



## Books

## WAGES

*Workmen's Standard of Living in Philadelphia.*—A Report by the Bureau of Municipal Research, Philadelphia (Macmillan & Co., New York.)

Supplements to the above.—The Cost of Workingmen's Standard of Living in Philadelphia, at November 1919 Prices (No. 393), August 1920 Prices (No. 433) and at March 1921 Prices—No. 465. (Citizens Business Bureau of Municipal Research.)

*Financing the Wage-earner's Family.*—A Survey of the facts bearing on income and expenditures in the families of American wage-earners by Scott Nearing, Ph.D. (B. W. Huebsch, New York.)

*Wages and Family Budgets in the Chicago Stock Yards District*—with wage statistics from other industries employing unskilled labour by J. C. Kennedy and others (The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois.)

*Standards of Living.*—A compilation of Budgetary Studies—Bulletin, No. 7 (Revised Edition) Bureau of Applied Economics, Washington.

*Work and Wages.*—Part I—Foreign Competition by S. J. Chapman—in continuation of Lord Brassey's *Work and Wages and Foreign Work and English Wages*—(Longman's Green & Co.)

*Problems of Poverty.*—An Inquiry into the industrial conditions of the poor by J. A. Hobson (Methuen & Co., London.)

*British Continental Labour Policy.*—The political labour movement and labour legislation in Great Britain, France and the Scandinavian Countries 1900—1922 by B. G. de Montgomery (Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., Ltd., London.)

*Labour Policy—False and True.*—A study in Economic History and Industrial Economics by Sir Lynden Macassey (Thornton Butterworth, Ltd., London.)

*Labour and Administration.*—by John R. Commons (Macmillan & Co., New York.) On page 115 the author writes :

"But I found one city, Manchester, where, in the municipal tramways department, the management has changed the policy of class struggle. Instead of undermining and displacing the union, it has recognised the union of tramway employees. It has made the union a branch of the administration. It takes up with the officers all questions of wages, hours and discipline. These are settled by trade agreement and arbitration. The general manager tells me of the great advantage gained. Formerly a town councillor would approach the manager, asking for the appointment of a certain man, or an advance in wages for another or less severe discipline for another,—for it is not true that city government in England is free from political or personal favoritism. The manager could not know whether the alderman's request had merit in it or not. But, now, when a claim comes from the union, he knows that it is something real, for it comes from all the men. He takes it up with the union and settles it. The alderman has lost his opportunity."

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## THE MONTH IN BRIEF

### The Year 1922

IN this issue a sharp, definite, easily intelligible statement of facts on the cost of living, the trend of wholesale prices and similar statistics, in this Presidency, during the year just ended, is set out in order to lead the reader within speaking distance of the truth. When this is duly read, marked and digested, the main conclusion is that, after the darkness and depression of 1921, there appeared in 1922, slowly and almost imperceptibly, the dawn. The main trend of business is now upward; the slump, with one or two exceptions, has been weathered; firms may have lost money but they have not lost their business. There are difficulties ahead but masses of evidence establish the fact that trade is definitely beginning to revive.

The coloured map printed in this issue shows more than anything else the copious and widespread monsoon of 1922, which is the jugular vein of Indian prosperity. The period, May to November, has been taken because remarkably late rains fell in the Bombay Deccan and their beneficial effect, except in Sholapur where the rainfall was below normal, is marked. The map has been prepared by the Director General of Observatories to bring out this fact. The red portions in Sind are not of importance because Sind depends on the Indus and not on the rainfall.

His Excellency the Governor of Bombay, in an address to the Larkana Durbar, recently said :—

"The winter of 1921 was marked by exceptionally good *rabi* crops and I am glad to note that the *kharif* season of 1922 which has just terminated was characterised by an almost unprecedentedly prolonged and steady inundation. The agricultural conditions, I am told, can seldom have been more favourable to many of you and as I share to a great extent your

anxieties with you I am very happy to hear that the prospects for the coming *rabi* season are so unusually favourable."

At the recent meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon, the general economic condition of India at this moment was summed up by the Viceroy in the following words :—

"It is more hopeful. Crops are good. Unlike last year; the balance of trade is now in India's favour. The export trade is better, and offers promise. Tea has had a remarkable revival. The outlook for the jute mills is more promising. While these are satisfactory features, we must remember that in the world generally, owing to economic unsettlement, trade remains dull and cautious, and the future is uncertain. Industries in India are not feeling any real stimulus to activity. There has been a recent fall in the prices which Indian cotton mills can get for their goods. Other features of importance are a slow but steady decline in the price of food-grains and in the cost of living. The fall in the latter during the last year in Bombay is estimated to amount to 7\* per cent."

When the Associated Chambers next meet—the venue will for the first time be Bombay under the presidency of Mr. F. Nelson, M.L.C., Chairman of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce,—the Viceroy's forecast may have been fulfilled. It is true that short time has been mooted both in Ahmedabad and in Bombay, but it has not taken place. Things brightened up at the end of December, and the matter has been postponed in view of bigger business. The bonus to mill hands was, as described on page 17, paid on the 27th instant. According to the latest reports in Calcutta, markets are bare of manufactured goods and the stocks held by the jute mills, which are working four days a week, are almost the

\* The cost of living index for December is 17 per cent. below the high-water mark (October 1920).



lowest on record. The very youngest of the jute mills has paid a handsome dividend for the past half year and the outlook is at least interesting. Improved prices for tea and gunnies towards the end of December and the strength of exports, especially of cotton to Japan, were reflected in the rate of exchange which continues to rule firm, notwithstanding the resumption, after an interval of about three years, of the sale of council drafts.

#### Employment

During the month ended January 15th the supply of labour in the Presidency was generally plentiful. The attendance of labour, in representative mills in Bombay, again showed a slight improvement, the average absenteeism being 8.18 per cent., as compared with 8.35 per cent. in the preceding month, and 9.29 per cent. two months ago. The anticipated bonus is largely responsible for the improved attendance. In Ahmedabad the supply of skilled labour in cotton mills was equal to the demand, while that of unskilled labour continued to be in excess. Average absenteeism, as reported by the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association, was the same as that for the previous month. This percentage absenteeism is stated to be considerably less than that of the corresponding month of 1921. The supply of labour in Sholapur was also adequate and absenteeism remained at the level of the previous month, viz., 12 per cent.

In the engineering industry in Bombay, the supply of labour was adequate except for boiler-makers, blacksmiths, copper-smiths and moulders. A further slight increase in absenteeism was recorded in the month under review, the average absenteeism in two representative workshops being 20.5 per cent. as compared with 19.34 in the preceding month and 17.74 two months ago. On the Marine Lines and Colaba Reclamation Schemes of the Development Directorate, the average absenteeism fell by nearly 3 per cent. to 8.75 per cent. as compared with last month, but it was 3 per cent. above the figure for the month of October 1922. On the construction of *chawls* (tenements) at Naigaum, De Lisle Road and Worli, absenteeism remained unchanged, the averages being 3 per cent. at Naigaum and De Lisle Road and 10 per cent. at Worli.

At one Locomotive workshop at Parel a system of short time was introduced on December 1st, 1922. The shops now close on Fridays at 5.30 p.m. and do not reopen until 8 a.m. on Mondays. This results in a reduction to daily paid employees of 5½ hours per week and 22 hours per month containing four Saturdays. Monthly paid employees are not affected by this scheme. The engagement of new hands has also been suspended in consequence of which the total number of hands employed is decreasing. It is estimated that by the end of January there will be at least 800 vacancies in the various shops which will not, for the present, be filled. Since the introduction of short time, absenteeism in this concern has decreased, the average for the first 15 days of the present month being 14 per cent. as compared with 20.51 per cent. for December.

The supply of dock labour employed under the Bombay Port Trust for landing, removing, storing and loading cargo, was equal to the demand. Absenteeism among monthly paid labour was 19.3 per cent. during December, as compared with 25 per cent. in November, and 22.08 per cent. in October. The decrease in absenteeism was stated to be due to the return of men from leave. The absenteeism during December, however, was 3.4 per cent. above the figure of the corresponding month of 1921. A marked decrease in absenteeism was reported among the labour employed by the Chief Engineer, Bombay Port Trust, absenteeism being 9.43 per cent. during December as compared with 14.89 per cent. in the previous month. In Karachi, the supply of skilled labour, employed by the Chief Engineer, Karachi Port Trust, was plentiful, while that of unskilled labour continued to be greater than the demand. The average absenteeism remained at the level of the previous month, viz., 5 per cent.

#### The Cost of Living

In December 1922 the cost of living, as described elsewhere in the *Labour Gazette*, was nearly one point above the level of the preceding month. The average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the cost of living index for the City and Island of Bombay (100 represents the



level of July 1914) was 161 for all articles and 157 for food articles only. There is a fall of 10 per cent. as compared with this time last year, and a fall of 17 per cent. below the high-water mark (October 1920). A review of the cost of living in the year 1922 will be found on page 12.

#### The Wholesale Index Number

In December 1922 wholesale prices fell on an average by nearly 2 per cent. as compared with the level of the previous month. That level was the lowest since the beginning of 1918. The fall is mainly due to a further fall in the price of food-grains during December—a fall that has been continuous since July 1922.

	Increase per cent. over July 1914.			
	September 1922.	October 1922.	November 1922.	December 1922.
Foods	85	78	76	70
Non-foods	79	72	77	74
All articles	81	74	76	73

In comparison with the corresponding month of last year, prices have fallen by 9 per cent., the fall from the high-water mark (January 1920) being about 25 per cent. The price of wheat in Bombay on the 15th January was Rs. 5-4-8 per Indian maund as against Rs. 4-14-9 on the 31st December. The prices for Rangoon rice in the Bombay market on these dates were Rs. 5-13-4 and Rs. 5-9-6. The movement of wholesale prices in 1922 will be found on page 14.

There has been a fall in the value of gold in 1922, a fall of over 38 per cent. as compared with its pre-war value in Bombay. The price of gold has not advanced equally with the general level of prices. Had it done so the price would have been  $\frac{Rs. 24-10-0 \times 173}{100}$ , (173 being the index number of wholesale prices in Bombay on the 31st of December 1922 and Rs. 24-10-0 the price of gold in July 1914), viz., Rs. 42-9-7, instead of which the market rate on the 13th of January was Rs. 26-4-0, i.e., a fall of nearly 38.4 per cent. below its pre-war value. This may be compared with the figure of 31 per cent. obtained from Bradstreet's American index number and 29 per cent. from the *Statist's* index number. The American index number may be taken as measuring the

fall in the value of gold, since the United States possesses a gold currency. The price of gold and the movement in the general level of prices have been calculated for Bombay and London, because the real value of gold is very nearly the same all over the world. The result does not vary greatly from that arrived at by calculation from the American and English index numbers. It may be noted here that of £45 millions of gold exported from the United Kingdom in 1922, India was the second largest importer with nearly £14 millions, the United States receiving £26 millions.

#### Industrial Disputes

Charts Nos. 9 and 10 on industrial disputes show at a glance the considerable decrease in the number of workpeople affected by strikes during December 1922, as compared with the previous month. The number of disputes, involving stoppages of work, as beginning in December was 8. Two disputes, which began in October 1922, were still in progress. The number of disputes settled in December was 9. During December there were 10 disputes involving 5,016 workpeople, as compared with 15,206 in the previous month and 6,943 in December 1921. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during December was nearly 22,806 working days, as compared with 60,287 days in November 1922 and 26,321 days in December 1921. A general review of strikes during December will be found on page 20 of this issue. A special article deals with industrial disputes during 1922 and appears on page 21 of this issue.

#### Labour Legislation, etc.

The Viceroy, in his speech at the Associated Chambers of Commerce, referred to the forthcoming legislation on Workmen's Compensation in the following terms:—

"Industries bring their own problems. Patience and continued effort and the lessons of experience can alone bring them to success. If there is to be expansion, there must also be increased attention to the conditions under which labour lives and has to work. The favourable reception which the principles underlying the Workmen's Compensation Act have met, shows recognition of the need for legislation to keep pace with changing conditions."

The report of the Joint Committee of both Houses of the Central Legislature has been published.



The Indian Mines Bill, referred to in last month's issue, will come up for consideration during the present session of the Central Legislature. The Report of the Joint Committee was presented on the 16th of January 1923 by the Member in charge. The Committee dealt with the definitions of "mine" and "child", and the question of the employment and presence of women and children in mines. The Bill has been amended by the Committee in certain respects. A further reference to this will be given in the February issue of the *Labour Gazette*.

A deputation from Mauritius consisting of the Hon. A. Walter, Acting Protector of Immigrants, and five non-official delegates, two of whom are Indians, has arrived in India with a view to discussing with the Government of India and the Standing Committee of the Central Legislature on Emigration (1) the introduction of labour from India for Government improvement works, e.g., harbour, irrigation and sanitation schemes—the number required is at least 2,000 males with an adequate proportion of females; (2) the reopening of immigration on a free labour basis to Mauritius for sugarcane plantations, which was closed in 1912. The labour law in Mauritius has been remodelled to take effect from 1st April 1923 abolishing indenture, all penal clauses, and making provision for repatriation of any labourers who are unable or unwilling to find suitable employment in the island. Two-thirds of the population consist of Indians who hold as small farmers one-half of the cane-growing land. The population of the island is 376,000, i.e., less than one-third of the population of the City and Island of Bombay, of which 265,000 are Indians. The non-official members of the deputation include the Hon. E. Sauzier, K.C., O.B.E., the Hon. L. Rouillard, K.C., and three planters, two of whom are Indians, Messrs. W. P. Ebbels, Lachman Rama, and Raj Kumar Gujadhur.

#### Cotton Mill Production

The main features of the two following tables are an increase in yarn production and a considerable decrease in the production of woven goods in the cotton mills in this Presidency during the eight months ended November 1922 as compared with the corre-

sponding period of the previous year. There was, however, an appreciable increase in the production of both yarn and woven goods in November 1922.

#### (1) Month of November

	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced		
	November			November		
	1920	1921	1922	1920	1921	1922
Bombay Island ..	28	23	31	18	13	19
Ahmedabad ..	6	7	7	7	6	7
Other centres ..	5	6	5	4	3	3
<b>Total, Presidency ..</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>

#### (2) Eight months ended November

	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced		
	Eight months ended November			Eight months ended November		
	1920	1921	1922	1920	1921	1922
Bombay Island ..	225	229	232	130	142	135
Ahmedabad ..	48	57	60	50	56	53
Other centres ..	34	40	40	21	23	21
<b>Total, Presidency ..</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>209</b>

The prices of local made as well as imported piece-goods and yarn had a downward movement in December 1922. The Bombay Millowners' Association quotations in January, July and December 1922 show a fall in longcloth of 4½ annas per pound in December as compared with January, in 'T' cloths 3¾ annas per pound and in chudders 3¼ annas per pound. The figures are as follows:—

	Net rate per lb. in annas.		
	January 1922	July 1922	December 1922
	Longcloth ..	26	27½
T. Cloths ..	24	24	20¼
Chudders ..	24	25	20¼



### The Outlook

The significantly favourable feature in the outlook at the moment is the rise of the Dollar value of Sterling to \$4.65. This is within 5 per cent. of the old gold parity of the pound sterling. The wonderful recovery since February 1920 when the rate fell to \$3.20c makes the paper pound now worth 19s. This rise has an influence which extends far beyond Great Britain because London is a world monetary centre and the sterling bill is still the medium of international exchange. A distinguished American explains the rise as being due to the fact that England has not only raised a larger proportion of war costs out of revenue than any other belligerent, but she was the first country to balance her Budget, to redeem debt, and to reduce taxation. Other forces, however, have also been at work. Of these the most noticeable is the advance in American commodity prices, i.e., the reduction in the purchasing power of gold. Another reason is that a substantial proportion of the proceeds of financial operations has been remitted, directly or indirectly, to Europe. According to the American Trade Commissioner in India foreign loans were floated in the United States, during the month of December, to the amount of fourteen million dollars. The American Trade Commissioner also reports that there has been a continued improvement in business and industry in America, although this improvement has been uneven. Employment conditions are better than they have been for several months and wages are generally high.

The Canadian Dollar like the Swiss franc and the Dutch florin has risen during the year to pre-war parity with the American Dollar. A year ago, moreover, there was only one country with a gold standard currency in Europe—Switzerland. To-day there are three, Switzerland, Holland and Sweden. During the year Czechoslovakia has doubled the value of its currency and has set a notable example to South-eastern Europe of not shirking a "deflation crisis" or to use the German expression "recovery crisis".

An examination of the trade returns of India for the 11 months, January to November 1922 (the December returns not yet being

available) shows very interesting results as compared with the corresponding period of 1921. If the world's markets are grouped into 3 main classes, the British Empire, Distressed Europe (Germany, France, Russia, Belgium, Italy, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey) and Other Foreign Countries, the main features of our trade in 1922 as compared with 1921 are clearly seen from the following tables.

#### EXPORTS

##### Eleven months ended November

	1921.		1922.		Increase(+) or decrease (-) per cent. in 1922 as against 1921 (column 4 over column 2).
	Rupees (lakhs).	Percentage to total.	Rupees (lakhs).	Percentage to total.	
United Kingdom ..	38.39	20	51.39	20	+ 34
Rest of British Empire ..	40.28	21	49.32	20	+ 22
<b>Total, British Empire.</b>	<b>78.67</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1,00.71</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>+ 28</b>
Distressed Europe ..	32.25	17	50.09	20	+ 55
Other foreign countries ..	81.53	42	1,00.18	40	+ 23
<b>Total, all countries.</b>	<b>1,92.45</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,50.98</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>+ 30</b>

#### IMPORTS

##### Eleven months ended November

	1921.		1922.		Increase(+) or decrease (-) per cent. in 1922 as against 1921 (column 4 over column 2).
	Rupees (lakhs).	Percentage to total.	Rupees (lakhs).	Percentage to total.	
United Kingdom ..	1.47,63	58	1,33,61	60	- 9
Rest of British Empire ..	18,13	7	19,49	9	+ 7
<b>Total, British Empire.</b>	<b>1,65,76</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>1,53,10</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>- 8</b>
Distressed Europe ..	16,28	6	20,35	9	+ 25
Other foreign countries ..	73,04	29	49,60	22	- 32
<b>Total, all countries.</b>	<b>2,55,08</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,23,05</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>- 13</b>

The general conclusion to be drawn from these figures is the importance of our export trade with distressed Europe. It is true that in 1922 it was but half of that with the British Empire; nevertheless it shows the largest increase. Our total export trade has increased by 30 per cent. and the greatest increase is in the case of exports to distressed Europe. The percentage shares of the main groups are seen in the table above. The most interesting feature in imports is that while the import trade declined there was a large increase in the imports from distressed Europe, the increase being especially marked

in the case of Germany, an increase of 74 per cent., and 14 per cent. in the case of Belgium.

A return to normal trade conditions, unquestionably, is limited by the fact that international trade is not yet established and this will take place with stability in the foreign exchanges and the stoppage of inflation in Europe.

**The Balance of Trade**

From April to December 1922 the visible balance of trade including securities in favour of India amounted to Rs. 204 crores.\* The corresponding figure for 1921 was an adverse balance of Rs. 25.19 crores.

**India**

	In lakhs of rupees					
	July 1922	August 1922	September 1922	October 1922	November 1922	December 1922
Exports (private merchandise)	24.46	25.21	21.55	21.63	28.33	27.86
Imports do.	18.15	21.29	18.23	22.91	20.54	19.26
Balance of Trade in merchandise	+ 6.25	+ 3.92	+ 3.32	- 1.28	+ 7.79	+ 8.60
Balance of transactions in securities (private)	- 5.52	- 1.56	- 3.51	- 3.52	- 2.97	- 3.40
Visible balance of trade (including securities)	+ 0.73	+ 2.36	- 0.19	- 4.80	+ 4.82	+ 5.20

\* 1 Crore = 10 millions or 100 lakhs.  
† Plus (+) indicates favourable and minus (-) adverse balance.

**Bombay**

	July 1922	August 1922	September 1922	October 1922	November 1922	December 1922
Exports (private merchandise)	8.50	7.66	4.80	4.38	7.24	8.21
Imports do.	5.86	7.85	7.25	8.17	8.23	7.28
Balance of Trade in merchandise	+ 2.64	- 0.19	- 2.45	- 3.79	- 1.00	+ 0.93
Imports of treasure	5.63	2.22	4.20	3.47	2.82	3.15
Exports of treasure	2.2	42	53	31	4	5
Balance of transactions in treasure	- 3.43	- 1.80	- 3.67	- 3.16	- 2.78	- 3.10

**Karachi**

	July 1922	August 1922	September 1922	October 1922	November 1922	December 1922
Exports (private merchandise)	1.76	1.33	1.31	56	2.44	2.66
Imports do.	1.49	1.83	1.46	7.25	1.65	2.18
Balance of Trade in merchandise	+ 0.27	- 0.50	- 0.15	- 7.69	+ 0.79	+ 0.48
Imports of treasure	..	3	2	..	4	2
Exports of treasure	6	21	5	1	..	..
Balance of transactions in treasure	+ 6	+ 18	+ 3	+ 1	- 4	- 2

Note—Plus (+) signifies net export and minus (-) signifies net import.

**Business Conditions**

The rates for telegraphic transfers in Bombay on London in the first week of the last twelve months are as follows:—

	a. d.		a. d.
February 1922	1 3 5/8	August 1922	1 3 1/2
March ..	1 3 7/32	September ..	1 3 1/2
April ..	1 3 5/32	October ..	1 3 1/2
May ..	1 3 5/32	November ..	1 3 5/8
June ..	1 3 11/16	December ..	1 3 5/16
July ..	1 3 5/8	January 1923	1 4 1/16

The total Calcutta bank clearings for the year were 3 per cent. above the 1921 figure. The clearings for Bombay were 4 per cent. below that of the previous year (1921). The figures for 1922 (for Calcutta, Bombay, Karachi and Rangoon) are 51 per cent. lower than those of 1921 and 36.2 per cent. lower than those of the record year, 1920.

**Bank clearings during the pre-war year 1913 and the years 1918-1922.**

(In Crores of rupees)

Year	Calcutta	Bombay	Karachi	Rangoon	Total
1913 (pre-war year)	3.33	2.19	12	62	67
1918 ..	7.44	5.34	24	99	131
1919 ..	5.52	7.58	22	88	121
1920 ..	15.34	13.94	32	1.08	30.68
1921 ..	9.17	8.97	36	1.19	19.68
1922 ..	9.44	3.64	32	1.18	19.58

The average market quotations of 65 cotton mill companies for which quotations are available are as follows:—

Month	1922	Rs.	Month	1922	Rs.
January	1,650	July	1,688		
February	1,593	August	1,578		
March	1,604	September	1,517		
April	1,613	October	1,433		
May	1,609	November	1,266		
June	1,609	December	1,222		

It will be noticed that there has been a fall in average market quotations from January to December 1922 of Rs. 428 or 26 per cent. The average amount paid up was Rs. 371 per share throughout the period.

**THE COST OF LIVING INDEX FOR DECEMBER 1922**

**A rise of nearly one point**

All articles .. 61 per cent.

Food only .. 57 per cent.

In December 1922 the average level of retail prices for all the commodities taken into account in the statistics of a cost of living index for the working classes in Bombay, was nearly one point above the level of the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the index was about 160 in November and 161 in December. The general index is 17 per cent. below the high-water mark reached in October 1920 and 7 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1921.

In comparison with the previous month, there was a slight rise in the retail prices of food articles owing not to a rise in food-grains, but to a seasonal rise in potatoes and onions. With the exception of turdal which rose by 2 points, and gram which remained stationary, all food-grains declined, hajri falling by no less than 34 points, jowari by 3 points, and wheat and rice each by 2 points. There was no change in the price of sugar (raw and refined), salt, beef, mutton, milk, ghee and coconut oil. There was a noticeable rise of about 34 per cent. in the prices of both potatoes and onions.

**All items : Average Percentage increase over July 1914**

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
January	34	82	83	69	73
February	34	76	81	62	65
March	36	72	77	60	65
April	44	67	72	60	62
May	47	68	73	67	63
June	48	74	81	73	63
July	49	86	90	77	65
August	53	79	91	80	64
September	65	72	92	85	65
October	75	74	93	83	62
November	75	73	86	82	60
December	83	74	81	79	61
Yearly average	54	75	83	73	64

The twelve-monthly average for 1922 is, it will be seen, less than that of the three preceding years.

H 985-3

The following table shows the price levels of articles of food in November and December 1922 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 10.

Articles	July 1914	November 1922	December 1922	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in December over or below November 1922
Rice	100	132	130	- 2
Wheat	100	144	142	- 2
Jowari	100	109	106	- 3
Hajri	100	163	129	- 34
Gram	100	166	166	..
Turdal	100	139	141	+ 2
Sugar (raw)	100	205	205	..
Sugar (refined)	100	231	231	..
Tea	100	129	131	+ 2
Salt	100	152	152	..
Beef	100	198	198	..
Mutton	100	231	231	..
Milk	100	191	191	..
Ghee	100	170	170	..
Potatoes	100	173	232	+ 59
Onions	100	250	335	+ 85
Coconut oil	100	112	112	..
All food articles (weighted average)	100	155	157	+ 2

NOTE.—A full explanation of the scope and method of compilation of the index number was published in the Labour Gazette for September 1921.

