



of coal and of other merchandise in the first five months of this year by 80 and 50 per cent. respectively as compared with the corresponding period of 1913. Imports decreased 33 per cent. In recent weeks signs have not been wanting that the United Kingdom is concentrating upon recovering its export trade. This is what gives it the power to purchase the food and raw-materials required to feed its population and to provide that population with work. There are signs that the tide is turning and the clouds are beginning to break.

Russia.—The following interesting statistics of the attendance of workers in Moscow factories summarises the results of a statistical investigation undertaken by the Moscow Section of Labour Statistics (which is part of the Commissariat of Labour). The total number of days in the nine months covered by the enquiry October 1919 to June 1920 was 274 or an average of 30·4 per month:—

	Textile trades.	Metal trades.	Other trades.	All trades.
Days worked ..	13·9	17·1	18·7	17·0
Days lost—				
(1) due to closing of factory ..	5·1	·2	·7	1·8
(2) due to holidays ..	6·0	6·3	6·0	6·1
(3) Voluntary absence ..	5·4	6·8	5·0	5·5
Total ..	30·4	30·4	30·4	30·4

The number of days lost is high, especially in the textile trades. The textile industry was, however, frequently stopped from want of raw-material. Absence without just cause was nearly 40 per cent. of the total amount of voluntary absence in the textile trades. Illness was a very important factor and the days lost on this account were much higher than the average established for the period previous to the Revolution.

Hungary.—A cost of living index number published in the organ of the Magyar Confederation of Trade Unions shows that the cost of living in January 1920 was 46 times greater than in July 1914. The largest increase was in clothing which had increased 100 times. Rent remained almost stationary. Wages have not, it is stated, increased in proportion.

Germany.—The German Statistical Department has published an index of the cost of living in Berlin. It is based on the cost of food, fuel and lighting, clothing and house-rent for a family of two adults and three children of 12, 7 and 1½ years. The prewar year 1913-14 is taken as 100:—

		(1913-14=100).	
		All groups.	All groups (except clothing).
1920	.. January ..	764	616
	.. February ..	889	715
	.. March ..	1,111	878
1921	.. January ..	1,054	1,006
	.. February ..	1,024	965
	.. March ..	972	936

The effect on the cost of living of clothing is noticeable. The rise as compared with India and other countries is equally striking.

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**THE MONTH IN BRIEF***Labour in September—The Return to Normal*

THIS season's monsoon has been satisfactory. As the monsoon is the backbone of labour conditions, this means that the next year is full of agreeable possibilities. There will be produce to be marketed and exported, and goods to be imported or manufactured and consumed. The solemn fact is that India during the space of a twelvemonth has been struggling against an overmastering depression. A change is, above everything else, to be welcomed.

Excluding agriculture, the major industry of the Presidency is undoubtedly the cotton mill industry. In September labour conditions were in this industry above normal. In fact the demand for the production of the mills was so great and the margin of profit so high that not a few mills were willing to work longer hours, were this feasible. After the cotton mill industry the next important industry in the city and island of Bombay is the Engineering industry, including, of course, railway workshops such as those of the G. I. P. and B. B. & C. I. Railways. Employment in this industry is on the whole satisfactory. In one railway workshop, however, a strike was in progress throughout the month. The docks employ is perhaps the next important group of labour, and here there is nothing to report for the month under review. The total number of industrial

disputes in progress involving a stoppage of work was 21 in September. Of these, 3 disputes began before September, and in addition 18 were reported to the Labour Office as beginning in that month. The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in September was approximately 49,068 as compared with 32,204 in August 1921. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during September was approximately 256,498 working days as compared with 192,001 in August, an increase of 34 per cent. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes from April 1st to the end of September was 952,136 days.

THE LEVEL OF RETAIL PRICES

In September the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the cost of living index for Bombay was five points or 3 per cent more than in August 1921. The level, taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, was 185 for all articles and 183 for food only. The articles have been given the relative importance which each bears to the aggregate expenditure. There are already (October 1921) signs of falling prices owing mainly to the satisfactory monsoon. This, however, must wait for future issues of the Gazette.



THE RETURN TO NORMAL

The undoubted dissatisfaction in business quarters, due to a long period of seasonal disorders and economic stress, save in the cotton mill industry referred to above, is passing away. The best barometer for this is the foreign trade returns which reflect the state of both trade and labour in the exports and imports of merchandise on private account. In short, the Indian trade returns are showing month by month very quietly, without any sounding of trumpets, the return to a more normal state of affairs. Since July there has been a return to a favourable balance of trade which the country has not experienced since June 1920. Our economic Hotspurs must not leap to too hasty conclusions as to the future as it is impossible to reduce to the humdrum dullness of a statistical statement all the various goods and services exchanged between India and countries abroad. The main data are as follows :—

	In lakhs of rupees.				
	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.
Exports (private merchandise).	19,42	16,50	17,28	19,56	20'00
Imports do. ..	20,74	19,46	17,72	20,80	19'71
Net exports do. (a) ..	-1,32	-2,96	-44	-1,24	29
Imports of treasure ..	2,02	1,79	1,52	1,77	1'53
Exports of treasure ..	1,20	3,13	2,75	4,58	2'17
Net exports of treasure.	-82	1,34	1,23	2,81	64
Visible balance of trade	..	..	79	1,57	93
(b) Against India ..	2,14	1,62	..	..	..

(a) A minus indicates an excess of imports over exports.

(b) Excludes imports and exports of rupee paper.

In September exchange rose gradually and on 1st October stood at ls. $5\frac{13}{32}$ d. for telegraph transfers in Bombay on London.

LABOUR IN COTTON MILLS

In subsequent issues of the "Labour Gazette" the production of the cotton mills in the Presidency will be published regularly. The statistics will be a valuable index of the state of trade and the demand for labour in

this important industry. As suggested by certain millowners the production of yarn and woven goods will be shown in considerable detail. The following data are of interest :—

	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun.			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced.		
	Four months ended July			Four months ended July		
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Bombay Island ..	118	112	118	73	61	72
Ahmedabad ..	24	23	29	29	25	28
Other centres ..	18	16	19	11	10	11
Total Presidency ..	160	151	166	113	96	111

There has been an increase both in yarn and woven goods as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year. The value of the production of woven goods was Rs. 17,36 lakhs as against Rs. 17,38 lakhs in the corresponding period of 1920 and Rs. 17,43 lakhs of 1919.

SPECIAL ARTICLES

The October issue contains special articles on the health of the industrial worker in Bombay, the labour question in Japan, and trade unions and workmen's compensation.

During October the Labour Office continued to receive from the International Labour Office and from countries abroad copies of legislative enactments concerning trade unions, workmen's compensation, conciliation and arbitration. Among these may be mentioned the Kansas Court of Industrial Relations Act, the Colorado Workmen's Compensation Law, the Transvaal Industrial Disputes Prevention Act, and the Austrian Act of 1919 on Conciliation Boards and Collective Agreements. Handbooks on trade unions and on industrial law have been added to the library for public use.



THE COST OF LIVING INDEX FOR SEPTEMBER 1921

An increase of five points

All articles .. 85 per cent

Food only .. 83 per cent

In September 1921 the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics of a cost of living index for the working classes in Bombay was 5 points or 3 per cent higher than in the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the levels in the last two months were and 180 in August and 185 in September. The general index is still 4 per cent below the high-water mark reached in October 1920 and 1 per cent above the twelve-monthly average of 1920.

The increase of 5 points in September is due mainly, if not entirely, to the leap upwards in the prices of food-grains. As compared with August prices, the price of rice rose 17 points, wheat 13 points, jowari 24 points, gram 23 points and bajri 14 points. When the new crops are marketed the present level of food-grains will, of course, fall. At present, however, supplies are below normal. The prices of tur dal, salt, milk, cocoanut oil, kerosene, firewood and coal were the same as in August. There were noticeable decreases in the price of potatoes and onions, due mainly to seasonal causes.

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 aggregate expenditure. No allowance is made for any change in the standard of living since 1914.

N H—534—2

July 1914 = 100

September 1920 ..	192	April 1921 ..	160
October ..	193	May ..	167
November ..	186	June ..	173
December ..	181	July ..	177
January 1921 ..	169	August ..	180
February ..	162	September ..	185
March ..	160		

The following table shows the price levels of articles of food in August and September 1921 as compared with that for July 1914 which is taken as 100. The levels are calculated from the prices of articles per standard (or railway) maund or seer on page 34.

Articles.	July 1914.	August 1921.	September 1921.	Increase (+) or decrease (—) of points in September over or below August 1921.
Rice ..	100	145	162	+17
Wheat ..	100	174	187	+13
Jowari ..	100	180	204	+24
Bajri ..	100	238	252	+14
Gram ..	100	202	225	+23
Tur dal ..	100	172	172	..
Sugar (raw) ..	100	205	211	+6
Sugar (refined) ..	100	248	240	-8
Tea ..	100	133	129	-4
Salt ..	100	125	125	..
Beef ..	100	181	219	+38
Mutton ..	100	229	229	..
Milk ..	100	191	191	..
Ghi ..	100	175	166	-9
Potatoes ..	100	288	201	-87
Onions ..	100	366	319	-47
Cocoanut oil ..	100	112	112	..
All food articles (weighted average) ..	100	177	183	+6

Note.—A full explanation of the scope and method of compilation of the index number was published in the "Labour Gazette" for September.

BOMBAY COST OF LIVING INDEX

A

Articles.	Unit of quantity.	Annual consumption (Mass Units). (In crores.)	Price.			Total Expenditure.		
			July 1914.	August 1921.	September 1921.	July 1914.	August 1921.	September 1921.
<i>Cereals—</i>			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Rice	Maund	70	5.59	8.12	9.07	391.30	568.40	634.90
Wheat	"	21	5.59	9.75	10.46	117.39	204.75	219.66
Jowari	"	11	4.35	7.81	8.86	47.85	85.91	97.46
Bajri	"	6	4.31	10.25	10.88	25.86	61.50	65.28
Total and Average—Cereals ..	—	—	100	158	175	582.40	920.56	1,017.30
<i>Pulses—</i>								
Gram	Maund	10	4.30	8.67	9.67	43.00	86.70	96.70
Tur dal	"	3	5.84	10.06	10.06	17.52	30.18	30.18
Total and Average—Pulses ..	—	—	100	193	210	60.52	116.88	126.88
<i>Other food articles—</i>								
Sugar (raw) ..	Maund	7	8.56	17.58	18.08	59.92	123.06	126.56
Sugar (refined) ..	"	2	7.62	18.93	18.29	15.24	37.86	36.58
Tea	"	1	40.00	53.33	51.61	1.00	1.33	1.29
Salt	"	40						
Beef	Seer	5	2.13	2.66	2.66	10.65	13.30	13.30
Mutton	"	28	0.32	0.58	0.70	8.96	16.24	19.60
Milk	Maund	33	0.42	0.96	0.96	13.86	31.68	31.68
Ghee	"	14	9.20	17.58	17.58	128.80	246.12	246.12
Potatoes	"	1 1/2	50.79	88.89	84.21	76.18	133.33	126.31
Onions	"	11	4.48	12.90	9.02	49.28	141.90	99.22
Cocoanut Oil ..	"	3	1.55	5.68	4.95	4.65	17.04	14.85
	"	1/2	25.40	28.57	28.57	12.70	14.28	14.28
Total and Average—Other food articles ..	—	—	100	204	191	381.24	776.14	729.79
Total and Average—All food articles ..	—	—	100	177	183	1,024.16	1,813.58	1,873.97
<i>Fuel and lighting—</i>								
Kerosene oil ..	Case	5						
Firewood	Maund	48	4.37	8.69	8.69	21.85	43.45	43.45
Coal	"	1	0.79	1.28	1.28	37.92	61.44	61.44
	"	1	0.54	1.16	1.16	0.54	1.16	1.16
Total and Average—Fuel and lighting ..	—	—	100	176	176	60.31	106.05	106.05
<i>Clothing—</i>								
Chudders	Lb.	27						
Shirtings	"	25	0.59	1.53	1.56	15.93	41.31	42.12
T. Cloth	"	36	0.64	1.71	1.73	16.00	42.75	43.25
	"		0.58	1.53	1.56	20.88	55.08	56.16
Total and Average—Clothing ..	—	—	100	263	268	52.81	139.14	141.53
House rent	Per month	10						
Grand Total and General Average ..	—	—	100	180	185	1,250.28	2,245.77	2,308.55

Note.—If the aggregate expenditure in July 1914 at the prices ruling in that month was Rs. 1,250.28 crores the aggregate expenditure in September 1921 at September price levels was Rs. 2,308.55 crores, i.e., an increase of 85 per cent Rs. 1,250.28 = 100, Rs. 2,308.55 = 185).

BOMBAY COST OF LIVING INDEX

B

Alternative method of presentation.

Articles.	Percentage weight assigned to each article based on proportion to aggregate expenditure in July 1914.	Index Number.		Weight × Index Number.	
		Aug. 1921.	Sept. 1921.	Aug. 1921.	Sept. 1921.
<i>Cereals—</i>					
Rice	31.4	145	162	4,553.0	5,086.8
Wheat	9.4	174	187	1,635.6	1,757.8
Jowari	3.8	180	204	684.0	775.2
Bajri	2.1	238	252	499.8	529.2
Total and Average Index No. ..	46.7	158	175	7,372.4	8,149.0
<i>Pulses—</i>					
Gram	3.1	202	225	626.2	697.5
Tur dal	1.3	172	172	223.6	223.6
Total and Average Index No. ..	4.4	193	210	849.8	921.1
<i>Other food articles—</i>					
Sugar (raw) ..	4.8	205	211	984.0	1,012.8
Sugar (refined) ..	1.2	248	240	297.6	288.0
Tea	0.1	133	129	13.3	12.9
Salt	0.9	125	125	112.5	112.5
Beef	0.7	181	219	126.7	153.3
Mutton	1.1	229	229	251.9	251.9
Milk	10.3	191	191	1,967.3	1,967.3
Ghee	6.1	175	166	1,067.5	1,012.6
Potatoes	4.0	288	201	1,152.0	804.0
Onions	0.4	366	319	146.4	127.6
Cocoanut oil ..	1.0	112	112	112.0	112.0
Total and Average Index No. ..	30.6	204	191	6,231.2	5,854.9
<i>Fuel and lighting—</i>					
Kerosene oil ..	1.8	199	199	358.2	358.2
Firewood	3.0	162	162	486.0	486.0
Coal	0.1	215	215	21.5	21.5
Total and Average Index No. ..	4.9	176	176	865.7	865.7
<i>Clothing—</i>					
Dhories	1.3	259	264	336.7	343.2
Shirtings	1.3	267	270	347.1	351.0
T. Cloth	1.7	264	269	448.8	457.3
Total and Average Index No. ..	4.3	263	268	1,132.6	1,151.5
House rent	9.1	165	165	1,501.5	1,501.5
Grand total of weights ..	100	180	185	17,953.2	18,443.7
General Average or Cost of Living Index (July 1914 = 100) ..	.....	180	185	17,953.2	18,443.7



THE BRITISH INDEX

FINAL REPORT OF LABOUR COMMITTEE

The Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress, the Labour Party, the Co-operative Union, the Triple Alliance, the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, the National Federation of General Workers, and the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives appointed a Joint Committee to investigate the cost of living. The Committee has issued its final report and is of opinion that the index of the Ministry of Labour does not show a sufficiently large rise.

In September 1920 the Committee believes the rise to have been 189 per cent, not 161 per cent as shown by the Ministry of Labour. It bases this on the examination of 629 family budgets collected by the Committee for September 1920. Its main criticisms are on the weights assigned to each group of articles. It alleges that "the Ministry of Labour's index number is defective in at least three respects—it 'weights' rent and rates too heavily, it underestimates the relative importance of clothing and it attaches too little weight to the group of other items."

	Ministry of Labour (per cent.)	Labour Committee (per cent.)
Food	60	52.41
Fuel and lighting	8	16.34
Clothing	12	19.51
House rent and rates	16	6.84
Other items	4	14.90

The Labour Committee claims that since 1904 when the Board of Trade collected its budgets there has been an improvement in the dress of the wage-earners and their families, and that the homes of the workers are, in general, better furnished than in the early years of the present century.

The index of the Ministry of Labour is constructed in regard to prices from particulars received from all towns with a population of 50,000 or over, and from 540 smaller towns and villages throughout the country.

The prices are obtained from shops conducting a working class trade. Fuel and light prices include the price of coal in 30 principal towns, of gas in 20 towns, and of oil, candles and matches in 28. Prices of clothing are obtained by sending an enquiry form to a number of outfitters, dealers, and boot retailers in all the principal towns. Information with regard to rents is obtained periodically from town clerks of 100 principal towns and include local rates. "Other items" include soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco and cigarettes, fares and newspapers.

Employers, on the other hand, sometimes think that the rise is not under-stated but, if anything, over-stated. A great authority, Professor Bowley, Professor of Statistics, London University, also believes after examining the weights that the Ministry of Labour's figures so far from under-stating the rise overstates it, but adds "the official index numbers do not give a seriously wrong impression." It would appear that the *ex parte* statement of the Labour Committee is shortly to be challenged, as the Ministry of Labour, the "Labour Gazette" for August announces, "is in communication with the Secretary of the Committee in regard to certain points arising out of consideration of the report."

AN ENQUIRY IN JAPAN

In order to obtain definite data on the cost of living in Japan to be used as a basis of conciliation in industrial disputes the Government organisation, known as the "Capital and Labour Harmony Association" (Kyocho Kai), is undertaking an enquiry into the cost of living in respect of work people and salaried men. The wage-earners are divided into four main classes—Government officials, school teachers, officials and clerks in private companies, workpeople each with from two to eight dependents, and with a monthly income from 30 to 150 yen. The enquiry is to be limited to twelve prefectures which are industrial centres.



LARGE INCREASE IN VIENNA

The Republic of Austria forwards to the Labour Office the "Mitteilungen der Statistischen Zentralkommission." The following is translated from an article on the cost of living in the issue of July 1921:—

From many sides a desire has been expressed for a newer calculation of the total cost of living. A comparative statement, therefore, has been prepared and follows for June 1921 the lines of that for March. With reference to contents of the statement, however, the Statistical Bureau again repeats that no statement of consumption for the total cost of living can be prepared which is not to some extent liable to vary according to individual caprice. The cost of food for the month of July 1914 has been calculated on the basis of the statement of food which has been estimated for June 1921. It is specially emphasised that the index numbers for food totals correspond entirely in both the months of March and June with the index numbers for totals of all prices. This fact justifies the standpoint taken by the Statistical Central Commission that the cost of food-stuffs is the significant foundation for the cost of all articles of consumption, and that, therefore, index numbers for totals of food-stuffs can rightly be used for all practical purposes as the index figure for the total change in the cost of living.

