

Securities Index Numbers

| | Fixed interest Securities | | | | | | Cotton shares | | | | | | General average (100) |
|-------------|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | |
| 1914 July.. | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 1924 Apr. | 74 | 188 | 119 | 130 | 145 | 140 |
| 1915 | 96 | 97 | 94 | 90 | 101 | 160 | May | 74 | 179 | 120 | 137 | 143 | 136 |
| 1916 | 87 | 114 | 102 | 122 | 130 | 127 | June | 74 | 180 | 121 | 137 | 143 | 136 |
| 1917 | 73 | 138 | 118 | 128 | 158 | 151 | July | 74 | 176 | 121 | 133 | 140 | 135 |
| 1918 | 74 | 212 | 131 | 139 | 194 | 184 | Aug. | 74 | 192 | 124 | 130 | 148 | 143 |
| 1919 | 77 | 216 | 126 | 237 | 216 | 206 | Sep. | 72 | 203 | 124 | 131 | 153 | 147 |
| 1920 | 65 | 438 | 168 | 246 | 313 | 296 | Oct. | 72 | 197 | 127 | 127 | 148 | 143 |
| 1921 | 65 | 450 | 158 | 212 | 311 | 295 | Nov. | 72 | 198 | 128 | 127 | 149 | 143 |
| 1922 | 63 | 416 | 163 | 175 | 267 | 253 | Dec. | 72 | 196 | 128 | 128 | 147 | 142 |
| 1923 Apr. | 68 | 241 | 142 | 133 | 186 | 178 | 1925 Jan. | 72 | 205 | 129 | 141 | 152 | 147 |
| .. May | 71 | 235 | 142 | 133 | 183 | 176 | Feb. | 72 | 204 | 131 | 157 | 154 | 148 |
| .. June | 71 | 222 | 145 | 126 | 176 | 168 | Mar. | 72 | 197 | 131 | 154 | 150 | 145 |
| .. July | 72 | 229 | 147 | 136 | 176 | 169 | April | 73 | 192 | 131 | 147 | 146 | 141 |
| .. Aug. | 73 | 216 | 153 | 138 | 168 | 161 | May | 73 | 173 | 121 | 146 | 137 | 133 |
| .. Sep. | 73 | 225 | 133 | 133 | 166 | 159 | June | 73 | 167 | 119 | 142 | 134 | 130 |
| .. Oct. | 72 | 213 | 133 | 131 | 163 | 157 | July | 74 | 169 | 118 | 140 | 134 | 130 |
| .. Nov. | 71 | 216 | 122 | 135 | 163 | 156 | Aug. | 74 | 161 | 118 | 135 | 130 | 126 |
| .. Dec. | 71 | 215 | 122 | 131 | 160 | 154 | Sep. | 74 | 156 | 118 | 133 | 128 | 124 |
| 1924 Jan. | 71 | 196 | 122 | 126 | 151 | 146 | Oct. | 74 | 158 | 121 | 136 | 129 | 125 |
| .. Feb. | 73 | 192 | 122 | 127 | 148 | 143 | Nov. | 74 | 156 | 121 | 139 | 128 | 125 |
| .. Mar. | 74 | 189 | 122 | 128 | 146 | 141 | Dec. | 74 | 165 | 118 | 149 | 134 | 130 |

* Includes Industrial Securities.

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[No. 6]

The Month in Brief

EMPLOYMENT—THE COTTON INDUSTRY

The supply of labour was equal to the demand in the City of Bombay. The statistics regarding employment for the month ended 12th February 1926 showed an average absenteeism of 9.8 per cent. as compared with 23.3 per cent. in the month ended 12th January 1926.

IN AHMEDABAD, the supply of labour was reported to be adequate during the month under review. Detailed reports of absenteeism received from representative mills in this centre showed an average of 2.5 per cent. as compared with 3.6 per cent. last month and 2.7 per cent. two months ago.

IN SHOLAPUR, the supply of labour was adequate and absenteeism showed a slight increase. The average was 13.8 per cent. as compared with 12.1 per cent. last month and 12.6 per cent. two months ago.

IN BROACH, absenteeism was 11.2 per cent. as compared with 10.5 per cent. in the last month. The supply of labour in this centre was adequate.

On the whole therefore the supply of labour in all the abovementioned centres of the industry was adequate during the month but absenteeism increased in Broach and Sholapur while it decreased in Ahmedabad.

THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

In the Engineering Industry in Bombay the supply of labour was equal to the demand. The average of absenteeism in representative engineering workshops (based on the returns from three large establishments) showed a slight decrease; the figure being 10.4 per cent. as compared with 13.2 per cent. last month and 13.3 per cent. two months ago.

On the Marine Lines and Colaba Reclamations of the Development Directorate the average absenteeism was 3.0 per cent., the same as in the five previous months.

There was no absenteeism on the construction of chawls (tenements) at Worli, Naigam and DeLisle Road during the month. The supply of unskilled labour employed for loading, removing, storing and unloading cargo in the docks by the Bombay Port Trust was equal to the demand but absenteeism showed a decrease. The percentage absenteeism was 13.6 as compared with 20.9 in the preceding month and 14.9 two months ago. In the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust the supply

of labour was equal to the demand and a slight fall in absenteeism recorded. The average absenteeism decreased from 10·8 per cent. last month to 9·6 per cent. in the month under review. The percentage of absenteeism based on the attendance of monthly paid workers employed in the engineering workshops of the Karachi Port Trust was 9, as compared with 11 in the preceding month.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING

In February 1926, the Working Class Cost of Living Index number was 154, one point below the level of the previous month. The average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the Cost of Living Index for Bombay City (100 represents the level of July 1914) was 154 for all articles and 150 for food articles only. There was a fall of 3 points as compared with this time last year and of 39 points from the high water mark (October 1920) in the cost of living index. The index number for all food articles declined by one point during the month. Cereals remained steady though the price of wheat advanced by one point. A fall of 6 points in gram resulted in lowering the index number for Pulses by 4 points. The other food articles fell by 2 points, an increase of 9 points in salt, 5 points in ghee and 3 points in tea being offset by a fall of 27 points in potatoes, 5 points in mutton and 2 points in coconut oil. Clothing recorded a further fall of one point and Fuel and lighting remained stationary. The house-rent index number was taken to be 172, i.e., equal to the weighted average for the year 1923-24.

The revision of the Index Number for the Cost of Living of the Bombay Working Classes, referred to in the September and October 1924 Numbers, has been carried out, and the methods and results of the revision are now being scrutinized.

EUROPEAN COST OF LIVING

In January 1926, the European Cost of Living Index Number stood at 158, thus being on the same level as in October 1925 but 5 points below the January 1925 level (163). As compared with October 1925, there was a fall of one point in the food index mainly due to a fall in the prices of beef, chickens and potatoes. Fuel and lighting declined by 3 points because of a decrease in the price of coal. Clothing advanced by 4 points owing to increases in vests for men and in stockings and walking shoes for women. Conveyance rose by 2 points due to a further rise in tyres and inner tubes. The other items remained practically unchanged during the quarter. The index number for the miscellaneous group was 158, the same as in October 1925.

THE WHOLESALE INDEX NUMBER

In January 1926, the general index of wholesale prices in Bombay was 155, the same as in the previous month. Both the food and non-food groups remained stationary during the month. The index number for food-grains only was 141 as against 143 during the previous month. This shows a decrease of 2 points which was due to a fall of 2 points in cereals and 3 points in pulses. Sugar remained steady while other food showed a rise of 4 points.

The general index of all the articles is a mean of the price relatives of all the articles included in the index and is obtained by dividing the sum of

the index numbers of articles for which quotations are available and not by finding the mean of the group index numbers for food and non-food articles. The fluctuations in the prices of foods, non-foods and all articles will be seen in the following table :—

| | Number of items | Increase per cent. over July 1914 | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | September 1925 | October 1925 | November 1925 | December 1925 | January 1926 |
| Foods | 15 | 46 | 49 | 55 | 49 | 49 |
| Non-foods | 27 | 64 | 63 | 62 | 58 | 58 |
| All articles | 42 | 57 | 58 | 60 | 55 | 55 |

The work of revising the list of commodities for the Wholesale Prices Index Number, mentioned in the October 1924 issue of the *Labour Gazette*, has been carried out provisionally for Karachi with the assistance of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and the Collector of Customs, Karachi. So far it has not been possible to effect the much needed revision of the Bombay list. Since the last note on this subject the Labour Office has received intimation from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence that that Department is contemplating taking over the work of constructing Wholesale Prices Index Numbers for various centres in India. The idea is to abandon the all-India Index Number started by Atkinson, and publish Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in the main commercial centres. It is probable therefore that the Wholesale Prices Index Numbers for Bombay and Karachi will be compiled by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence; and the provisional list of commodities arrived at for Karachi has accordingly been furnished to that office.

SECURITIES INDEX NUMBER

In January 1926, the general level of quotations of 102 shares and securities was 129, thus showing a fall of 1 point as compared with the previous month. Government and Corporation (fixed interest) securities, Banks, Railway Companies and Cotton Ginning and Pressing Companies remained stationary. An increase of 7 points in Electric undertakings and of 1 point in Miscellaneous companies was nearly counter-balanced by a fall of 8 points in Cement and Manganese Companies. There was a decrease of 2 points in Cotton Mill shares. Industrial Securities declined by 1 point during the month under review.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

There were four industrial disputes in progress during January 1926. The number of workpeople involved was 405 and the number of working days lost 460.

COTTON MILL PRODUCTION

Cotton Mill production in December 1925 and in the nine months ended December 1925, as compared with the corresponding periods of the two preceding years is shown in the following two tables. The heavy

fall in the production of both yarn and woven goods in Bombay during the month under review as compared with the production during the corresponding months of the previous years was due to the after effects of the general strike in the Cotton Mill Industry. In Ahmedabad and other centres the production of yarn remained on the same level as December 1924, while that of woven goods showed a slight increase.

(1) Month of December

| | Millions of lbs. of yarn spun | | | Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced* | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|------|------|---|------|------|
| | December | | | December | | |
| | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 |
| Bombay City .. | 28 | 31 | 15 | 17 | 20 | 9 |
| Ahmedabad .. | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Other centres .. | 6 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Total, Presidency.. | 42 | 44 | 28 | 28 | 31 | 22 |

(2) Nine months ending December

| | Millions of lbs. of yarn spun | | | Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced* | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|------|------|---|------|------|
| | Nine months ending December | | | Nine months ending December | | |
| | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 |
| Bombay City .. | 241 | 240 | 178 | 164 | 167 | 145 |
| Ahmedabad .. | 53 | 69 | 76 | 55 | 69 | 74 |
| Other centres .. | 41 | 41 | 44 | 26 | 25 | 28 |
| Total, Presidency.. | 335 | 350 | 298 | 245 | 261 | 247 |

The Bombay Millowners' Association quotations at the end of January and December 1925 and January 1926 are as follows:—

| | Net rate per lb. in annas | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | January 1925 | December 1925 | January 1926 |
| Long Cloths .. | 20½ | 17½ | 17½ |
| T. Cloths .. | 19½ | 16½ | 16 |
| Chudders .. | 19½ | 16 | 16 |

* As defined by the Cotton Duties Act II of 1896.

THE OUTLOOK

The fluctuations in the price of raw cotton were within narrow limits. The tone of the market was firm except in the second week under review. A small but steady fresh demand was reported from Europe and the Far East during the first week while a fortnight later export demand became extremely quiet.

Business in English yarn was hardly encouraging except in the last week. The condition of the local yarn market was no better. Demand was poor and fresh business negligible. Prices were unsteady. Business in Manchester piecegoods was not bright. Retail enquiry helped the trade, and prices had a tendency to decline which made dealers cautious. The tone of the local piecegoods market was slightly better. No fresh business was, however, possible.

The financial situation was not easy this month. Demand for money was great. In the first week on account of trade demand of Rs. 455 lakhs, the cash balances of the Imperial Bank would have gone down by nearly 123 lakhs but for Government deposits amounting to Rs. 256 lakhs. In the second, fourth and fifth weeks the cash balances decreased by 15, 226 and 153 lakhs while in the third week they increased by 123 lakhs. Call money was available at from 4½ to 5½ per cent. The Government security market was steady throughout the month except for a sharp relapse at the beginning of the first week owing to money pressure.

The Working Class Cost of Living Index declined by one point in February. The wholesale prices index remained the same as in the previous month. The fall in Industrial Securities was of 1 point.

The bank rate continued at 6 per cent. from 3rd December 1925. The rate of exchanges in Bombay on London on 1st February 1926 was ls. 6½d., the same as on 2nd January 1926.

THE AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK ON 20th FEBRUARY

The following summary of conditions in this Presidency was received from the Director of Agriculture:—

The position regarding crops and rainfall as it appears today in the various divisions of the Bombay Presidency may be briefly summarised as follows:—

Konkan:—Fair to heavy rain was received almost everywhere in this division in the last week of January. This rain proved harmful to grain and fodder lying stacked in fields. The sowing of late crops is now generally over and the young crops are progressing well. The harvesting of *kharif* crops is now finished off nearly everywhere in the division while that of Cardamom, Sugar-cane, betel-nut, etc., still continues in parts of the Kanara District. The condition of the irrigated crops is satisfactory everywhere.

Gujarat:—Here the condition of the crops is generally fair except in the North where the crops are generally in a poor condition owing to deficiency of the late rains. The standing crops such as *Jowar*, cotton, etc., have also suffered in places owing to the untimely rain received in the last week of January. The reaping of the *kharif* crops such as *bajri*, groundnut, *bavto*, etc., is now over generally while that of *tur*, castorseed, late sown *Jowar*, etc., is in progress in places. The cutting of tobacco continues in the Kaira District. The irrigation of *rabi* crops continues wherever possible and such irrigated crops are, on the whole, in a prosperous condition.

Deccan and Karnatak:—Fairly heavy rain was received almost everywhere in the two divisions, in the last week of January. This rain though useful to the late-sown crops in places, has been generally unseasonable and proved harmful to the crops already harvested and lying in threshing yards, in both the divisions. It has, in particular, been very injurious to cotton in the Karnatak, where the opening of bolls having already commenced, the rain has discoloured the cotton. The standing *rabi* crops are generally in fair condition except in the east, such as the eastern portions of Poona, Satara, Belgaum and Dharwar and a large part of the Bijapur district where they are generally in a poor condition owing to the deficiency of the late rains. The irrigated crops, however, are in a flourishing condition almost everywhere in both the divisions.

OUTLOOK IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

In the United Kingdom the total value of imports of materials increased considerably in December. Exports of manufactures also increased. The wholesale prices index number of materials fell slightly in December owing to a fall in the price of cotton. The prices of cotton, however, have already recovered so that by mid-January the index was level with the December average.

There was a small seasonal fall both in retail food prices and the index of living index.

In the Engineering trade there were no indications of an improvement and in some quarters it was believed that the shipbuilding industry was worse off in January than it was a year ago and that, moreover, the engineering trades were being pressed for money as they never were at any previous time.

The depression in the cotton industry continued. Many suggestions were being made for the revival of the industry. It has been suggested for instance that a Committee should be appointed to enquire why orders are so scarce in England while the continental countries are doing so well. The idea of working still shorter hours in the mills spinning American cotton is gaining support.

The index of industrial securities advanced 4 points in the latter half of December. The conditions of the money market were not quite easy.

In France, there was a great deal of trade activity. Prices were going up and so were wages. The production of iron and steel increased and the December figures beat all previous ones.

The industrial situation in Italy continued fairly satisfactory. The depression in the woollen industry has now passed. The cotton and artificial silk factories worked to their utmost capacity.

In the United States the price movements were irregular with a majority of changes in a downward direction in December. Wheat was higher. Beef, cattle, cotton, wool and eggs were lower. Among industrial products iron and steel were firm but copper and lead were rather lower and coke and bituminous coal declined.

The stock market activity during the last three weeks of December fell off somewhat from the record levels of October and November but was higher than during the preceding month. The prices of both stocks and bonds rose.

The foreign exchange rates were generally firm. The pound sterling rose from 4·8441 dollars on December 1 to 4·8521 dollars.

A cable dated January 18 says that business during the month was prosperous and that the building boom continued. The value of exports was the largest since 1920.

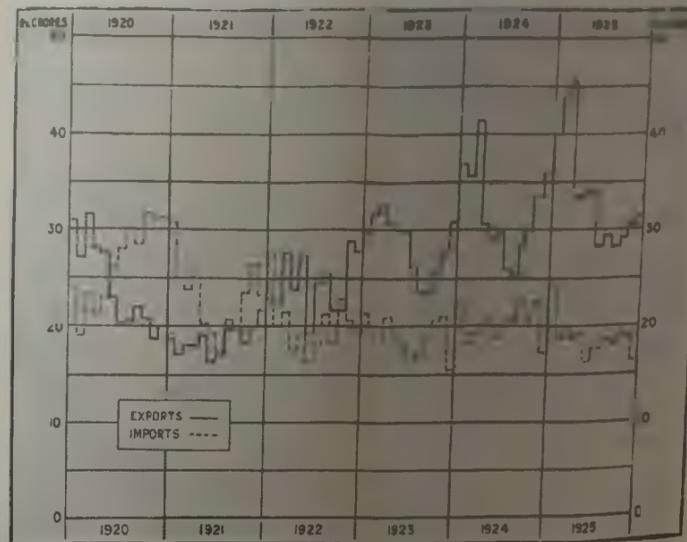
THE BALANCE OF TRADE

During January 1926, the visible balance of trade, including Securities, in favour of India amounted to Rs. 97 lakhs.

The trade figures for the last two months for India, Bombay and Karachi are given below—

| | India | | Bombay | | Karachi | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| | December 1925 | January 1926 | December 1925 | January 1926 | December 1925 | January 1926 |
| | <i>(In lakhs of rupees)</i> | | <i>(In lakhs of rupees)</i> | | <i>(In lakhs of rupees)</i> | |
| Exports (private merchandise) .. | 31.37 | 35.26 | 6.83 | 10.18 | 3.67 | 3.89 |
| Imports do. .. | 18.11 | 22.50 | 5.55 | 7.49 | 1.47 | 2.36 |
| Balance of Trade in merchandise .. | + 13.26 | + 12.76 | + 1.28 | + 2.69 | + 2.20 | + 1.53 |
| Imports of treasure (private) .. | | | 3.66 | 4.02 | 2 | 2 |
| Exports of treasure (private) .. | | | 10 | 43 | 2 | 1 |
| Balance of transactions in treasure (private) .. | - 3.79 | - 4.05 | - 3.56 | - 3.59 | | - 1 |
| Visible balance of trade including securities .. | + 9.47 | + 97 | | | | |

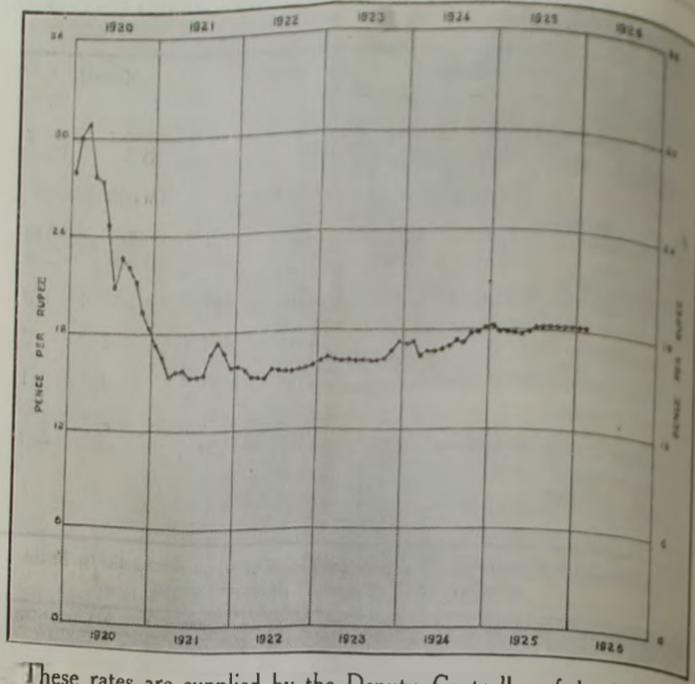
The movements of actual figures of Imports and Exports of private merchandise for British India since 1920 are shown in the annexed diagram



BUSINESS CONDITIONS

The rates for telegraphic transfers in Bombay on London in the first week of the last twelve months are shown below, and also the curve of the movement of the exchange since January 1920.

| | | s. | d. | | s. | d. |
|------------|----|----|-----------|----------------|----|-------------|
| March 1925 | .. | .. | 1 5 31/32 | September 1925 | .. | .. 1 4 3/32 |
| April | .. | .. | 1 5 13/16 | October | .. | .. 1 6 3/32 |
| May | .. | .. | 1 5 13/16 | November | .. | .. 1 6 3/32 |
| June | .. | .. | 1 5 31/32 | December | .. | .. 1 6 3/32 |
| July | .. | .. | 1 6 1/16 | January 1926 | .. | .. 1 6 3/32 |
| August | .. | .. | 1 6 3/32 | February | .. | .. 1 6 3/32 |



These rates are supplied by the Deputy Controller of the Currency, Bombay. On the 24th February 1926, exchange on London was 1s. 6½d.

During January 1926, the Bank clearings in Bombay showed a decrease of Rs. 6 crores while those in Calcutta recorded a rise of Rs. 13 crores. The clearings in Karachi were approximately on the same level as in the previous month and those in Rangoon recorded a rise of 2 crores. The figures for the last three months are as follows:

| | November 1925 | December 1925 | January 1926 |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Bombay | 32 | 41 | 35 |
| Karachi | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Calcutta | 95 | 79 | 92 |
| Rangoon | 9 | 9 | 11 |
| Total | 139 | 132 | 141 |

The percentage of gold and silver in the Paper Currency Reserve for the whole of India at the close of the month of January 1926 was 54.96 as against 55.10 in December and 57.77 in November 1925.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX—FEBRUARY

| Articles | Unit of quantity | Annual comparison (Base Unit) (in crores) | Price per Unit of Quantity | | | Price x Base Unit | | |
|--|------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | July 1914 | Jan. 1926 | Feb. 1926 | July 1914 | Jan. 1926 | Feb. 1926 |
| Cereals | Mound | 20 | Rs. 5.594 | 7.391 | 7.391 | 391.56 | 517.32 | 517.32 |
| Rice | .. | 21 | 5.594 | 7.484 | 7.556 | 117.47 | 157.16 | 158.68 |
| Wheat | .. | 11 | 4.354 | 5.417 | 5.417 | 47.89 | 59.39 | 59.39 |
| Sesam | .. | 6 | 4.313 | 5.609 | 5.609 | 25.88 | 33.65 | 33.65 |
| Total—Cereals | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 582.82 | 767.27 | 769.29 |
| Index Numbers—Cereals | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 100 | 132 | 132 |
| Pulses | Mound | 10 | 4.302 | 6.250 | 6.000 | 43.02 | 62.50 | 60.00 |
| Green | .. | 3 | 5.844 | 7.453 | 7.453 | 17.53 | 22.36 | 22.36 |
| Turhal | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Total—Pulses | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 60.55 | 84.86 | 82.36 |
| Index Numbers—Pulses | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 100 | 140 | 136 |
| Other food articles | Mound | 2 | 7.620 | 13.693 | 13.693 | 15.24 | 30 | 27.39 |
| Sugar (refined) | .. | 7 | 8.557 | 11.286 | 11.286 | 59.90 | 109.00 | 100.00 |
| Raw Sugar (Coff) | .. | .. | 40.000 | 76.000 | 76.000 | 1.00 | 1.91 | 1.94 |
| Tea | .. | 5 | 2.130 | 1.600 | 1.600 | 10.65 | 16.10 | 17.06 |
| Salt | .. | 28 | 0.323 | 0.323 | 0.323 | 9.04 | 14.28 | 14.28 |
| Beef | .. | 33 | 0.417 | 0.417 | 0.417 | 128.77 | 246.16 | 246.16 |
| Mutton | .. | 14 | 9.198 | 11.198 | 11.198 | 76.19 | 145.54 | 149.11 |
| Milk | .. | 13 | 30.786 | 40.000 | 40.000 | 49.27 | 91.66 | 78.55 |
| Ghee | .. | 11 | 8.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 4.66 | 14.28 | 14.28 |
| Potatoes | .. | 3 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 12.70 | 14.58 | 14.59 |
| Onions | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Coconut Oil | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Total—Other food articles | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 381.18 | 698.73 | 689.20 |
| Index Numbers—Other food articles | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 100 | 183 | 181 |
| Total—All food articles | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,064.00 | 1,466.00 | 1,540.85 |
| Index Numbers—All food articles | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 100 | 138 | 130 |
| Fuel and lighting | .. | 5 | 4.375 | 7.438 | 7.438 | 21.86 | 37.19 | 37.19 |
| Kerosene oil | .. | 48 | 0.792 | 1.281 | 1.281 | 38.02 | 61.49 | 61.49 |
| Firewood | .. | 1 | 0.542 | 0.802 | 0.802 | 0.54 | 0.80 | 0.80 |
| Coal | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Total—Fuel and lighting | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 60.44 | 99.48 | 99.48 |
| Index Numbers—Fuel and lighting | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 100 | 165 | 165 |
| Clothing | .. | 27 | 0.594 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 16.04 | 27.00 | 27.00 |
| Chudlers | .. | 25 | 0.641 | 1.162 | 1.135 | 16.03 | 28.40 | 28.40 |
| Shirtings | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| T. Cloth | .. | 36 | 0.583 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 20.98 | 35.60 | 35.60 |
| Total—Clothing | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 53.06 | 91.00 | 91.00 |
| Index Numbers—Clothing | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 100 | 173 | 165 |
| House-rent | Per month. | 10 | 11.302 | .. | .. | 113.02 | 113.02 | 113.02 |
| Index Numbers—House rent | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 100 | 100 | 172 |
| Grand Total | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,281.60 | 1,607.20 | 1,926.11 |
| Cost of Living Index Numbers | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 100 | 125 | 154 |

The Cost of Living Index for February 1926

A FALL OF ONE POINT

All articles 54 per cent. Food only .. 50 per cent.

In February 1926 the average level of retail prices for all the commodities taken into account in the statistics of a cost of living index for the working classes in Bombay City was one point lower than that in the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the general index number was 155 in January and 154 in February 1926. This is 39 points below the high-water mark (193) reached in October 1920 and one point below the twelve-monthly average of 1925.

The index number for all food articles declined by one point due to decreases of 4 points in Pulses and 2 points in other food articles. A fall of 6 points in the price of gram resulted in lowering the index number for Pulses by 4 points. Wheat rose by one point though Cereals remained steady during the month. An increase of 9 points in salt, 5 points in ghee and 3 points in tea was offset by a fall of 27 points in potatoes, 5 points in mutton and 2 points in cocoanut oil thus changing the index number for other food from 183 to 181. The other items remained practically unchanged during the month under review.

The fuel and lighting group has remained constant, being 165 since March 1925. Clothing declined by one point as a result of a fall in the price of shirtings.

All items : Average percentage increase over July 1914

| | 1919 | 1920 | 1921 | 1922 | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 | 1926 |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| — | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. |
| January .. | 82 | 83 | 69 | 73 | 56 | 59 | 57 | 55 |
| February .. | 76 | 81 | 62 | 65 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 54 |
| March .. | 72 | 77 | 60 | 65 | 54 | 54 | 59 | |
| April .. | 67 | 72 | 60 | 62 | 56 | 50 | 58 | |
| May .. | 68 | 73 | 67 | 63 | 53 | 50 | 56 | |
| June .. | 74 | 81 | 73 | 63 | 52 | 53 | 54 | |
| July .. | 86 | 90 | 77 | 65 | 53 | 57 | 57 | |
| August .. | 79 | 91 | 80 | 64 | 54 | 61 | 52 | |
| September .. | 72 | 92 | 85 | 65 | 54 | 61 | 51 | |
| October .. | 74 | 93 | 83 | 62 | 52 | 61 | 53 | |
| November .. | 73 | 86 | 82 | 60 | 53 | 61 | 53 | |
| December .. | 74 | 81 | 79 | 61 | 57 | 60 | 55 | |
| Yearly average .. | 75 | 83 | 73 | 64 | 54 | 57 | 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 following table shows the price levels of articles of food in January and February 1926 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 :—

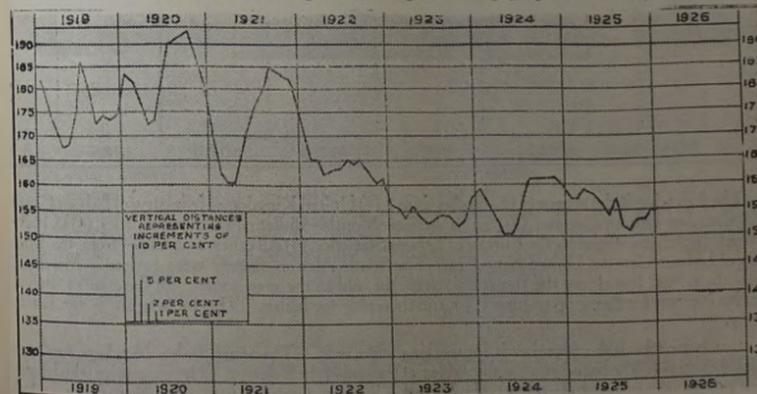
| Articles | July 1914 | Jan. 1926 | Feb. 1926 | Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in Feb. 1926 over or below Jan. 1926 | Articles | July 1914 | Jan. 1926 | Feb. 1926 | Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in Feb. 1926 over or below Jan. 1926 |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|
| Rice | 100 | 132 | 132 | . | Salt | 100 | 151 | 162 | + 9 |
| Wheat | 100 | 134 | 135 | + 1 | Beef | 100 | 158 | 158 | . |
| Jowari | 100 | 124 | 124 | . | Mutton | 100 | 195 | 190 | - 5 |
| Bajri | 100 | 130 | 130 | . | Milk | 100 | 191 | 191 | . |
| Gram | 100 | 145 | 139 | - 6 | Ghee | 100 | 191 | 196 | + 5 |
| Turdal | 100 | 128 | 128 | . | Potatoes | 100 | 186 | 159 | -27 |
| Sugar (refined) | 100 | 180 | 180 | . | Onions | 100 | 307 | 307 | . |
| Raw sugar (gul) | 100 | 167 | 167 | . | Cocoanut oil .. | 100 | 115 | 113 | - 2 |
| Tea | 100 | 191 | 194 | + 3 | All food articles (weighted average) | 100 | 151 | 150 | - 1 |

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

Rice 24, Wheat 26, Jowari 19, Bajri 23, Gram 28, Turdal 22, Sugar (refined) 44, Raw Sugar (gul) 40, Tea 48, Salt 38, Beef 37, Mutton 47, Milk 48, Ghee 49, Potatoes 37, Onions 67, Cocoanut Oil 12.

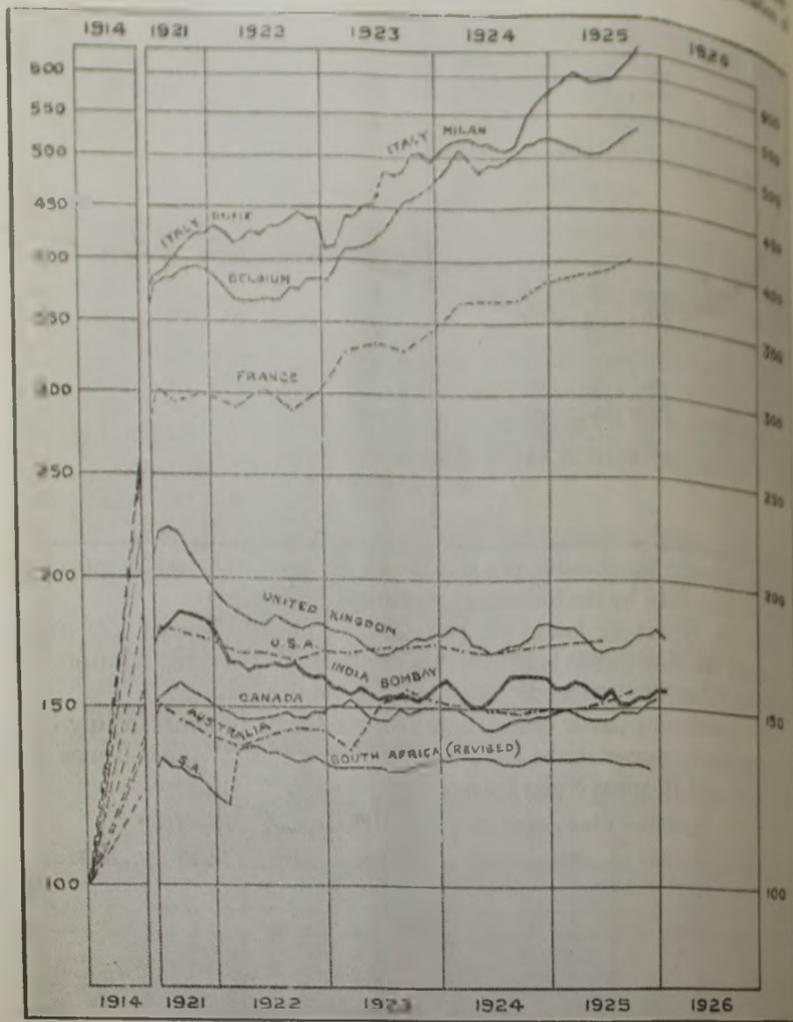
The purchasing power of the rupee being taken as 16 annas in July 1914 its purchasing power in the month under review was 10 annas 5 pies for all items and 10 annas 8 pies for food articles only.

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



Comparison with the Cost of Living in other Countries

The diagram on this page shows the comparative levels of the cost of living Index Nos. in Bombay and certain other world centres from the middle of 1920. 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 is the source of the Index Nos : (1) United Kingdom—Ministry of Labour Gazette, (2) Canada—Labour Gazette, (3) South Africa—Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics, (4) U.S.A.—Monthly Bulletin issued by the Bureau of Labour Statistics, (5) All other countries—from the Ministry of Labour Gazette, United Kingdom. The South African figures were revised in March 1922 and the dotted line shows the transition from the old to the new series. 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 class 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

WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY—PRICES STATIONARY.

In January 1926 the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay was 55 per cent above the level in July 1914. The food, non-food and general prices averaged the same as in the previous month. The general index has fallen by 108 points from the highest peak (263) reached in August 1918 and is 8 points below the twelve-monthly average of 1925.

The index number for food-grains recorded a further fall of 2 points owing to decreases of 2 and 3 points respectively in Cereals and Pulses. This fall was mainly due to decreases of 2 points in wheat, 3 points in barley and 6 points in gram.

The index number for food articles remained steady, the fall of 2 points in food-grains being counterbalanced by a rise of 4 points in "Other food". Sugar (refined) increased by 10 points while gull declined by 9 points. Turmeric advanced by 5 points, ghee by 3 points and salt by 4 points.

