

THE PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON, 1923

(See Chart No. 2.)

In the monsoon charts the green 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, Simla. Excess means more than 120 per cent. of the normal. The normal for divisions is the mean of normals of reporting stations excluding hill stations.

'Normal' in the charts is a variation from 80 to 120 per cent. of the true normal, 'fair' 40 to 79 per cent. of this normal, and 'scanty' is less than 40 per cent. The whiter the statement, the more the satisfactory nature of the monsoon; the redder it is, the worse the monsoon. The rainfall in other provinces also has been shown, as these (e.g., the United Provinces which exports to us bajri and jowari for our millworkers) have an influence in the long run on future price levels of food.

In Sind, the monsoon scarcely counts; it is the level of the Indus that does. The rise of the river up till the end of September is shown in the charts; after this date the rise is of little material importance.

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CONTENTS

	PAGE.		PAGE.
THE MONTH IN BRIEF	3	CURRENT NOTES FROM ABROAD	46
Lord Willingdon	6	PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED	46
COST OF LIVING—		STATISTICAL TABLES—	
Cost of Living Index for March 1924	7	Bombay Cost of Living Index	8-9
Working Class Cost of Living	12	Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay	27-29
Bombay European Cost of Living Index	13	Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi	30-32
PRICES—		Wholesale Prices Index Numbers in Bombay by Groups	33
Wholesale Prices in Bombay during March 1924	10	Retail Prices of Articles of Food in February and March 1924 (Bombay, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona)	34
Comparative Retail Prices (Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona)	11	Bombay European Cost of Living— Table A	35-36
The Fall in Prices	12	Summary Table	37
World Prices	7	Index Number of Wholesale Prices in India and Foreign Countries	38
Securities Index Number	11	Securities Index	39
WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR—		Accidents in Factories during March 1924	40-41
Wages in Agriculture in the Bombay Presi- dency	16	Cotton Spinning Returns (Yarn and woven goods)	42-44
Statistics of Wages and Hours of Labour	17	Principal Trade Disputes in Progress in March 1924	45
The Eight Hour Day	22	CHARTS—	
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES—		1 Cost of Living in Bombay.	
Industrial Disputes in the Presidency during March 1924	18	2 Progress of the Monsoon, 1923.	
TRADE UNIONS—		3 Securities Index.	
Fourth Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress—Resolutions	19	4 Rainfall for the period June to November 1923.	
Trade Unions in China	20	5 Index numbers of Wholesale Prices in India and Foreign Countries.	
INDUSTRIAL WELFARE—		6 Retail Prices of Rice, Pulses, Cereals and Other Articles of food in Bombay.	
Welfare Work in the Tata Group of Mills	21	7 Cost of Living Indexes in India and Foreign Countries.	
Welfare Work in Madras	21	8 Imports and Exports of Merchandise—India.	
WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION—		9 Rate of Exchange in Bombay.	
Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923—Draft Rules	23	10 Wholesale Prices in Bombay, Foods and Non-foods.	
MISCELLANEOUS—		11 & 12 Strikes in the Bombay Presidency.	
Questions in the Legislature	26		
Postal Conference	12		
Classification of industries and occupations	22		
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1924	22		
New Factory Bill	22		

(The Labour Office accepts no responsibility for opinions expressed in signed articles.)

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The Month in Brief

EMPLOYMENT—THE COTTON INDUSTRY

IN BOMBAY CITY AND ISLAND the general lock-out in the textile industry continued until 25th March. Owing to this fact the statistics regarding employment in Bombay City and Island have not been published. The data will again be published when comparative figures for a complete month are available.

IN AHMEDABAD, the supply of labour was, as in the last month, reported to be equal to the demand during the month under review in three cases. Detailed reports of absenteeism have been received from representative mills in this centre. These reports showed an average absenteeism of 4.3 per cent. during the month as compared with 4.01 per cent. last month.

IN SHOLAPUR, the supply of labour was adequate but absenteeism showed a slight increase in the month under review. The average absenteeism was 15.3 per cent. in the present month as compared with 14.1 per cent. last month and 14.5 per cent. two months ago.

IN BHOACH, absenteeism showed an increase as compared with the preceding month, the figures being 10.2 per cent. in the present month as compared with 8.2 last month.

THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

In the engineering industry in BOMBAY the supply of labour was quite equal to the demand. The average absenteeism in representative engineering workshops (based on the returns from two large workshops) showed an increase, the figures being 15.16 per cent. in the month under review as compared with 12.16 per cent. last month and 10.9 per cent. two months ago.

On the Marine Lines and Colaba Reclamations of the Development Directorate, the average absenteeism was 4.5 per cent. as compared with 4.25 per cent. in the preceding month and 5.25 per cent. two months ago. On the construction of chemals (tenements) at Naigum, DeLisle Road and Sewri absenteeism increased to 4 per cent. from 3 per cent. in the previous month. On the construction of chemals at Warli, absenteeism was 8 per cent. as compared with 9 per cent. last month. The supply of unskilled labour employed for loading, removing, storing and unloading cargo in the docks by the Bombay Port Trust was plentiful.

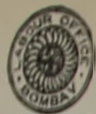
The percentage of absenteeism was 19.6 in the month under review, as compared with 16.3 in the preceding month and 17.3 two months ago. In the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust the supply of labour was plentiful but an increase in absenteeism was recorded. The percentage of absenteeism was 12.21 as compared with 8.25 last month and 9.69 two months ago.

IN KARACHI, the supply of all types of labour was greater than the demand. The average absenteeism based on the attendance of monthly paid workers employed in the Engineering Workshops of the Karachi Port Trust recorded an improvement in the month under review, the figure being 7.8 per cent. as compared with 10.5 per cent. in the preceding month and 10.8 per cent. two months ago.

COST OF LIVING

In March 1924, the cost of living, as described elsewhere in the *Labour Gazette*, fell by two per cent. as compared with 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 153 for all articles and 147 for food articles only. There was a fall of nearly one per cent. as compared with this time last year and a fall of 21 per cent. from the high water mark (October 1920). The fall in the percentage during March was mainly due to decreases in the prices of food articles.

The articles have been given the relative importance which each bears to the aggregate expenditure. No allowance is made for any change in the standard of living, because an index number purporting to combine movements in prices with movements in consumption would present great difficulties in construction, interpretation and application. Moreover, such an index would not be materially different from a simple index of the general movement of prices in the case of the working classes. A further reference to the cost of living index will be found on page 7.



THE WHOLESALE INDEX NUMBER

In March 1924 the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay was 181, as compared with 188 in the three previous months, showing a fall of nearly 4 per cent. There was a fall of 12 per cent. in the prices of food articles and a rise of one per cent. in those of non-food articles. The index number for food grains only was 114 during March as compared with 117 in the previous month. The fluctuations in the prices of foods, non-foods and all articles will be seen in the following table:—

	Increase per cent. over July 1914				
	November 1923	December 1923	January 1924	February 1924	March 1924
Foods ..	89	94	88	87	65
Non-foods ..	85	85	89	88	90
All articles ..	86	88	88	88	81

SECURITIES INDEX NUMBER

In March 1924, the general average of the prices of 100 shares and securities was 141 showing a fall of more than 2 per cent. as compared with the previous month. Industrial Securities also registered a fall of nearly 2 per cent. owing to a fall of 2 per cent. in cotton mill shares. Cotton Ginning and Pressing Companies remained stationary at 122 as in the previous four months. The noticeable feature during the month was a rise of nearly 3 per cent. in miscellaneous companies. Railway Companies and Bank shares showed a slight fall during the month.

COTTON MILL PRODUCTION

Cotton mill production in February and in the eleven months ended February 1924, as compared with the corresponding periods of the two preceding years, is shown in the two tables below. The small amount of production of both yarn and woven goods in Bombay was due entirely to the general strike in the cotton mills which continued throughout the month of February 1924. In Ahmedabad the production of yarn showed a small improvement as compared with the two previous years while in woven goods there was a fall as compared with the preceding year.

(1) Month of February

	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced		
	February			February		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
Bombay Island ..	27	26	1	15	13	6
Ahmedabad ..	7	7	8	6	10	8
Other centres ..	6	5	4	3	2	3
Total, Presidency ..	40	38	13	24	25	17

(2) Eleven months ending February

	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced		
	Eleven months ended February			Eleven months ended February		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
Bombay Island ..	321	322	266	191	181	100
Ahmedabad ..	78	83	69	76	81	70
Other centres ..	56	55	49	32	30	25
Total, Presidency ..	455	460	384	299	292	195

The Bombay Millowners' Association quotations at the end of March 1923 and February and March 1924 are as follows:—

	Net rate per lb. in rupees		
	March 1923	February 1924	March 1924
Longcloth ..	22½	23½	23½
T. Cloths ..	21	21½	21½
Chudders ..	20½	20½	20½

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

There were four industrial disputes in progress during March 1924 as compared with three in the preceding month. Three of these disputes began in the month and the number of workpeople involved was 164,820 as compared with 163,980 in the preceding month and 3,167 in March 1923. The aggregate duration of all disputes during March 1924 was about 2,893,881 working days as compared with 4,062,870 in February 1924 and 37,298 in March 1923.

THE OUTLOOK

The index number of wholesale prices which remained stationary during the past three months fell by four per cent. in March 1924. Although there was an increase of about one per cent. in the average of non-food articles, the fall was due to an all-round fall in the prices of food articles, especially in those of sugar, turmeric and salt. Food-grains fell to 114 in March 1924 as compared with 117 in the previous month, taking July 1914 as 100. This is an average of rice, wheat, jowari, bajri, gram and turdal. The average of food is now 65 per cent. above the basic period (July 1914) while the average of non-food is 90 per cent. above the pre-war level. Security prices register a steady fall from June 1922 to the present time, chiefly due to the very low quotations of cotton mill shares and miscellaneous companies. Fixed interest-bearing securities, on the other hand, have risen from July 1922 and they are still rising. The rate of exchange in Bombay on London on the 1st of April was 1s. 4½d. as against 1s. 4½d. on



the 1st of March. The improvement in India's foreign trade was maintained in February but both imports and exports were less than those of the previous month. The bank rate fell from 9 per cent. to 8 per cent. on 10th April and this has caused a feeling of relief. The rate had remained at 9 per cent. from 14th February, and the period at this level was one of intense pressure in business circles.

The Cotton Mill industry in Bombay is gradually recovering from the general strike which lasted throughout February and a greater part of March. In Ahmedabad, stocks of yarn and cloth held by mills show a considerable decrease and many mills have registered forward orders for cloth. At the moment very few mills in this centre hold any large stocks of unsold production.

The Chairman of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce, Mr. F. Clayton, M.L.C., at the Annual General Meeting of the Chamber on March 26th in referring to Karachi's trade for the year 1923 said "I do not intend to plunge deeply into the figures of Karachi's trade for the past year. They are all contained in your Committee's report and details now will only weary you. Suffice it to say that 1923 constitutes easily and handsomely a record year in the history of the Port, the value of our total seaborne trade being 79½ crores of rupees. This is an increase of 21 crores over 1922 figures. Only once previously has our total trade exceeded 70 crores of rupees. That was in 1920 when the total reached between 74 and 75 crores. It is, of course, to the actual tonnage imported and exported, rather than the rupee value that we should primarily attach importance, but it is significant that this big record has been achieved in a year of declining prices, and I think it augurs well for the future of our Port."

In the United Kingdom, the general upward movement in industry has been maintained. Prices of commodities on the whole have continued their slow rise, although there has been a fall in the price of pig iron and raw cotton. Unemployment shows its seasonal improvement. The Federation of Master Cotton Spinners has decided to continue on short time in the American section until the end of September instead of reverting to full time in May as was previously arranged. This scheme affects two-thirds of the whole trade.

According to cable information received by the American Trade Commissioner, money in America remains abundant at low rates, bond prices show an upward tendency but those of stocks generally downward. Steel and Building industries are exceptionally active. The Northern Cotton Textile Industry, however, is suffering from a severe depression.