Group.	Minimum cost for four weeks for a family of four.					Index (July 1914 = 1).
	Cost in crowns.					
	July 1914.	March 1921.	June 1921.	March 1921.	June 1921.	
Food	75.40	5,899	7,352.66	81	98	
Clothing	36.21	5,582	6,697.75	154	185	
House rent	20	40	75	2	3.8	
Heating and lighting	17.39	871.50	924	50	53	
Miscellaneous	13.38	711	891	53	67	
Total	162.38	13,103.50	15,940.41	81	98	

FOREIGN WHOLESALE PRICES

THE FALL SINCE 1920

On page 38 will be found the index numbers of wholesale prices in foreign countries with the absolute and secondary maxima indicated in heavier type. It is depressing reading but the silver lining to the cloud is that in the middle of 1921 a general slackening of the falling tendency is said to be establishing itself. According to the "Times" New York correspondent, all the important American wholesale index numbers for July 1921 show a rise for the first time since the great fall in commodity prices began. American prices are, it will be remembered, gold prices to which all other world prices tend to conform through the foreign exchanges.

The following table shows in order of importance the fall in wholesale prices country by country:—

Fall in prices as compared with the peak index of 1920.

Average prices for 1913 = 100.

Name of country.	Month in 1920 when peak was reached.	Peak Index No.	Index No. for July 1921.	Decrease from peak in points.	Percentage decline.
U. S. A. (Bureau of Labour)	May ..	272	148	124	46
France	April ..	587	332	255	43
Sweden	June ..	366	211	155	42
United Kingdom (Statist.)	April ..	313	186	127	41
Japan	March ..	321	196	125	39
Denmark	October ..	403	256	147	36
Australia(a)	August ..	236	158	78	33
Canada	May ..	263	176	87	33
Norway(b)	September ..	425	300	125	29
India (Bombay)(c)	January ..	231	199	32	14

(a) 1914 = 100. (b) Average December 1913—June 1914 = 100. (c) July 1914 = 100.

It will be seen that the fall of wholesale prices is not so severe in India as in many other industrial countries.



COMPARATIVE PRICES

From the table below it will be seen that taking the retail food prices in Bombay in August and September 1921 equal to 100, the level in Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Karachi was below Bombay in August 1921 whereas in September 1921 Ahmedabad shows the highest rise followed by Sholapur and Karachi :-

Bombay prices in August 1921 = 100.

Articles.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.
Cereals—				
Rice ..	100	129	119	90
Wheat ..	100	91	91	92
Jowari ..	100	96	115	110
Bejri ..	100	85	96	85
Average—Cereals ..	100	100	105	94
Pulses—				
Gram ..	100	95	97	88
Tur-dal ..	100	108	133	95
Average—Pulses ..	100	101	115	91
Other articles of food—				
Sugar (refined) ..	100	94	133	130
Jagri (general) ..	100	101	114	95
Tea ..	100	86	120	100
Salt ..	100	75	75	123
Beef ..	100	97	107	66
Mutton ..	100	72	104	78
Milk ..	100	67	83	76
Ghi ..	100	73	87	82
Potatoes ..	100	127	95	124
Onions ..	100	72	117	88
Coconut oil ..	100	108	93	118
Average—Other articles of food ..	100	88	103	98
Average—All food articles ..	100	93	90	98

Bombay prices in September 1921 = 100.

Articles.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.
Cereals—				
Rice ..	100	126	110	88
Wheat ..	100	100	96	92
Jowari ..	100	103	125	104
Bejri ..	100	92	105	94
Average—Cereals ..	100	105	109	94
Pulses—				
Gram ..	100	95	100	83
Tur-dal ..	100	99	133	95
Average—Pulses ..	100	97	116	89
Other articles of food—				
Sugar (refined) ..	100	96	125	119
Jagri (general) ..	100	98	111	91
Tea ..	100	89	124	103
Salt ..	100	75	75	141
Beef ..	100	84	89	53
Mutton ..	100	73	104	75
Milk ..	100	63	76	76
Ghi ..	100	81	89	95
Potatoes ..	100	222	177	222
Onions ..	100	101	135	101
Coconut oil ..	100	118	93	118
Average—Other articles of food ..	100	100	109	109
Average—All food articles ..	100	101	110	103

RETAIL PRICE STATISTICS

BOMBAY, KARACHI, AHMEDABAD AND SHOLAPUR

On page 11 will be found statistics of food prices in August and September 1921 for Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad and Sholapur. These are official prices supplied through the Director of Agriculture to the Labour Office and are averages of prices taken eight times a month from retail shop-keepers patronized by the labouring classes. These towns are selected because they are the main spring of industrial activity in the Presidency.

The articles selected are those commonly consumed by the working classes. The index number is based on the prices for seventeen commodities and is the simple arithmetic average of the percentages of prices of the several articles as compared with the prices for July 1914, which being the pre-war month is taken as the base.

In September 1921 the food index for Karachi, Ahmedabad and Sholapur shows a rise over the previous month but that for Bombay a slight fall. The trend of prices of "other articles of food" is similar to the total food index. In the groups "Cereals" and "Pulses" there was an increase in all the four towns.

WORKMEN'S BUDGETS

In the September issue of the "Labour Gazette" a description of the objects and method of the inquiry into working men's family budgets in the City and Island of Bombay was described. Uptodate the number of budgets collected is 1,700. The large majority of these refer to working class families and not to wage-earners living apart from their families. As the Bombay worker is still at heart an agriculturist who returns to his home at stated intervals, it is not altogether unusual for him to come to Bombay alone and to remit to his wife and family a fixed sum monthly. Budgets of income and expenditure are now being collected for such workers.



Retail prices of food in August and September 1921

Articles.	Price per	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.
		August.	August.	August.	August.	September.	September.	September.	September.
		Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.
Cereals—									
Rice ..	Mound ..	8 1 11	10 7 10	9 11 2	7 4 4	9 1 1	11 6 10	10 0 0	7 15 4
Wheat ..	" ..	9 12 1	8 14 3	8 14 3	8 15 0	10 7 4	10 7 10	10 0 0	9 10 0
Jowari ..	" ..	7 12 11	7 8 6	9 0 3	8 9 3	8 13 10	9 2 3	11 0 7	9 4 0
Bejri ..	" ..	10 4 1	8 12 3	9 13 6	8 11 6	10 14 2	10 0 0	11 6 10	10 4 1
Pulses—									
Gram ..	" ..	8 10 9	8 3 3	8 6 9	7 10 9	9 10 8	9 3 4	9 11 2	8 0 4
Tur-dal ..	" ..	10 1 0	10 13 7	13 5 4	9 8 10	10 1 0	10 0 0	13 5 4	9 8 10
Other articles of food—									
Sugar (refined) ..	" ..	18 14 11	17 14 0	25 1 6	24 9 10	18 4 2	17 8 6	22 13 9	21 12 4
Jagri (genl) ..	" ..	17 9 4	17 12 5	20 0 0	16 13 6	18 1 3	17 12 5	20 0 0	16 6 7
Tea ..	Lb. ..	0 10 5	0 8 11	0 12 6	0 10 5	0 10 0	0 8 11	0 12 6	0 10 5
Salt ..	Mound ..	2 10 6	2 0 0	2 0 0	3 4 6	2 10 6	2 0 0	2 0 0	3 11 11
Beef ..	" ..	0 9 3	0 9 0	0 10 0	0 6 0	0 11 3	0 9 6	0 10 0	0 6 0
Mutton ..	" ..	0 15 5	0 11 0	1 0 0	0 12 0	0 15 5	0 11 2	1 0 0	0 11 6
Milk ..	Mound ..	17 9 4	11 13 8	14 8 9	13 5 4	17 9 4	11 0 7	13 5 4	13 5 4
Ghee ..	" ..	88 14 3	65 4 11	77 9 2	72 11 8	84 3 4	68 1 4	75 4 8	85 0 0
Potatoes ..	" ..	12 14 5	16 6 7	12 4 11	16 0 0	9 0 3	20 0 0	16 0 0	20 0 0
Onions ..	" ..	5 10 11	4 1 8	6 10 8	5 0 0	4 15 2	5 0 0	6 10 8	5 0 0
Coconut oil ..	" ..	28 9 1	30 12 4	26 10 8	33 10 11	28 9 1	33 10 11	26 10 8	33 10 11

Note.—1 mound = 82 2/3 lbs.; 1 seer = 2 2/3 lbs.; 80 tolas = 1 seer; 40 seers = 1 Indian maund.

Expressed as percentages of July 1914 Prices (July 1914 = 100).

Articles.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.
Cereals—								
Rice ..	145	158	157	137	162	172	162	150
Wheat ..	174	211	189	173	187	249	212	187
Jowari ..	180	207	237	299	264	252	290	322
Bejri ..	238	208	299	248	252	238	243	291
Average—cereals ..	184	196	198	214	201	228	227	237
Pulses—								
Gram ..	202	215	210	178	225	242	242	187
Tur-dal ..	172	163	216	164	172	150	216	164
Average—pulses ..	187	189	213	171	198	196	229	175
Other articles of food—								
Sugar (refined) ..	248	246	279	246	211	241	254	218
Jagri (genl) ..	205	255	225	217	240	255	225	211
Tea ..	133	129	160	100	129	129	160	100
Salt ..	125	153	132	148	125	153	132	168
Beef ..	181	181	168	231	219	190	168	231
Mutton ..	229	186	270	203	229	189	270	195
Milk ..	191	267	291	183	191	249	267	183
Ghee ..	175	153	175	130	166	160	169	143
Potatoes ..	288	303	323	460	201	369	420	500
Onions ..	366	225	333	200	319	275	333	200
Coconut oil ..	112	125	133	126	112	137	133	126
Average—other articles of food ..	205	202	226	199	195	213	230	207
Average—all food articles ..	188	190	210	190	197	215	229	210



INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN THE PRESIDENCY

On pages 39 and 40 will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during September 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." Detailed statistics have been collected since 1st April 1921, the date on which the Labour Office was instituted.

Summary tables have been constructed in order to show the position at a glance. Table I shows the number, magnitude and duration of strikes in September.

There were 21 industrial disputes in September, 19 of which were in cotton mills. The

I. Industrial Disputes classified by Trades.

Trade.	No. of disputes in progress in September 1921.			No. of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in September 1921.	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in September 1921.*
	Started before 1st September.	Started in September.	Total.		
Textile ..	2	17	19	41,068	107,678
Transport ..	1	..	1	7,300	148,120
Engineering ..	..	1	1	700	700
Total September 1921 ..	3	18	21	49,068	256,498
Total August 1921 ..	2	12	14	32,044†	192,001

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

† Includes workers of three mills of the same group (Sassoon group) brought out by intimidation for three days. These mills are not included in columns 3 and 4.

number of people affected was a shade over 49,000 and the working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days less workers replaced) 2,56,498, a considerable increase on the August statistics.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes. The large number due to the question other than those of wages, etc., is noticeable. During the last five months September was the worst month for disputes and May the second worst. July was the month in which least industrial disputes occurred.

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

II. Industrial Disputes—Results, May to September 1921.

	May 1921.	June 1921.	July 1921.	August 1921.	September 1921.
Number of strikes and lockouts ..	11	10	10	14	21
Disputes in progress at beginning ..	2	5	2	2	3
Fresh disputes begun ..	9	5	8	12	18
Disputes ended ..	6	8	8	11	19
Disputes in progress at end ..	5	2	2	3	2
Number of workpeople involved ..	12,290	9,277	2,516	32,204	49,068
Aggregate duration in working days ..	227,115	79,804	12,268	192,001	256,498
Demands—					
Pay ..	6	5	5	6	2
Bonus ..	2	2	..	..	1
Personal ..	2	2	..	2	..
Leave and hours ..	..	1	..	3	1
Others ..	1	..	1	3	17
Results—					
Successful ..	1	1	1	5	2
Partially successful ..	2	..	1	1	..
Unsuccessful ..	3	7	6	5	17



III. Industrial Disputes—Analysis of Table II

Month.	No. of strikes and lock-outs.	Aggregate duration in working days.	Proportion settled.			
			In favour of employers. (Per cent.)	In favour of employees. (Per cent.)	Compromised. (Per cent.)	In progress. (Per cent.)
April 1921 ..	6	184,450	33	17	17	33
May 1921 ..	11	227,115	27	9	18	46
June 1921 ..	10	79,804	70	10	..	20
July 1921 ..	10	12,268	60	10	10	20
August 1921 ..	14	192,001	36	36	7	21
September 1921 ..	21	256,498	80	10	..	10

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIA'S REPRESENTATION

The High Commissioner for India at the League of Nations at Geneva recently pointed out the over-representation in the Labour Office of Great Britain, France and Switzerland while India and the Dominions (except Canada) had no representation at all. Great Britain has 77 members on the labour staff or nearly 29½ per cent of the total as against a proposed contribution to the expenses of the League of a little more than 9 per cent, and of these 77, 6 fill higher appointments. France has 72 members on the staff, of whom 5 fill higher appointments (including a Director) and this amounts to 27 per cent of the total strength while France's proposed assessment to the League's expenses is a little more than 9 per cent. Switzerland has 70 members, of whom one holds a higher post or about 27 per cent of the total strength as against 1 per cent of the proposed contribution to the League's finances. India's proposed contribution is 6·6 per cent of the expenses of the League but she has no representation on the International Labour Office whatsoever. Canada holds 3 appointments, of which one is a superior appointment. Canada has obtained one-third of what she would have been entitled to if the distribution of posts were in accordance with the proposed allocation of expenditure.

The Noblemaire Committee has admitted "the extreme desirability, from every point of view, of making the staff of the Secretariat (and, of course, the International Labour Office also) as truly representative of the Member States as possible."

South Africa.—A report on the history and present condition of wage legislation in South Africa will shortly be issued by Mr. Cousins, Director of Census and Statistics. This report will include a useful survey of wage movements both nominal and effective from 1895 to 1920, statistics of industrial organisation, industrial disputes, employment and unemployment.

INDIA'S TRADE Figures for 1920-21

	1914 (pre-war year).	1919	1920	1921
Exports and re-exports of merchandise (private account).	249	254	327	356
Imports of merchandise (private account).	183	169	208	336
Net exports (merchandise only).	86	85	119	20
Average rate of exchange ..	16·070	17·838	23·878	20·657
Net imports of gold and silver (private and Government).	36	62	65	8
Average price of silver in London of standard silver per oz. (calendar years, i.e., the figure against 1913-14 relates to calendar year 1913).	27 9/16	47 9/16	57 1/16	61 1/2



THE HEALTH OF THE BOMBAY WORKER

Relation of Death Rate to Overcrowding

By J. SANDILANDS, M.D., HEALTH OFFICER

In considering the factors concerned in the difference between the mortality in the better class and poor class districts of Bombay, the years 1913—1917 have been selected as the only quinquennial period in recent times which has not been subjected to the disturbing influence of major epidemics. Chaupati with a population of 11,377 has been taken to represent a section containing a large proportion of better class residents. Umerkhadi with a population of 45,679 is a typical slum area occupied by the poorer classes. Parel is a section in which a considerable number of the dwellings are occupied by mill-hands.

The average annual death-rates for these 3 sections in the quinquennial period 1913—1917 were as follows:—

	Umerkhadi.	Parel.	Chaupati.	The City.
Average annual Number of Deaths per 1,000 living, 1913—1917 ..	46	29	25	31

In the following comparative statement, the figures represent the death-rates by groups of diseases in sections, compared with the death-rate from all causes in Bombay taken as 1,000.

Comparative Mortality Figures.

	Umerkhadi.	Parel.	Chaupati.	The City.
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	117	91	56	100
Plague, Small-pox and Measles ..	79	109	42	85
Malarial and Other Fevers ..	92	118	45	78
Tuberculosis ..	89	30	74	64
Respiratory Diseases ..	412	303	187	302
Other causes ..	528	314	382	371
All causes ..	1,317	965	786	1,000

The comparative mortality figure for Umerkhadi (1,317) exceeds that of Chaupati (786) by 531. This excess is accounted for as follows:—

1. Diarrhoeal Diseases—percentage of total excess ..	11
2. Plague, Small-pox and Measles ..	7
3. Malarial and other Fevers ..	5
4. Tuberculosis ..	3
Total 1—4 ..	26
5. Respiratory Diseases—percentage of total excess ..	47
6. Other causes ..	28
Total 1—6 ..	100

Only 7 per cent of the difference is accounted for by the common epidemic infectious diseases, plague, small-pox and measles. Diarrhoeal diseases, with malarial and other fevers, make up between them another 20 per cent. Cholera included in the diarrhoeal group played an altogether insignificant part in the years under consideration. Tuberculosis has accounted for only 3 per cent of the total difference. This anomalous figure is explained by the fact that out of the total deaths from consumption or tuberculosis of the lungs which actually occur, a much larger proportion in the poor district of Umerkhadi is no doubt shown under respiratory diseases than in Chaupati where the diagnosis of the cause of death is more frequently made by a doctor during life and is consequently more exact. Nearly half the difference is made up by deaths from respiratory diseases and less than one-third has been ascertained to be due to the infective diseases which are in a greater or less degree open to attack by direct measures of prevention.

The mortality figure for Parel exceeds that of Chaupati by 179 and the difference is in the main distributed under the same heads and

in more or less the same proportions as the difference between Chaupati and Umerkhadi.

A notable exception is found under tuberculosis for which the mortality figure in Parel is less than half the figure shown for Chaupati. Transference from tuberculosis and respiratory diseases could hardly explain so great a discrepancy in favour of the poorer section and in the absence of any more probable explanation no end would be served by further comment.

As compared with Umerkhadi, Parel shows a total mortality figure which is lower by 352.

For the various groups of diseases, the figures are lower under every head except two, namely the common infectious diseases (plague, small-pox and measles) and malarial and other fevers. Under the former group the enhanced rate has been chiefly due to deaths from small-pox; under the latter to malaria, so certified, as well as to the other ill defined fevers in the group. Of the total difference between the mortalities for Umerkhadi and Parel, 31 per cent is accounted for by the smaller death rate from respiratory diseases in the latter section.

Conclusions.—(1) On the whole it would appear that whilst epidemic and infective diseases even in the absence of major epidemics continue to play their part, respiratory diseases constitute the determining factor in rendering the death rate of a working class district notably higher than that of good class residential district and in rendering that of a poor slum area higher still. The English statistics show the same increase in the death rate from respiratory diseases in the descent from the higher to the lower social grades. The two main causes of a high death rate from this group of diseases are the breathing of foul air in overcrowded and ill-ventilated homes or workshops and the breathing of air laden with dust. The manufacture of cotton is a dusty trade, and the death rate from respiratory diseases among those engaged in this industry in England is 3 times as high as it is among those engaged in agriculture.