A

Articles.	Unit of quantity.	Annual consumption (Mass Units.) (In crores.)	Price.			Total Expenditure.		
			July 1914.	November 1922.	December 1922.	July 1914.	November 1922.	December 1922.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cereals—	Masud	70	5.59	7.406	7.292	391.30	518.42	510.44
Rice	..	21	5.59	8.063	7.922	117.39	169.32	166.36
Wheat	..	11	4.35	4.734	4.604	47.85	52.07	50.64
Jowari	..	6	4.31	7.016	5.568	25.86	42.09	33.41
Bajri	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total and Average—Cereals ..	—	—	100	134	131	582.40	781.90	760.85
Pulses—	Masud	10	4.30	7.240	7.240	43.00	72.40	72.40
Gram	..	3	5.84	8.099	8.224	17.52	24.30	24.67
Turdal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total and Average—Pulses ..	—	—	100	160	160	60.52	96.70	97.07
Other food articles—	Masud	7	8.56	17.583	17.583	59.92	123.08	123.08
Sugar (raw)	..	2	7.62	17.583	17.583	15.24	35.17	35.17
Sugar (refined)	..	1	40.00	51.615	52.458	1.00	1.29	1.31
Tea	..	40	2.13	3.240	3.240	10.65	16.20	16.20
Salt	..	5	0.32	0.641	0.641	8.96	17.95	17.95
Beef	..	28	0.42	0.964	0.964	13.86	31.81	31.81
Mutton	..	33	9.20	17.583	17.583	128.80	246.16	246.16
Milk	..	14	50.79	66.484	66.484	76.18	129.73	129.73
Ghee	..	11	4.48	7.750	10.391	49.28	85.25	114.30
Potatoes	..	11	1.55	3.875	5.193	4.65	11.63	15.58
Onions	..	3	25.40	28.568	28.568	12.70	14.28	14.28
Coconut Oil	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total and Average—Other food articles ..	—	—	100	187	196	381.24	712.55	745.57
Total and Average—All food articles ..	—	—	100	155	157	1,024.16	1,591.15	1,603.49
Fuel and lighting—	Case	5	4.50	7.656	7.656	21.85	38.28	38.28
Kerosene oil	..	48	0.79	1.281	1.281	37.92	61.49	61.49
Firewood	..	1	0.54	0.937	0.937	0.54	0.94	0.97
Coal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total and Average—Fuel and lighting ..	—	—	100	167	167	60.31	100.71	100.74
Clothing—	Lb.	27	0.59	1.375	1.313	15.93	37.13	35.45
Chadders	..	25	0.64	1.464	1.452	16.00	36.60	35.80
Shirtings	..	36	0.58	1.313	1.281	20.88	47.27	46.12
T. Cloth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total and Average—Clothing ..	—	—	100	229	222	52.81	121.00	117.37
House rent	Per month	10	11.50	18.7	18.7	113.00	187.00	187.00
Grand Total and General Average ..	—	—	100	160	161	1,250.28	1,999.86	2,008.60

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 December 1922 at December price levels was Rs. 2,008.60, i.e., an increase of 61 per cent. (Rs. 1,250.28 = 100; Rs. 2,008.60 = 161).

## BOMBAY COST OF LIVING INDEX

B

Alternative method of presentation.

Articles.	Approximate percentage weight assigned to each article based on proportion to aggregate expenditure in July 1914.	Index Number.		Weight × Index Number.		
		November 1922	December 1922.	November 1922.	December 1922.	
		..	..	..	..	
Cereals—	..	31.4	132	130	4,144.8	4,082.0
Rice	..	9.4	144	142	1,353.6	1,334.8
Wheat	..	3.8	109	106	414.2	402.8
Jowari	..	2.1	163	129	342.3	270.9
Bajri	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total and Average Index No. ..	46.7	134	130	6,254.9	6,090.5	
Pulses—	..	3.1	168	168	520.8	520.8
Gram	..	1.3	139	141	180.7	183.3
Turdal	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total and Average Index No. ..	4.4	159	160	701.5	704.1	
Other food articles—	..	4.8	205	205	984.0	984.0
Sugar (raw)	..	1.2	231	231	277.2	277.2
Sugar (refined)	..	0.1	129	131	12.9	13.1
Tea	..	0.9	152	152	136.8	136.8
Salt	..	0.7	198	198	138.6	138.6
Beef	..	1.1	231	231	254.1	254.1
Mutton	..	10.3	191	191	1,967.3	1,967.3
Milk	..	6.1	170	170	1,037.0	1,037.0
Ghee	..	4.0	173	232	692.0	928.0
Potatoes	..	0.4	250	335	100.0	134.0
Onions	..	1.0	112	112	112.0	112.0
Coconut oil	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total and Average Index No. ..	30.6	187	195	5,711.9	5,962.1	
Fuel and lighting—	..	1.8	175	175	315.0	315.0
Kerosene oil	..	3.0	162	162	486.0	486.0
Firewood	..	0.1	173	180	17.3	18.0
Coal	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total and Average Index No. ..	4.9	167	167	818.3	819.0	
Clothing—	..	1.3	231	221	300.3	287.3
Dhories	..	1.3	228	223	296.4	289.9
Shirtings	..	1.7	225	220	382.5	374.0
T. Cloth	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total and Average Index No. ..	4.3	228	221	979.2	951.2	
House rent	..	9.1	165	165	1,501.5	1,501.5
Grand total of weights =	100	..	..	..	..	
General Average or Cost of Living Index (July 1914 = 100) ..	....	160	160	15,967.3	16,048.4	



### THE COST OF LIVING IN 1922

The main feature in the cost of living index in 1922 was the steadiness of the index as compared with the somewhat violent fluctuations in the preceding years, 1919, 1920 and 1921. The tendency of the curve (chart No. 1) in 1922 was noticeably downward throughout the year. With the exception of January 1922, the level in all the 11 months stood between 160 and 165 (July 1914 = 100). The average for the 12 months was 164 which shows a fall of 15 per cent. from the high-water mark reached in October 1920. The average at the end of the year (December 1922) was 161. The monthly figures in each of the last five years will be found on page 9 of this issue. The yearly averages are as follows:—

July 1914 = 100	
1918	.. 154
1919	.. 175
1920	.. 183
1921	.. 173
1922	.. 164

There was a fall in food prices in December 1921 and January 1922, which continued until April when the monsoon declared itself and proved a good one. The price of cereals fell continuously, until, at the end of the year, it was less by 24 points than at the beginning. In January 1922, the price of pulses was at a maximum. By the end of the year there was a fall of no less than 53 points. Other articles of food were, owing to a rise in refined sugar, salt and ghee, somewhat higher at the end of the year than at the beginning. There was a fall of 5 points in fuel and lighting and 36 points in clothing. Thus, the appreciable and persistent rise in the general average towards the end of the year, which marked the two preceding years, was absent during 1922. If seasonal influences are allowed for, a slow and steady fall is seen throughout the year.

Owing to the housing difficulty of the industrial classes there was no fall in the rents paid by them during the year.

### WHOLESALE PRICES IN DECEMBER.

#### BOMBAY\*

In December 1922, wholesale prices fell on an average by nearly two per cent. as compared with the level of the previous month. The level reached in this month was the lowest of all the levels in 1922 and lower than any of the levels since the beginning of 1918. The fall is mainly due to a further decline in food-grains during this month, which has been steadily continuing from July. In comparison with the corresponding month of last year prices have fallen by 9 per cent., the fall from the twelve-monthly average of 1921 being 10 per cent.

The present index number is based on carefully collected market prices and is indirectly weighted. Food articles number 15 and non-food 28. The base is the pre-war month, July 1914. The index is published at the request of business firms in Bombay, in such a way as to show the relative level of average wholesale prices, and the groups have been selected primarily with a view to suit the conditions of Bombay's trade.

The net result of movements in the groups are set out below:—

#### Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay

Groups.	No. of items.	Increase (+) or decrease (—) per cent. in December 1922 as compared with	
		the preceding month (November 1922).	the corresponding month of last year (December 1921).
1. Cereals	.. 7	— 6	— 31
2. Pulses	.. 2	— 5	— 42
3. Sugar	.. 3	+ 1	+ 8
4. Other food	.. 3	+ 2	+ 44
<b>Total food</b>	.. <b>15</b>	<b>— 3</b>	<b>— 10</b>
5. Oilseeds	.. 4	+ 2	— 1
6. Raw cotton	.. 5	+ 7	— 7
7. Cotton manufactures	.. 6	— 2	— 15
8. Other textiles	.. 2	....	+ 1
9. Hides and skins	.. 3	— 16	— 10
10. Metals	.. 5	+ 1	— 7
11. Other raw and manufactured articles	.. 3	— 3	— 8
<b>Total non-food</b>	.. <b>28</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>— 9</b>
<b>General average</b>	.. <b>43</b>	<b>— 2</b>	<b>— 9</b>

\* Karachi wholesale prices will be found on pages 43-45.



In comparison with the previous month there was a fall of 3 per cent. in food articles, the index number being 170 in December as against 176 in November. The fall in food-grains continued in December, the price of cereals falling by 6 per cent. and that of pulses by 5 per cent. The rise in the prices of "other foods" was not so much as in the previous month. There was a further rise of one per cent. in the price of sugar.

The average for non-food articles showed a fall of nearly 2 per cent. as compared with the previous month, a rise in the price of "Raw Cotton" being overbalanced by a fall in hides and skins. Cotton manufactures and "other raw and manufactured articles" continued to fall, while oilseeds showed a rise. There was a further rise in the price of metals.

The subjoined table compares December prices with those of the preceding months and of the corresponding month of last year. The table expresses the price levels as percentages of the twelve-monthly average of 1921:—

#### 100 = average of 1921

Groups.	Dec. 1921.	March 1922.	June 1922.	Sept. 1922.	Nov. 1922.	Dec. 1922.
I. Cereals	.. 111	97	92	89	75	70
II. Pulses	.. 113	104	81	80	70	66
III. Sugar	.. 75	85	83	80	80	82
IV. Other food	.. 109	142	136	142	153	157
<b>Total food</b>	.. <b>98</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>88</b>
V. Oilseeds	.. 94	97	106	94	92	94
VI. Raw cotton	.. 138	122	141	134	121	129
VII. Cotton manufactures	.. 97	94	96	86	84	82
VIII. Other textiles	.. 96	97	97	97	97	97
IX. Hides and Skins	.. 85	105	84	89	91	76
X. Metals	.. 86	83	82	78	80	80
XI. Other raw and manufactured articles	.. 93	92	91	85	89	86
<b>Total non-food</b>	.. <b>95</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>General average—all articles</b>	.. <b>97</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>88</b>

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The main fact which emerges from this table is that the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay is now below the average of 1921. The levels of "Other food" and "Raw cotton" are, however, above the twelve-monthly average of 1921. The following table is intended to show the annual movements in food and non-food wholesale prices:—

#### Annual wholesale prices

July 1914 = 100

	Food.	Non-food.	All articles.
Twelve-monthly average 1918	.. 170	270	237
.. .. 1919	.. 202	233	222
.. .. 1920	.. 206	221	215
.. .. 1921	.. 193	198	196
.. .. 1922	.. 186	183	184

The construction of the wholesale index is shown in the following table:—

#### The Construction of the Index

No.	Articles.	July 1914.	December 1922		
			Total Numbers.	Average.	
1	Cereals (Rice, wheat, jowari, barley, and bajri).	6 Index Nos.	700	902	129
2	Pulses (Gram and turdal).	2 .. ..	200	209	105
3	Sugar (Refined and raw).	3 .. ..	300	648	216
4	Other articles of food (Ghee, salt, etc.)	3 .. ..	300	798	266
5	<b>Total all food</b>	.. 15 .. ..	1,500	2,557	170
6	Oilseeds (Linseed, rapeseed, poppyseed, and ginsely).	4 .. ..	400	540	135
7	Raw cotton	.. 3 .. ..	200	370	185
8	Cotton manufactures (Long cloth, shirtings, chudders, etc.)	.. 6 .. ..	600	1,322	220
9	Other textiles (Silk)	.. 2 .. ..	200	277	139
10	Hides and skins	.. 3 .. ..	300	366	122
11	Metals (Copper braziers, steel bars, tinplates, etc.)	.. 5 .. ..	500	928	186
12	Other raw and manufactured articles (Kerosene and coal)	.. 3 .. ..	300	547	182
13	<b>Total non-food</b>	.. 25 .. ..	2,500	4,350	174
14	<b>General Average</b>	.. 40 .. ..	4,000	6,907	173



## WHOLESALE PRICES IN 1922

## A GENERAL FALL

The movement in the wholesale index number during the twelve-monthly period ended December 1922, has been distinctly downward. The violent oscillations of 1918, 1919 and the earlier part of 1920, are past history and the general curve as well as the curves (chart No. 8) of the food and non-food groups have moved closer together in 1922 than in the previous four years. In short, conditions are becoming slowly but surely more normal. A glance at the table on page 13 showing the twelve-monthly averages from 1918 (July 1914 = 100) shows that there has been a more decided drop in the price of non-food and imported articles such as piece-goods, etc., than in food articles. There was a fall of nearly 6 per cent. in the general average in 1922 and the level reached in December was the lowest of all monthly figures since January 1918.

In food prices there was a fall of nearly 4 per cent., the average being 186 as against 193 in the previous year. In the non-food groups the fall was of 8 per cent., i.e., from 198 in 1921 to 183 in 1922. A closer study of the detailed articles in these groups shows (1) a decrease in cotton manufactures of 9 per cent.; (2) a fall in cereals of 10 per cent.; (3) an increase in the price of raw cotton of nearly 27 per cent.; and (4) a fall of 19 per cent. in metals and of 11 per cent. in dressed hides and skins. A comparison is made in all of these cases with the average of the preceding year.

## Statistics of Retail Prices of Food in Principal Countries

The following table shows the percentage increase in the retail prices of food articles in principal countries :—

Country.	Comparison between July 1914 and	Increase per cent.
South Africa	.. November 1922	.. 20
New Zealand	.. October 1922	.. 39
Canada	.. November 1922	.. 39
United States	.. November 1922	.. 42
Holland (Amsterdam)	.. September 1922	.. 45
Australia	.. November 1922	.. 45
India (Bombay)	.. December 1922	.. 57
Sweden	.. November 1922	.. 70
United Kingdom	.. December 1922	.. 78
Denmark	.. August 1922	.. 84
Norway	.. November 1922	.. 116
France (Paris)	.. November 1922	.. 197
Belgium	.. November 1922	.. 332
Italy (Rome)	.. November 1922	.. 377
Germany	.. November 1922	.. 54,882

## COMPARATIVE RETAIL PRICES

## BOMBAY, KARACHI, AHMEDABAD AND SHOLAPUR

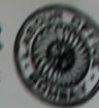
The following table compares the retail food prices in Karachi, Ahmedabad and Sholapur with those in Bombay, in November and December 1922 (Bombay prices = 100). It will be seen that the retail price levels in all the three centres are below the level in Bombay.

Bombay prices in November 1922 = 100

Articles	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur
Cereals—				
Rice ..	100	98	117	101
Wheat ..	100	72	83	89
Jowari ..	100	77	87	81
Bajri ..	100	54	71	62
Average—Cereals..	100	75	90	83
Pulses—				
Gram ..	100	78	100	79
Turdal ..	100	97	120	103
Average—Pulses..	100	88	110	91
Other articles of food—				
Sugar (refined) ..	100	91	101	104
Jagri (Gul) ..	100	76	91	83
Tea ..	100	124	124	103
Salt ..	100	59	77	119
Beet ..	100	93	58	58
Mutton ..	100	73	78	65
Milk ..	100	52	70	76
Ghee ..	100	85	93	106
Potatoes ..	100	143	129	96
Onions ..	100	81	57	86
Cocconut oil ..	100	90	140	93
Average—Other articles of food ..	100	88	93	90
Average—All food articles ..	100	85	94	88

Bombay prices in December 1922 = 100

Articles	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur
Cereals—				
Rice ..	100	92	122	103
Wheat ..	100	72	78	94
Jowari ..	100	84	76	69
Bajri ..	100	73	90	73
Average—Cereals..	100	80	92	85
Pulses—				
Gram ..	100	73	95	79
Turdal ..	100	96	118	98
Average—Pulses..	100	85	107	89
Other articles of food—				
Sugar (refined) ..	100	93	101	104
Jagri (Gul) ..	100	76	91	85
Tea ..	100	122	122	102
Salt ..	100	59	77	122
Beet ..	100	93	58	58
Mutton ..	100	88	66	65
Milk ..	100	65	84	76
Ghee ..	100	51	57	88
Potatoes ..	100	87	93	81
Onions ..	100	70	96	64
Cocconut oil ..	100	87	50	93
Average—Other articles of food ..	100	90	140	93
Average—All food articles ..	100	81	89	85
Average—All food articles ..	100	81	82	86



## A WAGE CENSUS IN THE COTTON INDUSTRY

## Summary of the Report

The Report of an Enquiry, with detailed statistical tables, into the wages and hours of labour of 293 occupations in the premier industry of the Presidency has been published. An interesting feature of the Report is the set of coloured charts, one of which shows the percentage increase in *per capita* earnings in May 1921 as compared with the pre-war year, and another shows the real wages in the cotton mill industry in India and other countries.

## SCOPE OF THE ENQUIRY

The object of the enquiry was to ascertain the amount actually earned by all classes of workpeople in a selected month (May) of 1921, and to compare these earnings with those of a similar month in the pre-war period 1914. The enquiry was conducted on voluntary lines, the information being obtained by way of answers to questions in the forms forwarded to employers in the City and Island of Bombay, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and other important centres, and the essential facts were obtained from the wages books of employers. The returns related to over 194,000 workpeople or over 80 per cent. of the total employed, and the number of workpeople returned is 91 per cent. in Sholapur, 90 per cent. in Bombay (City and Island), 60 per cent. in Ahmedabad, and 53 per cent. in "other centres".

## CLASSES OF WORKPEOPLE AND THEIR WAGES

An examination of the average daily earnings of workers in May 1921, excluding overtime pay, annual bonus and other concessions, e.g., cheap food stuffs, clothing, and housing, shows that in Bombay, Ahmedabad and "other centres" the majority of men workers earned between 12 annas and Rs. 1-8-0 per diem. Half the number of men in Sholapur earned under 12 annas. Nearly half the number of women workers in Bombay (City and Island) and Ahmedabad earned between 12 annas and Re. 1 a day, and in Sholapur over nine-tenths earned under 8 annas a day. About 45 per cent. of the big lads and children in Bombay City earned between 12 annas and Re. 1; in

Ahmedabad more than 60 per cent. between 4 and 8 annas; and nearly 58 per cent. in Sholapur earned less than 4 annas. The average daily earnings of workpeople who worked full time in May 1921 are as follows :—

## Average Daily Earnings of full-time workers in May 1921

Centres.	Men.	Women.	Big lads and children (a).	All work-people (a)
				Rs. s. p.
Bombay City & Island	1 5 6	0 10 9	0 11 1	1 2 10
Ahmedabad	1 5 0	0 12 1	0 11 4	1 2 7
Sholapur	0 15 11	0 6 9	0 9 1	0 12 8
Other centres	1 1 8	0 10 1	0 8 11	0 15 6

(a) Counting two half-timers as one full-timer.

The following table compares the average monthly earnings of full-time workers in May 1914 and 1921.

## Average Monthly Earnings of full-time workers in May 1914 and 1921

Centre.	Workpeople.	Monthly earnings per head.		Increase per cent. in 1921 over 1914.
		1914 May.	1921 May.	
Bombay (City and Island)	Men	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	
	Women	18 6 8	34 15 2	90
	Big Lads and Children (a)	10 0 10	17 6 6	73
	All Workpeople (a)	9 6 7	18 0 10	92
Ahmedabad	Men	15 7 1	34 2 11	121
Women	9 15 11	19 9 4	96	
Big Lads and Children (a)	7 2 3	18 6 6	158	
All Workpeople (a)	13 9 9	30 2 11	122	
Sholapur	Men	14 3 11	25 13 0	82
Women	5 13 11	10 15 9	87	
Big Lads and Children (a)	6 9 6	14 12 0	124	
All Workpeople (a)	10 9 4	20 9 4	94	
Other Centres	Men	13 8 7	28 12 4	112
Women	6 13 4	16 6 11	140	
Big Lads and Children (a)	7 3 8	14 7 4	100	
All Workpeople (a)	11 14 1	25 1 10	111	
Presidency	Men	17 0 8	33 6 10	96
Women	9 0 1	16 9 1	84	
Big Lads and Children (a)	7 13 4	17 3 7	119	
All Workpeople (a)	14 11 11	28 14 4	95	

(a) Counting two half-timers as one full-timer.

Jobbers, formed nearly 3 per cent., Weavers more than 22 per cent., Spinners 6.6 per cent., Piecers about 12 per cent., Reelers about 7





per cent., and Winders 5.6 per cent. of the total wage-earners returned. The following table shows the average daily earnings of these classes of workpeople:—

Average Daily Earnings

		Bombay (City and Island.)				Other centres.
		Rs. a. p.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Rs. a. p.	
Jobbers	Time	2 15 6	1 15 3	1 12 9	2 3 3	
	Piece	3 13 8	3 10 2	3 0 0	2 1 11	
Weavers:—	Piece	1 10 6	..	0 11 10	0 15 7	
	One loom	1 10 2	1 10 11	1 7 6	1 9 6	
	Two looms	2 3 9	2 4 4	..	2 11 0	
	Three looms or looms	2 9 1	2 10 5	..	2 1 0	
Spinners (Mule spinning)	Time	1 15 0	1 0 0	1 6 0	0 12 8	
	Piece	1 15 8	..	..	1 8 4	
Piecers:—	Time	1 5 2	1 0 7	0 13 9	0 13 10	
	Piece	1 6 2	..	..	1 4 4	
Mule Spinning	Time	1 0 3	0 14 2	0 11 4	0 13 0	
	Piece	..	..	..	..	
Ring Spinning	Time	..	..	..	..	
	Piece	..	..	..	..	
Men	Time	0 14 7	0 14 5	0 10 9	0 12 1	
	Piece	..	0 15 11	..	1 0 9	
Women	Time	0 11 10	0 8 6	0 5 11	0 12 7	
	Piece	0 13 6	0 15 0	0 5 11	0 10 5	
Reelers (Women)	Time	1 2 8	1 0 8	0 8 0	..	
	Piece	0 12 8	0 13 3	0 10 10	0 9 6	
Winders:—	Time	0 12 6	0 12 0	0 6 3	0 7 3	
	Piece	0 12 2	0 11 1	0 6 6	0 10 6	

## HOURS OF WORK

In regard to the hours of work it should be remembered that the data referred to in the Report are in consonance with Act XII of 1911 which prescribed 12, 11 and 6 hours for men, women and children respectively. The new Act which came into force in July 1922 prescribed 11 hours per diem and 60 per week for men and women, and for children 6 hours per diem. The table below summarises the results of the enquiry.

Centre.	Hours of labour worked by		
	Men.	Women.	Children.
Bombay (City and Island)	9 $\frac{5}{6}$	9 $\frac{1}{5}$	5
Ahmedabad	10 $\frac{1}{7}$	10	5 $\frac{1}{7}$
Sholapur	10 $\frac{1}{3}$	10	5 $\frac{1}{6}$
Other Centres	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{6}$	5 $\frac{1}{3}$
Presidency	10	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{12}$

**HOLIDAYS AND BONUS**  
Holidays (including the weekly rest day) numbered 55 in 1914 and 56 in 1921. In 1921, a month's wages were paid to all workers as bonus, except in Sholapur where a half-month's pay, besides cheap grain, clothing and housing, was given.

## REAL WAGES

It need hardly be mentioned that the real value of wages can be determined only in terms of commodities and this fact must necessarily turn our attention to the changes in the cost of living. The real wages\* of men operatives in Bombay have increased 90 per cent. as compared with an increase of 67 per cent. in the cost of living. The real or effective wages were thus 14 per cent. higher.

This report is the first of a series in which the results of enquiries into the earnings and hours of labour in all trades of the Bombay Presidency will be examined. The statistics in the Report will, it is believed, remove a considerable amount of misunderstanding which prevailed in the absence of such authoritative figures collected by an impartial agency. Such information ought to be invaluable in times of industrial unrest. As the mover of a Resolution in the House of Commons, quoted in the Report, said "it was the duty of the Government to place the necessary information within the reach of those whose interests were at stake. The Government ought to answer those who were pretending to speak on behalf of labour, by declaring that they were prepared to test the statements of extreme men by fair figures properly collected and tabulated. These statistics, if obtained, would strengthen the hands of the wisest among the Trade Union leaders when they needed to pacify workers who were short of food in times of hardship and depression; and they would give the moral sanction of public opinion to employers when the latter felt bound to resist some unjustifiable claim."