THE BALANCE OF TRADE

During March 1924, the visible balance of trade including securities in favour of India amounted to

Rs. 1,752 lakhs. The corresponding figure for 1923 was a favourable balance of Rs. 7,06 lakhs. The trade figures for the last six months for India, Bombay and Karachi are given below:—

India

	In lakhs of rupees					
	October 1923	November 1923	December 1923	January 1924	February 1924	March 1924
Exports (private merchandise) ..	25,55	27,63	30,94	30,95	35,64	41,35
Imports do. ..	20,60	21,09	15,42	22,61	16,19	19,31
Balance of Trade in merchandise ..	+ 4,95	+ 6,54	+ 15,52	+ 14,34	+ 17,45	+ 22,04
Balance of transactions in treasure (private) ..	- 4,72	- 3,75	- 57	- 4,55	- 4,56	- 4,65
Visible balance of trade including securities ..	- 64	+ 1,83	+ 15,27	+ 9,82	+ 12,89	+ 17,39

Bombay

	In lakhs of rupees					
	October 1923	November 1923	December 1923	January 1924	February 1924	March 1924
Exports (private merchandise) ..	6,44	7,21	8,81	15,96	13,79	15,36
Imports do. ..	8,17	8,05	6,12	8,85	7,06	7,70
Balance of Trade in merchandise ..	- 1,73	- 85	+ 2,69	+ 7,11	+ 6,73	+ 7,58
Imports of treasure ..	4,61	3,52	2,00	4,13	4,24	3,82
Exports of treasure ..	10	1	1,50	..	..	3
Balance of transactions in treasure ..	- 4,51	- 3,51	- 50	- 4,13	- 4,24	- 3,79

Karachi

	In lakhs of rupees					
	October 1923	November 1923	December 1923	January 1924	February 1924	March 1924
Exports (private merchandise) ..	86	2,23	2,85	4,57	5,80	5,64
Imports do. ..	2,00	1,98	1,12	1,90	1,44	1,69
Balance of Trade in merchandise ..	- 1,14	+ 25	+ 1,73	+ 2,67	+ 4,36	+ 3,95
Imports of treasure ..	12	..	3	9	6	10
Exports of treasure ..	11	..	..	..	..	..
Balance of transactions in treasure ..	- 1	..	- 3	- 9	- 6	- 10

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:—

Month	Rate	Month	Rate
May 1923	4 ⁵ / ₃₂	November 1923	4 ¹¹ / ₁₆
June "	4 ¹ / ₁₆	December "	5 ² / ₃₂
July "	4 ³ / ₃₂	January 1924	5 ³ / ₁₆
August "	4 ¹ / ₃₂	February "	5 ¹ / ₈
September "	4 ¹ / ₃₂	March "	4 ¹⁵ / ₂
October "	4 ³ / ₁₆	April "	4 ² / ₈

These rates are supplied by the Deputy Controller of the Currency, Bombay. On the 24th April exchange on London was s. 1 d. 4 ¹³/₁₆.

There was an increase of 7 crores of rupees in Bank clearings in Bombay in March 1924 as compared with the preceding month. In Calcutta the Bank clearings recorded an increase of Rs. 18 crores, while the clearings in Karachi and Rangoon remained on the level of the preceding month. The figures for the last three months are as follows:—

In crores of rupees*

	January 1924	February 1924	March 1924	Total January to March 1924
Bombay	56	53	60	169
Karachi	5	3	3	11
Calcutta	64	64	82	210
Rangoon	11	10	10	31
Total (four ports)	136	130	155	421

* 1 Crore = 10 millions or 100 lakhs.

The percentage of gold and silver in the Paper Currency Reserve for the whole of India at the close of the month of March 1924 was 55.06 as against 55.14 in February and 56.79 in January 1924.

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

Month	Rate	Month	Rate
April 1923	Rs. 1,193	October 1923	Rs. 983
May "	1,215	November "	998
June "	1,042	December "	1,005
July "	1,123	January 1924	924
August "	1,007	February "	908
September "	995	March "	896

The average amount paid up was Rs. 371 per share throughout the period.

Lord Willingdon

His Excellency Lord Willingdon leaves India after 11 years in this country, first as Governor of Bombay from 1913 to 1918 and subsequently as Governor of Madras. His interest in labour matters is well known, and it will be remembered that the late Sir Srinivasa Iyengar, Member of the Executive Council, Madras, was deputed in 1921 by His Excellency to examine the work being done by the Bombay Labour Office. Lord Willingdon before leaving Bombay on Saturday 12th April for England, wrote to the Director regarding what he called the "great work" of the Labour Office.

Bombay Children's Bill

A Bill called the Bombay Children's Bill will be placed before the Legislative Council at the next session. The Bill is intended to make special provision for the custody and protection of children under the age of 14, and of young persons over 14 years but under 16 years. The Bill also provides for the custody, trial and punishment of youthful offenders under 16 years of age. It thus deals mainly with two distinct subjects:—(1) the protection of children, and (2) custody of youthful offenders.



The Cost of Living Index for March 1924

A fall of three points

All articles .. 53 per cent.

In March 1924 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 three points below the level of the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the index was 156 in February and 153 in March 1924. The general index is 21 per cent. below the high-water mark reached in October 1920, 7 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1922 and one per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1923.

The cost of living index now stands at the same level as that of May of last year. The noticeable feature during the month was an all-round fall in food prices especially in food grains. The price of rice has fallen by 2 points owing to larger imports of Rangoon rice into Bombay in February. There was an appreciable fall of 12 points in the price of onions.

All items : Average percentage increase over July 1914

Month	Percentage increase over July 1914						
	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
January	34	82	83	69	73	56	58
February	34	76	81	62	65	55	56
March	36	72	77	60	65	54	53
April	44	67	72	60	62	55	
May	47	68	73	67	63	53	
June	48	74	81	73	63	51	
July	49	86	90	77	65	53	
August	53	79	91	80	64	54	
September	65	72	92	85	65	54	
October	75	74	93	83	62	52	
November	75	73	86	82	60	53	
December	83	74	81	79	61	57	
Yearly average	54	75	83	73	64	54	

The articles included in the index are cereals, pulses, other articles of food, fuel and lighting, clothing and house-rent. The articles have been given the relative importance which each bears to the total aggregate expenditure. No allowance is made for any change in the standard of living since July 1914.

The following table shows the price levels of articles of food in February and March 1924 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 8.

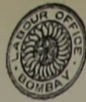
Food only .. 47 per cent.

Articles	July 1914	February 1924	March 1924	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in March 1924 over or below February 1924
Rice	100	130	128	- 2
Wheat	100	126	127	+ 1
Jowari	100	124	124	....
Bajri	100	124	120	- 4
Gram	100	119	114	- 5
Turdal	100	119	116	- 3
Sugar (refined)	100	282	281	- 1
Sugar (raw)	100	167	160	- 7
Tea	100	205	199	- 6
Salt	100	199	196	- 3
Beef	100	158	158	....
Mutton	100	215	212	- 3
Milk	100	191	191	....
Ghee	100	197	193	- 4
Potatoes	100	159	146	- 13
Onions	100	460	345	- 115
Cocconut oil	100	129	117	- 12
All food articles (weighted average)	100	151	147	- 4

NOTE.—A full explanation of the scope and method of compilation of the index number is published in the *Labour Gazette* for September 1923.

World Prices

Figures published by the International Labour Office covering the cost of living throughout the world show that in the last months of 1923 (the latest date for which comparative figures are available) increases were recorded in Austria, Belgium, France, Hungary, India, Luxemburg, Norway, Poland, Russia and Switzerland. For South Africa, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Sweden the figures for December 1923 show almost no change as compared with the previous month, whilst a decrease in the cost of living was reflected by the index numbers for Finland and Italy. In Germany, the course of prices has been more normal since the middle of December. Not only have prices been stable, but retail prices are again following normally the movement of wholesale prices.



Bombay Cost of Living Index

A

Articles.	Unit of quantity.	Annual consumption (Mass Units) (in crores).	Price.			Total Expenditure.		
			July 1914.	February 1924.	March 1924.	July 1914.	February 1924.	March 1924.
<i>Cereals—</i>			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Rice	Maund	70	5·594	7·271	7·141	391·58	508·97	499·87
Wheat	"	21	5·594	7·047	7·099	117·47	147·99	149·08
Jowari	"	11	4·354	5·385	5·385	47·89	59·24	59·24
Bajri	"	6	4·313	5·333	5·167	25·88	32·00	31·00
Total and Average—Cereals	—	—	100	128	127	582·82	748·20	739·19
<i>Pulses—</i>								
Gram	Maund	10	4·302	5·120	4·917	43·02	51·20	49·17
Tur dal	"	3	5·844	6·974	6·781	17·53	20·92	20·34
Total and Average—Pulses	—	—	100	119	115	60·55	72·12	69·51
<i>Other food articles—</i>								
Sugar (refined)	Maund	2	7·620	21·474	21·427	15·24	42·95	42·85
Sugar (raw)	"	7	8·557	14·287	13·693	59·90	100·01	95·85
Tea	"	1	40·000	82·052	79·490	1·00	2·05	1·99
Salt	"	5	2·130	4·234	4·167	10·65	21·17	20·84
Beef	Seer	28	0·323	0·510	0·510	9·04	14·28	14·28
Mutton	"	33	0·417	0·896	0·885	13·76	29·57	29·21
Milk	Maund	14	9·198	17·583	17·583	128·77	246·16	246·16
Ghee	"	1½	50·792	100·000	98·214	76·19	150·00	147·32
Potatoes	"	11	4·479	7·141	6·547	49·27	78·55	72·02
Onions	"	3	1·552	7·141	5·359	4·66	21·42	16·08
Cocoanut Oil	"	½	25·396	32·651	29·760	12·70	16·33	14·88
Total and Average—Other food articles	—	—	100	190	184	381·18	722·49	701·48
Total and Average—All food articles	—	—	100	151	147	1,024·55	1,542·81	1,510·18
<i>Fuel and lighting—</i>								
Kerosene oil	Case	5	4·375	6·969	7·281	21·88	34·85	36·41
Firewood	Maund	48	0·792	1·281	1·281	38·02	61·49	61·49
Coal	"	1	0·542	0·906	0·906	0·54	0·91	0·91
Total and Average—Fuel and lighting	—	—	100	161	163	60·44	97·25	98·81
<i>Clothing—</i>								
Chudders	Lb.	27	0·594	1·297	1·297	16·04	35·02	35·02
Shirtings	"	25	0·641	1·521	1·526	16·03	38·03	38·15
T. Cloth	"	36	0·583	1·344	1·344	20·99	48·38	48·38
Total and Average—Clothing	—	—	100	229	229	53·06	121·43	121·55
House-rent	Per month	10	11·302	18·700	18·700	113·02	187·00	187·00
Grand Total and General Average	—	—	100	156	153	1,251·07	1,948·49	1,917·54

NOTE.—If the aggregate expenditure in July 1914 at the prices ruling in that month was Rs. 1,251·07 crores, the aggregate expenditure in March 1924 at March price levels was Rs. 1,917·54, i.e., an increase of 53 per cent. (Rs. 1,251·07 = 100; Rs. 1,917·54 = 153).



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.	
		February 1924.	March 1924.	February 1924.	March 1924.
<i>Cereals—</i>					
Rice	31·4	130	128	4,082·0	4,019·2
Wheat	9·4	126	127	1,184·4	1,193·8
Jowari	3·8	124	124	471·2	471·2
Bajri	2·1	124	120	260·4	252·0
Total and Average Index No.	46·7	128	127	5,998·0	5,936·2
<i>Pulses—</i>					
Gram	3·1	119	114	368·9	353·4
Tur dal	1·3	119	116	154·7	150·8
Total and Average Index No.	4·4	119	115	523·6	504·2
<i>Other food articles—</i>					
Sugar (refined)	1·2	282	281	338·4	337·2
Sugar (raw)	4·8	167	160	801·6	768·0
Tea	0·1	205	199	20·5	19·9
Salt	0·9	199	196	179·1	176·4
Beef	0·7	158	158	110·6	110·6
Mutton	1·1	215	212	236·5	233·2
Milk	10·3	191	191	1,967·3	1,967·3
Ghee	6·1	197	193	1,201·7	1,177·3
Potatoes	4·0	159	146	636·0	584·0
Onions	0·4	460	345	184·0	138·0
Cocoanut oil	1·0	129	117	129·0	117·0
Total and Average Index No.	30·6	190	184	5,804·7	5,628·9
<i>Fuel and lighting—</i>					
Kerosene oil	1·8	159	166	286·2	298·8
Firewood	3·0	162	162	486·0	486·0
Coal	0·1	167	167	16·7	16·7
Total and Average Index No.	4·9	161	164	788·9	801·5
<i>Clothing—</i>					
Chudders	1·3	218	218	283·4	283·4
Shirtings	1·3	237	238	308·1	309·4
T. Cloth	1·7	231	231	392·7	392·7
Total and Average Index No.	4·3	229	229	984·2	985·5
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) .. ..	....	156	154	15,600·9	15,357·8



Wholesale Prices in Bombay
FALL IN FOOD PRICES

In March 1924, the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay was 81 per cent. above the level in July 1914 as against 88 per cent. in the previous month, thus showing a fall of nearly 4 per cent. In comparison with the corresponding month of last year, prices have fallen by one per cent., the general index being the same as the twelve-monthly average of 1923. The general index has fallen by 31 per cent. from the highest peak (263) reached in August 1918. Long period fluctuations will be found in Chart 10 of this issue. It is of interest to compare the movement of these wholesale prices with those in Chart 5.