(2) The effect of overcrowding on the death rate is illustrated by the following figures.

	Umerkhadi.	Parel.	Chaupati.
Percentage of population living in rooms containing 6 or more persons ..	31	27	20
Annual Death Rate ..	46	29	25

The death rate is higher in the sections in which a higher proportion of the population is housed in rooms containing 6 or more persons.

(3) In 1916 a special inquiry was made into the number of rooms occupied by the parents of children born during the year and of children dying under the age of one year. The infantile mortality expressed as the number of deaths under 1 year per 1,000 births was as follows:—

Rooms in Tenement.	Infant Deaths per 1,000 births.
1	454
2	374
3	230
4 or more	238

It will be seen that for tenements of less than 4 rooms the infant death rate varied inversely with the number of rooms occupied.

Whilst the number of rooms occupied or the number of persons per room is obviously an index of income and of poverty as well as of overcrowding, overcrowding *per se* is an undoubted cause of fatal disease as has been definitely established by the results of deChaumont's inquiry into the effect of ill-ventilated and overcrowded barracks on troops living under conditions otherwise identical with those of other troops in better quarters. In these circumstances the above figures may be taken as truly indicating what they set out to show, namely the effect of overcrowding on the death-rate.

(4) The following statement shows the death-rates in the sections chosen for comparison in children under the age of 10 years and in persons of all ages.

Death Rates at ages (1916.)

	Umerkhadi.	Parel.	Chaupati.
Death Rate in children under 10 years ..	109	61	53
Death Rate at all ages ..	46	29	25

In Chaupati and Parel the proportions by which the death rate in children exceeds the total death rate is the same. In each case the death rate in the first decade of life is approximately double the rate for all ages. In Umerkhandi the death rate in children under ten years of age is nearly three times as great as the rate for all ages, in accordance with the rule that in districts with a high death rate an unduly large proportion of the total deaths is contributed by the youngest inhabitants.

(5) The reduction in the death rate from tuberculosis and from respiratory diseases depends on the provision of adequate housing accommodation.

(6) Deaths from diarrhoeal diseases will continue to be excessive in number until the privy system is totally abolished.

(7) Light should be thrown on the part played by insufficient nourishment in the production of a high death rate when the results of the Family Budget Enquiry of the Labour Office into the diets of the working classes have been published.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1920

In 1920 the deaths among millhands and general labourers amounted to 2,629 and 2,499 respectively. The high mortality due to bronchitis, pneumonia and other diseases of the respiratory organs is most noticeable.

	Millhands	Labourers
Bronchitis, pneumonia, etc.	1,311	1,253
Acute and remittent fever	454	386
Other fevers (malaria, etc.)	40	28
Influenza	169	174
Phthisis	96	83
Plague	24	26
Cholera	1	2
Dysentery	65	50
Others	469	499
Total	2,629	2,499

These figures speak for themselves. Dr. Sandilands, Executive Health Officer, in his annual report for 1920 shows that for Hindus the years of highest mortality are from 20 to 30 years and that for fever, tuberculous diseases and respiratory diseases January was the month of highest mortality. The two localities with the highest mortality rates were Upper Colaba 84.13 per 1,000 and Tarwadi 67.01 per 1,000.

TRADE UNIONS

GROWTH SINCE THE WAR

The International Labour Office has completed an inquiry into the growth of trade unions as compared with the pre-war year 1913. It is necessary to point out that the definition of the term 'trade union' is not the same in all countries, but the statistics refer as far as practicable to associations which are in effect, even if not in name, 'trade unions.'

	1913.	1920.
Germany	4,513,000	13,000,000
United Kingdom	4,173,000	8,024,000
Russia	2,222,000	5,220,000
United States	922,000	3,179,000
Italy	1,027,000	3,100,000
France	2,000,000	2,500,000
Czechoslovakia	947,000	2,000,000
Poland	200,000	947,000
Belgium	260,000	920,000
Spain	260,000	876,000
Austria	498,000	830,000
Argentina	189,000	750,000
Australia	152,000	684,000
Netherlands	136,000	683,000
India	126,000	500,000
Denmark	126,000	400,000
Sweden	126,000	400,000
Canada	115,000	374,000
Hungary	95,000	343,000
Switzerland	64,000	292,000
Japan	64,000	247,000
Greece	64,000	170,000
Norway	10,000	142,000
Portugal	10,000	100,000
Rumania (former area)	72,000	90,000
New Zealand	5,000	83,000
South Africa	28,000	60,000
Finland	30,000	59,000
Bulgaria	9,000	36,000
Serbia (old)	9,000	20,000
Estimated total for the above 30 countries	15,446,000	48,029,000

The fact emerges from the statistics that Germany is the leading country in the world in trade unions, followed by the United Kingdom, Russia, the United States, Italy and France. India is approximately the fifteenth country in order of importance. It was not until 1918 that the first association was founded and that was in Madras. The first Indian Trade Union Congress took place in October 1920 and the number of workers represented was stated to be 500,000. The President-elect is Mr. J. Baptista, Bar-at-Law.

THE GENEVA CONFERENCE

AGENDA AND REPRESENTATIVES.

The revised agenda of the conference is as follows:—

1. Reform of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office.
2. Adaptation to agricultural labour of the Washington Resolution concerning the regulation of the hours of labour.
3. Adaptation to agricultural labour of the Washington Resolution concerning—
 - (a) measures for the prevention of or providing against unemployment;
 - (b) protection of women and children.
4. Special measures for the protection of agricultural workers—
 - (a) technical agricultural education;
 - (b) living-in conditions of agricultural workers;
 - (c) guarantee of the rights of association and combination;
 - (d) protection against accident, sickness, invalidity and old age.
5. Disinfection of wool infected with anthrax spores.
6. Prohibition of the use of white lead in painting.
7. The weekly rest day in industrial and commercial employment.
8. (a) The prohibition of the employment of any person under the age of 18 years as trimmer or stoker;

(b) compulsory medical examination of all children employed on board ship.

The question of the application of the Draft Convention concerning the night work of young persons employed in industry (adopted at the Washington Labour Conference) to the areas devastated during the war or held for a long time under military occupation, will also be considered. In order to facilitate the appointment of technical advisers competent in each of the subjects

the items have been grouped as above. The International Labour Office has issued a series of short memoranda and questionnaires dealing with the various items of the agenda. These pamphlets together with the detailed proceedings of the Washington and Geneva meetings may be seen in the Labour Office, Secretariat.

The Government of India have nominated the following officials and non-officials to represent the Government of India, the employers and the workers respectively at the meeting of the Imperial Labour Conference to be held at Geneva, commencing on October the 25th, 1921:—

1. To represent the Government of India—

Delegates.

(a) Mr. A. C. Chatterjee, C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Industries.

(b) Mr. J. N. Gupta, M.B.E., I.C.S., Commissioner, Bengal.

Advisers.

- (c) Mr. G. F. Paddison, I.C.S., Madras.
 (d) Lt.-Col. F. H. G. Hutchinson, I.M.S., Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India.
 (e) Miss G. M. Broughton, M.A., O.B.E., I.E.S., Adviser, Labour Bureau, Department of Industries, Government of India.
 (f) Mr. A. G. Clow, I.C.S., Contoller, Labour Bureau, Department of Industries, Government of India.

2. To represent the employers—

Delegate.

(a) Mr. N. B. Saklatwala of Messrs. Tata Sons, Limited, Bombay.

Advisers.

- (b) Mr. A. W. Dods of Messrs. Burn and Company, Limited.
 (c) Mr. J. K. Mehta, Secretary, Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau, Bombay.



- (d) Mr. H. Waddington, Secretary, United Planters' Association, Southern India.
 (e) Mr. A. U. Crowe, late of the Assam Frontier Tea Company.
 3. To represent the workers—

Delegate.

- (a) Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A., of the Servants of India Society, Bombay.

Adviser.

- (b) Mr. B. P. Wadia.

Mr. D. Chaman Lal had also been nominated as an Adviser to the workers' delegate but on the 10th September intimation was received that he was unable to proceed to Geneva and the Government of India decided that time did not admit of arrangements being made for another adviser.

4. The representatives of the employers have been nominated on the recommendation of the provincial committee of the New Federation of Indian Industries now in the process of formation.

5. The workers' representatives have been nominated on the recommendation of the All-India Trade Union Congress Committee.

THE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES COMMITTEE

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PERSONNEL

The Governor in Council has decided in pursuance of the resolution of the Legislative Council passed at the third Session to appoint a Committee "to consider and report upon the practicability or otherwise of creating a suitable machinery for the prevention and early settlement of labour disputes. Sir Stanley Reed, K.B.E., Kt., has been appointed to act as Chairman and the following are the members of the Committee :—

J. B. Petit, Esquire, M.L.C.,
 Messrs. Jehangir B. Petit & Co.,
 Bombay.

W. P. Pechey, Esquire,
 General Traffic Manager,
 Bombay, Baroda & Central India
 Railway.

J. A. Kay, Esquire,
 Messrs. W. H. Brady & Co., Ltd.,
 and Chairman, Bombay Millowners'
 Association.

Mahomedbhoj Currimbhoy, Esquire,
 Messrs. Currimbhoy Ebrahim & Sons.

Kanji Dwardkadas, Esquire, M.L.C.,
 Chartered Bank Buildings,
 Bombay.

S. K. Bole, Esquire, M.L.C.,
 Bombay.

G. K. Devadhar, Esquire,
 Servants of India Society,
 Poona.

Lalji Naranji, Esquire,
 Chairman,
 Indian Merchants' Chamber and
 Bureau, Bombay.

H. P. W. Macnaghten, Esquire, M.L.C.,
 Messrs. Wallace & Co., and
 Chairman, European Chamber of
 Commerce, Bombay.

Mr. E. W. Perry, I.C.S., is appointed, on return from leave, as Secretary to the Committee for a period of two months in the first instance.

It will be seen from the above that four represent employers, three labour, and two public bodies in Bombay. The first meeting of the Committee will not take place before November. It is proposed to hold the proceedings in public but to leave it to the discretion of the Committee to hear any evidence *in camera* if they consider that necessary.



TRADE UNION LEGISLATION

The Registration and Protection of Trade Unions

The Government of India in the Department of Industries in a letter dated 12th September have asked the views of the Government of Bombay on the subject of trade unions.

THE DESIRABILITY OF LEGISLATION

The Government of India are of opinion that if labour unions are enabled and encouraged to define their objects, their methods, and their organization, a step will be taken in the right direction. It is pointed out that by registration trade unionists would obtain for their unions the right to sue and the right to control their officers and their funds, and, further, they would have a recognized status and position in the eyes of industrialists and the public. Full recognition by employers might or might not follow, but in the opinion of the Government of India it is neither desirable nor possible to compel employers to recognize all unions.

THE DEFINITION OF TRADE UNION

In regard to the definition of a trade union it is suggested that Indian legislation should follow generally the English Act of 1876 and that benevolent and similar purposes should be included within the scope of trade union activities. The question of how far political objects should be recognized amongst the activities of trade unions leads to an examination of the English Act of 1913 and the New South Wales Act of 1912. The principle might be accepted in India so as to cover elections to the Central and Provincial Legislatures and to municipal and other local bodies which have the power to raise money.

The Indian law in regard to restraint of trade is contained in section 27 of the Indian Contract Act which lays it down that "every agreement by which any one is

restrained from exercising a lawful profession, trade or business of any kind, is to that extent void." It is proposed to declare that this section of the Indian Contract Act will not apply to registered trade unions. It is also proposed to include sections 2, 3 and 4 of the English Act of 1871. The Government of India think that it will be advisable to exclude any interference by the courts with the internal management of unions. The principles laid down in the English Acts with regard to trade union funds may, it is thought, be incorporated in the proposed Act, due reference being made to the Indian law relating to trusts and trustees.

THE QUESTION OF REGISTRATION

In dealing with registration the Government think that "it is hardly necessary to observe that if the principal conditions under which unions may be registered are sufficiently explicit the need for elaboration in the definition of the term 'trade union' will be obviated." The registration *ipso facto* will bring a union within the legal definition. Registration should in all cases be optional and unregistered trade unions should not be deemed to be illegal. Registration, however, will give a legal entity to a union with definite rights and privileges which unregistered unions will not possess. All persons of or above the age of 15 is proposed to make eligible as members of trade unions. The Government of India feel that it would be most undesirable in the present stage of the labour movement in India to countenance picketing in any form.

LIABILITIES OF TRADE UNIONS

It is not considered advisable to exempt trade unions in their earlier stage of development unreservedly from civil liability for tortuous acts. Competent critics like Lord Askwith and Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Webb have

seriously questioned the value in regard to freedom from civil liability of the Trade Disputes Act of 1906. The Government of India, however, as at present advised are in favour of embodying in the proposed law clauses to define the law of agency in such a way that no act could be made the ground of a claim on trade union funds, unless it was definitely proved that the governing body, as constituted by law, had sanctioned the act.

BODIES CONSULTED

The Government of Bombay have consulted the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, the Karachi Chamber of Commerce, the Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau, Bombay, the Millowners' Associations in Bombay and Ahmedabad, the Bombay European Textile Association, the Bombay Engineering Employers' Association, the Chairman, Bombay Port Trust, the Agents of the G. I. P. and B. B. & C. I. Railways, the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Bombay, the Agents, Mazagon Dock, the Trade Union Congress, the Bombay Labour Federation, the Central Labour Board, the Kamgar Hitawardhak Sabha, the Social Service League, the Inspector-General of Police, the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, the Collector of Bombay and Commissioners of Divisions. Replies to be forwarded through the Director, Labour Office, Secretariat, have been asked for by the 20th October as this Government have to reply by the end of next month to the Government of India. It is intended to introduce legislation in the Imperial Legislature in the Spring session of 1922, and in view of this and also because the prior approval of the Secretary of State has to be obtained, it is regretted that an extension of time cannot unfortunately be granted to the bodies consulted.

THE NEW FACTORY ACT

The new Factory Act referred to in the September issue of the "Labour Gazette" is expected to be passed during the next Session of the Indian Legislature. If the Bill is passed, its provisions will come into force on the 1st July 1922.

EMPLOYERS AND TRADE UNIONS

Mr. F. W. Taussing, Henry Lee Professor of Economics in Harvard University, writes on the question of the regulation of trade unions in the last edition of his "Principles of Economics" as follows:—

"A common contention among employers opposed to unionism is that they will deal only with their own men, not with any outsider. In this respect they seem to be quite in the wrong; or, to state it more carefully, the balance of social advantage is against such a procedure. The workmen clearly gain by having their case in charge of chosen representatives, whether or no these be fellow employees; and collective bargaining and unionization up to this point surely bring no offsetting disadvantages to society. As to the immediate employees, there is often a real danger that he who presents a demand or a grievance will be 'victimized'. He will be discharged and perhaps blacklisted; very likely on some pretext, but in fact because he has 'made trouble'."

Further, the ability to state and argue the workmen's case, and to negotiate with success, is possessed by few. No doubt, it often happens that the labour representatives do not themselves have the needed ability or understanding, and are inconvenient persons to deal with. Sometimes, as has already been remarked, they feel the itch of power, and like to pose as persons whose orders must be obeyed. But they are the best the men can find, and in the long run it is advantageous that they, rather than immediate employees, should conduct negotiations.

The only case in which an employer is clearly justified, on grounds of social advantage, in refusing to deal with them, is where they are corrupt. This case, unfortunately, is not unknown,—when labour leaders are willing to be bribed; though the cases are quite as common where the employers are willing to bribe. The fact that a labour representative is found to be a blatant demagogue, or to present impossible demands, may be reason for promptly closing negotiations, but is no ground for refusing to meet him if once he has been chosen by the workmen to be their spokesman."

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACTS

A GENERAL DESCRIPTION

India alone of the chief industrial countries of the world has no Workmen's Compensation Act. The United Kingdom, the United States, France, Germany, Belgium, Japan, Switzerland and Italy have legislation providing for compensation to workmen disabled in the course of their work. Germany passed legislation as far back as 1884, the United Kingdom in 1897, France and Italy in 1898, the United States in 1908, Japan in 1911 and Switzerland in 1912. The Dominions (South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Canada) have also legislation of this nature. In some cases such legislation is federal or imperial; in others provincial, e.g., in Australia and Canada. These Acts do not imply a fault on the part of any individual and provide for compensation for death or injury in the case of accidents occurring in the course of the worker's employment so that ensuing hardships are minimized to the sufferer and his dependents.

2. **Scope of the Acts: (1) Industries and Occupations.**—Workmen's Compensation Acts do not cover all industries, although there are a few which do embrace all industrial employment. As a general rule, factories, mines, railways, building and engineering works are included. In some countries agriculture, navigation and domestic service are included. The English Act of 1907 covers "any employment"; the French Act and the Acts of several American States include almost all industries. Most of the State laws of the United States, however, cover occupations other than agriculture and domestic service, and some apply to certain specified or scheduled "hazardous employments." One American State Act details 450 such employments.

3. **Scope of the Acts: (2) Persons.**—The class of persons who come within the purview of the Acts varies in different countries. In some countries, such as Germany, Italy and Holland, only manual labourers and in some cases overseers are ordinarily covered by the Acts. Non-salaried employees, in other words, are entitled to benefit. In the British Empire, in the States of the American Union, and in

France salaried employees are with certain reservations included. In the English Act those who not being manual labourers earn more than £250 per annum are excluded. A Committee appointed to examine the English Act have proposed in 1920 that several new classes of workers should be included, in addition to the 15 million workers already within the scheme. These include non-manual workers whose rate of remuneration does not exceed £350 per annum as against £250 the present maximum. It is not unusual to prescribe a maximum limit of earnings beyond which employees are excluded, e.g., the Acts of New Zealand and Germany.