## Wage Census in 1923

It has been decided, in consultation with the Bombay Millowners' Association, to take the next wage census in June 1923.

$$* \text{ Real wage index number} = \frac{\text{Money wage index} \times 100}{\text{Cost of Living Index}}$$



## BONUS TO BOMBAY MILL-WORKERS

On page 6 of the *Labour Gazette* for December 1922, a brief reference was made to the bonus for 1922 sanctioned by the Bombay Millowners' Association to all operatives who were on the muster rolls of the mills on 15th December 1922. The following are the rates:—

*Fixed Wage Workers*: 1. All men, women and children on fixed wages shall receive a bonus in accordance with the following *pro rata* scale:—

- One full month's wages for service of 9 months and over.
- 75 per cent. of one full month's wages for service of 6 months but under 9 months.
- 50 per cent. of one full month's wages for service of 3 months but under 6 months.

*N.B.*—(1) The bonus to be given under the above scale shall be based on all wages, together with percentages of increases sanctioned from time to time and, as a guide, the Committee suggest that the wages earned in November be taken as a basis of payment.

- The minimum amount payable under the above scale shall, in no case, be less than Rs. 20, or in the case of half-timers, less than Rs. 14 *pro rata*.
- The maximum amount payable in the case of any one operative under the above scale shall be Rs. 175.
- For the purpose of calculating the bonus service of fifteen or more working days shall count as one month's service.

*Piece-Workers*: 2. All piece-workers shall receive a bonus upon the above *pro rata* scale according to the nature of their occupations as detailed below provided that the bonus shall only be paid to employees with three full months' service and over:—

- Jobbers and others whose average piece-work earnings amount to Rs. 175 or over shall be given a *pro rata* bonus of Rs. 175.
- Jobbers and others whose average piece-work earnings amount to Rs. 150 or over but under Rs. 175 shall be given a *pro rata* bonus of Rs. 150.
- Jobbers and others whose average piece-work earnings amount to Rs. 120 or over but under Rs. 150 shall be given a *pro rata* bonus of Rs. 120.
- Jobbers and others whose average piece-work earnings amount to Rs. 85 or over but under Rs. 120 shall be given a *pro rata* bonus of Rs. 100.

(e) Jobbers and others whose piece-work earnings amount to Rs. 60 or over but under Rs. 85 shall be given a *pro rata* bonus of Rs. 84.

(f) Jobbers whose piece-work earnings amount to under Rs. 60 shall be given a *pro rata* bonus of Rs. 60.

(g) Drawing, Slubbing, Inter and Rowing Tenters on piece-work shall be given a *pro rata* bonus of Rs. 30.

(h) Mules: Mule Spinners on piece-work shall be given a *pro rata* bonus of Rs. 48 and Engine Piecers on piece-work and Side Piecers on piece-work shall be given a *pro rata* bonus of Rs. 36.

(i) Winders, Reelers and other women on piece-work shall be given a *pro rata* bonus of Rs. 24.

(j) Warpners on piece-work shall be given a *pro rata* bonus of Rs. 42.

(k) Sizers on piece-work shall be given a *pro rata* bonus of Rs. 84.

(l) Back Sizers on piece-work shall be given a *pro rata* bonus of Rs. 42.

(m) Drawers on piece-work shall be given a *pro rata* bonus of Rs. 36.

(n) Reachers on piece-work shall be given a *pro rata* bonus of Rs. 20.

(o) Weavers on piece-work shall be given a *pro rata* bonus of Rs. 42.

3. The bonus shall be paid on the 27th January 1923.

4. A Sub-Committee, consisting of Messrs. J. A. Kay, S. D. Saklatvala, F. Stones, O.B.E., and C. N. Wadia, C.I.E., have been empowered to answer any questions and clear up any points that may be referred to them, through the Secretary, in regard to the payment of the bonus.

## Reduction of Wages in the United Kingdom

## Lower Earnings in 1922

Since the beginning of 1922, there has been in the United Kingdom a net reduction of nearly £4,200,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 7,500,000 workpeople against a net increase of £11,500 in the weekly wages of about 74,000 workpeople. The changes in wages, reported to the Ministry of Labour during 1921, resulted in a net reduction of about £6,000,000 per week in the rates of wages of over 7,000,000 workpeople. As shown in the *Bombay Labour Gazette* for December 1922, the rise in wages in the United Kingdom reached its high-water mark in December 1920, when the average increase over the pre-war level was estimated at between 170 and 180



per cent.; and at the end of September 1922 weekly full-time rates of wages of adult workpeople in industries averaged about 75 or 80 per cent. During the year ended November 1922 there was a considerable fall in average earnings. In November 1921 the average earnings in the cotton mill industry per head were £2.083 and in November 1922 £1.711, or a fall of nearly 18 per cent.

### MIDDLE CLASS RENTS

#### BOMBAY AND KARACHI

On page 18 of the *Labour Gazette* for November 1922 an article was published regarding working class rents in Bombay and Karachi.

According to the Rent Controller, Karachi, the following are the predominant rents paid by middle class people.

#### Middle class rents in Karachi

Limits of monthly pay.	Limits of monthly rent paid.	Average rent expressed as percentage of average pay.
Rs. 60 to Rs. 100	Rs. 15 to Rs. 25	25
Rs. 100 to Rs. 250	Rs. 25 to Rs. 40	18.57
Rs. 250 to Rs. 500	Rs. 40 to Rs. 50	12

As regards middle class rents in Bombay a special enquiry is at present being conducted by the Labour Office, and the results of this will shortly be published. The results based on 105 middle class budgets collected by the Labour Office are as follows:—

#### Middle class rents in Bombay

Limits of monthly family income.	Rs. 100 and below Rs. 200.	Rs. 200 and below Rs. 300.
Number of budgets collected	80	25
Average rent expressed as percentage of average expenditure	18.8	15.3

These percentages are considerably higher than that of the working classes, but are, however, subject to modification on completion of the present enquiry.

### Housing of the Depressed Classes

At a meeting of the Depressed Classes held in Bombay on the 28th November last, a resolution was passed requesting the Bombay

Improvement Trust to sanction immediately the four new chawls on the Foras Road for the occupation of the Depressed Classes. The Improvement Trust have replied to the effect that for the present the chawls at Foras Road are required for housing the people who are evicted from old houses which are being demolished by the Trust in connexion with their improvement schemes.

### HONORARY CORRESPONDENTS

The following is a complete list of the Honorary Correspondents of the Labour Office:—

The Hon'ble Sir D. E. Wacha, Kt.,  
Messrs. Morarji Goculdas & Co.,  
Ballard Road, Bombay.

Mr. J. A. Kay,  
Chairman, Millowners' Association,  
Bombay.

Mr. Joseph Baptista, B.A., LL.B.,  
President, All-India Trade Union Congress,  
Mazagaon, Bombay.

Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A.,  
Servants of India Society,  
Girgaum, Bombay.

Mr. Kanji Dwarakadas, M.L.C.,  
Chartered Bank Buildings,  
Fort, Bombay.

Mr. S. K. Bole, M.L.C.,  
Keshavalaya, Dadar,  
Bombay.

Mr. S. S. Mehta, B.A.,  
Patkar Building, Bhatwadi,  
Girgaum, Bombay.

Miss A. E. M. Moinet,  
University Settlement,  
Rebsch Road, Bombay.

Dr. Mrs. Dadabhoy,  
Cumballa Hill,  
Bombay.

The Manager, Port Trust Bunders and Land,  
Bombay.

Mr. B. S. Kamat, M.L.A.,  
Ganeshkhind Road,  
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Mr. A. N. Surve, M.L.C.,  
53, Umerkhadi, P.O. 9,  
Bombay.

Prof. R. M. Joshi, M.A., I.E.S.,  
Professor of Indian Economics,  
Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics,  
Bombay.

Mr. I. H. Desai,  
Secretary, Ahmedabad Millowners' Association,  
Ahmedabad.



## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN THE PRESIDENCY

On page 50 will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during December 1922, with the number of workpeople involved, the date when the dispute began and ended, the cause and the result. The word "dispute" in the official sense means an interruption of work and it is here used in that sense as virtually synonymous with "strike". A dispute, as counted by the Labour Office, is an interruption of work involving ten or more persons and of not less than twenty-four hours' duration. Detailed statistics have been collected since 1st April 1921, the date on which the Labour Office was instituted.

Summary tables have been constructed in order to show the position at a glance. Table I shows the number, magnitude and duration of strikes in December 1922.

### I.—Industrial Disputes classified by Trades

Trade.	Number of disputes in progress in December 1922.			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in December 1922.	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in December 1922.*
	Started before 1st December.	Started in December.	Total.		
Textile ..	2	6	8	4,816	22,206
Miscellaneous ..	..	2	2	200	600
Total, December 1922 ..	2	8	10	5,016	22,806
Total, November 1922 ..	8	13	21	15,206	60,267

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

There were 10 industrial disputes in December 1922, 8 of which were in cotton mills. The number of workpeople affected was about 5,000 and the working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days less workers replaced)

22,806, a considerable decrease on the November statistics.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes. The number of disputes due to the question of pay and bonus and of those settled in favour of the employers is noticeable.

### II.—Industrial Disputes—Results August to December 1922

	August 1922.	September 1922	October 1922.	November 1922.	December 1922.
Number of strikes and lock-outs ..	13	7	24	21	10
Disputes in progress at beginning ..	1	2	2	8	2
Fresh disputes begun.	12	5	22	13	8
Disputes ended ..	11	5	16	19	9
Disputes in progress at end ..	2	2	8	2	1
Number of workpeople involved ..	65,397	2,578	9,817	15,206	5,016
Aggregate duration in working days ..	87,927	20,709	62,372	60,267	22,806
<b>Demands—</b>					
Pay ..	5	4	5	7	6
Bonus ..	..	..	14	8	3
Personal ..	2	1	4	3	1
Leave and hours ..	3	..	..	2	..
Others ..	3	2	1	1	..
<b>Results—</b>					
In favour of Employ-ees ..	2	..	6	3	..
Compromised ..	1	..	3	2	1
In favour of Employ-ers ..	8	5	7	14	8

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



## III.—Industrial Disputes

Month.	Number of strikes and lock-outs.	Aggregate duration in working days.	Proportion settled.			In progress. (Per cent.)
			In favour of employers. (Per cent.)	In favour of employees. (Per cent.)	Compromised. (Per cent.)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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
October 1921 ..	15	231,896	27	13	27	33
November 1921 ..	31	62,009	29	42	19	10
December 1921 ..	9	26,321	78	11	11	..
January 1922 ..	17	33,589	65	18	..	17
February 1922 ..	12	32,087	67	8	17	8
March 1922 ..	8	300,829	75	..	25	..
April 1922 ..	15	18,352	54	13	20	13
May 1922 ..	15	54,930	80	..	7	13
June 1922 ..	10	4,250	70	20	10	..
July 1922 ..	14	58,809	93	..	..	7
August 1922 ..	13	87,927	62	15	8	15
September 1922 ..	7	20,709	71	..	..	29
October 1922 ..	24	62,372	29	25	13	33
November 1922 ..	21	60,287	67	14	10	9
December 1922 ..	10	22,806	80	..	10	10
Total or (cols. 4 to 7) Average	295	2,029,109	60	13	11	16

## A General Review of Disputes

During December there were ten disputes of which eight were in the cotton mill industry. Six of these disputes were on account of the question of pay. The majority of the disputes during the month were settled in favour of the employers.

## BOMBAY

In the Madhowji Dharamsi Mill, Bombay, the weavers went on strike for six days for an

increase in wages for weaving *khadi* cloth. During the latter part of the month the spinners in the same mill struck for an increase in wages for spinning heavy counts of *khadi* cloth. The former strike was settled in favour of the employers and the latter was in progress at the end of December. The spinners' strike occasioned a lock-out in the whole mill for about 10 days. In the Gold Mohur Mill the weavers struck work as they were against the introduction of payment by piece work instead of fixed monthly wages since the machinery was alleged to be too new to give a good outturn. The strike of the night shift workers in the Hongkong mill was for the payment of wages for the days when the night shift men were compelled to stop work owing to defects in the lights in the mill and it lasted for a day only. The demands of the strikers were not conceded and the night shift was discontinued probably because this was not a paying proposition. One hundred and fifty coolies in the B. B. & C. I. Railway Stores, Mahaluxmi, Bombay, struck for an increase in wages. The ring-leaders were dismissed and the remainder resumed work as new hands.

## AHMEDABAD

There were two strikes in Ahmedabad. The strike, in the Universal Cotton Mill, over the question of the annual bonus ended on the 2nd December. This strike began on the 23rd October. The strikers were paid off and the mill was closed. In the other strike (in the Ahmedabad Cotton and Waste Manufacturing Company, Limited) the absence of a Mukadam was regarded by the workers as a dismissal. The strike was of very short duration as the misunderstanding was removed on the cause of the strike becoming known to the employers.

## REST OF THE PRESIDENCY

The workers in the Fine Counts Mill, Broach, demanded, on the 4th December, immediate payment of the annual bonus for the year ending 30th November 1922. As the bonus was promised on or about 23rd December 1922, work was resumed on the 7th December. The strike at Wadhwan ended on the 2nd December.

About fifty hands in the Scottish Mission Press, Poona, went on strike for the payment of a bonus. The strike, however, lasted only for a day.



## TWELVE MONTHS OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN THE PRESIDENCY

## ANALYSIS OF DISPUTES

From 1st January 1922 to 31st December 1922

The present article reviews the industrial disputes for the twelve months—1st January 1922 to 31st December 1922.

During the period under review there were in all 143 disputes involving 181,723 workpeople. The outstanding events of the year were the lock-out of 18,000 workers in six cotton mills at Sholapur in March 1922, the one day strike of 61,000 workers in 34 Bombay Mills on 1st August 1922, the Bombay Tramway strike during September and October 1922 affecting about 2,000 workers, and the general strike in November 1922 at Ahmedabad in the Throstle Departments of 29 mills involving 9,000 workpeople. These contributed, mainly, to the number of working days lost and have been fully dealt with in previous issues of the *Labour Gazette*. The table below shows the number of workpeople involved in each month.

Table I—Number of workpeople involved

Month.	Number of workpeople involved.	Month.	Number of workpeople involved.
January 1922 ..	15,863	July 1922 ..	13,336
February ..	9,999	August ..	65,397
March ..	22,095	Sept. ..	2,578
April ..	5,081	October ..	9,817
May ..	15,205	Nov. ..	15,206
June ..	2,130	December ..	5,016

The total number of working days lost during the period was 756,747. March 1922 was, in respect of the number of working days lost, the worst month for industrial disputes and this was due to the lock-out in the six mills at Sholapur. The following table shows the number of working days lost during each month.

Table II—Number of working days lost

Month.	Days lost.	Month.	Days lost.
January 1922 ..	33,389	July 1922 ..	58,809
February ..	32,087	August ..	87,927
March ..	300,829	September ..	20,709
April ..	18,352	October ..	62,372
May ..	54,930	November ..	60,287
June ..	4,250	December ..	22,806

## CAUSES OF THE DISPUTES

An analysis of the disputes shows that 45 per cent. were due to the question of pay, 15 per cent. to bonus, 14 per cent. to personal causes which include dismissals, re-instatement, or similar causes, 10 per cent. to leave and hours, and 16 per cent. to other causes. The chief characteristics of these strikes were:—(a) the frequency of the strike without notice; (b) the absence of any clearly defined grievance before striking; (c) the multiplicity and sometimes the extravagance of the claims put forward after the strike has begun; and (d) the frequent absence of any effective organisation to formulate the claims of the operatives and to secure respect for any settlement which may be made.

## INDUSTRIES AFFECTED

As the cotton mill industry is the main industry of the Presidency, the number of disputes in the textile industry was, as is to be expected, by far the largest. During the year under review 84 per cent. of the disputes were in this industry. The percentages of the disputes in the other main industries were:—Transport 1 per cent.; Engineering 4 per cent.; and Miscellaneous 11 per cent.

## RESULTS OF THE DISPUTES

The record shows that, of all the disputes settled during the year, 75 per cent. were in favour of the employers, 14 per cent. in favour of the employees, and 11 per cent. were compromised.

## THE CALCUTTA TRAMWAY STRIKE\*

The tramway strike in Calcutta, which began before Christmas, *i.e.*, on the 20th December 1922, was due to the alleged wrongful dismissal of a driver on the previous day. Other grievances included the refusal of the Company to supply overcoats free and the frequent dismissals of the leading members of the Tramway Employees' Union. All the drivers of the Company, excepting those working in Howrah, went on strike. The strike caused the utmost inconvenience to the public of Calcutta. As the *Statesman* of the 6th January observed:

\* An account of the Bombay tramway strike was given in the *Labour Gazette* for November 1922.



"The stoppage of the service is strongly resented, and more so on this occasion because the present strike is the seventh within a very short period. . . . The Government are apparently reluctant to take any action because they adhere to the principle of not intervening in a labour dispute unless their mediation is desired by both sides. This condition has not been complied with, it would seem, because the tramway managers are not prepared to accept the assistance of third parties in a dispute which has arisen from an ordinary and legitimate act of discipline. . . . There is accordingly nothing to discuss, and the managers propose to wait until the strikers are tired of idling without earning a pice. Such a course would possibly be justifiable if the company were engaged in trade or manufacture, for their customers would be able to get their supplies elsewhere, unless they were prepared to do without. But we submit that a public utility company are not in a position to leave the public in the lurch. It is their duty to put forward every effort to maintain the service of which they have been given a monopoly."

#### GOVERNMENT REFUSE TO INTERVENE

On the 5th January a deputation on behalf of the Tramway Employees' Union waited upon His Excellency the Governor of Bengal. The deputation maintained that the dismissals were the immediate cause of the strike and demanded the appointment of a Conciliation Board. The Government explained their position in a *Communique*, issued on the same day, as follows:—

"The grievances of the men, as communicated to the Government, centre round the question of the dismissal of employees. On this question the views of the Government were clearly set forth in a *communique* published on October 31, 1921, in which a definite policy was enunciated. It was stated therein, with reference to the request of the Tramways Employees' Union, that, while the Governor in Council was fully conscious of the inconvenience caused to the Calcutta public by the stoppage of the Tramway service, and, while he recognised that conciliation boards have played a useful part in preventing or curtailing strikes in other public utility services, he had come to the conclusion, after full inquiry and discussion with both parties, that a conciliation board could not properly be appointed to deal with the question of the dismissals of employees.

He was not prepared then to concede what was, in effect, a demand, not for a conciliation board, but for a court of appeal against the decisions of the Company in individual cases, and he declined to initiate any proceedings, whether directly or indirectly, through the appointment of a conciliation board.

Far from settling the disputes between the Company and its employees, such action would, in his opinion, inevitably lead to a repetition of the demand for an independent inquiry on the occasion of future dismissals and to constant and unwarrantable interference with the running of the service. To this position the Government still adhere. This question of dismissals is not a subject for any outside examination and the Governor in Council cannot accede to the request for a conciliation board in regard to this matter.

In matters connected with the conditions of employment generally, the Government would always be willing to do their best to effect a settlement of disputed points and to this end the vice-president of the Tramways Employees' Union was asked on December 30th to ascertain whether the employees were willing to return to work unconditionally if the Government agreed to set up some kind of conciliation machinery for the investigation of the issues involved in the strike, other than dismissals. The Governor in Council understands that, up to now, the employees on strike have declined to return to work on these terms."

#### THE COMPANY'S STATEMENT

The Calcutta Tramway Company issued a statement setting out its views and position in regard to the present strike.

"The alleged reason was the dismissal of a certain driver for being two minutes late on duty. It is almost unnecessary to state that the reason given was a deliberate misstatement. The driver in question was in fact dismissed (after two previous cautions for misconduct) for an act of gross insubordination. For some considerable time past, since the publication of the Report by the Committee appointed by Government in March 1921, to consider certain alleged grievances of the Company's employees, there has been a considerable amount of unrest. As the public is aware there have been some six strikes based on various grounds, and although the company has done its best to meet the men, there had been for some time previous to, and there was at the time of the present lightning strike, considerable unrest, coupled with agitation on the part of the discontented section of the drivers and conductors for the redress of certain questions put forward as grievances. These were five in number, namely, (1) a claim for recognition of the Tramway Men's Union; (2) a demand for grant of free overcoats; (3) a demand for revision of the time tables; (4) a demand for leave rules; and (5) a demand for increase in wages.

These matters (with the exception of the question as to the recognition of the Union) were considered by the recent Government Committee, and recommendations made thereon, and it is sufficient to say that the Company has adopted the recommendations, and has



been carrying them out, and in some cases has even gone further than the proposals recommended by the Committee. With regard to the question of the recognition of the Union the company has stated in definite terms that it is prepared to recognise a Union constituted on certain lines, but no attempt has yet been made to satisfy the company that these reasonable conditions have been carried out."

The gradual resumption of the tramway service was effected by the Company under police protection.

#### Dockers on strike

A general lock-out in Calcutta was decided on at a Conference of stevedores on 9th January, if the men employed under two stevedores of the Harrison Line did not return to work on the 10th instant in accordance with existing conditions. The cause of the strike was the demand to begin work at 7 a.m. in place of 6-30 a.m. and to receive three annas for overtime in place of two annas. The men returned to work on 16th January, pending a definite settlement. A strike last took place in June 1922.

#### THE VALUE OF LOCK-OUTS AND STRIKES

##### THEIR FUTILITY

Lord Askwith, formerly Comptroller General of the Commercial, Labour and Statistical Departments of the Board of Trade and subsequently Chief Industrial Commissioner, delivered before the Royal Society of Arts an address on "The Value of Lock-outs and Strikes".

From 1896 to 1914 the only Act of Parliament was the Conciliation Act of 1896, permitting arbitration by agreement or an enquiry. There were and are in existence many voluntary Conciliation Boards, but with no power of enforcement by one party against the other. Under the stress of the war compulsory arbitration was indeed applied to certain industries, but others, in spite of the interdependence of all industries, were left free. Immediately after the Armistice compulsory arbitration was abolished, though the Act of 1896 was still continued, and machinery was supplied, under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, for arbitration by agreement or for enquiry and report; and in certain cases for enquiry, at the discretion of the Minister, with or without consent by the parties.

#### THE PERIOD 1825-1867

In 1825, the Repeal of the Combination Laws, which for the first time expressly allowed to labour the right of collective bargaining and the power of withholding labour by concerted action, was obtained, not by reason of, but rather in spite of, strikes. The Repeal seems to have been due to the efforts of Francis Place, Joseph Hume, and J. R. McCulloch, working upon the principle of equality before the law, by means of a Committee of the House of Commons. On the other hand, in 1830-1832, the coal miners of Northumberland and Durham tried two years of rioting and strikes, leading to the use of troops, marines and cavalry. In the result, the union came to an end without gain of anything. Again, in 1830-34, the so-called "New Unionism" supported every kind of "ism" that idealists could invent, with the result that Trade Unionism scarcely survived after the signal failure of strike upon strike.

A generation later, the Blackburn and other cotton lists on which the gradual evolution of the basic piecework rates of the cotton trade is founded, were obtained by careful and patient work, and gradual proof of value. No strikes could settle such complicated details. The success of the methods then employed led to "Councils of Conciliation" in other trades, and offered contrast to the complete defeat of the engineers about the same time. The engineers were locked out in answer to a concerted threat of immediate action for the abolition of piecework and systematic overtime. As if in anticipation of the sudden strikes of 1911, they proposed general action upon matters involving many qualifications and adjustments capable only of settlement by close examination of detail. In the result they failed entirely.

#### 1867-1900

In 1867 the employers on their side tried the weapon of the "general lock-out". Outrages and violence, particularly in Sheffield, were in evidence. Government intervened with a Royal Commission. It was found that the series of strikes and lock-outs benefited no one. Lord Askwith is of opinion that the course of inquiry and the legislation of the years between 1867 and 1876 (including laws such as the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act of 1875 and the Employers and Workmen Act of the same year, and the shortening of hours in certain trades by law in 1874) were far more due to the efforts of men like Mr. Frederic Harrison, Professor Beesly, Mr. Applegarth, Mr. Mundella and Mr. Cross, with the legal aid of Sir Henry James and Sir William



Harcourt, than to the "practical value" of lock-outs and strikes. These men aimed at equality before the law, the recognition of collective bargaining by both employers and employed, and the treatment of violence and intimidation as part of the general criminal law.

The early seventies showed an increase in the membership of trade unions but the strikes that succeeded reduced the membership. The dockers' strike of 1889 was the next important event which again led indirectly to an increase in trade unionists. The engineering strike and lock-out of 1897 proved to be a complete failure.

This series of disputes, hurting the public, bringing little or no advantage to the workpeople, and harassing trade union leaders, may have been a factor in preventing opposition to the meagre power of inquiry legislatively granted by the Conciliation Act of 1896, but does not seem to have produced many other results. Up to the period of the war the Conciliation Act was the only Act, and that not at first used, which could mitigate the damage of protracted disputes or hinder threatened outbreaks, but the work done under it subsequently became an element in affording example for the numerous boards of arbitration and conciliation which developed in so many industries.