In comparison with the previous month, there was a fall of nearly 12 per cent. in the general index of food articles owing to an all-round fall in food prices. The general index of food grains was 114 in March as compared with 117 during the previous month, thus showing a fall of more than 2 per cent. The fall in the sugar group amounted to nearly 7 per cent. and in 'other food articles' to more than 24 per cent.

The index number of non-food articles showed a slight rise of one per cent. during the month. There was an appreciable rise of nearly 36 per cent. in the prices of silk which was nearly compensated by a fall of 5 per cent. in the prices of oilseeds and of 11 per cent. in 'hides and skins.'

The net result of movements in the groups in Bombay is as follows:—

*Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay**

Groups.	No. of items.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) per cent. in March 1924 as compared with	
		the preceding month (February 1924)	the corresponding month of last year (March 1923)
1. Cereals	7	- 2	- 3
2. Pulses	2	- 5	- 10
3. Sugar	3	- 7	- 8
4. Other food	3	- 24	- 11
Total, food	15	- 12	- 8
5. Oilseeds	4	- 5	- 7
6. Raw cotton	4	+ 2	+ 15
7. Cotton manufactures	6	- 2	+ 3
8. Other textiles	2	+ 36	+ 21
9. Hides and skins	3	- 11	+ 4
10. Metals	5	- 2	+ 9
11. Other raw and manufactured articles	4	+ 3	+ 7
Total, non-food	28	+ 1	- 4
General average	43	- 4	- 1

* Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on pages 30-32.

The subjoined table compares March 1924 with those of the preceding months and of the corresponding month of last year:—

100 = average of 1923

Groups.	Mar. 1923	June 1923	Sept. 1923	Dec. 1923	Feb. 1924	Mar. 1924
I. Cereals	102	102	99	100	100	98
II. Pulses	102	100	93	100	97	92
III. Sugar	108	105	93	109	105	98
IV. Other food	92	94	110	117	108	82
Total, food	100	100	102	108	104	92
V. Oilseeds	104	100	102	105	102	96
VI. Raw cotton	95	94	94	128	111	109
VII. Cotton manufactures	103	96	98	104	106	108
VIII. Other textiles	101	101	102	97	90	122
IX. Hides and skins	90	97	100	98	106	94
X. Metals	103	102	97	92	96	94
XI. Other raw and manufactured articles	104	98	96	96	95	79
Total, non-food	101	99	98	102	103	104
General average—all articles	101	99	99	104	104	100

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

The Construction of the Index

No.	Articles.	Index Nos.	July 1914.		March 1924.	
			Total Numbers.	Total Numbers.	Total Numbers.	Average.
1	Cereals (Rice, wheat, jowari, barley and bajri)	7	700	861	123	
2	Pulses (Gram and turdal)	2	200	167	84	
3	Sugar (Refined and raw)	3	300	661	220	
4	Other articles of food (Ghee, salt, etc.)	3	300	790	263	
5	Total, all food	15	1,500	2,479	165	
6	Oilseeds (Linseed, rapeseed, poppyseed and gingelly)	4	400	516	129	
7	Raw cotton	4	400	976	244	
8	Cotton manufactures (Long cloth, shirtings, chudders, etc.)	6	600	1,429	238	
9	Other textiles (Silk)	2	200	470	235	
10	Hides and skins	3	300	419	140	
11	Metals (Copper braziers, steel bars, tinplates, etc.)	5	500	853	171	
12	Other raw and manufactured articles (kerosene and coal)	4	400	654	134	
13	Total, non-food	28	2,800	5,317	190	
14	General Average	43	4,300	7,796	181	

The following table is intended to show the annual movements in food and non-food wholesale prices:—
July 1914 = 100.

	Food.	Non-food.	All articles.
Twelve-monthly average 1918	171	269	236
" 1919	202	233	222
" 1920	240	219	216
" 1921	193	201	199
" 1922	186	187	187
" 1923	179	182	181
Three-monthly	180	189	186

Comparative Retail Prices

The following table compares the retail food prices in Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona with those in Bombay in February and March 1924 (Bombay prices = 100). It will be seen that the average retail price levels in all the centres are below the level of Bombay in February and March 1924.

Bombay prices in February 1924 = 100.

Articles.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
Cereals—					
Rice	100	92	122	100	124
Wheat	100	68	87	86	90
Jowari	100	74	65	81	87
Bajri	100	82	94	77	100
Average—Cereals	100	79	92	86	100
Pulses—					
Gram	100	78	112	82	80
Turdal	100	100	96	94	127
Average—Pulses	100	89	104	88	104
Other articles of food—					
Sugar (refined)	100	92	99	103	101
Jagri (Gul)	100	75	93	72	74
Tea	100	87	130	111	91
Salt	100	73	79	102	99
Beef	100	123	74	74	74
Mutton	100	84	84	70	77
Milk	100	48	57	76	76
Ghee	100	78	80	80	74
Potatoes	100	76	93	128	58
Onions	100	84	77	81	49
Coconut oil	100	93	109	102	94
Average—Other articles of food	100	83	89	91	80
Average—All articles	100	83	91	89	87

Bombay prices in March 1924 = 100.

Articles.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
Cereals—					
Rice	100	93	125	100	125
Wheat	100	67	87	83	89
Jowari	100	74	65	82	87
Bajri	100	81	97	79	98
Average—Cereals	100	79	94	86	100
Pulses—					
Gram	100	78	116	86	83
Turdal	100	103	98	94	131
Average—Pulses	100	91	107	90	107
Other articles of food—					
Sugar (refined)	100	98	100	103	105
Jagri (Gul)	100	98	97	73	70
Tea	100	89	134	115	106
Salt	100	67	76	100	101
Beef	100	123	74	74	74
Mutton	100	85	85	71	78
Milk	100	43	57	76	91
Ghee	100	79	81	81	76
Potatoes	100	79	87	102	51
Onions	100	113	83	100	56
Coconut oil	100	102	120	113	113
Average—Other articles of food	100	89	90	92	84
Average—All articles	100	87	93	90	90

On page 34 will be found statistics of food prices in February and March 1924 for Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona. These are official prices supplied through the Director of Agriculture to the Labour Office, and are averages of prices taken eight times a month from retail shop-keepers patronised by the labouring classes.

Securities Index Number
A FALL OF 2 POINTS

In March 1924, the general average of the prices of 100 shares and securities taken in the Labour Office Securities Index Number was 141 as compared with 143 in the previous month, thus showing a fall of more than one per cent. Railway Companies have now reached the pre-war level. Cotton Ginning and Pressing Companies continue to remain stationary at 122 for the last five months. The noticeable feature during the month was that Miscellaneous Companies registered a rise of nearly 3 per cent. as compared with the previous month. The index for Government and Corporation



Securities fell to 58 in December 1920 but has been steadily improving since that date and now stands at a level of 74 showing a rise of nearly 28 per cent. The average for the Cotton Mill group reached its peak in April 1920 when it stood at 476 but it has now fallen to 189 showing a fall of more than 60 per cent.

A full explanation of the scope and method of compilation of the securities index was published in the *Labour Gazette* for December 1923. The construction of the index is shown in the following table:—

The Construction of the Index

No.	—	—	July 1914. March 1924.		
			Total numbers.	Total numbers.	Average.
1	Government and Corporation Securities	7 Index Nos.	700	516	74
2	Banks	6 " " "	600	822	137
3	Railway Companies	10 " " "	1,000	1,003	100
4	Cotton Mills	42 " " "	4,200	7,927	189
5	Cotton Ginning and Pressing Companies	8 " " "	800	974	122
6	Cement and Manganese Companies	5 " " "	500	560	112
7	Electric Undertakings	2 " " "	200	256	128
8	Miscellaneous Companies.	22 " " "	2,200	2,375	108
9	Industrial Securities	95* " " "	9,500	13,917	146
10	General average	102* " " "	10,200	14,433	141

* Ordinary and Deferred shares are taken as one in counting the number of securities.

The following table shows the annual movement for the important groups for July in each year and the monthly movement from July 1923:—

	Fixed interest Securities.	Industrial Securities.	Cotton Mill shares.*	General average (100 Securities).
1914 July	100	100	100	100
1915 "	96	101	97	100
1916 "	87	130	114	127
1917 "	73	158	138	151
1918 "	74	194	212	184
1919 "	77	216	216	206
1920 "	65	313	438	296
1921 "	65	311	450	295
1922 "	63	267	406	253
1923 "	72	176	229	169
.. August	73	168	216	161
.. September	73	166	225	159
.. October	72	163	213	157
.. November	71	163	216	156
.. December	71	160	215	154
1924 January	71	151	196	146
.. February	73	148	192	143
.. March	74	146	189	141

* Also included in the previous column " Industrial Securities."

Working Class Cost of Living

COLLECTION OF PRICES

The following are the areas and streets in which price quotations are collected together with the names of the articles for which prices are taken for the construction of the working class cost of living index:—

- 1 Dadar—Dadar Station Road.
- 2 Kumbharvada—Kumbharvada Road (North End).
- 3 Saitan Chowki—Kumbharvada Road (South End).
- 4 Elphinstone Road.
- 5 Naigam—Naigam Cross Road and Development Chawls.
- 6 Parel—Poibawdi.
- 7 Fergusson Road.
- 8 DeLisle Road.
- 9 Suparibag—Suparibag Road.
- 10 Chinchpokli—Parel Road.
- 11 Grant Road.
- 12 Nal Bazaar—Sandhurst Road.

ARTICLES

Rice, Wheat, Jowari, Bajri, Gram, Turdal, Sugar, Gul, Tea, Salt, Ghee, Potatoes, Onions, Coconut Oil. The prices for mutton and beef are collected from the Central Municipal Markets. The number of quotations collected for each article during the month is, on an average, 200. The prices are for actual transactions and are carefully collected by an Investigator of the Labour Office.

The Fall in Prices

An examination of the statistics of wholesale prices on page 38 of this issue reveals the interesting fact that the highest level (263) of wholesale prices in India (Bombay Labour Office) was reached in August 1918 and the lowest (173) in December 1922. The extent of the fall from the highest level reached was 34 per cent. The rise in Great Britain was greatest in May 1920 when the index was 333 and the lowest point (154) was reached in September 1922. The fall was 54 per cent. In the United States the highest point (264) reached was in May 1920 and the lowest (139) in June 1921. The fall in this case is nearly 47 per cent. Comparison is made with the average of 1913 in the cases of Great Britain and the United States and with the pre-war month (July 1914) in the case of India. Thus prices in India did not rise to the same extent as prices in the United Kingdom or the United States nor have they fallen to the same extent. There is much to be said, therefore, that prices fell in the East before they fell in the West.

Postal Conference

The Fourth Session of the Bombay Presidency Postal and Railway Mail Service Conference will be held at Surat in the last week of this month. Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta, M.L.A., will preside.



European Cost of Living Index

A description of the scope and method of compilation

I.—Introduction.

Since the cost of Living index of the Labour Office was published three years ago, a cost of living index that referred to the working classes of Bombay, requests have been received from time to time from firms, banks, etc., that an index for those who adopt a western or European standard of living, should be published. The construction of such an index was no easy matter for the following reasons:—(1) the collection of accurate prices for a long list of articles consumed by those who adopt this standard is difficult. For the standard or base period (1914) this was especially troublesome on account of the inaccessibility of records. Owing to changes in fashion, the collection of data for clothing, especially women's clothing, in the standard period and at the present time was very difficult. This difficulty has been experienced in other countries. The British Ministry* of Labour recently stated that "owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in stocks held by retailers, and to the variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes in recent years, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the average percentage increase in clothing prices generally; and any single percentage arrived at by the ordinary methods of averaging can only, at best, be regarded as affording an approximate indication of the general change in prices"; (2) the collection of reliable data for house rents actually paid by such classes in Bombay for these periods is a tedious matter; and (3) the assigning of correct "weights" to the articles in accordance with the relative expenditure on these in the family budget necessitated a close examination of the expenditure of families with incomes ranging, especially from Rs. 800 or Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000 or over. The index does not apply accurately to families on any given rate of income. Like army clothing the index fits no single income in the limits precisely, but is intended to fit all fairly accurately. The difficulties, referred to above, have been overcome to an extent which was hardly anticipated when the enquiry was undertaken.