The index number for non-food articles showed no change during the month. There was a fall of 2 points in Oilseeds and of 5 points in Cotton manufactures. But this was nearly counterbalanced by a rise of 6 points in Hides and Skins, 3 points in Other raw and manufactured articles and 1 point each in Metals and Other textiles. The price of Raw cotton was assumed to be the same as in September as no quotations for the subsequent months were available.

The subjoined table compares January 1926 prices with those of the preceding month and the corresponding month last year :—

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay*

| Groups | No. of items | 1925 | | Groups | 1926 | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------|-----------|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | Jan. 1925 | Jan. 1926 | | Jan. | Apr. | July | Oct. | Dec. | Jan. |
| 1. Cereals | 7 | -1 | -4 | 1. Cereals | 103 | 100 | 95 | 99 | 100 | 99 |
| 2. Pulses | 2 | -2 | +17 | 2. Pulses | 95 | 97 | 95 | 104 | 114 | 111 |
| 3. Sugar | 3 | .. | -15 | 3. Sugar | 105 | 107 | 96 | 92 | 90 | 90 |
| 4. Other food | 3 | +2 | -36 | 4. Other food | 138 | 99 | 95 | 92 | 87 | 89 |
| All food | 15 | .. | -14 | All food | 112 | 101 | 95 | 96 | 96 | 96 |
| 5. Oilseeds | 4 | -2 | -11 | 5. Oilseeds | 104 | 99 | 101 | 94 | 93 | 92 |
| 6. Raw cotton | 3 | .. | -12 | 6. Raw cotton | 109 | 104 | 95 | 96 | 96 | 96 |
| 7. Cotton manufactures | 6 | -3 | -14 | 7. Cotton manufactures | 104 | 102 | 100 | 98 | 92 | 90 |
| 8. Other textiles | 2 | +1 | -11 | 8. Other textiles | 109 | 103 | 94 | 99 | 96 | 97 |
| 9. Hides and skins | 3 | +4 | +31 | 9. Hides & skins | 81 | 100 | 95 | 103 | 102 | 106 |
| 10. Metals | 5 | +1 | -8 | 10. Metals | 105 | 102 | 97 | 98 | 96 | 96 |
| 11. Other raw and manufactured articles | 4 | +2 | -1 | 11. Other raw and manufactured articles | 101 | 101 | 98 | 101 | 96 | 100 |
| All non-food | 27 | .. | -8 | All non-food | 103 | 101 | 98 | 98 | 96 | 95 |
| General Index No. | 42 | .. | -10 | General Index No. | 106 | 101 | 97 | 97 | 95 | 95 |

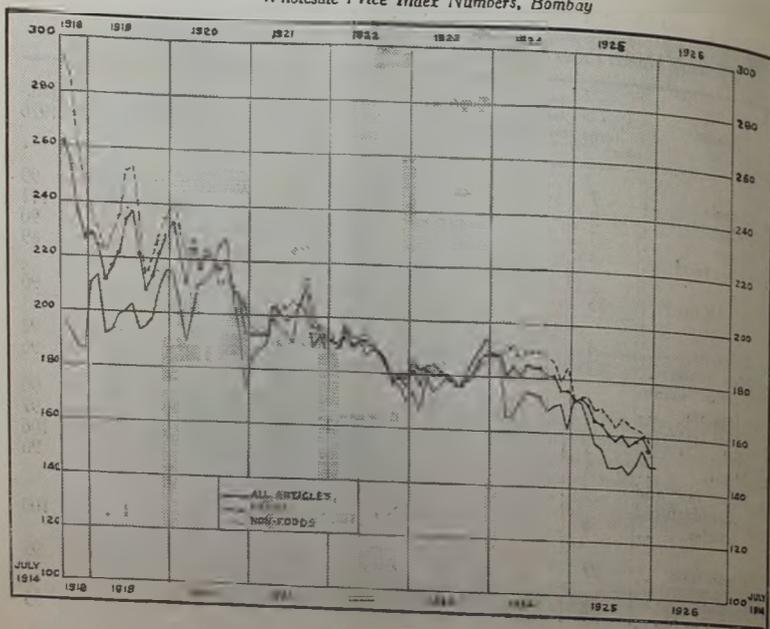
* Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on page 510.

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 | 222 |
| " " 1920 | 206 | 219 | 216 |
| " " 1921 | 193 | 201 | 199 |
| " " 1922 | 186 | 187 | 187 |
| " " 1923 | 179 | 182 | 181 |
| " " 1924 | 173 | 188 | 182 |
| " " 1925 | 155 | 167 | 163 |
| One monthly " 1926 | 149 | 158 | 155 |

The diagram below shows from September 1918, which was the month in which the great failure of the rains affected food-grain prices in India, the course of the changes in the Index Numbers for Foods, Non-foods and all articles in the Bombay wholesale market.

Wholesale Price Index Numbers, Bombay

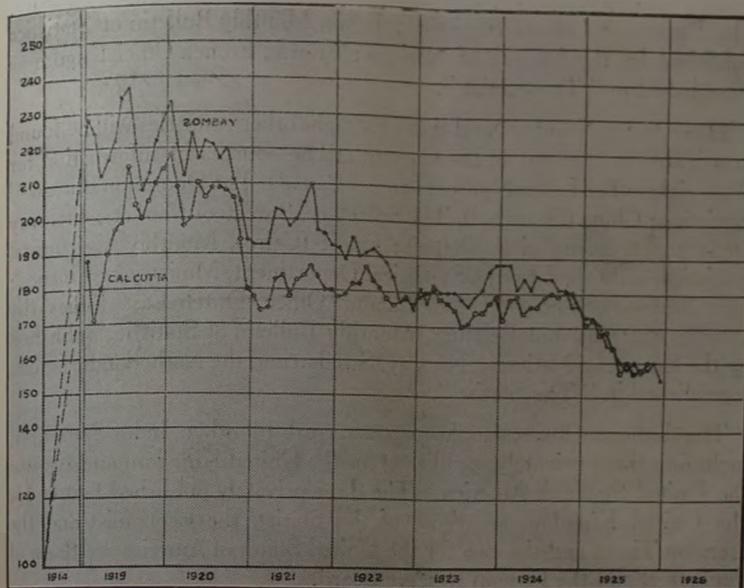


COMPARISON BETWEEN THE INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA

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.

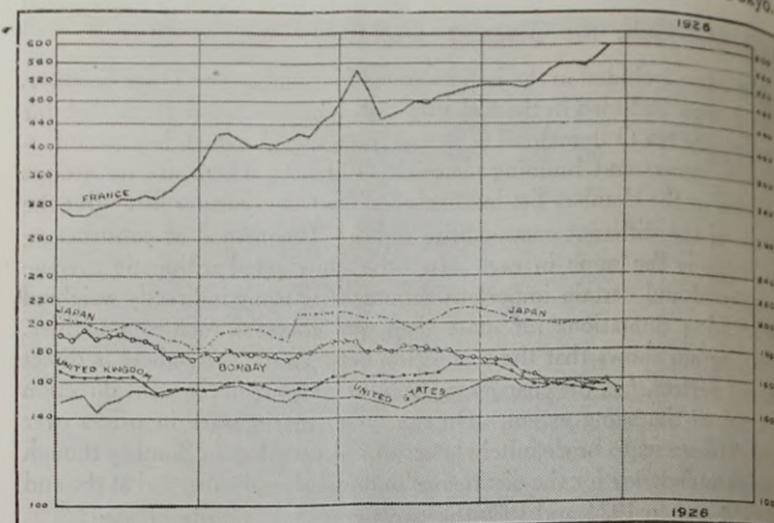
The items included in the indices are 42 for Bombay and 71 for Calcutta. The groups included in the Calcutta index but excluded from that for Bombay are tea (3 items), oil (2 items), jute raw (1 item), jute manufactures (4 items) and building materials (1 item). There are no groups included in the Bombay 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. On the whole the increase in prices over July 1914 seems to be definitely lower in Calcutta than in Bombay though there is a tendency for the divergence to diminish in degree, and at the end of 1922 and in 1924 and 1925 the two curves temporarily crossed.

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 Labour Statistics ; Japan, Monthly Bulletin of Statistics published by the League of Nations ; France, French Official figure as republished in " The Statist ".

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), The Secretary, Bureau of Markets, Treasury Department, Shanghai (by letter) ; 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 and Belgium, Monthly Bulletin of Statistics published by the League of Nations ; Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands, figures republished in " The Statist ".

The Labour Office also keeps on record 14 other Index Numbers, including three privately published for the United Kingdom and two 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 two for the United States of America are those of Bradstreet and the Federal Reserve Board.

RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN BOMBAY

| Article | Grade | Rate per | Equivalent in 1914 | 1925 | | | 1926 | |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|
| | | | | July 1925 | Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | Jan 1926 over or below Dec 1925 | Dec 1925 |
| Rice | Rangoon Small-mill | Paylee | 212 | 5 10 | 7 10 | 7 10 | + 2 0 | |
| Wheat | Pisti Seoni | " | 216 | 5 10 | 8 1 | 8 1 | + 2 3 | |
| Jowari | Best Sholapuri | " | 200 | 4 3 | 5 9 | 5 5 | + 1 2 | - 0 4 |
| Bajri | Ghati | " | 208 | 4 7 | 5 11 | 5 10 | + 1 3 | - 0 1 |
| Gram | Delhi | " | 200 | 4 4 | 6 1 | 6 3 | + 1 11 | + 0 2 |
| Turdal | Canwarpore | " | 208 | 5 11 | 7 8 | 7 9 | + 1 10 | + 0 1 |
| Sugar (refined) | Java, white | Seer | 28 | 1 1 | 1 10 | 1 11 | + 0 10 | + 0 1 |
| Raw Sugar (Gul) | Sangli, middle quality | " | 28 | 1 2 | 2 2 | 2 0 | + 0 10 | - 0 2 |
| Tea | Loose Ceylon, powder | Lb. | 39 | 7 10 | 14 7 | 14 11 | + 7 1 | + 0 4 |
| Salt | Bombay, black | Paylee | 176 | 1 9 | 2 11 | 2 10 | + 1 1 | - 0 1 |
| Beef | .... | Lb. | 39 | 2 6 | 4 0 | 4 0 | + 1 6 | |
| Mutton | .... | " | 39 | 3 0 | 6 5 | 6 4 | + 3 4 | - 0 1 |
| Milk | Medium | Seer | 56 | 9 | 4 11 | 4 11 | + 2 2 | |
| Ghee | Belgaum, Superior | " | 28 | 1 | 14 0 | 7 | + 6 6 | - 0 5 |
| Potatoes | Ordinary | " | 28 | 0 8 | 1 0 | 1 2 | + 0 6 | + 0 2 |
| Onions | Naik | " | 28 | 0 3 | 0 6 | 0 8 | + 0 5 | + 0 2 |
| Cocconut oil | Middle quality | " | 28 | 3 7 | 4 0 | 4 1 | + 0 6 | + 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.
2. Kumbharwada—Kumbharwada Road (North End).
3. Saitan Chowki—Kumbharwada Road (South End).
4. Elphinstone Road.
5. Naigam—Naigam Cross Road and Development Chawls.
6. Parel—Poibawdi.
7. Fergusson Road.
8. DeLisle Road.
9. Suparibag—Suparibag Road.
10. Chinchpokli—Parel Road.
11. Grant Road.
12. 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 for actual transactions and are carefully collected by the Investigators of the Labour Office.

The variations in prices during January 1926 as compared with the previous month were within narrow limits. There was a rise of 2 pies in gram and of one pie in turdal per paylee. Bajri and jowari declined by one and 4 pies respectively per paylee while rice and wheat remained stationary during the month. In the case of other articles of food, tea advanced by 4 pies per lb., potatoes and onions by 2 pies each and sugar and cocconut oil by one pie each per seer. Ghee and raw-sugar (gul) decreased by 5 and 2 pies respectively per seer, mutton by one pie per lb. and salt by one pie per paylee.

As compared with July 1914, mutton and onions have more than doubled in price. Sugar, gul, tea, salt, beef, milk, ghee and potatoes are more than 50 per cent. above the pre-war level. The rise in the prices of food-grains has been comparatively much less,

COMPARATIVE RETAIL PRICES

The following table compares the retail food prices in Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona with those in Bombay in December 1925 and January 1926 (Bombay prices = 100). It will be seen that the average retail price levels in all the centres are below the level of Bombay in January 1926.

| Bombay prices in Dec. 1925 = 100 | | | | | Bombay prices in Jan. 1926 = 100 | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|-------|
| Articles | Bombay | Karachi | Ahmedabad | Sholapur | Poona | Articles | Bombay | Karachi | Ahmedabad | Sholapur | Poona |
| Cereals— | | | | | | Cereals— | | | | | |
| Rice .. | 100 | 108 | 120 | 114 | 120 | Rice .. | 100 | 108 | 120 | 114 | 120 |
| Wheat .. | 100 | 94 | 107 | 99 | 105 | Wheat .. | 100 | 97 | 107 | 99 | 105 |
| Jowari .. | 100 | 83 | 87 | 63 | 95 | Jowari .. | 100 | 50 | 92 | 66 | 100 |
| Bajri .. | 100 | 88 | 108 | 74 | 102 | Bajri .. | 100 | 91 | 110 | 72 | 104 |
| Average— | | | | | | Average— | | | | | |
| Cereals .. | 100 | 93 | 106 | 88 | 106 | Cereals .. | 100 | 97 | 107 | 88 | 107 |
| Pulses— | | | | | | Pulses— | | | | | |
| Gram .. | 100 | 83 | 101 | 92 | 89 | Gram .. | 100 | 85 | 98 | 90 | 84 |
| Turdal .. | 100 | 100 | 121 | 98 | 105 | Turdal .. | 100 | 107 | 119 | 108 | 98 |
| Average— | | | | | | Average— | | | | | |
| Pulses .. | 100 | 92 | 111 | 95 | 97 | Pulses .. | 100 | 96 | 109 | 99 | 91 |
| Other articles of food— | | | | | | Other articles of food— | | | | | |
| Sugar (refined) .. | 100 | 89 | 94 | 102 | 89 | Sugar (refined) .. | 100 | 83 | 92 | 97 | 88 |
| Jagri (Gul) .. | 100 | 74 | 103 | 86 | 91 | Jagri (Gul) .. | 100 | 80 | 93 | 93 | 84 |
| Tea .. | 100 | 107 | 107 | 122 | 130 | Tea .. | 100 | 105 | 105 | 120 | 127 |
| Salt .. | 100 | 60 | 69 | 97 | 89 | Salt .. | 100 | 62 | 71 | 96 | 92 |
| Beef .. | 100 | 123 | 123 | 61 | 74 | Beef .. | 100 | 110 | 123 | 61 | 74 |
| Mutton .. | 100 | 91 | 76 | 76 | 68 | Mutton .. | 100 | 77 | 77 | 77 | 74 |
| Milk .. | 100 | 54 | 57 | 76 | 76 | Milk .. | 100 | 51 | 45 | 76 | 69 |
| Ghee .. | 100 | 80 | 75 | 80 | 84 | Ghee .. | 100 | 82 | 73 | 76 | 76 |
| Potatoes .. | 100 | 86 | 118 | 80 | 74 | Potatoes .. | 100 | 62 | 74 | 66 | 87 |
| Onions .. | 100 | 115 | 120 | 101 | 63 | Onions .. | 100 | 93 | 84 | 88 | 78 |
| Cocoa nut oil .. | 100 | 102 | 124 | 118 | 98 | Cocoa nut oil .. | 100 | 100 | 122 | 115 | 96 |
| Average— | | | | | | Average— | | | | | |
| Other articles of food .. | 100 | 89 | 97 | 91 | 85 | Other articles of food .. | 100 | 82 | 87 | 88 | 84 |
| Average— | | | | | | Average— | | | | | |
| All food articles .. | 100 | 80 | 101 | 91 | 91 | All food articles .. | 100 | 87 | 94 | 89 | 80 |

Actual relative prices at these centres will be found among the miscellaneous tables at the end of the Gazette; the differences of relative prices at the different centres are considerable. As compared with the previous month the relative averages for all food articles have fallen at all the mofussil centres, there being a fall of 7 points at Ahmedabad, 3 points at Karachi, 2 points at Sholapur and one point at Poona. Referring back to January 1925 it is found that in relation to Bombay the Karachi average is one point higher, the Ahmedabad and Sholapur averages 2 and 3 points lower than in that month and the Poona average the same. Of individual articles, the relative prices of wheat, gul and tea have risen while those of sugar (refined), salt and mutton have fallen at all the four mofussil centres. Potatoes at Sholapur stood at 120 and are now 66. Reading from left to right the relative prices of jowari were 100, 77, 73, 84 and 107 which bear little resemblance to the current relative prices. Both the differences between different centres at any given date and the fluctuations of those differences are surprisingly high, and it is not at the moment apparent why an article not locally produced (like tea and refined sugar) should sometimes be dearer and sometimes cheaper at any mofussil centre than at Bombay.

Securities Index Number

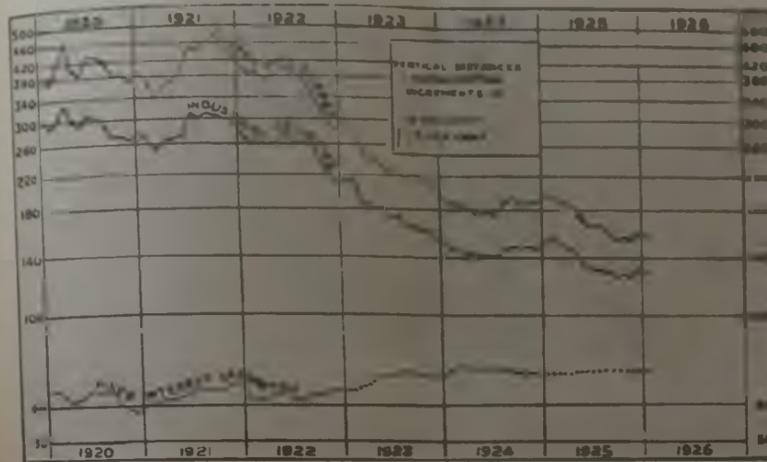
A FALL OF ONE POINT

In January 1926 the general level of prices of 102 shares and securities included in the Labour Office Securities Index Number was 129 as compared with 130 during the previous month. Government and Corporation (local interest) securities, Banks, Railway Companies and Cotton Ginning and Pressing Companies remained steady during the month. The rise of 2 points in Electric Undertakings and of one point in Miscellaneous Companies was nearly counterbalanced by a fall of 6 points in Cement and Mining Companies. A fall of 2 points in Cotton Mill shares resulted in lowering the index number for Industrial securities by one point.

The Construction of the Index

| No. | — | — | July 1914 | | January 1926 | |
|-----|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--|
| | | | Total numbers | Total numbers | Average | |
| 1 | Government and Corporation Securities .. | 7 Index Nos. .. | 700 | 519 | 74 | |
| 2 | Banks .. | 6 " " " " .. | 600 | 810 | 135 | |
| 3 | Railway Companies .. | 10 " " " " .. | 1,000 | 1,094 | 109 | |
| 4 | Cotton Mills .. | 42 " " " " .. | 4,200 | 8,808 | 163 | |
| 5 | Cotton Ginning and Pressing Companies .. | 8 " " " " .. | 800 | 946 | 118 | |
| 6 | Cement and Manganese Companies .. | 5 " " " " .. | 500 | 547 | 109 | |
| 7 | Electric Undertakings .. | 2 " " " " .. | 200 | 312 | 156 | |
| 8 | Miscellaneous Companies .. | 22 " " " " .. | 2,200 | 2,053 | 95 | |
| 9 | Industrial Securities .. | 95 " " " " .. | 9,500 | 12,617 | 133 | |
| 10 | General average .. | 102 " " " " .. | 10,200 | 13,136 | 129 | |

Movements of Securities Index Nos. (Logarithmic Scale)



European Cost of Living Index

PRICES STATIONARY

All items 58 per cent. Food only 67 per cent.

A description of the scope and method of construction of the index relating to families living in Bombay in European style was published on pages 13-15 of the *Labour Gazette* for April 1924. Certain changes which were subsequently carried out were described on page 10 of the *Labour Gazette* for August 1924. In computing the index number from October 1924 it was found necessary to utilize a new source of information for certain price quotations as the old firm could not furnish comparable data. Care has however been taken to see that the quotations obtained from the new firm are comparable with those of the old one.

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

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

The newspaper criticism on the index previously published attacked especially the rates for "Servants' wages" and "Rents". These two items were made the subject of special enquiries. The changes with regard to "Servants' wages" referred to in the November 1924 issue of the *Labour Gazette* have been carried out and the index numbers since January 1924 have been changed. In regard to "Rents" no change seems to be necessary before the 1924-25 data are collected from the Municipal Assessment Ledgers.

It is necessary again to emphasize that the index is only applicable to cases where the standard of living remains unaltered. As a matter of fact the standard of living does not remain unaltered, but normally moves upward in all strata of society. This movement is probably not measurable in arithmetic terms, but allowance should be made for it by persons using the index. It is also necessary to remark that the effect of any deterioration or improvement in quality and durability of the same article for different years cannot be shown. For example, shoes may possibly last a shorter time now than the same trade variety of shoe lasted in 1914. On the other hand tyres possibly last longer. Changes of quality would however affect mainly the factor "Annual number or quantity required."

and their effect on the index number would be small, especially if some changes are in one direction and others in the opposite direction.

As compared with October 1925, the general index number in January 1926 showed no change. The general index number is five points lower than the level in January 1925.

Group Fluctuations

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

| Group or item | Month and Year | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | October 1920 | January 1925 | October 1925 | January 1926 |
| I. Food— | | | | |
| Stores | 204 | 179 | 163 | 167 |
| | 216 | 179 | 163 | 169 |
| All food | 207 | 179 | 164 | 167 |
| II. Fuel and lighting | 159 | 119 | 117 | 114 |
| III. Clothing | 249 | 168 | 153 | 162 |
| IV. House-rent | 132 | 163 | 163 | 163 |
| V. Miscellaneous— | | | | |
| Servants | 140 | 184 | 184 | 184 |
| Conveyance | 157 | 153 | 145 | 147 |
| School-fees, etc... | 116 | 126 | 128 | 128 |
| Passages | 123 | 164 | 162 | 162 |
| Income-tax | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| Household necessaries | 168 | 137 | 136 | 136 |
| Others | 220 | 211 | 211 | 211 |
| All miscellaneous | 144 | 160 | 158 | 158 |
| General Index No. | 157 | 163 | 158 | 158 |

It will be seen that in January 1926 the food index declined by one point mainly due to a fall in the prices of beef, chickens and potatoes which more than counterbalanced the increases in mutton and tomatoes. Fuel and lighting recorded a decrease of 3 points owing to a fall in the price of coal. Vests for men and stockings and walking shoes for women advanced in price and the index number for Clothing rose by 4 points. Conveyance showed an increase of 2 points due to a further rise in the prices of tyres and inner tubes. Passages and school-fees remained the same owing to the steady rate of exchange during the period. Household necessaries showed no change. The index number for the Miscellaneous group was 158, the same as in October 1925.

General Index Numbers

The following are the general index numbers for certain months in the years 1919, 1920, 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926:—

| Month and Year | July 1914 = 100 | | Month and Year | Index No. |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| | Index No. | Index No. | | |
| October 1919 | 146 | 146 | January 1925 | 163 |
| October 1920 | 157 | 157 | April 1925 | 162 |
| July 1923 | 167 | 167 | July 1925 | 160 |
| April 1924 | 167 | 167 | October 1925 | 158 |
| October 1924 | 162 | 162 | January 1926 | 158 |

BOMBAY EUROPEAN COST OF LIVING INDEX

| Articles | Unit of quantity | Annual No. or quantity required per family | Price per unit of quantity | | | Price x Annual No. or quantity required | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--|----------------------------|----------|----------|---|----------|----------|
| | | | July 1914 | Oct 1925 | Jan 1926 | July 1914 | Oct 1925 | Jan 1926 |
| | | | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| Food-Bazaar | | | | | | | | |
| Meat— | | | | | | | | |
| Beef (selected) .. | Pound .. | 132 | 0.250 | 0.406 | 0.438 | 33.00 | 51.59 | 57.82 |
| Beef (for soup and stewing) .. | " .. | 720 | 0.125 | 0.156 | 0.125 | 90.00 | 77.95 | 90.00 |
| Mutton .. | " .. | 192 | 0.250 | 0.406 | 0.469 | 48.00 | 112.32 | 90.00 |
| Kidneys .. | Each .. | 96 | 0.073 | 0.073 | 0.073 | 4.51 | 7.01 | 7.01 |
| Suet .. | Pound .. | 36 | 0.313 | 0.438 | 0.438 | 11.27 | 15.77 | 15.77 |
| Poultry— | | | | | | | | |
| Chickens .. | Each .. | 48 | 0.375 | 0.813 | 0.750 | 18.00 | 39.02 | 36.00 |
| Fowls .. | " .. | 24 | 1.000 | 1.375 | 1.375 | 24.00 | 33.00 | 33.00 |
| Eggs .. | Dozen .. | 360 | 0.375 | 0.594 | 0.594 | 135.00 | 213.84 | 213.84 |
| Dairy— | | | | | | | | |
| Milk .. | Seer .. | 900 | 0.250 | 0.500 | 0.500 | 225.00 | 450.00 | 450.00 |
| Butter .. | Pound .. | 96 | 0.750 | 1.250 | 1.250 | 72.00 | 120.00 | 120.00 |
| Bread .. | " .. | 360 | 0.094 | 0.146 | 0.146 | 33.84 | 52.56 | 52.56 |
| Vegetables— | | | | | | | | |
| Potatoes .. | Seer .. | 360 | 0.063 | 0.094 | 0.078 | 22.68 | 33.84 | 28.08 |
| Onions .. | " .. | 120 | 0.021 | 0.047 | 0.047 | 2.52 | 5.64 | 5.64 |
| Tomatoes .. | " .. | 60 | 0.094 | 0.109 | 0.156 | 5.64 | 6.54 | 9.36 |
| Fruit— | | | | | | | | |
| Bananas .. | Dozen .. | 24 | 0.188 | 0.313 | 0.313 | 4.51 | 7.51 | 7.51 |
| Total .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 729.97 | 1,228.59 | 1,216.64 |
| Index No. .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 100 | 168 | 167 |
| Food-Store— | | | | | | | | |
| Coffee .. | Pound .. | 12 | 1.625 | 2.375 | 2.375 | 19.50 | 28.50 | 28.50 |
| Tea .. | " .. | 12 | 0.938 | 1.875 | 1.875 | 11.26 | 22.50 | 22.50 |
| Rice .. | " .. | 36 | 0.313 | 0.375 | 0.375 | 11.27 | 13.50 | 22.50 |
| Flour .. | 7 lb. tin .. | 6 | 1.000 | 1.750 | 1.750 | 6.00 | 10.50 | 13.50 |
| Sugar .. | Pound .. | 240 | 0.125 | 0.250 | 0.250 | 30.00 | 60.00 | 10.50 |
| Salt .. | 2 1/2 lb. .. | 4 | 0.438 | 1.063 | 1.063 | 1.75 | 4.25 | 60.00 |
| Cheese .. | Pound .. | 24 | 1.000 | 2.250 | 2.250 | 24.00 | 54.00 | 4.25 |
| Jam .. | " .. | 48 | 0.438 | 0.750 | 0.750 | 21.02 | 36.00 | 54.00 |
| Sauce .. | 1/2 Bottle .. | 12 | 1.625 | 2.250 | 2.125 | 19.50 | 27.00 | 36.00 |
| Biscuits .. | 2 lb. tin .. | 12 | 1.438 | 3.000 | 3.250 | 17.26 | 36.00 | 25.50 |
| Oats .. | " .. | 24 | 0.625 | 0.875 | 0.875 | 15.00 | 21.00 | 39.00 |
| Soda-water .. | Per dozen .. | 96 | 0.375 | 0.750 | 0.750 | 36.00 | 72.00 | 21.00 |
| Cigarettes .. | 50 .. | 72 | 1.250 | 1.875 | 1.875 | 90.00 | 135.00 | 72.00 |
| Cheroots .. | 50 .. | 12 | 1.500 | 1.625 | 1.625 | 18.00 | 19.50 | 72.00 |
| Total .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 320.56 | 539.75 | 541.25 |
| Index No. .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 100 | 168 | 169 |
| All-Food Total | | | | | | | | |
| Index No. .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 1,050.53 | 1,768.34 | 1,757.89 |
| Fuel and lighting— | | | | | | | | |
| Coal .. | Ton .. | 12 | 18.000 | 22.875 | 21.875 | 216.00 | 274.50 | 262.50 |
| Electricity .. | Unit .. | 768 | 0.250 | 0.250 | 0.250 | 192.00 | 192.00 | 192.00 |
| Matches .. | Dozen .. | 36 | 0.094 | 0.250 | 0.250 | 3.38 | 9.00 | 9.00 |
| Kerosene oil .. | Tin .. | 6 | 2.185 | 3.719 | 3.719 | 13.11 | 22.31 | 22.31 |
| Total .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 424.48 | 497.81 | 485.81 |
| Index No. .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 100 | 117 | 114 |
| Clothing Men— | | | | | | | | |
| Shirts .. | Each .. | 1 dozen | 3.000 | 4.500 | 4.500 | 36.00 | 54.00 | 54.00 |
| Vests .. | " .. | " .. | 1.375 | 2.250 | 2.750 | 8.25 | 13.50 | 16.50 |
| Socks .. | Pair .. | 9 pairs | 2.500 | 3.333 | 3.542 | 22.50 | 30.00 | 31.88 |
| Collars (stiff, white 4 fold) .. | Dozen .. | 1 dozen | 7.500 | 12.500 | 12.500 | 7.50 | 12.50 | 12.50 |
| Collars (soft white) .. | " .. | " .. | 7.500 | 12.500 | 12.500 | 7.50 | 12.50 | 12.50 |
| Cotton suit .. | Each .. | 1 .. | 15.000 | 35.000 | 35.000 | 90.00 | 210.00 | 210.00 |
| Coat, Sports .. | " .. | " .. | 35.000 | 39.500 | 39.500 | 23.33 | 26.33 | 26.33 |
| Pyjamas, Suits .. | Pair .. | 4 pairs | 15.000 | 27.000 | 27.000 | 60.00 | 108.00 | 108.00 |
| Hats .. | Each .. | 1 .. | 12.500 | 10.500 | 10.500 | 18.00 | 10.50 | 10.50 |
| Shoes .. | Pair .. | 1 pair | 18.000 | 40.000 | 40.000 | 18.00 | 40.00 | 40.00 |
| Lounge suit .. | Each .. | 1 .. | 65.000 | 110.000 | 110.000 | 32.50 | 55.00 | 53.00 |
| Rain coat .. | " .. | " .. | 65.000 | 97.500 | 97.500 | 13.00 | 19.50 | 17.50 |
| Ties .. | " .. | 4 .. | 2.750 | 4.500 | 4.375 | 11.00 | 18.00 | 17.50 |
| Total .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 342.08 | 609.83 | 614.21 |
| Index No. .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 100 | 178 | 180 |

BOMBAY EUROPEAN COST OF LIVING INDEX—contd.

| Articles | Unit of quantity | Annual No. or quantity required per family | Prices per unit of quantity | | | Price x Annual No. or quantity required | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|
| | | | July 1914 | Oct 1925 | Jan 1926 | July 1914 | Oct 1925 | Jan 1926 |
| | | | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| Clothing—women and children— | | | | | | | | |
| Muslins .. | Yard .. | 12 yards | 0.750 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 9.00 | 12.00 | 12.00 |
| Prints .. | " .. | 12 .. | 0.625 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 7.50 | 12.00 | 18.00 |
| Suits .. | " .. | 3 .. | 7.500 | 13.750 | 13.750 | 22.50 | 41.25 | 41.25 |
| Skirts for dresses .. | " .. | 12 .. | 5.500 | 7.250 | 5.250 | 66.00 | 61.00 | 63.00 |
| Corsets .. | " .. | 12 .. | 4.500 | 7.250 | 7.500 | 54.00 | 90.00 | 90.00 |
| Blouses, Satin .. | " .. | 18 .. | 0.375 | 0.375 | 0.375 | 6.75 | 6.75 | 6.75 |
| Stockings .. | pair .. | 9 pairs | 10.500 | 13.500 | 14.000 | 94.50 | 112.50 | 126.00 |
| Shoes .. | pair .. | 4 .. | 7.500 | 10.000 | 10.500 | 30.00 | 40.00 | 42.00 |
| Shirts, walking .. | pair .. | 2 pairs | 14.000 | 25.000 | 27.500 | 28.00 | 50.00 | 55.00 |
| Total .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 318.25 | 433.50 | 454.00 |
| Index No. .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 100 | 136 | 141 |
| All-Clothing Total | | | | | | | | |
| Index No. .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 660.33 | 1,043.33 | 1,103.21 |
| House-hold | | | | | | | | |
| Index No. .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 100 | 163 | 163 |
| Miscellaneous— | | | | | | | | |
| Butler .. | " .. | 1 | 19.880 | 36.970 | 36.970 | 238.56 | 443.64 | 443.64 |
| Cook .. | " .. | 1 | 22.700 | 38.300 | 38.300 | 272.40 | 459.60 | 459.60 |
| Hamal .. | " .. | 1 | 15.900 | 27.300 | 27.300 | 190.80 | 327.60 | 327.60 |
| Ayah .. | " .. | 1 | 17.400 | 38.300 | 38.300 | 208.80 | 459.60 | 459.60 |
| Dhobi .. | " .. | 1 | 13.800 | 23.800 | 23.800 | 165.60 | 285.60 | 285.60 |
| Total .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 1,076.16 | 1,976.04 | 1,976.04 |
| Index No. .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 100 | 184 | 184 |
| Concessions— | | | | | | | | |
| Chauffeur .. | " .. | 1 | 45.000 | 82.000 | 82.000 | 540.00 | 984.00 | 984.00 |
| Petrol .. | Gallon .. | 360 | 0.937 | 1.344 | 1.344 | 337.50 | 483.84 | 483.84 |
| Oil .. | " .. | 12 | 3.500 | 5.000 | 5.000 | 42.00 | 60.00 | 60.00 |
| Tyres .. | Set of 4 covers .. | 1 | 272.000 | 247.625 | 273.000 | 272.00 | 247.63 | 273.00 |
| Inner tubes .. | Set of 4 .. | 1 | 67.000 | 44.500 | 49.000 | 67.00 | 44.50 | 49.00 |
| Total .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 1,258.50 | 1,819.97 | 1,849.84 |
| Index No. .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 100 | 145 | 147 |
| School fees | | | | | | | | |
| Passages .. | One return passage .. | 5 | 124.531 | 159.174 | 159.174 | 1,494.37 | 1,910.09 | 1,910.09 |
| Income-tax .. | Per month .. | 12 months | 1,138.500 | 1,847.438 | 1,847.438 | 759.00 | 1,231.63 | 1,231.63 |
| House-hold necessaries | | | | | | | | |
| Forks, table .. | Dozen .. | 36 | 27.500 | 45.000 | 45.000 | 4.13 | 6.75 | 6.75 |
| Spoons, table .. | " .. | 36 | 27.500 | 45.000 | 45.000 | 1.37 | 2.25 | 2.25 |
| Knives, table .. | " .. | 36 | 19.500 | 45.000 | 45.000 | 5.85 | 13.50 | 13.50 |
| Tumblers, 1/2 pint .. | " .. | 36 | 5.000 | 9.750 | 9.750 | 2.50 | 4.88 | 4.88 |
| Tea-set .. | Set 40 pieces .. | 1 | 29.000 | 52.750 | 52.750 | 4.83 | 8.79 | 8.79 |
| Dinner-service .. | Set 93 pieces .. | 1 | 91.000 | 124.000 | 124.000 | 9.10 | 12.40 | 12.40 |
| Towels .. | Pair .. | 5 | 5.000 | 8.500 | 8.500 | 60.00 | 102.00 | 102.00 |
| Sheets .. | One dozen .. | 6 | 18.500 | 20.000 | 20.000 | 111.00 | 120.00 | 120.00 |
| Total .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 198.78 | 270.57 | 270.57 |
| Index No. .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 100 | 136 | 136 |
| Others— | | | | | | | | |
| Stationery .. | 5 quires (paper) .. | 4 | 0.563 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 2.25 | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| Medicine .. | Month .. | 12 months | 8.625 | 18.292 | 18.292 | 103.50 | 219.50 | 219.50 |
| Total .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 105.75 | 223.50 | 223.50 |
| Index No. .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 100 | 211 | 211 |
| Miscellaneous Total | | | | | | | | |
| Index No. .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 5,552.56 | 8,751.80 | 8,781.67 |
| All items Total | | | | | | | | |
| General Index No. .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | " .. | 9,487.91 | 14,995.28 | 15,027.58 |
| General Index No. | | | | | | | | |
| 100 | | | | | | | | |

Labour Intelligence—Indian and Foreign

Industrial Disputes in the Presidency

Disputes in January 4 Workpeople involved 405

At the end of this issue will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during January 1926, 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, and the diagram at the end of this article shows graphically the same facts. Table I shows the number, magnitude and duration of strikes in January 1926.