#### 1900-1914

The rest of the lecture deals with the events of which Lord Askwith had inside knowledge, and again, the principal disputes are viewed in the light of their usefulness or otherwise. The importance of the Taff Vale dispute of 1900 lies in the fact that it led up to and was used as an argument in favour of the Trade Disputes Act, 1906. The immediate effect of the judgment was a remarkable increase in the members who enrolled in the Railway Unions. The year 1910 witnessed several strikes which could have been avoided if only there had been better organisation in the trades and less of injured vanity among trade union leaders. But these two drawbacks were responsible for strikes among the coal miners of Northumberland and in the Cambrian Combine and another among the cardroom operatives. That the year 1910 afforded a testing time for the trade unions is seen in the following remarks of Mr. Philip Snowden. He said:

The year 1910 had been an exceedingly trying time for all who have had any responsibility for the manage-

ment of trade unions, and the direction of the Labour movement. The men connected with a number of important trade unions have shown a good deal of dissatisfaction with the actions of their responsible officials, and this dissatisfaction has expressed itself in some cases in rebellion against the agreements entered into by the Union Executive and in unauthorised strikes. . . . Discipline in Trade Unionism is too vital a thing to be injured by violation, and, though an occasional irresponsible movement may succeed, such a practice must, if frequently adopted, be destructive of collective bargaining and of trade unionism itself; for no executive could retain office if its authority were not respected.

In 1912 there were strikes in almost every trade. While trade had improved, wages were not increased. Large sections of workpeople were receiving low wages, while prices were rising. Employers were against general advances, and in the shipping and port interests in particular, a body of employers was opposed to any concessions and to collective bargaining with the unions. The most sensational event was when the seamen and firemen at Southampton supported by dock labourers and other transport workers came out and they were subsequently joined by all grades of transport workers at Hull, Liverpool and Manchester. In the last place, 23 unions consisting mostly of unorganised men pledged themselves not to return to work till the claims of all sections were completely satisfied. This upheaval culminated in the Railwaymen's Societies sending an ultimatum to all railway companies demanding consent to meetings of representatives of unions with representatives of the companies to arrive at a settlement. Parliament subsequently appointed a Royal Commission to consider the matters of dispute in the Railways. The principle of negotiation with the railway companies as a body was upheld. Though there was great loss and suffering to the community, the majority of persons engaged in industry accepted the methods of negotiation.

Further, nearly all the disputes were finally settled by compromise, and many by intervention, which, given the spirit to settle, might have effected the actual results without the great upheaval.

As to recognition, that can generally be gained where organisation is sufficiently strong to justify the claim of particular men to speak as representatives of a trade. When recognition is obtained, and leaders



are vested with power of bargaining, a bad sign of leadership is to insist on a strike because leaders have not entirely succeeded in attaining all their aims. The liking of young men for a fight, the rise of undisciplined members of a union, may be excuses for strikes, but are proofs of the absence of discipline and power of leadership rather than evidence of the value of strikes.

#### 1914-1922

By July 1914 schemes were in hand, such as that for the establishment of an eight hours' day and fresh troubles were anticipated. But the clouds vanished and during the war there were few if any lock-outs.

Internal faction was by instinct recognised as a deterrent to the success of the nation. Nothing could be more remarkable than the desire to settle disputes, to withdraw pending claims, and to keep silent over ancient differences. The value, if any, of strikes was at a discount. The second point is that when a feeling arose that certain people were gaining an advantage and were obtaining out of the war results for themselves, results now known as profiteering, and were not increasing the remuneration for the employees or giving them, in spite of the increase in the cost of living, a reasonable share of the proceeds, strikes began. . . . In spite of these matters the principle of the supreme importance of the war led to remarkable adherence to voluntary, and later to compulsory arbitration; and on the whole, I think it may be claimed that, although there were many difficulties and hindrances, of which the famous twelve and a half per cent. was one, this compulsory machinery, unsuitable for times of peace, did service during the war. In 1913 the number of cases referred to arbitration was about 45; in 1918 the number was over 3,500; and during the five years it nearly reached 8,000, and according to the Twelfth Report under the Conciliation Act, "the awards were almost universally accepted".

The few months preceding the Armistice were signalled by an epidemic of strikes. There was a strike of the Metropolitan Police, and trouble was brewing in the cotton trade. A momentous change was effected without a strike when the engineering employers agreed to have a 47-hour instead of a 54-hour week. Then followed the disastrous coal strike over the proposals for nationalisation of the mines, increase of wages and shorter hours—which dispute was ultimately referred to the Sankey Commission. The Railway strike in the autumn of the same year which paralysed the whole engineering industry only raised

prices; and increased wages could not be maintained. Production was hindered and the country is still within the grip of unemployment. Strikes during this period only aided the prevention of reconstruction after the close of the war. Further, these strikes while being distasteful to the people, caused the interference of Government to be regarded with suspicion.

#### STRIKE STATISTICS

Before concluding his address, Lord Askwith gave statistics of strikes from 1893 to August 1922. He said:

The figures, if studied, may call the attention of those who cause or take part in strikes to an estimate whether the game is worth the candle, whether they gain or lose more upon the balance. In reported strikes, excluding disputes affecting less than ten workpeople, there have been directly engaged, from 1893 to August 1922, 14,702,000 workpeople. This figure must be increased by 2,831,000 workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred though not themselves parties to the disputes, and in addition there must be taken into account the unknown numbers thrown out of work at other establishments, or in industries other than those in which the disputes occurred. In this period there have been lost 381,817,000 working days. . . .

Year.	Number of workpeople involved.		Working days lost.
	Directly.	Indirectly.	
1908-10 .. ..	779,000	330,000	23,503,000.
1911-13 .. ..	1,580,000	534,000	62,866,000.
1915-17 .. ..	1,266,000	393,000	11,430,000.
1919-21 .. ..	5,990,000	316,000	148,014,000.

Another comparison may be made. Out of 14,702,000 persons engaged in strikes during 29½ years, from 1893 to August 1922, 5,990,000 were engaged in them during the three years 1919, 1920 and 1921, and out of 381,817,000 working days lost in those 29½ years, 148,014,000 were lost in three years, at a time when the world was poor, and when every effort to repair damage was necessary, at a time when obligations and debts have to be met and when the estimated gross expenditure on public services alone amounts for 1922-23 to £948,113,000 as against a total expended during 1913-14 of £207,817,437. Can any nation continue for a series of years to bear



such a continuous restriction upon ordinary progress and upon the establishment of confidence? Without confidence, ordinary progress and reasonable changes of prosperity fade away. Uncertainty is the clog on trade, and by trade our nation lives. The figures should make every moderate man and woman pause, and though the destruction of capital, by whomsoever held, may gladden the hearts of theorists who have invented no scheme to replace it, the vast majority of people in this country at least must surely desire peace.

*Exceptionally Large Disputes occurring since the end of the War*

Occupation.	Number involved.	Date when dispute		Length of strike or lock-out.
		Began.	Ended.	
		1919	1919	
Coal miners, etc., Yorkshire ..	150,000	9th Jan.	23rd Jan.	14 days.
Coal miners, etc., Wales, Midland Co.'s Yorks, etc.	100,000	24th Mar.	29th Mar.	5 ..
Coal miners, enginemn, stokers, pumpmen, mechanics, etc., Yorks.	150,000	16th July	20th Aug.	35 ..
Ironfounders, coremakers and dressers, foundry labourers, etc., England, Wales and Ireland.	65,000	22nd Sept.	1920 24th Jan.	124 ..
Cotton spinners, piecers, card and blowing room operatives, etc., Lancashire and adjoining Counties.	450,000	23rd June	1919 12th July	19 ..
Railway workers, Great Britain ..	500,000	27th Sept.	5th Oct.	8 ..
Coal miners, etc., Great Britain ..	1,100,000	1920 18th Oct.	1920 3rd Nov.	16 ..
Shipyard joiners and carpenters and other shipyard workers—Great Britain.	25,000	1st Dec.	1921 22nd Aug.	264 ..
Cotton spinners, piecers and crewers cardroom operatives, etc.—Oldham and District.	40,000	15th Sept.	1920 18th Oct.	33 ..
Coal miners, etc., Great Britain ..	1,150,000	1921 1st April	1921 1st July	91 ..
Workpeople in the cotton spinning and manufacturing industry, Lancashire, Cheshire and adjoining Counties.	375,000	6th June	24th June	18 ..
Engineers, etc., in the employment of firms affiliated to the Engineering and the National Employers' Federations, United Kingdom.	..	....	....	
(1) Members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union.	260,000	1922 (1) 13th March.	1922 (1) 13th June.	92 ..
(2) Members of other Trade Unions.		(2) 3rd May.	(2) 2nd June.	30 ..
Shipyard Workers—Federated Districts and certain other Districts.	90,000	29th Mar.	6th May	38 ..

#### CONCLUSION

Lord Askwith does not propose any alteration in the legislation at present in force in the United Kingdom, viz., the Conciliation Act of 1896 and the Industrial Courts Act of 1919. He is not an advocate of compulsory arbitration,

but believes the remedy to meet the difficulty is the realizing of the danger which arises from disputes, many of which can, and should be, avoided, by education both of leaders among employers and employed, and particularly of the masses of employed.

#### THE WHITLEY COUNCILS AND WORKS COMMITTEES GROWTH OF THE MOVEMENT

In view of the interest taken in the Joint Industrial Councils and Works Committees, the following article by the Right Hon. J. H. Whitley, M.P., the Speaker of the House of Commons, will be of interest:—

The inception of the Industrial Council movement dates from the appointment by Mr. Asquith's Government, in the autumn of 1916, of a Committee under the chairmanship of the writer, comprising representatives of the principal organisations in industry and recognised authorities in the country, with the following terms of reference:—

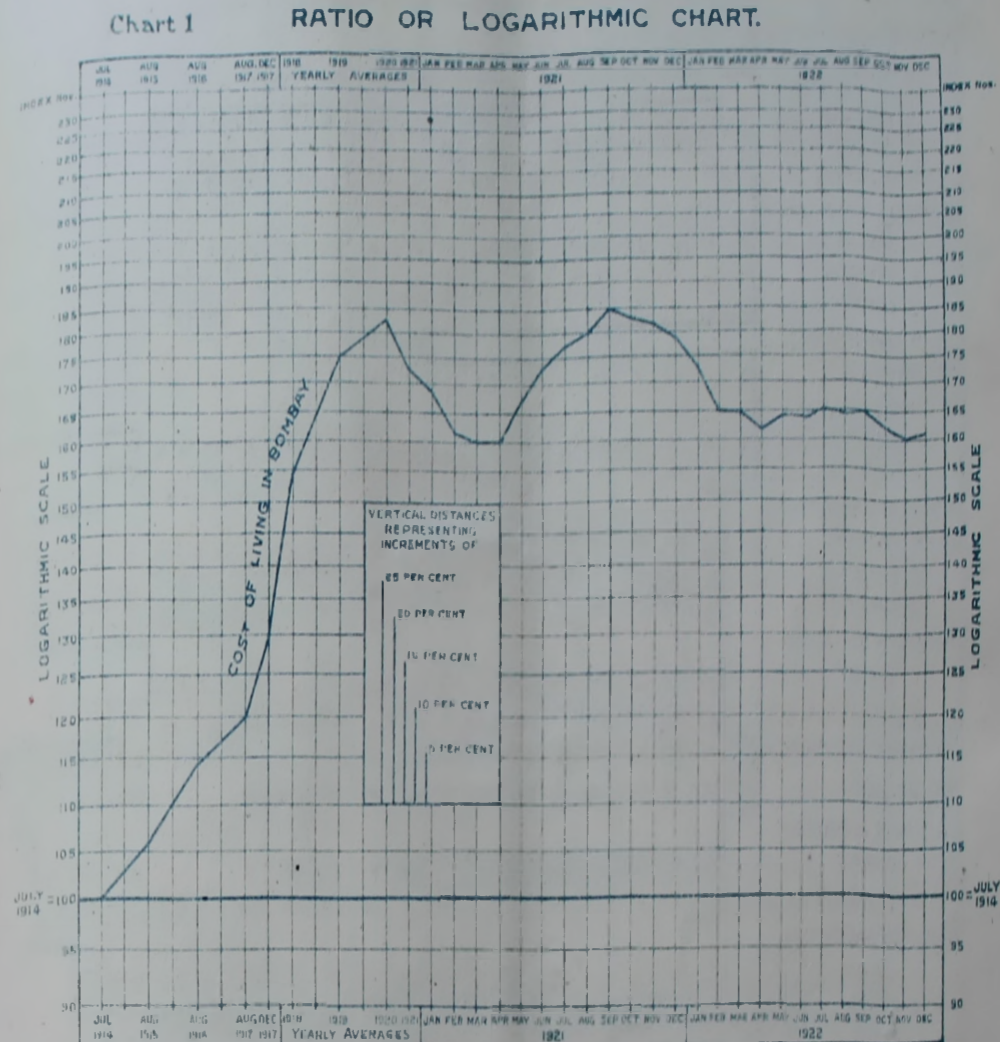
(1) To make and consider suggestions for securing a permanent improvement in the relations between employers and workmen.

(2) To recommend means for securing that industrial conditions affecting the relations between employers and workmen shall be systematically reviewed by those concerned with a view to improving conditions in the future.

The means recommended by the Committee were the establishment of a system of joint standing industrial councils in well-organised industries, on which representatives of accredited associations on both sides should meet in equal numbers for the consideration of matters affecting their industry. Among these matters it was anticipated that such questions as wages, hours, conditions of work, training and apprenticeship, research and processes, etc., would be regularly dealt with. Further, the Committee recommended the establishment of district councils representing the trade unions and employers' associations in the various localities of industries for which national councils were set up, and of works committees representative of the management and of the staff in individual factories, to act in co-operation with the District and National Council.

(Continued on page 27)

#### COST OF LIVING IN BOMBAY RATIO OR LOGARITHMIC CHART.



Note:— This chart is intended to show the proportional increase in the cost of living.

It will be seen that the rate of increase is inversely proportional to the index number. Thus, an increase of 5 points over 200 is half the increase of the same 5 points over 100. Equal vertical distances in this chart represent equal ratios, from any part of the diagram to any other, instead of equal increments, as on a natural scale chart. The steepness of the curve before January 1921 is exaggerated on account of the considerably smaller intervals adopted for years, as compared with those for months.

## PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON 1922.

CHART No. 2.

Abbreviations:- S...Scanty.

F...Fair. N...Normal. EX...Excess.

PROVINCE OR STATE.	JUNE				JULY					AUGUST					SEPTEMBER				OCTOBER		
	8 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>
I. BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.	EX	EX	EX	EX	N	N	N	N	N	N	F	F	N	EX	EX	EX	EX				
1. SIND RIVER RAINFALL					S	S															
2. GUJARAT	S	S	EX	EX	S	F	F	EX	N	S	S	F	F	EX	EX	S	S				
3. DECCAN	S	S	N	EX	EX	F	N	EX	S	S	S	EX	F	N	F	N	F	F			
4. KONKAN	N	F	N	EX	EX	F	N	EX	S	S	S	EX	F	N	F	N	F	F			
II. MADRAS PRESIDENCY.																					
1. MALABAR	F	F	S	EX	EX	EX	EX	N	F	F	F	EX	F	N	F	EX	F	F	F	F	F
2. DECCAN	F	S	F	S	S	F	N	S	F	F	F	EX	F	N	F	F	F	N	EX	S	F
3. COAST NORTH	EX	S	F	S	F	S	EX	S	EX	F	S	EX	F	F	S	F	F	N	F	N	S
4. SOUTH EAST.																					
III. MYSORE	F	S	EX	F	N	F	N	EX	S	N	F	N	F	F	F	S	S				
IV. HYDERABAD																					
1. NORTH	N	F	N	EX	EX	F	F	S	S	S	S	F	F	N	EX	F	N				
2. SOUTH	F	S	N	F	F	S	EX	S	S	S	S	EX	N	F	S	N					
V. CENTRAL PROVINCES																					
1. BERAR	S	N	EX	N	F	F	EX	EX	F	S	S	S	EX	EX	S	S	S				
2. WEST	S	S	EX	N	N	N	N	N	F	S	N	N	EX	EX	S	S	S				
3. EAST	S	S	EX	N	N	F	EX	EX	F	S	EX	EX	EX	EX	S	F	S				
VI. CENTRAL INDIA																					
1. WEST	S	EX	N	N	N	EX	N	EX	S	S	F	S	EX	EX	EX						
2. EAST	S	S	EX	N	EX	EX	EX	N	N	S	EX	EX	EX	S	N	N					
VII. BENGAL PRESIDENCY.	EX	F	EX	EX	N	F	EX	N	EX	F	F	EX	F	F	F	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX
VIII. ASSAM	N	F	N	EX	N	F	EX	EX	F	N	F	F	EX	N	S	F	EX	EX	F	N	F
IX. BIHAR & ORISSA.																					
1. BIHAR	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	S	EX	F	F	N	F	S	EX	EX	N			
2. ORISSA	N	F	N	EX	EX	F	N	EX	S	N	EX	N	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX
X. UNITED PROVINCES																					
1. EAST																					
2. WEST																					
XI. PUNJAB																					
1. EAST & NORTH																					
2. SOUTH & WEST																					
XII. RAJPUTANA																					
1. WEST																					
2. EAST																					
XIII. BURMA																					
1. LOWER	N	EX	F	F	N	N	N	N	EX	N	N	N	N	EX	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
2. UPPER	F	F	EX	N	F	EX	EX	F	F	EX	N	F	EX	N	N	EX	N	N	EX	EX	N

NOTES.

1. Within the wet season, the whiter the chart, the better the season. Red areas indicate deficient, and black areas - excessive rains.
2. 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.
3. 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. Lettering outside the green lines is omitted as rainfall in these places is less important. Within the green lines (i.e. the Monsoon) the third successive and following "EX" squares and the second successive and following "S" squares are hatched.
4. As the Monsoon is of little or no importance in Sind, both the rise in the Indus 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.

## PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON 1921

CHART No. 3

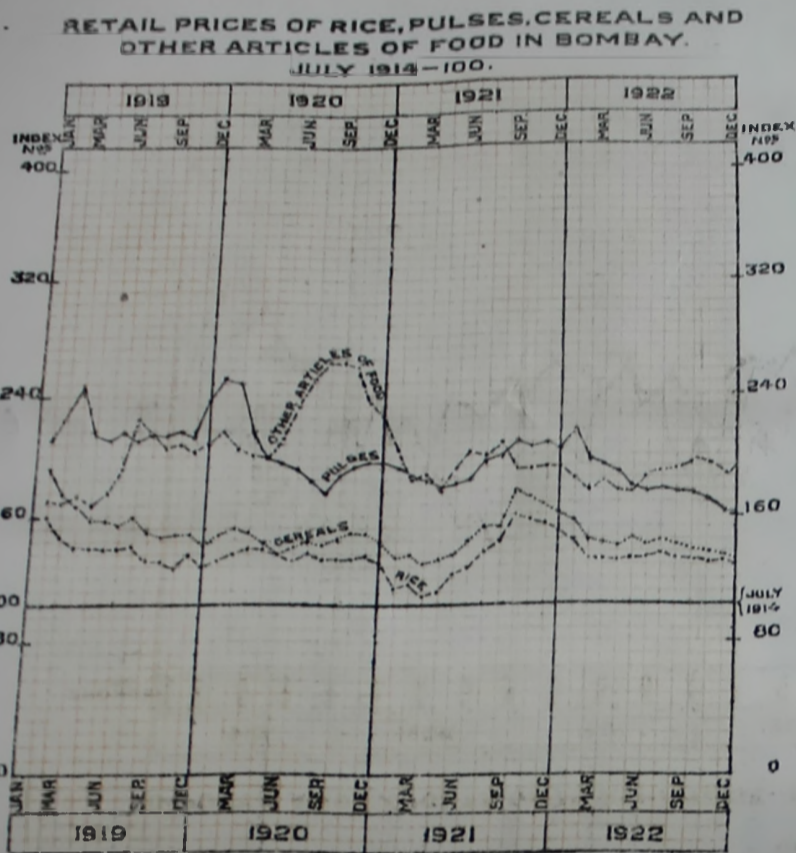
Abbreviations:-

S...Scanty F...Fair N...Normal EX...Excess.

PROVINCE OR STATE.	JUNE				JULY				AUGUST					SEPTEMBER				OCTOBER			
	8 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>
I. BOMBAY PRESIDENCY																					
1. SIND RIVER RAINFALL	F	S	F	F	S	S	N	N	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	N	N	N				
2. GUJARAT																					
3. DECCAN	N	F	EX	S	S	EX	EX	EX	F	F	F	F	S	S	S	EX	N	S			
4. KONKAN	F	EX	EX	S	F	F	EX	EX	N	EX	F	EX	S	N	F	EX	F	EX	F	S	S
II. MADRAS PRESIDENCY																					
1. MALABAR	N	N	F	S	F	F	N	N	EX	EX	EX	EX	F	EX	S	N	S	N	EX	S	F
2. DECCAN	EX	F	S	S	N	EX	EX	N	S	S	S	N	S	S	F	S	S	F	EX	EX	S
3. COAST NORTH	S	N	F	S	N	F	EX	EX	EX	EX	F	S	N	EX	EX	EX	F	EX	EX	F	S
4. SOUTH EAST																					
III. MYSORE	EX	S	F	S	N	EX	N	F	F	S	F	EX	F	EX	S	S	N	EX	F	S	S
IV. HYDERABAD																					
1. NORTH	EX	EX	EX	S	N	EX	N	N	EX	N	S	S	S	EX	N						
2. SOUTH	EX	N	N	S	F	EX	EX	EX	F	EX	S	S	S	F	EX	F					
V. CENTRAL PROVINCES																					
1. BERAR	EX	EX	S	F	F	F	EX	EX	EX	N	S	S	F	S	EX	S	EX	S	S	S	S
2. WEST	EX	EX	F	F	F	F	N	EX	EX	F	F	S	EX	F	F	S	EX	F	S	S	S
3. EAST	N	EX	N	F	N	S	N	EX	EX	EX	F	S	EX	F	EX	F	EX	S	S	S	S
VI. CENTRAL INDIA																					
1. WEST	EX	EX	S	S	F	EX	EX	F	N	N	F	N	EX	N	EX						
2. EAST	S	F	EX	S	F	S	N	EX	EX	EX	F	N	EX	EX	F						
VII. BENGAL PRESIDENCY	N	F	N	F	EX	EX	N	F	N	N	EX	N	EX	N	N	S	EX	N	N	F	
VIII. ASSAM	EX	F	N	F	N	EX	EX	S	N	F	EX	N	EX	S	EX	N	EX	N	EX	S	F
IX. BIHAR AND ORISSA																					
1. BIHAR	F	N	EX	F	EX	N	N	N	N	N	EX	EX	F	EX	S	N	F	EX	N		
2. ORISSA	N	N	N	F	F	S	F	EX	F	F	F	EX	EX	F	N	F	EX	N			
X. UNITED PROVINCES																					
1. EAST																					
2. WEST																					
XI. PUNJAB																					
1. EAST AND NORTH																					
2. SOUTH AND WEST																					
XII. RAJPUTANA																					
1. WEST																					
2. EAST																					
XIII. BURMA																					
1. LOWER	N	F	EX	F	N	F	S	N	EX	EX	EX	N	EX	EX	N	N	N	N	F	S	EX
2. UPPER	N	EX	N	F	F	EX	F	N	N	N	EX	N	N	EX	N	N	EX	F	S	N	N

Note:- See notes at foot of Chart II. These notes apply equally to Chart III.

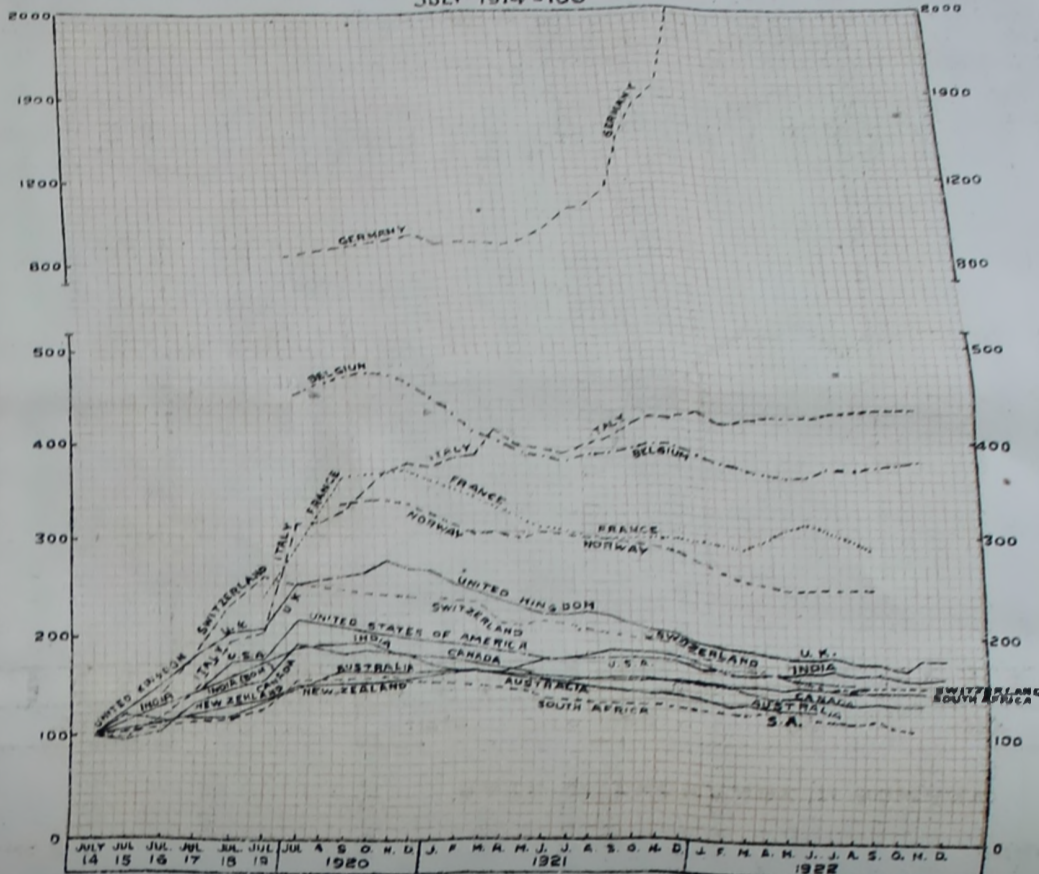
CHART No 4.