II.—The Selection of Commodities.

The first problem was to select a list of commodities that entered into the domestic budget of the ordinary family living in Bombay in the European manner of living. Eighty articles were selected as representative and these were grouped as follows:—

- I Food 30 articles
- (a) Bazaar 16 articles

* The Ministry of Labour Gazette—February 1924.

The following articles were included:—

Meat, etc. (beef (2) mutton, kidneys, suet); fish, poultry (chickens, fowls, eggs); milk, butter, bread, potatoes, onions, tomatoes and fruit (bananas).

(b) Stores 14 articles

The following articles were included:—

Tea, coffee, sugar, rice, flour, salt, cheese, jam, sauce, biscuits, oats, soda water, cigarettes and cheroots.

II Fuel and lighting 4 articles
Coal, electricity, matches, and kerosene oil.

III Clothing 22 articles

(a) Men's 13 articles

Shirts, vests, socks, collars stiff, collars soft, cotton suits, sports coats, pyjama suits, hats, shoes, lounge suits, raincoats and ties.

(b) Women's and children's 9 articles

Muslins, prints, satin, silk, crepe de chene, satin ribbon, stockings, vests and walking shoes

IV House Rent 1 (final average)

A special enquiry was conducted for this purpose and rent statistics were collected for as many as 750 tenements inhabited by upper class families. The rents are for the early part of each official year and are changed annually. The data were obtained from the assessment books of the Municipal Corporation and a proportion of these was inspected by the Investigators of the Labour Office. The result obtained may be said to be typical of the increase since the pre-war year in A ward (Colaba) and D ward (Walkeshwar), the wards in which the majority of the families reside.

V Miscellaneous 23 articles

The miscellaneous group includes

(a) Servants 5 quotations

Butler, cook, hamal, ayah and dhobi.

(b) Conveyance 5 articles

Chauffeur's wages, petrol, oil, tyres and inner tubes.

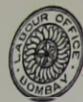
(c) Household necessaries 8 articles

Forks, spoons, knives, tumblers, tea and dinner crockery, towels and sheets.

(d) Others 5 articles

School fees, passages, income tax, stationery and medicine (7 kinds).

The total number of articles in the index is thus 80, and the main groups into which these are divided are food (30); fuel and lighting (4); clothing (22); house rent; and miscellaneous (23). Each article of consumption is precisely graded, e.g., suet—ordinary beef, sugar—Java granulated, tea—Liptons—yellow label, milk—best buffalo, matches—Swedish, etc. The list of items is, it



will be seen, sufficiently representative to give a reliable basis for estimating the average cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of the classes mentioned at the beginning of this article.

III.—Collection of Prices.

A high degree of accuracy in the collection of prices was essential. The probable error in the record of prices will produce a larger variation in the final index number than a similar error in weighting. The prices of articles under "bazaar" (in the main group food) were obtained mainly from the Market Reports of the Superintendent of the Crawford Market. The data for milk, bread, soda water, tobacco, petrol, oil, tyres, stationery, medicine, passages and the various items of clothing, stores, household necessaries, fuel and lighting were obtained from representative firms in Bombay. The data for school fees were based on the *School Master's Hand Book* containing the fees payable at public schools in Great Britain. The item 'medicine' is based on the average of seven quotations of household remedies such as quinine, aspirin, castor oil, etc. The income tax figure shows the increase in income tax as compared with the pre-war year. The statistics of wages were obtained from the account books of a number of typical families in Bombay. The prices that obtained in July 1914 were taken as the base (100). It will be obvious that the collection of these prices is a somewhat tedious process. It entailed considerable trouble to the firms as well as to the two Investigators of the Labour Office.

IV.—Weighting.

When the principal commodities and their prices were selected and grouped, the next step was to give to each article its relative importance in the family expenditure. An increase in house rent or in wages would have a far greater effect on the family expenditure, than say an equal increase on fuel or lighting because house rent or wages in Bombay bulk far more largely in the monthly expenditure of the family than do fuel or lighting. The price of each commodity, therefore, is multiplied by a number representing its relative importance as compared with the other commodities included in the index number. This number for each article is based on the total annual quantity of the article required per family and is called the 'mass unit.' These are different from the 'weights' proper which are the percentage expenditures on the various articles in the base period, to the total annual expenditure. The 'weights' should be multiplied by the index number, not by the price of the article. The aggregate expenditure method of weighting, it will be remembered, was described on page 14 of the *Labour Gazette* for September 1923 and the method followed in the construction of this index will be seen at a glance from the tables on pages 35—37 of this issue. As the index refers only to a small part of the total population whose consump-

tion is very different from the predominant part of the total population, the method of arriving at the consumption figures was mainly the intensive method, i.e., the careful study of a family's consumption over a period usually one or two months. In addition to this there was the extensive method, i.e., a study of family budgets furnished to the Labour Office. Data prepared by various Service Associations showing the relative expenditure on each article or on each group of articles were also utilised. From these was constructed the consumption of each article in the representative family—husband, wife and two children, one child being assumed to be in England for his education. The results are near the true usage quantities. In table A on page 35 the fractions (column 3) under, for example, household necessaries mean that these commodities were used for a period of years and, therefore, their annual consumption is only a fraction of the total period over which they last. The percentage weights are as follows:—

	Percentage weight.	
I Food—		
Bazaar	.. 8.0	} 11.3
Stores	.. 3.3	
II Fuel and lighting	..	4.3
III Clothing	..	6.8
IV House rent	..	18.5
V Miscellaneous—		
Servants	.. 13.7	} 59.1
Conveyance	.. 12.3	
School fees, etc.	.. 15.4	
Passages	.. 7.8	
Income tax	.. 6.8	
Household necessaries, etc.	.. 3.1	
Total	..	100

70 per cent. of the weights are assigned to food, household necessaries, servants, fuel and lighting, house rent, clothing and conveyance. At first sight 11.3 per cent. on food alone seems low, but this, it must be remembered, excludes other household requirements and in view of the comparatively large expenditure on other groups, such as house rent and miscellaneous, this small figure is not a matter of surprise. The weight assigned to servants is 13.7 per cent.; to household necessaries 3.1 per cent.; and house rent, 18.5 per cent. In regard to clothing, the percentage is 6.8. It will be noticed that the number of articles of clothing for men is in excess of that for women and children. The main reason for this is that in India, as elsewhere, fashions change so rapidly in women's clothing that for the present it has been decided to keep to the main 'lines' of women's clothing such as muslins, prints, satin, silk, stockings, etc. The index number, however, on women's and children's clothing moves in the long run in the same direction as men's clothing. In recent months, there has been a noticeable fall in women's clothing owing to the import of dress materials from France which, owing to the



fall in the value of the franc have been imported in considerable quantities at lower rupee prices.

The remaining 30 per cent. of the expenditure is on family expenses abroad, such as remittances for education, the amount spent periodically on passages and also on income tax. Over one-half of this amount is assigned to remittance for education, etc. Income tax has been given a much lower weight than would have been assigned for a similar investigation in Great Britain as the amount spent on income tax is proportionately less in India than in Great Britain. As stated in paragraph 51 of the Report on an Enquiry into Working Class Budgets in Bombay 'The effect of the errors in weights on the cost of living index is accordingly small. This is in accordance with statistical theory. Errors in prices have a much greater influence on a weighted average of price ratios than errors in weights. When once the weights have been reasonably estimated, provided the price ratios are not very unequal, the errors in weights can frequently be neglected'. In the *Labour Gazette* of September 1923 (page 13) it was stated that 'Differences in methods of arriving at figures of weights are of secondary importance as compared with this, since the probable error in the record of prices will produce a larger variation in the final index number than an error in weighting that need be anticipated. The real basis of the monthly variations is the careful ascertainment of prices'.

V.—RESULTS

(a) Group fluctuations

The main changes by groups shown below are not without interest. (100 = the level in July 1914.)

Group or article.	Month and year			
	October 1919	October 1920	July 1923	March 1924
I Food—				
Bazaar	189	212	198	191
Stores	193	216	186	181
II Fuel and lighting	114	159	129	122
III Clothing	214	249	181	181
IV House rent	132	132	163	163
V Miscellaneous—				
Servants	140	140	162	159
Conveyance	170	157	170	165
School fees, etc.	97	116	145	141
Passages	100	123	184	176
Income Tax	200	200	200	200
Household necessaries	144	168	130	125
Others	288	220	178	213
Total miscellaneous	138	144	166	162
General average	147	158	168	165

It will be seen that in March 1924 there has been a fall as compared with 1919 in food-stores, clothing,

conveyance, household necessaries and others, while food-bazaar and income tax have remained stationary. On the other hand, fuel and lighting, house-rent, servants, school fees and passages have increased. It will be noted that the rent figure does not yet show a fall as the rent figure, as explained above, is an annual figure changed in the early part of each official year. The figure for March 1924 is the figure collected in the first part of the year 1923-24. The figure for 1924-25, now in process of collection by the ward clerks of the Municipality, will, it is anticipated, show a decrease as independent enquiries show that rents are in a downward direction.

B—General Average

As compared with October 1919, the general average in March 1924 registered, it will be seen, an increase of 18 points or 12 per cent. The general average is now 3 points below the level of July 1923 (168) owing mainly to a decrease in the prices of food-bazaar and food-stores.

The following are the available general averages for certain months in the years 1919, 1920, 1923 and 1924:—

July 1914 = 100

Month and year	Index number
April 1919	153
October 1919	147
October 1920	158
July 1923	168
October 1923	165
January 1924	163
March 1924	165

It has been decided to publish this index quarterly in future in the months of January, April, July and October. Monthly figures cannot at present be collected, examined and published in view of the other heavy work, especially in labour statistics, etc., in which the Labour Office is now engaged.

International Labour Office

Miss Bondfield, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour in the United Kingdom, in reply to a question in the House of Commons in February last said that owing to the expiry in June 1925 of the lease of the premises now occupied by the International Labour Office at Geneva, and to the unsuitability of the present accommodation, the League of Nations had authorised the erection of a new building estimated to cost 3 million Swiss francs. The new site, presented to the League by the Swiss Confederation, would be much more convenient for the office. The speaker said the description of the proposed new building as a "Palace" was misleading to those who know what the building is to be, as the building proposed was plain and unpretentious.



Wages in Agriculture in the Bombay Presidency*

Summary of the Report

The Labour Office is shortly to publish a Report on an Enquiry into Agricultural Wages in the Bombay Presidency including Sind. The outstanding feature of this Report is that wage statistics have been collected, district by district, for two sets of towns representative of urban and rural conditions for each year from 1900 to 1922. Various contributory causes affecting the supply of and demand for labour, and as a consequence wages, such as (1) epidemics, especially the influenza epidemic of 1918-19 which decimated the labouring population; (2) the number of agricultural holdings; (3) birth rates and death rates, have been examined. The Report contains also coloured charts showing (1) the increase in the money wages of all classes of labour—especially of field labour in both urban and rural areas; (2) the fluctuations in real wages, i.e., the increase or decrease in wages as compared with the decrease or increase in the retail prices of food grains; (3) the number of deaths in the Bombay Presidency from 1900 to 1922 bringing out the peaks due to various epidemics; and (4) the outturn of food grains, cotton and oil seeds illustrating the nature of the various seasons.

