6 <i>175</i>
Milk .. ..	Maund	17 9 4 <i>191</i>	8 0 0 <i>180</i>	10 0 0 <i>200</i>	11 6 10 <i>157</i>	13 5 4 <i>133</i>	17 9 4 <i>191</i>	7 9 11 <i>172</i>	12 4 11 <i>246</i>	11 6 10 <i>157</i>	13 5 4 <i>133</i>
Ghee .. ..	"	99 6 6 <i>196</i>	73 2 5 <i>171</i>	85 5 4 <i>192</i>	76 3 1 <i>136</i>	74 6 8 <i>144</i>	101 12 7 <i>200</i>	73 2 5 <i>171</i>	85 5 4 <i>192</i>	80 0 0 <i>142</i>	74 6 8 <i>144</i>
Potatoes .. ..	"	7 11 10 <i>173</i>	6 2 6 <i>114</i>	5 11 5 <i>150</i>	7 9 11 <i>191</i>	4 15 3 <i>147</i>	8 5 4 <i>186</i>	7 3 1 <i>139</i>	7 9 11 <i>200</i>	7 4 4 <i>182</i>	5 12 11 <i>172</i>
Onions .. ..	"	3 9 2 <i>230</i>	3 4 3 <i>180</i>	2 8 0 <i>125</i>	3 1 3 <i>123</i>	2 10 1 <i>131</i>	3 9 2 <i>230</i>	3 15 2 <i>217</i>	2 8 0 <i>125</i>	2 15 4 <i>118</i>	2 8 10 <i>127</i>
Cocconut oil .. ..	"	28 9 2 <i>113</i>	25 9 7 <i>104</i>	27 1 5 <i>145</i>	32 0 0 <i>120</i>	28 1 1 <i>100</i>	27 15 7 <i>110</i>	25 9 7 <i>104</i>	26 10 8 <i>133</i>	32 0 0 <i>120</i>	28 1 1 <i>100</i>
<i>Index No.—Other articles of food ..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>161</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>168</i>	<i>163</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>146</i>
<i>Index No.—All articles (unweighted) ..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>167</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>151</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>143</i>