4. **The Amount of Compensation.**—The most general principle is to fix compensation based on the worker's earnings. Only in a few cases is a rate fixed regardless of individual earnings. In fatal cases the compensation to be paid to those wholly dependent on the deceased is frequently limited to three years' wages with minimum and maximum limits. It is unnecessary in this connexion to instance British Empire legislation and that in some of the American States. Where there is a widow and dependent children pensions usually range from one-half to two-thirds of the wages of the deceased, with of course a maximum limit. The widow's pension alone amounts to 20 per cent, and there are additional allowances for each child. The Committee on the English Act recommended (1) £250 for a widow, and a weekly allowance of 10s. for the first child under 15, 7s. 6d. for the second, and 6s. for every other child; (2) where other total dependents are left excluding those in (1) £250. Funeral and medical expenses the Committee proposed should be increased to £15. In cases of total disablement, a periodical payment based on average earnings, one-half or three-fifths (in some cases with a maximum limit) is fixed in the vast majority of countries. Payments are made as a general rule throughout the life of the disabled worker. The Italian Act provides for a payment equal to six years' wages and the Spanish Act to three years' earnings. In some of the American State laws payments are limited from four to ten years. In cases of temporary total disablement it is customary in many countries to

pay the same as for total disablement although in some, e.g., France, one-half instead of two-thirds is payable. The Committee on the English Act recommends in the case of total disablement two-thirds of the average weekly earnings, with a maximum of £3 a week. For partial disablement compensation is in most countries determined by loss of earning capacity. In this connection the Committee on the English Act recommend two-thirds of the difference between the average weekly earnings before and after the accident. It is not unusual also to limit the period of payment for injuries specified in the Act. Two-thirds for example of the average weekly earnings are paid in the New York law for a period of from 15 weeks for a loss of a fourth finger to 244 weeks for a hand and 312 weeks for an arm. In many countries medical treatment is provided in addition to these payments.

5. Compulsory and Non-compulsory Insurance.—Many countries make insurance on the part of employers compulsory as security for payments. In some countries, however, for example France, insurance is voluntary. In all but eight European countries and two American States (where employees contribute part of the expense) the whole burden of compensation rests upon the employers. In some countries there is a State insurance fund. In New Zealand provision is made by the Government Accident Insurance Act, 1908, and by a State Department which insures employers against risk. There are also private insurance companies which undertake these risks and are regulated to some extent by the Accident Insurance Companies Act, 1908. The Committee on the English Act referred to above were not in favour of a system of State insurance. The Committee recommended (1) State supervision of rates of premium of insurance companies with a view to the restriction of their expenses and profits in workmen's compensation business; not more than 30 per cent of the premium income to be expended in profits, management expenses, and payments for commission to agents, the latter not to exceed 5 per cent of the premium and the maximum rates to be approved or fixed by a Government Official; (2) mutual associations to be placed under the same obligations as

insurance companies as to (1) setting aside funds to meet liabilities and (2) furnishing returns; (3) every employer other than Government, a local or other public authority, a statutory company, or a house-holder in respect of servants not employed by him for the purpose of his trade or business, and, under certain circumstances, firms whose pay-roll for three years averages over £20,000 and who are "self-insurers"—to insure against workmen's compensation risks.

6. The English Act and other Acts, such as those of the States of the Australian Commonwealth, New Zealand, and recent Acts, e.g., those of Brazil (1919), etc., may be seen at the Bombay Labour Office.

Copies of the Report of the Departmental Committee appointed to enquire into the system of compensation for injuries to workmen (Cmd. 816) 1920, together with the reports containing the statistics of compensation and proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, the convention between the United Kingdom and France in regard to Workmen's Compensation for accidents (Cd. 5395), 1910, are also available in the Labour Office.

The Minimum Wage.—At a meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council on July 7th Mr. K. Roy Chandhuri moved, in an interesting speech, that early steps should be taken to establish trade boards for the determination of a minimum wage for each industry in Bengal. He said that he would like to see an Act to abolish sweating, by fixing a rate of say one and a half annas per hour as a general minimum piece rate of wages based on a 48 hours week with overtime. The representatives of the coal, tea and other industries opposed the resolution and the Member of Council in charge of labour pointed out the difficulty of applying the proposal to agriculture. The resolution was negatived. A further note on this will in a subsequent issue of the *Labour Gazette* on receipt of the proce's verbaux of the debate which the Bengal Government is to forward as early as practicable.

LIGHT RAILWAYS CONCILIATION BOARD

In accordance with the request of Messrs. Martin & Co. and of the representative of their employees on the light railways under the management of the firm, the Government of Bengal appointed a Conciliation Board of three to enquire into the points in dispute. The Managing Agents were represented by the Chief Engineer and by the Traffic Superintendent and the employees by one representative. The Board reported on the following points:—

1. The alleged inequitable effect of a recent rule regarding the calculation of overtime;
2. The alleged insufficiency of the supply of uniforms;
3. The alleged hardship caused by fines imposed for slow running said to be due to the use of bad coal;
4. The demand for extension to the Engineering Department of the full increase of 45 per cent. granted to other departments in 1920;
5. The alleged insufficiency of the house rent allowances;
6. The alleged deliberate transfers of the officers of the Railway Workmen's Association, and the dismissal of one man;
7. Demand for improved terms of service for lady ticket collectors;
8. Demand for treatment of all the employees in the workshops as permanent hands;
9. The justification for the recent strike and the conduct of the strikers and proposals for the improvement of the relations between the company and its employees in the future.

The Board was of opinion that the differences enumerated were not such as should have led to a stoppage of work on the lines. "Had a Joint Works Committee existed, these grievances might have been remedied or dissipated before they had assumed large proportions. We consider that no strike would have occurred if these points

of difference had been placed before the management in the first instance in a less forceful manner, and we also consider that even so, it was still within the power of the management to have averted a strike by the adoption of a more conciliatory attitude." The Board proposed that a Joint Works Committee should be set up and shall ordinarily be held every two months unless more frequent meetings are found necessary. Both the Managing Agents and the representative of the employees subscribed to the principle that no recourse should be had to outside intervention or to a strike until the causes of difference had been submitted for discussion by either side to the Joint Works Committee. In publishing for general information the findings of the Board which thus achieved the satisfactory result of formulating an amicable settlement of the points in dispute the Bengal Government point out that "the whole case illustrates in a striking manner the value of well designed measures for securing the frank discussion of industrial disputes by the parties concerned and the suitability of the concrete proposals made by the Committee on Industrial Unrest for this purpose."

THE McALPIN COMMITTEE

The Government of Bengal some time ago appointed a committee composed of three gentlemen to advise on the revision of pay of their permanent ministerial officers (i.e. lower paid clerks or) and menials. Two members belonged to the Civil Service and the third is a stout critic of the Legislative Council on the curtailment of expenditure. The report has been issued in two volumes—the majority report by Messrs. McAlpin and Roy and the minority report by Mr. M. C. Mitra. During recent years increases of pay have been given to balance the rise of prices and the present committee came into being as a result of Government's recognition in 1920 that the relief was only partial, and that, to suit changed economic conditions, a full examination was necessary. The majority report recommends:—

- (1) an increase of 60 per cent to the existing pay of the lowest posts. The increase in the



higher posts should be graduated on the well recognised principle that those who have a margin of comfort should receive a smaller proportionate increase than those on the margin of subsistence;

(2) the institution of time scales for the existing system of fixed grades and the counting of previous service on such scales; and

(3) a probationary period of two years on a rate of pay slightly lower than the minimum pay of the office, on the expiry of which a clerk should, subject to his having given a good account of himself, be confirmed.

It is pointed out that the adoption of these recommendations will mean an increase of 49 per cent in the cost of ministerial establishments while statistics placed at the disposal of the committee show that the increase in pay of clerical establishments in Calcutta firms is from 40 to 50 per cent. Mr. Mitra in the Minority Report urges that unless these Government servants (10,000 officers and 21,000 men will be affected by any revision of the pay in Bengal) are given larger increases than those proposed by his colleagues, they will not be able to maintain their former standard of living. He holds that the cost of living has risen by 100 per cent in place of his colleagues' estimate of 60 per cent. The increased cost involved in the recommendations of the majority is Rs. 4½ lakhs per annum and of the minority Rs. 6½ lakhs per annum.

Personalia.—Mr. F. H. McLeod, C.B., who was adviser to the Government of Bombay in connexion with the new Labour Office, has on his return to England resumed his appointment as Chairman, Industrial Court, 5 Old Palace Yard, S.W. 1.

Sir Ernest Low, K.C.I.E., recently represented the Government of India at the International Commission on emigration at Geneva.

Sir Louis Kerihaw, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary, Industries and Overseas Department of the India Office, visits India for a period of about three months during the next cold weather. One of the subjects dealt with in Sir Louis Kerihaw's Department is labour and it is proposed if time permits that he should in this connexion visit Ahmedabad and Karachi, after Bombay.

THE CENSUS OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR

Seventy-nine out of eighty mills in the City and Island of Bombay have already completed and returned the forms. The return for the remaining mill (which had for some time been closed owing to a strike) is expected shortly. The number of forms issued to the Ahmedabad mills was 55, and 57 or 67 per cent have been returned to date. Out of 175 forms issued to mills in the Presidency 133 or 76 per cent have been received in the Labour Office up to October 10, 1921. The data have been collected without recourse to legislative enactment.

EFFECTS OF AN EIGHT-HOUR DAY

The International Typographical Union of the United States, an organisation with 70,000 members, publishes the following statistics derived from the operation of its pension and death benefit fund:—

Year.	No. of deaths.	Average at death.	Mentions.	Deaths per 1,000.
1900	419	41.25	52,115	125.00
1901	426	41.94	54,948	117.60
1902	474	42.94	58,364	112.25
1903	475	42.62	62,496	111.21
1904	578	45.50	66,715	112.52
1905	567	45.26	66,754	112.13
1906	512	44.12	66,980	111.40
1907	561	44.17	62,357	113.20
1908	538	45.15	63,740	112.30
1909	519	44.19	64,521	111.30
1910	574	44.17	67,848	112.00
1911	659	44.12	71,195	112.50
1912	655	44.10	73,807	112.50
1913	657	44.24	75,514	112.30
1914	715	44.71	78,557	112.00
1915	696	51.84	78,571	111.70
1916	755	51.75	80,251	112.50
1917	825	51.42	81,350	115.44
1918	849	51.12	82,661	115.54*
1919	1,142	45.12	85,215	115.50*
1920	763	53.17	71,945	111.13

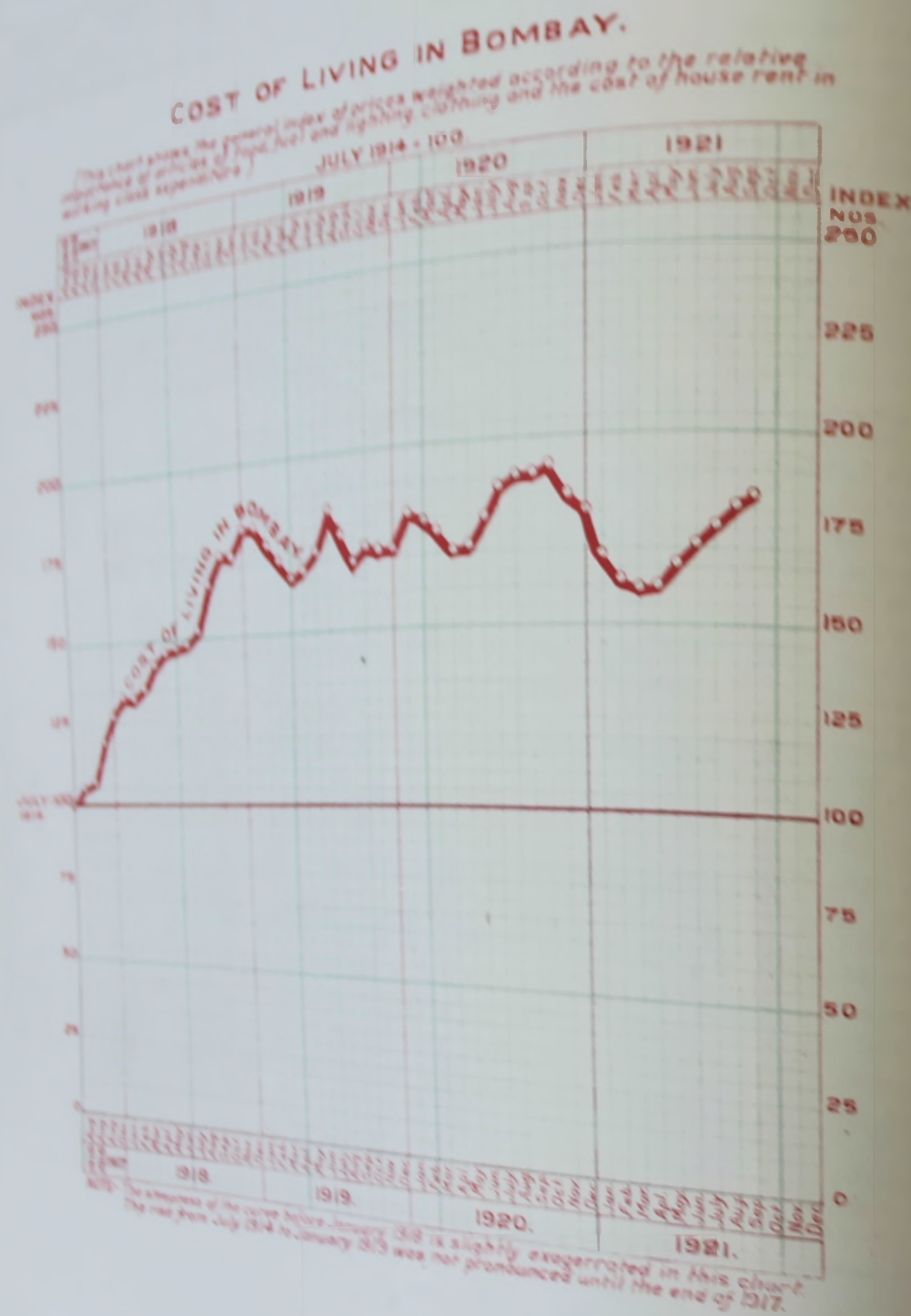
* Influenza epidemic prevailed.

It will be seen that the average length of life of the printer has increased from 41 years in 1900 to 53 years in 1920, an increase of 12 years. This remarkable increase is due, alleges the Union, almost entirely to the effect of 8-hour day and the improved sanitary conditions which have resulted from the campaign of education conducted by the International Typographical Union.

CHARTS

1. Cost of Living in Bombay.
2. Progress of the Monsoon, 1921.
3. Retail Prices of Rice, Pulses, Cereals and other Articles of Food in Bombay.
4. Cost of Living in India, the United Kingdom, Canada and Belgium.
5. Imports and Exports of Merchandise—India.
6. Rate of Exchange in Bombay.
7. Strikes in the Bombay Presidency, 1921.
8. Foods and Non-foods Wholesale Prices, Bombay.

CHART NO. 1.



PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON 1921

CHART NO. 2

Abbreviations:— S—Scanty F—Fair N—Normal EX—Excess.

PROVINCE OR STATE.	JUNE				JULY				AUGUST					SEPTEMBER				OCTOBER			
	8TH	15TH	22ND	29TH	6TH	13TH	20TH	27TH	3RD	10TH	17TH	24TH	31ST	7TH	14TH	21ST	28TH	4TH	11TH	18TH	25TH
I BOMBAY PRESIDENCY																					
1 KONKAN	F	EX	EX	S	F	F	EX	EX	N	EX	F	EX	S	N	F	EX	F				
2 GUJARAT	N	N	S	S	S	S	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	S	F	EX	EX	EX	S				
3 DECCAN	N	F	EX	S	S	EX	EX	EX	F	F	F	F	S	EX	S	EX	N				
4 SIND	F	S	F	F	S	S	N	N	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	N	N	N				
II MADRAS PRESIDENCY																					
1 MALABAR	N	N	F	S	F	F	N	N	EX	EX	EX	EX	F	EX	S	N	S				
2 DECCAN	EX	F	S	S	S	N	EX	EX	N	S	EX	EX	N	S	S	F	S				
3 COAST NORTH	S	N	F	S	N	F	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	N	S	S	F	S				
4 SOUTH EAST	EX	N	S	S	EX	EX	EX	F	EX	EX	F	S	N	EX	EX	EX	F				
III BENGAL AND ORISSA																					
1 BIHAR	N	F	N	F	EX	EX	N	F	N	N	EX	N	EX	N	N	S	EX				
2 ORISSA	N	N	N	N	F	F	S	F	EX	F	F	F	EX	EX	F	EX	S	N			
IV UNITED PROVINCES																					
1 EAST	N	F	EX	EX	S	N	F	N	F	EX	N	EX	EX	S	EX	EX	EX				
2 WEST	N	N	EX	S	F	F	EX	F	EX	N	EX	N	N	EX	N	EX	EX				
V CENTRAL PROVINCES																					
1 BERAR	N	EX	EX	S	F	F	F	EX	EX	EX	N	S	S	F	S	EX	S				
2 WEST	F	EX	EX	F	F	F	F	N	EX	EX	F	F	S	EX	F	F	S				
3 EAST	N	EX	N	F	N	S	N	EX	EX	EX	F	S	EX	F	EX	S					
VII PUNJAB																					
1 EAST AND NORTH	F	S	S	S	S	S	N	EX	EX	EX	EX	S	S	F	F	EX	EX				
2 SOUTH AND WEST	F	S	S	N	S	S	EX	S	EX	N	EX	EX	S	S	EX	S	S				
VIII RAJPUTANA																					
1 WEST	S	S	S	S	S	S	EX	EX	EX	F	EX	S	S	N	EX	EX	S				
2 EAST	S	S	S	S	S	S	EX	EX	EX	S	EX	S	S	EX	EX	EX	EX				
IX CENTRAL INDIA																					
1 WEST	N	EX	EX	S	F	F	EX	EX	F	N	N	F	N	EX	N	EX	S				
2 EAST	N	S	F	EX	S	F	S	N	EX	EX	EX	F	N	EX	EX	EX	F				
X HYDERABAD																					
1 NORTH	EX	EX	EX	S	S	N	EX	N	N	EX	N	S	S	S	S	S	EX	N			
2 SOUTH	EX	N	N	S	F	EX	EX	EX	F	EX	S	S	S	S	S	S	EX	N			
XI MYSORE																					
1	EX	S	F	S	S	N	EX	N	F	F	S	F	EX	F	EX	F	EX	S			
XII ASSAM																					
1	EX	F	N	F	N	EX	EX	S	N	F	EX	N	EX	S	EX	N	EX				
XIII BURMA																					
1 LOWER	N	F	EX	F	N	F	S	N	EX	EX	EX	N	EX	EX	N	N	N				
2 UPPER	N	EX	N	F	F	EX	F	N	N	N	EX	N	EX	F	S	N	N				

NOTES

- The whiter the chart the better the season. Red areas indicate deficient, and black areas excessive rains.
- Excess: More than 120 per cent of the normal.
Normal: 80-120 per cent of the normal.
Fair: 40-79 per cent of the normal.
Scanty: Less than 40 per cent of the normal.
Normals for Divisions are means of Normals of reporting stations excluding hill stations. The Daily Weather Report gives the complete list of stations.
- The zigzag lines give the approximate dates of the normal annual setting in and withdrawal of the Monsoon, and are based on information supplied by the Director-General of Observatories. The lettering outside the zigzag lines is smaller than the lettering within, as rainfall outside the lines is less important. Matching brings out the third successive "E" square and the second "S" square at the Monsoon is of little or no importance in Sind, both the rise in the India above the fair-irrigating level and the rainfall are shown. The date of the normal rise is in the first week of June and of the normal fall the last week of September.