THE OBJECT AND METHOD OF THE ENQUIRY

The main value of the Report is perhaps the comprehensive statistics of wages district by district, division by division, and economic circle by economic circle. These were collected in what is known as Taluka Form No. XVIII, a description of which is given in Appendix A of the Report, for the three main classes of agricultural labour, viz., field labour, ordinary labour and skilled labour. The term 'field labour' includes all those workers who do common field work such as ploughing, reaping, transplanting, harvesting and weeding. The ordinary labourer is the artisan's assistant or a load carrying coolie. On large estates he is engaged for earth work, embanking or clearing the silt from a water course or canal. The carpenter, blacksmith, mason and leather worker are what is known as the skilled labourer. The daily average wages for (1) head-quarters towns representing urban areas, and (2) non-headquarters towns more representative of rural areas have been tabulated. The selection of typical towns in the latter category was a matter of considerable difficulty, a difficulty that was solved with the assistance of the Collector in each district and the Director of Agriculture. Taking the Presidency as a whole, the number of field labourers fell from a little over two and a half millions to one million six hundred and six thousand or by 37 per cent. in 1921 as compared with 1911. The greatest fall occurred in Sind where the

* Report on an Enquiry into Agricultural Wages in the Bombay Presidency including Sind (Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationers, Bombay Presidency, Poona-1924).

number fell from 170,000 in 1911 to 57,000 in 1921 or by 67 per cent. A noticeable fall also occurred in the Central Division where the number of these labourers was also halved during the decade. The figures for ordinary labourers, however, tell an entirely different story. When classified in the way described in the Report the number of these increased from 472,000 in 1911 to 585,000 in 1921 or by 24 per cent. the largest increase occurring in the Northern Division where the number of ordinary labourers increased from 99,000 to 145,000. This is accounted for by the rapid industrial growth of this Division during the last twelve years. There was no appreciable change in the number of skilled labourers—the number of these amounting to 157,000 in 1921 as against 161,000 in 1911.

The effects of a sustained migration from pure agriculture to labour of a distinctly industrial nature such as building and development undertakings, railway expansion and canal construction as also of the various epidemics, especially that of influenza in 1918-19 are clearly illustrated by the fall in the number of field labourers and the increase in the number of ordinary labourers during the decade separating the two censuses of 1911 and 1921. Factory statistics tabulated for the purposes of this Report show that the number of workers in factories increased by nearly 50 per cent. between 1911 and 1921 and this substantiates still further the fact of the growth in industry in the Bombay Presidency during recent years.

CHANGES IN DAILY AVERAGE WAGES

Field labour in urban areas was three times as dear in 1922 as it was in 1900 when the rate amounted to 3 annas per day. The rate in rural areas was half an anna lower in 1900 but nearly 2 annas lower than what it was in urban areas in 1922. The average daily wage for the Presidency for ordinary labour amounted to 4 annas 3 pies in urban areas and to 3 annas in rural areas in the year 1900. In 1922 these wages had risen to 12 annas in urban areas and to 8 annas 6 pies in rural areas. Skilled labour does not show the high percentage increases shown by field and ordinary labour. The average wages of agricultural artisans have increased by 149 per cent. in urban areas and by 133 per cent. in rural areas as against increases from 182 to 200 per cent. respectively in the case of wages of field and ordinary labourers in both urban and rural areas. As compared with 1913, the pre-war year, the daily average wages of skilled labour increased by 95 per cent. in urban areas, of ordinary labour by 92 per cent., and of field labour by 89 per cent. The largest percentage increases in wages as considered by divisions are to be found in the Northern Division. The smallest percentage increases are to be found in Sind, and this is due to the comparatively high rates of wages which



obtained in that Division in the base year. As compared with the pre-war year the percentage increases in wages for each class of labour are strikingly similar.

REAL WAGES

Real wages, i.e., the increase in wages allowing for the increase in the cost of living have also been shown. A cost of living index for this Presidency was arrived at by taking the retail prices of food articles, district by district and division by division. Kosare alone was taken in the fuel and lighting group because the agricultural labourer pays little or nothing for his fuel. As regards clothing the prices of locally manufactured piece-goods were taken. Real wages were calculated by the formula:

Real Wage index number = $\frac{\text{Nominal Wage index number} \times 100}{\text{Cost of living index number}}$

Comparison has been made as between 1900 and 1922 and also as between 1914 and 1922. As compared with the base year, real wages were considerably higher in both urban and rural areas for all classes of labour. As compared with the pre-war period real wages are higher in 1922 for all classes of labour in urban areas, the increase varying from 5 per cent. in the case of field labour to 12 per cent. in the case of skilled labour. In rural areas the real wages of skilled labourers are 2 per cent. higher in 1922 than in 1914 but are 6 per cent. lower for field labour and 9 per cent. lower for ordinary labour. In other words, in rural areas real wages of field and ordinary labour have, as compared with the pre-war level, not increased. The prices of food grains in these rural areas have increased more than have their money wages.

HOURS OF LABOUR

Information regarding the hours of labour worked by ordinary agricultural labourers in various parts of the Presidency was obtained from responsible officers of the Department of Agriculture. The outstanding fact is that hours of labour have decreased throughout the Presidency as compared with a decade ago. Agricultural labourers now work for about 8 hours per day as against 10 hours ten years ago, and the tendency is said in some areas to be for still shorter hours. Hours of labour in the North Central Division are usually from 7 a.m. to 11-30 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 5-30 p.m. In the Konkan the labourer has been reported as commencing his work an hour late in the morning. In Kanara which is out of touch with large labour employing centres no marked change has been noticed. In Deccan the hours vary from tract to tract. There men work about an hour longer than women. In Sind the hours of work are 9 today as against 10½ a decade ago.

Wages in Industries

SYSTEM OF PAYMENT

In answer to an enquiry as to the system of payment of wages here it may be stated that as a general rule wages are paid monthly. In Bombay City and Island workers in cotton mills, engineering works, etc., are paid

by the month and wages are paid about 15 days after the date on which they are due. In Ahmedabad, wages in cotton mills are paid mostly by *haptas*. A *hapta* consists of 16 days in some cases and 14 days in others. In other parts of India, for example, in the Bengal jute mill industry, wages are paid weekly. The Indian Jute Mills Association reports that it has always been a practice in the jute mills to pay wages weekly in the case of the ordinary mill working staff excluding such classes as clerks and in most instances mistries and mechanics. This system is considered to be convenient both from the point of view of the mill and the workers.

Statistics of Wages and Hours of Labour

A Report on the methods of statistics of wages and hours of labour which was prepared for the International Conference of Labour Statisticians held at Geneva at the beginning of November 1923 has now been published by the International Labour Office.

The main objects of statistics of wages and hours are to provide information with regard to cost of labour (as part of cost of production), to the standard of living of the workers and to the distribution of the national dividend.

The chief kinds of wage data are rates of wages (which show the amount agreed to be paid by the hour or by the output) and earnings (which show the actual amount received by the workers), but whereas statistics of the former are plentiful, statistics of the latter, which can in general only be obtained from the pay rolls of establishments, are much less common.

The further fundamental distinction of wages is into nominal wages and real wages. The former are wages expressed in the currency in which they are paid. Statistics of money wages are, however, meaningless unless information is available showing whether prices have changed also. Hence is the value of statistics of real wages which show the purchasing power of nominal wages.

The methods adopted in different countries in compiling their statistics of wages and hours of labour are given and show the necessity for adopting uniform methods so as to enable comparisons to be made.

Eight-Hour Day in British Columbia

The Legislature of British Columbia during the October-December session of 1923 passed a new Hours of Work Act which comes into force on 1st January 1925. The new Act establishes a general eight-hour day for industrial workers. A Board of Adjustment composed of three members appointed by the Government with the Deputy Minister of Labour as Chairman will have charge of administering the Act with full power to hold inquiries and to make regulations in regard to industries temporarily or permanently excepted from the limitation of hours.

Industrial Disputes in the Presidency

Disputes in March 4

On page 45 will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during March 1924, 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 March 1924.

I.—Industrial Disputes classified by Trades

Trade.	Number of disputes in progress in March 1924.			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in March 1924.	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in March 1924.*
	Started before 1st March.	Started in March.	Total.		
Textile ..	1	2	3	162,745	2,893,306
Engineering ..	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous ..	(a)	1	1	2,105	24,575
Total, March 1924 ..	1	3	4	164,850	2,893,881
Total, February 1924 ..	1	2	3	165,981	4,062,570

*i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days, an allowance being made for workers replaced by others.
(a) Included in the general strike.

There were 4 industrial disputes in progress in March 1924, 2 of which occurred in cotton mills and 1 in a miscellaneous concern. The remaining one was a general strike affecting 75 cotton mills, 2 silk mills, 2 woollen mills and 2 dye-works. The number of workpeople involved was 164,820 and the working days lost (i.e., the number of work-people multiplied by the number of working days less workers replaced) 2,893,881.

Note.—In calculating the working days lost by the general strike no account was taken of the days lost after the resumption of work with depleted staff.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

II.—Industrial Disputes—Results November 1923 to March 1924

	November 1923.	December 1923.	January 1924.	February 1924.	March 1924.
Number of strikes and lock-outs	7	9	7	5	4
Disputes in progress at beginning	—	—	—	1	1
Fresh disputes begun	7	9	7	2	3

Workpeople involved 164,820

II.—Industrial Disputes—Results—contd.

	November 1923.	December 1923.	January 1924.	February 1924.	March 1924.
Disputes ended ..	7	9	6	2	—
Disputes in progress at end ..	—	—	1	1	—
Number of workpeople involved	487	12,415	157,821	163,980	164,820
Aggregate duration in working days ..	712	120,903	565,298	4,062,570	2,893,881
Demands—					
Pay ..	1	6	3	—	—
Bonus ..	1	—	1	1	—
Personal ..	3	1	2	—	—
Leave and hours ..	—	—	—	—	—
Others ..	2	2	1	2	—
Results—					
In favour of employees ..	2	1	—	2	—
Compromised ..	—	—	1	—	—
In favour of employers ..	5	8	5	—	—

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

III.—Industrial Disputes

Month.	Number of strikes and lock-outs.	Aggregate duration in working days.	Proportion settled			In progress.
			In favour of employers. (Per cent.)	In favour of employees. (Per cent.)	Compromised. (Per cent.)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
March 1923 ..	9	37,288	22	67	11	—
April 1923 ..	14	1,111,165	40	7	15	4
May 1923 ..	11	1,149,930	52	9	—	9
June 1923 ..	7	159,837	57	—	29	14
July 1923 ..	9	35,263	67	—	—	33
August 1923 ..	15	25,244	53	7	20	30
September 1923 ..	6	53,954	63	—	37	—
October 1923 ..	8	36,178	57	—	13	—
November 1923 ..	7	712	71	29	—	—
December 1923 ..	9	120,903	78	11	—	11
January 1924 ..	7	565,298	72	—	14	14
February 1924 ..	3	4,062,570	—	67	—	33
March 1924 ..	4	2,893,881	50	25	—	25
Totals or totals to 7 Average ..	111	10,274,491	57	17	11	15

A GENERAL REVIEW OF DISPUTES

During March 1924, there were four industrial disputes in the Presidency as compared with three in the preceding month. Three of these occurred in the cotton mill industry and one in an Oil Company. One among them was the general strike affecting 75 cotton mills, two silk mills, two woollen mills and two dye-works. Of the four disputes, one was due to the question of bonus and the remaining three to personal and other minor grievances. One was settled in favour of the employees, two in favour of the employers and one was in progress at the close of the month.

Bombay

During March 1924, there were in Bombay two industrial disputes. The general strike in the textile industry in Bombay on the question of bonus for the year 1923, which commenced on the 17th of January 1924, terminated on the 25th of March when work was started with depleted staffs in almost all the mills. Detailed descriptions of this dispute were published in the February and March issues of this Journal. The mills in Bombay City are gradually getting back to normal. The total number of operatives working in the mills is increasing daily and on the 22nd of April, 135,294 operatives were working. On the 4th of March 1924, 750 operatives of the Asiatic Petroleum and Tank Storage Company struck work against the alleged ill-treatment by the Manager and the discharge of old hands without previous notice. The men demanded that (1) the works should be open daily except on Sundays or important holidays, (2) workers should not be penalised in the event of a partial breakdown of machinery, (3) if a worker was injured accidentally by machinery he should receive wages as long as he was under medical treatment, (4) if a worker fell ill or had important private work he should get leave, (5) the dismissed mukadam should be allowed to resume work and (6) payment of wages should be made before the 9th day of every month. The men resumed work on the 6th, their demands having been granted.

Ahmedabad

In Ahmedabad, two industrial disputes occurred in March 1924. On the 24th March, 100 weavers of the Javeri Spinning and Manufacturing Company's mill struck work against the dismissal of a Jobber. The strike terminated on the 26th, the weavers having resumed work unconditionally. On the 31st of March the weavers, numbering about 290, of the new Maneckchok Spinning and Weaving Company's mill struck work demanding the supply of good yarn. The majority of the weavers resumed work unconditionally and the others were replaced by new hands. The strike terminated on the 2nd of April.