I.—Industrial Disputes Classified by Trades

| Trade | Number of disputes in progress in January 1926 | | | Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in Jan. 1926 | Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in Jan. 1926* |
|----------------------|--|-----------------|-------|--|--|
| | Started before 1st Jan. | Started in Jan. | Total | | |
| Textile | | 3 | 3 | 345 | 210 |
| Miscellaneous | | 1 | 1 | 60 | 180 |
| Total, January 1926 | | 4 | 4 | 405 | 460 |
| Total, December 1925 | 3 | 3 | | 152,876 | 1,799,343 |

* i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days, an allowance being made for workers replaced by others.

During the month under review the number of disputes was four of which three occurred in cotton mills and one in a Lithographic work. The number of workpeople involved in all these four disputes was 405 and the number of working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days, less workers replaced) was 460.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

II.—Industrial Disputes—Results September 1925 to January 1926

| | September 1925 | October 1925 | November 1925 | December 1925 | January 1926 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Number of strikes and lock-outs | 7 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 4 |
| Disputes in progress at beginning | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | — |
| First disputes began | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Disputes ended | 6 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Disputes in progress at end | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | — |
| Number of workpeople involved | 180,885 | 154,473 | 154,864 | 152,876 | 405 |
| Aggregate duration in working days | 3,099,628 | 3,904,182 | 3,699,628 | 3,904,182 | 460 |
| Demands— | | | | | |
| Pay | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| Hours | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Personal | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Hours and hours | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| By favour of employees | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| By favour of employers | — | — | — | — | — |
| By favour of workmen | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

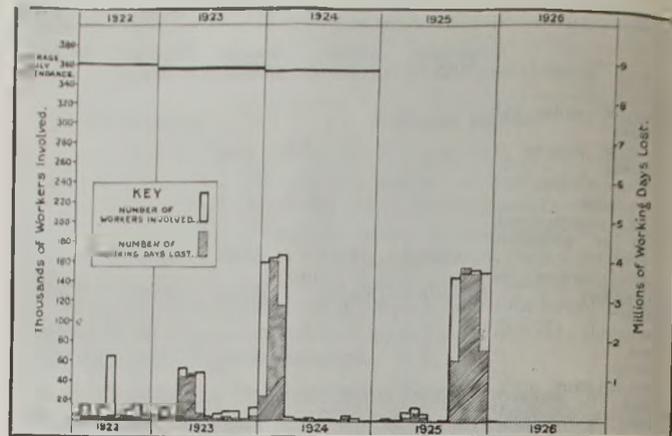
The last summary table shows, among other things, the proportion of strikes settled in favour of the employers and the employees, or compromised.

III.—Industrial Disputes

| Month | Number of strikes and lock-outs | Aggregate duration in working days | Disputes settled | | | In progress (Per cent.) |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | In favour of employers (Per cent.) | In favour of employees (Per cent.) | Compromised (Per cent.) | |
| January 1925 | 5 | 1,444 | 40 | 40 | 20 | — |
| February | 4 | 3,070 | 50 | — | 25 | 25 |
| March | 7 | 9,962 | 72 | 14 | 14 | — |
| April | 11 | 70,672 | 46 | 9 | 27 | 18 |
| May | 16 | 202,683 | 44 | 13 | 37 | 6 |
| June | 2 | 138,459 | 100 | — | — | — |
| July | 4 | 1,543 | 100 | — | — | — |
| August | 9 | 4,784 | 56 | — | 11 | 33 |
| September | 7 | 1,551,927 | 72 | 14 | — | 14 |
| October | 5 | 3,904,182 | 60 | — | — | 40 |
| November | 6 | 3,699,628 | 50 | — | — | 50 |
| December | 6 | 1,799,343 | 50 | 16 | 17 | 17 |
| January 1926 | 4 | 460 | 75 | 25 | — | — |
| Total or Average (cols. 4 to 7) .. | 26 | 11,368,257 | 63 | 10 | 11 | 16 |

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.

Effect of Industrial Disputes, Bombay Presidency



GENERAL REVIEW OF DISPUTES

During January 1926 there were four industrial disputes in progress in the Bombay Presidency as compared with six in the preceding month. Three of these disputes were due to personal and other grievances and were settled in favour of the employers. The remaining one was due to the question of pay and resulted in favour of the employees.

AHMEDABAD

In Ahmedabad there were two disputes during the month under review. One of these occurred in the Asarwa Mills Co., Ltd., at Asarwa Road. On the 10th January the Secretary of this mill dismissed a mukadam whereupon twenty Throstlemen working under him struck work and demanded his reinstatement. The Secretary employed 10 new men on the 11th and 10 more on the 12th and informed the strikers that their services were dispensed with. The dispute in the Ahmedabad New Cotton and Manufacturing Co., Ltd., at Kankaria Road arose on the 25th January over the dismissal by the management of a mukadam for unsatisfactory work. Seventy-five weavers demanded his reinstatement and struck work but the management engaged new men on the same day and dispensed with the services of the strikers. Although this dispute does not come under the technical definition of a strike, it has been considered as a strike on account of the fact that the employees concerned in the dispute were dismissed.

VIRAMGAM

The weavers of the Whittle Spinning and Weaving Mills Co., Ltd., at Viramgam complained against a reduction in their wages and demanded the restoration of the old rates. On the demand being refused 250 of the weavers went on strike on the 5th January. The strike terminated on the 6th on the understanding that no reduction would be made in their wages.

POONA

Sixty men of the Ravi Varma Fine Art Lithographic Works at Malavli went on strike on the 20th January complaining against the ill-treatment of a workman at the hands of a foreman. The strike lasted for three days and ended on the 23rd when the strikers resumed work unconditionally.

Accidents and Prosecutions

STATISTICS FOR JANUARY 1926

(Supplied by the Chief Inspector of Factories)

I. ACCIDENTS

The monthly 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 month of January in Bombay City, Ahmedabad, Karachi, and other centres of the Bombay Presidency. During January there were in all 285 factory accidents in Bombay City of which two were fatal, five serious and the remaining 278 minor accidents. Of the total, 62 or 22 per cent. were due to machinery in motion and the remaining 223 or 78 per cent. to other causes. The largest number of accidents occurred in workshops, the proportion in different classes of factories being 71 per cent. in workshops, 27 per cent. in textile mills and 2 per cent. in miscellaneous concerns.

In Ahmedabad there were 26 accidents, 25 of which occurred in cotton mills and one in an iron workshop. Out of these, 20 were due to machinery in motion and the rest to other causes. Eight of these accidents were serious and the rest minor.

In Karachi there were in all five accidents, two of which occurred in Railway and Port Trust Workshops, two in Engineering workshops and one in a flour mill. Of these, one was fatal and four minor.

In the other centres of the Presidency, the total number of accidents was 47 out of which 15 occurred in textile mills, 24 in workshops and eight in miscellaneous concerns. 11 of these accidents were due to machinery in motion and the rest to other causes. Nine accidents were serious and the rest minor.

II. PROSECUTIONS

BOMBAY

The Manager of a printing press was prosecuted under section 41 (a) for breach of section 23 for employing children without certificates. He was convicted and fined Rs. 25 in each of five cases.

The Manager of a metal press factory was prosecuted under section 41 (a) for breach of Section 23 in respect of a child without a certificate. He was convicted and fined Rs. 25.

The same factory was prosecuted under section 41 (h) for breach of section 35 for not maintaining the "Register". The Manager was convicted and fined Rs. 25.

AHMEDABAD

The Manager of a cotton mill was prosecuted under section 41 (f) for not maintaining the locking motion in order of five scutchers. He was convicted and fined Rs. 50.

The Manager of a ginning factory was prosecuted under section 41 (a) for breach of section 23 (a) for employing uncertified children. The Manager was convicted and fined Rs. 50 in all. (Four cases were taken. A fine of Rs. 20 was imposed in each of two cases and a fine of Rs. 5 in each of the two remaining cases.)

NAWABSHAH, SIND

The Manager of a ginning factory was prosecuted under section 41 (a) for breach of section 24 read with Rule 75 for employing two women before the legal time fixed for their employment. He was convicted and fined Rs. 120 in all (Two cases were taken).

Workmen's Compensation

STATISTICS FOR JANUARY

This article contains the summary of compensation statistics for the month of January 1926. Information has not been received from 3 Commissioners. All the 24 cases disposed of during the month were reported by the Commissioner for Bombay as against 34 during the preceding month. It should be remembered that this is not the number of cases which came within the purview of the courts of the Commissioners but of cases actually disposed of. A gross amount of Rs. 17,423-10-0 was awarded as compensation as against Rs. 23,608-15-2 in December and Rs. 11,492-13-0 in November. Out of 24 accidents, 10 were fatal, and 14 cases were of permanent partial disablement.

The number of compensation cases in textile mills was 7 during the month under review as against 16 in the preceding month. No disease case has come up since January 1925.

Claimants for compensation were males over 15 in all the 24 cases.

Out of 24 cases in January, 16 were original claims and 8 registrations of agreement. Compensation was awarded in 14 cases, agreement was effected in 8 cases and two were dismissed.

Labour News from Ahmedabad

While there is a good deal of discussion on the question of restoring the wage cut of 1923, the labour leaders do not regard the present time as propitious for formulating demands on the employers. Apart from the condition of the mill industry, there appears to be no general desire on the part of the men for a strike.

The Labour Union is trying to organise an Officials' Union or Jobbers' and Mukadams' Union. This Union, if it comes into existence, will constitute a great accession of strength to the cause of labour. Jobbers and mukadams work not only as supervisors but also as recruiting agents to mills and a dismissed mukadam usually takes a number of men with him. When jobbers and mukadams organise themselves into a Labour Union,

it is expected that practically the whole of labour will follow their lead and join a Union.

The Ahmedabad District Post and R. M. S. Union held its annual meeting on 17th January 1926 and adopted the previous year's report and statement of accounts. After electing the office-bearers for 1926, it was decided to agitate for a compensatory allowance of Rs. 15 for all selection grade officials in view of the high level of prices and rentals obtaining in Ahmedabad.

The B. B. & C. I. Railway Employees' Union has sent a petition to the Loco Superintendent, Parel, expressing discontent with the changes in the classes and the rates of pay of the European and Indian drivers, firemen, etc., of the Railway and embodying their grievances and demands.

British Trade in India during 1924-25

The Senior Trade Commissioner for India has recently issued his annual report in which he deals with the conditions and prospects of British trade in India. It is pointed out that during the fiscal year 1924-25, the economic conditions in India were better than those prevailing in the previous year. Imports increased, but were relatively small amounting to Rs. 247 crores only. The exports of Indian produce and manufactures were valued at nearly Rs. 385 crores, an increase of Rs. 36 crores or 10 per cent. The balance of trade in favour of India was thus greater than in the previous year.

Fifty-four per cent. of the import trade and 29 per cent. of the export trade was with the United Kingdom. As compared with 1923-24, there was a fall of 4 per cent. in the import trade and a rise of one per cent. in the export trade with the United Kingdom.

As regards the imports of precious metals into India, the net import of gold amounted to 73.78 crores in 1924-25 and was nearly double the net import in 1922-23.

Industrial Housing in Bombay

On page 430 of the January issue of the *Labour Gazette* we gave the reply of Mr. H. P. Mody to criticisms passed by Mr. Thomas Johnstone, M.P., on industrial housing in Bombay City. As the summary of Mr. Mody's remarks on certain points may be open to misinterpretation, we give *verbatim* the words actually used by him with regard to the habits of the workers. Mr. Mody said:—

"Such were the habits of the workers that the authorities had always to be on the alert to see that more than four are not put up in one of these rooms and that the occupants did not block up all the windows and ventilators..... The Indian workman was wedded to his surroundings and seemed to be averse to change, otherwise it was impossible to understand why they should prefer to live in horrible slums to the sanitary and up-to-date chawls which had been built for him."

Questions in the Legislative Assembly

Baboo Runglal Jajodia : (a) Will the Government please state the total number of strikes during the last three years in the principal mill industries and Railways in India, stating therein the number of operatives involved, the number of casualties and injured and the main points at issue in each case ?

(b) What steps have been or are proposed to be taken to investigate the causes of these industrial conflicts ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) The total number of disputes reported in the cotton mills, jute mills, woollen mills, oil mills, flour mills, paper mills, saw mills, and Railways in 1922, 1923 and 1924 was 437. The number of persons involved was approximately 870,000. No particulars of casualties are collected and in the great majority of strikes casualties do not occur. The main point at issue was, in 185 cases, the enhancement or reduction of pay, in 44 cases the payment of bonus, in 108 cases the dismissal or reinstatement of employees, and in 20 cases the question of hours of work or holidays. Various points accounted for the other disputes.

(b) The Government of India endeavour to collect particulars of all industrial disputes and of their causes.

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph under the heading "Bombay Mills Situation. Wage Cut Restored" published in the issue of the "Forward" of the 2nd December 1925, page 5 ?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statement made therein is correct ?

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

(b) The Government of India have no reason to doubt the accuracy of the statement.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : (1) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the report of the British Labour Women's delegation to Soviet Russia ?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the said report ?

(3) Is the Government aware that the report says that the workers no longer had to do night work and they seemed to appreciate particularly their summer holiday with pay ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The answer to all three parts of the question is in the negative.

A Correction

For the word "safety" in line 2, page 369 of the December 1925 *Labour Gazette* in an article reviewing the Annual Factory Report, the word "labour saving" should be substituted.

Unemployment Among the Middle Classes

DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

On 28th January 1926 Mr. A Rangaswami Iyengar moved the following resolution before the Legislative Assembly of which notice had been given by Kumar Ganganand Sinha :

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor-General in Council that he may be pleased to appoint a committee having a non-official majority to investigate into the problem of unemployment among the middle classes and suggest remedies for the same."

In moving the resolution Mr. Rangaswami Iyengar pointed out that even those who were well educated were unable to find employment owing to the very limited scope for employment of this class of the community. The cause of this, he said, was the poverty of the country and the increasing pressure of population on the means of subsistence. He admitted that the problem was not capable of solution but that palliatives could be found. He recommended the adoption of the late Mr. Das' scheme of rural reconstruction to enable middle class people to find employment.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer moved the following amendment to the resolution :

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor-General in Council that he may be pleased to appoint a committee having non-official majority to investigate the problem of unemployment among the educated classes of India and devise suitable remedies whether by a system of industrial and technical education, or by a revision of the existing system of education, or by offering encouragement by the starting of new industries, or by opening new avenues of employment, or by the establishment of employment bureaux or by all these or any other means."

In the course of his speech Sir Sivaswamy pointed out that middle class unemployment was largely due to a lack of adjustment between the system of education now in force in the country and the needs of industrial progress. That the evil of unemployment existed was, he said, an undoubted fact because the attention of some provincial governments had been already drawn to it. But he pointed out that separate and local efforts on the part of one or two provinces were not sufficient to deal with the problem. Though unemployment was a provincial question, he said, the Government of India could take it up just as they had appointed a Royal Commission on Agriculture, in spite of agriculture being a provincial subject.

Concluding, he said that to solve the problem it was necessary to have co-ordination between the theoretical and practical sides of technical education and a co-ordination between the needs of employers and the needs of industrial progress and the educational facilities in the country. The starting of small industries also, he thought, would alleviate the situation.

Mr. S. Sadiq Hasan moved another amendment. The scope of the enquiry should not, he said, be restricted only to the middle classes as unemployment existed also among the working class people.

Mr. Maulvi Abdul Kasem opposed the resolution and suggested the appointment of a committee of non-official experts.

Mr. H. Calvert pointed out that the question was a purely economic one. He said that in Indian factories for every 100 persons employed there were about 3 employed in superior posts, 26 were skilled labourers and 71 unskilled. The available superior posts were thus few in number and for every crore of rupees invested in industry, employment for only one person who could hope to take part in supervision and direction could be found. He complained that there was plenty of potential capital in the country which was lying idle and was not flowing in channels of industry.

The problem of middle class unemployment could be solved, Mr. Calvert said, if young men turned their attention to small industries and also if capital was not so shy, if there was plentiful enterprise, if there was no dearth of the supply of skilled labour and if there was more confidence amongst the investing public.

Mr. Chaman Lall supported Mr. Sadiq Hasan's amendment.

Mr. Lala Lajpat Rai moved the following amendment:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor-General in Council that he may be pleased to appoint a committee with a non-official majority to investigate into the problem of unemployment in general, and among the educated classes in particular, and devise suitable remedies whether by a system of industrial or technical education, or by a revision of the existing system of education, or by offering encouragement to the starting of new industries, or by opening new avenues of employment, or by the establishment of employment bureaux, or by all these or any other means; and that the said committee do make a report on the latter problem as early as possible."

Mr. Lala Lajpat Rai said the middle class unemployment was not confined to any single province but was to be found all over the country.

Mr. N. M. Joshi said that there was unemployment among all classes of workers. He said that the question of middle and working class unemployment was interdependent and could not therefore be dealt with separately. The remedy for removing unemployment, he pointed out, lay in changing the present system of industry. To do this would take time and therefore to give immediate relief to the unemployed, he suggested the introduction of unemployment insurance in organised industries, the starting of employment bureaux, etc.

Mr. Ahmad Ali Khan opposed the resolution on the ground that the most suitable agency for dealing with the question would be a committee appointed by Provincial Governments.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra replying admitted the existence of unemployment among the middle classes. But he pointed out that the nature of the problem was such that Government could do but little in the matter. Apart from this, some of the Provincial Governments had already taken steps to remedy the evil and the Government of India themselves were not wholly idle or apathetic. They had taken steps to develop their research institutions and a Mines school was about to be opened at Dhanbad. They were developing the Stores Department. They had appointed a Tariff Board. They were developing the railways and following a rigorous policy of the Indianization of the services. They were taking steps to place the finances of the country on a satisfactory basis and to rehabilitate her credit. Lastly, the External

Capital and the Indian Economic Enquiry Committees had already submitted their reports and a Royal Commission on Agriculture had been appointed, and he expected that the findings of the Commission would help towards the solution of the problem.

The resolution as amended by Mr. Lala Lajpat Rai was then put to the vote and passed by a majority of 48 to 46.

Wholesale Prices in Bombay

AN ALL-ROUND FALL IN PRICES DURING 1925

On page 510 will be found the twelve-monthly averages of the food, non-food and general wholesale index numbers since 1918. It will be seen that in the case of both the non-food and the general index number the highest peaks were reached in 1918 while the food index reached its maximum (206) in 1920. Wholesale prices of all the groups in the index attained their lowest level in 1925.

During 1925, the annual average of wholesale prices in Bombay (July 1924=100) was 163, 19 points below the level of the previous year. The movement in the wholesale index number during the twelve months ended December 1925 has been distinctly downwards. The general index declined from 173 in January 1925 to 160 in June and thereafter slightly fluctuated, reaching its lowest level (155) in December. The markedly downward tendency of prices during the last two years will be evident from the table on page 594 which gives the index numbers for the different groups included in the Bombay Wholesale prices index number. The same fact is also illustrated by the chart at the end of page 510 which clearly shows that in spite of its comparatively greater fluctuations the food index was below, and the non-food index was above, the general average during the last two years, all the three curves having moved appreciably downwards during the period.

As compared with the preceding year, Cereals and Pulses advanced by 15 points each, while Sugar and "Other food" recorded heavy decreases of 43 and 89 points respectively. The rise in Cereals was due to a rise of 22 points in wheat and of 19 points each in barley and bajra. The rapid decrease in refined sugar resulted in bringing down the index number for "Sugar" by 43 points although the average for gul was 7 points higher as compared with 1924. The fall in "Other food" was due to a heavy decrease in the price of turmeric which averaged nearly one-half of what it was in 1924. There was a decrease of 17 points in salt. The index number for all food articles declined by 18 points, being 155 in 1925 as compared with 173 in 1924.

There was a fall of 21 points in the non-food group owing to a sharp decline in the price of cotton—both raw and manufactured—and of "other textiles". Metals showed a decided decrease, while oilseeds, hides and skins and "Other raw and manufactured articles" fluctuated during the year. The non-food index averaged 12 points higher than the food index.

Briefly speaking during the year 1925 all the groups except Cereals and Pulses declined in price as compared with the previous year. The

food, non-food and general index numbers recorded decreases of 18, 11 and 19 points respectively and were at their lowest levels since 1918.

The following table shows the increase or decrease in the annual wholesale price index numbers of various commodities in 1925 over or below those in 1924 :—

Annual Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in Bombay
July 1914 = 100.

| Articles | Yearly Average for 1924 | Yearly Average for 1925 | Increase (+) or decrease (-) in 1925 over or below 1924 | Percentage (+) or (-) in 1925 over or below 1924 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|
| Rice | 141 | 136 | -5 | -3.5 |
| Wheat | 136 | 158 | +22 | +16.2 |
| Jowari | 128 | 136 | +8 | +6.3 |
| Barley | 122 | 141 | +19 | +15.6 |
| Bajri | 137 | 156 | +19 | +13.9 |
| Cereals | 134 | 149 | +15 | +11.2 |
| Gram | 91 | 106 | +15 | +16.5 |
| Turdal | 93 | 108 | +15 | +16.1 |
| Pulses | 92 | 107 | +15 | +16.3 |
| Food-Grains | 124 | 140 | +16 | +12.9 |
| Sugar (Mauritius) | 248 | 183 | -65 | -26.2 |
| Sugar (Java, White) | 225 | 162 | -63 | -28.0 |
| Raw Sugar (gul) | 151 | 158 | +7 | +4.6 |
| Sugar | 208 | 165 | -43 | -20.7 |
| Turmeric | 494 | 248 | -246 | -49.8 |
| Ghee | 190 | 187 | -3 | -1.6 |
| Salt | 164 | 147 | -17 | -10.4 |
| Other food | 283 | 194 | -89 | -31.4 |
| All Food | 173 | 155 | -18 | -10.4 |
| Oil-seeds | 141 | 138 | -3 | -2.1 |
| Raw Cotton | 252 | 192 | -60 | -23.8 |
| Cotton Manufactures | 232 | 207 | -25 | -10.8 |
| Other textiles | 191 | 154 | -37 | -19.4 |
| Hides and Skins | 156 | 146 | -10 | -6.4 |
| Metals | 169 | 157 | -12 | -7.1 |
| Other raw and manufactured articles. | 163 | 158 | -5 | -3.1 |
| Total, Non-food | 188 | 167 | -21 | -11.2 |
| General Average | 182 | 163 | -19 | -10.4 |

Health of the Presidency

The Sixty-First Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for the Government of Bombay for the year 1924 has just been published. It shows that the birth rate for the year for the Presidency as a whole was 35.60 against 35.58 during the previous year. For Bombay city the birth rate was 18.68. There were 11,141 still-births or 1.63 for every hundred live-births in the Presidency. The corresponding figures for 1923 were 11,221 and 1.65 respectively.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 529,576 as against 496,244 in 1923. The death-rate for the whole Presidency was thus

27.63 as compared with 25.89 for 1923, and 27.33 the quinquennium mean. The death-rate for Bombay city was 33.44 and for Ahmedabad 39.78.

There were 130,439 deaths among infants under twelve months corresponding to a ratio of 191 per 1,000 registered births as against 108,912 or a ratio of 160 in 1923. Of the infants who died, 49,377 were in their first month of life, 44,556 were over one month but not exceeding six months and the remainder 36,506 were between six months and twelve. The infant death rate per 1,000 births was thus 191.17 in 1924. This is the highest since 1920. The percentage of infant deaths to total deaths was 24.63. In Bombay city the number of deaths of infants per 1,000 registered births was 9,156 being 524 more than in 1923. The infant mortality rate was thus 419 as compared with a rate of 411 in 1923. It is, however, pointed out that owing to a large immigrant infant population in the city, the recorded rates for Bombay both absolutely and comparatively overstate considerably the magnitude of the rate of loss of infant life.

It will be seen that much of the value of the statistics published in the report is diminished owing to the unsatisfactory nature of birth registration. And it appears that no hope of arriving at an accurate rate of infant mortality can be entertained so long as the registration of births remains defective.

The report deals principally with births and deaths, but what is perhaps equally if not more important from the point of view of the health of the community is to have some knowledge of morbidity statistics. These, of course, are difficult to get. But in the absence of such statistics, it is impossible to arrive at any reasonable conclusion regarding the incidence of disease or the health of the city or Presidency.

Indian Labour in Ceylon

As a result of the discussions between the Indian Government, the Ceylon Government and the planting community of Ceylon regarding the introduction of a standard wage for Indian labour on local plantations, the Ceylon Government is considering the possibilities of the introduction of a standard wage for all labour in Ceylon.

Sir Hugh Clifford, shortly before whose arrival in Ceylon, the Indian Government had made a final demand that the local Government should enforce a standard wage for Indian labour on Ceylon estates, was informed on his arrival by a deputation of planters that they were in favour of working a standard wage scheme themselves through wage boards to be nominated in each revenue district whose decisions would be subject to final revision by the Board of Immigrant labour, after which they would become enforceable in law. It was proposed that a deputation of planters should proceed to Delhi to place their views before the Government of India, but it is now understood that the proposed deputation may not go and that the Ceylon Government has been requested to introduce a standard wage for all labour in Ceylon, including its own, if it is found necessary to enforce a standard wage for Indian labour on local estates. (Abstracted from the "Hindu", Madras, of 28th January 1926.)

Cost of Living in South Africa

GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The Cost of Living Committee appointed by the Government last July has arrived at two main conclusions. One is that a man and his wife and three children can live in a town in South Africa on an average regimen of a civilized standard of living for an expenditure of £27 16s. 9d. a month. The other is that the cost of a minimum regimen for such a family on a civilized standard of living in the nine principal towns might be taken as ranging from £90 to £110 per annum.

The committee consisted of Messrs. James Collie, O.B.E., chairman; A. W. Carruthers, assistant director of census; H. C. Fowler, chief inspector of factories; H. J. Lyddon, chief railway storekeeper; Ivan L. Walker, chief inspector of labour; and Dr. F. E. Geldenbuys, chief of the division of agricultural economics.

The family budgets on which the committee based its conclusions numbered 442, the largest number from one area coming from the Rand. Of these budgets nearly one-fourth came from bank officials, while the number sent in by manual workers was just about the same as that furnished by Government and municipal employees. The budgets were allocated into three groups of salaries: (a) under £240 per annum, (b) between £240 and £360 per annum, (c) between £360 and £500 per annum. Budgets over £500 per annum were rejected on the ground that those who are in receipt of such incomes may be considered as living above what is generally regarded as "an average regimen".

AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENDITURE

Tables are printed showing the average monthly expenditure in the three groups in different areas. In the group of salaries under £20 a month the average monthly family expenditure for foodstuffs, fuel and light, rent and sundries, is shown as £15 14s. 3d. at Cape Town, £21 14s. 5d. at Maritzburg, £14 2s. 4d. at Pretoria, and £19 7s. 1d. on the Rand. No figure is quoted for Durban. The lowest average given is for "the rest of Natal," where the figure is only £7 13s. 7d.

The average monthly family expenditure for the group with incomes between £20 and £30 per month is £26 14s. 11d. at Cape Town, £29 5s. at Durban, £32 15s. 11d. at Pretoria, and £26 16s. 3d. on the Rand.

The table for incomes exceeding £30 per month, but not exceeding £500 a year, shows an average of £36 13s. 1d. at Cape Town, £34 16s. 10d. at Durban, £34 7s. 4d. at Pretoria, and £35 9s. 7d. on the Rand.

The committee calculates that the cost of foodstuffs for a family of five in the nine principal towns is £10 11s. 1d. per month.

Men's clothing absorbs 7.99 per cent. of the sundries money, whereas women's clothing accounts for only 7.77 per cent. and children's clothing for 5.48 per cent. Boots and shoes total 6.66 per cent. The heaviest item is insurance, 9.06 per cent.; servants' wages come next with 8.48 per cent. Tobacco accounts for 2.64 per cent., and liquor for only 1.54 per cent. Amusements work out at 2.70 per cent. and holiday expenses at 3.30 per cent. of the expenditure on "sundries".

The average amount paid in rent over the nine large towns works out at

£6 15s. 3d. which is approximately the same as the census statistics (£6 14s. 7d.). (From "Times Trade and Engineering Supplement", London, December 12, 1925.)

Co-partnership in New Zealand

A LEGISLATIVE EXPERIMENT

One of the most interesting experiments in the promotion of co-operation between capital and labour is represented by an Act, known as the Companies Empowering Act, passed by the New Zealand Parliament in November 1924. This Act, which was mainly inspired by Mr. H. Valder, head of the sawmilling firm of Ellis and Burnand, Hamilton, New Zealand, embodies the principle of co-partnership. Its main provisions are as follows:—

Any company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1908, may, if authorised so to do by its memorandum of association, issue special "labour" shares to persons employed in its service; the memorandum of association of any company may be altered, under the procedure laid down in the Companies Act, for the issue of such shares.

The following special conditions shall attach to "labour" shares:—

- (1) They shall have no nominal value, and shall not form part of the capital of the company.
- (2) They shall not be transferable, save in accordance with the regulations of the company.
- (3) They shall entitle the holders to attend and vote at meetings of shareholders, and to share in the profits of the company, or in its assets in the event of its being wound up, to such extent as may be determined by the memorandum of association.
- (4) Save as may be expressly provided in the present Act or by the memorandum of association, the holders of "labour" shares shall have all the privileges of other shareholders.

Schemes for the issue of "labour" shares shall not be valid unless certified by the Court of Arbitration under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1908, after ascertaining the views of the company and the workers to be favourable to the general body of the workers.

The Court may revoke its certificate if, on the complaint of either the company or the workers, it is satisfied by enquiry that the provisions of the scheme are no longer favourable to the workers, or that the provisions are being violated, or that the scheme is not being fairly administered, or that it is proving detrimental to the business of the company, or that other satisfactory reasons exist for its revocation. In such a case, all "labour" shares shall be deemed to have been surrendered, and their value shall be payable to the holders either in cash or in "capital" shares.

"Labour" shares shall be similarly surrendered and paid for if the holder ceases by death or otherwise, to be employed in the service of the company. Any part of the profits of a company to which the holders of "labour" shares may become entitled may be paid wholly or in part in capital shares.

Full particulars of all issues or surrenders of "labour" shares must be entered in the register of the company, and forwarded annually to the Registrar of Companies. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, January 11, 1926.)

Clerical Wages in Bombay City

Preliminary Results of the Labour Office Census

The Labour Office receives enquiries from time to time from employers of clerical labour regarding the rates at which different classes of clerks are paid in various types of commercial, banking and public offices in Bombay City. Several enquiries have also been received in connexion with the cost of living of these classes. The Labour Office has now completed the work of tabulating statistics regarding income and expenditure obtained from the family budgets of 1,748 middle class families and from 125 budgets of single men from the middle classes in Bombay. The provisional figures of the results of this enquiry have been published from time to time in the *Labour Gazette* and the final data will shortly be published in the form of a Report. The Labour Office has also undertaken the preparation of a Cost of Living Index for middle classes in Bombay City and it is possible that this index will be published during the current year.

In order to obtain as complete data as possible in connexion with the economic position of the clerical classes in Bombay City it was decided to hold a census of clerical wages with a view to obtaining accurate figures showing the average rates of wages or average monthly earnings of different types of clerks working in various kinds of offices in Bombay City on fixed incomes.

The preliminary work consisted in ascertaining the different designations employed by various types of offices in assigning different occupations to their employees. An Investigator of the Labour Office called on representative firms of each type and from the information thus collected a list of occupations was drawn up. The next stage was the preparation of a suitable form and this was drawn up in a manner which it was hoped would serve to procure all the information that was required for the enquiry and at the same time cause the minimum of inconvenience to those who were required to make the returns. Part I of this form asked for information in connexion with the wages of each individual clerk as grouped under different general types. The rate of pay given was to be stated in the first column and the number of clerks drawing the stated rate was to be given in the second column. Part II asked for Miscellaneous information regarding hours of work, holidays, rates of commission allowed, overtime rates, leave, bonus, etc., and also the classification according to castes of all the employees in each office. The "rate of pay" shown in Part I of the form was to include house allowances, compensatory allowances, other allowances of a regular character and the amount of income tax paid by the employers but was not to include conveyance allowances, commissions to salesmen and other allowances which were not of a regular character.

The form was forwarded with a covering letter to 475 offices in Bombay City. A confidential number (known only to the Officer in charge of the enquiry) was given to each office addressed and it was only this number which appeared on the form. This was done in order that none of the tabulating clerks in the Labour Office should be able to ascertain the

rates of wages paid in particular offices. It was at first intended to include all Government offices in Bombay city in the census, but it was eventually decided that it would be advisable to limit the enquiry in the first instance to commercial and semi-Government offices only, and to hold a second enquiry for Government offices. Forms were therefore issued to all Railways, the Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Company, the Bombay Municipality, the Bombay Port Trust, the Bombay City Improvement Trust, the Bombay University, all banks, solicitors' offices, the offices of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, the Millowners' Association, the Indian Merchants' Chamber and all commercial houses in Bombay which appeared to the Labour Office to employ five or more clerks. It was not considered necessary to include all the small offices or "pehdis" of small Indian merchants in this enquiry because such offices usually employ only a ledger clerk who does all the office work demanded from him, and who is usually lodged and boarded by his employer. The actual salary which is paid to this type of clerk is very low in comparison with that of similar clerks in other offices who receive their full remuneration in cash only. It was not considered desirable, therefore, to include such clerks or "Munims" in the category of persons receiving a fixed money wage for the services they render.