CHART NO. 3.

RETAIL PRICES OF RICE, PULSES, CEREALS AND OTHER ARTICLES OF FOOD IN BOMBAY.

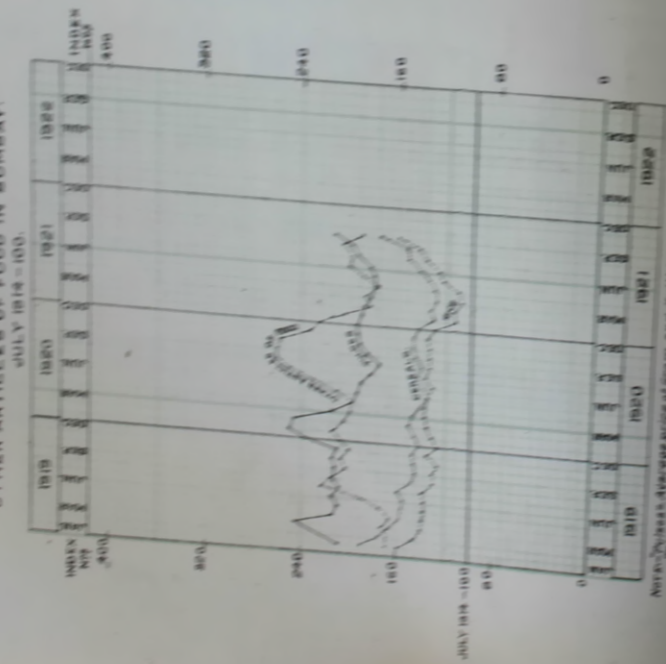


CHART NO. 4.
COST OF LIVING IN INDIA, AND UNITED KINGDOM, CANADA AND BELGIUM JULY 1913 = 100.

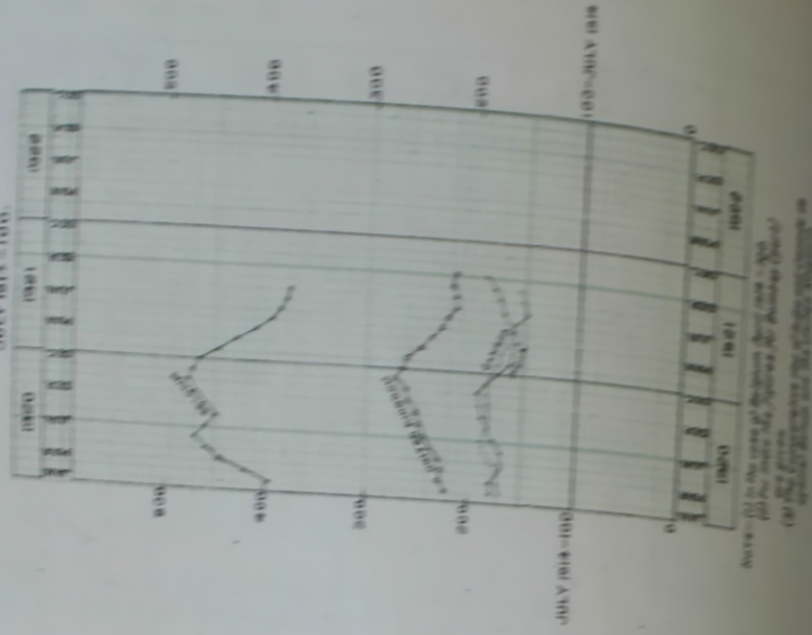


CHART NO. 5.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE - INDIA.

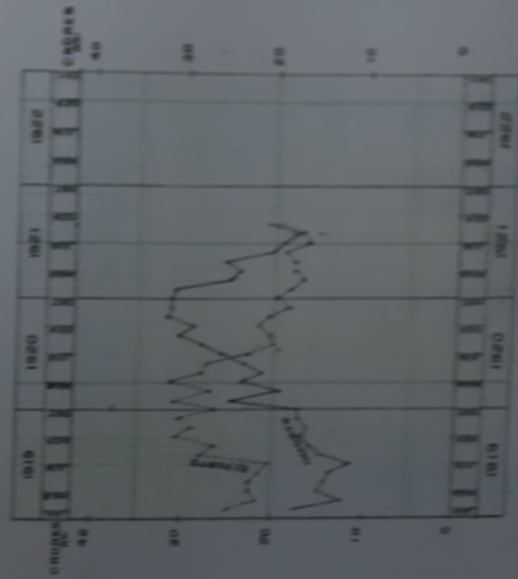


CHART NO. 6.

RATE OF EXCHANGE IN BOMBAY.

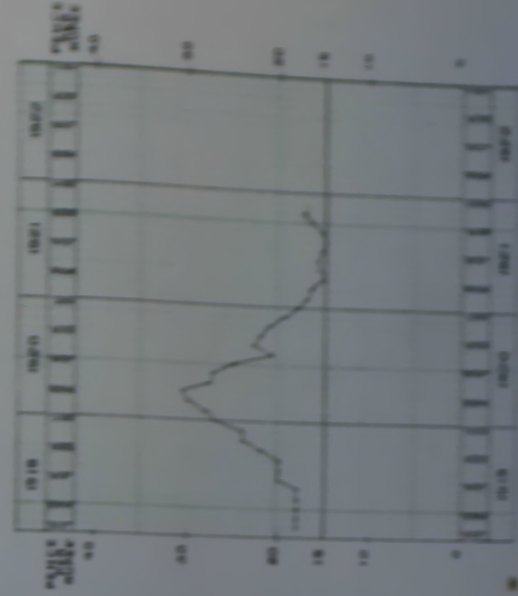
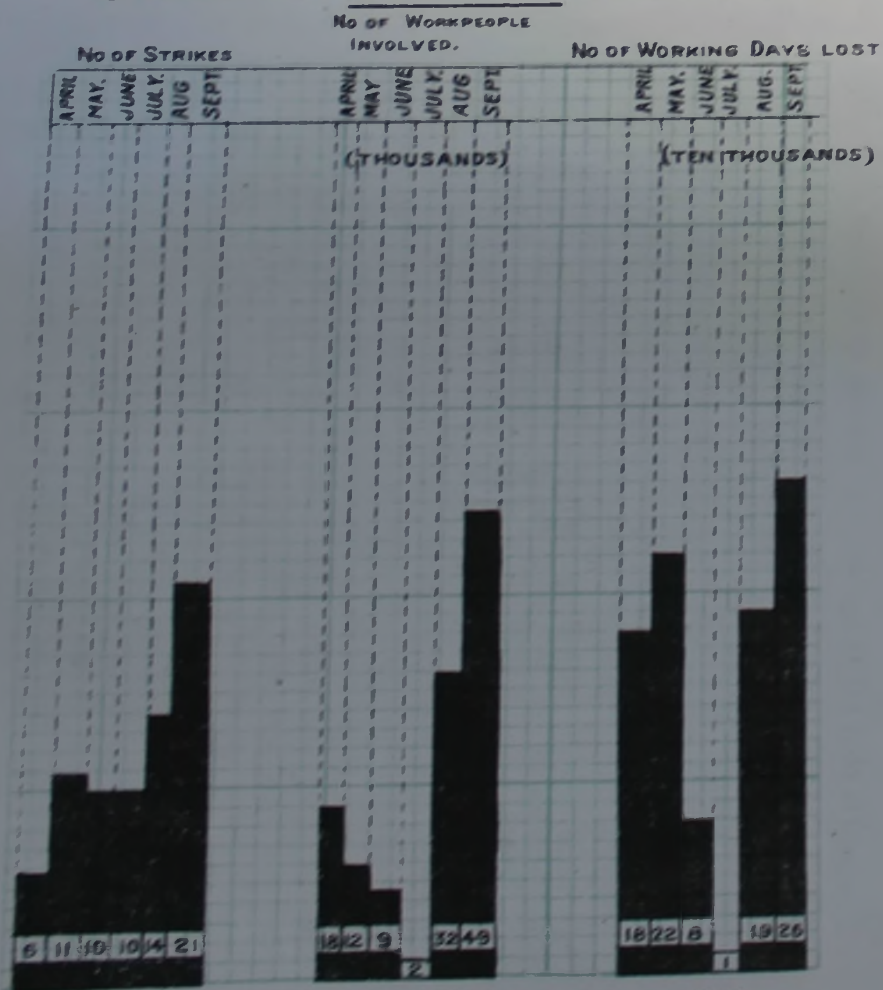


CHART No 7.

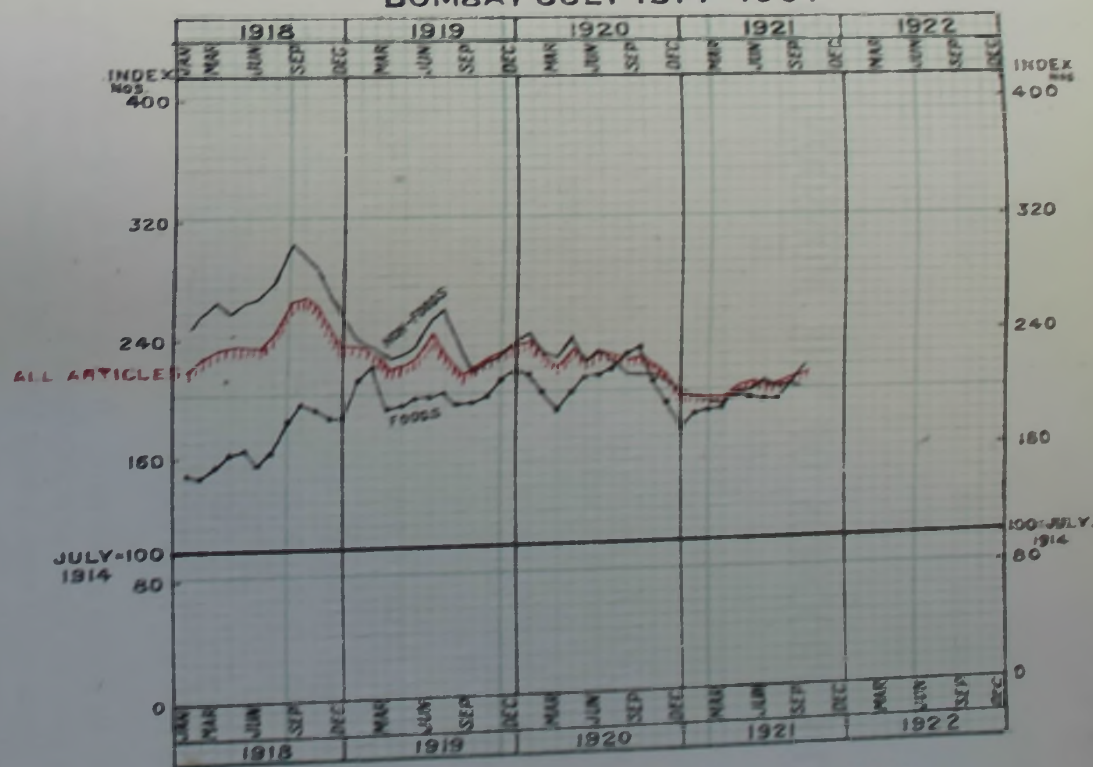
STRIKES IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY 1921.



THE SMALL NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST IN JULY. NOTE:- IS OWING TO THE SHORT DURATION OF STRIKES.

CHART No 8.

FOODS AND NON FOODS WHOLESAL PRICES BOMBAY JULY 1914=100.



NOTE: UNWEIGHTED WHOLESAL PRICES INDEX NUMBERS

THE PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON, 1921

(See Chart No. 2.)

An attempt for the first time has been made to show in chart No. 2 the timeliness or seasonableness of the monsoon as well as the total rainfall. The zigzag lines give the approximate dates of the normal arrival setting in and withdrawal of the monsoon and are based on information supplied by the Director General of Observatories, Simla. Excess means more than 120 per cent of the normal. The normal for divisions is the mean of normals of reporting stations excluding hill stations.

'Normal' in the chart is a variation from 80 to 120 per cent of the true normal, 'fair' 40 to 79 per cent of this normal, and 'scanty' is less than 40 per cent. The whiter the statement, the more the satisfactory nature of the monsoon; the redder it is, the worse the monsoon. As one's eye goes down the columns of the third and fourth weeks of July and the first week of August the seasonableness and extent of the monsoon are evident in this important period. The rainfall in other provinces also has been shown, as these (e.g., the United Provinces which exports to us bajri and jowari for our millworkers) have an influence in the long run on future price levels of food.

In Sind the monsoon scarcely counts. It is the level of the Indus that does. The table below shows the rainfall up to 25th October in Bombay, the Deccan (Ahmednagar, Sholapur, Bijapur and Poona), Guzerat (Surat and Ahmedabad) and in Kathiawar (Rajkot and Bhavnagar).

The chart will be published monthly during the monsoon in the "Labour Gazette."

Station.	Rainfall in inches.	Departure from normal.	Station.	Rainfall in inches.	Departure from normal.
	(1st June to 25th October.)			(1st June to 25th October.)	
Bombay ..	86.02	+16.33	Surat ..	53.51	+13.33
Ahmednagar ..	17.11	- 2.34	Ahmedabad ..	40.75	+12.19
Sholapur ..	21.08	- 3.98	Rajkot ..	27.43	+ 2.08
Bijapur ..	14.82	- 1.87	Bhavnagar ..	29.45	+ 7.77
Poona ..	18.64	- 5.39			



THE RIGHT TO STRIKE

THE LAW ON THE SUBJECT

There is at present no statute law for India on the subject of Labour Disputes and Labour Organisations. It is, therefore, to be presumed that the principles of English common law are applicable to India. The following observations on the right to strike are based on this assumption.

The right to strike is derived simply from the elementary right of a workman as a free man to enter into such contracts with regard to employment as he may choose, and on the termination of one contract to enter into a new contract with the same or another employer or to abstain from working altogether. An employer has the corresponding right to offer employment, or not to offer employment, to workmen as he chooses.

Every separate worker in a business establishment, mill or factory has the right to leave his employment when the period for which he has contracted to serve is at an end. Unless there is some special agreement to the contrary, it is by English law generally assumed that the same notice must be given on both sides, and if there is nothing else to indicate what is the period of contract, as, for instance, a defined custom in the trade, the period is indicated by the payment of wages. Thus if a man is paid monthly wages the employer cannot generally dismiss him without a month's notice or a month's wages in lieu of notice; and the workman on his side must give similar notice. But if there is a regular custom of shorter notice in the particular occupation both employer and employed are supposed to be aware of that custom and to have agreed to be bound by it unless they have made a definite agreement otherwise.

Since any one of a number of workers in a mill or factory can leave that employment at the time provided for by the contract, or, in the absence of specific contract, by the custom in the occupation any number of men can simultaneously leave their employment, by a common agreement among themselves. This is what constitutes the right to strike.

The right to strike does not carry with it any right of workmen to leave their employ-

ment during the period for which they have contracted to serve; nor does it carry with it any right to interfere with the liberty of the employer to take on other workers in the place of those who have ceased to work; nor the right to interfere in any way with the free action of those who may desire to take up the employment which the strikers have left; nor the right to demand that the employer shall take back into his employment all or any of the strikers when they wish to return, unless he chooses to do so.

Still less does the right to strike carry with it any right to demand pay from the employer during the period for which the strikers have not been at work. In reports of labour disputes in Western countries the phrase "Strike pay" is frequently to be found. But this does not mean money paid by the employers to the strikers. It is money paid to the strikers by their own Trade and Labour Unions, which may give such strike pay out of accumulated funds, or out of levies paid by other members of the Unions who are not concerned in the strike, but continue in their employment, or out of contributions from other labour organisations and sympathisers among the general public. The demand in Madras that employers should pay strike pay to the strikers appears to be a new departure in the history of labour disputes.

It is easy to see that such a demand is bound to be very strenuously resisted by employers; for if it were an understood thing that employers had to pay their men equally whether they were working, or whether they were idle of their own accord, it would be very difficult indeed to carry on industries successfully. From the public point of view it would have to be considered whether the admission of such a principle would not make it impossible to carry on even existing industries successfully, and still more decidedly prevent new capital from being raised for their development or for starting new ones, and thus prove in the end a very great injury to the workers themselves.

The right not to strike is just as fundamental a part of the liberty of a free man under English common law as the right to strike. This includes the right to continue in work when



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others in the same employment are on strike, whether the worker be a non-Unionist or a member of the Union which has ordered the strike. It is entirely a matter of individual choice for a member of a Union, whether he obeys an order of the Union to strike or not, in case the order requires his leaving his employment when his contract is at an end and the strike is lawful. If the strike is not lawful he has no right to obey the order. An equally fundamental right is the right of any person to whom employment is offered during a strike to accept that employment if he chooses to do so, provided he is not under contract to continue in employment elsewhere.

All parties are entitled to the protection of Government in the exercise of the above rights. Cases have been known, particularly in America, in which employers have used violent methods to intimidate workmen on strike. The strikers are entitled to the protection of Government and can lawfully call upon Government to suppress such action on the part of employers. Similarly employers are entitled to protection against any attempt of strikers to injure their property and non-strikers or men who take up employment vacated by strikers are entitled to full protection from Government against any possible violence at the hands of strikers.

STATISTICS FROM THE UNITED STATES

The following table shows that while wool consumption, the milling of wheat flour, and the slaughtering of meat were above normal in June 1921, according to statistics published in the monthly letter of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for August, the production of iron, steel, and coal as well as cotton consumption were much below normal.

	January 1921.	June 1921.
Wool consumption	55	117
Wheat flour milled	80	116
Meat slaughtered	88	112
Pig iron production	70	31
Steel in cast production	58	27
Anthracite coal mined	111	54
Bituminous coal mined	74	66
Cotton consumption	55	25

(Normal production equals 100)

June's cotton consumption shows a decided increase on that of January this year.