No disputes were reported in other centres of the Presidency during the period under review.

All-India Trade Union Congress

RESOLUTIONS

The All-India Trade Union Congress met in Calcutta on the 29th and 30th March 1924 under the Presidency of Mr. C. R. Das. The Congress passed altogether 43 Resolutions among which the following are of special interest:—

"The All-India Trade Union Congress urges upon the Government the necessity of extending the basis of franchise for electing members for Central and Local Legislatures, so as to give adequate representation to the working classes and also urges upon them the necessity of giving special representation to the organisation of labour in India."

"This Congress urges the Government to establish forthwith unemployment insurance, health insurance and old age provision for all workers engaged in organised industries and commerce."

"That this All-India Trade Union Congress recommends that the Civil Service Regulations be made applicable to all Industrial, Commercial and Railway workers with regard to the grant of leave, pensions, provident fund, gratuity, etc."

"That this Congress urges upon the Government of India the necessity of amending the Indian Railway Act by inserting provisions for the constitution of a Central Wages Board and a National Wages Board for settling disputes concerning wages and conditions of service and for making it obligatory on Railway Companies to establish Councils on the lines of the Railways Act, 1921 (11 and 12 Geo. V), with suitable modifications."

"This Congress protests against the employment of Police and Military in disputes between capital and labour and draws the attention of the Legislative Assembly to it."

"That this Congress urges upon the Government of India the abolition of the system of engagement of seamen through Brokers and Serangs—a system which has been greatly abused and immediately to enforce the recommendations of the Seamen's Recruitment Committee in all the parts of India by amending Sections 18 and 19 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act I of 1859."

"That this Congress urges on the Government of India the necessity of Advisory Committee to be set up along with the establishment of the Seamen's Recruiting Bureau as proposed on the lines recommended by the Geneva International Labour Conference."

"That this Congress urges on the authorities concerned to solve the unemployment problem of the Seamen and requests the Government to give effect to the recommendations of the Geneva International Labour Conference regarding insurance of Seamen's employment."

"That this Congress while disapproving the steps taken by the Government of India during the passage of the Workmen's Compensation Bill regarding the exclusion of seamen engaged in ships registered in the United



Kingdom urges the Government of India to fulfil their promise by taking up the question of including seamen in the Workmen's Compensation Act with the Board of Trade at an early date."

"That this Congress urges upon the Government of India the immediate necessity of introducing legislation, prohibiting the employment of women in factories, mines and other industries, at least one month before and one month after child-birth and providing adequate maternity allowances during the period of absence thus caused."

"That this Congress requests the employers of labour in India, to provide in the compounds of mills and factories for children of women operatives crèches or day nurseries."

"That this Congress urges upon the Government of India to further amend the Mines Act of 1923, so as to prohibit the employment of women for underground work in the mines."

"That this Congress is strongly of opinion that more women should be employed in the Factory Inspection Staff in the different provinces in India."

"That this Congress urges upon the Government of India, the necessity of abolition of the piece-system of work obtaining in the Government Presses and placing the Piece-workers on a salary basis."

"That this Congress urges upon the Government of India the immediate necessity of restricting the hours of daily work for each day in mines to 8 hours per day."

"Resolved that the word "Cooly" should never be used in Government and other publications as it humiliates the Indian labourers in the eyes of Western workers and the world."

The Congress recommended to the Government of India the appointment of Mr. Joseph Baptista as Labour Delegate for the Sixth International Labour Conference to be held in June next at Geneva. The Congress Office has now been transferred to 5 Rutherford Street, Fort, Bombay, and Mr. F. J. Ginwala has been appointed Joint General Secretary of the Congress for the ensuing year with Mr. N. C. Sen of Bengal. Mr. L. R. Tairsee, 72 Apollo Street, Bombay, has been appointed Treasurer. Mr. Thengdi of Nagpur has been appointed temporary Chairman of the Executive Council of the Congress pending the revision of the Constitution of the Congress which will be decided upon at a special meeting to be held at Khargpur near Calcutta probably in June next. In view of several difficulties raised at the Congress a special committee has been appointed to revise the Constitution and the Joint General Secretary (Mr. F. J. Ginwala) has been appointed Secretary of this Committee. The draft Constitution will be placed before the Special Congress which meets in June next. There seems to be a general feeling that the President of the Congress should be elected annually by the Unions. The present Constitution provides that the Chairman of the Executive Council for the year becomes automatically President of the Congress. It is also understood

that a Provincial Secretary for each Province will be appointed to look after labour organisations of the Provinces so far as the Congress is concerned. The Trade Union Congress proposes shortly to bring out a Labour Directory containing information regarding the existing trade unions in India and their constitution.

G. I. P. Railway Workshop

DISMISSAL OF HANDS

The General Secretary of the G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union has recently been in communication with the Agent of the G. I. P. Railway over the question of the discharge of labourers from the G. I. P. Railway Carriage and Wagon Workshops at Matunga. The General Secretary of the Union, in a letter addressed to the Agent, recommended (1) that the men should not be discharged except when they are found to be idle or disloyal; (2) that as an alternative to the discharge of men, short time might be worked; or (3) that Saturday might be regarded as a closed day until such times as may be necessary. The Agent in reply stated that the workshop at Matunga is the most modern and best equipped Carriage and Wagon Workshop in India and that the output per man should be higher than is found on other Railways. The output, however, was found to be about half of the output per man of other shops in India, working under much more disadvantageous conditions. The Agent further pointed out that the men were not being victimised but they were being discharged as a result of consistent abstention from duty and failure to co-operate with their employers.

The 48-Hour Week and the Cotton Industry

The effect of the 48-hour week on the cotton industry is to be investigated by the International Cotton Federation, which has its headquarters in Manchester, in view of the discussion which will take place on this subject at the Congress to be held in Vienna next June.

A questionnaire is to be sent out to all the affiliated countries, and the report will be presented to the delegates. Already the Federation has collected a good deal of information.

Trade Unions in China

Draft regulations composed of 15 articles authorising the organisation of workers into trade unions have been submitted to Parliament. The following are some of the important provisions of the regulations:—

Workers engaged in the same occupation may organise into unions for the purpose of securing their economic well-being and promoting their common interests. Trade unions are legal personalities. They encourage



mutual assistance among their members and endeavour to secure an improvement in conditions of employment; they investigate conditions of labour, make proposals to the Government with regard to labour legislation, and answer all enquiries of the Government offices. Trade unions may establish branches.

In order that a union may be formed a proposal must be signed by at least 10 workers; the proposal, which must contain draft statutes for the union, is to be submitted for approval to the appropriate local administrative authority. Workmen engaged in national industries or public services must in addition secure the approval of the Government office in charge of the industry or service. In applying to the Government for permission to organise a trade union, the promoters must submit, with the application, their own names, and particulars of their age, native place, occupation, and address.

Accidents and Prosecutions

STATISTICS FOR MARCH 1924

The monthly statistics of the accidents in factories and workshops in the Bombay Presidency, published on pages 40 and 41 of this issue, contain details of accidents reported during the month of March in Bombay City and Island, Ahmedabad, Karachi and other centres of the Presidency.

During March, in Bombay City and Island, there were in all 135 factory accidents by which 137 persons were injured. 134 of the total number of injuries were minor, 2 serious and 1 fatal. Of the total number 135, 13 accidents or 10 per cent. were due to machinery in motion and the remaining 90 per cent. to other causes.

The comparatively small number of accidents in the month under review was due largely to the closure of all the cotton mills in Bombay consequent on the general strike. Out of 135 accidents, 118, or 87 per cent. occurred in workshops.

In Ahmedabad, there were in all six accidents of which five occurred in cotton mills and one in a match factory. Of these six, three were serious and the remaining three minor accidents. All these accidents were due to machinery in motion.

In Karachi, there were in all 4 accidents all of which occurred in railway workshops, and all these were minor accidents. Of the 4 accidents, 1 was due to machinery in motion and 3 to other causes.

In other centres of the Presidency, the total number of accidents was 31 of which 9 were in textile mills, 18 in workshops and 4 in miscellaneous concerns. Ten accidents were due to machinery in motion and 21 to other causes. Of these 31 accidents, 1 was fatal, 4 serious and the rest minor.

PROSECUTIONS

During March 1924, there were in Bombay, five prosecutions under the Indian Factories Act. Three were under Section 41 (a) for breach of Section 26 and

the Managers were fined Rs. 15 to Rs. 25. In one case the Manager was prosecuted under Section 41 (f) for breach of Rule 33 (ii) and (iii) and fined Rs. 30. The prosecution of a Manager under Section 41 (g) for failing to guard the undershaft on a universal winding machine resulted in a fine of Rs. 200 and the whole amount was paid to the injured person (a woman) as compensation.

Welfare Work in Mills

TATA GROUP OF MILLS

The following table gives the details of the number of persons benefited and the amount paid to them as maternity allowance at the mills controlled by Messrs. Tata Sons, Ltd., during the quarters ended September and December 1923:—

Mills	Quarter ended September 1923		Quarter ended December 1923	
	Number benefited	Amount paid	Number benefited	Amount paid
The Ahmedabad Advance Mills, Ltd.	7	Rs. 153	17	Rs. 466
The Standard Mills Co., Ltd.	18	259	2	46
The Swadeshi Mills Co., Ltd.	29	684	17	267
The Tata Mills, Ltd., No. 1	..	..	20	455
The Tata Mills, Ltd., No. 2 (formerly The Bombay United Mills, Ltd.)	3	66	7	167
Total	57	1,162	63	1,401

Welfare Work in Madras

SCHOOL AND DISPENSARY

An interesting Report on welfare work in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras, has been published. The Report contains a detailed account of the activities undertaken by the Managing Agents, Messrs. Binny & Co., for the moral, physical and material well-being of their employees. The first start in this direction was made with educational and medical work in 1904. A joint school was originally established with only about a dozen of boys but with the growth of appreciation by the workpeople of its importance it has gradually grown to its present position of a day and a night school with 1,600 pupils.

Each of the two mills has a dispensary in charge of a doctor who remains on duty from 6-30 a.m. to 8-0 a.m. every morning when medicines are supplied free. Owing, however, to the increased demand for medical attendance, the Managing Agents have decided to appoint a full-time doctor.

HOUSING AND STORES

Along with the development of welfare work, new problems such as housing, the cost of living and recreation were pressing for solution. The question of housing was taken up in 1914 but the actual construction of villages was started in 1916, and at present there are two villages attached to the Mills. A Village Hall has recently been constructed in which residents of the



villages hold meetings and entertainments. In each village there is a Committee, elected from among the residents of the village, which settles amicably petty quarrels that arise among the residents.

Workmen's stores were established in 1922 with the object of providing the necessities of life to the workpeople at the cheapest possible rates. The sales of the stores have steadily increased since it was started. In December 1923, these sales amounted to Rs. 79,246 as compared with Rs. 46,596 twelve months ago.

OTHER SCHEMES

Besides the schemes mentioned above, welfare work comprises the following:—a gratuity fund, a compensation allowance, a saving bank, a perfect attendance bonus, privilege leave and facilities for recreation.

With a view to co-ordinating the various sections of the work and ventilating grievances of the labourers, a welfare committee consisting of the representatives of the management and the workpeople was established in 1922. The committee has succeeded in satisfying many petty grievances of the workpeople brought to its notice regarding the system of payment of wages and other personal grievances of the workpeople. The most noteworthy achievement of the committee was the restriction of the hours of sale of liquor through the Board of Revenue. On the whole the committee has been found a very useful medium for bringing about a closer contact between employers and employed. It is hoped that by frequent meetings and open discussions the committee may be a useful instrument for helping to avoid industrial disputes in the future.

Trade Dispute Disqualification Committee

The Minister of Labour announced in the House of Commons on the 12th March that he had received a Report from the Trade Dispute Disqualification Committee appointed in June 1922, "to examine the working of the Trade Dispute Disqualification for Unemployment Benefit as contained in Section 87 (1) of the National Insurance Act, 1911, and Section 8 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, and to consider whether any, and, if so, what, modification should be made therein.

The Report states that the Committee have held many meetings and have given earnest and careful consideration to the matters referred to them. They regret, however, that they are unable to reach agreement as to whether any, and, if so, what, modification should be made in the existing law.

Unemployment Insurance Act, 1924

The Unemployment Insurance Bill passed both Houses of Parliament without amendment, and received the Royal Assent on the 21st February. It came into force on the same day.