DIFFICULTIES OF THE ENQUIRY

Certain difficulties arose in the course of the enquiry. A few firms gave the names of employees and their designations in the year 1924, with the salaries drawn by each individual in the years 1914 and 1924. No information was given showing the salaries drawn by individuals doing similar work in 1914. For instance it was stated that the salary of Mr. A. Employee, Senior Clerk, was Rs. 55 in 1914 and Rs. 140 in 1924, whereas the information required was not what salary Mr. A. Employee got in the year 1914 but the salary paid to the individual who did the work of a Senior Clerk in that year. The best filled in forms were returned from commercial houses employing fifteen to twenty clerks with one or two (senior and junior) men of each type. The grouping under different designations by most of the bigger offices was faulty in view of the fact that the terms "Senior Clerks", "Junior Clerks" and "Third Grade or Probationary Clerks" were not properly understood; but in many cases where defective forms were received, the Investigators of the Labour Office called personally on the firms concerned and endeavoured, as far as possible, to get the returns rectified.

Out of the total number of 475 offices asked to submit returns 235 offices supplied the data required. The number of offices which supplied figures for both the basic year 1914 and the year 1924 amounted to 115. The remaining offices supplied figures for the year 1924 only. The reasons for this were that in the majority of cases the offices concerned had either destroyed their records of the staffs employed in the year 1914 or were not in existence in that year. In a few other cases, the offices considered that it would be too much trouble to hunt out all their old records. Every endeavour was made to get as many offices as possible to furnish returns but several big offices who promised to supply the information required have not yet done so owing to the fact that their employees have not had the necessary time to spare for filling up the forms. A few large

offices grouped all clerks of each type together and gave either the total wages paid to these groups or the averages per head. Such returns were more or less useless for the purposes of the Labour Office tabulations. In cases where averages are given for ten or less clerks the figures supplied may be included in the tabulation sheets but they cannot possibly be utilised for the frequency tables. For ascertaining frequency data it is absolutely essential that the earnings of each individual should be stated. For example, if an office returned 60 senior clerks at an average wage of Rs. 110 per head, it may be possible, though not advisable, to include this number in ascertaining the average wages of senior clerks in a particular class of offices; but it would be both impossible and inadvisable to include these in the frequency tables and show that these 60 persons were earning Rs. 110 per month each.

Another very great obstacle that had to be encountered in the returns made for this Census was in connexion with the salaries earned by the same types of clerks in big offices and in the offices employing a few clerks only. For instance, a Cashier in a big firm is returned with a salary of Rs. 300 per month. The employee handling the cash in a small firm employing a few clerks only, who gets Rs. 70 or Rs. 80 per month is also returned as the Cashier of that firm although it is clear that he cannot be grouped for the purposes of tabulation with the others. It is necessary therefore to transfer the second cashier to the occupation of Assistant Cashiers. This difficulty was experienced to a considerable extent in the figures returned for the salaries of the three types of ordinary clerks. In one office it is possible that employees who are paid salaries between Rs. 80 and Rs. 100 per month are designated as Senior Clerks. A big office employing several scores of clerks would, on the other hand, designate only the clerks earning Rs. 125 per month and over as Senior clerks. Similarly, an office with one employee who is paid Rs. 100 per month may call that employee an Assistant whereas Assistants in the bigger firms would be paid salaries amounting to anything up to and even over Rs. 500 per month. In order to overcome this very live difficulty it was necessary for an Investigator of this office to call on a number of firms with a view to acquaint himself with the general rates of salaries paid to men doing the work of Senior Clerks, Junior Clerks and Third Grade or Probationary Clerks.

As soon as sufficient returns were collected the next step taken was the critical examination of each form by an experienced officer of the Labour Office in order to ascertain how far the form returned was correctly filled in. A few standards based on personal enquiries and observations were laid down fixing the limits of salaries earned at present by different types of clerks in Bombay City. With these standards of variations as a guide the third step was to transfer individuals wrongly returned under certain designations to the occupations against which they should have been returned. In cases where returns appeared to be defective in all particulars either the individual items which were obviously wrong were omitted altogether or the whole return was scrapped. It will be seen therefore that considerable pains have been taken to tabulate only such data as appeared to be not only representative but reliable. As this Census is the first enquiry of its kind undertaken in India it is not only

probable, but quite possible, that the several clerks who filled up the returns did not quite understand what they were required to do; and that, in several cases, some serious errors were made. The Labour Office has however done its utmost to rectify all apparent defects and the results of this enquiry may therefore be considered as fairly reliable and accurate.

The present article only deals with the returns made by offices which gave figures both for the years 1914 and 1924. All returns were grouped under the following six classes of offices:—

- (1) Railways, Tramways and a Large Engineering Firm; (2) Semi-Government or Public Offices; (3) Banks; (4) Solicitors' Offices; (5) Commercial Firms; and (6) Miscellaneous.

In the first group, the offices included are (a) The G. I. P. Railway; (b) The B. B. and C. I. Railway; (c) The Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Company, Ltd.; and (d) the office of a big Engineering Firm. The last two offices have supplied information for all their clerical employees but in the case of the two Railways returns have only been received for a few departments of the Head Offices.

Under the second group, the offices included are those of the Bombay Port Trust, The Bombay Municipality, The Bombay City Improvement Trust and the Bombay University. The next three classes are self-explanatory. In "Miscellaneous Offices" are included all the offices of Employers' Associations, the Chamber of Commerce, the Indian Merchants Chamber, the Native Share Brokers' Association and the offices of the principal clubs in Bombay which furnished returns.

THE NUMBER OF CLERKS COVERED BY THE ENQUIRY

The number of clerks returned by all the offices which supplied figures for the years 1914 and 1924 amounted to 4,431 men and 20 women for the year 1914 and 8,585 men and 42 women for the year 1925. The classification of these employees according to the six groups of offices for which the data have been tabulated is as follows:—

| | July 1914 | | July 1924 | |
|------------------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| | No. of men | No. of women | No. of men | No. of women |
| 1. Banks | 409 | | 1,138 | 1 |
| 2. Solicitors' firms | 167 | 2 | 274 | 3 |
| 3. Commercial firms | 1,560 | 10 | 2,341 | 26 |
| 4. Railways, etc. | 815 | 6 | 2,410 | 10 |
| 5. Semi-Government offices | 1,431 | 1 | 2,355 | 2 |
| 6. Miscellaneous | 49 | 1 | 67 | |
| Total | 4,431 | 20 | 8,585 | 42 |

The differences between the numbers returned for 1914 and 1924 are not to be taken to mean that the offices which have supplied the information required for this enquiry have almost doubled the strength of their clerical establishments during the ten years separating the two sets of figures. The comparative smallness of the figures for 1914 is due to the fact that

even those offices which did make returns for the year 1914 were not always able to give the required data for *all* their employees in that year but only for those employees for whom the necessary facts and figures were available in existing records. In offices where muster rolls and salary books are kept by departments it is possible that some departments retained their old records whereas others did not. In such cases the offices concerned were only able to supply figures for the departments for which the required information was available. This is especially noticeable in the case of the figures for Railways, etc., and Semi-Government offices.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON CLERICAL WAGES

In considering the figures of the actual rates of wages earned by different types of clerks in different classes of offices in the years 1914 and 1924 and of the percentage increases in earnings in the year 1924 over those of the base year, several important factors have to be taken into consideration before definite and final conclusions can be drawn. The percentage differences in the wages of different types of clerks vary from an actual decrease to 180 per cent. excess. This should not be taken to mean that the wages of certain classes have actually decreased and that of other classes have nearly trebled during the last ten years. The average figures show that clerical wages in general have risen by about 73 per cent. during the period 1914 to 1924. The abnormal variations from this figure become more and more striking as the numbers of clerks in particular occupations decrease towards unity. For instance there is one Customs Clerk returned in Semi-Government offices for the year 1914 with a monthly salary of Rs. 98. For the year 1924, 2 Customs clerks are returned in the same group of offices with an average salary of Rs. 85 per month. It is more than probable that the man returned for the year 1914 was a senior with a considerable experience of his work and that the two men returned for the year 1924 are, in comparison with that man, very much junior to him both in age and experience. The factors that must be taken into consideration when examining such figures are, therefore, (1) ages of the clerks returned for each year; (2) the stages of promotion in occupations graded on definite time-scales of pay reached by the individuals returned for each year in that particular year; and (3) the numbers of seniors and juniors included in each of the two sets of figures which are compared. It is only when consideration is given to the averages which have been worked out for comparatively large numbers of employees that the influence of these factors is not unduly felt for then the percentage increases in the rates may be considered as approximately correct assuming that the retirement of old hands and the recruitment of new hands in the year 1924 were in similar proportions to those in 1914.

PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR WAGES IN PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS

Railways and Allied Offices

Out of a total number of 2,410 clerks returned for the year 1924 by the Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Co., Ltd., a large engineering firm and the departments of the G. I. P. and the B. B. and C. I. Railways which supplied information, 1,025 clerks were returned definitely as, or were considered to be Second grade clerks or Junior clerks. The

corresponding number for which figures were given for the year 1914 amounted to 368. The weighted average monthly earnings of this group were Rs. 51-3-3 per head in the year 1914 and Rs. 86-7-10 per head in the year 1924 or 69 per cent. higher. The next important class, as far as numerical strength is considered, is that of Third grade clerks or Temporary or Probationary clerks. The average monthly earnings per head of 195 clerks of this class in the year 1914 was Rs. 27-6-5 and of 611 clerks in 1924 Rs. 58-0-11 showing an increase of 112 per cent. On the other hand the increase in the monthly earnings of First grade or Senior clerks amounted to 57 per cent. The actual increase is from an average of Rs. 106-9-0 per head per month in 1914 (for 64 such clerks) to Rs. 166-15-7 per head per month in 1924 (for 248 Senior clerks). The average monthly earnings of all these three types of general clerks put together amounted to Rs. 49-7-3 per head in July 1914 and to Rs. 87-13-10 per head in July 1924—the increase amounting to 78 per cent.

The salaries of Head Clerks show an increase of 87 per cent. The average monthly earnings of these men were Rs. 151-7-6 per head in 1914 and Rs. 282-7-10 in 1924. The salaries of Office stenographers and Typists show increases of 90 and 92 per cent. respectively. The following table gives the preliminary results of the tabulations for the more important occupations:—

| Occupations | July 1914 | | July 1924 | | Increase per cent. in July 1924 over July 1914 |
|---|------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|--|
| | No. of men | Average monthly earnings | No. of men | Average monthly earnings | |
| | | Rs. a. p. | | Rs. a. p. | |
| Head Clerks .. | 25 | 151 7 6 | 64 | 282 7 10 | 87 |
| First Grade Clerks or Senior Clerks .. | 64 | 106 9 0 | 248 | 166 15 7 | 57 |
| Second Grade Clerks or Junior Clerks .. | 368 | 51 3 3 | 1,025 | 86 7 10 | 69 |
| Third Grade Clerks or Temporary or Probationary Junior Clerks | 195 | 27 6 5 | 611 | 58 0 11 | 112 |
| Clerks of the above three grades. | 627 | 49 7 3 | 1,884 | 87 13 10 | 78 |
| Assistant Store-keepers .. | 36 | 57 0 0 | 66 | 108 11 8 | 91 |
| Office Stenographers .. | 5 | 79 4 0 | 27 | 150 14 0 | 90 |
| Typists .. | 15 | 44 8 7 | 59 | 85 5 9 | 92 |
| Filing Clerks .. | 14 | 38 11 9 | 41 | 79 0 4 | 104 |
| Despatching Clerks .. | 16 | 39 12 4 | 30 | 75 3 2 | 89 |
| Telephone Operators .. | 12 | 35 3 2 | 11 | 76 14 2 | 118 |
| Accountants .. | 5 | 259 6 5 | 17 | 422 8 6 | 63 |

If the wages of all the clerks in Railways and Allied offices are averaged, the final weighted average earnings of 815 clerks in 1914 are found to be Rs. 58-2-8 per head per month and of 2,410 clerks in 1924, Rs. 103-5-4 per head. The percentage increase in the wages of all clerks taken together is 78 per cent. in 1924 over 1914.

Semi-Government Offices

As in the case of Railways and Allied offices, Second grade or junior clerks predominate in the returns made by Semi-Government or Public Offices. 1,181 such clerks are returned for the year 1924 with average monthly earnings amounting to Rs. 88-4-9 per head. The number returned for 1914 was 622 with average monthly earnings of Rs. 48-2-4 per head. The increase in the wages of such clerks during the ten years separating these two dates amounted to 83 per cent. The next important class in numerical strength, as far as the year 1924 is concerned, in this group of offices, is that of Senior clerks. The number of clerks who were returned or were taken as Senior clerks in 1924 amounted to 303 as against 79 in 1914. The average monthly earnings of these Senior clerks were Rs. 93-2-4 per head in 1914 and Rs. 140-11-0 per head in 1924, showing an increase of 51 per cent. The wages of Third grade or temporary or probationary clerks show an increase of 57 per cent. over the same period. If these three classes of clerks are taken together, the increase in their wages amounts to 91 per cent.

The salaries of clerks higher in rank to that of a Senior clerk, such as Assistants, Head Clerks and Senior and Junior Superintendents do not show the same or similar proportionate increases as those of the three types of clerks considered in the preceding paragraph. The salaries of Assistants show an increase of only 22 per cent. in 1924 over the figures for 1914, those of Head Clerks 19 per cent., Senior Superintendents 25 per cent. and Junior Superintendents 31 per cent. If these four classes are taken together, the increase amounts to 20 per cent.

The highest increase noticeable in the different occupations in Semi-Government offices is in the case of Collecting Shroffs. 87 clerks returned in this occupation for the year 1914 earned Rs. 41-12-6 per head per month whereas 98 similar clerks returned for the year 1924 earned Rs. 99-0-6. It is very probable that the factors of age, seniority, and experience of individuals or groups of individuals of this class returned in each of the two years 1914 and 1924 have a considerable influence and bearing on these figures. The earnings of Paying and Receiving Shroffs show an increase of only 28 per cent. as against the increase of 137 per cent. in the case of Collecting Shroffs. But if both these classes are considered together, as they might be, the increase amounts to 111 per cent.

If the wages of all the clerks in Semi-Government or Public Offices are averaged, the final weighted average earnings of 1,431 clerks in 1914 are found to be Rs. 58-13-0 per head per month and of 2,355 clerks in 1924, Rs. 106-10-2 per head. The percentage increase in the wages of all clerks taken together is 81 per cent. in 1924 over 1914.

The proportionate increases in the salaries of Office Stenographers and Typists in Semi-Government Offices are very similar to the increases in the salaries of similar clerks in Railways and Allied offices. The following table gives the provisional figures of average earnings for the more

important occupations in this group of offices in the same way as was done in the preceding table—

| Occupations | July 1914 | | July 1924 | | Increase per cent. in July 1924 over July 1914 |
|--|------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|--|
| | No. of men | Average monthly earnings | No. of men | Average monthly earnings | |
| | | Rs. a. p. | | Rs. a. p. | |
| Head Clerks .. | 34 | 162 10 10 | 81 | 193 15 3 | 19 |
| Senior Superintendents .. | 12 | 210 0 0 | 21 | 262 9 11 | 25 |
| First Grade Clerks or Senior Clerks .. | 79 | 93 2 4 | 303 | 140 11 0 | 51 |
| Second Grade Clerks or Junior Clerks .. | 622 | 48 2 4 | 1,181 | 88 4 9 | 83 |
| Third Grade Clerks or Temporary or Probationary Junior Clerks .. | 236 | 37 11 3 | 209 | 59 0 1 | 57 |
| Clerks of the above three grades | 937 | 49 4 11 | 1,693 | 94 0 11 | 91 |
| Paying and Receiving Shroffs | 15 | 75 12 10 | 14 | 97 2 3 | 28 |
| Collecting Shroffs | 87 | 41 12 6 | 98 | 99 0 6 | 137 |
| Assistant Cashiers | 45 | 63 14 11 | 20 | 130 12 0 | 105 |
| Book-keepers or Ledger Clerks | 27 | 59 12 5 | 25 | 108 8 4 | 82 |
| Bill Clerks (Collectors) | 8 | 36 0 0 | 19 | 60 0 0 | 67 |
| Office Stenographers | 5 | 66 8 0 | 14 | 128 3 5 | 93 |
| Typists | 20 | 44 4 10 | 38 | 82 4 3 | 86 |
| Filing Clerks .. | 45 | 44 9 4 | 48 | 99 5 4 | 124 |
| Despatching Clerks | 19 | 39 9 3 | 27 | 85 3 0 | 115 |
| Warehouse Keepers | 14 | 84 2 3 | 50 | 124 0 0 | 47 |
| Shed Superintendents | 16 | 131 14 0 | 25 | 217 0 0 | 65 |

Banks

Owing to the fact that work in Banks is of a considerably more responsible nature than that in many Commercial and Semi-Government offices it may be presumed that the salaries paid to Bank clerks would be higher than those paid to clerks doing similar but perhaps less responsible work in other offices. This view is borne out by a study of the averages for all Bank clerks put together. In the year 1914 the average earnings of 409 clerks of all types in Banks were Rs. 72-15-8 per head per month and in the year 1924 of 1,138 Bank clerks Rs. 130-12-2 per head per month. These figures are higher than the average wages of all the clerks employed in Railway and Allied Offices and in Semi-Government or Public Offices. The increase in the rates of wages of Bank employees is, however, 79 per cent. and this is not higher than that found in the other two groups. The following table shows the average earnings for each of the more important occupations for 1914 and 1924 and the percentage increases in 1924 over 1914:—

| Occupations | July 1914 | | July 1924 | | Increase per cent. in July 1924 over July 1914 |
|---|------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|--|
| | No. of men | Average monthly earnings | No. of men | Average monthly earnings | |
| | | Rs. a. p. | | Rs. a. p. | |
| Head shroffs .. | 3 | 388 5 4 | 5 | 671 12 19 | 75 |
| Head Clerks .. | 21 | 162 13 9 | 60 | 291 0 9 | 79 |
| First Grade clerks or senior clerks | 43 | 104 7 10 | 162 | 175 7 7 | 64 |
| Second Grade Clerks or junior clerks | 130 | 53 0 0 | 384 | 92 9 10 | 75 |
| Third Grade Clerks or temporary or probationary junior clerks | 27 | 34 4 2 | 67 | 72 7 1 | 111 |
| Clerks of the above three grades | 200 | 61 8 8 | 613 | 112 4 11 | 82 |
| Sorting and checking shroffs .. | 12 | 38 2 8 | 11 | 113 14 7 | 198 |
| Paying and Receiving shroffs .. | 14 | 86 1 2 | 44 | 151 5 2 | 76 |
| Collecting shroffs | 24 | 51 14 8 | 54 | 113 5 3 | 118 |
| Cashiers | 11 | 110 10 2 | 24 | 232 14 8 | 111 |
| Assistant Cashiers | 28 | 69 2 10 | 52 | 143 11 11 | 108 |
| Cash writers .. | 9 | 73 5 4 | 19 | 108 5 11 | 48 |
| Book keepers or Ledger clerks | 53 | 72 1 2 | 128 | 121 13 10 | 69 |
| Bill Clerks (office) | 12 | 60 10 8 | 35 | 115 0 5 | 90 |
| Office stenographers | 6 | 110 0 0 | 21 | 137 0 0 | 25 |
| Typists | 2 | 40 0 0 | 22 | 85 10 0 | 114 |
| Filing Clerks .. | 3 | 43 5 4 | 13 | 80 13 6 | 87 |
| Despatching clerks | 5 | 57 0 0 | 15 | 88 3 7 | 55 |

Solicitors' Offices

In Solicitors' offices the nature of the work expected from the higher grades of clerks is very different to that expected from clerks of similar occupations in other offices, excepting Banks. For instance, it is necessary for most clerks in Solicitors' offices to possess a knowledge of law and experience in legal drafting. The occupations of the higher grades of clerks are, as a consequence, differently designated. The standard of work which the typists in Solicitors' offices have to do is also very much higher than that required in other offices. One would therefore expect that the scales of salaries paid should be somewhat higher and this expectation is borne out by the figures for average monthly earnings of each class of clerks both in the year 1914 and in the year 1924.

The posts of Managing Clerks and Head Clerks in Solicitors' offices are generally held by men who have taken the Solicitors' Examination and also by men who have a University degree in law. Most Senior clerks also possess legal qualifications. As the result of the fact that the supply of men with Indian Law degrees is very much bigger than the demand for this class, the rates of pay at which LL.B.'s are prepared to serve at present are not very much higher than the rates paid in the year 1914. This view receives some confirmation by a study of the figures for the comparative monthly salaries of Managing clerks, Head clerks and Senior

clerks in these offices in the years 1914 and 1924. In 1914, 13 Managing clerks received an average monthly pay which amounted to Rs. 257-4-11 per head. In 1924, 29 Managing clerks received Rs. 340-8-3 per head per month or an increase of 32 per cent. The increase in the salaries of Head Clerks amounts to 19 per cent., and of Senior clerks to 22 per cent. The high rates of average wages in both years are due to the inclusion of old and experienced hands who in some cases received salaries of Rs. 350 per month and over in the year 1914 and Rs. 500 per month and over in the year 1924. The following table summarises the earnings of clerks in Solicitors' offices in the same way as in the three preceding tables:—

| Occupations | July 1914 | | July 1924 | | Increase per cent. in July 1924 over July 1914 |
|---|------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|--|
| | No. of men | Average monthly earnings | No. of men | Average monthly earnings | |
| | | Rs. a. p. | | Rs. a. p. | |
| Managing Clerks | 13 | 257 4 11 | 29 | 340 8 3 | 32 |
| Assistant Managing Clerks | 15 | 74 0 0 | 21 | 140 0 0 | 89 |
| Head clerks .. | 2 | 237 8 0 | 3 | 283 5 4 | 19 |
| First grade clerks or senior clerks | 3 | 158 5 4 | 4 | 193 12 0 | 22 |
| Second grade clerks or junior clerks | 23 | 44 10 5 | 24 | 72 0 0 | 61 |
| Third grade clerks or temporary or probationary junior clerks | 10 | 28 8 0 | 10 | 47 0 0 | 65 |
| Cashiers | 3 | 100 0 0 | 3 | 215 0 0 | 115 |
| Assistant Cashiers | 7 | 54 11 5 | 11 | 113 10 2 | 108 |
| Bill clerks (office) | 8 | 96 4 0 | 16 | 166 14 0 | 73 |
| Office stenographers | 8 | 78 2 0 | 27 | 139 1 2 | 78 |
| Typists | 27 | 44 11 10 | 49 | 86 8 6 | 93 |
| Filing clerks | 9 | 33 1 9 | 20 | 64 8 0 | 95 |
| Despatching clerks | 6 | 46 10 8 | 10 | 93 0 0 | 99 |

Commercial Offices

The best results of the Labour Office Census of Clerical Wages in Bombay City are to be found in the results arrived at from the tabulation of the returns received from Commercial offices. This is due, as pointed out before, to the fact that in the majority of cases the firms which furnished the data required were able to give the rates of pay of their employees more correctly classified with regard to designations and occupations of individuals than the larger offices where no particular designations were attached to many of the clerks employed by them beyond the general term "clerk".

The average daily earnings of each individual in particular groups are, as a result of this, fairly representative of the general rates paid in moderate sized offices. An examination of the percentage increases in wages in 1924 over wages in 1914 will show that there do not exist the same wide variations between the "percentage increase" figures which are to be found in the tables showing the average wages of the clerks in the other

groups of offices. The departures from a normal range of increases varying between 60 and 90 per cent. are only to be found in the case of those occupations which show comparatively small numbers of clerks employed. The principal occupations in Commercial offices such as Assistants, Head clerks, Senior clerks, Junior clerks, Cashiers, Assistant Cashiers, Head Book-keepers, Ledger clerks, Invoice clerks, Customs clerks, Stenographers, Typists, Filing clerks and Despatch clerks all show increases in the average rates of wages earned by them varying very closely round an average of about 70 per cent. There are, however, a few occupations where the increases shown are over 100 per cent. In some cases the increases are due to more specialised work and in others to circumstances and conditions which are not capable of exact determination beyond the general observations already made regarding considerations of age, scale of pay and experience of individuals employed in 1914 and 1924.

Telephone operators in Commercial offices are earning 133 per cent more today than what they did in 1914. This is due to the special factor of the employment at present of better trained men engaged for the operation of more extensive office installations than were to be found in the year 1914. Accountants show an increase of 176 per cent. in their earnings. Although this average is not sufficiently representative owing to the smallness of the numbers returned in both years, the fact remains that the Accountants of today have, as a result of the demand for more statistical information by their employers, to be men of higher educational and intellectual qualifications than the men who were employed and designated as Accountants in the year 1914. The natural consequence of this demand for men with superior training and higher ability is an increase in the rates of wages offered.

The only occupation which showed a wide range of variations in the rates of wages paid to individuals entered in a particular class was "Salesmen". A very common feature in several forms was the return of individuals under this designation with salaries ranging from Rs. 100 or less to Rs. 500 or more. It will be clear that it would not be advisable to group all such salesmen under one category only. One or two firms however returned their salesmen under the three designations of "Expert Salesmen", "Salesmen" and "Apprentice Salesmen". These designations accurately specify the different classes of these commercial employees and they were, therefore, adopted in the Labour Office tabulations for the proper division of the men returned in this class. The total earnings of salesmen are of course largely determined by the commissions they are able to earn rather than by increases in salary. The figures of the increases in the fixed rates of salaries which are paid to these three different types of salesmen therefore would tend to decrease according as an apprentice proceeds higher in experience and ability. This is borne out by the results. Apprentice salesmen earn 58 per cent. more today in fixed incomes than what they did in 1914, ordinary salesmen earn 50 per cent. more and Expert salesmen only 37 per cent. more.

In the Accounts Branch, Head Book-keepers earned Rs. 221-11-2 per head per month in July 1924 as against Rs. 127-6-10 in July 1914.

The increase in their earnings is therefore 74 per cent. Ordinary book-keepers or Ledger clerks are paid 64 per cent. more and they received Rs. 55-5-5 in 1924 as against Rs. 57-15-4 in July 1914. Cashiers received Rs. 121-13-3 per head in 1914 and Rs. 224-8-10 in 1924 and Assistant Cashiers Rs. 60-0-9 and Rs. 107-9-1 respectively. The percentage increases in the rates are 84 in the case of Cashiers and 79 in the case of Assistant Cashiers.

In the Typists Section, Office stenographers earned Rs. 130-6-8 per head per month in comparison with Rs. 77-12-3 twelve years ago and Typists earned Rs. 83-6-4 as against Rs. 49-1-11. The percentage increases in the rates are 68 in the case of Stenographers and 70 in the case of Typists. The following table gives the required information in connection with the earnings of all the principal occupations in Commercial offices for the years 1914 and 1924:—

| Occupations | July 1914 | | July 1924 | | Increase per cent. in July 1924 over July 1914 |
|---|------------|---------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | No. of men | Average monthly earnings Rs. s. p. | No. of men | Average monthly earnings Rs. s. p. | |
| Assistants | 27 | 250 14 10 | 36 | 405 5 2 | 62 |
| Head clerks | 68 | 162 8 3 | 94 | 276 6 5 | 68 |
| First grade clerks or senior clerks | 178 | 87 14 3 | 287 | 151 15 11 | 73 |
| Second grade clerks or junior clerks | 285 | 47 11 2 | 414 | 85 9 4 | 79 |
| Third grade clerks or temporary or probationary junior clerks | 169 | 30 1 6 | 209 | 57 13 10 | 92 |
| Clerks of the above three grades | 632 | 54 5 0 | 910 | 100 2 7 | 84 |
| Cashiers | 52 | 121 13 3 | 65 | 224 8 10 | 84 |
| Assistant cashiers | 64 | 60 0 9 | 76 | 107 9 1 | 79 |
| Expert salesmen | 14 | 356 12 7 | 11 | 489 1 5 | 37 |
| Salesmen | 59 | 155 12 2 | 90 | 233 15 3 | 50 |
| Apprentice salesmen | 29 | 67 6 7 | 24 | 106 3 4 | 58 |
| Accountants | 4 | 148 12 0 | 5 | 410 0 0 | 176 |
| Head Book-keepers | 42 | 127 6 10 | 56 | 221 11 2 | 74 |
| Book-keepers or Ledger clerks | 114 | 57 15 4 | 226 | 95 5 5 | 64 |
| Invoice clerks | 40 | 56 10 0 | 56 | 106 10 4 | 88 |
| Head Customs clerks | 3 | 121 10 8 | 5 | 256 0 0 | 110 |
| Customs clerks | 63 | 57 9 2 | 80 | 93 8 2 | 62 |
| Bill clerks (office) | 41 | 49 2 4 | 48 | 91 2 1 | 85 |
| Bill clerks (collectors) | 32 | 30 1 6 | 42 | 65 7 3 | 117 |
| Store-keepers | 33 | 79 8 9 | 44 | 142 4 9 | 91 |
| Assistant store-keepers | 39 | 48 7 5 | 73 | 70 1 6 | 68 |
| Confidential stenographers | 7 | 100 0 0 | 11 | 213 2 11 | 113 |
| Office stenographers | 38 | 77 12 3 | 101 | 130 6 8 | 68 |
| Typists | 51 | 49 1 11 | 94 | 83 6 4 | 70 |
| Filing clerks | 22 | 43 15 3 | 56 | 77 13 9 | 77 |
| Despatching clerks | 43 | 39 11 11 | 66 | 74 8 0 | 87 |
| Telephone operators | 5 | 31 0 0 | 14 | 72 1 9 | 133 |
| Counter attendants or showmen | 13 | 76 14 9 | 16 | 95 8 0 | 24 |

Although it is apparent that there are some hundreds of women employed as clerks of various types in the offices in Bombay city, returns were received for only 26 women for the year 1924 and for 10 women in the year 1914 from the commercial houses in Bombay which furnished returns. The tabulations of the earnings of women clerks show that ordinary female stenographers earned Rs. 152-7-7 per head per month in July 1924 as against Rs. 85 per head per month in July 1914. Confidential women stenographers earned an average of Rs. 194-8-0 per head per month in the latest year but a comparison with 1914 is not possible because no ladies were returned in this occupation for that year. The monthly earnings of ordinary women typists amounted to Rs. 99 in 1924 as against Rs. 60 in 1914 and of telephone operators Rs. 90-8-0 as against Rs. 41-10-8. The increase in the wages of all women clerks in 1924 amounted to 105 per cent. over the wages earned by them in the year 1914.

Miscellaneous Offices

The number of clerks returned by the offices grouped in the "Miscellaneous" class is very small in comparison with the numbers returned by the other groups of offices covered by this enquiry. The total number of clerks returned for 1924 amounted to 67 and for 1914 to 49. The range of occupations is also very much smaller in Miscellaneous Offices than it is in the other groups. No special observations other than those in the first part of this article appear to be necessary in connexion with the monthly earnings of the more important groups of clerks as shown in the following table:—

| Occupations | July 1914 | | July 1924 | | Increase per cent. in July 1924 over July 1914 |
|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|--|
| | No. of men | Average monthly earnings | No. of men | Average monthly earnings | |
| | | Rs. a. p. | | Rs. a. p. | |
| Head clerks .. | 3 | 190 10 8 | 4 | 246 4 0 | 29 |
| First grade clerks or senior clerks | 11 | 92 10 11 | 13 | 167 4 11 | 81 |
| Second grade clerks or junior clerks | 12 | 54 6 0 | 15 | 79 0 0 | 45 |
| Cashiers | 1 | 125 0 0 | 1 | 275 0 0 | 120 |
| Head Book-keepers | 3 | 135 10 8 | 5 | 220 0 0 | 62 |
| Book-keepers or Ledger clerks | 4 | 65 0 0 | 8 | 108 12 0 | 67 |
| Bill clerks (office) | 3 | 36 5 4 | 5 | 63 0 0 | 73 |
| Office stenographers | 1 | 110 0 0 | 3 | 170 6 8 | 55 |
| Despatching clerks | 2 | 40 0 0 | 3 | 73 5 4 | 83 |

The average monthly earnings of all clerks employed in Miscellaneous Offices were Rs. 83-13-5 per head in July 1914 and Rs. 129-13-4 in July 1924. The increase therefore amounts to 55 per cent.

DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO CASTE

All offices which supplied the figures in Part I of the form did not give the information regarding the caste and religion of the different employees

returned as asked for in Part II of the form for the year 1924. In many cases Part II of the form was not filled in at all. In view of the fact that it would have entailed considerably prolonging the enquiry as well as additional work for the Labour Office to get this omission rectified it was not deemed absolutely necessary to return the forms to the offices which failed to supply this information. The offices which did classify their employees according to caste returned 6,803 men and 29 women in this classification. Out of the 29 women thus returned 25 were Christians, 1 was a Parsee and 3 belonged to castes not specified. The following table shows the caste distribution of male clerks in the six groups of offices covered by this Census:—

| | Christians | Jews | Parsees | Mahomed-ans | Hindus | Others | Total |
|----------------------------|------------|------|---------|-------------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1. Banks | 185 | 8 | 321 | 7 | 636 | | 1,157 |
| 2. Solicitors' firms. | 35 | 1 | 34 | 6 | 130 | | 206 |
| 3. Commercial firms | 429 | 38 | 482 | 28 | 1,264 | 12 | 2,253 |
| 4. Railways, etc. . . | 293 | 31 | 104 | 47 | 850 | | 1,325 |
| 5. Semi-Government offices | 287 | 38 | 188 | 70 | 1,212 | | 1,795 |
| 6. Miscellaneous . . | 19 | | 15 | 3 | 30 | | 67 |
| Total | 1,248 | 116 | 1,144 | 161 | 4,122 | 12 | 6,803 |

The following table presents the figures given in the above table in the form of the percentages of the clerks of each caste to the total of all clerks returned in the different types of offices:—

| | Christians | Jews | Parsees | Mahomed-ans | Hindus | Others | Total |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| | per cent. | per cent. | per cent. | per cent. | per cent. | per cent. | |
| 1. Banks | 16.0 | 0.7 | 27.7 | 0.6 | 55.0 | | 100.0 |
| 2. Solicitors' firms. | 17.0 | 0.5 | 16.5 | 2.9 | 63.1 | | 100.0 |
| 3. Commercial firms | 19.0 | 1.7 | 21.4 | 1.3 | 56.1 | 0.5 | 100.0 |
| 4. Railways, etc. . . | 22.1 | 2.3 | 7.9 | 3.5 | 64.2 | | 100.0 |
| 5. Semi-Government offices | 16.0 | 2.0 | 10.5 | 4.0 | 67.5 | | 100.0 |
| 6. Miscellaneous . . | 28.4 | | 22.4 | 4.5 | 44.7 | | 100.0 |
| Total . . | 18.3 | 1.7 | 16.8 | 2.4 | 60.6 | 0.2 | 100.0 |

It will be seen from the above figures that for every 100 male clerks returned in the forms considered, 61 are Hindus, 18 are Christians, 17 are Parsees, 2 are Mahomedans and 2 belong to all other castes put together.