NOTE: -Pulses: Average price of gram and Turdal.  
 -Rice: Clean.  
 -Cereals: Average price of rice, wheat, Jawar and Bajri.  
 -Other articles of food: Average price of sugar, tea, salt, beef, mutton, milk, ghee, potatoes, onions, coconut oil &c.

CHART No 5

**COST OF LIVING INDEXES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES JULY 1914 = 100**



Note: - Each small square = 10 points except for Germany for which a small square = 40 points

CHART No 6.

**IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE-INDIA.**

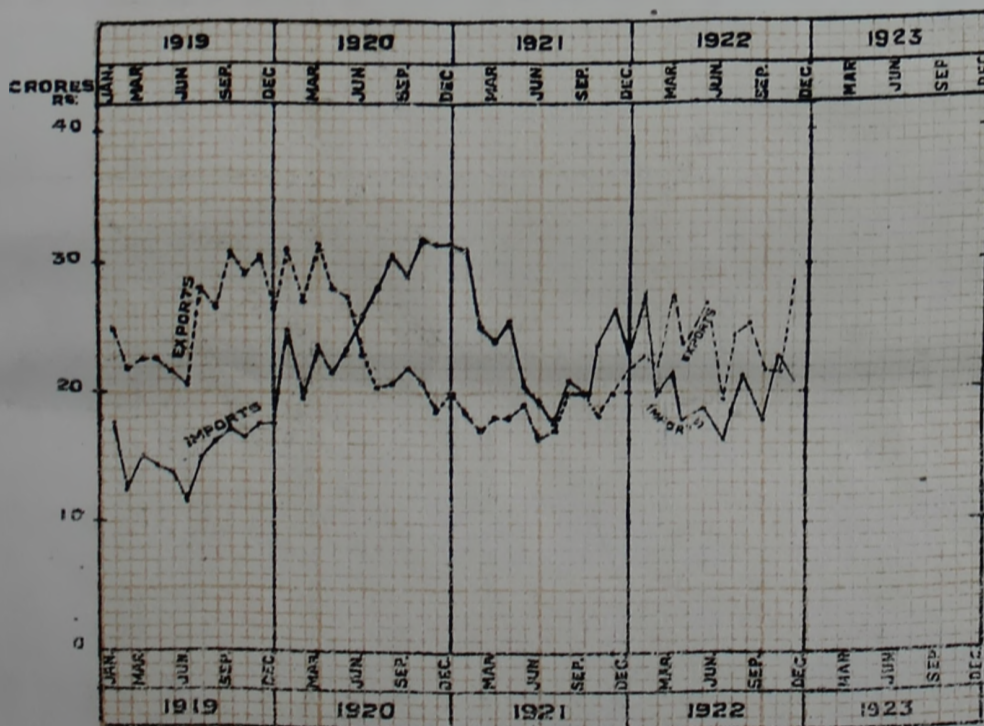
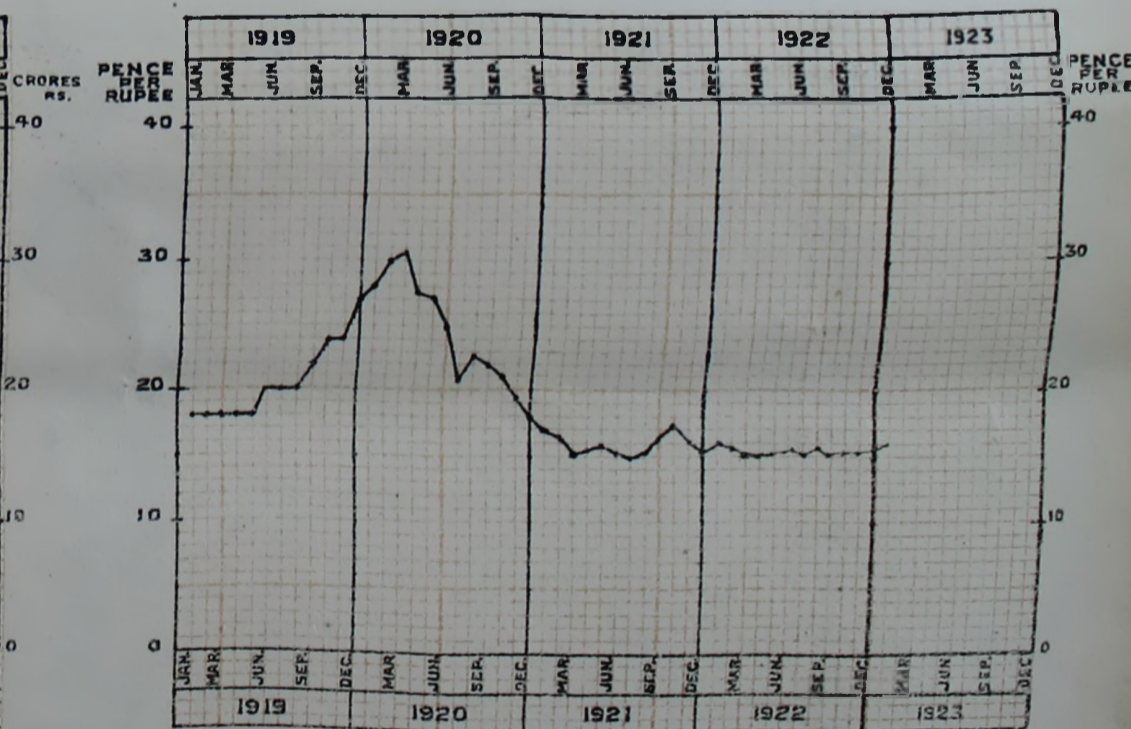


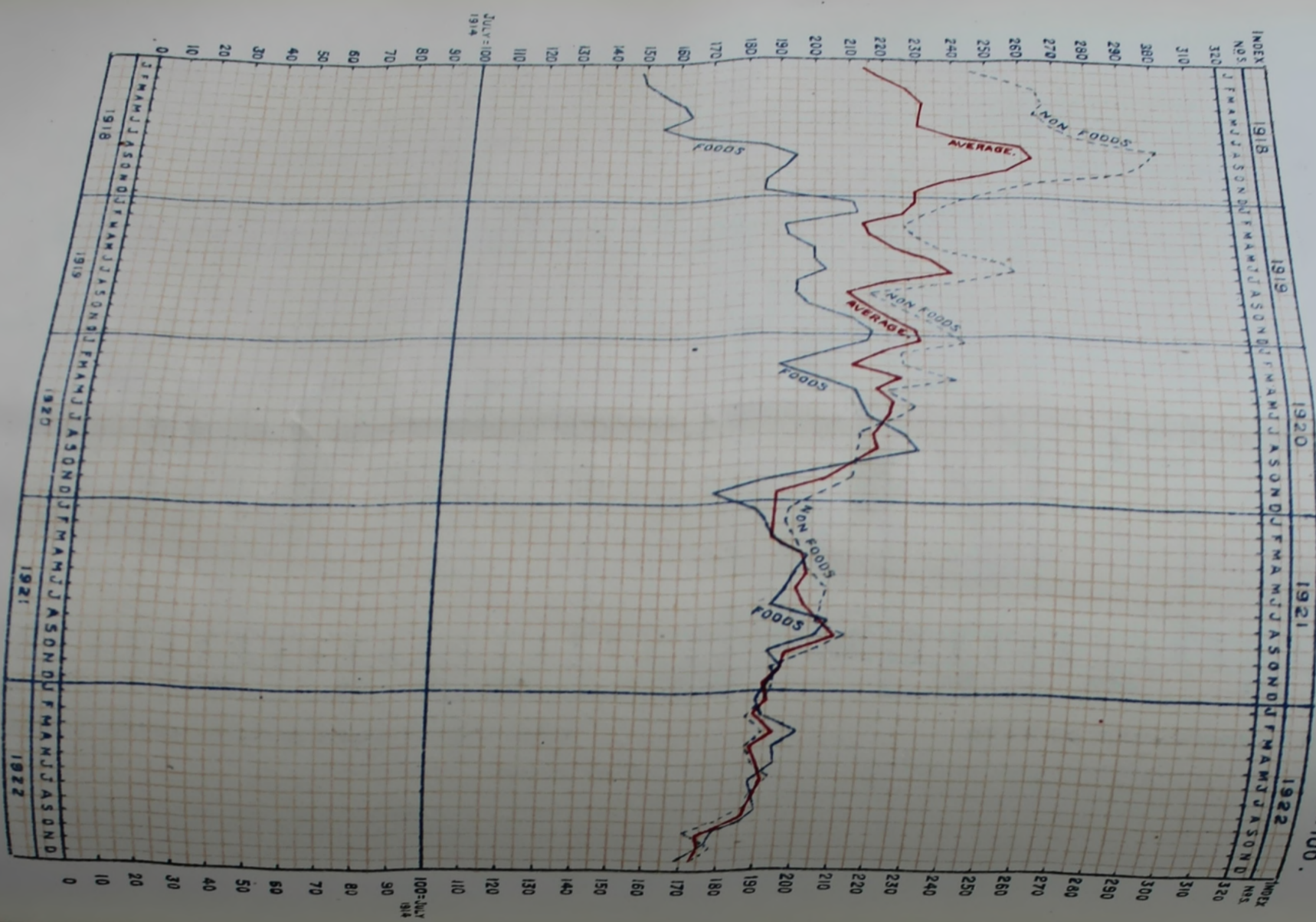
CHART No 7.

**RATE OF EXCHANGE IN BOMBAY.**



NOTE: (1) The reason for the fall of Exchange will be evident from the preceding chart. When the balance of trade is adverse (imports greater than exports) Exchange also tends to be adverse from India's point of view. This is the Telegraphic Transfer rate on London.  
 (2) Each square equals 1 panny.





FOODS AND NON FOODS WHOLESALE PRICES  
BOMBAY.

CHART No. 8

JULY 1914 = 100.

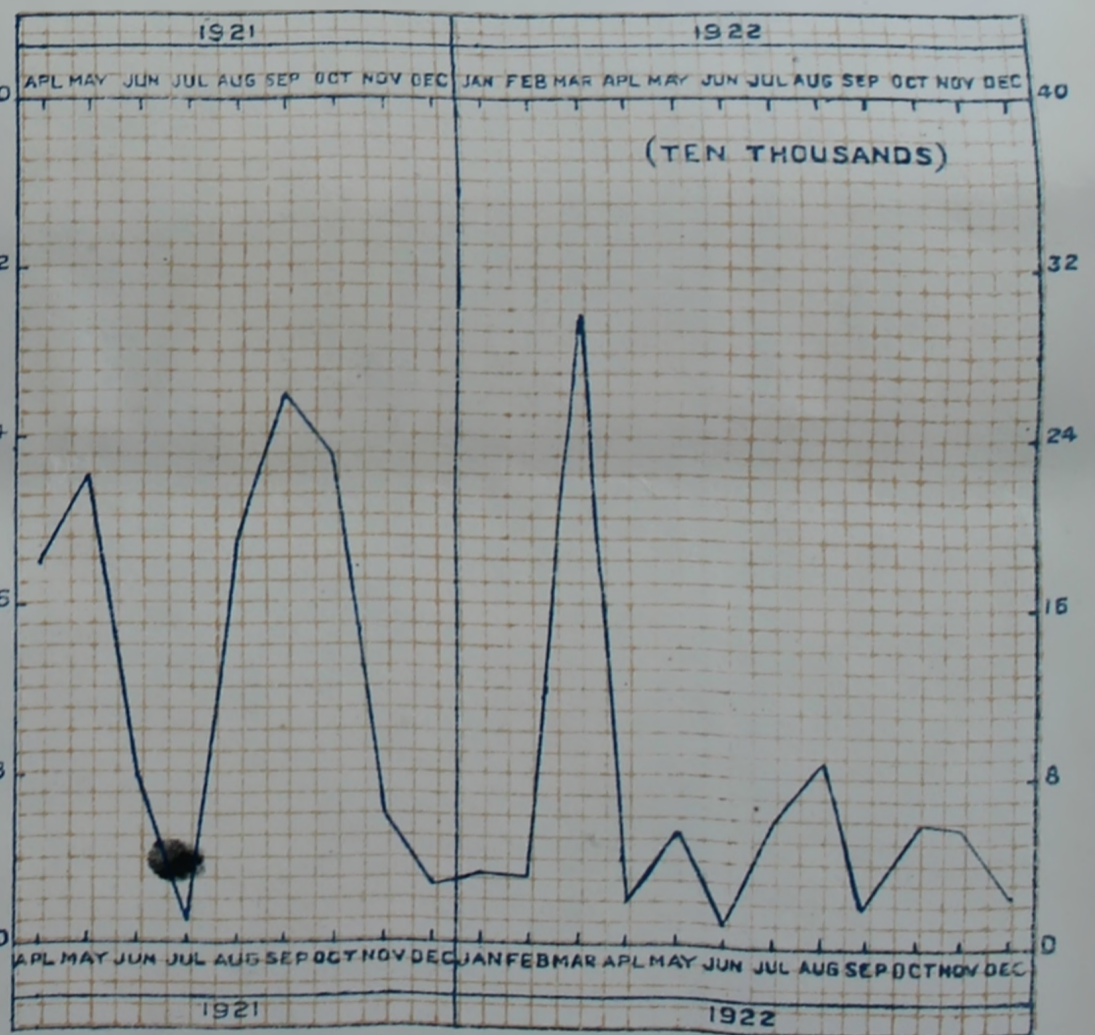
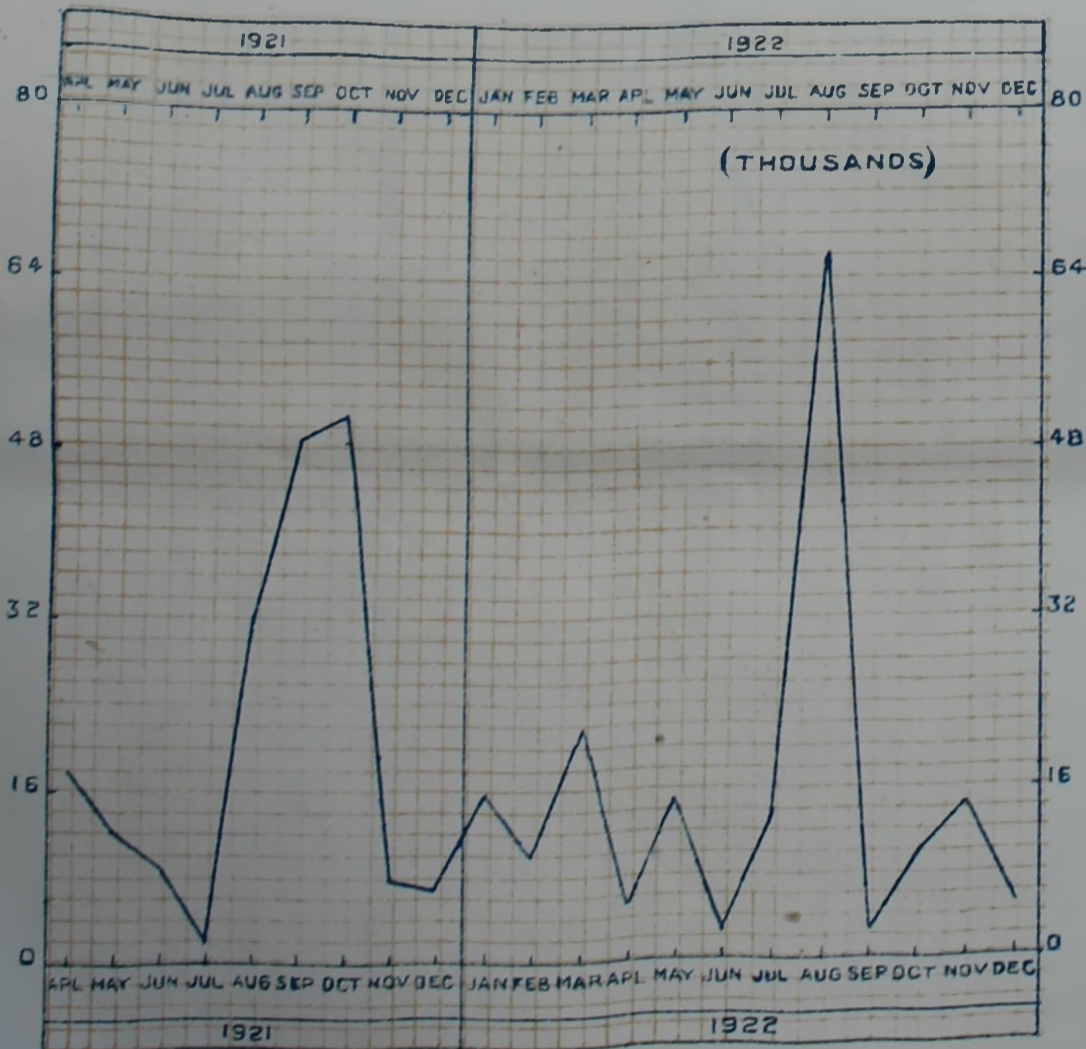
CHART No. 9

STRIKES IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY 1921-1922.

CHART No. 10

NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED

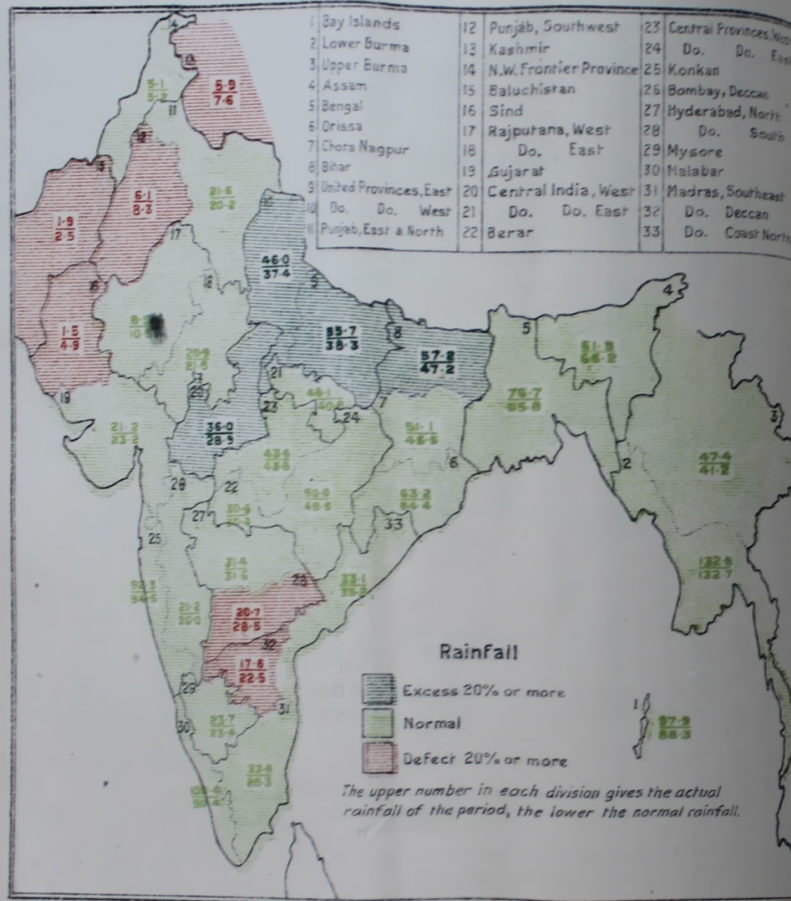
NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST



NOTE: - EACH SQUARE ABOVE = 2,000

NOTE: - (1) THE SMALL NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST IN JULY 1921 AND JUNE 1922 IS OWING TO THE SHORT DURATION OF STRIKES.  
(2) EACH SQUARE ABOVE = 10,000

RAINFALL FOR THE PERIOD, JUNE TO NOVEMBER, 1922.



FIFTY-ONE COUNCILS

During 1918 twenty industrial councils were set up. By the end of 1919 the number had reached the total of fifty-one.

These councils covered, approximately, 3,300,000 workpeople.

INTERIM COMMITTEES

In industries where the existing organisation does not permit of the immediate establishment of joint industrial councils, the Government has favoured the setting up of interim industrial reconstruction committees, in which the general principles of the Whitley scheme are applied as far as possible. The primary function of these bodies, as their name implies, is to deal with problems of post-war reconstruction. Twenty-four of these committees were in existence at the above date.

The application of the Whitley scheme rests entirely on a voluntary basis, and the work of the Ministry of Labour is confined to assistance in negotiations and the supplying of information on request. The method adopted by the Ministry in the creation of joint industrial councils is generally that of informal negotiations, with both sides aiming at a full trade conference from which a drafting committee can be appointed. It has been found in practice that the dependence of the whole scheme upon adequate organisation on both sides has given an impetus to organisation in industry generally.

Progress during the summer of 1919 was, as indicated above, exceptionally rapid. This period also witnessed the application of the scheme to the Government industrial establishments, while the establishment of the National Council for the Administrative and Legal Departments of the Civil Service definitely marks the successful extension of the movement to the professional spheres, and has aroused considerable interest in the possibility of its application in the banking, insurance, teaching and legal professions.

THE WORK DONE

The work already accomplished by joint industrial councils affords ample evidence of the value of these bodies. Many of the councils have arrived at agreements on wages, hours, overtime, holidays, and other matters

of immediate importance. In several cases the councils have been the means of establishing the first national rates for their industries. The fact that they form a regular channel for the discussion of claims and grievances has considerably diminished the risk of disputes in their industries. The work done by the councils in conciliation and arbitration is thus of importance, not only to their industries, but to the community generally. In addition, the wide field opened to constructive work has been taken advantage of. Questions of scientific management, of reduction of costs, of research, statistics, and processes, have been dealt with in several councils. The councils also constitute the recognised channels of communication between their industries and the Government.

It is necessary, also, to refer to the important part in the scheme filled by the district councils and the works committees.

The average workman's personal interest in the Whitley Report is aroused by the functions and the work of these bodies rather than by those of the national councils. This has been clearly recognised by most national councils, which have accordingly taken steps to set up district councils as the industry's requirements demand, and have recommended to employers the establishment of works committees. The number of these committees is increasing rapidly, and their most hopeful feature is the growing recognition by employers of their value in the prevention of friction and misunderstanding, and in providing employees with a wider interest in and greater responsibility for the conditions under which their work is performed.

To judge from the present position, the Whitley Council's movement shows signs of permanence and development which augur well for the future industrial peace of the country. It must be remembered, however, that these bodies are young, and have yet, in most cases, to experience times of stress and strain. It is consequently too early to express a definite opinion upon their value. Nevertheless, the fact that employers and employees alike will learn, by the means they afford of regular joint discussion of the problems of their industries, to appreciate



each other's point of view and difficulties, must go far in the direction of a successful solution of these problems.

The common desire for abbreviation has led to the chairman's name being attached to the work of his committee; but he wishes to make it clear that the Joint Industrial Council proposals were in a very real sense those of all the colleagues with whom he was privileged to act.

#### WORKS COMMITTEES

Owing to the size and complexity of modern industry, direct relations between employers and employed are usually no longer possible except in the smaller industrial establishments. Furthermore, the great changes in industry which the war has produced have caused the need for closer relations between employer and workmen to become increasingly felt. Attempts have therefore been made to devise an effective substitute for the old personal relationship, and, as a result, works committees have been formed to provide a means of direct and constant communication between employer and workmen.

The growth of works committees has been very much accelerated by the progress made in carrying out the recommendations of the Whitley Committee.

As regards works committees, the Whitley Committee recommended that they should be established only on lines agreed upon by the employers' organisations and trade unions represented on the joint industrial council, where such a body has been created for the industry concerned. Apart from this, the Whitley Committee refrained from recommending any specific form of works committee, as different forms must necessarily be adopted in order to meet the varying needs of different industries.

At the present time over fifty industries are represented by a national joint industrial council, and more are in process of formation. The complete application of the Whitley proposals in these industries has not yet been fully worked out. Most of the industries concerned have, so far, been chiefly engaged in the formation of national and district councils. A number of joint industrial

councils, however, have already commenced to give the Whitley proposals their fullest expression by recommending the formation of works committees, and have approved model constitutions for them and also laid down regulations for their guidance. Many works committees, however, some of which have achieved remarkable results, were in existence prior to the publication of the Whitley Reports. Others are being formed in industries which have not yet set up joint industrial councils.