INDUSTRIAL UNREST IN BENGAL

CAUSES AND REMEDIES

A Committee was some months ago appointed on the recommendation of the Bengal Legislative Council to consider the problem of industrial unrest in Bengal. The Committee has come to the conclusion that while economic causes have probably been predominant, the unusual number of strikes was due as much to a general spirit of unrest as to the specific causes alleged in individual cases. In considering remedial measures the Committee rightly say that the most satisfactory way of settling such disputes is for employers and workmen to come to an agreement among themselves, and that outside intervention should only be invoked when a rupture of relations is imminent or has actually taken place. The establishment of Joint Works Committees to advise the management of industrial concerns or measures affecting the workmen would do much to promote a spirit of co-operation between employers and employees and to help both to understand one another's point of view. "The idea of the panchayat as an agency for settling social and communal affairs is familiar in India, and a Joint Works Committee organised on proper lines would be simply a panchayat for regulating industrial affairs so far as they concern the workers."

The Committee rejects as inapplicable to Bengal conditions all schemes involving any element of compulsion by legal process. They recommend for strikes in public utility services the establishment of a panel from which small conciliation boards could be formed on the application of one or both the parties or by Government of its own motion. Such a Board (the Committee calls it a "Court") would have no legal power to enforce its findings, but it is expected that public opinion would be sufficiently strong to induce the parties to come to terms on the basis of this board's findings.

In the case of disputes other than those in public utility services the Committee recommends that where both parties express a desire for "impartial outside intervention," Government should endeavour to meet



their wishes. "We fear that if ordinary industrial disputes were referred in considerable numbers to Conciliation Courts formed in the manner we have suggested, too much work might be thrown on the members constituting the panel, with the result that it would be found impossible to secure suitable men to serve on the panel. But if, in a private dispute, both parties expressed a desire for impartial outside intervention, Government should consider how such a desire should be met, possibly by the constitution of a Court similar to that which we have recommended in the case of disputes affecting public utility services."

The Committee concludes its recommendations by pointing out that "if Government is to be in a position to discharge its responsibilities for the general administration of the Presidency, it must have prompt and full information regarding the ever-changing industrial situation. We have been impressed by the difficulties experienced in compiling the record of strikes which is attached to our proceedings. It is not improbable that a regular Labour Bureau will have to be formed at no distant date."

This report will be of interest to the Committee which is shortly to meet in Bombay to discuss the practicability of setting up machinery for the prevention and early settlement of labour disputes. Conditions in Bombay, however, are in many ways different from those elsewhere. As in the great federal countries like the United States, Canada and Australia, labour practice in industrial disputes and labour legislation generally may with one or two exceptions tend to be a matter within the jurisdiction of local Governments—at least in detail.

Holland.—According to the August issue of "Maanschrift," published by the Central Bureau of Statistics, the retail prices of articles in Amsterdam were 86 per cent in June above the pre-war year. There has been a consistent fall since February of this year. The average for 1920 was 112 per cent above the level of 1913.

G. I. P. RAILWAY WORKSHOP UNION

REIGNATION OF THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Baptista in a letter (published below) addressed to the Secretary, G. I. P. Railway Union, resigned his place as President of the Union:—

"Dear Mr. Jhabwalla,—I shall be obliged if you will place my resignation of the Presidency of the G. I. P. Railway Workshop Union before the members for acceptance. My reason is that I cannot share the responsibility of a President for acts and resolutions of which I know absolutely nothing.

"As Secretary it was your duty to keep me informed of important matters, and especially of grievances from which you apprehended serious trouble, e.g., the width of the gate. You have not done so. You have convened and held meetings of which no intimation whatsoever was given to me. You have proposed and passed resolutions without giving me any opportunity of considering the same and advising the members. The first intimation I have had of these resolutions is the publication thereof in the newspapers.

"The Vice-President has been conducting the correspondence of the Union with the Railway officials while the President is available. Finally you have mixed up politics with Trade Union affairs in a manner calculated to do harm to the cause of Trade Union in Bombay. I, therefore, feel constrained to resign in order to repudiate all responsibility for the present management of the affairs of the G. I. P. Railway Workshop Union.

J. BAPTISTA."



THE LABOUR SITUATION IN JAPAN

Progress of Trade Unionism

The following article by a valued correspondent in Tokyo is intended to bring out the main characteristics of the labour movement in Japan.

As the Commission on special Countries of the Washington Conference said "Japan is a country whose industry is still largely domestic but which is rapidly becoming organised along the lines of modern factories. During recent years the progress in the organising of Japanese industry has been very great."

The article describes the growth of the labour movement in 1919 and the setback experienced in the trade depression in the middle of last year. Many of the author's remarks are of interest from the Indian viewpoint, and should be compared with the notes on Japan in the "Current Notes" of this issue.

The year 1919 was notable for the appearance of the first marked symptoms of labour unrest in Japan. There were frequent strikes, accompanied at times by the less violent forms of sabotage.

In the early part of 1920 the activities of the numerous labour associations which had been formed in the last year or so were devoted almost exclusively to suffrage agitations. The largest of these, the Yuaikwai, which has branches throughout Japan, played the most prominent part, and it is thought by some that this diversion of their energies to purely political questions, at a time when labour organizations were in their infancy, arrested the development of the labour movement in Japan. It is true that, when the Diet was dissolved because Opposition parties pressed suffrage measures which the Government would not accept, a number of members, dispirited by their failure or now involved in party politics, fell away from their groups; but it seems more likely that this

combination for a common end, although unsuccessful, did serve in a measure to promote the sense of unity among the various guilds and societies.

At any rate, by May Day of 1919, most of the associations had come together and arranged a demonstration in Tokyo in which some 5,000 people, representing 15 associations, took part. This, of course, is a relatively small number, but is worth noticing as being the first of its kind in Japan, and it was of a more serious tone than most of the suffrage demonstrations which, to those who witnessed them, seemed to be conducted in a festive spirit.

Soon after May 1, the Yuaikwai and 6 other associations formed a Federation of Labour Associations, and though this also, in actual numbers, was unimpressive, it marked a further stage in development. The objects immediately before this Federation were, and still remain, the withdrawal of Article 17 of the Police Law,* which can be so constructed as in effect to prohibit collective bargaining as to wages and other conditions of employment, and the full recognition of Labour Unions.

During these early phases of the federation of labour in Japan, two considerable strikes took place. On February 2, workmen in the repair shops of the Government Steel Works at Yawata (Kyushu) made demands for increase of wages and reduction of hours. Following on this the whole of the employees, represented by officials of the Yuaikwai, put forward five demands, which included a 30 per cent increase of wages and the introduction of an eight-hour day. These were refused, and on February 5 practically the whole of the 30,000 employees ceased work.

*The second part of Article 17 of the Police Law, 1900, provides that those who, with the object of causing a strike, seduce or incite others shall be sentenced to major imprisonment of one to six months, with an additional penalty of yen 3 to yen 30.—Editor, "Labour Gazette."



Collisions occurred between workmen and police, and some 50 persons were arrested, including 7 officials of the Yuaikwai. Work was partially resumed, under guard of gendarmes, on the 7th, but there were several cases of sabotage, and finally the whole works were closed and placed under guard for fear that the blast furnaces would be destroyed. By the 28th February the Steel Works had agreed to add existing bonuses to the standard wage as part thereof, and work was gradually resumed. The strike was regarded as a failure by the Labour Associations, because the authorities had refused to recognize them as negotiators, had imprisoned a number of their representatives, and had used gendarmes against the strikers besides having troops in readiness; but it is doubtful whether, had the Yuaikwai not existed, the strike would ever have reached the threatening dimensions it actually assumed.

Another important strike which took place at the beginning of 1920 was that of the employees of the Tokyo Municipal Tramways. It began early in January, ostensibly because of the refusal of the Municipality to dismiss certain Inspectors who were not members of the Transport Workers' Union, but it was in essence a strike for increased wages and improved conditions.

It dragged on until the end of April, at one time taking the form of abstention from work on the part of large numbers of employees, at another being characterised by a very ingenious form of "ca' canny".

Drivers reported their cars for repairs under the smallest pretext so that the terminal sheds were overcrowded; or ran at very slow speed; or ran past stopping-points so that passengers had to wade through mud; while conductors assisted, by intentional bad management, in throwing the service into confusion. It was never entirely suspended until April 25. At this point the police arrested all the officials of the union, and a number of strikers, and broke up all meetings which they attempted to hold. By April 29 the strike had ceased, but the objects of the strikers were in a large measure gained, since they received considerable increases in wages and improved treatment in respect of bonus, etc.

It is probably not inaccurate to say that nearly all strikes at this period were opportunist strikes for more money; and that though the leaders may have wished to go further the workmen were easily satisfied by wage increases, without reference to other conditions.

No doubt had economic conditions remained stable there would, from this period onwards, have been a growth in the membership of labour associations and a gradual formation of coherent policy; but any such development was suddenly interrupted by the industrial crises which, starting in April by the financial collapse of certain large firms, soon spread all over the country and affected almost every manufacture. Whereas in the beginning of the year employers were still advertising and canvassing for workmen, they were now only too anxious to dismiss them. Many works were closed down, and unemployment, phenomenon hitherto unknown in Japan became now an actual if not serious problem. It was solved to a great extent by the re-absorption of men and women into those agricultural and other pursuits which they had only recently left, but there was a residue who really could not obtain work, and it was not long before more employers began to cut wages, if they did not reduce numbers.

The leaders of labour associations were now in a difficult position. They could no longer proceed with agitations for general reforms which the rank and file would support so long as the programme included some immediate and specific advantage like an increase of wages and they had to confine themselves to demonstrations at which they passed resolutions, such as "The anarchy in the industrial world can be cured only by the break-up of Capitalism". In short, the severe industrial depression had, by the end of the Summer of 1920, dealt the labour movement a severe blow, and many of the associations, which had been so freely formed in the last few months, collapsed for want of funds and membership. There were a few small strikers, and some difficulties attending dismissals, but these were as a rule settled rapidly.

An exception was a strike at the Fuji Cotton Mills, caused by the employer's refusal to



recognize a Weavers' Guild which the workmen (and women) had formed. This took a curious course, in that the employers locked out the male and locked in the female employees. attempting, it is stated, to force the latter to work. The women, however, stood by the men, and refused. Then, on July 27, after a fortnight's discussion and demonstration, the strike suddenly collapsed, and the men returned without terms—only 20 out of 400 members of the unions being in favour of continuing the struggle.

A similar fate overtook the attempt made by the Tokyo printers to force the newspapers to introduce a double 8-hour shift, which was defeated by a combination of the newspapers.

It may be noted that the Trades Unions Legislation, which had been drafted at the beginning of the year, has not been proceeded with.

For the remainder of 1920 the situation underwent no change, at least in outward appearance. Judging from the tone of utterances at recent meetings, the leaders are moving rapidly towards the extreme left in theory, but, with a few notable exceptions, these are more articulate than active, and it seems probable that the developments of the general labour movement will, as economic conditions revert to normal, be taken up very much at the stage at which it was suspended in the Spring of 1920, namely with a demand for legal recognition of Unions, followed by improved factory legislation as to bonus and other conditions.

It is perhaps necessary to point out, with reference to the above sketch, that though it is convenient to employ, in describing conditions in Japan, the terminology applied to English Trades Unionism, the background is entirely different. The existing associations in Japan are neither numerous nor powerful; the largest, the Yuikwai, for instance, has probably not more than 50,000 members, the standard of living and education of the average member of an association is decidedly lower than in England, and he has behind him no tradition of successful labour agitation, while the mass of the population is still agricultural. Articles describing labour matters

in Japan, which have from time to time appeared in English and American papers, must have misled many readers on this account, for, though two things may be called by the same name, they may differ vastly in size or significance.

It might, for instance, to take an extreme hypothesis, be literally true to say that two-thirds of the members of the Transport Workers' Guild in Japan were convinced Marxists, but it would be in effect a false statement if it gave the same impression as an identical statement about the Transport Workers of Great Britain. It is important to bear this in mind in studying accounts of social conditions in Japan, particularly if they are written by extreme sympathisers with either side.

Another point to remember is that, though among the leaders of the movement are some who profess the most advanced doctrines current in Europe and America, acquired largely from English and French books, it is doubtful whether the movement as a whole can skip any of the usual stages of evolution. It may pass rapidly through them, but it can hardly develop by mere academic processes.

Accidents in Factories in Japan.—According to an investigation made by the Osaka Prefectural Government with regard to the number of accidents which occurred in factories during the year 1920, there were in 655 factories employing together 100,000 workers (each with more than 50 workers) 47 cases of death (male) due to accidents, 718 cases of serious injury (male 672, female 46) and 5,821 cases of slight injury (male 5,061, female 760), totalling 6,586, involving death or injury to every 7 persons out of 100 in the course of their work.

These figures are taken only in respect of factories where the Factory Law was applied. The situation in smaller factories not under the Factory Law is considered to be worse, so that the real figures of deaths and injuries among the 250,000 factory workers in that prefecture on an average amount to 10 persons in 100. Accidents occurred most frequently in textile and machine and tool works.



Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Foods)

Article	Grade	Rate per	July 1914	Sept. 1921	Aug. 1921	Sept. 1921
Cereals	Rangoon Small-mill	Md.	4 11 3	7 3 0	7 11 10	7 9 11
	Delhi No. 1	Cut	7 9 6	8 14 0	12 8 0	12 2 0
	Khandra Samsi	Candy	45 0 0	50 8 0	102 0 0	105 0 0
	Jaholpore	..	40 0 0	52 8 0	96 0 0	82 8 0
	Rangoon	Md.	7 2 6	7 4 0	7 5 0	6 11 8
	..	..	7 4 6	4 12 2	5 9 9	5 9 9
	Ghati	..	7 4 6	6 2 2	6 13 11	6 3 4
	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	..	4 3 9	6 0 6	7 9 11	7 13 3
	Cowapore	..	5 10 5	9 9 10	6 10 6	6 10 6
	Mauritius No. 1	Cut	9 3 0	14 0 0	14 2 0	13 10 0
Java white	..	10 3 0	14 0 0	14 0 0	13 12 0	
Sangli	Md.	7 14 3	23 2 1	14 11 1	15 10 4	
Rainpuri	..	3 9 3	9 4 0	13 3 4	12 6 1	
Deshi	..	41 1 3	114 4 7	37 2 3	34 4 7	
Bombay (black)	..	1 7 6	2 0 0	2 0 0	2 0 0	

Expressed as percentages of July 1914.

Prices in July 1914 = 100.

Cereals—	Rangoon Small-mill	100	153	165	162
Rice	Delhi No. 1	100	159	224	217
Wheat	Khandra Samsi	100	132	228	233
Do.	Jaholpore	100	144	216	206
Do.	Rangoon	100	230	234	211
Do.	..	100	145	171	171
Do.	Ghati	100	187	274	281
Average—Cereals	..	100	164	216	212
Pulses—	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	100	142	180	185
Gram	Cowapore	100	170	153	153
Tur dal	..	100	156	166	169
Average—Pulses	..	100	156	166	169
Sugar—	Mauritius No. 1	100	508	264	259
Sugarcane	Java white	100	530	236	233
Do.	Sangli	100	293	166	198
Raw (Cane)	..	100	470	229	230
Average—Sugar	..	100	470	229	230
Other food—	Rainpuri	100	166	239	222
Turmeric	Deshi	100	250	169	163
Glass	Bombay (black)	100	136	136	136
Salt	..	100	184	181	174
Average—Other food	..	100	184	181	174
Average—All food	..	100	228	212	202

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	Sept. 1920.	Aug. 1921.	Sept. 1921.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Oil seeds— Linseed Rapeseed Poppyseed Gingily	Bold	Cwt.	8 14 6	19 8 0	15 6 0	13 0 0
	Cawnpore (brown)	..	8 0 0	14 4 0	12 8 0	12 4 0
	Do.	..	10 14 0	17 12 0	17 0 0	16 0 0
Textiles—Cotton— (a) Cotton—raw— Broach Oomra Dharwar Khandesh Bengal	White	..	11 4 0	22 0 0	17 8 0	17 4 0
	Good	Candy	251 0 0	437 0 0	325 0 0	510 0 0
	Fully good	..	222 0 0	298 0 0	305 0 0	..
(b) Cotton manufactures— Twist Grey shirtings White mulls Shirtings Long cloth Chudders	Saw-ginned	..	230 0 0	250 0 0	..	..
	Machine ginned	..	205 0 0	250 0 0	288 0 0	405 0 0
	Do.	..	198 0 0	..	..	..
40S Fari 2,000 6,600	Lb.	Piece	0 12 9	2 5 0	1 14 0	1 12 0
	..	..	5 15 0	17 0 0	15 8 0	15 8 0
	..	..	4 3 0	11 0 0	12 0 0	12 0 0
Liepman's 1,500 Local made 36" x 37½ yds. 54" x 6 yds.	Lb.	..	10 6 0	33 2 0	29 0 0	27 0 0
	..	..	0 9 6	1 14 0	1 10 6	1 12 0
	..	..	0 9 6	1 12 0	1 8 6	1 9 6

Expressed as percentages of July 1914.

Prices in July 1914 = 100.

Oil seeds— Linseed Rapeseed Poppyseed Gingily	Bold	..	100	219	173	146
	Cawnpore (brown)	..	100	178	156	153
	Do.	..	100	163	156	147
Average—Oilseeds	White	..	100	196	156	153
	..	..	100	189	160	150
	..	..	100	189	160	150
Textiles—Cotton— (a) Cotton—raw— Broach Oomra Dharwar Khandesh Bengal	Good	..	100	174	129	..
	Fully good	..	100	134	137	230
	Saw-ginned	..	100	..	..	..
Average—Cotton—raw	Machine ginned	..	100	122	..	..
	Do.	..	100	126	145	205
	..	..	100	139	137	217
(b) Cotton manufactures— Twist Grey shirtings White mulls Shirtings Long cloth Chudders	40S	..	100	290	234	219
	Fari 2,000	..	100	286	261	261
	6,600	..	100	263	286	286
Average—Cotton manufactures	Liepman's 1,500	..	100	319	280	260
	Local made 36" x 37½ yds.	..	100	316	281	297
	54" x 6 yds.	..	100	295	259	269
Average—Textiles—Cotton	..	..	100	295	267	265
	..	..	100	232	224	253
	..	..	100	232	224	253

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Non-foods)—continued.