The next article dealing with this subject which will be published in the issue of the *Labour Gazette* for March 1926 will examine and give the averages for each group of clerks in all the offices which furnished returns

for this enquiry. As these figures will represent the averages of the rates in all offices grouped under one general heading it will be possible to ascertain the general rates of wages prevailing in Bombay City for each type of clerk. Frequency tables showing the range of earnings and the numbers of clerks earning each of the stated rates will also be given.

It must be understood that the figures given in this article are, as already stated, purely provisional and are liable to alteration after the tabulation sheets have been subjected to further examination. The tables themselves should be read in conjunction with the general observations in the first part of the article.

Weekly Wage Payment

DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Dewan Chaman Lall's Bill to make provision for the weekly payment of wages to workmen, domestic servants and other employees which was first introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 23rd September 1924 came up for discussion before the Assembly on 4th February 1926.

In opening the discussion, Mr. Chaman Lall said that he was willing to omit domestic servants from the scope of the bill as their inclusion was considered impracticable. He, however, maintained that in industries it was desirable to make compulsory a weekly system of wage payment. Such a system, he argued, while not being unfair to employers would save the employees from the clutches of money lenders.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas opposed the bill on the ground that it would only lead to harassing of the labour classes and would not benefit them at all. He said that some years ago the system of weekly and fortnightly payments was tried by several millowners and they had to abandon it because the workmen did not like it. Opinion in Bombay and Ahmedabad as also in the agricultural provinces was definitely against the method of weekly payments.

Mr. N. M. Joshi supported the bill mainly on the ground that its passage would tend to diminish indebtedness among industrial workers in the country. He pointed out that a cotton mill worker in Bombay did not get his first wage till he had worked for six weeks and this inevitably had the effect of making him borrow at ruinous rates of interest. He pointed out further that it was not necessary to include agricultural workers in the bill.

After several others had spoken in favour and against the Bill, Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra on behalf of Government quoted the opinions of Local Governments, which were all opposed to the Bill. He pointed out that the experiment of weekly and fortnightly payments had failed. If the method of payment needed alteration, it was a question, he said, not for legislation but for Trade Unions. At the same time Sir Bhupendra agreed that the period after the month for which labourers had to wait to receive payment must be reduced. On the point Government were making enquiries and if they found legislation necessary, they would not hesitate to introduce it. After further discussion, Mr. Chaman Lall withdrew the Bill.

Quasi-Labour Unions in Bombay

The Labour Office collects regularly detailed information in connexion with the constitution, activities, membership and financial position of all known Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency. The information for the unions in the cities of Bombay and Ahmedabad is collected personally by the Investigators of the Labour Office and for the unions in the rest of the Presidency through the Collectors of Districts. The information thus obtained is published quarterly in the March, June, September and December issues of the *Labour Gazette* under the heading 'Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency'. Hitherto only those unions which were considered to be organisations of workmen were included in the Labour Office lists of Trade Unions; and all other unions, societies, associations and trade and craft guilds were mentioned, with or without brief notes as to their activities, in a separate paragraph at the end of each review under the heading 'Quasi Unions'. This article deals with those unions in some detail.

The principal associations and Trade Guilds hitherto included under the category of Quasi-Labour Unions are as follows:—

- (1) The Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants of India and Burma, Limited.
 - (2) The Kamgar Hitwardhak Sabha,
 - (3) The Victoria Owners' and Drivers' Association,
 - (4) The Saloon, Hamamkhana Owners' and Barbers' Association, and
 - (5) The Girmi Kamgar Sangha;
- to which list may now be added

- (6) The Crawford Market Stall Keepers' Association.

The Victoria Owners' and Drivers' Association and the Saloon, Hamamkhana Owners' and Barbers' Association were, when they were first formed in the year 1923, included in the Labour Office list of Trade Unions; but more detailed enquiries as regards the constitution and activities of these Associations resulted in their classification as Trade Guilds; and they have, therefore, since September 1924, been reclassified under the head of Quasi-Labour Unions. It has now been ascertained that these associations cannot, owing to the nature of their constitution and membership be regarded even as Quasi-Labour Unions and it is therefore proposed to omit them altogether in future articles and reviews to be published in the *Labour Gazette* on Trade Unions and Quasi-Labour Unions in the Bombay Presidency. The Crawford Market Stall Keepers' Association is also a purely Trade Guild and this Union also will not be dealt with in future.

The Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants of India and Burma, Limited, was classified as a Quasi-Labour Union on account of the fact that its activities appeared to be confined mainly to Mutual Benefit and Mutual Insurance Work and also because it was registered under the Indian Companies Act. This society was, therefore, considered more or less as a Friendly Society. More detailed enquiries regarding this Association show that it is really a Trade Union, conducted on the lines of some of the best unions of its kind in more industrialised countries. The Girmi

Kamgar Sangh, or the Girni Kamgar Mahamandal by which name it is now known, is also a Trade Union. These two organisations will, in future, be included in the Labour Office list of Trade Unions and information in connexion with them will be regularly published in the Quarterly Review of Trade Unions.

The Kamgar Hitwardhak Sabha remains at present as the only Association which may be classed as a Quasi-Labour Union but even this Union is now under reconstitution with a view to bringing it into line with the other Textile Labour Unions in the City. The reconstruction of the Kamgar Hitwardhak Sabha into a proper Trade Union is expected to be completed in about two or three months' time and it is anticipated that it will be possible to classify this association as a Trade Union in the Quarterly Review of Trade Unions which will be published in the issue of the *Labour Gazette* for June 1926.

THE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF RAILWAY SERVANTS OF INDIA AND BURMA, LIMITED

This institution is, as far as it is known, the oldest labour union in India. It was founded in the year 1897 and is registered under the Indian Companies Act of 1882. It is composed of railway servants of all grades, nationalities and creeds from almost all the principal Railways in India and Burma. The society has its Head Office in Bombay with 43 branches scattered all over the country. It has a properly drawn up Memorandum and Articles of Association and fairly elaborate and comprehensive sets of rules laying down the procedure for the conduct of the management of the society itself and for the administration of the various Benefit Societies and Funds created for assisting its members.

The general management of the society is vested in a President (or in his absence the Vice-President), the General Secretary and a Board of Trustees comprising not less than eleven nor more than fifteen members. No decision of the Trustees can be reversed or challenged except in general meeting. The management of each branch of the society is vested in a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and a Committee consisting of not less than seven members which in some cases however may be reduced to five. The office bearers of the society (except the General Secretary) are elected by the Annual General Meeting and those of the Branches by the Annual General Meetings of the Branches themselves. The Annual General Meetings of the Society are attended by delegates nominated by the Branches according to the number of members in each Branch.

The powers of the Board of Trustees and of the Annual General Meeting are in a great measure similar to the powers conferred by Companies generally on their Boards of Directors and General Annual or Extraordinary Meetings. The President, Vice President or the General Secretary may summon ordinary or special meetings as occasion may require. A meeting of those Trustees who reside within three hundred miles of Bombay City is called a meeting of the Local Board of Trustees and a meeting of all the Trustees is called a meeting of the Full Board. All Trustees receive fees ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 15 per day plus their second class fare to and from Bombay for meetings attended by them. The General Secretary is

appointed by the Board of Trustees and he becomes a member of the Society on his appointment. His tenure of office is decided by one month's notice given or received by the Trustees. The scale of salary laid down for him is Rs. 500 per month rising by annual increments of Rs. 50 to Rs. 700 per month. The Branch Secretaries are honorary but each Branch Secretary receives an honorarium of five per cent. of the total fees collected by him. In addition to the General Secretary and the Branch Secretary there are paid travelling or organizing secretaries and an Assistant General Secretary. These are appointed from time to time as occasion may require. The Treasurer of the whole society receives an honorarium of Rs. 100 per year. The present principal office-bearers of the Society are:—

| | | |
|----------------------------|----|----------------------|
| President | .. | Mr. C. W. A. Gidney. |
| Vice President | .. | Mr. R. Freeman. |
| Honorary General Treasurer | .. | Mr. C. Ray. |
| General Secretary | .. | Mr. E. Woodfall. |

Objects.—The objects of the Society are:—

- (1) To improve the condition and protect the interest of its members;
- (2) To endeavour to obtain and maintain reasonable hours of duty and fair rates of wages;
- (3) To promote a good understanding between employers and employed, the better regulation of their relation and the settlement of disputes between them by arbitration, or failing arbitration, by other lawful means;
- (4) To avoid strikes upon the part of its members by every possible and lawful means;
- (5) To provide relief during sickness and unemployment and benefits at the death of a member in accordance with the rules of the Society and of the Voluntary Sick Benefit and the Family Benefit Fund Societies;
- (6) To provide legal assistance, when necessary, in matters pertaining to and arising out of the employment of members;
- (7) To aid the young orphan children of all members;
- (8) To use every effort to provide for the safety of Railway work and Railway travelling; and
- (9) To further the interests of the Society in all ways within the limits laid down by its rules.

Membership.—Any person permanently employed on any Railway in India or Burma is eligible for admission as a member of the Society provided he has been in active employment of a Railway for a period of at least twelve months. The salaried staff of the Society and teachers of Railway schools are also permitted to become members. There are five different classes of members of the Society grouped according to monthly income. Class A consists of members drawing a salary of Rs. 100 or over; Class B of members earning between Rs. 50 and Rs. 100; Class C for members with monthly incomes between Rs. 25 and Rs. 50; Class D for members earning less than Rs. 25; and Class E for menials. The rates of monthly subscription are Rs. 1-8-0 for "A" class members, Re. 1 for "B" class members, 12 annas for "C" class members, 6 annas for "D" class members and 3 annas for members of the "E" class. The entrance fee is equal to one month's subscription for each class of membership.

All fees are payable strictly in advance. The Society observes extraordinarily rigorous rules in connexion with the payment by members of subscriptions due to it. No notice of the non-payment of subscription fees or arrears is sent to any member. If a member does not pay his dues for a period of three months he has to undergo what is called a probationary period of six months during which he forfeits all claims to the various benefits which the Society gives to its members. Any member owing more than 6 months subscription automatically ceases to be a member and is liable to expulsion from the Society unless he can show that he had domestic affliction.

The membership of the Society has fallen considerably during the last two or three years. The reasons assigned for this decrease in membership are (1) heavy retrenchment in all railway administrations in India; and (2) superannuation of older members. Some members consider that the rules in connexion with the payment of subscriptions and other dues to the Society are unnecessarily harsh in application and the discontent thereby caused is said to be responsible for constant withdrawals from membership of the Society. Owing to the fact that there is often a considerable delay in the submission of the monthly returns of existing and newly enrolled members from the Society's various Branches in India and Burma, it is not possible for the management to compute the exact strength of the membership from day to day or from month to month. The latest correct returns made out for the year ending 31st March 1925 show that on the 1st April 1925 the membership of the Society stood as follows—

| Railway Administration | Classes of Members | | | | | Total No. of members |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------------|
| | A | B | C | D | E | |
| G. I. P. Railway | 853 | 72 | 59 | 57 | 34 | 1,075 |
| M. & S. M. Railway | 49 | 30 | 41 | 146 | 102 | 368 |
| B. B. & C. I. Railway | 95 | 18 | 33 | 55 | 66 | 267 |
| N. G. S. Railway | 28 | 20 | 35 | 99 | 15 | 197 |
| S. I. Railway | 28 | 7 | 8 | 16 | 12 | 71 |
| N. W. Railway | 108 | 5 | 13 | 11 | 1 | 138 |
| E. I. Railway | 151 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 1 | 169 |
| O. & R. Railway | 26 | 9 | 1 | 2 | | 38 |
| Other Railways | 5 | | | | 3 | 8 |
| Total | 1,343 | 163 | 191 | 400 | 234 | 2,331 |

Benefits to Members.—The Society affords considerable advantages in the shape of benefits of various kinds to its members. The ordinary benefits to which every member of the society is entitled are:—(1) Accident Benefit; (2) Legal Assistance; (3) Death Benefit; (4) Non-Employment or Suspension Benefit; and (5) Protection Benefit.

Accident Benefit.—Any member who, when on, or in the execution of his duty, meets with an accident which permanently disables him from following any employment, and who at the date of his accident had been 12 clear consecutive months in the society is entitled to this benefit, provided the Trustees are convinced of the validity of his claim and

that the accident was in no way the result of his negligence, drunkenness, or due to his own act. The amounts of the benefit paid to members of the various classes are as follows:—

| | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|-----|
| Class A | .. | .. | .. | Rs. |
| .. B | .. | .. | .. | 300 |
| .. C | .. | .. | .. | 200 |
| .. D | .. | .. | .. | 150 |
| .. E | .. | .. | .. | 75 |
| | | | | 37 |

Legal assistance.—Should any member who has been six months in the Society and is clear on the books be prosecuted for an offence or offences alleged to have been committed by him in the execution of his duty, or be unjustly dismissed from his employment with or without forfeiture of wages, or be in any manner illegally dealt with by his employers in connection with the carrying out of his duties, or have withheld from him by his employer any moneys to which he is entitled, or if in any way it is necessary for his protection or for the obtaining of any just claim from his employers that any legal steps should be taken, the Trustees have power, should they deem it a fair case, either to instruct their legal adviser to institute or defend legal proceedings on his behalf up to a maximum expenditure of Rs. 100 for A class members, Rs. 85 for B Class members, Rs. 75 for C class members, Rs. 50 for D class members and Rs. 40 for E class members, or permit the member to take legal steps and reimburse him the actual expenditure subject to the same maxima.

Death Benefit.—If any member who has been six months in the society, and is not out of benefits owing to forfeiture due to non-payment of the society's dues, dies, his nominee or nominees are entitled to the following benefit:—

| | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|-----|
| Class A | .. | .. | .. | Rs. |
| .. B | .. | .. | .. | 100 |
| .. C | .. | .. | .. | 66 |
| .. D | .. | .. | .. | 50 |
| .. E | .. | .. | .. | 25 |
| | | | | 12 |

Non-Employment or Suspension Benefit.—If any member who has been in the Society six months and is clear on the books, is discharged or suspended from his employment, then, if his discharge or suspension was not the result of drunkenness or misconduct, the member is entitled to benefit according to the following scale:—

| | | | | | |
|-------------|---------|-----|----|----|-----------------------------|
| For Class A | members | Rs. | a. | p. | |
| .. B | .. | 20 | 0 | 0 | per month for three months. |
| .. C | .. | 13 | 0 | 0 | .. |
| .. D | .. | 10 | 0 | 0 | .. |
| .. E | .. | 5 | 0 | 0 | .. |
| | | 2 | 8 | 0 | .. |

A member discharged for refusing to accept reduction of wages unjustly made by a Railway Company is entitled to the benefit.

A member who receives relief during suspension, and who is afterwards paid by his employers for the whole or any portion of such suspensions, has to refund to the Branch the amount of the donation received by him for that period. Any member dismissed from his employment and receiving wages in lieu of notice is not entitled to relief for the period covered by such wages. Should he, from any cause, have received the benefit for such period, he has to refund the same to his Branch.

Protection Benefit.—For the more effectual protection of the labour and rights of members and for the better carrying on of any movement having that end in view, and for compensating members and officers for loss suffered in consequence of taking part in any movement or in the work of the Society, the following benefits have been devised:—

(a) Any member not being over three months in arrears in his contributions, and who is discharged from his employment for taking an active part in any movement carried on by, or under the sanction of the Society, or for being an officer of the Society, and doing his duty in that capacity, is entitled, on the cause being clearly proved to the satisfaction of the Board of Trustees, to benefits according to the following scale:—

| For Class | A | members | Rs. | per month for five months. |
|-----------|---|---------|-----|----------------------------|
| " | B | " | 60 | " " |
| " | C | " | 40 | " " |
| " | D | " | 30 | " " |
| " | E | " | 15 | " " |
| " | E | " | 7 | " " |

(b) Should a member be unable to again obtain employment equivalent to that from which he is discharged, the Board of Trustees are authorised in lieu of the monthly allowance, to grant to the member a lump sum not exceeding the following:—

| For Class | A | members | Rs. |
|-----------|---|---------|-----|
| " | B | " | 300 |
| " | C | " | 200 |
| " | D | " | 150 |
| " | E | " | 75 |
| " | E | " | 37 |

If monthly payments have been made to the member, the lump sum is to be reduced by the total amount of the monthly payments made.

(c) In the event of a member being reduced in the service for any of the above causes, an allowance is made to him per month as follows:—

| To Class | A | members | Rs. | per month for five months. |
|----------|---|---------|-----|----------------------------|
| " | B | " | 20 | " " |
| " | C | " | 13 | " " |
| " | D | " | 10 | " " |
| " | E | " | 5 | " " |
| " | E | " | 2 | " " |

(d) The Trustees have power to withhold further payment of the grant if the report of the Branch Committee is correct, or if from other reliable sources it is proved that the member burdens the fund when employment is obtainable.

(e) Any member who obtains the benefit of the fund by mis-representation or by false pretence, may be called upon to refund all benefits paid to him and he may be suspended from further benefits till such time as the refunds are made good.

In addition to the granting of the various benefits dealt with above the Union conducts two additional Benefit Societies for the further protection of its members and also a separate fund for fuller legal protection. The first and most important of these Societies and Funds is the Voluntary Legal Defence and Protection Fund. The second is the Family Benefit Fund Society which is more or less a Mutual Insurance Fund for the benefit of its members, and the third is the Voluntary Sick Benefit Fund Society. All or any of the benefits from these funds are only paid to the members who specially subscribe to one or more of them. No persons can be subscribers to these two Societies and the Fund unless they are members of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants.

The Voluntary Legal Defence and Protection Fund

This fund is under the control of the Board of Trustees of the society itself. Every member of the society, irrespective of the class to which he may belong, who wishes to be a member of this Fund has to pay an entrance fee of Rs. 3 which may be paid either in a lump sum on joining or in three monthly instalments of Re. 1 each. A member of this fund is entitled to the fullest possible legal or other protection in any circumstances arising out of his duties. For instance, if a driver of an engine is prosecuted by the Railway authorities under whom he is employed for criminal negligence whilst on duty, he is entitled, if he is a subscriber to this fund, to the full costs of his defence in the Courts without any limitation to the amount which may be spent in this connexion. In the recent Punjab Mail Collision Case, Driver Cooverji was defended by the society at a total cost of Rs. 6,406-8-0. A railway employee by the name of Mr. Burjorji was also defended recently in another case at a total cost of Rs. 7,747-8-0. When a case for the defence of a member arises all the members of this fund are bound by its rules to pay one or more special calls of Re. 1 per month that may be made by the Board of Trustees. On the 1st April 1925, 1,288 members of the Amalgamated Society were members of this fund.

Membership of this fund is subject to a probationary period of six months from the time of joining, during which period benefits cannot be claimed.

Failure to pay two consecutive calls within the month following that in which these calls have been made, debars a subscriber from the benefits of the Fund, and such subscriber continues being suspended from its benefits for a period of six months from the date on which the arrears have been paid; but a subscriber suspended from its benefits has to pay all calls made during the period of his suspension.

All arrangements for the defence, etc., of subscribers are made by, or with, the permission of the General Secretary, acting on the written instructions of the President, or in his absence the Vice-President, or in the latter's absence the General Treasurer who may consult such Trustees as he finds convenient. If for any reason it is impossible to obtain the President's written instructions, the General Secretary, in urgent cases, may refer to any two Trustees who are then to give written instructions.

The Family Benefit Fund Society

This society is quite separate from the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants of India and Burma, Limited, as far as its constitution is concerned. Its funds are invested separately to those of the Amalgamated Society and it has its own special general meetings. But the management of this Society is under the Board of Trustees and the other officers of the parent society, which receives a certain percentage of the annual revenue from the subscriptions for the purpose of the payment of the expenses in connexion with its maintenance. As stated in a previous paragraph this Society is more or less a Mutual Insurance Society which gives the advantages of cheap insurance to its members. On the 1st April 1925, 390 members of the Amalgamated Society were subscribers to this Fund.

The procedure in connexion with the admission of members to this society is very similar to that adopted by Insurance Companies in general for prospective Policy Holders and there are all the customary preliminaries to be gone through as regards certification of age, medical examination, certification of the absence of hereditary or specially dangerous-to-life diseases, appointment of nominees, etc. There is an entrance fee of Rs. 3 payable in a lump sum or in 3 monthly instalments, but the fees for medical examination are paid by the society. Subscriptions are graded according to the ages of prospective members and are for Life insurance as follows:—

| | Rs. a. p. |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 21 to 25 years .. | .. 1 0 0 per month. |
| 26 to 30 .. | .. 1 4 0 .. |
| 31 to 35 .. | .. 1 8 0 .. |
| 36 to 40 .. | .. 1 12 0 .. |
| 41 to 45 .. | .. 2 0 0 .. |

The benefit payable to a nominee or nominees of a member insuring against life only is Rs. 500 at death. In the case of members who wish to assure for an endowment, the fees payable are Rs. 1-1-0 per month at the age of 21 with an additional one anna for every year over 21 up to a maximum of Rs. 2 at the age of 36. The benefit for such members is Rs. 500 to nominee or nominees at death or an endowment of that amount to the assuring member at the age of 55. The maximum monthly subscription payable is fixed at Rs. 2 and the age at which an endowment can be drawn is fixed at 55. Any member over the age of 36 who may desire to assure for an endowment therefore pays only Rs. 2 per month but the endowment he can draw, if alive, at the age of 55 is fixed on a sliding scale which diminishes according to the increasing age at which the proposer assures himself.

The Voluntary Sick Benefit Fund Society

This society is also quite separate from the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants of India and Burma, and the rules regarding the management of this fund, and for the conduct of its general meetings are similar to those of the Family Benefit Fund Society. Any member of the Amalgamated Society who is under fifty years of age is eligible for admission as a member into this society. There is no entrance fee to be paid. The

monthly subscription varies according to the class of members to which a prospective subscriber belongs and the fees payable are as follows:—

| | Rs. a. p. |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| A class members .. | .. 1 0 0 per month. |
| B " " " .. | .. 0 8 0 .. |
| C " " " " .. | .. 0 4 0 .. |
| D " " " " .. | .. 0 2 0 .. |
| E " " " " .. | .. 0 1 0 .. |

The benefits which a subscriber to this fund receives are as follows subject to certain maxima:—

| | Rs. a. p. |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| For A class members .. | .. 40 0 0 per month. |
| " B " " " .. | .. 20 0 0 .. |
| " C " " " " .. | .. 10 0 0 .. |
| " D " " " " .. | .. 5 0 0 .. |
| " E " " " " .. | .. 2 8 0 .. |

The Railway Times

The Society publishes regularly a weekly paper called "The Railway Times" which is supplied to its members on the payment of a special subscription of Rs. 6 per year from members earning Rs. 50 per month and over and of Rs. 3 per year from members earning less than Rs. 50. This journal contains items of topical interest to railwaymen. It ventilates their grievances and gives interesting and general information in connexion with the employment of labour on all the Railways in India and Burma. It also caters for its lady readers by publishing short stories, serials and popular recipes for cooking. The paper is edited by Mr. E. Woodfall, the General Secretary of the Society.

Financial Position

During the year ending 31st March 1924, the revenue of the parent Society in subscriptions and entrance fees amounted to Rs. 27,085-10-6. The contributions from the Family Benefit Fund and the Voluntary Sick Benefit Fund Societies and the Voluntary Legal Defence and Protection Fund amounted to Rs. 2,368-7-6. The surplus revenue transferred to the credit of the General Revenue Account from the *Railway Times* Revenue Account amounted to Rs. 1,157-4-0. After including interest on investments, the total revenue of the society from all sources was Rs. 29,814-5-5. The expenditure for the year was Rs. 32,29-13-3, thus showing a loss of Rs. 2,425-7-10 on the year's working. The Revenue of the Voluntary Legal Defence and Protection Fund in Entrance Fees and Calls and in Bank interest on cash in current accounts amounted to Rs. 2,995-4. The expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 8,455-5-2. The deficit of Rs. 5,460-1-2 on the working of this Fund for the year was transferred to the Balance Sheet of the parent Society. The Revenue and Expenditure Accounts of the two other societies showed an excess of revenue over expenditure amounting to Rs. 2,724-4-0 on the working of the Family Benefit Fund and a similar excess of Rs. 89-6-6 on the working of the Sick Benefit Fund.

The total revenue of the parent society during the year ending 31st March 1925 was Rs. 27,923-12-2 and the expenditure was Rs. 35,824-11-3. The loss on the year's working therefore amounted to Rs. 7,900-15-1. The main item of expenditure is in connexion with the Salaries and Traveling Expenses of the General Secretary and the Head Office staff which absorbed Rs. 12,545-12-2. The expenses in connexion with the management of the offices of the various branches amounted to Rs. 9,056-2-2. Trustees fees and railway fares for attending meetings cost the Society Rs. 3,208-15-6 and the expenses in connexion with the Annual General Meeting Rs. 3,327-8-0. A sum of Rs. 966 was paid out in ordinary death benefits and Rs. 399 in non-employment benefits. The reasons assigned for the marked excess of expenditure over revenue are (1) an unforeseen falling off in the number of members of the society; and (2) the impossibility of reducing the expenditure in view of the work which had to be done. As a result of the adverse working of the last two years the Society has effected drastic retrenchment in its expenditure and it hopes to be in a position to report a balanced or even a surplus budget on the working of the year ending 31st March 1926 to its next Annual General Meeting.

The Balance Sheet of the Society for the year ending 31st March 1925 shows specific liabilities amounting to over Rs. 10,000 on a block account of Rs. 12,934-1-7. On the credit side of the Balance Sheet are Furniture and Fittings valued at Rs. 855-12-6 net, Book debts amounting to Rs. 860-3-8 and Cash in hand amounting to Rs. 4,113-11-9. The total deficit on the "Assets" side is Rs. 6,215-1-8 which is of course due to the loss brought forward from the General Revenue Account. As far as the financial position of the main Society is concerned an examination of the accounts as published shows that it is not as sound as it should be.

The working of *The Railway Times* also showed a loss of Rs. 49-6-4 which was transferred to the General Revenue Account. The Revenue Account of the Voluntary Legal Defence and Protection Fund shows an excess of revenue over expenditure amounting to Rs. 3,425-4-5 which is transferred to the Balance Sheet of the Society as a credit due to this Fund. On the same side of this Balance Sheet there appears a liability of Rs. 2,247-8-0 "due to Mr. Burjorji for the balance of Legal Charges on N. Burjorji's case". Had the latter debt been settled in full this excess of revenue in the account of the Voluntary Legal Defence and Protection Fund would have shown a corresponding reduction.

The position in connexion with the accounts of the Family Benefit Fund Society appears to be fairly sound. The revenue from entrance fees, subscriptions and interest on investments amounted to Rs. 7,460-4-0 during the year under review which together with Rs. 37,342-6-6 carried forward from the previous year gave this fund a total credit of Rs. 44,802-10-6 during the year. As against this the actual benefits paid amounted to Rs. 3,500 and other expenditure to Rs. 920 leaving a net amount of Rs. 40,382-10-6 to the credit of this fund at the end of the year.

The Voluntary Sick Benefit Fund Society does not appear to be very popular with the members of the Amalgamated Society although it affords exceedingly generous advantages to its members. The membership of this Society stood at 93 as on the 1st April 1925. The reasons for this unpopularity are not far to seek. In the first place the total burden of

subscriptions on the individual members who subscribe to all the various Funds of the Society is rather high, even though it be admitted that the greater portion of the subscriptions are in the nature of insurance against several different kinds of risks. In the second place, the rules with regard to the granting of benefits, although the benefits in themselves are generous, are rather strict. The financial position of this fund, although healthy, is not therefore, in the same flourishing condition as that of the Family Benefit Fund Society. The total revenue in subscriptions during the year under review amounted to Rs. 855-6-0 and interest on investments brought in Rs. 82-10-1. The benefits paid amounted to Rs. 815-11-0 and the working expenses to Rs. 136-4-0. The amount standing at the credit of the fund on the 31st March 1925 was Rs. 2,489-15-1 as against a credit balance of Rs. 2,503-13-11 brought forward from the previous year's account.

Other Activities of the Society

The Society has carried on a continuous campaign to obtain recognition by the Railway Board and by the different Railway Administrations in India. Although unqualified recognition has not yet been accorded to it, the management states that several Agents of Railways have given the Society a kindly hearing in connexion with various matters. The Society is now engaged in an endeavour to get the Railway Board and the individual Railway Companies to revise some of the conditions which are found to be very harsh in operation in connexion with the terms of service and employment of Railwaymen in India.

Now that the Trade Union Bill has been passed in the Legislative Assembly, the Society has been advised by its Solicitors to take early steps to reorganise itself with a view to registration under the coming Trade Union Act.

The Kamgar Hitwardhak Sabha

The Kamgar Hitwardhak Sabha was founded in the year 1909 as an Association for watching the interests of Indian Working Men. It is composed of persons taking an interest in the conditions under which workmen live and work and of a few jobbers of Textile Mills, foremen of workshops and other more highly paid workpeople. The original founders of the Sabha were the late Mr. B. R. Nare, a retired Weaving Master and Messrs. S. K. Bole and H. A. Talcherkar. The objects of the Union are—

- (1) to give relief to workmen in indigent circumstances;
 - (2) to promote education among them by means of night classes and instructive lectures;
 - (3) to wean all workers from harmful customs;
 - (4) to find them help in time of stress;
 - (5) to settle amicably disputes between employers and employed;
 - (6) to render to workpeople medical and legal help whenever necessary;
- and
- (7) to make all efforts to ameliorate the condition of the working classes generally.

The present office bearers of the Sabha are :—
President—Rao Saheb Manaji Rajuji Kalewar,

Vice-President—Mr. Narayenrao Mahadev Pradhan,
 Honorary Secretaries—Mr. S. K. Bole, M.L.C.,
 Mr. H. A. Talcherkar, B.A., Bar.-at-Law, J.P.
 Dr. S. W. Patil, L.M. & S.
 Honorary Treasurer—Mr. S. V. Keer.

In addition to the above, the Sabha has a strong Advisory Board of members from all walks of life. The membership fee is Re. 1 per annum but there are no paying members at present on account of the fact that no subscriptions have been collected for the last two or three years. The number of members reported as being on its rolls is nearly 300. The members of the Sabha took a very live and active interest on behalf of the workmen during the recent general strike of Cotton Mill Operatives in Bombay City and rendered valuable help to The Committee of Assistance to the Textile Workers not only in representing the case of the workers to the employers and to Government, but also in the organisation of the work that was undertaken by that body in affording relief to all workers who were *bona fide* in need of outside help.

During normal times the principal activities of the Sabha are confined to Social Welfare Work. It has done some very useful work in encouraging sanitation and temperance among the working classes.

On holidays and festive occasions the Sabha holds social gatherings in different mill localities. The management of such gatherings is entrusted almost entirely to the workmen themselves. Wrestling bouts and amateur theatricals are sometimes organised and small prizes are given in order to make the competitions popular and interesting. With a view to improve the health of the workers and to provide some recreation for them the Sabha has helped in establishing several gymnasia in mill neighbourhoods or theatres. Magic lantern lectures on subjects of topical interest are also conducted from time to time.

The Sabha does much useful work in connexion with disputes between employers and employed. Whenever the workmen of a particular mill or workshop or groups of mills and workshops have complaints which threaten to end in regular disputes, the Officers of the Sabha do their utmost to organise meetings of the men in order to hear their case and to interview the managements of the industrial establishments concerned with a view to arriving at a friendly solution of a difficulty. If a dispute ends in a strike, the Sabha does its best to carry on the negotiations between the masters and the men in order to bring about its speedy termination. The Sabha is therefore very active whenever there is a general strike in any industry in Bombay City.

Among the three secretaries of the Sabha, one Secretary is a doctor and another a Barrister-at-Law. The medical Secretary gives free medical advice to all members of this Society and to other workpeople as far as possible. Similarly, Mr. Talcherkar is always open to give free legal advice to all workpeople who are in need of such assistance.

As stated in the beginning of this article, the Kamgar Hitwardhak Sabha is now engaged in reconstructing its constitution with a view to making the Sabha a thoroughly representative Trade Union to be registered under the Trade Unions Act.

THE VICTORIA OWNERS' AND DRIVERS' ASSOCIATION

This Association was founded in the year 1924 with Mr. S. H. Jhabwalla of the Central Labour Board as President, Mr. H. Caloor as Vice-President and Mr. Ibrahim Khan as Secretary. As its name shows it is an association of the owners of the Victorias which ply for hire in Bombay City and of the drivers of the Victorias. In the majority of cases the drivers are not the employees of the owners, but independent outsiders who enter into contracts with the owners to hire out a carriage with two horses on the payment of a certain sum per day which generally amounts to Rs. 8 or Rs. 9. The entrance fee is Re. 1 and the rates of subscription are Rs. 2 per month for owners and four annas per month for drivers. The total membership of the Association is reported as nearly 1,200.

The objects of the Association are as follows :—

- (a) to promote among the members of the union feelings of friendship and brotherhood and the encouragement of mutual assistance ;
- (b) to consider all difficulties about work and wages and to settle all differences according to the rules of the Association ;
- (c) to promote a spirit of harmony between the owners and the drivers ;
- (d) to open a fund for the granting of death benefits to the helpless dependants of members and to give assistance to members at times of sickness and distress ;
- (e) to improve the condition of members by organising schemes for mutual life insurance, a Provident Fund, the granting of medical help, etc. ;
- (f) to promote education among the members and their families and to impart instruction in connexion with the principles of sanitation ; child welfare and domestic economics ; and
- (g) to take all necessary steps effectively to carry out all the above objects.

As is usual with many Unions and similar Associations in the Bombay Presidency, subscriptions are considerably in arrears and the revenue of the association, therefore, at present is practically nil. The office of the Association is situated in the late Mr. Julius Gove's stable at Bellasis Road.

The principal activity of the Association since its creation in 1924 has been the making of continual representations to the Police authorities for a modification of the existing rules in connexion with the issue of licenses and the payment of registration fees. The President of the Association reports that continual representations have and are also continually being made for a reduction in the Wheel Tax, the present rate of which is considered to be extraordinarily high.

When the association first started, it engaged the services of a Veterinary Doctor and a Pleader for the purposes of examining the animals taken to the Courts by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for prosecution of the drivers on grounds of cruelty and ill-treatment, and for defending the prosecuted drivers in such cases. The officers are reported as having done much useful work during the period of their engagement,

but in view of the present financial stringency of its funds, the Association cannot afford to continue employing them.

One agitation conducted by the Association is that in connexion with the proposal for the setting up of an Independent Traffic Court in Bombay City with a full-time Magistrate for the purpose of dealing with all regarding S. P. C. A. prosecutions and Police Prosecutions of drivers and owners of all classes of vehicles. Proposals have also been made by the Association to the effect that all fines recovered as the result of prosecutions by the S. P. C. A. should be handed over to an independent organisation for the general amelioration of the condition of animals.