The constitutions and functions of the committees that have been formed vary, of course, with every industry, and, to a large extent, with every works. The following, however, is a short outline of the constitution and the more important functions of a works committee based upon particulars obtained from a large number of different committees.

#### CONSTITUTION

The workers' representatives are elected by ballot, usually on the basis of departments. The number varies with the size of the works, but does not usually exceed twelve, as a large number would make the committee unwieldy.

Employers' representatives are selected by the management, and do not normally number more than two or three. They always include the managing director or works manager or somebody in an equally important position.

#### FUNCTIONS

The settlement of grievances, questions of discipline and conduct, suggestions of improvements in method and organisation of work, questions of physical welfare, etc., are amongst the subjects dealt with.

All matters which are subject to district or national agreements, such as rates of wages, are naturally excluded from the functions of a works committee.

In the industrial organisation of the future the works committees will undoubtedly have an important place. They have already proved of immense assistance in removing small grievances which otherwise would have rankled and assumed larger proportions. They have also in many cases resulted in the workers taking a greater interest in their work and obtaining a better knowledge of the difficulties with which the employers have to



contend. Many valuable contributions have also been made towards more efficient organisation and increased production.

For further information on works committees reference should be made to Industrial Reports Nos. 2 and 4, issued by the Ministry of Labour, Montagu House, Whitehall, London, which may be purchased from H. M. Stationery Office, or through any book-seller.

### THE BOMBAY UNIONS

#### A REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL REPORTS

The Labour Office has received copies of (1) the Second Annual Report of the B. B. and C. I. Railway Employees' Union, Bombay, for 1921-22, (2) The Third Biennial Report of the Bombay Presidency Postmen's Union for 1920-21 and 1921-22, (3) The Fourth Annual Report of the Clerks' Union, Bombay, for the year ending 31st December 1921, and (4) The Third Annual Report of the G. I. P. Railway Workmen's Union for 1921-22.

#### *The B. B. and C. I. Railway Employees' Union*

The aims and objects of the B. B. and C. I. Railway Employees' Union, Bombay, were mentioned on page 20 of the *Labour Gazette* for March 1922. In reviewing the work of the Union for 1921, the Honorary Secretary states that the number of members throughout the year was fluctuating. The Union is endeavouring to obtain recognition by the Railway authorities. A Co-operative Credit Society has been started conjointly with the G. I. P. Railway Workmen's Union for the grant of loans on easy terms to members of the Union. Other useful activities under contemplation include the starting of a Reading Room and Library and a Death and Retirement Benefit Fund. During the year ending 31st March 1922, Rs. 58 were paid to 10 members in the form of death and retirement benefits. The total income of the Union during the period under review amounted to Rs. 5,943, and the total expenditure to Rs. 2,739.

#### *The Bombay Presidency Postmen's Union*

The Bombay Presidency Postmen's Union was established in 1918 mainly (1) to promote

friendly feeling and foster a spirit of brotherhood among the postmen of the Bombay Presidency; (2) to consider their disabilities in regard to work and wages and try to remove them by all lawful and constitutional means and (3) to improve the condition of the postmen by initiating schemes of benefit insurance, provident funds, co-operative credit society, medical relief and other benefits. According to the third biennial report for 1920-21 and 1921-22 the total income for the period under review was Rs. 4,644-14-0 and the expenditure Rs. 3,775-4-8. Rs. 98-4-0 were spent for providing medical relief to members and Rs. 128-8-11 on account of Death or Retirement Benefit to 18 members. The Poona branch of the Union, which has a total membership of 62 and an income of Rs. 262-6-3, has been reporting progress.

The outstanding event during the period under review was the postmen's strike which lasted a little over five months. The Official recognition of the Union by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs has given considerable satisfaction to the members. A scheme for educating the members of the Union is nearing completion.

#### *The Clerks' Union*

The *Indian Clerk* (official organ of the Clerks' Union), Volume I, No. 1, contains the fourth Annual Report of the Clerks' Union, Bombay, for the year ending 31st December 1921. The Union has a co-operative credit society which is reported to have done good work. The income of the Union by way of subscriptions, donations, etc., amounted to Rs. 1,379-5-1 while the expenditure came to Rs. 716. The lack of housing accommodation for the middle classes, especially clerks, in Bombay has been referred to in the Report. A reference is also made to the question of unemployment among clerks due to trade depression and the scarcity of demand.

#### *The G. I. P. Railway Workmen's Union*

The Third Annual Report of the G. I. P. Railway Workmen's Union for 1921-22 states that the Union has two branches, one at Igatpuri and the other at Manmad. The income during the year under report was



Rs. 6,870-4-3 and the expenditure Rs. 3,866-0-6. A Co-operative Credit Society for the grant of loans on easy terms to members of the Union has been started with the assistance of a member of the Social Service League.

#### Trade Unions in Ahmedabad

On pages 26 and 27 of the December issue of the *Labour Gazette* the suspension of the Throstle Union at Ahmedabad was referred to. A meeting was held in the middle of December and representatives of a large majority of the workers in the Throstle Departments in the Ahmedabad mills expressed their regret to the late President and resolved that all members of the Union who participated in the strike should pay a fine of 4 annas each. The President, Miss Anusuyabai, has withdrawn her resignation.

### THE INDIAN FACTORIES ACT

#### NOTICES IN FACTORIES

In Section 36 (2) of the Amended Factories Act published on page 26 of the *Labour Gazette* for July 1922 the words "within one month of the commencement of this Act, or, in the case of a factory which starts work after the commencement of this Act" should be omitted and Section 36 should read as follows:—

"36. *Affixing of abstract and notices.*—(1) There shall be affixed in some conspicuous place near the main entrance of every factory, in English and in the language of the majority of the operatives in such factory, the prescribed abstracts of this Act and of the rules made thereunder, and also a notice containing the standing orders of the factory upon the following matters, namely:—

- (a) the time of beginning and ending work on each day;
- (b) the periods of rest fixed under section 21;
- (c) the hours of beginning and ending work for each shift (if any);
- (d) the hours of employment of all persons employed, and
- (e) the weekly holidays fixed under section 22.

(2) A copy of the said notice shall be sent to the Inspector within one month of commencing work.

(3) The said notice shall be correctly maintained and kept up to date, and intimation of any change therein shall be sent by the manager to the Inspector within seven days.

(4) Repealed."

### FACTORY INSPECTION

#### ITS PROBLEMS AND IMPORTANCE

Mr. J. P. Meade, Director of the Division of Industrial Safety of the Massachusetts Department of Labour and Industry, read a paper on the "Problems and Importance of Factory Inspection" at the Ninth Annual Convention of the Government Labour Officials of the United States and Canada. The following is a summary of his views which are of importance in Indian factory inspection.

#### PURPOSE OF FACTORY INSPECTION

The duties assigned to the Factory Inspector relate to problems so vital as the conservation of human life, strength, and energy. The fundamental purpose of factory inspection is to protect the life and health of workmen from dangers arising in connection with machinery and industrial processes and rests upon the principle that workplaces should be made safe for employees. The rapid progress in mechanical processes and the unwholesomeness of many industrial occupations have brought with them new risks to vitality and health. The need for maintaining health and safety among industrial workers has been keenly felt, and public attention has been aroused on account of the suffering caused to the victims of industrial accidents and the consequent poverty in their families. The conservation of the life, health, and energy of the wage-earners has become a social question and is therefore recognised as a legitimate function of Government in the United States. The time loss and the incapacity produced as a result of injury constitute a serious tax upon the productive power of labour. In 1919 there occurred in the United States about 23,000 fatal accidents and 575,000 non-fatal accidents. In 1921 the total direct cost of industrial accidents in the United States of America including medical aid and other legitimate charges was not less than Rs. 312,50\* lakhs of which Rs. 107,60 lakhs was borne by employers and Rs. 204,90 lakhs by employees and their dependents. But figures do not adequately represent the economic loss sustained through occupational disease. While some industrial diseases are definite in their results as are accidents, their number is limited in

\* § 4·86½ = £1; £1 = Rs. 15.



comparison with the vast number of diseases, often obscure and chronic in course, which affect many classes of workmen. The misery and poverty entailed by partial disability are therefore much more difficult to estimate with accuracy.

#### THE EQUIPMENT AND DUTIES OF THE FACTORY INSPECTOR

The progressive inspector has therefore a many-sided problem before him. He ought not to be a mere agency. On the contrary he must be an active influence. Standards of safety prepared under the auspices of employers and workmen and approved by safety engineers, constitute the regulations adopted by the labour departments in the United States of America. Thus, the removal of dusts, gases, fumes, excessive heat, and other impurities from factory work-rooms which is essential to the health of employees, can be accomplished by means of efficient mechanical exhaust systems. Injuries sustained through the inhalation of metallic, mineral or organic dusts are far more dangerous than the results of traumatic amputations. The provision of clean and pure drinking water is a *sine qua non* of factory sanitation. The provision of washing and toilet facilities in working rooms is equally important. The programme of factory sanitation must include the maintenance of well ventilated and lighted work-rooms. Good health is often the only asset of a workman. The inspector must be familiar with the best methods of ventilation in work-rooms and be well qualified to advise as to the best method of lighting and dust removing. He must be skilled in the location of work places where danger lurks. It requires intensive training in the examination of causes underlying industrial accidents and occupational diseases. In short, a factory inspector should have an intimate knowledge of the conditions responsible for the loss of human life and energy. The careful examination of facts in regard to occupational accidents places an inexhaustible fund of valuable experience at the disposal of safety organisations, while his knowledge of accident causation in each industry becomes a valuable asset to employers in maintaining a high degree of safety in their factories.

#### METHOD OF INSPECTION

In regard to the method of inspection Mr. Meade says:

"The inspector with vision, force and ability, who carefully examines the causes responsible for industrial injury, usually has unobstructed admission to the management where the policies of the industry are defined. Work of this kind is usually welcomed by progressive employers. Superintendents and foremen willingly give time to an intelligent practical presentation of the means by which accidents may be reduced in their plant. An inspector equipped with the solid experience acquired from close contact with these conditions in industry is usually well able to solve problems found in the course of factory inspection.

It is impracticable to formulate a uniform rule for making inspections. There is such a wide range in size and capacity of establishments in the same industry that such a plan is impossible. There are also many different classes of industries, each having its own specific dangers. Each establishment must be considered separately, and the advice given necessarily will depend upon the character of the operations and number of employees and conditions found in the plant. Each industry has its own traditions and peculiar hazards. Every inspection must be made with this point in view. The inspector must be quick to perceive the good and bad conditions existing. Mechanical dangers cannot engage his attention exclusively. If industry were combed clear of machinery hazards we would still have serious industrial accidents. Most of the real hazards in industry now arise from unsafe practices, and the inspector who can detect careless methods and suggest safer ways of accomplishing the results is the agency we must look to for the best type of factory inspection work."

A competent inspector ought first to get into touch with that official in the plant who is invested with authority to receive and act upon his recommendation. The inspection should be made in a systematic manner, going through the various buildings or departments of an establishment in the regular order. Where minors are employed the employment and educational certificates should be examined. The inspector should see that in the case of children and young persons the specific nature of the employment is stated, and that suitable seats are provided for women and minors if required by law. Mr. Meade's views are so appropriate to inspection in this country that they may be quoted *in extenso*.



## INSPECTION DETAILS

In general, he then observes conditions relative to the safeguarding of machinery and belts; the condition of floors; sees that exit doors are not locked; that stairs are properly handrailed; if proper ventilation is provided; if dusts, gases, and fumes which are injurious to health are removed or rendered harmless in so far as it is practical to do so. He must note if pure drinking water is provided, and if his inspection is in a textile factory where humidifying systems are in use, he must see that the amount of moisture does not exceed that specified by law and that pure water is used in such systems.

The number, construction, and location of toilets must be noted in order to ascertain if they are provided as the law requires and he must assure himself that washing facilities are provided and maintained in accordance with the rules and regulations of the department.

## INSPECTION IN TEXTILE FACTORIES

In textile and cotton factories he must also see that specifications regarding the construction of cloth and rates of compensation, when employees are paid by the piece, are properly posted; see if the work-rooms are properly lighted and if there is adequate protection from glare. He ascertains if a medical and surgical chest or a medical room is provided in manufacturing establishments or in other places of employment if required by law.

He notes if positive arrangements are provided on each floor at a convenient point within the room in which machinery is located, whereby either the entire power supply on that floor may be cut off as a whole, or the one or more lines of shafting used in driving countershafts over machines or connected directly to machines may be cut off independently.

Types of emergency stopping devices such as friction clutches, motor stops, or engine stops must meet with his approval. The construction and materials for guards are carefully examined. They must be suitable in connection with belts and pulleys so that spokes will be guarded and that the section of pulley receiving belt will be adequately covered to prevent anyone being caught between belt and pulley. Setscrews on revolving parts, in running gears and sprocket wheels, couplings and collars, dead ends of shafting, and all the well-known mechanical dangers are carefully noted. Those other factory hazards so often prolific in causing industrial injury, in which are included defective stairs, obstructed passageways, and failure to provide railings, occupy a prominent place in his inspection.

If the industry is one in which special rules and regulations have been adopted for the safeguarding of workers against dangers existing therein, great care

must be exercised that the danger points are noted thoroughly and correctly. In the briefest outline the functions of the industrial inspector are herewith described.....

The easiest part of the inspector's work is to issue recommendations; the real work begins in securing compliance with them. We come now to one of the practical problems of factory inspection and that is the accurate timing of compliance visits. Unless great care is exercised in the discharge of this duty the waste of much time and effort is inevitable.

It is obvious that the time necessary for complying with statutory requirements varies considerably. Construction work for the installation of toilet and washing facilities in large mills may require several months. Good judgment in timing reinspection visits under such circumstances may result in saving time for valuable service in hazardous workshops. The inspector who deals with this problem effectively extends his activity into a larger area of the industrial field and is of greater service to a department than one who occasionally displays spectacular brilliancy in some particular instance and then willingly follows ordinary routine without special attention. It is here that the efficiency of the inspector's work is tested. The growth of the movement to conserve health and safety in industry is measured very largely by the amount of inspection work done.....

## PROSECUTIONS

We come now to a feature of the work that deserves the best thought and consideration. Where the requirements of the law are wilfully resisted, there is seldom any treatment more efficacious than prompt application of the penalty through court action. The attitude of some individuals in this connection, however, does not justify the use of obtrusive methods in exercising authority delegated by the statute to an inspector. Neither should it diminish regard for the right of private citizens in the slightest degree. The doctrine of punishment should be evoked only in the case of those who defy the law. The ordinary employer is not in this class. His usual attitude is to comply with the requirements of the statutes. The individual is found, however, in every industrial State whose selfish greed subordinates human health and energy to the acquisition of personal wealth. Commercialism of this kind is not a good asset for any community. It breeds discord and promotes strife between workmen and employer. The penalties provided for violation of the law dealing with industrial health and safety should fall swiftly and heavily upon offenders of this type. The competent inspector will always remember that it is his department that is in action when he is in the field. Upon him ultimately rests the responsibility of success or failure. If he would



make his work in a plant durable he will endeavour to secure, as a means of making permanent the duty of maintaining safe workplaces in the establishment, the support of the employer and employees in the organisation of a movement for the prevention of industrial injury. Where these factors are joined together and a determined effort made to reduce occupational accidents, improvement is inevitable. The inspector who can point to plants organised on these lines has rendered the highest type of service to industry. He has done even more. He has instituted an enterprise the dividends of which are the prevention of human suffering, the saving of human life, the preservation of the home and family."

## ACCIDENT CAUSATION \*

*Two Contributions towards the study of Accident Causation in Great Britain*

In an extremely valuable preface to the general bibliography on the subject of industrial accidents and accident causation, it is pointed out that up to the present time in Great Britain, attention has been chiefly directed towards accident prevention by the study of impersonal factors; and that whilst the questions of safety devices have received continuous attention, the personal factor has only recently been given due consideration. The importance of the personal factor in accident causation is indicated by the fact that the Home Office records show that two-thirds of the accidents reported are due to causes other than the machinery itself. Recent study of accident data and laboratory research on the influence of the personal factor in Great Britain, America and Germany point out that accident frequency is affected in varying degrees by (1) rate of output, (2) fatigue, (3) psychic state, (4) temperature of workrooms, (5) lighting and (6) inexperience and age.

"The usual type of curve shows a rapid rise in accident rate during a day's work reaching a maximum, during the last or penultimate hour of the morning, a similar trend being noticeable in the case of the afternoon spell." The relative importance of the various factors affecting accident rate have been studied to some extent in recent investigations, in Munitions Works in England and Engineering Workshops in America.

\* Reports of the Industrial Fatigue Research Board—Two Contributions to the Study of Accident Causation—No. 19 (General Series No. 7). His Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1922, Price 1s. 6d.

Vernon<sup>1</sup> found that during a day spell the accident curve bore a strong resemblance to the rate of output, and concluded that speed of production and not fatigue was the chief factor in accident causation. That fatigue may be an important contributing cause is shown by the fact that with a 12-hour day accidents among women workers were 2½ times as numerous as when the working day was limited to 10 hours. It is further pointed out that fatigue may in some cases cause a reduction in accident rate owing to a resulting diminution in the output rate.

The accident curve for night shift workers in the same investigation bore little resemblance to the output rate. In this case the accident rate is greatest at the beginning of the work and, finally sinks to less than half the original value, whilst the total accident rate is 16 per cent. less than the day shift rate. These differences are ascribed to psychic influences, assuming that the night shift workers started work in a careless and excited state and gradually settled down to a calmer mental state than the day workers.

Part A of the Report deals particularly with the influence of temperature and concerns an investigation into accidents occurring in three munition factories in England. Continuous temperature records were taken and the day divided into six spells: three for the day shift, and three for the night shift. The minimum number of accidents were found to occur with a temperature of 67 deg. Fahr. In one works, the minimum number occurred at 72 deg. Fahr. but here the speed of working was less than that at the other two works. With a fall of temperature accidents increased greatly and at 52 deg. Fahr. were 35% more numerous. At temperatures above 72 deg. Fahr. the number increased very rapidly among men but only to a slight extent among women.

The influence of fatigue was shown in one factory. With women working 61 hours per week, the same as the men, accidents were 91 per cent. as numerous; after the former had their hours reduced to 39½, accidents were only 70% as numerous.

<sup>1</sup> An Investigation of the Factors concerned in the Causation of Industrial Accidents (1918) [Cd. 9046]



Part B of the Report deals with the Laboratory Tests conducted with a view to establishing the relations between the accuracy with which a particular operation is performed at varying speeds; the analogy in practice being the variation in accident rate at different output rates. The tests were of two kinds and were both a measure of muscular precision. The conclusions reached as a result of the test are :

1. An increase in the rate of movement causes an increase in the inaccuracy of the movements, and that the faster the rate in operation at any time the greater in general is the increase in the inaccuracy produced by any unit increase in rate.

2. Continuous work for several hours showed an increase in inaccuracy.

3. An inaccuracy curve similar to the industrial accident curve for the morning hours was obtained by gradually increasing the rate of movements in the morning period.

4. The general conclusions suggested by the results is that the rate of work and not fatigue is the principal factor in the hourly variation in the number of accidents.

Muscio, who conducted the tests suggests further experimental data of a similar nature should be collected; the results collected for a greater number of subjects than in the experiment under review; longer periods of continuous work and tests involving a greater expenditure of muscular energy employed.

T. MALONEY,

(Humidification Adviser to the Government of India.)

### ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES

Arrangements have been made to publish monthly in the *Labour Gazette* a summary of accidents in factories and workshops of this Presidency. The information will contain details regarding the number, date, place and nature of the accidents and the industries in which the accidents occurred. The first summary will appear in the next issue of the *Labour Gazette* and will contain reports of accidents which were reported in January. This information will be of special interest in view of workmen's compensation. Details regarding prosecutions instituted under the Factories Act will also appear from time to time in the *Labour Gazette*.

### BIHAR COLLIERY DISASTER

#### GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S NOTIFICATION

In connexion with the serious explosion which occurred on the 4th January in the Parbelia Colliery, the Government of India have issued the following *Communique* :

The Government of India have heard with great regret of the occurrence of a very serious accident at Parbelia Colliery in the district of Manbhum. The accident was the result of an explosion which occurred a few minutes after 7 o'clock on the morning of January, the 4th. Seventeen persons were killed outright and fifty-eight were injured, of whom only one was reported to be surviving on the 7th January.

The noise of the explosion was heard for a considerable distance, and within an hour of its occurrence some twenty of the managers of the neighbouring collieries had reached the spot bringing with them doctors and surgical appliances. By mid-day all the dead and injured had been brought to the surface. There were fourteen doctors in attendance and ample supplies of bandages.

The case was immediately investigated by the Inspectors of Mines; and the Chief Inspector of Mines, who was in Delhi at the time in connection with the meeting of the Joint Select Committee to consider the Indian Mines Bill, has also gone to the spot. The Government of Bihar and Orissa have ordered an official enquiry under section 18 of the Mines Act.

The Parbelia Colliery is situated on the south side of the Damodar River close to Saltore and Deoli and is served by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

### QUESTIONS IN THE LEGISLATURES

#### BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

##### Fatal Accidents in Shunting Yards

Mr. A. N. Surve asked : (a) Are Government aware that fatal accidents occur at Bombay in the shunting yards of the B. B. & C. I. Railway and G. I. P. Railway on account of laxity of supervision while shunting the wagons ?

(b) Will Government place on the table the number of such accidents and the circumstances under which they occurred during the past five years ?

The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola replied : (a) and (b) The statement of fatal



accidents in shunting yards of the G. I. P. and B. B. & C. I. Railways in Bombay is laid on the table (see below) :—

Year.	Railway servants.		Non-Railway servants.		Remarks.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
<i>On the B. B. &amp; C. I. Railway.</i>					
1917	2	..	..	..	
1918	1	..	..	..	
1919	2	..	..	..	
1920	..	..	..	..	
1921	3	..	..	..	
<i>On the G. I. P. Railway.</i>					
1920	1	8	4	4	Records antecedent to 1920 are not available.
1921	1	10	4	7	
1922 till middle of September.	1	7	1	2	

#### MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

##### Labour Unions in the Presidency

Khan Sahib Munshi Muhammad Abdur Rahman Sahib asked : Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if the Government intend to introduce legislation for the full recognition, protective and regulative, of Labour Unions in the Madras Presidency ?

Government replied : No. The Government of India are considering the question of introducing all-India legislation on the subject.

##### Maternity Allowance in the Tata Group of Mills

The rules regulating the payment of maternity allowances in the Tata group of mills, and statistics for previous months, were published on pages 29 and 17 of the *Labour Gazette* for January and December 1922. The report for the quarter ended September 1922 just received shows the following payments for the following mills (Ahmedabad, Central, David, Standard, Swadeshi, Tata and Bombay United) :—

The number of new recipients who will receive part allowance in the next quarter is 52 and the allowance Rs. 777-3-6.

##### Maternity Allowance paid during Quarter ended September 1922

Total number receiving benefits	..	124
Total amount paid	..	Rs. 2,164
Total amount paid per head	..	.. 17

### INDIA AND THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

#### RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

India, it will be remembered, appealed to the Council of the League of Nations to be declared one of the eight countries of chief industrial importance within the meaning of Article 393 of the Treaty of Versailles and, therefore, entitled to membership of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office. The India Office prepared in the spring of 1920 a detailed Memorandum containing comparative statistics which showed the justification of the claim. The statistics in the Memorandum were very carefully prepared by Mr. Findlay Shirras, then Director of Statistics with the Government of India (now Director, Labour Office, Bombay) on special duty at the India Office. The League of Nations was appealed to because under the fourth paragraph of Article 393 of the Treaty it is laid down that "Any question as to which are the members of chief industrial importance shall be decided by the Council of the League of Nations". The Memorandum was published in the issues of September 1921 (page 29) and February 1922 (page 14). Lord Chelmsford's recent speech before the League was published on page 21 of the *Labour Gazette* for December 1922. It is satisfactory to note that, after protracted examination of the grounds of the claim of India by experts appointed by the League of Nations, India has been admitted as one of the eight countries of chief industrial importance. Poland and Switzerland's claims have not been admitted. Below are (1) the Second Report by Viscount Ishii, Representative of Japan, and (2) the Resolution adopted by the Council of the League of Nations, dated the 30th September 1922.

##### Second Report

This question, on which I had the honour to present a report to the Council on September 13th last, has now been discussed by us at several meetings. We have carefully considered the recommendations of the Committee of Experts presided over by M. Fontaine, and we have had the advantage of valuable memoranda and oral statements from the Governments of India and Poland, and of hearing a

no less valuable oral argument from the representative of Switzerland. No other Government has requested to be heard by us.

In the course of our discussions the Council has agreed with the view expressed in my original report, namely, that we have before us a general question, arising under Article 393, paragraph 4, of the Treaty of Versailles, as to which are the Members of the International Labour Organisation which are of chief industrial importance within the meaning of the article, and that it is our duty, under paragraph 4 of the article, to answer this question, according to the best of our judgment, by drawing up a list of the countries which we consider to satisfy the description given in the article.