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	Sept. 1920.	Aug. 1921.	Sept. 1921.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Other textiles— Silk Do.	Canton No. 5	Pucca seer	5 4 0	11 11 0	5 8 0	5 8 0
	Nankin	..	17 12 0	26 8 0	30 8 0	30 8 0
Hides and Skins— Hides, Cow Do. Buffalo Skins, Goat	Tanned	Lb.	1 2 6	1 14 5	2 3 9	2 2 9
	Do.	..	1 1 3	0 12 10	0 14 8	0 14 7
	Do.	..	1 4 0	1 8 0	2 8 7	3 5 11
Metals— Copper brazier Iron bars Steel hoops Galvanized sheets Tin plates	—	Cwt.	60 8 0	81 0 0	85 0 0	80 0 0
	—	..	4 0 0	15 0 0	11 0 0	11 0 0
	—	..	7 12 0	20 0 0	25 0 0	25 0 0
Other raw and manufactured articles— Coal Kerosene Do.	—	Box	9 0 0	20 0 0	25 0 0	25 0 0
	—	..	8 12 0	26 0 0	17 0 0	17 0 0
	Bengal	Ton	14 12 0	34 0 0	33 8 0	31 8 0
Chester brand	2 Tins	..	4 6 0	8 3 0	8 7 0	8 7 0
	Case	..	5 2 0	10 12 0	10 12 0	10 12 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914.

Prices in July 1914 = 100.

Other textiles— Silk Do.	Canton No. 5	..	100	223	105	105
	Nankin	..	100	149	172	172
	..	..	100	186	138	138
Average—Other textiles	..	..	100	186	138	138
	..	..	100	186	138	138
	..	..	100	186	138	138
Hides and Skins— Hides, Cow Do. Buffalo Skins, Goat	Tanned	..	100	164	192	187
	Do.	..	100	74	85	84
	Do.	..	100	120	203	270
Average—Hides and Skins	..	..	100	119	160	180
	..	..	100	119	160	180
	..	..	100	119	160	180
Metals— Copper brazier Iron bars Steel hoops Galvanized sheets Tin plates	—	..	100	134	140	132
	—	..	100	375	275	275
	—	..	100	258	323	323
Average—Metals	—	..	100	222	278	278
	—	..	100	297	194	194
	..	..	100	257	242	240
Other raw and manufactured articles— Coal Kerosene Do.	Bengal	..	100	231	227	214
	Elephant brand	..	100	187	193	193
	Do.	..	100	210	210	210
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles	..	..	100	209	210	206
	..	..	100	209	210	206
	..	..	100	209	210	206
Total—Food Total—Non-food General Average	..	..	100	228	205	202
	..	..	100	212	202	211
	..	..	100	218	203	207



Retail prices of articles of food in Bombay in July 1914, August 1921 and September 1921

The prices quoted are for local weights and measures.

Articles.	Grade.	Rate per	Equiva- lent in tolas.	July 1914.	August 1921.	September 1921.	Increase or decrease — in September over or below	
							July 1914.	August 1921.
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	Paylee	212	5 10	8 7	9 7	+3 9	+1 0
Wheat	Punjab Pasi	"	204	5 10	9 11	10 8	+4 10	+0 9
Jowari	Rangoon	"	208	4 3	8 1	9 3	+5 0	+1 2
Bajri	Ghati	"	196	4 7	10 1	10 8	+6 1	+0 7
Gram	Punjab red	"	200	4 4	8 8	9 8	+5 4	+1 0
Tur dal	Cawnpore	"	196	5 11	9 10	9 10	+3 11	..
Sugar (raw)	Sanghi, middle quality	Seer by weight	28	1 2	2 6	2 6	+1 4	..
Sugar (refined)	Java, white	"	28	1 1	2 8	2 7	+1 6	-0 1
Tea	Ceylon, middle quality	Lb.	39	7 10	10 5	10 1	+2 3	-0 4
Salt	Bombay black	Paylee	172	1 9	2 3	2 3	+0 6	..
Beef	Crawford Market	Lb.	39	2 6	4 6	5 6	+3 0	+1 0
Mutton	" Average for sheep and goat	"	39	3 0	7 6	7 6	+4 6	..
Milk	Medium	Seer by measure	224	2 9	5 0	5 0	+2 3	..
Chi	Belgaum Deshi	" by weight	28	7 1	12 5	11 9	+4 8	-0 8
Potatoes	Metuppalayam	"	28	0 8	1 10	1 3	+0 7	-0 7
Onions	Nasik	"	28	0 3	0 10	0 8	+0 5	-0 2
Cocunut oil	Middle quality	"	28	3 7	4 0	4 0	+0 5	..

Wholesale prices index numbers in Bombay by groups from January 1920

Prices in July 1914 = 100.

Months.	Cereals.	Pulses.	Sugar.	Other food.	Total food.	Oil-seeds.	Raw cotton.	Cotton man- ufactures.	Other textiles.	Hides & skins.	Metals.	Other raw & manu- factured articles.	Total non- food.	General average.
1920														
January	184	178	323	202	215	210	202	312	153	196	297	200	241	221
February	167	192	305	189	203	194	179	301	164	167	277	197	228	219
March	152	186	289	188	190	177	170	306	189	175	259	189	224	211
April	162	178	329	178	201	173	149	314	270	214	279	191	238	224
May	166	171	397	173	211	179	168	305	175	113	284	204	220	217
June	161	152	420	170	213	173	159	310	178	172	294	198	227	222
July*	151	145	452	181	216	171	144	318	179	164	288	208	222	220
August	163	155	456	184	225	173	132	306	183	133	257	209	212	217
September	164	156	470	184	228	189	139	295	186	119	257	209	212	218
October	167	156	385	163	208	178	135	293	186	145	247	216	211	218
November	166	160	312	158	193	164	134	287	184	188	240	202	209	204
December	154	160	255	141	173	148	122	284	181	175	239	204	203	192
1921														
January	158	160	306	146	185	138	120	274	163	148	233	216	195	191
February	159	145	324	149	188	133	110	265	163	172	234	216	193	191
March	156	139	338	150	189	129	108	256	163	152	246	216	190	190
April	173	149	329	164	199	146	112	267	163	169	247	216	198	198
May	173	151	314	162	196	150	115	272	142	166	248	232	200	199
June	184	158	267	169	194	161	126	270	109	141	239	222	205	197
July	186	151	234	185	191	171	137	269	138	156	244	206	203	199
August	216	166	229	181	205	160	137	267	138	160	242	210	202	203
September	212	169	230	174	202	150	217	265	138	180	240	206	211	202

Note.—The figures of 1921 in heavy type indicate the highest peak reached above the peak of 1920 which is also shown in heavy type.



Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	September 1920	August 1921.	September 1921
			Ra. a. p.	Ra. a. p.	Ra. a. p.	Ra. a. p.
Cereals—						
Rice	Larkana No. 3	Candy	39 0 0	72 0 0	70 0 0	71 0 0
Wheat, white	5 % barley	"	31 8 0	47 0 0	72 0 0	76 0 0
	30 % dirt.	"				
	30 % red.	"				
	5 % barley	"	31 4 0	46 8 0	71 8 0	75 8 0
	3 % dirt.	"				
	92 % red.	"				
	2 % barley	"	32 8 0	46 6 0	74 2 0	78 4 0
	1 1/2 % dirt.	"				
	2 % barley	"	32 4 0	47 14 0	73 10 0	77 12 0
	1 1/2 % dirt	"				
Jowari	Export Quality	"	25 8 0	41 0 0	63 0 0	70 0 0
Barley	3 % dirt	"	26 8 0	39 0 0	50 0 0	48 0 0
Pulses—						
Gram	1 % dirt	"	29 8 0	47 0 0	68 0 0	69 0 0
Sugar—						
Sugar	Java, white	Cwt.	9 2 0	60 0 0	23 12 0	21 4 0
Do.	" brown	"	8 1 6	..	..	..
Other food—						
Salt	Imported	Bengal Masund.	4 7 4	3 7 1	2 5 6	2 7 6

Expressed as percentages of July 1914.

Prices in July 1914 = 100.

Article.	Grade.	July 1914.	September 1920	August 1921.	September 1921
Cereals—					
Rice	Larkana No. 3	100	185	179	182
Wheat, white	5 % barley, 3 % dirt	100	149	229	241
	30 % dirt.				
	30 % red.				
	5 % barley, 3 % dirt	100	149	229	242
	92 % red.				
	2 % barley, 1 1/2 % dirt	100	149	228	241
	2 % barley, 1 1/2 % dirt	100	148	228	241
Jowari	Export Quality	100	161	247	275
Barley	3 % dirt	100	147	189	181
Averages—Cereals		100	155	218	229
Pulses—					
Gram	1 % dirt	100	159	231	234
Sugar—					
Sugar	Java, white	100	658	260	233
	" brown	100	..	..	..
Average—Sugar		100	658	260	233
Other food—					
Salt		100	77	52	55

Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	September 1920	August 1921.	September 1921
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Oilseeds—						
Cotton seed	3% admixture	Maund	2 11 3	3 14 0	5 6 0	5 4 0
Rapeseed	Black	Candy	51 0 0	93 4 0	86 0 0	70 0 0
Gingelly	9% admixture.		62 0 0	120 0 0	88 0 0	80 0 0
Textiles—						
Jute bags—	B. Twills	100 bags	38 4 0	49 8 0	40 0 0	47 0 0
Textile-Cotton—						
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind	Maund	20 4 0	25 0 0	30 4 0	37 0 0
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Drills	Pepperill	Piece	10 3 6	30 6 0	22 2 0	22 0 0
Shirting	Liepmann's		10 2 0	33 0 0	30 0 0	28 0 0
Yarns	40s Grey (Plough)	Lb	0 12 2	2 4 0		
Other Textiles—						
Wool	Kandahar	Maund	28 0 0	24 0 0	20 0 0	20 8 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914.

Prices in July 1914 = 100.

Oilseeds—					
Cotton seed	3% admixture	100	143	199	194
Rapeseed	Black, 9% admixture	100	183	169	137
Gingelly		100	194	142	129
Average—Oilseeds		100	173	170	153
Textiles—					
Jute bags	Twills	100	129	105	123
Textiles—Cotton—					
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind	100	123	149	183
(b) Cotton manufactures—					
Drills	Pepperill	100	297	216	215
Shirtings	Liepmann's	100	326	296	227
Yarns	40s Grey (Plough)	100	296		
Average—Cotton manufactures		100	306	256	246
Average—Textiles—Cotton		100	260	220	225
Other Textiles—Wool		100	86	71	73

Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Non-Foods)—continued.

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	September 1920	August 1921.	September 1921
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Hides—						
Hides, dry	Sind	Maund	21 4 0	16 0 0	13 0 0	11 0 0
" "	Punjab	"	21 4 0	16 0 0	13 0 0	11 0 0
Metals—						
Copper Braziers		Cwt.	60 8 0	84 0 0	90 0 0	81 0 0
Steel Bars		"	3 14 0	16 0 0	9 0 0	8 4 0
" Plates		"	4 6 0	16 0 0	10 0 0	10 0 0
Other raw and manufactured articles—						
Coal	1st Class Bengal	Ton	16 0 0	42 0 0	37 8 0	37 8 0
Kerosene	Chester brand	Case	5 2 0	10 10 0	10 10 0	10 10 0
"	Elephant	2 Tins	4 7 0	8 1 6	8 5 6	8 5 6

Expressed as percentages of July 1914.

Prices in July 1914 = 100.

Hides—					
Hides, dry	Sind	100	75	61	52
" "	Punjab	100	75	61	52
Average—Hides		100	75	61	52
Metals—					
Copper Braziers		100	139	149	134
Steel Bars		100	413	233	213
" Plates		100	366	229	229
Average—Metals		100	306	204	192
Other raw and manufactured articles—					
Coal	1st Class Bengal	100	262	234	234
Kerosene	Chester Brand	100	207	207	207
Do.	Elephant	100	182	188	188
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles		100	217	210	210
Total—Food		100	198	207	212
Total—Non-food		100	206	169	165
General Average		100	203	184	183

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in Foreign Countries

Country.	United Kingdom.				Canada.	South Africa.	Australia.	New Zealand.	United States of America.		
	45	44	150	60	272	188	—	140	96	325	88
No. of articles.	45	44	150	60	272	188	—	140	96	325	88
1913 Average	100	100	100	100	100	(a)	100	100	100	100	100
1914	100	99	..	..	109	111	..	102	..	101	..
1915	127	123	..	..	134	123	..	121	..	124	..
1916	160	160	..	..	175	147	..	148	..	176	..
1917	206	204	..	..	205	166	..	172	..	196	..
1918	226	225	..	..	216	187	..	174	..	212	..
1919	242	235	..	..	258	209	..	202	225	253	206
1919	308	310	326	353	258	217	..	205	225	265	246
1920 March	313	306	332	353	261	250	..	206	216	272	263
April	306	304	329	335	258	..	..	206	210	269	264
May	301	291	329	333	256	281	..	215	204	262	258
June	299	292	324	325	244	..	..	230	216	242	234
July	298	288	320	318	241	..	..	215	210	242	226
August	293	284	318	318	234	256	..	215	210	225	208
September	282	266	308	305	225	..	..	208	214	207	190
October	263	245	293	269	225	..	..	197	214	137	173
November	243	230	269	251	214	..	..	196	212	134	163
December	232	209	251	229	208	206	..	192	206	129	154
1921 January	215	192	230	203	194	..	..	181	204	124	150
February	208	189	215	203	189	170	..	171	201	117	143
March	200	184	209	198	182	..	..	166	198	115	142
April	191	182	205	193	182	..	..	161	..	117	148
May	183	179	202	187	179	..	..	158	..	..	139
June	186	178	198	186	176	..	..	..	..	..	141
July	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
August	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Country.	United States of America—contd.		France.	Italy. (a)	Japan.	Germany. (d)	Netherlands. (d)	Norway.	Sweden.	Denmark.
	25	200	22	45	..	56	77	..	93	47
No. of articles.	25	200	22	45	..	56	77	..	93	47
1913 Average	100	100	100	100	(b) (c)	100	(a)	100	(a) (e)	100
1914	..	..	..	102	..	95	100	106	100	116
1915	..	..	..	149	..	97	..	147	159	145
1916	..	..	..	188	..	117	..	229	233	185
1917	..	..	..	262	..	148	..	294	341	244
1918	..	..	..	339	..	196	..	400	345	339
1919	..	..	..	356	..	239	..	306	322	330
1920 March	213	213	230	554	96	321	1,587	294	351	354
April	229	217	254	587	106	300	1,636	300	354	..
May	230	222	267	553	106	248	1,571	301	368	361
June	227	221	266	493	101	255	1,463	302	382	366
July	220	220	244	496	98	240	1,500	304	409	363
August	218	213	216	501	100	235	1,544	296	417	365
September	191	209	204	526	105	231	1,571	293	425	362
October	177	200	184	502	105	226	1,614	290	419	346
November	170	192	166	461	107	221	1,652	267	403	331
December	146	178	148	435	105	206	1,631	240	377	299
1921 January	140	167	141	407	103	201	1,538	218	344	267
February	133	157	136	377	98	195	1,446	203	319	250
March	140	153	139	360	97	191	1,414	193	312	237
April	137	147	129	347	94	190	1,418	182	297	229
May	123	140	126	329	88	191	1,353	184	294	218
June	117	140	120	325	82	192	..	179	294	218
July	120	135	123	332	..	196	..	..	300	211
August	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(a) New index numbers. (b) 1914 = 100. (c) 1920 = 100. (d) Revised figures. (e) Average Dec. 1913 to June 1914 = 100.
 (f) The figures from 1915-19. Note.—The absolute and secondary maxima are indicated in heavier type.

TABLE A
 Principal Trade Disputes in progress in September 1921

Name of concern and locality.	Approximate number of workpeople involved.		Date when dispute		Cause.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.	Began.	Ended.		
<i>Textile Trade.</i>			1921.	1921.		
1. The Jacob Sassoon Mill, Supari Baug Road, Parel, Bombay.	1,500	3,300	22 August	8 September	(1) Loss of wages consequent on the stoppage of the manufacture of heavy cloth and the shortage of beams and wretts. (2) Lower rates of wages compared with those in the neighbouring mills. (3) Inaccurate records kept of the looms not working and consequent loss of allowances. (4) Heavy fines for spoiling cloth owing to leakage of oil from machinery.	Unsuccessful (men resumed work unconditionally).
2. The Century Mill and the Zenith Mill, Parel, Bombay.	1,500	3,600	25 August	12 September	(1) Loss of wages owing to the stoppage of looms and the inferior quality of yarn supplied. (2) Heavy fines for spoiling cloth in the course of manufacture. (3) Alleged ill-treatment by the assistant weaving master.	Successful (an increase of 1/2 pie per lb. of yarn granted from 1st September 1921; work resumed pending an inquiry into men's other grievances).
3. The Bechardass Spinning and Weaving Mills Co., Ltd., Raikad, Ahmedabad.	168 (throstle men).	..	4 September	5 September	(1) Re-instatement of a dismissed mukadam. (2) A 10 hours' working day.	Successful (demands granted).
4. The Alliance Cotton Manufacturing Co., Tardeo, Bombay.	900	..	17 September	19 September	Shaukat Ali's arrest	Unsuccessful (work resumed).
5. The Raja Bahadur Motilal Petty Mill, Tardeo, Bombay.	500	..	17 September	18 September	Do.	Do.
6. The Jivraj Ballas Spinning and Weaving Co., Tardeo, Bombay.	1,500	..	17 September	18 September	Do.	Do.
7. The Kastoorchand Mills Co., Dadar, Bombay.	1,800	..	17 September	19 September	Do.	Do.
8. The Gold Mohur Mill, Dadar, Bombay.	2,500	..	17 September	18 September	Do.	Do.
9. The Ruby Mill, Dadar, Bombay.	1,000	..	17 September	19 September	Do.	Do.
10. The Madhowjee Dharamsy Manufacturing Co., Foras Road, Bombay.	2,300	..	17 September	19 September	Do.	Do.

TABLE A—contd.

Principal Trade Disputes in progress in September 1919—continued.

Name of concern and locality.	Approximate number of workpeople involved.		Date when dispute		Cause.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.	Began.	Ended.		
<i>Textile Trade.</i>						
			1921.	1921.		
11. The Indian Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Ripon Road, Jacob's Circle, Bombay.	1,000	..	18 September ..	19 September ..	Shaukat Ali's arrest	Unsuccessful (resumed).
12. The Bradbury Mills Ltd., Ripon Road, Jacob's Circle, Bombay.	1,900	..	18 September ..	19 September ..	Do.	Do.
13. The Hindustan Spinning and Weaving Mills Co., Ltd., Ripon Road, Bombay.	1,200	..	18 September ..	19 September ..	Do.	Do.
14. The Simplex Mills Co., Ltd., Jacob's Circle, Byculla, Bombay.	3,300	..	18 September ..	19 September ..	Do.	Do.
15. The Khatau Manki Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd., Haines Road, Byculla, Bombay.	1,800	..	18 September ..	19 September ..	Do.	Do.
16. The David and Alliance Silk Mill, Byculla, Bombay.	1,200	..	18 September ..	19 September ..	Do.	Do.
17. The Emperor Edward Spinning and Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Mazgaon, Bombay.	2,700	..	18 September ..	19 September ..	Do.	Do.
18. The Framji Petit Spinning and Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Mazgaon, Bombay.	1,900	..	18 September ..	19 September ..	Do.	Do.
19. The Bombay Dyeing and Manufacturing Co., Ltd. (Textile Mills), Parel, Bombay.	1,700 (weavers).	3,800	23 September ..	....	(1) Bonus for nine months' service of the 100 men dismissed owing to the closing of a department. (2) Loss of wages consequent on the supply of interior yarn. (3) Increase in the rates of three kinds of cloth.	No settlement reported.
<i>Transport Trade.</i>						
			1921.	1921.		
20. The G. I. P. Railway Workshops, Parel, Bombay.	7,300	..	17 August ..	....	The narrowness of the entry through the time-keeper's office.	No settlement reported.
<i>Engineering Trade.</i>						
21. Alcock, Ashdown & Co., Ltd., Mazgaon, Bombay.	700	..	18 September ..	19 September ..	Shaukat Ali's arrest	Unsuccessful (resumed).