The Association has, hitherto, not met with any great success in connexion with the various representations made by it to the Police authorities and to the Bombay Municipality. This lack of success has damped the ardour of many members and is stated to be chiefly responsible for the falling off in the membership of the association and the non-payment of subscriptions by the present members on its rolls.

THE SALOON, HAMAMKHANA OWNERS' AND BARBERS' ASSOCIATION

This Association was founded in the year 1924 with the principal object of representing the case of the keepers of all Hair Dressing Saloons and Barbers in Bombay City to the Bombay Municipality against the recovery of a licensing fee. The Entrance fee is one rupee and the monthly subscription for each member is four annas. When the Association was first started it had a membership of nearly twelve hundred members but owing to the defeat of the Association in the representation put up by it on the principal grievance for the removal of which it was created, the membership has now declined considerably and its present strength is reported as less than 200. The monthly expenditure amounts to Rs. 25 against a monthly income of Rs. 40. This Association at present is in a state of inanition and it is considered that it will not be able to hold together very much longer.

THE GIRNI KAMGAR SANGHA

This Association was founded in the year 1919 by Messrs. Kanji Dwarkadas and Laxmidas Raojee Tairsee for promoting the interests of Cotton Mill Workers in Bombay City. Messrs. Kanji Dwarkadas and D. R. Mayekar, a storekeeper in the Colaba Land Mills, were secretaries and Mr. Tairsee was the Treasurer. The number of foundation members amounted to 75. It is reported that the Association did some useful work in connexion with the Kohinoor Mill strike in January 1920 by bringing about a satisfactory conclusion to this dispute.

Owing to his nomination to the Bombay Legislative Council in 1920 as a representative of Labour, Mr. Kanji Dwarkadas could not spare any time for the work of this Association and nobody else came forward to carry on the work begun. As a result of this, the Union soon fell into a state of inanition and existed more or less as a mere name from 1920 to 1923, when Mr. D. R. Bhatwadekar, a Jobber in one of the local mills in Bombay, was elected by a meeting of mill workers as the President of the Girni Kamgar Sangha or the Girni Kamgar Mahamandal by which name it now

began to be known. Mr. D. R. Mayekar, one of the Joint Secretaries of the original Association was elected Secretary. Mr. Arjun Atmaram Alve, another prominent mill-hand, was also closely associated with the formation and the conduct of the Mahamandal. Mr. Bhatwadekar placed a room in his own dwelling at the disposal of the Union as an office room and as a meeting place for the members.

Owing to some personal differences of opinion between Mr. Bhatwadekar and Mr. Mayekar, the latter formed another Union at Prabhadevi under the same name in the year 1925 and opened two further branches at Chorupdeo and Colaba. There are now four different Labour Associations in Bombay with the name "Girni Kamgar Mahamandal". The original Mahamandal at Chinchpokli is under the Presidentship of Mr. D. A. Bhatwadekar with Mr. Shanker Dhaku Kusgaonkar as Treasurer and Mr. V. G. Sadvelkar as Secretary. The President of the Prabhadevi Mahamandal is Mr. Arjun Atmaram Alve with Mr. Bhuwa Tanu Alve as Treasurer and Mr. Mayekar as Secretary. The Colaba and Chorupdeo Mahamandals have also got their own officers but the management of these is under the Prabhadevi Mahamandal. The present position is that both Mr. Bhatwadekar and Mr. Mayekar state that each of their respective Unions is entitled to the name "Girni Kamgar Mahamandal". The whole situation is however to be discussed at a meeting of the members of all the four Mahamandals and it is reported that proposals are to be submitted to this meeting for the creation of a Central Board of which each of these and the other Mahamandals which may be formed will be members.

The entrance fee for membership of each of the Mahamandals is one rupee. The membership fee for the Chinchpokli Mahamandal is one rupee per annum and of the other Mahamandals four annas per month. The number of members of the Chinchpokli Union is reported as 179 and of the other three put together at nearly 1,500. The objects of all the Mahamandals are as follows:—

- (1) to get all mill workers to join the Mahamandal in order to enable the Union to obtain sound financial support;
- (2) to increase temperance among members and to inculcate in them principles of sanitation and hygiene;
- (3) to educate the children of mill workers;
- (4) to improve conditions of housing;
- (5) to provide free medical attendance and medical aid;
- (6) to endeavour to improve conditions of work in the mills;
- (7) to make known to all mill-hands the Factories and the Workmen's Compensation Acts;
- (8) to open libraries and reading rooms for the benefit of the members;
- (9) to co-operate with all other Unions in improving the conditions of all classes of working men and women; and
- (10) to take all necessary steps effectively to carry out the above objects.

A striking feature of the organisation of these four Unions is the fact that all of them are conducted entirely by the workers themselves. No outsiders are either members of the Committees or officers of the various Unions. The principal aim and object of the founders of the

Mahamandals is to exclude all outside interference in the management and conduct of these Unions.

As stated at the beginning of this article, the Girni Kamgar Mahamandal is a proper Trade Union and it has now been included in the Labour Office list of Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency. Further particulars in connexion with the financial position, monthly revenue and monthly expenditure will be given in the next quarterly review of Trade Unions which will be published in the issue of the *Labour Gazette* for March 1926.

THE CRAWFORD MARKET STALL KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

This Association was founded in the year 1925 with Mr. S. H. Jhabwalla as President, Mr. Cumroodeen Hakimjee Saboowalla as Treasurer and Mr. Ebrahim Hajee Pradhan as Secretary. The objects for which the Association was formed are (1) the amelioration of the general condition of all the Merchants who have stalls in the Crawford Market and their employees; and (2) the representation of their grievances to Government and to the Municipality of Bombay. The entrance fee is Rs. 2 per member and the subscription fee is four annas per month. The number of members is reported as 500. The average monthly income amounts to Rs. 50 and the average monthly expenditure to Rs. 25. The principal activity of this Association at present is an agitation for the reduction of the rents charged by the Bombay Municipality for Stalls in all Municipal Markets in Bombay City.

Trade Union Bill Passed

We give below the text of the Trade Union Bill which was passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 8th February and by the Council of State on the 25th February. The Bill was discussed at considerable length in the Legislative Assembly and a good many amendments were passed, the clauses relating to the immunity of Trade Unions, the use of funds for political purposes, and the composition of the executive of the Trade Unions giving rise to interesting debates.

Sir B. N. Mitra moving the third reading of the Bill as amended congratulated the House on its achievement. Although it did not go so far as the British Trade Union Act, it had gone a long way and he appealed for the organisation of Trade Unions on sound lines, so that the Bill would be a success and foster the growth of proper Trade Unions in India.

Mr. Wilson representing the Associated Chambers of Commerce said that the Select Committee had not given due consideration to the opinions expressed by commercial bodies and men who were fully acquainted with labour conditions but every employer believed that a healthy and contented labour force was greatly to be desired, and in his opinion a Trade Union need not consider that its sole function was to secure higher wages, for higher wages did not necessarily mean better wages. What was necessary was a fall in the cost of living and the giving of a fillip to industry. Among the safeguards which employers wanted but which were not included in the Bill was one for ensuring proper investment of the Unions' funds and another for the prohibition of picketing, which led to intimidation.

Lala Lajpatrai complained that the Bill was defective, unsatisfactory and unsound and he foresaw much litigation as a result of it.

Mr. Chaman Lal thought that labour had got in this Bill something worth having—the principle of immunity.

Mr. Joshi did not regard the Bill as entirely satisfactory but accepted it on the principle that "half a loaf is better than no bread".

Mr. Clow, Deputy Secretary, Industries and Labour Department pointed out that under the Bill registration was optional and not compulsory, outsiders were allowed to be on a Union's executive and they had agreed to the establishment of a political fund. If they had insisted on registration, it was because responsibility and power must go together. The only real restriction was the auditing of the funds and this he thought even the labour leaders should be in favour of.

A Bill to Provide for the registration of Trade Unions and in certain respects to define the law relating to registered Trade Unions in British India.

Whereas it is expedient to provide for the registration of Trade Unions and in certain respects to define the law relating to registered Trade Unions in British India: It is hereby enacted as follows:—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

Short title, extent and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926.

(2) It extends to the whole of British India, including British Baluchistan and the Sonthal Parganas.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Governor General in Council may, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, appoint.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

Definitions.

- (a) "executive" means the body, by whatever name called, to which the management of the affairs of a Trade Union is entrusted;
- (b) "officer", in the case of a Trade Union, includes any member of the Executive thereof, but does not include an auditor;
- (c) "prescribed" means prescribed by regulations made under this Act;
- (d) "registered office" means that office of a Trade Union which is registered under this Act as the head office thereof;
- (e) "registered Trade Union" means a Trade Union registered under this Act;
- (f) "Registrar" means a Registrar of Trade Unions appointed by the Local Government under section 3, and "the Registrar", in relation to any Trade Union, means the Registrar appointed for the province in which the head or registered office, as the case may be, of the Trade Union is situated;
- (g) "trade dispute" means any dispute between employers and workmen or between workmen and workmen, or between employers and employers which is connected with the employment or non-employment, or the terms of employment or the conditions of labour, of any person, and "workmen" means all persons employed in trade or industry whether or not in the employment of the employer with whom the trade dispute arises; and
- (h) "Trade Union" means any combination, whether temporary or permanent, formed primarily for the purpose of regulating the relations between workmen and employers or between workmen and workmen, or between employers and employers, or for imposing restrictive conditions on the conduct of any trade or business, and includes any federation of two or more Trade Unions;

Provided that this Act shall not affect—

- (i) any agreement between partners as to their own business;
- (ii) any agreement between an employer and those employed by him as to such employment; or
- (iii) any agreement in consideration of the sale of the goodwill of a business or of instruction in any profession, trade or handicraft.

CHAPTER II

REGISTRATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Appointment
Registrars.

of 3. Each Local Government shall appoint a person to be the Registrar of Trade Unions for the province.

4. Any seven or more members of a Trade Union may, by subscribing their names to the rules of the Trade Union and by otherwise complying with the provisions of this Act with respect to registration, apply for registration of the Trade Union under this Act.

5. (1) Every application for registration of a Trade Union shall be made to the Registrar, and shall be accompanied by a copy of the rules of the Trade Union, and a statement of the following particulars, namely:—

- (a) the names, occupations and addresses of the members making the application;
- (b) the name of the Trade Union and the address of its Head Office; and
- (c) the titles, names, ages, addresses and occupations of the officers of the Trade Union.

(2) Where a Trade Union has been in existence for more than one year before the making of an application for its registration, there shall be delivered to the Registrar, together with the application, a general statement of the assets and liabilities of the Trade Union prepared in such form and containing such particulars as may be prescribed.

6. A Trade Union shall not be entitled to registration under this Act, unless the executive thereof is constituted in accordance with the provisions of this Act, and the rules thereof provide for the following matters, namely:—

- (a) the name of the Trade Union;
- (b) the whole of the objects for which the Trade Union has been established;
- (c) the whole of the purposes for which the general funds of the Trade Union shall be applicable, all of which purposes shall be purposes to which such funds are lawfully applicable under this Act;
- (d) the maintenance of a list of the members of the Trade Union and adequate facilities for the inspection thereof by the officers and members of the Trade Union;
- (e) the admission of ordinary members who shall be persons actually engaged or employed in an industry with which the Trade Union is connected, and also the admission of the number of honorary or temporary members as officers required under section 22 to form the executive of the Trade Union;
- (f) the conditions under which any members shall be entitled to any benefit assured by the rules and under which any fine or forfeiture may be imposed on the members;
- (g) the manner in which the rules shall be amended, varied or rescinded;
- (h) the manner in which the members of the executive and the other officers of the Trade Union shall be appointed and removed;
- (i) the safe custody of the funds of the Trade Union, an annual audit, in such manner as may be prescribed, of the accounts thereof, and adequate facilities for the inspection of the account books by the officers and members of the Trade Union; and

(j) the manner in which the Trade Union may be dissolved.

7. (1) The Registrar may call for further information for the purpose of satisfying himself that any application complies with the provisions of section 5 or that the Trade Union is entitled to registration under section 6, and may refuse to register the Trade Union until such information is supplied.

Power to call for further particulars and to require alteration of name.

(2) If the name under which a Trade Union is proposed to be registered is identical with that by which any other existing Trade Union has been registered or, in the opinion of the Registrar, so nearly resembles such name as to be likely to deceive the public or the members of either Trade Union, the Registrar shall require the persons applying for registration to alter the name of the Trade Union stated in the application, and shall refuse to register the Union until such alteration has been made.

8. The Registrar, on being satisfied that the Trade Union has complied with all the requirements of this Act in regard to registration, shall register the Trade Union by entering in a register, to be maintained in such form as may be prescribed, the particulars relating to the Trade Union contained in the statement accompanying the application for registration.

9. The Registrar, on registering a Trade Union under section 8, shall issue a certificate of registration in the prescribed form which shall be conclusive evidence that the Trade Union has been duly registered under this Act.

10. A certificate of registration of a Trade Union may be withdrawn or cancelled by the Registrar—

- Registration.
- (a) on the application of the Trade Union to be verified in such manner as may be prescribed, or
- (b) if the Registrar is satisfied that the certificate has been obtained by fraud or mistake, or that the Trade Union has ceased to exist or has wilfully and after notice from the Registrar contravened any provision of this Act or allowed any rule to continue in force which is inconsistent with any such provision, or has rescinded any rule providing for any matter provision for which is required by section 6 :

Provided that not less than two months' previous notice in writing specifying the ground on which it is proposed to withdraw or cancel the certificate shall be given by the Registrar to the Trade Union before the certificate is withdrawn or cancelled otherwise than on the application of the Trade Union.

11. (1) Any person aggrieved by any refusal of the Registrar to register a Trade Union or by the withdrawal or cancellation of a certificate of registration may, within such period as may be prescribed, appeal to such Judge, not below the grade of an additional or assistant Judge of a principal Civil Court of original jurisdiction as the Local Government may appoint in this behalf.

(2) The Judge may, after such inquiry as he deems necessary, dismiss the appeal, or pass an order directing the Registrar to register the Union

Appeal.

and to issue a certificate of registration under the provisions of section 9, or setting aside the order for withdrawal or cancellation of the certificate, as the case may be, and the Registrar shall comply with such order.

(3) For the purpose of the inquiry, the Judge may summon and enforce the attendance of witnesses and compel them to give evidence as if he were a Civil Court; and he may also direct by whom the whole or any part of the costs of the inquiry shall be paid, and such costs shall be recovered as if they had been awarded in a suit under the Civil Procedure Code, 1908.

(4) In the event of the dismissal of an appeal under sub-section (2), the person aggrieved shall have the right of appeal to the High Court.

12. All communications and notices to a registered Trade Union may be addressed to its registered office. Notice of any change in the address of the head office shall be given within fourteen days of such change to the Registrar in writing, and the changed address shall be recorded in the register referred to in section 8.

13. Every registered Trade Union shall be a body corporate by the name under which it is registered, and shall have perpetual succession and a common seal with power to acquire and hold both moveable and immoveable property and to contract, and shall by the said name sue and be sued.

Certain Acts not to apply to registered Trade Unions.

14. The following Acts, namely :—

- (a) The Societies Registration Act, 1860,
- (b) The Co-operative Societies Act, 1912,
- (c) The Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912,
- (d) The Indian Life Assurance Companies Act, 1912, and
- (e) The Indian Companies Act, 1913,

shall not apply to any registered Trade Union, and the registration of any such Trade Union under any such Act shall be void.

CHAPTER III

RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES OF REGISTERED TRADE UNIONS

15. The general funds of a registered Trade Union shall not be spent on any other objects than the following, namely :—

- Objects on which general funds may be spent.
- (a) the payment of salaries, allowances and expenses to officers of the Trade Union ;
 - (b) the payment of expenses for the administration of the Trade Union, including audit of the accounts of the general funds of the Trade Union ;
 - (c) the prosecution or defence of any legal proceeding to which the Trade Union or any member thereof is a party, when such prosecution or defence is undertaken for the purpose of securing

- or promoting any rights of the Trade Union as such or any rights arising out of the relations of any member with his employer or with a person whom the member employs;
- (d) the conduct of trade disputes on behalf of the Trade Union or any member thereof;
- (e) the compensation of members for loss arising out of trade disputes;
- (f) allowances to members or their dependants on account of death, illness, sickness, accidents or unemployment of such members;
- (g) the issue of, or the undertaking of liability under, policies of insurance on the lives of members, or under policies insuring members against sickness, accident or unemployment;
- (h) the provision of educational, social or religious benefits for members (including the payment of the expenses of funeral or religious ceremonies for deceased members) or for the dependants of members;
- (i) the upkeep of a periodical published mainly for the purpose of discussing questions affecting employers or workmen as such;
- (j) the payment, in furtherance of any of the objects on which the general funds of the Trade Union may be spent, of contributions to any cause intended to benefit workmen in general, provided that the expenditure in respect of such contributions in any financial year shall not at any time during that year be in excess of one-fourth of the combined total of the gross income which has up to that time accrued to the general funds of the Trade Union during that year and of the balance at the end of those funds at the commencement of that year; and
- (k) subject to any conditions contained in the notification, in the Gazette of India.
16. (1) A registered Trade Union may constitute a separate fund, from contributions separately levied for or made to that fund, from which payments may be made, for the promotion of the civic and political interests of its members, in furtherance of any of the objects specified in sub-section (2).
- (2) The objects referred to in sub-section (1) are:—
- (a) the payment of any expenses incurred, either directly or indirectly, by a candidate or prospective candidate for election as a member of any legislative body constituted under the Government of India Act or of any local authority, before, during, or after the election in connection with his candidature or election; or
- (b) the holding of any meeting or the distribution of any literature or documents in support of any such candidate or prospective candidate; or
- (c) the maintenance of any person who is a member of any legislative body constituted under the Government of India Act or of any local authority; or
- (d) the registration of electors or the selection of a candidate for any legislative body constituted under the Government of India Act or for any local authority; or

Constitution of a separate fund for political purposes.

- the holding of political meetings of any kind, or the distribution of political literature or political documents of any kind.
- (1) No member shall be compelled to contribute to the fund constituted under sub-section (1); and a member who does not contribute to the said fund shall not be excluded from any benefits of the Trade Union, or placed in any respect either directly or indirectly under any disability or at any disadvantage as compared with other members of the Trade Union (except in relation to the control or management of the said fund) by reason of his not contributing to the said fund; and contribution to the said fund shall not be made a condition for admission to the Trade Union.
17. No officer or member of a registered Trade Union shall be liable to punishment under sub-section (2) of section 120-B of the Indian Penal Code, in respect of any agreement made between the members for the purpose of furthering any such object of the Trade Union as is specified in section 15, unless the agreement is an agreement to commit an offence.
18. (1) No suit or other legal proceeding shall be maintainable in any Civil Court against any registered Trade Union or any officer or member thereof in respect of any act done in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute to which a member of the Trade Union is a party on the ground only that such act induces some other person to break a contract of employment, or that it is in interference with the trade, business or employment of some other person to dispose of his capital or of his labour as he wills.
- (2) A registered Trade Union shall not be liable in any suit or other legal proceeding in any civil court in respect of any tortious act done in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute by an agent of the Trade Union if it is proved that such person acted without the knowledge of, or contrary to express instructions given by, the executive of the Trade Union.
19. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, an agreement between the members of a registered Trade Union shall not be void or voidable merely by reason of the fact that any of the objects of the agreement are in restraint of trade:
- Provided that nothing in this section shall enable any Civil Court to entertain any legal proceeding instituted for the express purpose of enforcing or recovering damages for the breach of any agreement concerning the conditions on which any members of a Trade Union shall or shall not sell their goods, transact business, work, employ or be employed.
20. The account books of a registered Trade Union and the list of members thereof shall be open to inspection by an officer or member of the Trade Union at such times as may be provided for in the rules of the Trade Union.
21. Any person who has attained the age of fifteen years may be a member of a registered Trade Union subject to any rules of the Trade Union to the contrary, and may, subject as aforesaid, enjoy all the rights of a member

Immunity from civil suit in certain cases.

Immunity from civil suit in certain cases.

on the ground only that such act induces some other person to break a contract of employment, or that it is in interference with the trade, business or employment of some other person to dispose of his capital or of his labour as he wills.

(2) A registered Trade Union shall not be liable in any suit or other legal proceeding in any civil court in respect of any tortious act done in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute by an agent of the Trade Union if it is proved that such person acted without the knowledge of, or contrary to express instructions given by, the executive of the Trade Union.

19. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, an agreement between the members of a registered Trade Union shall not be void or voidable merely by reason of the fact that any of the objects of the agreement are in restraint of trade:

Provided that nothing in this section shall enable any Civil Court to entertain any legal proceeding instituted for the express purpose of enforcing or recovering damages for the breach of any agreement concerning the conditions on which any members of a Trade Union shall or shall not sell their goods, transact business, work, employ or be employed.

20. The account books of a registered Trade Union and the list of members thereof shall be open to inspection by an officer or member of the Trade Union at such times as may be provided for in the rules of the Trade Union.

21. Any person who has attained the age of fifteen years may be a member of a registered Trade Union subject to any rules of the Trade Union to the contrary, and may, subject as aforesaid, enjoy all the rights of a member

Right to inspect books of Trade Union.

Rights of minors to membership of Trade Unions.

and execute all instruments and give all acquittances necessary to be executed or given under the rules :

Provided that no person who has not attained the age of eighteen years shall be an officer of any such Trade Union.

22. Not less than one-half of the total number of the officers of every registered Trade Union shall be persons actually engaged or employed in an industry with which the Trade Union is connected :

Proportion of officers to be connected with the industry.

Provided that the Local Government may, by special or general order, declare that the provisions of this section shall not apply to any Trade Union or class of Trade Unions specified in the order.

23. Any registered Trade Union may, with the consent of not less than two-thirds of the total number of its members and subject to the provisions of section 25, change its name.

Change of name.

24. Any two or more registered Trade Unions may become amalgamated together as one Trade Union with or without dissolution or division of the funds of such Trade Unions or either or any of them, provided that the votes of at least one-half of the members of each or every such Trade Union entitled to vote are recorded, and that at least sixty per cent. of the votes recorded are in favour of the proposal.

Amalgamation of Trade Unions.

25. (1) Notice in writing of every change of name and of every amalgamation, signed, in the case of a change of name, by the Secretary and by seven members of the Trade Union changing its name, and, in the case of an amalgamation, by the Secretary and by seven members of each and every Trade Union which is a party thereto, shall be sent to the Registrar, and where the head office of the amalgamated Trade Union is situated in a different province, to the Registrar of such province.

Notice of change of name or amalgamation.

(2) If the proposed name is identical with that by which any other existing Trade Union has been registered or, in the opinion of the Registrar, so nearly resembles such name as to be likely to deceive the public or the members of either Trade Union, the Registrar shall refuse to register the change of name.

(3) Save as provided in sub-section (2), the Registrar shall, if he is satisfied that the provisions of this Act in respect of change of name have been complied with, register the change of name in the register referred to in section 8, and the change of name shall have effect from the date of such registration.

(4) The Registrar of the province in which the head office of the amalgamated Trade Union is situated shall, if he is satisfied that the provisions of this Act in respect of amalgamation have been complied with and that the Trade Union formed thereby is entitled to registration under section 6, register the Trade Union in the manner provided in section 8, and the amalgamation shall have effect from the date of such registration.

26. (1) The change in the name of a registered Trade Union shall not affect any rights or obligations of the Trade Union or render defective any legal proceeding by or against the Trade Union, and any legal proceeding which

Effects of change of name and of amalgamation.

might have been continued or commenced by or against it by its former name may be continued or commenced by or against it by its new name.

(2) An amalgamation of two or more registered Trade Unions shall not prejudice any right of any of such Trade Unions or any right of a creditor of any of them.

27. (1) When a registered Trade Union is dissolved, notice of the dissolution signed by seven members and by the Secretary of the Trade Union shall, within fourteen days of the dissolution, be sent to the Registrar, and shall be registered by him if he is satisfied that the dissolution has been effected in accordance with the rules of the Trade Union, and the dissolution shall have effect from the date of such registration.

Dissolution.

(2) Where the dissolution of a registered Trade Union has been registered and the rules of the Trade Union do not provide for the distribution of funds of the Trade Union on dissolution, the Registrar shall divide the funds amongst the members in such manner as may be prescribed.

28. (1) There shall be sent annually to the Registrar, on or before such date as may be prescribed, a general statement, audited in the prescribed manner, of all receipts and expenditure of every registered Trade Union during the year ending on the 31st day of March next preceding such prescribed date, and of the assets and liabilities of the Trade Union existing on such 31st day of March. The statement shall be prepared in such form and shall comprise such particulars as may be prescribed.

Returns.

(2) Together with the general statement there shall be sent to the Registrar a statement showing all changes of officers made by the Trade Union during the year to which the general statement refers, together also with a copy of the rules of the Trade Union corrected up to the date of the despatch thereof to the Registrar.

(3) A copy of every alteration made in the rules of a registered Trade Union shall be sent to the Registrar within fifteen days of the making of the alteration.

CHAPTER IV REGULATIONS

29. (1) Subject to the control of the Governor General in Council, the Local Government may make regulations for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

Power to make regulations.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such regulations may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely :—

- (a) the manner in which Trade Unions and the rules of Trade Unions shall be registered and the fees payable on registration ;
- (b) the transfer of registration in the case of any registered Trade Union which has changed its head office from one province to another ;
- (c) the manner in which, and the qualifications of persons by whom the accounts of registered Trade Unions or of any class of such Unions shall be audited ;

(d) the conditions subject to which inspection of documents kept by Registrars shall be allowed and the fees which shall be chargeable in respect of such inspections; and

(e) any matter which is to be or may be prescribed.

30. (1) The power to make regulations conferred by section 29 is subject to the condition of the regulations being made after previous publication.

(2) The date to be specified in accordance with clause (3) of section 23 of the General Clauses Act, 1897 (X of 1897), as that after which a draft of regulations proposed to be made will be taken into consideration shall not be less than three months from the date on which the draft of the proposed regulations was published for general information.

(3) Regulations so made shall be published in the local official Gazette, and on such publication shall have effect as if enacted in this Act.

CHAPTER V

PENALTIES AND PROCEDURE

31. (1) If default is made on the part of any registered Trade Union in giving any notice or sending any statement or other document as required by or under any provision of this Act, every officer or other person bound by the rules of the Trade Union to give or send the same, or, if there is no such officer or person, every member of the executive of the Trade Union, shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five rupees and, in the case of a continuing default, with an additional fine which may extend to five rupees for each week after the first during which the default continues:

Provided that the aggregate fine shall not exceed fifty rupees.

(2) Any person who wilfully makes, or causes to be made, any false entry in, or any omission from, the general statement required by section 28, or in or from any copy of rules or of alterations of rules sent to the Registrar under that section, shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

32. Any person who, with intent to deceive, gives to any member of a registered Trade Union or to any person intending to become a member of such Trade Union any document purporting to be a copy of the rules of the Trade Union or of any alterations to the same which he knows, or has reason to believe, is not a correct copy of such rules or alterations as are for the time being in force, or any person who, with the like intent, gives a copy of any rules of an unregistered Trade Union to any person on the pretence that such rules are the rules of a registered Trade Union, shall be punishable with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees.

33. (1) No Court inferior to that of a Presidency Magistrate or a Magistrate of the first class shall try any offence under this Act.

(2) No Court shall take cognizance of any offence under this Act, unless complaint thereof has been made by, or with the previous sanction of, the Registrar or, in the case of an offence under section 32, by the person to whom the copy was given within six months of the date on which the offence is alleged to have been committed.

Reviews of Books and Reports

The Main Currents of Social and Industrial Change 1870—1924. By T. G. Williams, M.A., F.R., Hist. S., F. R. Econ. S. (Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd., London.), pp. 314, price 5s. net.

The purpose of this lucid and carefully written book is stated to be "to outline the growth of society, industry and state during a well defined phase of development."

It is written primarily for the use of students and in particular of a special category of students, whom the author describes in his preface as "unprofessed."

That it has value from this point of view, cannot be denied. The lines upon which the main subjects are treated, the clarity with which the various tendencies operating upon British social, industrial and political growth are outlined and their continuity and interdependence demonstrated, constitute this a useful book of reference for the essay writer; and will, we think, make its perusal a stimulating exercise for those who are preparing to submit their judgments upon the 19th century either to paper examination or to the less exacting test of a debating society audience.

The book is perhaps a little too impartial and too compendious to make any appeal to a wider field of readers. But its value as a work of reference still remains, and the lines upon which it deals with political and economic history and its insistence upon continuity of growth and in particular upon the influence upon and reaction from each other of the industrial and social tendencies of the period make it considerably more readable than would be a mere catalogue of the facts while not in any way detracting from its value as a full and accurate chronicle. As an example of its value from this point of view, particular attention may be drawn to the chapters on "Transport and Communications" and on "The Organisation of Production", both of which provide an excellent and compendious statement of the relevant historical facts together with a very suggestive account of the social tendencies to which those facts gave rise and the political results which they brought about.

* * * * *

International Labour Directory, 1925, Part III, published in the United Kingdom for the International Labour Office by George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., pp. 184, price 3s.

This volume deals with Workers' Organisations. Particulars concerning the various organisations are given in French, English and German.

The information supplied is detailed and accurate, and the index at the end facilitates easy reference.



Current Periodicals

Summary of titles and Contents of special articles

INDUSTRIAL WELFARE—VOL. VIII, No. 85. (INDUSTRIAL WELFARE SOCIETY LONDON).

Special Articles: (1) *Health and Production.* By E. L. Collis, M.A., M.D. (Mansel Talbot Professor of Preventive Medicine in the University of Wales, Member of the Industrial Fatigue Research Board, etc.)—Organising for Health—1: Staff; accommodation. pp. 6—9.

(2) *Personnel Management—IV.*—The New Employee. pp. 9—11.

(3) *Pension and Superannuation Funds—VI.* By Bernard Robertson.—Benefits; contributions pp. 11—13.

(4) *Social Organisation at Small Factories.*—Social purposes fund; education. pp. 21—24.

(5) *Forty-eight Hours' Work of the Industrial Welfare Society.* pp. 27—28.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

MONTHLY LABOUR REVIEW—VOL. XXI, No. 2. (U. S. BUREAU OF LABOUR STATISTICS, WASHINGTON).

Special Articles: (1) *Most Important Factor for Safety Work in the Plant.* By John F. Tinsley (Vice-President and General Manager, Crompton and Knowles Loom Works, Worcester, Mass.) pp. 1—3.

(2) *New Hazards of Industry.* By Dr. Francis V. Murphy (Industrial Health Inspector, Massachusetts Department of Labour and Industries.) pp. 4—6.

(3) *Working and Living Conditions of Negroes of West Virginia.* pp. 10—13.

(4) *Changes in Cost of Living in the United States.* pp. 63—65.

(5) *Accident Experience of Metals and Woodworking Sections of National Safety Council.* pp. 152—154.

(6) *Strikes and Lock-outs in the United States, January-March 1925.* pp. 190—195.

(7) *Conciliation Work of the Department of Labour in June 1925.* By Hugh L. Kerwin, Director of Conciliation. pp. 197—200.

(8) *Statistics of Immigration for May 1925.* By J. J. Kunna, Chief Statistician, United States Bureau of Immigration. pp. 201—206.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR REVIEW—VOL. XIII, No. 1. (INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE, GENEVA).

Special Articles: (1) *Inventions of Employees and the Austrian Patents Act of 1925.* By Professor Emanuel Adler.—Systems of statutory regulation; systems based on court decisions; the Austrian legislation of 1925—general provisions, payment of the inventor, revision of the conditions of payment, use of the invention by the employer, renunciation of rights by the employer, miscellaneous provisions; conclusion. pp. 1—20.

(2) *Social Aspects of Land Reform in Estonia.* By M. Martna (Member of the State Assembly).—The old system of land tenure; the land reform; farming after the reform; the land reform and the land worker; the surplus of labour and its disposal; land workers' organisations and protective legislation; the land reform and the housing shortage; the state and the land reform. pp. 21—47.

(3) *Vocational Guidance in the United States of America.*—Origin; present organisation—the school, medical examination, psychological tests, occupational monographs, training of vocational guidance officers, private offices, vocational guidance associations. pp. 48—68.

(4) *A Proposal for National Insurance in Australia.*—Introduction; scope of enquiry; need for national insurance in Australia; national insurance fund benefits—sickness, accident, invalidity, old age, family responsibilities; national health scheme—medical benefits, institutional treatment, preventive health services; conclusion. pp. 69—82.

(5) *The Results of Compulsory Labour Service in Bulgaria from 1921 to 1925.*—Number of workers rendering compulsory service; production—work for the state, work under the Directorate; output and cost of the workers; the budget; conclusion. pp. 83—92.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE—VOL. XXV, No. 12. (DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR, CANADA).

Special Articles: (1) *Joint Council in Pulp and Paper Industry.*—Work of Laurentide Council during three years; the Laurentide Council; employees' saving plan; vacation plan pp. 1180—1181.

(2) *Insurance of Wage-earners against Sickness.*—General workers' sickness insurance; limited workers' insurance. pp. 1182—1183.

(3) *Apprenticeship System in the Building Construction Industry at Vancouver B.C.*—Report of committee appointed to enquire into the question of instituting an apprenticeship system in local

construction industries; summarising the progress which has been made in Canada; rules and regulations governing local apprenticeship councils. pp. 1184—1187.

(4) *League of Nations International Labour Organisation.*—Proceedings of the seventh conference; compensation for occupational diseases; meeting of the Governing Body; Turkish Labour Code. p. 1198.

(5) *The Employment Situation at the Beginning of November 1925 as Reported by Employers to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.*—Employment by provinces; employment by cities; manufacturing industries; logging; mining; communication; transportation; construction and maintenance; services; trade. pp. 1199—1204.

(6) *Employment Office Reports for October 1925.*—Maritime provinces; Quebec; Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan; Alberta; British Columbia; movement of labour. pp. 1204—1208.

(7) *Fair Wages Conditions in Dominion Government Contracts.*—Department of public works; post office departments; department of railways and canals. pp. 1215—1218.

(8) *Annual Census of Industry of Canada.*—Distilled liquors, 1923-24; the fur goods industry, 1924. pp. 1219—1220.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

THE QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL GAZETTE—VOL. X, No. 12. (DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR, BRISBANE).

Special Article.—*The Basic Wage Act of 1925*—Short title; declaration of basic wage; effect of declaration; revision of awards; duration of Act. pp. 944—945.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

THE NEW SOUTH WALES INDUSTRIAL GAZETTE—VOL. XXVIII, No. 4. (DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AND INDUSTRY, SYDNEY).

Special Notes from Routine Articles.—*Workmen's Compensation Act, 1916*—Awards of Arbitrators. Accident arising out of and in the course of employment—Pneumonia while working 24 hours shift; accident—miner on his way from working place to the cage at crib time—infringement of Special Rules 2, 5, 22 and 25 relating to "miners and other workmen"—not in the circumstances serious and willful mis-conduct—accident arose out of and during the course of employment. pp. 579—581.