I wish to make it clear that this action does not imply that we consider the Council to be the authority charged by the Treaty with the duty of drawing up the list of eight chief industrial countries, either in the first instance or in all circumstances. This is, no doubt, primarily the function of the International Labour Conference. The Council is there to settle disputes, not to draw up the list if the list can be framed without reference of a dispute to the Council. If the First Labour Conference had been able to adopt an undisputed list, there would have been no room for our intervention. Our position is simply that for the reasons stated in my first report we have been obliged, in face of the claims submitted to us and the objections to which the original list has given rise, to consider the competing claims of the countries included in the original list and of other Members of the Labour Organisation, and to answer the question which we have to decide under Article 393 of the Treaty, by naming the countries which we consider to be the eight chief industrial countries.

#### STATISTICAL EVIDENCE

We were all agreed that, on the evidence before us, seven countries, which I place in the alphabetical order of the names in French, ought to be included at present in the list. These countries are Germany, Belgium, Canada, France, Great Britain, Italy and Japan.

There remained one place to fill.

The statistical evidence before us was not conclusive. The Committee of Experts had proposed certain criteria but we were obliged to recognise that the Committee was right in saying that these criteria are not more than the best criteria which can be suggested at the present moment, and that the figures available for their application cannot claim to be, in a strictly scientific sense, accurately established and perfectly comparable figures. The Committee of Experts, moreover, proposed two methods of combining the criteria without indicating a preference for either

method. One of these methods, which was applied in Table VIII and Table VIIIa, of the annex attached by the International Labour Office to the Committee's report, showed India as the eighth country; the other, applied in Table IX, gave the eighth place to Sweden. The Governments of India and Poland proposed alternative figures for their respective countries, which placed them higher in the tables. In Tables VIII and VIIIa, India became the fourth country and Poland either the 11th or the 10th country, according as the new Indian figures were or were not also adopted. On Table IX, the new figures made India the 10th and Poland the eighth country. I ventured to suggest to the Council the possibility of combining Tables VIII and IX by the method which the Committee of Experts itself used in Table IX. If one adds together the places secured by the three countries in question in the two tables, and, in accordance with the method of Table IX, ranks them in the order of the smallness of totals thus resulting, one finds that India obtains the figure of 8 plus 11=19 on the original statistics given in the annex, or 4 plus 10=14 if we accept the figures of the Indian Government; Poland receives 15 plus 16=31 on the original figures, or 11 plus 8=19 if we accept the new Indian and Polish figures, and Sweden receives 12 plus 8=20, or 12 plus 9=21, according as we take the original statistics or accept the Indian and Polish figures. The statistical indications were therefore in favour of India.

We did not, however, feel that such statistical methods and the available figures could be accepted by us as much more than an interesting indication which could be of assistance to us in forming our judgment. Arguments against accepting the methods as furnishing the solution of our problem were addressed to us by all three countries which were heard, and some at least of our number were inclined to attach considerable weight to some of these arguments and to seek rather different criteria. We have therefore considered the question not merely in the light of the available statistics and statistical methods but also in the light of the various general arguments which can be urged in favour of different countries, and we have decided that, so far as we can judge, India has the best claim to the remaining place on our list.

#### EFFECT OF THE DECISION

Our decision introduces two new countries into the list of eight countries of chief industrial importance which was drawn up by the Organising Committee of the First Labour Conference. Of the eight countries which figured on the original list, only seven now remain, since the United States, which was on the list, has not become a Member of the Labour Organisation. Our decision has therefore the effect of displacing one country, Switzerland, from the place of a Member of chief industrial importance. The represen-

tative of Switzerland addressed to us arguments in support of Switzerland's representation on the Governing Body of the Labour Office, which will doubtless be placed before and be considered by the next Labour Conference when it chooses the four other Members of the organisation which have Government representatives on the Governing Body of the Labour Office. On behalf of Poland, it was represented to us that the available statistical information, which is admittedly unsatisfactory, does not give a fair picture of the industrial importance of the country, and, in particular, does not reflect its great industrial potentialities. We felt bound to take our decision on the facts before us without entering into questions of industrial potentiality. Our decision, in any case, is not taken for all time, but may be reviewed in the light of new claims supported by new arguments on subsequent occasions of reconstitution of the Governing Body. Poland, moreover, like Switzerland, and other countries to which our decision may be a disappointment, will have the opportunity of urging before the next Labour Conference a claim for inclusion among the four elective Members.

I have noted that our decision is, in the nature of things, a temporary one. If an amendment of the labour provisions of the Treaty of Versailles does not give a different constitution to the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and deprive the Council of its present functions under Article 393, the Council may again be called upon to exercise its functions under the article and to consider the question which are the eight chief industrial countries. I think, however, that we might lay down permanently, for our guidance, the principles which we applied when the claim of India first came before us in 1920, and might resolve that, in the absence of quite exceptional circumstances, the Council will probably not consider it proper to take any decision affecting the constitution of the Governing Body of the Labour Office during the currency of a term of office of the elected Members of that body.

If I have correctly summarised the manner in which we have reached our decision, it only remains for us to embody it in a formal resolution, for which purpose I have the honour to submit the following draft:

#### Resolution

The Council of the League of Nations, considering that the claims made to it by India and Poland, and the objections made by various other countries, in regard to the list of the eight Members of the International Labour Organisation of chief industrial importance, which was prepared by the Organising Committee of the First General Conference of the

International Labour Organisation and employed for the constitution of the Governing Body of the Labour Office in 1919, have raised a general question as to which are the eight Members of chief industrial importance;

And considering that by the fourth paragraph of Article 393 of the Treaty of Versailles and the corresponding articles of the other Treaties of Peace, this question is to be decided by the Council:

Decides that the eight Members of the International Labour Organisation which are of chief industrial importance are at present, in the alphabetical order of the names in French: Germany, Belgium, Canada, France, Great Britain, India, Italy and Japan.

In accordance with the resolution adopted by the Council at San Sebastian on August 5, 1920, the present decision is given for the purpose of the reconstitution of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, which is to be effected by the Fourth General Conference of the International Labour Organisation; and the decision is not intended to affect the composition of the Governing Body as constituted by the First Conference.

#### DETAILED REPORTS

The following Reports on this are available in the Labour Office Library: (1) Report of the Committee appointed to consider the criteria to be adopted in the selection of the eight States of Chief Industrial Importance (League of Nations, C 410 M 316); and (2) First and Second Report, and Resolution adopted by the Council of the League of Nations on September 30, 1922 (League of Nations, C 643 (1) M 400). The Committee of the League of Nations was composed of (1) two representatives of the Secretariat of the League of Nations (Professor Gini and Commendatore Anzilotti. The latter was replaced by Mr. Mckinnon Wood owing to his appointment to the Permanent Court of International Justice before the Committee had completed its task) and (2) four members of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office (M. Arthur Fontaine, M. Inuzuka, M. Hodacz and M. Jouhaux). M. Fontaine was elected chairman and the Committee held five meetings between April 1921 and May 1922.

TABLE VIII

(For information only Provisional)

States classified according to the Seven Characteristics of London, Double Weight being given to the Absolute Indices (except Railways)

Rank.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Characteristics.	United Kingdom.	Germany.	France.	Canada.	Italy.	Belgium.	Japan.	India.*	Switzerland.
A. Industrial Population .. ..	100	91.6	61.5	9.6	42.0	10.4	38.4	61.5	7.6
B. Length of Railways .. ..	59.6	90.6	93.3	100	34.4	14.9	24.4	92.3	7.8
C. Horse-power .. ..	100	76.6	61.2	21.3	23.7	12.1	31.1	10.7	6.8
D. Merchant Marine .. ..	100	3.6	17.7	5.3	13.7	2.3	16.3	1.0	0.4
<i>Absolute total</i> .. ..	359.6	262.4	233.7	136.2	113.8	39.7	110.2	165.5	22.5
E. Relation of Industrial Population to total Population .. ..	100	72.4	73.9	51.0	51.0	65.9	31.8	9.05	92.2
F. Length of Railways per Square Kilometre .. ..	37.2	37.5	33.3	2.02	21.7	100	12.5	3.8	37.7
G. Horse-power per head .. ..	57.7	34.6	42.3	65.7	16.5	44.0	14.9	0.9	46.0
<i>Relative total</i> .. ..	194.9	144.5	149.5	118.72	89.2	209.9	59.2	13.75	176.4
2(A + C + D) + (B + E + F + G) .. ..	854.5	578.7	523.6	291.12	282.4	274.4	254.2	252.45	213.5

Rank.	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Characteristics.	Norway.	Czechoslovakia.	Sweden.	Netherlands.	Denmark.	Poland.*	Argentine.	Spain.	Brazil.
A. Industrial Population .. ..	2.6	19.2	4.6	6.3	3.1	16.1	2.8	10.0	1.2
B. Length of Railways .. ..	5.0	21.3	23.6	5.3	6.7	25.8	56.4	24.5	46.8
C. Horse-power .. ..	9.7	7.4	13.0	7.3	2.1	5.6	6.2	5.7	..
D. Merchant Marine .. ..	13.3	1.1	5.9	9.8	4.4	..	0.8	5.4	2.7
<i>Absolute total</i> .. ..	30.6	49.0	47.1	28.7	16.3	47.5	66.2	45.6	50.7
E. Relation of Industrial Population to total Population .. ..	47.8	66.3	36.9	43.1	44.9	28.9	15.5	22.1	2
F. Length of Railways per Square Kilometre .. ..	3.07	29.3	10.3	31.0	30.7	13.0	3.7	9.5	1.7
G. Horse power per head .. ..	100	14.8	60.0	29.2	17.5	5.8	20.0	7.4	..
<i>Relative total</i> .. ..	150.87	110.4	107.2	103.3	93.1	47.7	39.2	39.0	3.7
2(A + C + D) + (B + E + F + G) .. ..	207.07	187.1	177.8	155.4	119.0	116.9	115.2	106.7	57.7

\* See notes to Tables VIIIa and IX.

TABLE VIIIa

(RESUME OF TABLE VIII)

(For information only provisional)

List of States classified according to the Seven Characteristics of London, Double Weight being given to the Absolute Indices (except Railways)

(a) Index Numbers			(b) Ranks		
No.	Country.	Total.	No.	Country.	Total.
(1)	United Kingdom	854.5	(1)	United Kingdom	20
(2)	Germany	578.7	(2)	France	33
(3)	France	523.6	(3)	Germany	49
(4)	Canada	291.12	(4)	Italy	65
(5)	Italy	282.4	(5)	Japan	74
(6)	Belgium	274.4	(6)	Canada	79
(7)	Japan	254.2	(7)	Belgium	87
(8)	India	252.45*	(8)	Sweden	95
(9)	Switzerland	213.5	(9)	Czechoslovakia	104
(10)	Norway	207.07	(10)	Netherlands	105
(11)	Czechoslovakia	187.1	(11)	India	107*
(12)	Sweden	177.8	(12)	Switzerland	108
(13)	Netherlands	155.4	(13)	Norway	108
(14)	Denmark	119.0	(14)	Spain	119
(15)	Poland	116.9†	(15)	Denmark	128
(16)	Argentine	115.2	(16)	Poland	133†
(17)	Spain	106.7	(17)	Argentine	139
(18)	Brazil	57.7	(18)	Brazil	157

\* The result for India is provisional and based on an estimated industrial population of 8 millions. † Total calculated without Upper Silesia.

## EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

## CONDITIONS IN SOVIET RUSSIA

Labour conditions in Soviet Russia<sup>(a)</sup> is the subject of a useful publication of the International Labour Office. The Soviet Government entered upon the "new economic policy" at the end of March 1921. This new policy substituted for the requisitioning of food a single tax in kind, established new regulations providing for the leasing of State undertakings in certain cases and modified greatly the nationalisation policy, and above all provided a new industrial policy which governs the conditions of labour, the position of trade unions, and the relations between the employer and the employee.

The night work of women in industrial undertakings is generally prohibited except in certain industries, on the proposal of the trade union concerned, approved by the Commissariat of Labour. But pregnant women and nursing mothers are prohibited from working overtime or during the night. Maternity leave on full pay for 8 weeks before and

8 weeks after childbirth is granted to women engaged on manual work and the corresponding period allowed to women workers engaged in intellectual work is 6 weeks both before and after childbirth. In case of miscarriage, manual workers are allowed 3 weeks and intellectual workers 2 weeks' leave, and nursing mothers are entitled to half an hour's leisure at intervals of 3 hours for nursing their children.

The normal working hours for young persons of 16 to 18 years of age are 6 hours, and 4 hours for those of 14 to 16 years. The employment of children under 14 years and of those of school-going age is prohibited. All workers are entitled to a period of rest of between half an hour and 2 hours after 4 or 5 hours work and to a weekly rest of 42 consecutive hours, which is to coincide, as far as possible, with Sunday. Annual leave of 2 weeks should be given to all workers who have worked for at least 6 months. Workers in unhealthy industries are allowed supplementary leave and special concessions are given to young persons such as one month's leave in summer.

(a) Organisation of Industry and Labour Conditions in Soviet Russia—(Studies and Reports Series B: Economic Conditions No. 11—International Labour Office, Geneva, Price 2 shillings, 40 cents).



## Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	December 1921.	November 1922.	December 1922.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cereals—						
Rice	.. Rangoon Small-mill	.. Md.	4 11 3	7 9 11	6 1 2	5 9 6
Wheat	.. Delhi No. 1	.. Cwt.	5 9 6	12 0 0	..	7 8 0
Do.	.. Khandwa Seoni	.. Candy	45 0 0	82 8 0	73 8 0	75 0 0
Do.	.. Jubbulpore	..	40 0 0	85 8 0	70 0 0	70 0 0
Do.	.. Rangoon	.. Md.	3 2 6	4 13 11	4 0 4	3 0 0
Jowari	..	..	3 4 6	5 14 10	3 11 3	3 2 10
Barley	.. Ghati	..	3 4 6	6 12 4	3 12 11	3 6 2
Bajri	..	..	..	..	..	3 6 2
Pulses—						
Gram	.. Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	..	4 3 9	8 0 8	4 10 6	4 8 10
Turdal	.. Cawnpore	..	5 10 5	9 9 10	6 5 1	5 11 5
Sugar—						
Sugar	.. Mauritius No. 1	.. Cwt.	9 3 0	19 6 0	22 0 0	22 0 0
Do.	.. Java white	..	10 3 0	19 4 0	22 4 0	23 4 0
Raw (Gul)	.. Sangli	.. Md.	7 14 3	15 10 4	14 4 7	14 4 7
Other food—						
Turmeric	.. Rajapuri	..	5 9 3	14 0 3	23 12 11	25 2 9
Ghee	.. Deshi	..	45 11 5	77 2 3	85 11 5	82 13 9
Salt	.. Bombay (black)	..	1 7 6	2 0 0	2 7 0	2 7 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Cereals—						
Rice	.. Rangoon Small-mill	..	100	162	129	119
Wheat	.. Delhi No. 1	..	100	215	..	134
Do.	.. Khandwa Seoni	..	100	183	163	134
Do.	.. Jubbulpore	..	100	214	175	167
Do.	.. Rangoon	..	100	154	127	175
Jowari	..	..	100	181	113	101
Barley	.. Ghati	..	100	206	116	103
Bajri	..	..	100	..	..	103
Average—Cereals	..	..	100	188	137	129
Pulses—						
Gram	.. Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	..	100	190	110	108
Turdal	.. Cawnpore	..	100	170	112	101
Average—Pulses	..	..	100	180	111	105
Sugar—						
Sugar	.. Mauritius No. 1	..	100	212	239	239
Do.	.. Java white	..	100	189	218	228
Raw (Gul)	.. Sangli	..	100	198	181	181
Average—Sugar	..	..	100	200	213	216
Other food—						
Turmeric	.. Rajapuri	..	100	251	427	451
Ghee	.. Deshi	..	100	169	188	181
Salt	.. Bombay (black)	..	100	136	166	166
Average—Other food	..	..	100	185	260	266
Average—All food	..	..	100	189	176	170

## Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	December 1921.	November 1922.	December 1922.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Oilseeds—						
Linseed	.. Bold	.. Cwt.	8 14 6	12 8 0	13 2 0	13 4 0
Rapeseed	.. Cawnpore (brown)	..	8 0 0	10 12 0	10 6 0	11 0 0
Do.	.. Do.	..	10 14 0	15 0 0	14 0 0	14 2 0
Poppyseed	.. White	..	11 4 0	15 0 0	14 0 0	13 14 0
Gingely	..	..	..	..	..	..
Textiles—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton—raw—						
Broach	.. Good	.. Candy	251 0 0	..	435 0 0	..
Oomra	.. Fully good	..	222 0 0	468 0 0	385 0 0	428 0 0
Dharwar	.. Saw-ginned	..	230 0 0	..	..	..
Khandesh	.. Machine ginned	..	205 0 0	..	..	..
Bengal	.. Do.	..	198 0 0	369 0 0	345 0 0	350 0 0
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Twist	.. 40S	.. Lb.	0 12 9	1 14 0	1 7 6	1 7 6
Grey shirtings	.. Fari 2,000	.. Piece	5 15 0	15 0 0	13 2 0	13 0 0
White mulls	.. 6,600	..	4 3 0	11 4 0	9 6 0	9 6 0
Shirtings	.. Liepman's 1,500	..	10 6 0	28 0 0	25 12 0	25 12 0
Long cloth	.. Local made 36"×37½ yds.	.. Lb.	0 9 6	1 10 0	1 6 6	1 5 9
Chudders	.. 54"×6 yds.	..	0 9 6	1 8 0	1 5 9	1 4 9

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Oilseeds—						
Linseed	.. Bold	..	100	140	147	149
Rapeseed	.. Cawnpore (brown)	..	100	134	130	138
Poppyseed	.. Do.	..	100	138	129	130
Gingely	.. White	..	100	133	124	123
Average—Oilseeds	..	..	100	136	133	135
Textiles—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton—raw—						
Broach	.. Good	..	100	..	173	..
Oomra	.. Fully good	..	100	211	173	193
Dharwar	.. Saw-ginned	..	100	..	..	..
Khandesh	.. Machine ginned	..	100	..	..	..
Bengal	.. Do.	..	100	186	174	177
Average—Cotton—raw	..	..	100	198	173	185
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Twist	.. 40S	..	100	234	184	184
Grey shirtings	.. Fari 2,000	..	100	253	221	219
White mulls	.. 6,600	..	100	268	224	224
Shirtings	.. Liepman's 1,500	..	100	270	248	248
Long cloth	.. Local made 36"×37½ yds.	..	100	275	237	229
Chudders	.. 54"×6 yds.	..	100	254	229	218
Average—Cotton manufactures	..	..	100	259	224	220
Average—Textiles—Cotton	..	..	100	244	207	212

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

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	December 1921.	November 1922.	December 1922.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Other textiles—						
Silk	.. Canton No. 5	.. Pucca seer	5 4 0	5 8 0	5 8 0	5 8 0
Do.	.. Nankin	.. ..	17 12 0	30 8 0	30 8 0	30 8 0
Hides and Skins—						
Hides, Cow	.. Tanned	.. Lb.	1 2 6	1 12 3	1 14 9	1 9 9
Do. Buffalo	.. Do.	.. ..	1 1 3	0 14 3	1 1 8	0 11 8
Skins, Goat	.. Do.	.. ..	1 4 0	2 2 9	2 1 9	1 15 9
Metals—						
Copper braziers	.. ..	.. Cwt.	60 8 0	85 0 0	77 8 0	77 0 0
Iron bars	.. ..	.. ..	4 0 0	11 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0
Steel hoops	.. ..	.. ..	7 12 0	19 0 0	14 4 0	14 4 0
Galvanized sheets	.. ..	.. ..	9 0 0	17 0 0	17 8 0	18 0 0
Tin plates	.. ..	.. Box	8 12 0	13 0 0	19 0 0	19 0 0
Other raw and manufactured articles—						
Coal	.. Bengal	.. Ton	14 12 0	29 0 0	28 0 0	25 8 0
Kerosene	.. Elephant brand	.. 2 Tms	4 6 0	8 3 0	7 10 6	7 10 6
Do.	.. Chester brand	.. Case	5 2 0	10 12 0	10 3 0	10 3 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914  
Prices in July 1914 = 100

Other textiles—						
Silk	.. Canton No. 5	.. ..	100	105	105	165
Do.	.. Nankin	.. ..	100	172	172	172
Average—Other textiles	.. ..	.. ..	100	138	139	159
Hides and Skins—						
Hides, Cow	.. Tanned	.. ..	100	152	166	139
Do. Buffalo	.. Do.	.. ..	100	82	102	66
Skins, Goat	.. Do.	.. ..	100	174	169	159
Average—Hides and Skins	.. ..	.. ..	100	136	146	122
Metals—						
Copper braziers	.. ..	.. ..	100	140	128	127
Iron bars	.. ..	.. ..	100	275	200	200
Steel hoops	.. ..	.. ..	100	245	184	184
Galvanized sheets	.. ..	.. ..	100	189	194	207
Tin plates	.. ..	.. ..	100	149	217	217
Average—Metals	.. ..	.. ..	100	200	185	186
Other raw and manufactured articles—						
Coal	.. Bengal	.. ..	100	200	185	186
Kerosene	.. Elephant brand	.. ..	100	197	190	173
Do.	.. Chester brand	.. ..	100	187	175	175
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles	.. ..	.. ..	100	210	199	199
Total—Food	.. ..	.. ..	100	198	198	182
Total—Non-food	.. ..	.. ..	100	189	176	176
General Average	.. ..	.. ..	100	191	177	174
			100	190	176	173

Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914	December 1921.	November 1922.	December 1922.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cereals—						
Rice	.. Larkana No. 3	.. Candy	39 0 0	63 0 0	51 0 0	52 0 0
Wheat, white	.. 5 % barley	.. ..	31 8 0	70 0 0	43 8 0	42 4 0
.. red	.. 3 % dirt.	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
.. white	.. 5 % barley	.. ..	31 4 0	69 8 0	43 0 0	41 8 0
.. red	.. 3 % dirt.	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
.. white	.. 2 % barley	.. ..	32 8 0	72 0 0	44 12 0	43 8 0
.. red	.. 1 1/2 % dirt.	.. ..	32 4 0	71 8 0	44 4 0	42 12 0
Jowari	.. 2 % barley	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Barley	.. 1 1/2 % dirt.	.. ..	25 8 0	43 0 0	27 0 0	24 0 0
.. Export Quality	.. ..	.. ..	26 8 0	51 0 0	31 4 0	28 0 0
.. 3 % dirt	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Pulses—						
Gram	.. 1 % dirt	.. ..	29 8 0	66 8 0	35 8 0	31 4 0
Sugar—						
Sugar	.. Java, white	.. Cwt.	9 2 0	17 8 0	21 12 0	22 7 0
Do.	.. brown	.. ..	8 1 6	15 0 0	20 8 0	20 8 0
Other food—						
Salt	.. Bengal	.. ..	2 2 0	1 10 3	1 10 8	1 10 8
	.. Maund.	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..