INDUSTRIAL WELFARE IN BOMBAY

THE NEED OF SOCIAL INVESTIGATORS

Lady Tata, presiding at a lecture some time ago on "Industrial Welfare," pleaded for a more scientific and sympathetic study into the causes determining the lives of our industrial workers. A good deal more, she believed, must be done if we are to deal adequately with large industrial populations of cities like Bombay and trained social investigators are urgently required who would throw light on causes and effects and thus afford much guidance to employers and to the numerous voluntary agencies working for social reform among the working classes. "We hear too often of late," said Lady Tata, "of the labour problem. We have got to prevent labour from becoming a problem. We have got to treat the

working man and the working woman as human beings. It is the duty of the employers to place them in such surroundings, and in such conditions of living, as will enable them to give of their best to the industry, in the service of their country, and it is the duty of the employees to take advantage of all the good things provided for them and to give of their best in return to their employers. Discipline at best is a poor substitute for good will; and it is good will and contentment alone that will make a good worker. The days of the old industrial system are fast passing away." Lady Tata showed that social welfare work in the Tata Group of Mills in Bombay was being done through the agency of the Social Service League, and in the firms and mills in Nagpur and Ahmedabad through the agency of the Salvation Army.

Wholesale prices index numbers in Karachi by groups from January 1921

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Months.	Cereals.	Pulse s.	Sugar.	Other food.	Oil-seeds.	Textiles jute.	Textiles cotton.	Textiles wool.	Hides.	Metals.	Other raw and manufactured articles.	General average.
1920												
January	171	192	432	99	190	162	284	136	104	411	180	227
February	153	180	408	244	175	150	264	125	101	347	182	213
March	145	159	397	186	147	133	267	114	104	335	184	203
April	146	146	428	132	154	141	268	107	99	352	184	205
May	137	147	559	139	140	131	261	95	75	324	184	191
June	143	152	570	164	139	125	261	93	75	348	184	197
July	139	149	581	284	143	124	259	93	71	337	217	206
August	142	156	603	301	161	123	265	91	75	311	217	205
September	155	159	658	77	173	129	260	86	75	306	217	203
October	157	170	411	77	169	129	253	87	71	313	217	193
November	153	169	367	70	175	125	251	82	71	313	217	190
December	152	166	279	59	156	108	245	71	71	270	219	178
1921												
January	151	161	367	129	151	102	220	64	71	252	219	175
February	149	156	441	127	156	95	219	66	61	291	219	181
March	158	166	430	140	159	97	212	68	61	293	217	184
April	169	173	410	52	156	98	228	73	56	294	215	184
May	168	180	395	61	166	95	220	73	56	277	205	181
June	177	186	285	47	166	95	214	79	52	253	205	175
July	194	203	255	49	176	96	223	70	61	225	205	178
August	218	231	260	52	170	105	220	71	61	204	210	184
September	229	234	233	55	153	123	225	73	52	192	210	183

Note.—The figures of 1921 in heavy type indicate the highest Peak reached above the Peak of 1920 which is also shown in heavy type.



TRADE BOARDS

As an outcome of persistent representations of businessmen the British Minister of Labour, Dr. Macnamara, has appointed a Committee with Lord Cave as Chairman to examine the machinery of the Trade Board Acts and to advise him as to necessary modifications and improvements. These Boards were, of course, originally formed to protect workers in those industries in which those engaged were not strong enough to protect themselves.

Trade Boards comprised an equal number of employers and employees with the addition of independent persons appointed by the

Ministry of Labour. Its object is to fix wages which cannot be altered for four months. In short, while protecting labour from sweating, it protects the human employer from the unfair competitor who might pay less than a fair wage. In times of falling markets the inherent weaknesses of the Boards have been revealed. Of these, the inability to pay the rate fixed, the delay before a rate became operative, and their want of elasticity are perhaps the chief. Dr. Macnamara some weeks ago showed the need for trade boards in unorganized industries and alluded to the absence of strikes in industries covered by the Boards.

Retail food index for foreign countries

Name of country.	United Kingdom	Canada	South Africa	Australia	New Zealand	United States of America	France (b)	Italy	(c) Belgium	Finland	Germany	Holland (d)	Norway	Sweden (e)	Denmark
No. of articles.	20	29	18	46	79	22 till Dec. 1920; 43 from Jan. 1921.	13	9	22	37	..	27	..	51	..
No. of stations.	630	60	9	30	25	45 till Dec. 1920; 51 from Jan. 1921.	Paris.	Rome.	1,028 budgets.	20	..	Amsterdam.	30	44	100
1914 July	100	100	(a)100	100	100	100	100	(f)100	(g)100	100	(h)100	100	a)100	100	100
1915	132	105	107	131	112	98	120	95	..	..	..	114	..	124	128
1916	161	114	116	130	119	109	129	111	..	..	..	117	160	142	146
1917	204	157	128	126	127	143	183	137	..	..	..	146	214	181	166
1918	210	175	134	131	139	164	206	203	..	..	..	176	279	268	187
1919	209	186	139	147	144	186	261	206	..	..	..	204	289	310	212
1920 June	255	228	194	187	163	215	369	315	451	926	842	204	311	294	..
.. July	258	227	197	194	167	215	373	318	454	982	842	210	319	297	253
.. August	262	221	196	194	171	203	373	322	492	1,089	795	212	333	308	..
.. September	267	215	195	197	173	199	407	324	500	1,134	777	217	336	307	..
.. October	270	214	197	192	177	194	420	341	517	1,172	827	219	340	306	..
.. November	291	206	196	186	176	189	426	361	505	1,206	872	213	342	303	..
.. December	282	200	188	184	179	175	424	375	506	1,233	916	202	342	294	..
1921 January	278	195	172	186	178	169	410	367	493	1,174	924	193	334	283	276
.. February	263	190	165	184	175	155	382	376	484	1,107	901	194	308	262	..
.. March	249	178	160	181	169	153	358	386	436	1,137	901	193	300	253	..
.. April	238	171	156	173	169	149	328	432	418	1,107	894	187	300	248	..
.. May	232	165	152	168	167	142	317	421	406	1,119	880	183	292	237	..
.. June	218	150	144	165	166	141	312	409	417	1,147	..	..	290	234	..
.. July	220	148	139	161	164	145	306	..	..	..	..	..	295	232	236
.. August	226	154	..	..	163	152	317	..	..	..	..	..	297	..	..
.. September	225	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(a) Average for the year 1914. (b) Includes fuel and lighting. (c) Qualifical. (d) January to June 1914. (e) April 1914. (f) 1913-14. (g) Figures from 1914 to 1919 are annual averages. Note.—The absolute maxima for the different countries are indicated in heavier type.



QUESTIONS IN THE LEGISLATURE

Legislative Assembly

Mr. N. M. JOSHI asked: "Do Government propose to appoint, at an early date, a Committee to inquire into the conditions of the labourers working (a) on mines, and (b) on Tea, Coffee, indigo plantations in India?"

Mr. A. C. CHATTERJEE replied: "The Labour Bureau in the Department of Industries has devoted particular attention to the conditions of the classes of labourers referred to in the Honourable Member's question, by means both of personal investigations and of inquiries through officers of local Governments. The information so far acquired does not indicate the desirability of the appointment of the suggested committees which would moreover entail very heavy expense. It should also be remembered that conditions among these classes of labourers vary greatly in different provinces and if any committees are required, they ought to be provincial in character."

Khan Bahadur MIR ASAD ALI asked: (a) "Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Labour Bureau of the Central Government has been able to collect information from provincial agencies as regards the real causes of labour strikes all over India, and the present labour situation, particularly with reference to wages, prices and cost of living?"

(b) If so, do Government propose to issue shortly a resolution on the subject with a clear enunciation of the Government policy in the matter?"

Mr. A. C. CHATTERJEE replied: "Government have at present no legal authority to call for information on the subject of labour strikes from owners or occupiers of factories, but the Labour Bureau has commenced collecting information since the beginning of this year. The information collected cannot be guaranteed to be either full or accurate. A summary of the information obtained is published every quarter in the Journal of Indian Industries and Labour, copies of which have been supplied to Members of the Legis-

lature. The Government of Bengal have also published a record of strikes that took place in that presidency during the second half of 1920 in the Supplement to the Calcutta Gazette of the 22nd June 1921, a copy of which would be found in the Library. The Government of India are at present consulting Local Governments regarding an enquiry into the Cost of Living in different provinces. They are also in consultation with Local Governments and employers of labour regarding a census of wages in the larger organised industries in the country. I shall be glad to show the papers to the Honourable Member. It is not proposed at present to issue any Resolution on this subject. I may remind the Honourable Member that the settlement of labour disputes is a provincial subject."

Legislative Council

Mr. KANJI DWARKADAS asked: Will Government be pleased to state when they expect to make available to the public results of the Family Budget Inquiry and the Cotton Wages Census?

The Honourable Mr. M. H. W. HAYWARD replied: It is hoped to publish the results before the end of the cold weather.

TRADE UNIONS

Mr. KANJI DWARKADAS asked: Will Government be pleased to state what steps they are taking to collect up-to-date information about employers' associations and trades unions in the Presidency?

The Honourable Mr. M. H. W. HAYWARD replied: The Labour Office has already obtained information with regard to most of the Employers' Associations and has taken steps to obtain systematically information with regard to Labour Associations.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION LEGISLATION

Mr. KANJI DWARKADAS asked: (a) With reference to the letter addressed by the Government of India to the local Government regarding the question of legislation for the



provision of compensation to workmen for injuries received by them in course of their employment, will Government be pleased to state if it is their intention to invite the opinion of the Trade Union Congress Committee, the Central Labour Federation, and the Central Labour Board in connection with the eighteen points raised by the Government of India for the opinion of the local Government?

(b) Will Government be further pleased to state if it is their intention to consider Dominion Legislation on the subject?

The Honourable Sir IBRAHIM RAHIMTOOLA replied: The opinion of the Trades Union Congress is to be invited, and Dominion Legislation will be considered.

BONUS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

The "Labour Gazette" of the British Ministry of Labour for August summarises the bonus scheme which adjusts wages to the cost of living. It points out that a bonus scheme was instituted for permanent Government servants (excluding those employed by way of manual labour of a kind common to the Government and other employment, whose remuneration is determined by other recognized machinery), when the Ministry of Labour index figure stood at 130. As from 1st March 1920 the bonus was fixed at 130 per cent on the first 35s. per week of ordinary remuneration, 60 per cent on the next £108-15s. per annum, and 45 per cent on remuneration in excess of £200. The total is increased or decreased by 1/26th of this bonus for every five full points variation in the average index figure above or below 130, as ascertained every six months by taking the mean of the monthly index numbers for the preceding six months (during the first year of the scheme similar revisions took place every four months). It has subsequently been arranged that as from 1st September 1921, the bonus payable on the higher salaries shall be subject to a special reduction of 10 per cent of bonus in the case of basic salaries from £501 to £699, 15 per cent in the case of salaries from £700 to £799, 20 per cent from £800 to £899, and so on, the reduction increasing by 5 per cent for each additional £100.

CURRENT NOTES FROM ABROAD

(These notes are drawn from numerous official and in some cases non-official sources. Special indebtedness is acknowledged to both the International Labour Office, Geneva, and to the Ministry of Labour, London. Care is taken to examine and check as far as possible all statements, especially those from newspaper cuttings.)

Belgium.—On 28th July 1921, the Chamber of Representatives adopted a Bill modifying the Workmen's Compensation Acts of 24th December 1903 and 27th August 1919. Under the provisions of this Bill, the Act of 24th December 1903, which was supplemented by the Act of 27th August 1919, is amended as follows:—

Section 1, paragraph 2—

Apprentices, whether receiving wages or not, and non-manual workers who by reason of their direct or indirect participation in the work are subject to the same risks as manual workers and whose annual salary as fixed in their contract does not exceed 7,300 francs, shall be deemed to be manual workers.

Section 8, paragraph 4—

When the annual wage exceeds 7,300 francs, the wage shall be taken into consideration only up to that amount.

Section 8, paragraph 5—

In regard to apprentices under 16 years of age, the basic wage shall never be less than the wage of the other lowest paid workers of the same grade, and shall in no case be estimated at less than 1,500 francs a year.

Brazil.—The President of the Republic of Brazil has ratified the Bill passed by the National Congress for the institution of a National Labour Department.

Section V of this Act provides that the National Labour Department shall send to the International Labour Office an annual report concerning measures taken for the execution of international labour conventions.

Further, the draft regulations for the National Labour Department provide that a representative shall be sent to the International Labour Office (Section VII, Article 92).



France.—The Ministry of Labour has published the Report of the Central Committee of Inquiry concerning the cost of living which was instituted by a Decree of 19th February 1920 for the purpose of centralizing the movement of prices, enlightening public opinion and supplying the public periodically with information thereon.

The findings of the Committee are as follows:—

(1) The total necessary expenditure on food has increased approximately in the proportion of 4.5 to 1 in the period of 1914-1920.

(2) The proportion is less for all household expenses taken together, including rent, clothing and other expenses; this is partly due to the fact that because of the moratorium expenditure on rent is relatively small.

The Committee found that the general cost of living index number has increased on an average in the ratio of 3.8 to 1.

Germany.—The Stuttgart branch of the Society for Social Reform dealt, at one of its recent meetings, with the question of increasing the allowances for women before and after childbirth, and of prohibiting work during that period. All the representatives of the interested branches agreed as to the necessity for increasing allowances because of the high cost of living. The weekly allowance should be increased from mk. 1.50 to 4 mk., the nursing allowance from 60 pf. to 2 mk., the allowances for confinement expenses from 50 to 100 mk., the allowance for midwife's and doctor's services from 25 to 50 mk. A corresponding increase should be made in the scale of contributions payable for maternity benefit.

The next subject under discussion was the Maternity Convention of Washington. Since a German law already exists which prescribes a legal rest of two weeks before and six weeks after childbirth, the extension required by the International Labour Conference was not favoured. The reason given was that the imposition of obligatory rest before child-

birth was considered as interfering with personal liberty, and further, that from the medical point of view most women did not need so long a rest before childbirth.

South Africa.—The only Act at present in force dealing with industrial disputes is the Transvaal Disputes Act. Further labour legislation is foreshadowed, but has not yet reached the stage of publication.

Wages of Indians.—The Census and Statistics Office of the Union is now trying to collect particulars in regard to the wages paid to others than Europeans. There is a large difference between the wage rates prevailing on Natal Estates and the wage rates which Indians can command in the ordinary labour market. According to the Director, Mr. C. W. Cousins, there are not very many of the latter class as "the majority of our Indians are either Madras born agricultural labourers or Bombay merchants on the ascending or descending scales of affluence. The Indian Census is being taken out separately, and should give some very interesting figures by the time we are able to tabulate the results.

The following data are the preliminary figures of the Asiatic population in the four provinces at this year's Census. The figures include a small number of Syrians and Chinamen, but otherwise represent the British Indian population of the Union.

	Asiatic population of the Union— Census, 1921.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.
Cape Colony ..	5,594	2,132	7,726
Natal ..	79,345	61,051	140,396
Transvaal ..	10,294	4,573	14,867
Orange Free State ..	142	78	220
Total ..	95,375	7,834	163,209

The small number in the Orange Free State and the comparatively large numbers of both males and females in Natal are of interest.



The United States.—The "Survey" says:—The traditional practice in New York State to secure compliance with the labour laws consisted until recently in repeated visits of inspectors, a warning letter from counsel threatening prosecution unless the violations ceased within a specified time, further inspection, and, in the event of non-compliance, reference of the case to counsel for prosecution. Every year about 3,000 such cases were taken before the police magistrate. Frequently the employer would plead that he had complied with the order after the summons had been served upon him. The case was then adjourned, another inspection made, and if it was found that the order had been attended to, a motion would be made to dismiss the prosecution, or, more usually, sentence would be suspended by the Court. Such procedure involved a waste of time on the part of the inspectors of the department, its counsel, the courts, and the employers. In the meantime, the defective conditions remained unremedied, to the detriment of the workers in the industrial establishments affected.

About six months ago, New York State Industrial Commission adopted a new procedure to secure enforcement of the labour law in respect of minor violations, such as sanitary and cleaning orders, the shading of lights, the cash payment of wages, hand-rails, first-aid kits, water-closet repairs and cleanliness, dressing rooms, provision of couches in rest-rooms, violation of the provisions of the one-day-rest-in-seven law and the illegal employment of children in mercantile establishments after school hours or on Sundays.

Where on the first re-inspection an order issued by the department was found to be uncomplied with, the matter was immediately sent to counsel. Instead of a warning letter followed by a prosecution in the courts, the employer was promptly served with a departmental summons, requiring him to appear before the Commission at a certain specified time, and show cause why he should not be prosecuted for disregarding the orders issued. Of 1,348 cases in which these departmental summonses have thus far been issued, it was found necessary to institute prosecutions in only 31, or less than 3 per cent.

Labour Disputes in Japan.—Labour disputes in Japan were comparatively few in number before the war, but after its commencement they increased suddenly. For the seven years from 1907 to 1913 there were on an average 30 strikes per year, affecting about 5,174 workers, while from 1914 to 1919 strikes averaged yearly 207 affecting 29,507 workers per year. At the time of the armistice the situation improved slightly, but a record figure for strikes was reached in 1919 when there were 497 involving 63,137 workers. This state of affairs continued until the end of March 1920. In the first three months of that year there were 122 strikes affecting 13,896 workers; but with the beginning of trade depression dating from April the number of strikes decreased considerably, and from April to the end of December there were only 160 strikes affecting 22,565 workers, bringing the totals for 1920 up to 282 strikes with 36,371 workers.

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