Other Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

Current Notes From Abroad

INTERNATIONAL

There will be published shortly in the *Legislative Series* of the International Labour Office the text of an Act passed by the Legislature of Chile on 8th September 1924 and brought into operation on 29th March 1925, to provide for the constitution of associations bearing the name "works union" (coupled with the name of the undertaking in question) by wage-earning employees over 18 years of age employed in mines, quarries, nitrate undertakings, factories or workshops employing more than 25 persons.

Such unions are to conclude collective contracts of work and enforce the rights of the workers under such contracts, to represent the workers in collective disputes, and to take action for the purposes of mutual benefit and co-operation, including, if desired, life insurance and insurance against accidents, sickness, invalidity, and unemployment. (From "*Industrial and Labour Information*," Geneva, January 11, 1926.)

* * * * *

UNITED KINGDOM

On 4th January the new Insurance Act came into force in Great Britain. From that day forward all persons between the ages of 16 to 70 who are earning not more than £250 a year, must insure against sickness, and also pay contributions to the Old Age Pension; the new Act will cover some 16 million people. For the first ten years the State is to grant a subsidy of £4,000,000 per annum for these two funds. The workers and employers will contribute an equal amount per year. (From "*Press Reports of the I. F. T. U.*," Amsterdam, January 7, 1926.)

* * * * *

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Ministry of Labour as beginning in December was 28. In addition, 34 disputes which began before December were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in December (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 37,000; the estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during December was about 629,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of approximately 50,000 workpeople involved and 575,000 days lost in the previous month.

The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes reported as in progress during 1925 was about 7,976,000 working days. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 441,000. In the previous year 616,000 workpeople were involved in disputes having an aggregate duration of 8,424,000 working days. (From "*Ministry of Labour Gazette*," London, January 1926.)

At 1st January 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, light and miscellaneous items) was approximately 75 per cent. above that of July 1914 as compared with 77 per cent. a month ago and 80 per cent. a year ago. The corresponding figures for food alone were 71, 74 and 78 respectively. The decline in the figures since 1st December 1925 was due to reductions in the prices of eggs and butter which more than counterbalanced increases in the prices of flour and bread. (From "*Ministry of Labour Gazette*," London, January 1926.)

* * * * *

By letter of 29th October 1925 the Minister for External Affairs of the Irish Free State informed the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, in accordance with Article 405 of the Treaty of Versailles, that the *Oireachtias* (Parliament) had approved of the adoption in respect of *Saorstát Eireann* (Irish Free State) of the Recommendation concerning the general principles for the organisation of systems of inspection to secure the enforcement of the laws and regulations for the protection of the workers, adopted by the Fifth Session of the International Labour Conference (Geneva, 1923). The Minister further stated that the approval of the Recommendation would necessitate no new legislative measures in the Irish Free State. (From "*Industrial and Labour Information*," Geneva, November 30, 1925.)

* * * * *

OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

The French Minister of Labour has just submitted a Bill to the Chamber of Deputies concerning the employment of foreign workers in France.

The object of the Bill is to strengthen the supervision of foreign workers and to avoid their competing with French nationals by failing to fulfil the obligations imposed upon them when entering the country. This has often been the case with foreign workers who, at the time of their arrival in France, were in possession of a contract of employment for a given occupation in a given district, but who since changed their occupation and place of work despite their agreement, without valid reason.

In order to avoid such abuses, which are stated to be particularly frequent as regards agricultural workers, the Bill prohibits employers from employing foreign workers, unless such workers can prove by the presentation of their identity card or by a certificate from the Public Employment Office, that their position has been regularised. The Bill was drawn up by a Committee consisting of the Ministers interested and of representatives of the chief employers' and workers' organisations, particularly agricultural associations. (From "*International Labour Office Weekly News Service*," Geneva, No. 108-B.)

* * * * *

On 2nd December last the employees of the Austrian Postal Telegraph and Telephone Administration concluded an agreement with the State authorities under which they obtain a share of the net profits of the undertaking.

The share is fixed at 1.8 per cent. with a guaranteed minimum of 120 shillings per man per year. This minimum will be paid in quarterly instalments and any surplus before Christmas.

The employees originally asked for 2.11 per cent. but the authorities were unable to go beyond 1.8 per cent.

This system of profit-sharing replaces the previous "bonus on results" system. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, January 18, 1926.)

* * * * *

State subsidies to unemployment funds in France have hitherto been fixed by decree at a maximum of 20 per cent. of the amount of unemployment benefit distributed by the local funds, and 30 per cent. of the total in the case of funds operating in at least three Departments and possessing at least 1,000 members. Up to the present, the maximum contributions have actually been paid.

By a Ministerial Decree of 31 December 1925, however, the subsidies for the first half of 1925 have been fixed at 14.5 per cent. and 22.5 per cent. respectively of the total benefits distributed. Similarly, subsidies to departments and municipalities which maintain public employment exchanges will be only 78.5 per cent. of the maximum subsidies provided for in the Decree.

At the same time a supplementary subsidy is contemplated both to the unemployment funds and for the employment exchanges, up to the original maximum, in the event of the necessary supplementary credits being voted. (From "Industrial and Labour Information", Geneva, January 25, 1926.)

* * * * *

The unemployment situation in Germany has become increasingly serious in the last few months. On 1 August last the number of wholly unemployed persons in receipt of relief under the Order of 16 February 1924 was about 200,000. In the following months it rose successively to 230,000, 266,000, 363,000 and 673,000; on 15 December last it was 1,067,031 and on 1 January 1926 it was 1,485,879. To this figure should be added at least an equal number of unemployed who are not entitled to relief under the Act, and an equal number of partially unemployed persons, making a total of more than 4,000,000. (From "Industrial and Labour Information", Geneva, January 25, 1926.)

* * * * *

UNITED STATES

The Twenty-first Biennial Report of the Californian Bureau of Labour Statistics states that in March 1924 the Bureau began an investigation on child labour in that State. It was roughly estimated that at the time of the investigation 5,000 children were engaged in agricultural pursuits in

California. The investigations found that numerous children were working in the cotton fields of Fresno County and the Imperial Valley in violation of the compulsory education and child labour laws. Among other recommendations, the Bureau's Report proposes the amendment of the Child Labour Act and compulsory school attendance laws so as to prohibit the employment of children under 16 years of age in agricultural occupations during or before school hours, and to provide permits for children under 16 years of age who wish to work in agricultural occupations after school hours, on public school holidays or during vacations.

Meanwhile, in Georgia, a new child labour law was passed in August 1925, to take effect on 1st January 1926. In this law the night work prohibition (between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m.) is extended to cover children upto 16 instead of only 14½ years of age. Children between 14 and 16 must obtain employment certificates. Before receiving a certificate a child must present a promise of employment, a specified proof of age and evidence that he is able to read and write simple sentences in English. The certificate must also show that he is physically fit to follow the employment he seeks to obtain. The work of children under 16 years of age in specified dangerous occupations or those likely to prove injurious to the health or morals of children under 16 is prohibited. (From "International Labour Office Weekly News Service," Geneva, No. 1071C.)

* * * * *

Considerable interest attaches to new Minimum Wage legislation in Wisconsin, intended to meet the situation created throughout the United States by the decision of the United States Supreme Court in 1923, which declared unconstitutional the minimum wage law in the District of Columbia. The result of the decision has been to nullify the minimum wage legislation in certain States in which it was challenged, in so far as such legislation affects adult employees. The State legislatures, under the decision, may continue to regulate the wages and hours of minors, who are considered to be wards of the several States.

So far the situation created by the Supreme Court's decision has been dealt with only in the State of Wisconsin, which has passed an act designed to make minimum wage legislation still effective. This is done, firstly, by continuing the operation of the existing law in so far as it affects minors, and, secondly, by adding the following section:

"No wage paid or agreed to be paid by any employer to any adult female employee shall be oppressive. Any wage lower than a reasonable and adequate compensation for the services rendered shall be deemed oppressive and is hereby prohibited."

The Wisconsin Industrial Commission is to enforce this general prohibition by determining what constitutes oppressive and unjust wages within the meaning of the section, and by issuing orders accordingly. (From "Labour Gazette" Canada, December 1925.)

* * * * *

A table of prevailing farm wage rates paid to farm workers, published by the United States Department of Agriculture, shows large variations

between the rates prevalent in different parts of the country. The latest figures, for 1 July 1925, are as follows:—
[One dollar—Rs. 2·05 at par.]

| Nature of Wages | North Atlantic States | East North Central States | West North Central States | South Atlantic States | South Central States | Western States | Whole Country |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Per month, with board | 46·35 | 40·41 | 41·02 | 26·38 | 25·75 | 52·92 | 34·94 |
| Per month, without board | 67·34 | 54·45 | 54·14 | 37·41 | 36·56 | 73·74 | 48·55 |
| Per day, with board | 2·73 | 2·31 | 2·22 | 1·41 | 1·38 | 2·49 | 1·89 |
| Per day, without board | 3·54 | 2·99 | 2·95 | 1·84 | 1·71 | 2·91 | 2·40 |

The huge geographical extent of the country, the different cultivations, the wide variations in systems of land tenure, and the differences in social standards for workers, between one part of the country and another, undoubtedly make variations in wage rates inevitable. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, November 30, 1925.)

OTHER COUNTRIES

An outline of legislation for the present session of the Australian Commonwealth Parliament was given by the Governor-General in his opening speech as follows:—

"Steps have been taken to re-organise the Institute of Science and Industry, in order to secure complete co-operation with the States and to enable the Bureau effectively to carry out investigations and research.

"A Bill will be submitted for the purpose of diminishing conflicts between federal and state jurisdiction, to secure observance of awards of the Court and to increase the efficiency of the machinery for the settlement of industrial disputes.

"The first reports of the Royal Commission on National Insurance, dealing with casual sickness, permanent invalidity, maternity and old age, have been received. The recommendations of the Commission will be considered in connection with the subsequent reports dealing with unemployment and other phases of these problems with a view to legislation. Proposals will be submitted for safeguarding effectively the health of the people." (From "Labour Gazette" Canada, December 1925.)

* * * * *

Japan is suffering from extensive unemployment. According to official figures, the number of unemployed in each of the 6 important Japanese towns amounted to 30 to 40,000. There is also a great deal of unemployment in the smaller towns. Various towns, e.g., Osaka and Yokohama have decided to take measures to alleviate the distress of the unemployed by granting aid to the unemployed, and also by undertaking relief works, as in Europe (From "Press Reports of the I. F. T. U.," Amsterdam, January 7, 1926.)

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS IN JANUARY 1926

| Name of concern and locality | Approximate number of work-people involved | | Date when dispute | | Cause | Result |
|---|--|------------|-------------------|---------|--|-------------------------------|
| | Directly | Indirectly | Began | Ended | | |
| <i>Textile Trades.</i> | | | 1926. | 1926. | | |
| 1. The White Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd., Viramgaon. | 250 | ... | 5 Jan. | 6 Jan. | Reduction in wages of weavers. | No reduction in wages. |
| 2. The Asarwa Mills Co., Ltd., Asarwa Road, Ahmedabad. | 20 | ... | 10 Jan. | 12 Jan. | Dismissal of a Mukadam. | New men engaged. |
| 3. The Ahmedabad Cotton and Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Kanaria Road, Ahmedabad. | 75 | ... | 25 Jan. | 25 Jan. | Dismissal of a Mukadam. | New men engaged. |
| <i>Miscellaneous.</i> | | | | | | |
| 4. Ravi Varma Fine Art Lithographic Works, Malavi, Poona. | 60 | ... | 20 Jan. | 23 Jan. | Ill-treatment of a workman by a foreman. | Work resumed unconditionally. |

ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES DURING JANUARY 1926
1. Bombay City

| Class of Factory | No. of accidents due to | | | | Nature of injury | | | | | | Total No. of persons injured | |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Machinery in motion | | Other causes | | Fatal | | Serious | | Minor | | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 |
| | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | | |
| I Textile Mills— Cotton Mills .. Woolen Mills .. Others .. | 424 48 2 | 48 | 172 5 1 | 28 | 13 .. .. | .. .. .. | 39 1 .. | 1 10 3 | 644 75 .. | 75 | 656 11 3 | 76 |
| Total .. | 432 | 48 | 178 | 28 | 13 | .. | 40 | 1 | 657 | 75 | 730 | 76 |
| II Workshops— Engineering .. Railway .. Mint .. Others .. | 25 39 3 12 | 1 7 3 3 | 214 1,375 3 14 | 20 104 7 .. | 1 3 .. .. | .. .. .. .. | 7 14 1 1 | 3 3 5 20 | 231 1,168 5 20 | 21 168 9 .. | 239 1,414 5 26 | 21 121 .. 16 |
| Total .. | 79 | 11 | 1,606 | 191 | 5 | .. | 27 | 4 | 1,653 | 198 | 1,685 | 202 |
| III Miscellaneous— Chemical Works .. Flour Mills .. Printing Presses .. Others .. | .. 3 6 22 | 1 .. 2 .. | 3 3 2 21 | 3 1 | 1 1 .. 1 | .. .. .. .. | .. 1 .. 6 | .. 4 6 36 | 2 .. 5 36 | 5 .. | 3 6 8 43 | 1 5 |
| Total .. | 31 | 3 | 29 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 9 | .. | 48 | 5 | 60 | 7 |
| Total, All Factories .. | 542 | 62 | 1,913 | 223 | 21 | 2 | 76 | 5 | 2,358 | 278 | 2,455 | 285 |

2. Ahmedabad

| Class of Factory | No. of accidents due to | | | | Nature of injury | | | | | | Total No. of persons injured | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Machinery in motion | | Other causes | | Fatal | | Serious | | Minor | | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 |
| | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | | |
| I Textile Mills— Cotton .. | 181 | 19 | 91 | 6 | 5 | .. | 66 | 8 | 201 | 17 | 272 | 25 |
| Total .. | 181 | 19 | 91 | 6 | 5 | .. | 66 | 8 | 201 | 17 | 272 | 25 |
| II Miscellaneous— Match Factory .. Flour Mills .. Oil Mills .. Engineering .. | 13 .. .. .. | .. .. .. .. | 3 .. .. .. | .. .. .. .. | .. .. .. .. | .. .. .. .. | 4 .. .. .. | .. .. .. .. | 12 .. .. .. | .. .. .. .. | 16 .. .. .. | .. .. .. .. |
| Total .. | 15 | 1 | 6 | .. | 2 | .. | 6 | .. | 14 | 1 | 22 | 1 |
| Total, All Factories .. | 196 | 20 | 97 | 6 | 7 | .. | 72 | 8 | 215 | 18 | 294 | 26 |

Explanations:—1. The progressive figures do not always agree with the figures shown in the previous issue, but are corrected to date.
2. "Fatal" means causing the death of the injured persons without specification of period.
"Serious" means causing absence from work for more than 20 days.
"Minor" means causing absence from work for more than 48 hours and up to 20 days.
(a) Two persons killed by one accident.

ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES DURING JANUARY 1926—contd.
3. Karachi

| 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 Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 |
| | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | | |
| I Workshops— Railway and Tram Engineering .. | 6 1 | 1 .. | 13 13 | 2 .. | 1 .. | .. .. | 5 2 | .. .. | 21 11 | 1 2 | 26 14 | 27 |
| Total .. | 7 | 1 | 33 | 3 | 1 | .. | 7 | .. | 32 | 3 | 40 | 4 |
| II Miscellaneous .. | 11 | 1 | (a) 2 | .. | .. | .. | 4 | .. | .. | 1 | 14 | 1 |
| Total .. | 11 | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 4 | .. | 10 | 1 | 14 | 1 |
| Total, All Factories .. | 18 | 2 | 35 | 3 | 1 | .. | 11 | .. | 42 | 4 | 54 | 5 |

(a) Two persons received minor injuries by one accident.

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 Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 |
| | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | Jan to Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | | |
| I Textile Mills— Cotton Mills .. Others .. | 58 5 | 7 .. | 50 1 | 8 .. | 2 .. | .. .. | 23 .. | 1 .. | 123 6 | 14 .. | 140 6 | 15 |
| Total .. | 103 | 7 | 51 | 8 | 2 | .. | 23 | 1 | 129 | 14 | 154 | 15 |
| II Workshops— Railway .. Arms and Ammu- nition Works .. Others .. | 15 4 13 | 2 .. 1 | 131 5 22 | 18 3 .. | 1 | .. .. .. | 6 1 4 | 3 | 140 8 30 | 17 4 4 | 146 9 35 | 20 4 |
| Total .. | 32 | 3 | 158 | 24 | 1 | .. | 11 | 3 | 178 | 21 | 190 | 24 |
| III Miscellaneous— Ginning and Pres- sing Factories .. Paint Works .. Others .. | 16 17 | .. 1 | 22 18 | 6 1 | 10 3 | .. .. | 3 5 | 5 .. | 77 25 | 1 2 | 38 27 | 6 .. |
| Total .. | 33 | 1 | 40 | 7 | 13 | .. | 8 | 5 | 52 | 3 | 73 | 8 |
| Total, All Factories .. | 168 | 11 | 249 | 36 | 16 | .. | 42 | 9 | 359 | 38 | 411 | 47 |

Note.—For Explanations see previous page.

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

| Count or Number | Month of December | | | 9 months ended December | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------|--------|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 |
| | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) |
| Pounds | 6,722 | 6,638 | 4,428 | 56,048 | 50,520 | 44,406 |
| Nos. 1 to 10 | 20,731 | 21,005 | 13,463 | 158,182 | 164,333 | 140,765 |
| Nos. 11 to 20 | 12,684 | 14,047 | 9,004 | 108,129 | 119,426 | 99,665 |
| Nos. 21 to 30 | 1,461 | 1,217 | 1,059 | 10,348 | 11,244 | 9,381 |
| Nos. 31 to 40 | 372 | 562 | 479 | 2,132 | 4,028 | 3,508 |
| Above 40 | 11 | 10 | 72 | 152 | 96 | 369 |
| Waste, etc. | | | | | | |
| Total | 41,981 | 43,479 | 28,505 | 334,991 | 349,647 | 298,094 |

BOMBAY CITY

| | Pounds | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) |
|---------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Nos. 1 to 10 | 5,976 | 5,937 | 3,408 | 50,745 | 44,623 | 37,455 | |
| Nos. 11 to 20 | 14,153 | 14,609 | 6,319 | 112,579 | 112,700 | 79,803 | |
| Nos. 21 to 30 | 7,533 | 8,638 | 3,981 | 70,922 | 73,815 | 54,710 | |
| Nos. 31 to 40 | 753 | 694 | 338 | 5,796 | 6,275 | 3,981 | |
| Above 40 | 217 | 370 | 179 | 1,107 | 2,378 | 1,678 | |
| Waste, etc. | 2 | 3 | 63 | 70 | 25 | 290 | |
| Total | 28,634 | 30,451 | 14,288 | 241,219 | 239,816 | 177,917 | |

AHMEDABAD

| | Pounds | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) |
|---------------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Nos. 1 to 10 | 278 | 232 | 352 | 1,348 | 1,843 | 2,267 | |
| Nos. 11 to 20 | 3,612 | 2,991 | 3,784 | 22,694 | 27,643 | 33,906 | |
| Nos. 21 to 30 | 4,176 | 4,245 | 3,757 | 25,367 | 34,385 | 34,642 | |
| Nos. 31 to 40 | 534 | 404 | 622 | 3,355 | 3,708 | 4,011 | |
| Above 40 | 111 | 149 | 227 | 713 | 1,249 | 1,277 | |
| Waste, etc. | | | | | | | |
| Total | 8,711 | 8,021 | 8,742 | 53,478 | 68,828 | 76,163 | |

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

| Description | Month of December | | | 9 months ended December | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|--------|--------|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 |
| | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) |
| Grey & bleached piece-goods—Pounds | 19,091 | 21,471 | 16,558 | 170,311 | 179,244 | 174,282 |
| Khadi (a) | 8,277 | 9,793 | 5,415 | 71,613 | 79,214 | 68,797 |
| Chudders | 160 | 169 | 134 | 1,506 | 1,417 | 1,817 |
| Dhotis | 17 | 21 | 41 | 146 | 140 | 187 |
| Drills and jeans | 127 | 154 | 102 | 916 | 1,376 | 1,374 |
| Cambries and lawns | 23 | 30 | 62 | 123 | 93 | 426 |
| Printers | 604 | 1,021 | 818 | 8,826 | 9,209 | 8,991 |
| Shirtings and long cloth | 154 | 239 | 115 | 776 | 1,635 | 1,183 |
| T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings | 2,776 | 598 | 522 | 19,343 | 4,729 | 4,306 |
| Tent cloth | | | | | | |
| Other sorts | | | | | | |
| Total | 27,715 | 31,638 | 22,312 | 244,615 | 261,484 | 245,863 |

BOMBAY CITY

| | Pounds | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Grey & bleached piece-goods—Pounds | 10,443 | 12,659 | 6,698 | 103,285 | 102,896 | 94,943 | |
| Khadi (a) | 6,467 | 7,602 | 2,388 | 58,767 | 61,845 | 47,264 | |
| Chudders | 176 | 162 | 120 | 1,429 | 1,359 | 1,731 | |
| Dhotis | 12 | 11 | 8 | 84 | 71 | 57 | |
| Drills and jeans | 119 | 114 | 67 | 881 | 1,124 | 1,085 | |
| Cambries and lawns | 23 | 29 | 37 | 115 | 74 | 341 | |
| Printers | 462 | 738 | 389 | 7,264 | 7,387 | 6,103 | |
| Shirtings and long cloth | 87 | 87 | 68 | 479 | 620 | 693 | |
| T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings | 1,821 | 282 | 191 | 13,261 | 2,040 | 1,684 | |
| Tent cloth | | | | | | | |
| Other sorts | | | | | | | |
| Total | 17,240 | 20,607 | 9,318 | 164,561 | 167,370 | 145,421 | |

* As defined under the Cotton Duties Act II of 1896.
(a) Included under 'other sorts' prior to April 1924.

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

AHMEDABAD

| Description | Month of December | | | 9 months ended December | | |
|--|-------------------|-------|-------|-------------------------|--------|--------|
| | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 |
| Grey & bleached piece-goods—Pounds | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) |
| Khadi (a) | 366 | 370 | 454 | 3,975 | 2,699 | 877 |
| Chudders | 3,035 | 3,186 | 3,951 | 24,637 | 3,585 | 3,683 |
| Dhatis | 42 | 6 | 17 | 224 | 29,426 | 32,714 |
| Drills and jeans | 6 | 7 | 23 | 40 | 209 | 370 |
| Cambrics and lawns | 249 | 341 | 162 | 1,934 | 90 | 173 |
| Prints | 1,690 | 1,827 | 1,839 | 12,341 | 2,142 | 1,361 |
| Shirtings and long cloth T cloth, domestics, and sheetings | 133 | 213 | 347 | 1,449 | 1,664 | 16,091 |
| Tent cloth | 59 | 133 | 34 | 197 | 925 | 2,587 |
| Other sorts | 699 | 209 | 221 | 3,739 | 1,743 | 417 |
| Total | 6,279 | 6,653 | 7,221 | 48,536 | 59,129 | 60,091 |
| Coloured piece-goods | 827 | 1,199 | 1,967 | 6,002 | 9,554 | 13,360 |
| Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 9 |
| Hosiery | 5 | 10 | 34 | 62 | 69 | 129 |
| Miscellaneous | 9 | 36 | 31 | 35 | 204 | 242 |
| Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool | 1 | 1 | 24 | 6 | 7 | 75 |
| Grand Total | 7,122 | 7,900 | 9,278 | 54,646 | 68,970 | 73,906 |

* As defined under the Cotton Duties Act II of 1896.

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

COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS IN BOMBAY BY GROUPS

Prices in July 1914 = 100

| Months | Cereals | Pulses | Cereals and pulses | Other articles of food | All food | Fuel and lighting | Clothing | Home rent | Cost of living |
|-------------|---------|--------|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1923 | | | | | | | | | |
| February | 125 | 153 | 128 | 187 | 150 | 166 | 223 | 165 | 155 |
| March | 127 | 150 | 129 | 182 | 149 | 164 | 223 | 165 | 154 |
| April | 130 | 147 | 132 | 182 | 150 | 164 | 216 | 172 | 156 |
| May | 126 | 136 | 127 | 184 | 148 | 164 | 208 | 172 | 153 |
| June | 124 | 116 | 124 | 184 | 146 | 164 | 205 | 172 | 152 |
| July | 125 | 116 | 124 | 189 | 148 | 165 | 205 | 172 | 153 |
| August | 123 | 116 | 122 | 194 | 149 | 165 | 205 | 172 | 154 |
| September | 124 | 116 | 123 | 194 | 149 | 161 | 206 | 172 | 154 |
| October | 123 | 116 | 122 | 188 | 147 | 161 | 211 | 172 | 152 |
| November | 124 | 116 | 124 | 187 | 147 | 161 | 225 | 172 | 153 |
| December | 132 | 116 | 130 | 189 | 152 | 161 | 219 | 172 | 157 |
| 1924 | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 133 | 120 | 131 | 192 | 154 | 161 | 224 | 172 | 159 |
| February | 128 | 119 | 128 | 190 | 151 | 161 | 229 | 172 | 156 |
| March | 127 | 115 | 126 | 184 | 147 | 163 | 229 | 172 | 154 |
| April | 122 | 112 | 121 | 180 | 143 | 163 | 230 | 172 | 150 |
| May | 121 | 113 | 120 | 181 | 143 | 166 | 227 | 172 | 150 |
| June | 124 | 112 | 123 | 186 | 147 | 166 | 227 | 172 | 153 |
| July | 128 | 115 | 127 | 191 | 151 | 166 | 229 | 172 | 157 |
| August | 135 | 125 | 134 | 192 | 156 | 166 | 231 | 172 | 161 |
| September | 136 | 124 | 135 | 191 | 156 | 166 | 229 | 172 | 161 |
| October | 135 | 124 | 134 | 193 | 156 | 167 | 224 | 172 | 161 |
| November | 135 | 126 | 134 | 196 | 157 | 167 | 214 | 172 | 161 |
| December | 134 | 123 | 133 | 196 | 156 | 167 | 214 | 172 | 160 |
| 1925 | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 131 | 124 | 130 | 189 | 152 | 165 | 209 | 172 | 157 |
| February | 134 | 123 | 133 | 185 | 152 | 166 | 210 | 172 | 157 |
| March | 139 | 128 | 138 | 183 | 155 | 165 | 207 | 172 | 159 |
| April | 137 | 128 | 136 | 181 | 153 | 165 | 207 | 172 | 158 |
| May | 133 | 122 | 132 | 182 | 151 | 165 | 207 | 172 | 156 |
| June | 130 | 119 | 129 | 184 | 149 | 165 | 198 | 172 | 154 |
| July | 136 | 119 | 134 | 183 | 152 | 165 | 192 | 172 | 157 |
| August | 126 | 119 | 125 | 184 | 147 | 165 | 191 | 172 | 152 |
| September | 125 | 118 | 124 | 182 | 146 | 165 | 188 | 172 | 151 |
| October | 128 | 121 | 128 | 182 | 146 | 165 | 192 | 172 | 158 |
| November | 129 | 132 | 129 | 182 | 149 | 165 | 185 | 172 | 153 |
| December | 132 | 137 | 133 | 183 | 151 | 165 | 176 | 172 | 155 |
| 1926 | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 132 | 140 | 133 | 183 | 151 | 165 | 173 | 172 | 155 |
| February | 132 | 136 | 132 | 181 | 150 | 165 | 172 | 172 | 154 |

WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN BOMBAY

| Article | Grade | Rate per | Prices in the month of | | | | Index numbers | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|----------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|
| | | | July 1914 | Jan 1925 | Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | July 1914 | Jan 1925 | Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 |
| Cereals— | | | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | | | | |
| Rice | Rangoon S. mill | Md. | 4 11 3 | 6 10 8 | 6 6 10 | 6 6 10 | 100 | 142 | 147 | 137 |
| Do. | Delhi No. 1 | Cwt. | 5 9 6 | 9 10 0 | 9 5 6 | 8 12 0 | 100 | 173 | 161 | 156 |
| Do. | Khandwa Seoni | Candy | 45 0 0 | 73 0 0 | 72 8 0 | 75 0 0 | 100 | 162 | 161 | 154 |
| Jowari | Jubbulpore | Maund | 40 0 0 | 56 0 0 | 62 8 0 | 61 8 0 | 100 | 140 | 156 | 154 |
| Barley | Cawnpore | Maund | 3 2 6 | 4 12 2 | 4 12 2 | 5 14 8 | 100 | 151 | 154 | 152 |
| Beiri | Ghati | Maund | 3 4 6 | 4 12 2 | 4 12 2 | 4 10 6 | 100 | 145 | 145 | 142 |
| | | | 3 4 6 | 5 4 8 | 4 15 7 | 4 15 7 | 100 | 161 | 152 | 152 |
| Pulses— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gram | Punjab yellow (2nd sort) | Maund | 4 3 9 | 4 3 9 | 5 3 0 | 4 15 7 | 100 | 153 | 149 | 147 |
| Turda | Cawnpore | Maund | 5 10 5 | 5 13 1 | 6 12 4 | 6 12 4 | 100 | 100 | 123 | 117 |
| | | | | | | | 100 | 103 | 120 | 120 |
| Sugar— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sugar | Mauritius | Cwt. | 9 3 0 | 17 8 0 | 16 0 0 | 17 0 0 | 100 | 142 | 143 | 141 |
| Do. | Java, white | Maund | 10 3 0 | 18 2 0 | 16 0 0 | 17 0 0 | 100 | 155 | 138 | 129 |
| Raw (Gul) | Sangli or Poona | Maund | 7 14 3 | 12 3 11 | 10 14 2 | 10 3 3 | 100 | 174 | 148 | 148 |
| Other Food— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Turmeric | Raspuri | Maund | 5 9 3 | 26 6 4 | 10 3 3 | 10 7 7 | 100 | 73 | 181 | 188 |
| Chee | Deshi | Maund | 45 11 5 | 85 11 5 | 80 0 0 | 81 6 10 | 100 | 168 | 175 | 178 |
| Salt | Bombay (black) | Maund | 1 7 6 | 2 1 0 | 2 2 0 | 2 3 0 | 100 | 140 | 145 | 149 |
| Oilseeds— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Linseed | Bold | Cwt. | 8 14 6 | 14 10 0 | 11 7 0 | 10 14 0 | 100 | 173 | 149 | 149 |
| Rapeseed | Cawnpore (brown) | Cwt. | 8 0 0 | 11 0 0 | 11 2 0 | 10 8 0 | 100 | 145 | 140 | 132 |
| Poppy seed | White | Cwt. | 10 14 8 | 14 2 0 | 13 10 0 | 13 4 0 | 100 | 130 | 130 | 122 |
| Ginnyelly | White | Cwt. | 11 4 0 | 14 12 0 | 13 14 0 | 14 12 0 | 100 | 141 | 140 | 137 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Textile Cotton | | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) Cotton, raw | Fully ginned | Maund | 251 0 0 | 457 0 0 | 462 0 0 | 462 0 0 | 100 | 206 | 184 | 184 |
| Broach | Do. | Maund | 222 0 0 | 447 0 0 | 447 0 0 | 447 0 0 | 100 | 218 | 184 | 184 |
| Omra | Saw ginned | Maund | 230 0 0 | 447 0 0 | 447 0 0 | 447 0 0 | 100 | 218 | 184 | 184 |
| Dharwar | Do. | Maund | 205 0 0 | 447 0 0 | 447 0 0 | 447 0 0 | 100 | 218 | 184 | 184 |
| Khandesh | Do. | Maund | 198 0 0 | 408 0 0 | 408 0 0 | 408 0 0 | 100 | 210 | 184 | 184 |
| Bengal | Do. | Maund | 198 0 0 | 408 0 0 | 408 0 0 | 408 0 0 | 100 | 210 | 184 | 184 |
| (b) Cotton manufactures— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Twist | 40S | Lb. | 0 12 9 | 1 11 6 | 1 4 0 | 1 3 6 | 100 | 216 | 157 | 153 |
| Grey shirtings | Farl 2,000 | Piece | 5 15 0 | 12 10 0 | 11 0 0 | 10 12 0 | 100 | 215 | 185 | 181 |
| White mulls | 6,000 | Piece | 4 3 0 | 8 8 0 | 9 12 0 | 9 10 0 | 100 | 203 | 233 | 230 |
| Shirtings | Liepmann's 1,500 | Piece | 10 6 0 | 25 4 0 | 22 10 0 | 21 0 0 | 100 | 243 | 218 | 202 |
| Long Cloth | Local made 36" x 37 1/2 yds. | Lb. | 0 9 6 | 1 4 9 | 1 1 6 | 1 1 6 | 100 | 218 | 184 | 184 |
| Chudders | 54" x 6 yds | Lb. | 0 9 6 | 1 3 6 | 1 0 0 | 1 0 0 | 100 | 205 | 168 | 168 |
| Other Textiles— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Silk | Manchow | Lb. | 5 2 6 | 8 7 6 | 6 15 10 | 7 2 0 | 100 | 164 | 136 | 138 |
| Do. | Mathow La | Lb. | 2 15 1 | 5 0 8 | 4 11 3 | 4 11 3 | 100 | 171 | 160 | 160 |
| Hides and Skins— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hides, Cow | Tanned | Lb. | 1 2 6 | 1 14 5 | 1 13 1 | 1 10 2 | 100 | 164 | 157 | 141 |
| Do. Buffalo | Do. | Lb. | 1 1 3 | 1 1 2 | 0 13 0 | 1 1 4 | 100 | 100 | 75 | 100 |
| Skins, Goat | Do. | Lb. | 1 4 0 | 1 2 3 | 2 10 9 | 2 12 9 | 100 | 91 | 214 | 224 |
| Metals— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Copper braziers | | Cwt. | 60 8 0 | 67 0 0 | 60 0 0 | 59 0 0 | 100 | 111 | 99 | 98 |
| Iron bars | | Cwt. | 4 0 0 | 7 0 0 | 7 0 0 | 7 0 0 | 100 | 175 | 175 | 175 |
| Steel hoops | | Cwt. | 7 12 0 | 11 12 0 | 11 0 0 | 10 12 0 | 100 | 152 | 142 | 139 |
| Galvanised sheets | | Cwt. | 9 0 0 | 16 0 0 | 14 8 0 | 14 4 0 | 100 | 178 | 161 | 158 |
| Tin plates | | Box | 8 12 0 | 18 8 0 | 15 0 0 | 16 0 0 | 100 | 211 | 171 | 183 |
| Other raw and manufactured articles— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coal | Bengal, 1st Class Jheria | Ton | 14 12 0 | 22 10 0 | 21 14 0 | 21 14 0 | 100 | 153 | 148 | 148 |
| Do. | Imported | Ton | 19 11 6 | 25 0 6 | 22 9 6 | 25 0 4 | 100 | 127 | 115 | 127 |
| Kerosene | Elephant Brand | 2 Tins | 4 6 0 | 7 8 6 | 7 7 0 | 7 7 0 | 100 | 172 | 160 | 159 |
| Do. | Chester Brand | Case | 5 2 0 | 9 8 0 | 9 8 0 | 9 8 0 | 100 | 175 | 160 | 159 |
| Index No.— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Index No.—Food | | | | | | | 100 | 111 | 111 | 111 |
| Index No.—Non-food | | | | | | | 100 | 111 | 111 | 111 |
| General Index No. | | | | | | | 100 | 111 | 111 | 111 |

WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN KARACHI

| Article | Grade | Rate per | Prices in the month of | | | | Index Numbers | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|
| | | | July 1914 | Jan 1925 | Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 | July 1914 | Jan 1925 | Dec 1925 | Jan 1926 |
| Cereals— | | | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | | | | |
| Rice | Larkana No. 3 | Candy. | 39 0 0 | 57 14 0 | 59 4 0 | 59 12 0 | 100 | 148 | 152 | 153 |
| Wheat, white | 5% barley, 3% dirt, 30% | " | 31 8 0 | 53 8 0 | 51 12 0 | 50 0 0 | 100 | 170 | 164 | 159 |
| " red | 5% barley, 3% dirt, 92% | " | 31 4 0 | 52 8 0 | 50 12 0 | 49 0 0 | 100 | 168 | 162 | 157 |
| " white | 2% barley, 1 1/2% dirt | " | 32 8 0 | 55 0 0 | 53 4 0 | 51 8 0 | 100 | 169 | 164 | 158 |
| " red | 2% barley, 1 1/2% dirt | " | 32 4 0 | 54 0 0 | 52 4 0 | 50 8 0 | 100 | 167 | 162 | 157 |
| Jowari | Export quality | " | 25 8 0 | 37 0 0 | 42 8 0 | 44 0 0 | 100 | 145 | 167 | 179 |
| Barley | 3% dirt | " | 26 8 0 | 40 0 0 | 35 0 0 | 32 0 0 | 100 | 151 | 132 | 121 |
| Index No.—Cereals | | | | | | | 100 | 160 | 158 | 154 |
| Pulses— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gram | 1% dirt | Candy | 28 8 0 | 32 4 0 | 42 0 0 | 40 8 0 | 100 | 109 | 142 | 137 |
| Sugar— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sugar | Java white | Cwt. | 9 2 0 | 17 5 0 | 15 0 0 | 15 10 0 | 100 | 190 | 164 | 171 |
| " | " brown | " | 8 1 6 | | 13 14 0 | 14 12 0 | 100 | 171 | 171 | 182 |
| Index No.—Sugar | | | | | | | 100 | 190 | 168 | 177 |
| Other food— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salt | | Bengal Maund. | 2 2 0 | 1 11 0 | 1 11 0 | 1 11 0 | 100 | 79 | 79 | 79 |
| Oilseeds— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cotton seed | 3% admixture | Maund. | 2 11 3 | 3 14 0 | 3 12 0 | 3 8 0 | 100 | 143 | 139 | 129 |
| Rapeseed | Black 9% admixture | Candy. | 51 0 0 | 68 8 0 | 71 0 0 | 70 0 0 | 100 | 134 | 139 | 137 |
| Gingelly | | " | 62 0 0 | 86 0 0 | 83 0 0 | 84 0 0 | 100 | 139 | 134 | 135 |
| Index No.—Oilseeds | | | | | | | 100 | 139 | 137 | 134 |
| Textiles— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jute bags | B. Twills | 100 bags. | 38 4 0 | 71 8 0 | 71 4 0 | 68 0 0 | 100 | 167 | 166 | 159 |

H 1126-7

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Textiles—Cotton— | | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) Cotton, raw | Sin-1 | Maund | 20 4 0 | 42 0 0 | 42 12 0 | 30 4 0 | 100 | 708 | | |
| (b) Cotton manufactures | | | | | | | | | | |
| Drills | Pepperill | Piece | 10 3 6 | 22 8 0 | 18 12 0 | 18 12 0 | 100 | 207 | 198 | 183 |
| Shirtings | Liepmann's | " | 18 2 0 | 27 0 0 | 21 8 0 | 21 0 0 | 100 | 207 | 212 | 188 |
| Yarns | 40s Grey (Plough) | Lb. | 0 12 2 | | | | 100 | | | |
| Index No.—Cotton manufactures | | | | | | | 100 | 244 | 148 | 148 |
| Index No.—Textiles—Cotton | | | | | | | 100 | 231 | 202 | 180 |
| Other Textiles—Wool | Kandahar | Maund. | 28 0 0 | 48 0 0 | 40 0 0 | 40 0 0 | 100 | 171 | 148 | 148 |
| Hides— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hides, dry | Sind | Maund. | 21 4 0 | 20 8 0 | 15 0 0 | 15 0 0 | 100 | 96 | 71 | 71 |
| " " | Punjab | " | 21 4 0 | 20 8 0 | 15 0 0 | 15 0 0 | 100 | 96 | 71 | 71 |
| Index No.—Hides | | | | | | | 100 | 86 | 71 | 71 |
| Metals— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Copper Braziers | | Cwt. | 60 8 0 | 70 0 0 | 63 0 0 | 63 0 0 | 100 | 186 | 164 | 164 |
| Steel Bars | | " | 3 14 0 | 6 8 0 | 6 5 0 | 6 8 0 | 100 | 168 | 163 | 168 |
| " Plates | | " | 4 6 0 | 7 8 0 | 7 0 0 | 6 14 0 | 100 | 171 | 160 | 159 |
| Index No.—Metals | | | | | | | 100 | 152 | 147 | 143 |
| Other raw and manufactured articles— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coal | 1st class Bengal | Ton. | 16 0 0 | 23 8 0 | 21 8 0 | 21 8 0 | 100 | 147 | 144 | 144 |
| Kerosene | Chester Brand | Case. | 5 2 0 | 9 6 0 | 9 6 0 | 9 6 0 | 100 | 147 | 144 | 144 |
| " | Elephant | 2 Tins. | 4 7 0 | 7 6 6 | 7 5 0 | 7 5 0 | 100 | 147 | 144 | 144 |
| Index No.—Other raw and manufactured articles | | | | | | | 100 | 147 | 144 | 144 |
| Index No.—Fuel | | | | | | | 100 | 147 | 144 | 144 |
| Index No.—Manufactured | | | | | | | 100 | 147 | 144 | 144 |
| General Index No. | | | | | | | 100 | 147 | 144 | 144 |

912
LABOUR GAZETTE
FEB. 1926

FEB. 1926
LABOUR GAZETTE
913

WHOLESALE PRICES INDEX NUMBERS IN BOMBAY BY GROUPS

Prices in July 1914 = 100

| Months | Cereals | Pulses | Sugar | Other food | Index No., food | Oil-seeds | Raw cotton | Cotton manufactures | Other textiles | Hides and skins | Metals | Other raw and manufactured articles | Index No., non-food | General Index No. |
|--------------|---------|--------|-------|------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1923 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| November .. | 125 | 90 | 228 | 365 | 189 | 138 | 303 | 235 | 187 | 161 | 174 | 158 | 185 | 186 |
| December .. | 125 | 91 | 243 | 375 | 194 | 141 | 286 | 229 | 187 | 146 | 167 | 162 | 185 | 188 |
| 1924 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January .. | 127 | 92 | 244 | 340 | 188 | 138 | 273 | 236 | 182 | 157 | 166 | 160 | 189 | 188 |
| February .. | 125 | 88 | 236 | 348 | 187 | 136 | 248 | 234 | 173 | 158 | 174 | 164 | 188 | 188 |
| March .. | 122 | 84 | 220 | 263 | 165 | 129 | 244 | 238 | 235 | 140 | 171 | 160 | 190 | 181 |
| April .. | 122 | 84 | 217 | 279 | 167 | 127 | 258 | 237 | 229 | 146 | 169 | 170 | 192 | 184 |
| May .. | 125 | 88 | 212 | 293 | 171 | 131 | 258 | 236 | 191 | 149 | 168 | 166 | 187 | 181 |
| June .. | 131 | 92 | 213 | 293 | 175 | 137 | 259 | 236 | 201 | 149 | 170 | 158 | 187 | 185 |
| July .. | 143 | 98 | 211 | 260 | 174 | 150 | 265 | 232 | 187 | 150 | 166 | 166 | 189 | 184 |
| August .. | 146 | 97 | 198 | 262 | 173 | 146 | 260 | 235 | 203 | 150 | 170 | 161 | 190 | 184 |
| September .. | 142 | 95 | 197 | 250 | 168 | 148 | 260 | 232 | 181 | 145 | 169 | 167 | 188 | 181 |
| October .. | 141 | 95 | 196 | 263 | 170 | 154 | 260 | 223 | 178 | 156 | 167 | 161 | 186 | 181 |
| November .. | 138 | 95 | 187 | 283 | 171 | 147 | 234 | 221 | 160 | 157 | 167 | 160 | 179 | 176 |
| December .. | 139 | 95 | 167 | 256 | 162 | 143 | 209 | 219 | 168 | 210 | 165 | 168 | 184 | 176 |
| 1925 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January .. | 153 | 102 | 174 | 267 | 173 | 143 | 210 | 216 | 168 | 118 | 165 | 159 | 172 | 173 |
| February .. | 165 | 106 | 174 | 231 | 172 | 142 | 209 | 213 | 166 | 148 | 163 | 159 | 174 | 173 |
| March .. | 154 | 99 | 175 | 219 | 164 | 136 | 209 | 212 | 160 | 145 | 162 | 166 | 174 | 171 |
| April .. | 149 | 104 | 177 | 193 | 157 | 137 | 199 | 211 | 158 | 146 | 160 | 159 | 169 | 165 |
| May .. | 149 | 104 | 179 | 176 | 155 | 144 | 187 | 215 | 143 | 153 | 163 | 155 | 170 | 164 |
| June .. | 141 | 102 | 160 | 181 | 148 | 142 | 190 | 209 | 144 | 142 | 157 | 157 | 167 | 160 |
| July .. | 141 | 102 | 159 | 184 | 148 | 140 | 182 | 208 | 144 | 139 | 153 | 155 | 163 | 158 |
| August .. | 146 | 100 | 158 | 183 | 149 | 140 | 184 | 206 | 155 | 161 | 153 | 159 | 167 | 160 |
| September .. | 143 | 104 | 159 | 176 | 146 | 136 | 184 | 205 | 155 | 141 | 153 | 159 | 164 | 157 |
| October .. | 147 | 111 | 151 | 178 | 149 | 130 | 184 | 203 | 153 | 151 | 154 | 159 | 163 | 158 |
| November .. | 153 | 128 | 161 | 175 | 155 | 133 | 184 | 195 | 152 | 155 | 153 | 159 | 162 | 160 |
| December .. | 149 | 122 | 148 | 168 | 149 | 129 | 184 | 191 | 148 | 149 | 150 | 155 | 158 | 155 |
| 1926 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January .. | 147 | 119 | 148 | 172 | 149 | 127 | 184 | 186 | 149 | 155 | 151 | 158 | 158 | 155 |

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, etc. | Food, fuel, light, household utensils and furnishing | Food and rent | Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous | Food, clothing, heat, light, rent and miscellaneous | Food, clothing, light, fuel and household utensils | Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent, tax, etc. | Food, heating and lighting | Food, fuel, light and rent | (f) | Food, clothing, heating, rent and miscellaneous items |
| 1914 July .. | 100 | 100 | 100 | (a) 100 | (b) 100 | (c) 100 | (d) 100 | (e) 100 | (f) 100 | (g) 100 | (h) 100 | (i) 100 |
| 1915 .. | 104 | 125 | 97 | 119 | 108 | 99 | 117 | 117 | 119 | 103 | .. | 105 |
| 1916 .. | 108 | 148 | 102 | 115 | 117 | 116 | .. | 146 | 140 | 106 | .. | 118 |
| 1917 .. | 118 | 180 | 130 | 116 | 128 | 146 | .. | 190 | 180 | 114 | .. | 142 |
| 1918 .. | 149 | 203 | 176 | 146 | 144 | 197 | .. | 253 | 229 | 118 | .. | 174 |
| 1919 .. | 186 | 208 | 155 | 132 | 157 | 205 | .. | 275 | 261 | 126 | 238 | 177 |
| 1920 .. | 190 | 252 | 190 | 154 | 182 | 313 | 453 | 302 | 253 | 155 | .. | 217 |
| 1921 .. | 177 | 219 | 152 | 152 | 178 | 387 | 379 | 302 | 209 | 133 | .. | .. |
| 1922 .. | 165 | 184 | 147 | 140 | 159 | 429 | 366 | (d) 249 | 158 | (h) 135 | .. | .. |
| 1923 .. | 153 | 169 | 146 | .. | .. | (h) 487 | 429 | .. | 166 | 130 | .. | .. |
| 1924 .. | 150 | 171 | 143 | .. | .. | 518 | 485 | .. | 166 | 134 | .. | .. |
| 1925 .. | 153 | 169 | 143 | 149 | .. | 518 | 492 | .. | 168 | 133 | 366 | 169 |
| 1926 .. | 157 | 170 | 144 | .. | .. | 512 | 493 | 251 | 169 | 132 | .. | .. |
| 1927 .. | 161 | 171 | 145 | .. | 160 | 511 | 498 | .. | 166 | 132 | .. | .. |
| 1928 .. | 161 | 173 | 146 | 148 | .. | 516 | 503 | 260 | 167 | 132 | 367 | 171 |
| 1929 .. | 161 | 176 | 146 | .. | .. | 546 | 513 | .. | 169 | 133 | .. | .. |
| 1930 .. | 161 | 180 | 147 | .. | .. | 562 | 520 | .. | 170 | 134 | .. | .. |
| 1931 .. | 160 | 181 | 147 | 148 | .. | 573 | 521 | 269 | 170 | 133 | 377 | 173 |
| 1932 .. | 157 | 180 | 149 | .. | .. | 580 | 521 | .. | 170 | 133 | .. | .. |
| 1933 .. | 157 | 179 | 150 | .. | 161 | 592 | 517 | .. | 170 | 133 | .. | .. |
| 1934 .. | 159 | 179 | 148 | 150 | .. | 602 | 511 | 271 | 170 | 133 | .. | .. |
| 1935 .. | 158 | 175 | 147 | .. | .. | 600 | 506 | .. | 170 | 133 | 386 | .. |
| 1936 .. | 156 | 173 | 146 | .. | .. | 591 | 502 | .. | 168 | 134 | .. | .. |
| 1937 .. | 154 | 172 | 146 | 153 | .. | 596 | 505 | 261 | 167 | 134 | .. | .. |
| 1938 .. | 157 | 173 | 146 | .. | .. | 598 | 509 | .. | 169 | 134 | 390 | 174 |
| 1939 .. | 152 | 173 | 149 | .. | .. | 610 | 517 | .. | 169 | 132 | .. | .. |
| 1940 .. | 151 | 174 | 149 | 155 | 163 | 624 | 525 | 248 | 167 | 132 | 401 | .. |
| 1941 .. | 153 | 176 | 149 | .. | .. | 643 | 533 | .. | 165 | 132 | .. | .. |
| 1942 .. | 153 | 176 | 152 | .. | .. | 643 | .. | .. | 165 | 131 | .. | .. |
| 1943 .. | 155 | 177 | 154 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 1944 .. | 155 | 175 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 1945 .. | 154 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

(a) From 1914 to 1922 figures relate to second quarter. (b) First half of 1914. (c) April 1914. (d) From 1915 to 1922 June figures are given. (e) June 1914 = 100. (f) Expenditure of family of four persons. (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) Revised figures. (l) Figures from 1915 to refer to August.

INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

| Country | India (Bombay) (a) | Japan | China (Shanghai) | Java (Batavia) | Australia | Egypt (Cairo) | United Kingdom (1) | France | Netherlands (b) | Norway (b) | Sweden | Canada (b) (2) | United States of America (3) |
|------------------|--------------------|-------|------------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|--------------------|--------|-----------------|------------|--------|----------------|------------------------------|
| No. of articles | 43 | 56 | 151 | 51 | 92 | 24 | 150 | 45 | 48 | 93 | 47 | 236 | 325 |
| 1913 Average .. | 100 | 100 | (d) 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | (a) 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 1914 .. | 100 | 95 | .. | .. | 106 | 100 | .. | 102 | 140 | .. | 106 | 100 | 100 |
| 1915 .. | 100 | 97 | .. | .. | 147 | 102 | .. | 140 | 145 | .. | 116 | 103 | 98 |
| 1916 .. | 100 | 117 | .. | .. | 138 | 124 | .. | 188 | 222 | (e) 159 | 145 | 109 | 101 |
| 1917 .. | 100 | 148 | .. | .. | 153 | 169 | .. | 262 | 339 | .. | 185 | 131 | 127 |
| 1918 .. | 100 | 236 | .. | .. | 178 | 207 | .. | 339 | 392 | .. | 244 | 179 | 177 |
| 1919 .. | 100 | 222 | .. | .. | 189 | 226 | .. | 356 | 392 | .. | 345 | 199 | 194 |
| 1920 .. | 100 | 216 | .. | .. | 228 | 299 | .. | 510 | 322 | .. | 330 | 209 | 206 |
| 1921 .. | 100 | 193 | .. | .. | 155 | 170 | .. | 307 | 322 | (e) 377 | 347 | 244 | 244 |
| 1922 .. | 100 | 175 | .. | .. | 168 | 147 | .. | 326 | 322 | .. | 269 | 172 | 153 |
| 1923 .. | 100 | 188 | .. | .. | 168 | 137 | .. | 362 | 322 | .. | 220 | 155 | 140 |
| 1924 February .. | 188 | 208 | 160 | 205 | 180 | 135 | 167 | 544 | 158 | .. | 260 | 153 | 157 |
| .. March .. | 181 | 206 | 158 | 204 | 175 | 136 | 165 | 499 | 155 | .. | 266 | 154 | 152 |
| .. April .. | 184 | 207 | 154 | 205 | 174 | 134 | 165 | 459 | 154 | .. | 267 | 156 | 150 |
| .. May .. | 181 | 205 | 154 | .. | 173 | 135 | 164 | 459 | 153 | .. | 263 | 151 | 147 |
| .. June .. | 185 | 200 | 152 | .. | 171 | 131 | 163 | 465 | 151 | .. | 268 | 149 | 145 |
| .. July .. | 184 | 195 | 152 | .. | 171 | 132 | 163 | 481 | 151 | .. | 271 | 148 | 147 |
| .. August .. | 184 | 200 | 157 | .. | 169 | 143 | 165 | 477 | 151 | .. | 274 | 152 | 150 |
| .. September .. | 181 | 207 | 149 | .. | 171 | 135 | 164 | 486 | 158 | .. | 275 | 153 | 149 |
| .. October .. | 181 | 213 | 153 | .. | 171 | 136 | 165 | 497 | 161 | .. | 276 | 154 | 149 |
| .. November .. | 176 | 214 | 155 | .. | 171 | 137 | 166 | 503 | 161 | .. | 277 | 154 | 152 |
| .. December .. | 176 | 214 | 157 | .. | 173 | 137 | 167 | 508 | 160 | .. | 278 | 154 | 153 |
| 1925 January .. | 173 | 214 | 160 | .. | 171 | 137 | 167 | 514 | 160 | .. | 279 | 154 | 153 |
| .. February .. | 173 | 210 | 159 | .. | 170 | 136 | 166 | 515 | 158 | .. | 281 | 154 | 153 |
| .. March .. | 171 | 204 | 160 | .. | 168 | 135 | 166 | 514 | 158 | .. | 281 | 154 | 153 |
| .. April .. | 165 | 202 | 159 | .. | 166 | 134 | 163 | 512 | 151 | .. | 276 | 154 | 153 |
| .. May .. | 164 | 199 | 158 | .. | 167 | 134 | 163 | 520 | 151 | .. | 267 | 154 | 153 |
| .. June .. | 160 | 200 | 157 | .. | 170 | 134 | 163 | 543 | 153 | .. | 260 | 158 | 159 |
| .. July .. | 158 | 199 | 163 | .. | 170 | 134 | 163 | 557 | 155 | .. | 258 | 159 | 159 |
| .. August .. | 160 | 200 | 160 | .. | 170 | 134 | 163 | 557 | 155 | .. | 254 | 160 | 158 |
| .. September .. | 157 | 201 | 160 | .. | 170 | 134 | 163 | 555 | 155 | .. | 245 | 160 | 160 |
| .. October .. | 158 | 200 | 159 | .. | 171 | 134 | 163 | 572 | 154 | .. | 231 | 151 | 157 |
| .. November .. | 160 | .. | 158 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 605 | .. | .. | 221 | 148 | 157 |
| .. December .. | 155 | .. | 158 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 217 | 155 | 161 |
| 1926 January .. | 155 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 149 | 164 |

* July 1914 = 100 (a) Average Dec. 1913 to June 1914 = 100. (b) Revised figures. (c) The figures from 1915-1920 are for December. (d) February 1913 = 100. (1) Board of Trade. (2) Dominion Bureau of Statistics. (3) Bureau of Labor.

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 (b) | Denmark | Switzerland |
|-----------------|--------|----------------|--------|--------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|--------|------------|---------|-------------|
| No. of articles | 17 | 20 | 29 | 18 | 46 | 59 | 43 | 13 | 9 | .. | 37 | 27 | .. | 51 | .. | .. |
| No. of stations | Bombay | 630 | 60 | 9 | 30 | 25 | 51 | Paris | Rome | 59 | 20 | Amsterdam | 30 | 44 | 100 | 2 |
| 1914 July .. | 100 | 100 | 100 | (a) 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | (c) 100 | (d) .. | 100 | 100(e) | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 1915 .. | 105 | 132 | 105 | 107 | 131 | 112 | 98 | 120 | 95 | .. | 114 | 114 | 114 | 124 | 128 | 119 |
| 1916 .. | 105 | 161 | 114 | 116 | 130 | 119 | 109 | 129 | 111 | .. | 117 | 160 | 142 | 146 | 141 | 141 |
| 1917 .. | 114 | 204 | 157 | 128 | 126 | 127 | 143 | 183 | 137 | .. | 146 | 214 | 181 | 166 | 179 | 179 |
| 1918 .. | 142 | 210 | 175 | 134 | 131 | 139 | 164 | 206 | 203 | .. | 175 | 279 | 268 | 187 | 222 | 222 |
| 1919 .. | 187 | 209 | 186 | 139 | 147 | 144 | 186 | 261 | 206 | .. | 196 | 289 | 310 | 212 | 250 | 250 |
| 1920 .. | 188 | 258 | 227 | 197 | 194 | 167 | 215 | 373 | 318 | .. | 982 | 319 | 297 | 233 | 239 | 207 |
| 1921 .. | 174 | 220 | 148 | 139 | 161 | 164 | 145 | 306 | 402 | .. | 100 | 1,278 | 180(e) | 179 | 184 | 157 |
| 1922 .. | 166 | 180 | 138 | 116 | 148 | 144 | 139 | 297 | 459 | .. | 87 | 1,105 | 140 | 295 | 232 | 207 |
| 1923 .. | 148 | 162 | 137 | 116 | 164 | 142 | 144 | 321 | (f) 496 | .. | 105 | 968 | 140 | 218 | 160 | 185 |
| 1924 May .. | 143 | 163 | 133 | 122 | 151 | 150 | 138 | 378 | 519 | .. | 114 | 1,000 | 139 | 241 | 159 | 165 |
| .. June .. | 147 | 160 | 133 | 120 | 149 | 150 | 139 | 370 | 518 | .. | 120 | 1,004 | 136 | 240 | 158 | 168 |
| .. July .. | 151 | 162 | 134 | 117 | 149 | 149 | 140 | 360 | 508 | .. | 124 | 1,016 | 138 | 248 | 159 | 200 |
| .. August .. | 156 | 164 | 137 | 117 | 147 | 146 | 141 | 366 | 507 | .. | 125 | 1,088 | 146 | 257 | 163 | 166 |
| .. September .. | 156 | 166 | 139 | 117 | 146 | 145 | 144 | 374 | 514 | .. | 127 | 1,089 | 155 | 261 | 165 | 166 |
| .. October .. | 156 | 172 | 139 | 120 | 147 | 146 | 146 | 383 | 543 | .. | 135 | 1,120 | 150 | 264 | 172 | 169 |
| .. November .. | 157 | 179 | 141 | 122 | 147 | 148 | 147 | 396 | 567 | .. | 140 | 1,127 | 150 | 269 | 172 | 170 |
| .. December .. | 156 | 180 | 142 | 121 | 148 | 150 | 149 | 404 | 579 | .. | 140 | 1,129 | 150 | 274 | 172 | 169 |
| 1925 January .. | 152 | 178 | 145 | 120 | 148 | 147 | 151 | 408 | 590 | .. | 141 | 1,100 | 150 | 277 | 170 | 168 |
| .. February .. | 152 | 176 | 147 | 120 | 149 | 146 | 148 | 410 | 610 | .. | 139 | 1,089 | 155 | 283 | 170 | 168 |
| .. March .. | 155 | 176 | 145 | 121 | 151 | 150 | 148 | 415 | 624 | .. | 136 | 1,119 | 151 | 284 | 171 | 168 |
| .. April .. | 153 | 170 | 142 | 124 | 152 | 150 | 148 | 409 | 620 | .. | 130 | 1,099 | 150 | 276 | 170 | 166 |
| .. May .. | 151 | 167 | 141 | 123 | 154 | 150 | 149 | 418 | 599 | .. | 125 | 1,050 | 140 | 265 | 169 | 165 |
| .. June .. | 149 | 166 | 141 | 122 | 155 | 149 | 152 | 422 | 598 | .. | 131 | 1,062 | 140 | 261 | 169 | 167 |
| .. July .. | 152 | 167 | 141 | 120 | 156 | 151 | 159 | 421 | 602 | .. | 133 | 1,107 | 152 | 260 | 169 | 165 |
| .. August .. | 147 | 168 | 146 | 119 | 156 | 152 | 156 | 423 | 621 | .. | 132 | 1,182 | 151 | 254 | 170 | 165 |
| .. September .. | 146 | 170 | 146 | 118 | 156 | 153 | 156 | 431 | 643 | .. | 141 | 1,149 | 148 | 241 | 168 | 165 |
| .. October .. | 148 | 172 | 147 | 118 | 157 | 155 | 158 | 433 | .. | .. | .. | 1,119 | .. | 228 | 166 | 163 |
| .. November .. | 149 | 172 | 151 | 117 | 156 | 156 | 164 | 444 | 649 | .. | .. | 1,120 | .. | 223 | 165 | 163 |
| .. December .. | 151 | 174 | 161 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 663 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 221 | 164 | .. |
| 1926 January .. | 151 | 171 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| .. February .. | 150 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

(a) Average for the year 1914. (b) Includes fuel and lighting. (c) January to June 1914. (d) Revised series—1921 = 100. (e) Figures from 1914 to 1921 are annual averages. (f) The figures for Italy from July 1923 are for Milan.

RETAIL PRICES OF ARTICLES OF FOOD IN DECEMBER 1925 AND JANUARY 1926

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 |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
|  |  | Dec. 1925 | Dec. 1925 | Dec. 1925 | Dec. 1925 | Dec. 1925 | Jan. 1926 | Jan. 1926 | Jan. 1926 | Jan. 1926 | Jan. 1926 |
| <i>Cereals—</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rice | Maund .. | 7 6 3 <i>132</i> | 8 0 0 <i>120</i> | 8 14 3 <i>144</i> | 8 6 9 <i>159</i> | 8 13 10 <i>154</i> | 7 6 3 <i>132</i> | 8 0 0 <i>120</i> | 8 14 3 <i>144</i> | 8 6 9 <i>159</i> | 8 11 10 <i>154</i> |
| Wheat | .. .. | 7 7 9 <i>134</i> | 7 0 6 <i>167</i> | 8 0 0 <i>170</i> | 7 6 6 <i>143</i> | 7 13 6 <i>146</i> | 7 7 9 <i>134</i> | 7 4 4 <i>173</i> | 8 0 0 <i>170</i> | 7 6 6 <i>143</i> | 7 13 6 <i>146</i> |
| Jowari | .. .. | 5 12 0 <i>132</i> | 4 12 5 <i>131</i> | 5 0 0 <i>131</i> | 3 10 5 <i>127</i> | 5 7 1 <i>159</i> | 5 6 8 <i>124</i> | 4 13 7 <i>133</i> | 5 0 0 <i>131</i> | 3 9 3 <i>125</i> | 5 7 1 <i>159</i> |
| Bajri | .. .. | 5 11 0 <i>132</i> | 5 0 0 <i>119</i> | 6 2 6 <i>131</i> | 4 3 3 <i>120</i> | 5 13 1 <i>142</i> | 5 9 9 <i>130</i> | 5 1 3 <i>121</i> | 6 2 6 <i>131</i> | 4 0 3 <i>114</i> | 5 13 1 <i>142</i> |
| <i>Index No.—Cereals</i> | .. .. | <i>133</i> | <i>134</i> | <i>144</i> | <i>137</i> | <i>150</i> | <i>130</i> | <i>137</i> | <i>144</i> | <i>135</i> | <i>150</i> |
| <i>Pulses—</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gram | Maund .. | 6 1 4 <i>141</i> | 5 1 3 <i>133</i> | 6 2 6 <i>154</i> | 5 9 6 <i>130</i> | 5 7 1 <i>112</i> | 6 4 0 <i>145</i> | 5 5 4 <i>140</i> | 6 2 6 <i>154</i> | 5 9 6 <i>130</i> | 5 3 6 <i>107</i> |
| Turdal | .. .. | 7 5 11 <i>126</i> | 7 5 8 <i>110</i> | 8 14 3 <i>144</i> | 7 3 1 <i>123</i> | 7 11 8 <i>117</i> | 7 7 3 <i>128</i> | 8 0 0 <i>120</i> | 8 14 3 <i>144</i> | 8 1 4 <i>138</i> | 7 5 2 <i>111</i> |
| <i>Index No.—Pulses</i> | .. .. | <i>134</i> | <i>122</i> | <i>149</i> | <i>127</i> | <i>115</i> | <i>137</i> | <i>130</i> | <i>144</i> | <i>134</i> | <i>109</i> |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Other articles of food—</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sugar (refined) | Maund .. | 13 1 6 <i>172</i> | 11 10 2 <i>160</i> | 12 4 11 <i>137</i> | 13 5 4 <i>133</i> | 11 9 6 <i>124</i> | 13 11 1 <i>180</i> | 11 6 10 <i>157</i> | 12 8 9 <i>139</i> | 13 5 4 <i>133</i> | 12 0 6 <i>129</i> |
| Jagri (gul) | .. .. | 15 7 7 <i>181</i> | 11 6 10 <i>164</i> | 16 0 0 <i>180</i> | 13 5 4 <i>172</i> | 14 0 7 <i>200</i> | 14 4 7 <i>167</i> | 11 6 10 <i>164</i> | 13 5 4 <i>150</i> | 13 5 4 <i>172</i> | 12 0 6 <i>171</i> |
| Tea | Lb. .. | 0 14 7 <i>187</i> | 0 15 7 <i>225</i> | 0 15 7 <i>200</i> | 1 1 10 <i>171</i> | 1 2 11 <i>230</i> | 0 14 11 <i>191</i> | 0 15 7 <i>225</i> | 0 15 7 <i>200</i> | 1 1 10 <i>171</i> | 1 2 11 <i>230</i> |
| Salt | Maund .. | 3 5 0 <i>156</i> | 2 0 0 <i>152</i> | 2 4 7 <i>151</i> | 3 3 4 <i>144</i> | 2 15 5 <i>158</i> | 3 3 6 <i>151</i> | 2 0 0 <i>152</i> | 2 4 7 <i>151</i> | 3 1 8 <i>140</i> | 2 15 5 <i>158</i> |
| Beef | Seer .. | 0 8 2 <i>158</i> | 0 10 0 <i>200</i> | 0 10 0 <i>167</i> | 0 5 0 <i>201</i> | 0 6 0 <i>141</i> | 0 8 2 <i>158</i> | 0 9 0 <i>180</i> | 0 10 0 <i>167</i> | 0 5 0 <i>201</i> | 0 6 0 <i>141</i> |
| Mutton | .. .. | 0 13 2 <i>197</i> | 0 12 0 <i>200</i> | 0 10 0 <i>167</i> | 0 10 0 <i>167</i> | 0 9 0 <i>150</i> | 0 13 0 <i>195</i> | 0 10 0 <i>167</i> | 0 10 0 <i>167</i> | 0 10 0 <i>167</i> | 0 9 0 <i>150</i> |
| Milk | Maund .. | 17 9 4 <i>191</i> | 9 6 7 <i>212</i> | 10 0 0 <i>200</i> | 13 5 4 <i>183</i> | 13 5 4 <i>133</i> | 17 9 4 <i>191</i> | 8 14 3 <i>200</i> | 8 0 0 <i>160</i> | 13 5 4 <i>183</i> | 13 5 4 <i>133</i> |
| Ghee | .. .. | 100 0 0 <i>197</i> | 80 0 0 <i>187</i> | 75 4 8 <i>169</i> | 80 0 0 <i>142</i> | 84 3 4 <i>163</i> | 97 0 5 <i>191</i> | 80 0 0 <i>187</i> | 71 1 9 <i>160</i> | 80 0 0 <i>142</i> | 84 3 4 <i>163</i> |
| Potatoes | .. .. | 7 2 3 <i>159</i> | 6 2 6 <i>114</i> | 8 6 9 <i>221</i> | 5 11 5 <i>143</i> | 5 4 2 <i>156</i> | 8 5 4 <i>186</i> | 5 2 7 <i>95</i> | 6 2 6 <i>162</i> | 5 8 3 <i>138</i> | 6 7 8 <i>192</i> |
| Onions | .. .. | 4 2 8 <i>268</i> | 4 12 5 <i>263</i> | 5 0 0 <i>250</i> | 4 3 4 <i>168</i> | 2 10 1 <i>131</i> | 4 12 2 <i>307</i> | 4 7 1 <i>244</i> | 4 0 0 <i>200</i> | 4 3 4 <i>168</i> | 2 10 1 <i>131</i> |
| Cocconut oil | .. .. | 28 9 2 <i>113</i> | 29 1 5 <i>118</i> | 35 8 11 <i>178</i> | 33 10 11 <i>126</i> | 28 1 1 <i>100</i> | 29 2 8 <i>115</i> | 29 1 5 <i>118</i> | 35 8 11 <i>178</i> | 33 10 11 <i>126</i> | 28 1 1 <i>100</i> |
| <i>Index No.—Other articles of food</i> | .. .. | <i>180</i> | <i>181</i> | <i>184</i> | <i>159</i> | <i>153</i> | <i>185</i> | <i>172</i> | <i>167</i> | <i>158</i> | <i>154</i> |
| <i>Index No.—All food articles (unweighted)</i> | .. .. | <i>163</i> | <i>163</i> | <i>170</i> | <i>150</i> | <i>148</i> | <i>166</i> | <i>159</i> | <i>159</i> | <i>150</i> | <i>148</i> |