Expressed as percentages of July 1914  
Prices in July 1914 = 100

Cereals—						
Rice	.. Larkana No. 3	.. ..	100	162	131	133
Wheat, white	.. 5 % barley, 3 % dirt	.. ..	100	222	138	134
.. red	.. 30 % red.	.. ..	100	222	138	133
.. white	.. 5 % barley, 3 % dirt	.. ..	100	222	138	133
.. red	.. 92 % red.	.. ..	100	222	138	134
Jowari	.. 2 % barley, 1 1/2 % dirt	.. ..	100	222	137	133
Barley	.. 2 % barley, 1 1/2 % dirt	.. ..	100	169	106	94
.. Export Quality	.. ..	.. ..	100	192	118	106
.. 3 % dirt	.. ..	.. ..	100	192	118	106
Average—Cereals	.. ..	.. ..	100	202	129	124
Pulses—						
Gram	.. 1 % dirt	.. ..	100	225	129	106
Sugar—						
Sugar	.. Java, white	.. ..	100	192	238	246
.. brown	.. ..	.. ..	100	185	253	253
Average—Sugar	.. ..	.. ..	100	189	246	250
Other food—Salt	.. ..	.. ..	100	77	78	78

## Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	December 1921.	November 1922.	December 1922.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Oilseeds—						
Cotton seed	.. 3 % admixture	Maund ..	2 11 3	4 4 0	3 12 0	3 11 0
Rapeseed	.. Black, 9 % admixture	Candy ..	51 0 0	65 0 0	61 8 0	61 8 0
Gingelly		..	62 0 0	78 0 0	76 0 0	76 0 0
Textiles—						
Jute bags—	.. B. Twills	.. 100 bags ..	38 4 0	43 0 0	50 0 0	50 8 0
Textile—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton, raw	.. Sind	.. Maund ..	20 4 0	37 14 0	38 8 0	38 0 0
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Drills	.. Pepperill	.. Piece ..	10 3 6	21 8 0	21 8 0	21 12 0
Shirting	.. Liepmann's	.. ..	10 2 0	27 8 0	25 0 0	24 8 0
Yarns	.. 40s Grey (Plough)	.. Lb. ..	0 12 2	..	..	..
Other Textiles—						
Wool	.. Kandahar	.. Maund ..	28 0 0	21 8 0	23 0 0	23 8 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Oilseeds—						
Cotton seed	.. 3 % admixture	..	100	157	139	136
Rapeseed	.. Black, 9 % admixture	..	100	127	121	121
Gingelly		..	100	126	123	123
Average—Oilseeds		..	100	137	128	127
Textiles—						
Jute bags	.. Twills	..	100	112	131	132
Textiles—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton, raw	.. Sind	..	100	187	190	188
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Drills	.. Pepperill	..	100	210	210	213
Shirtings	.. Liepmann's	..	100	272	247	242
Yarns	.. 40s Grey (Plough)	..	100	..	..	..
Average—Cotton manufactures		..	100	241	229	228
Average—Textiles—Cotton		..	100	223	216	214
Other Textiles—Wool		..	100	77	82	84

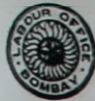
## Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Non-Foods)—continued

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	December 1921.	November 1922.	December 1922.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Hides—						
Hides, dry	.. Sind	.. Maund ..	21 4 0	13 0 0	13 8 0	15 0 0
" "	.. Punjab	.. ..	21 4 0	13 0 0	13 8 0	15 0 0
Metals—						
Copper Braziers	..	.. Cwt. ..	60 8 0	84 0 0	78 0 0	78 0 0
Steel Bars	..	.. ..	3 14 0	8 0 0	7 8 0	7 4 0
" Plates	..	.. ..	4 6 0	11 4 0	8 8 0	8 8 0
Other raw and manufactured articles—						
Coal	.. 1st Class Bengal	.. Ton ..	16 0 0	37 8 0	35 0 0	35 0 0
Kerosene	.. Chester brand	.. Case ..	5 2 0	10 10 0	10 1 0	10 1 0
"	.. Elephant	.. 2 Tins ..	4 7 0	8 1 6	7 8 6	7 8 6

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Hides—						
Hides, dry	.. Sind	..	100	61	64	71
" "	.. Punjab	..	100	61	64	71
Average—Hides		..	100	61	64	71
Metals—						
Copper Braziers	..	..	100	139	129	129
Steel Bars	..	..	100	207	194	187
" Plates	..	..	100	257	194	194
Average—Metals		..	100	201	172	170
Other raw and manufactured articles—						
Coal	.. 1st Class Bengal	..	100	234	219	219
Kerosene	.. Chester Brand	..	100	207	196	196
Do.	.. Elephant	..	100	182	170	170
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles		..	100	208	195	195
Total—Food		..	100	190	145	141
Total—Non-food		..	100	163	155	155
General Average		..	100	174	151	149



Wholesale prices index numbers in Bombay by groups from January 1920
Prices in July 1914 = 100

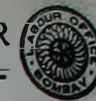
Table with 13 columns: Months, Cereals, Pulses, Sugar, Other food, Total food, Oil-seeds, Raw cotton, Cotton manufactures, Other textiles, Hides and skins, Metals, Other raw and manufactured articles, Total non-food, General average. Rows show monthly data from January 1920 to December 1922.

NOTE.—The figures of 1921 and 1922 in heavy type indicate the highest peak reached above the peak of 1920 which is also shown in heavy type.

Retail prices of articles of food in Bombay in July 1914, November and December 1922

The prices quoted are for local weights and measures

Table with 8 columns: Articles, Grade, Rate per, Equivalent in tolas, July 1914, November 1922, December 1922, Increase (+) or decrease (-) in December over or below. Includes rows for Rice, Wheat, Jowari, Bajri, Gram, Turdal, etc.



Retail prices of Articles of food in November and December 1922

Table with 9 columns: Articles, Price per, Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur, Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur. Rows list various food items like Cereals, Pulses, and Other articles of food.

NOTE.—1 lb. = 39 tolas; 1 maund = 82 2/7 lbs.; 1 seer = 2 2/35 lbs.; 80 tolas = 1 seer; 40 seers = 1 Indian maund.

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

Table with 9 columns: Cereals, Pulses, Other articles of food, Average—other articles of food, Average—all food articles (unweighted). Shows percentage values for various food categories.

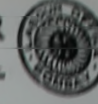


Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in India and Foreign Countries

Table with columns for Country (India, United Kingdom, Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, United States of America) and rows for months from 1913 Average to December 1922.

Table with columns for Country (Switzerland, Belgium, Egypt, France, Italy, Japan, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Denmark) and rows for months from 1913 Average to November 1922.

\* July 1914=100. (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 1913-19 are for Dec. 1914.



Cost of living index numbers for India and foreign countries

Table with columns for Name of country, India (Bombay), United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Italy (Rome), Belgium, Norway, Sweden, South Africa, France (Paris), Germany, U.S. of America and rows for months from 1914 July to December 1922.

(a) From 1914 to 1919 figures relate to second quarter. (b) First half of 1914. (c) Unofficial. (d) April 1914. (e) From 1913 to 1919 June figures are given. (f) June 1914=100. (g) Expenditure of a family of four persons. (h) Average 1913 is the base.

Note—The maxima for the different countries are indicated in heavier type.

Retail food index for India and foreign countries

Table with columns for Name of country, India, United Kingdom, Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, United States of America, France (Paris), Italy (Rome), Belgium, Finland, Germany, Holland (Amsterdam), Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland and rows for months from 1914 July to December 1922.

(a) Average for the year 1914. (b) Includes fuel and lighting. (c) Unofficial. (d) January to June 1914. (e) 15th April 1914. (f) Figures from 1914 to 1916 are annual averages.

Note—The maxima for the different countries are indicated in heavier type.

## Principal Trade Disputes in progress in December 1922

Name of concern and locality.	Approximate number of workpeople involved		Date when dispute		Cause.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.	Began.	Ended.		
<i>Textile Trades.</i>						
1. The Universal Cotton Mills Co., Ltd., Kachni Masjid, Ahmedabad.	150	....	23 October ..	2 December ..	Demand for payment of the annual bonus.	Strikers were paid off and the mill was closed.
2. The Sir Waghji Mill, Wadhwan Camp, Kathiawar.	28	....	23 October ..	2 December ..	1. Decision of the management to introduce a system of payment to the weavers by "piece" instead of by "weight" of cloth produced. This, the weavers believed, would result in their receiving less wages. 2. Other minor demands.	Work resumed unconditionally.
3. The Ahmedabad Cotton and Waste Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Dudheshwar Road, Ahmedabad.	213 (Throstle Department).	....	1 December ..	2 December ..	Absence of a Mukadam misunderstood by strikers as dismissal.	Work resumed.
4. The Gold Mohur Mill, Dadar, Bombay.	200 (Weavers).	....	1 December ..	5 December ..	Against the introduction of payment by piece work instead of fixed monthly wages since the machinery was alleged to be too new to give a good outturn.	Some resumed work and new hands engaged in place of the strikers.
5. The Fine Counts Mills, Broach.	625	....	4 December ..	7 December ..	Immediate payment of bonus for the year ending 30th November 1922.	Bonus promised on or about 23rd December 1922.
6. The Madhowji Dharamsi Mill, Foras Road, Bombay.	400 (Weavers).	....	7 December ..	13 December ..	Increase of half a pie per pound for weaving <i>khadi</i> cloth.	Work resumed unconditionally.
7. The Madhowji Dharamsi Mill, Foras Road, Bombay.	550 (Spinning Department).	1,450 (Other Departments).	18 December ..	....	Demand for an increase of Rs. 1-12-0 in monthly wages for spinning heavy counts (of <i>khadi</i> cloth).	....
8. The Hongkong Mill, Chinchpooogli, Bombay.	1,200 (Night Shift)	....	28 December ..	29 December ..	Demand for payment of wages for 5 days from 23rd to 27th December when the night shift men were compelled to stop work owing to defects in the lights in the mill.	The night shift was discontinued in the mill and no wages were granted for the days when the mill was closed.
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>						
9. The B. B. & C. I. Railway Stores, Mahalaxmi, Bombay.	150 (Coolies).	....	7 December ..	11 December ..	1. Demand for leave as given to Loco-workshop employees. 2. Increase in monthly wages from Rs. 24-0-0 to Rs. 30-0-0. 3. Demand for the supply of a blanket every year instead of every three years.	Ring-leaders were dismissed and the rest resumed work as new hands.
10. The Scottish Mission Press, East Street, Poona Cantonment, Poona.	50	....	12 December ..	13 December ..	Demand for the payment of a bonus.	Work resumed.

## Detailed statement of the quantity (in pounds) and the counts (or numbers) of yarn spun Bombay Presidency

Count or Number.	Month of November			Eight months ended November		
	1920	1921	1922	1920	1921	1922
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds .. ..	5,630	5,460	7,114	39,843	51,447	52,618
Nos. 11 to 20 " .. ..	19,997	17,944	21,056	155,178	159,581	158,938
Nos. 21 to 30 " .. ..	11,778	11,353	13,655	101,915	104,961	110,201
Nos. 31 to 40 " .. ..	940	827	931	8,568	8,406	8,842
Above 40 " .. ..	82	150	158	1,339	854	1,346
Waste, etc. " .. ..	5	9	8	175	225	73
Total .. ..	38,432	35,743	42,922	306,533	325,959	332,018

## Bombay Island

Count or Number.	Month of November			Eight months ended November		
	1920	1921	1922	1920	1921	1922
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds .. ..	5,292	4,697	6,496	36,871	46,406	48,297
Nos. 11 to 20 " .. ..	15,314	12,280	15,558	120,882	115,311	112,114
Nos. 21 to 30 " .. ..	7,277	6,347	8,294	63,170	62,924	66,707
Nos. 31 to 40 " .. ..	425	383	456	3,510	3,985	4,037
Above 40 " .. ..	73	70	95	651	671	760
Waste, etc. " .. ..	1	1	3	138	167	16
Total .. ..	28,382	23,778	30,902	225,222	229,464	231,931

## Ahmedabad

Count or Number.	Month of November			Eight months ended November		
	1920	1921	1922	1920	1921	1922
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds .. ..	92	261	184	1,044	1,670	1,130
Nos. 11 to 20 " .. ..	1,842	2,730	2,497	14,096	21,140	22,741
Nos. 21 to 30 " .. ..	3,270	3,636	4,035	28,619	30,344	32,282
Nos. 31 to 40 " .. ..	420	356	411	4,032	3,524	3,981
Above 40 " .. ..	....	61	39	116	472	415
Waste, etc. " .. ..	....	....	....	3	3	....
Total .. ..	5,624	7,044	7,166	47,910	57,153	60,549

## Detailed statement of the quantity (in pounds) and description of woven goods produced

## Bombay Presidency

Description.	Month of November			Eight months ended November		
	1920	1921	1922	1920	1921	1922
Grey and bleached piece-goods—						
Chaddies	1,264	1,131	1,656	11,568	12,016	10,802
Diets	5,608	4,672	5,285	37,151	51,945	47,712
Drills and jeans	1,011	642	717	8,529	5,826	6,479
Cambrics and lawns	64	39	36	418	626	586
Printers	328	348	405	2,215	2,655	3,000
Shirtings and long cloth	8,481	6,655	9,317	61,681	66,175	73,594
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	1,671	904	1,032	11,482	10,231	10,842
Test cloth	193	99	122	899	976	815
Other sorts	680	1,326	2,254	4,690	8,463	12,292
Total ..	19,800	15,816	20,824	139,023	159,516	152,100
Coloured piece-goods	8,912	6,129	7,832	59,147	59,592	53,986
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods	186	151	174	1,711	1,322	1,075
Hosiery	23	24	22	122	137	121
Miscellaneous	91	88	137	671	745	942
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	7	7	7	89	39	48
Grand Total ..	29,019	22,215	28,996	200,763	221,351	206,076

## Bombay Island

Description.	Month of November			Eight months ended November		
	1920	1921	1922	1920	1921	1922
Grey and bleached piece-goods—						
Chaddies	907	630	877	6,666	7,244	5,892
Diets	1,323	1,342	1,473	9,063	13,613	14,126
Drills and jeans	950	629	655	8,334	6,115	4,709
Cambrics and lawns	50	30	18	254	427	257
Printers	4	8	21	37	99	309
Shirtings and long cloth	5,639	4,203	6,291	40,230	45,906	46,499
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	1,407	695	835	9,639	8,282	8,674
Test cloth	153	82	102	767	798	595
Other sorts	270	695	1,474	2,119	4,598	8,340
Total ..	10,702	8,314	11,246	77,109	89,622	86,567

Detailed statement of the quantity (in pounds) and description of woven goods produced—continued  
Bombay Island—continued

Description.	Month of November			Eight months ended November		
	1920	1921	1922	1920	1921	1922
Coloured piece-goods	7,444	4,956	6,571	50,942	50,354	45,564
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods	183	144	167	1,095	1,269	1,318
Hosiery	15	16	14	76	81	70
Miscellaneous	91	88	135	671	744	805
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	4	6	5	84	33	51
Grand Total ..	18,439	13,524	18,608	130,577	142,305	134,612

## Ahmedabad

Description.	Month of November			Eight months ended November		
	1920	1921	1922	1920	1921	1922
Grey and bleached piece-goods—						
Chaddies	780	372	624	4,224	3,276	4,984
Diets	3,441	2,319	2,684	22,986	26,486	25,468
Drills and jeans	24	4	50	206	307	175
Cambrics and lawns	2	3	17	87	80	171
Printers	247	257	299	1,310	1,652	2,083
Shirtings and long cloth	2,110	1,800	2,177	15,635	14,827	14,125
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	258	184	198	1,653	1,261	1,296
Test cloth	1	2	2	31	22	11
Other sorts	209	319	547	1,385	2,679	2,177
Total ..	7,132	5,240	6,588	46,677	52,550	49,535
Coloured piece-goods	659	336	540	3,618	3,440	3,407
Grey and coloured goods other than piece-goods	1	4	6	2	17	6
Hosiery	7	7	2	40	36	32
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	5	1	2	4	3	9
Grand Total ..	7,852	5,588	7,146	50,346	56,069	53,063

## CURRENT NOTES FROM ABROAD

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

**United Kingdom.**—The General Council of the Trades Union Congress has been taking steps to bring about amalgamations of trade unions serving the interests of workers in the same class of industry. Such practical fusions are contemplated in the metal, engineering and woollen trades, and unions are being called to discuss practical proposals towards this end. The National Union of General Workers, the National Amalgamated Union of Labour and the Municipal Employees' Association have by a large majority, decided to amalgamate. This is considered to create the biggest trade union in the world and will represent over a hundred occupations.

The Seventh Annual Report of the Industrial League and Council presents the record of a successful year. The unprecedented condition of the industrial world tended to limit its activities and drastic economies had to be effected in order to make the organisation self-supporting. The Joint Industrial Councils have been passing through a trying time. It is to their credit that they have coped with difficulties which in other industries have led to interminable disputes, for, community of interest is the very basis of the constitution of these Councils.

**Australia.**—On page 53 of the *Labour Gazette* for November 1922 a reference was made to the proposed abolition of the Arbitration Court in South Australia and the substitution of a system of voluntary conciliation in place of compulsory arbitration. It will be remembered that the Premier of South Australia brought in a bill to this effect on 26th September 1922. After a lively debate, in the course of which a number of amendments vitally affecting its purpose were passed, Government dropped the Bill, the defeat being entirely due to the deflection of sufficient members of the Ministerial Party to give the Labour Opposition a majority. The defeat

of the Bill means a triumph for compulsory arbitration.

According to the *New South Wales Official Year Book*, 1921, the Commonwealth Constitution Act prescribes that if a State law is inconsistent with a Federal law, the latter should prevail. The same principle is applied by the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act to awards and orders of the Federal and State industrial authorities. Even though the industrial authorities have adopted generally the same broad principles for the promotion of industrial peace, fundamental differences prevail which preclude the possibility of forming an industrial code for the whole of the Commonwealth.

Frequent efforts have been made at Conferences of the Premiers of the Commonwealth and of the States to prevent the overlapping of the jurisdiction of the Federal and State systems of arbitration. In July 1921, it was proposed that the Commonwealth should pass laws excepting from the jurisdiction of the Federal Court all employees of a State or of a State instrumentality, and all industries except Federal industries, and that the State should pass laws referring to the Federal Parliament the power to legislate with respect to (a) the establishment of a combined court of Commonwealth and State judges to determine the basic wage and the standard hours in any or all industries; (b) industrial matters as regards Federal industries; (c) the establishment of an Industrial Court of Appeal with jurisdiction to determine appeals relating to Federal or State awards with the object of harmonising conflicting or competing awards or determinations in different States.

Resolutions embodying these proposals were carried by the conference with the reservation that the Commonwealth and the States would not finally commit themselves until they had had an opportunity of conferring with representatives of labour and of the employers.

An examination of the strike statistics for 1921 published by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, shows that the number of disputes in 1921 was the largest for any year since 1901, though not in the matter of time loss.

## Industrial Disputes in 1921

Number of disputes .. ..	624
Workpeople directly or indirectly affected ..	165,101
Working days lost .. ..	956,617
Estimated loss of wages .. ..	£757,028

In 1919 the loss in wages amounted to £3,951,936 and in 1920 to £1,223,716.

Wage rates in Australia attained a stable condition in the last half of 1921 and the first quarter of 1922, as compared with the rapid rise in rates since 1914 till the first half of 1921. The levels in December 1921 for male and female workers were 72 and 79 per cent. respectively above the average rates in April 1914. The average rates at the end of March 1922 were 70 and 77 per cent. above the pre-war level for male and female workers respectively, while the cost of living during the same month was 35 per cent. above the pre-war level. As compared with 1914, wages of male workers in the shipping, agricultural, domestic and clothing groups showed the greatest increase and the smallest were in the building, railway transport and mining industries.

**South Africa.**—The Report of the Mining Industry Board affords a comprehensive survey of the industrial problems of the gold industry particularly in Johannesburg. An account of the crisis on the Rand which occurred last year appeared on page 52 of the *Labour Gazette* for May 1922. An important section of the Report outlines the proposals for conciliation machinery.

On 22nd and 23rd August 1922, agreements were signed between representatives of employers and employees in the gold, coal mining and power industries to the effect that 30 days' notice shall be given of any material alteration in recognised working conditions. For the amicable settlement of disputes affecting the industry generally and where no settlement has been reached within a specified period, the Inspector of White Labour, Johannesburg, shall be immediately advised. Either Party may apply for the calling together of a Conciliation Board. Standing Conciliation Boards are appointed for the gold mines, the coal mines and the Victoria Falls Power Company. The Mining Industry Board will appoint the first members of the Conciliation Boards, who will hold office for 12 months.

Subsequently, the members, who must be actually employed in the industries concerned are to be elected by the employers and employees. The election of the employees' representative shall be by secret ballot. One of the employers' and one of the workers' representatives shall be appointed chairman during alternate periods of six months. Further, independent referees are to be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Union when boards are unable to arrive at an agreement. The above conciliation scheme came into operation on the 1st October 1922.

**Japan.**—According to the *Japan Advertiser*, dated 9th September 1922, the Japanese Cabinet Council, on 8th September decided to create a Labour Department in which all the departments which have hitherto dealt with labour questions will be concentrated. The new Department will thus take over the functions of the Department of Social Affairs of the Home Office, the Labour Department of the Board of Agriculture and Commerce, and the Factory and the Mining Departments. It will be attached to the Home Office. An appropriation of 65,00,000 yen for carrying on the work of the new Department will be asked for in the next Parliamentary Sessions.

In Osaka, one of the chief industrial districts in Japan, an investigation into the number of trade unions and their membership, in August 1922, showed the following results:—

Trade Unions in Osaka.		
	Organisations.	Members.
Federations .. ..	4	20,997
Unions not affiliated to any federation:		
Category A (having as their programme the improvement or maintenance of labour conditions) ..	14	18,800
Category B (unions which, although interesting themselves in labour problems, usually remain inactive) ..	81	23,800
Category C (formed on the basis of separate factories) ..	155	59,700
During the eight months ended August 1922, 111 labour disputes took place involving 31,600 workers. The largest number of strikes occurred in July and August.		



**China.**—In September last, a Bill for the Protection of Workers was introduced in the House of Representatives. Among other things, it provides for the education of factory workers, and recognises the right to strike in cases where the employers do not agree to the demands of organised workers. Other chief provisions are the following :—

- (1) There shall be a system of compulsory labour to comprise all healthy adults not over 50 years of age.
- (2) Workers shall be entitled to freedom of meeting and association.
- (3) The employment of children under 14 shall be prohibited.
- (4) Hours of work shall be 6 per day for juvenile workers, i.e., persons over 14 and under 17, and 8 per day for adult workers.
- (5) No worker shall be employed on two consecutive shifts, of which one is a day and the other a night shift.

### BOOKS RECEIVED Official Publications

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*Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade of British India with the British Empire and Foreign Countries, for the fiscal year ending March 1922, Vol. I* (Department of Statistics, Calcutta).

*Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation in the Bombay Presidency for 1921-22* (Government Central Press).

*Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of the Province of Sind for 1921-22.*

*Punjab Legislative Council Debates, Vol. IV, Nos. 6 and 7.*

*Central Provinces Legislative Council Proceedings, Vol. II, Nos. 1-11.*

*Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council Proceedings, Vol. VI, Nos. 1-5.*

#### UNITED KINGDOM

(His Majesty's Stationery Office, London.)

*The Ministry of Labour Gazette, Vol. XXX, No. 12 for December 1922.*

*The Board of Trade Journal, Vol. CIX, Nos. 1355-1360.*

*Report by a Court of Inquiry concerning the Engineering Trade Dispute, 1922. Cmd. 1653.*

Reports of the Industrial Fatigue Research Board :—

No. 19.—*Two Contributions to the Study of Accident Causation* (General Series, No. 7).

No. 20.—*A Study of Efficiency in Fine Linen Weaving* (Textile Series, No. 5).

No. 22.—*Some Studies in the Laundry Trade* (Laundry Series, No. 1).

#### CANADA

*The Labour Gazette, Vol. XXII, Nos. 10 and 11 for October and November 1922* (Department of Labour).

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#### AUSTRALIA

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*The Queensland Industrial Gazette, Vol. VII, No. 11 for November 1922.*

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*Ergebnisse der Reichs-Teuerungstatistik, for October 1922.*

#### BELGIUM

*Revue du Travail, Vol. XXIII, No. 10 for October 1922* (Ministere du Travail).

#### NETHERLAND

*Maandschrift, 30th November 1922.*

#### ITALY

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#### SWITZERLAND

*Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt, Nos. 10 and 11 for November and December 1922.*

#### AUSTRIA

*Der Oesterreichische Volkswirt, Vol. XV, Nos. 1-11, October-December 1922.*

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*Monthly Agricultural Statistics, 31st October 1922* (Ministry of Finance, States Department, Cairo).

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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*The Industrial Bulletin, Vol. II, No. 1 for October 1922* (Issued by the Industrial Commissioner, New York State).

*Eighteenth Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labor, 1903.*—Cost of Living and Retail Prices of Food (U. S. A. Department of Commerce and Labor).

*Commerce Reports, Nos. 31-39* (Department of Commerce).

*Survey of Current Business, No. 15, November 1922.*

*Monthly Labor Review, Vol. XV, Nos. 1 and 2 for July and August 1922* (Department of Labor).

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No. 316.—*Hours and Earnings in Anthracite and Bituminous Coal Mining.*

No. 298.—*Causes and Prevention of Accidents in the Iron and Steel Industry, 1910-1919.*

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#### GENEVA (International Labour Office)

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*Report of the Committee appointed to consider the criteria to be adopted in the selection of the Eight States of Chief Industrial Importance.*—C. 410, M. 316, 1922 (League of Nations).

*Question as to which are the Eight Members of the International Labour Organisation of Chief Industrial Importance.*—First Report by the Representative of Japan; second Report and Resolution adopted by the Council on September 30th, 1922, C. 643 (1) M. 400, 1922 (League of Nations).

*Official Bulletin, Vol. VI, No. 18.*

*Industrial and Labour Information, Vol. IV, Nos. 19-23.*

*Industrial and Labour Information, Russian Supplement, Vol. IV, Nos. 3-5.*

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*Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, Vol. III, No. 11, for November 1922* (League of Nations).

### Unofficial Publications

#### INDIA

*Report of the Proceedings of the First All-India Industrial Welfare Conference, 1922.*

*Slumland of Bombay, Pamphlet No. 1* (Published by the Sanitation Department of the Social Service League, Bombay, price 4 annas).

This pamphlet gives an account of observations made during the first four sanitation rounds conducted by the Sanitation Department of the Social Service League, Bombay. The object of the rounds was to pay surprise visits to insanitary localities in the different wards of the city, to send complaints to the authorities concerned, and to rouse the "slumbering sanitary conscience" of the people.

*The Bombay Co-operative Quarterly, Vol. VI, No. 3, December 1922.* (Published by Mr. N. M. Joshi, Servants of India Society, Bombay).

*Report by the Representative of Indian Labour at the Fourth International Labour Conference.*

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*The Round Table for December 1922.*

*Monthly Review of the London Joint City and Midland Bank, Ltd., for October and November 1922.*

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*Statistical Bulletin of the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, Vol. III, Nos. 8, 9 and 10.*

*Members Circular of the British Industrial "Safety First" Association for October 1922.*—To the circular is appended an instructive article on "First Aid in Factories" by Dr. J. C. Bridge, H. M. Medical Inspector of Factories.

*Industrial Welfare, Vol. IV, No. 10* (Industrial Welfare Society, London).