The Act abolishes, from February 21st, 1924, the three weeks interval without benefit, which had previously been

imposed in cases where twelve weeks' unaccustomed benefit had been drawn in the First Benefit Year.

Classification of Industries and Occupations

A report on the system of classifying industries and occupations prepared for the International Conference of Labour Statisticians held in Geneva in 1923 has been issued by the International Labour Office.

The classification of workers according to their occupation or to the industry with which they are connected forms the basis of all branches of labour statistics and neither comparisons with a country nor between different countries can be made unless the data (wages, unemployment, output, etc.) are given by industries or occupations. The worker's calling can be looked at from two points of view, his individual occupation and the establishment with which he is connected. A carpenter may be engaged in building houses or in building ships, and he can therefore be classified in two ways, either as a carpenter (occupation) or as a worker in house-building or ship-building. It is therefore desirable to keep these two classifications separate.

The Eight Hour Day

Information has recently reached the International Labour Office concerning decisions taken in various countries with regard to the eight hour day.

The referendum in Switzerland on the Act of 1st July 1922 for the revision of the existing law establishing the 48-hour week has resulted in the rejection of the Act by 431,341 votes to 314,009, a majority of 117,332 in favour of the maintenance of the present position. The Sections of the Belgian Chamber of Deputies have decided by 136 votes to 20 against the Bill presented by Mr. Deveze and his colleagues for the revision of the Eight Hour Act, and have also decided by 97 votes to 66 against the Government Bill for the same purpose.

Information has also been received to the effect that the Committee of the Austrian National Assembly has recommended unanimously the ratification of the Washington Hours Convention, subject to the reservation that it shall come into force only when it has been ratified by ten named countries, including the European States of chief industrial importance and the States immediately adjacent to Austria.

New Factory Bill in Great Britain

It is understood an extended Factory Bill limiting the hours of work to 48 instead of 60 in a week is under consideration in the United Kingdom. The Bill also provides for a daily limit of 9 hours' work. It is stated that the people who need this reform are not workers in great organised trades but miscellaneous and unorganised workers many of whom are working excessive hours at exceedingly low wages.



Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923

Draft Rules

The following notification by the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, published in the *Bombay Government Gazette* of the 27th March 1924, is reproduced for general information, below. The full text of the Workmen's Compensation Act (Act VIII of 1923) was published on pages 31—41 of the April 1923 issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The Act comes into force with effect from 1st July 1924.

No. L-859, dated Delhi, the 10th March 1924.

The following draft of certain rules which the Governor General in Council proposes to make under section 32 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (VIII of 1923), is hereby published as required by section 34 of the said Act for the information of persons likely to be affected thereby, and notice is hereby given that the said draft will be taken into consideration on or after the sixteenth day of June 1924, and that any objection or suggestion which may be received from any person with respect to the said draft before the date aforesaid will be considered by the Governor General in Council.

DRAFT RULES

PRELIMINARY

1. *Short title*.—These rules may be called the Indian Workmen's Compensation Rules, 1924.
2. *Definitions*.—In these rules, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—
 - (a) 'the Act' means the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.
 - (b) 'Form' means a form appended to these rules.
 - (c) 'section' means a section of the Act.

PART I

REVIEW OF HALF-MONTHLY PAYMENTS AND COMMUTATION THEREOF

3. *When application may be made without medical certificate*.—Application for review of a half-monthly payment under section 6 may be made without being accompanied by a medical certificate—
 - (a) by the employer, on the ground that since the right to compensation was determined the workmen's wages have increased;
 - (b) by the workman, on the ground that since the right to compensation was determined his wages have diminished;
 - (c) by the workman, on the ground that the employer, having commenced to pay compensation, has ceased to pay the same, notwithstanding the fact that there has been no change in the workman's condition such as to warrant such cessation;
 - (d) either by the employer or by the workman on the ground that the workman has ceased, since the right to compensation was determined, to be a minor, provided that a certificate of the nature referred to in section 18 or any other certificate of a qualified medical practitioner is produced in support of the application;
 - (e) either by the employer or by the workman, on the ground that the determination of the rate of compensation for the time being in force was obtained by fraud or other unlawful means.
4. *Procedure on application for review*.—If, on examining an application for review by an employer in which the reduction or discontinuance of half-monthly payments is sought, it appears to the Commissioner that there is ground for believing that the employer has a right to such reduction or discontinuance, he may at any time issue an order withholding the half-monthly payments in whole or in part pending his decision on the application.
5. *Procedure on application for commutation*.—(1) Where application is made to the Commissioner under section 7 for the redemption of a right to receive half-monthly payments by the payment of a lump sum, the Commissioner shall award such sum as is sufficient, with simple interest at the rate of one per cent. per mensem, to provide the total of the half-monthly payments which would be payable for the period during which he estimates that the disablement will continue.
 - (2) When, in any case to which sub-rule (1) applies, the Commissioner is unable to form an approximate estimate of the probable duration of the disablement, he may from time to time postpone a decision on the application for a period not exceeding two months at any one time.

PART II

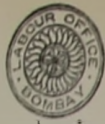
DEPOSIT OF COMPENSATION

6. *Deposit under section 8 (1)*.—(1) An employer depositing compensation with the Commissioner under sub-section (1) of section 8 shall furnish therewith a statement in Form A, and shall be given a receipt in Form B.
 - (2) If in the statement referred to in sub-rule (1) the employer indicates that he desires to be made a party to the distribution proceedings, the Commissioner shall, before allotting the sum deposited as compensation, afford to the employer an opportunity of establishing that the person to whom he proposes to allot such sum is not a dependent of the deceased workman, or, as the case may be, that no one of such persons is such a dependent.
 - (3) The statement of disbursements to be furnished on application by the employer under sub-section (4) of section 8 shall be in Form C.
7. *Procedure where amount deposited insufficient*.—If it appears to the Commissioner that a sum deposited under sub-section (1) of section 8 is less than the amount of compensation payable under sub-section (1) of section 4, he may at any time before completing the distribution of the sum so deposited, either on his own motion or otherwise, require the employer to deposit such further sum as will, with the sum previously deposited, make up the amount so payable.
8. *Procedure where no compensation deposited*.—(1) Where a dependent of a deceased workman claims that compensation is payable in respect of the death of the workman, and no compensation has been deposited in accordance with sub-section (1) of section 8 in respect thereof, the dependent may apply to the Commissioner for the issue of an order requiring the employer to deposit compensation in accordance with the said sub-section;
 - Provided that no such application shall be entertained unless the applicant certifies therein that he has required the employer to deposit compensation and that the employer has refused or omitted to do so.
 - (2) The Commissioner shall dispose of such application in accordance with the provisions of Part V of these rules: Provided that—
 - (a) the Commissioner may, at any time before issues are framed, cause notice to be given in such manner as he thinks fit to all or any of the dependants of the deceased workman who have not joined in the application, requiring them, if they desire to join therein, to appear before him on a date specified in this behalf;
 - (b) any dependent to whom such notice has been given and who fails to appear and to join in the application on the date specified in the notice shall not be permitted thereafter to claim that the employer is liable to deposit compensation.
 - (3) If, after completing the inquiry into the application, the Commissioner issues an order requiring the employer to deposit compensation in accordance with sub-section (1) of section 8, nothing in sub-rule (2) shall be deemed to prohibit the allotment of any part of the sum deposited as compensation to a dependent of the deceased workman who failed to join in the application.
9. *Deposit under section 8 (2)*.—An employer depositing compensation in accordance with sub-section (2) of section 8 shall furnish therewith a statement in Form D and shall be given a receipt in Form E.

PART III

NOTICE OF ACCIDENT

10. *Notice by person other than workman or dependent*.—A notice given under sub-section (1) of section 10 shall not be deemed invalid by reason only of the fact that it is given by a person other than the workman to whom personal injury has been caused or a dependent of such workman.
11. *Right of employer to present memorandum when notice given*.—(1) Any employer to whom notice of accident has been given may, at any time, notwithstanding the fact that no claim for compensation has been instituted in respect of such accident, present to the Commissioner a memorandum, supported by an affidavit made by himself, or by any person subordinate to him having knowledge of the facts stated in the memorandum, embodying the results of any investigation or inquiry which has been made into the circumstances or cause of the accident.
 - (2) A memorandum presented under sub-rule (1) shall, subject to the payment of such fee as may be prescribed, be recorded by the Commissioner.
12. *Certain employers to maintain books, in which notice may be given*.—(1) An employer by whom not less than five hundred workmen are employed in a factory or mine, and any other employer to whom the provisions of this rule are applied by the Commissioner for the local area concerned or by the Local Government, shall maintain in Form F a book to which the



employer's workmen and any dependant of any such workman and any person acting in good faith on behalf of such workman or dependant shall have reasonable freedom of access during working hours.

(2) In cases to which this rule applies the giving and serving of a notice of accident which are required by section 10 may be effected by entry in the book referred to in sub-rule (1) of the particulars specified in Form F relating to the accident in respect of which notice is to be given and served.

(3) Before applying this rule to an employer under sub-rule (1), the Commissioner or the Local Government, as the case may be, shall give not less than fourteen days notice to such employer.

PART IV

MEDICAL EXAMINATION

13. *Workman not to be required to submit to medical examination save in accordance with rules.*—A workman who is required by sub-section (1) of section 11 to submit himself to examination by a qualified medical practitioner shall be bound to do so in accordance with the rules contained in this Part and not otherwise.

14. *Examination when workman and medical practitioner both on premises.*—When such workman is present on the employer's premises and the employer offers to have him examined free of charge by a medical practitioner who is so present, the workman shall submit himself for examination forthwith.

15. *Examination in other cases.*—In cases to which rule 14 does not apply the employer may—

(a) send the medical practitioner to the workman's residence, in which case the workman shall submit himself for examination on being requested to do so by the medical practitioner, or

(b) send to the workman an offer in writing of free medical examination, in which case the workman shall submit himself for medical examination at the employer's premises or at such other place in the vicinity as is specified in such offer and at such time as is so specified:

Provided that—

(i) the time so specified shall not be between the hours of 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. and,

(ii) in cases where the workman's condition renders it impossible or inadvisable that he should leave his place of residence, he shall not be required to submit himself to medical examination save at such place.

16. *Maximum number of examinations per mensem.*—A workman who is in receipt of a half-monthly payment shall not be required to submit himself for medical examination more than twice in the first month following the accident or more than once in any subsequent month.

17. *Examination after suspension of right to compensation.*—If a workman whose right to compensation has been suspended under sub-section (2) or sub-section (3) of section 11 subsequently offers himself for examination, his examination shall take place on the employer's premises or at such other place in the vicinity as may be fixed by the employer, and at a time to be fixed by the employer not being, save with the express consent of the workman, more than 72 hours after the workman has so offered himself.

18. *Female not to be examined by male practitioner.*—A female workman shall not be required to be examined by a male practitioner if she objects to such examination.

PART V

PROCEDURE

19. *Introductory.*—Save as otherwise provided in these rules, the procedure to be followed by Commissioners in the disposal of cases under the Act or these rules and by the parties in such cases, shall be regulated in accordance with the rules contained in this Part.

20. *Applications.*—(1) All applications of the nature referred to in section 22 shall, unless the Commissioner otherwise directs, be filed in duplicate and shall be signed by the applicant.

(2) There shall be appended to every such application a certificate, which shall be signed by the applicant, to the effect that the statement of facts contained in the application is to the best of his knowledge and belief accurate.

21. *Examination of applicant.*—On receiving such application, the Commissioner may examine the applicant on oath, and, if he does so, shall record the substance of the examination in the manner provided for the recording of evidence in section 25.

22. *Summary dismissal of application.*—The Commissioner may, after considering the application and, if he thinks fit, examining the applicant, summarily dismiss the application, if, in his opinion there are no sufficient grounds for proceeding thereon.

23. *Preliminary inquiry into application.*—If the application is not dismissed under rule 22, the Commissioner may, for reasons to be recorded, call upon the applicant to produce evidence in support of the application before calling upon any other party, and, if upon considering such evidence the Commissioner is of opinion that there is no case for the relief claimed, he may dismiss the application.

24. *Notice to opposite party.*—If the Commissioner does not dismiss the application under rule 22 or rule 23, he shall send to the party from whom the applicant claims relief (hereinafter referred to as the opposite party) a copy of the application together with a notice of the date on which he will dispose of the application, and may call upon the parties to produce evidence that date any evidence which they may wish to tender.

25. *Appearance and examination of opposite party.*—(1) The opposite party may, on appearing before the Commissioner, file a written statement dealing with the claim raised in the application, and any such written statement shall form part of the record.

(2) If the opposite party contests the claim made but does not file a written statement, the Commissioner shall proceed to examine him upon the claim, and shall reduce the result of the examination to writing.

26. *Framing of issues.*—(1) After considering any written statement and the result of any examination of the parties present, the Commissioner shall ascertain upon what material propositions of fact or of law the parties are at variance, and shall thereupon proceed to frame and record the issues upon which the right decision of the case appears to him to depend.

(2) In recording the issues, the Commissioner shall distinguish between those issues which in his opinion concern points of fact and those which concern points of law.

27. *Power to postpone trial of issues of fact where issues of law arise.*—When issues both of law and of fact arise in the same case, and the Commissioner is of opinion that the case may be disposed of on the issues of law only, he may try those issues first, and for that purpose may, if he thinks fit, postpone the settlement of the issues of fact until after the issues of law have been determined.

28. *Diary.*—The Commissioner shall maintain under his hand a brief diary of the proceedings on an application.

29. *Reasons for postponement to be recorded.*—If the Commissioner finds it impossible to dispose of an application at one hearing, he shall record the reasons which necessitate a postponement.

30. *Judgment.*—(1) The Commissioner, in passing orders, shall record concisely in a judgment his finding on each of the issues framed and his reasons for such finding.

(2) The Commissioner, at the time of signing and dating his judgment, shall pronounce his decision, and thereafter no addition or alteration shall be made to the judgment other than the correction of a clerical or arithmetical mistake arising from any accidental slip or omission.

31. *Summoning of witnesses.*—If an application is presented by any party to the proceedings for the citation of witnesses, the Commissioner shall, on payment of the prescribed expenses and fees, issue summonses for the appearance of such witnesses unless he considers that their appearance is not necessary for the just decision of the case.

32. *Exemption from payment of costs.*—If the Commissioner is satisfied that the applicant is unable, by reason of poverty, to pay the prescribed fees, he may remit any or all of such fees. If the case is decided in favour of the applicant, the prescribed fees which, had they not been remitted, would have been due to be paid, may be added to the costs of the case and recovered in such manner as the Commissioner in his order regarding costs may direct.

33. *Right of entry for local inspection.*—A Commissioner before whom any proceeding relating to an injury by accident is pending may, at any time, enter the place where the workman was injured, or where the workman ordinarily performed his work, for the purpose of making a local inspection or of examining any persons likely to be able to give information relevant to the proceedings.

34. *Procedure in connection with local inspection.*—(1) If the Commissioner proposes to conduct a local inspection with a view to examining on the spot the circumstances in which an accident took place, he shall give the parties or their representatives notice of his intention to conduct such inspection unless in his opinion the urgency of the case renders the giving of such notice impracticable.

(2) Such notice may be given, orally or in writing, and, in the case of an employer, may be given to any person upon whom notice of a claim can be served under sub-section (2) of section 10, or to the representative of any such person.

(3) Any party, or the representative of any party, may accompany the Commissioner at a local inspection.

(4) The Commissioner, after making a local inspection, shall note briefly in a memorandum any facts observed, and shall show the memorandum to any party who desires to see the same, and, on payment of the prescribed fee, shall supply any party with a copy thereof.

(5) The memorandum shall form part of the record.

35. *Power of summary examination.*—(1) The Commissioner during a local inspection or at any other time, save at a formal hearing of a case pending before him, may examine summarily any person likely to be able to give information relative to such case, whether such person has been or is to be called as a witness in the case or not, and whether any or all of the parties are present, or not.



(2) No oath shall be administered to a person examined under sub-rule (1).

(3) Statements made by persons examined under sub-rule (1), if reduced to writing, shall not be signed by the person making the statement, nor shall they, except as hereinafter provided, be incorporated in the record or utilised by the Commissioner for the purpose of arriving at a decision on the case.

(4) If a witness who has been examined under sub-rule (1) makes in evidence any material statement contradicting any statement made by him in such examination, the Commissioner may call his attention to such statement, and shall in that case direct that the parties be furnished with the relevant part of such statement for the purpose of examining or cross-examining the witness.

(5) Any statement or part of a statement which is furnished to the parties under sub-rule (5) shall be incorporated in the record.

(6) Where a case is settled by agreement between the parties, the Commissioner may incorporate in the record any statement made under sub-rule (1) and may utilise such statement for the purpose of justifying his acceptance of, or refusal to accept, the agreement reached.

36. *Agreement to abide by Commissioner's decision.*—(1) If an applicant states in application his willingness to abide by the decision of the Commissioner, the Commissioner shall, before commencing the hearing of the case, inquire whether the opposite party is willing to abide by his decision.

(2) If the opposite party agrees to abide by the Commissioner's decision, the fact of his agreement shall be recorded in writing and signed by him.

(3) If the opposite party does not agree to abide by the Commissioner's decision, the party filing the application shall not remain under an obligation so to abide.

37. *Procedure where indemnity claimed under section 12 (2).*—(1) Where the opposite party claims that if compensation is recovered against him he will be entitled under sub-section (2) of section 12 to be indemnified by a person not being a party to the case, he shall, when first called upon to answer the application, present a notice of such claim to the Commissioner accompanied by the prescribed fee, and the Commissioner shall thereupon issue notice to such person in Form G.

(2) If any person served with notice under sub-rule (1) desires to contest the applicant's claim for compensation or the opposite party's claim to be indemnified, he shall appear before the Commissioner on the date fixed for the hearing of the case or on any date to which the case may be adjourned and, if he so appears, shall have all the rights of a party to the proceedings; in default of so appearing he shall be deemed to admit the validity of any award made against the opposite party and to admit his own liability to indemnify the opposite party for any compensation recovered from him.

(3) In any proceeding in which a notice has been served on any person under sub-rule (1), the Commissioner shall, if he awards compensation, record in his judgment a finding whether the person against whom such claim is made is or is not liable to indemnify the opposite party.

38. *Procedure in connected cases.*—(1) Where two or more cases pending before a Commissioner arise out of the same accident, and any issue involved is common to two or more such cases, such cases may, so far as the evidence bearing on such issue is concerned, be heard simultaneously.

(2) Where action is taken under sub-rule (1), the evidence bearing on the common issue or issues shall be recorded on the record of one case, and the Commissioner shall certify under his hand on the records of any such other case the extent to which the evidence so recorded applies to such other case, and the fact that the parties to such other case had the opportunity of being present, and, if they were present, of cross-examining the witnesses.

39. *Certain provisions of Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, to apply.*—Save as otherwise expressly provided in the Act or these rules, the following provisions of the First Schedule to the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, namely, those contained in Order V, rules 9 to 30; Order VII, rules 9 to 18; Order IX; Order XIII; Order XVI, rules 5 to 21; Order XVII, and Order XXIII, rules 1 and 2, shall apply to proceedings before Commissioners, in so far as they may be applicable thereto:

Provided that—

(a) for the purpose of facilitating the application of the said provisions, the Commissioner may construe them with such alterations not affecting the substance as may be necessary or proper to adapt them to the matter before him;

(b) the Commissioner may, for sufficient reason, proceed otherwise than in accordance with the said provisions, if he is satisfied that the interests of the parties will not thereby be prejudiced.

PART VI

TRANSFER

40. *Transfer for report and transmission of money.*—(1) A Commissioner transferring any matter to another Commissioner for report in accordance with sub-section (2) of section 21 shall, along with the documents referred to in that sub-section, transmit to such other Commissioner a concise statement, in the form of questions for answer, of the matter on which report is required.

(2) A Commissioner to whom a case is so transferred for report shall not be required to report on any question of law.

(3) Money transmitted by one Commissioner to another in accordance with the said sub-section shall be transmitted either by remittance transfer receipt, or by money order, or by messenger, as the Commissioner transmitting the money may direct.

PART VII

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES

41. *Representative when and when must be appointed.*—Where any party to a proceeding is under legal disability by reason only of his age and his age is not less than 15 years, the Commissioner may appoint some suitable person, who consents to the appointment, to represent such party for the purposes of the proceeding, and shall appoint such representative for any party to a proceeding who is under the age of 15 years or is under a legal disability otherwise than by reason of his age.

42. *When new representative to be appointed.*—If the Commissioner considers that the interests of any party for whom a representative has been appointed under rule 41 are not being adequately protected by that representative or if a person appointed to act as representative dies, or becomes incapable of acting, or otherwise ceases to act as such, the Commissioner shall appoint in his place another person who consents to the appointment.

PART VIII

RECORD OF MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT

43. *Form of memorandum.*—Memoranda of agreement sent to the Commissioner under sub-section (1) of section 28 shall, unless the Commissioner otherwise directs, be in duplicate and shall be in as close conformity as the circumstances of the case admit with Form H or Form J, as the case may be.

44. *Procedure where Commissioner on receipt of memorandum does not consider that he should refuse to record it.*—(1) On receiving a memorandum of agreement the Commissioner shall, unless he considers that there are grounds for refusing to record the memorandum, fix a date for recording the same, and shall issue a notice in writing in Form K to the parties concerned that in default of objections he proposes to record the memorandum on the date so fixed:

Provided that the notice required to be communicated by proviso (a) to sub-section (1) of section 28 may be communicated orally to any parties who are present at the time when notice in writing would otherwise issue.

(2) On the date so fixed the Commissioner shall record the memorandum unless, after hearing any of the parties who appear and desire to be heard, he considers that it ought not to be recorded:

Provided that the issue of a notice under sub-rule (1) shall not be deemed to prevent the Commissioner from refusing to record the memorandum on the date so fixed even if no objection be made by any party concerned.

(3) If on such date the Commissioner decides that the memorandum ought not to be recorded, he shall inform the parties present of his decision and of the reasons therefor, and, if any party desiring the memorandum to be recorded is not present, he shall send information to that party in Form L.

45. *Procedure where Commissioner considers he should refuse to record memorandum.*—(1) If, on receiving a memorandum of agreement, the Commissioner considers that there are grounds for refusing to record the same, he shall fix a date for hearing the party or parties desiring the memorandum to be recorded and shall inform such party or parties and, if he thinks fit, any other party concerned, of the date so fixed and of the grounds on which he considers that the memorandum should not be recorded.

(2) If the parties to be informed are not present, a written notice shall be sent to them in Form M or Form N, as the case may be, and the date fixed in such notice shall be not less than seven days after the date of the issue of the same.

(3) If on the date fixed under sub-rule (1), the party or parties desiring the memorandum to be recorded show adequate cause for proceeding to the record of the same, the Commissioner may, if information has already been given to all the parties concerned, record the agreement. If information has not been given to all such parties, he shall proceed in accordance with rule 44.

(4) If on the date so fixed the Commissioner refuses to record the memorandum he shall send notice in Form L to any party who did not receive information under sub-rule (1).

46. *Procedure on refusal to record memoranda.*—(1) If in any case the Commissioner refuses to record a memorandum of agreement, he shall briefly record his reasons for such refusal.

(2) If the Commissioner refuses to record a memorandum of agreement, he shall not pass any order directing the payment of any sum or amount over and above the sum specified in the agreement unless opportunity has been given to the party liable to pay such sum to show cause why it should not be paid.



(3) Where the agreement is for the redemption of half-monthly payments by the payment of a lump sum and the Commissioner considers that the memorandum of agreement should not be recorded by reason of the inadequacy of the amount of such sum as fixed in the agreement, he shall record his estimate of the probable duration of the disablement of the workman together with his reasons for the estimate.

47. *Registration of memorandum accepted for record.*—In recording a memorandum of agreement the Commissioner shall cause the same to be entered in a register in Form C, and shall cause an endorsement to be entered under his signature on a copy of the memorandum to be retained by him in the following terms, namely:—

'This memorandum of agreement bearing Serial No. of 19 in the register has been recorded this day of

(Signature) Commissioner.'

NOTE.—The forms referred to in these Rules have not been published in this issue.

Questions in the Legislature

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Mr. V. J. Patel asked: Will Government be pleased to say what steps have so far been taken in British India to give effect to the resolution of the International Labour Conference that the minimum age for admission of children to employment should be 14?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee replied: It is presumed that the Honourable Member's question refers to the Draft Convention of 1919 fixing the minimum age for admission of children to industrial employment, which proposed the exclusion of children under 12 from certain classes of industrial establishment in India. The steps taken to give effect to the provisions of the Draft Convention include the passing of the Indian Factories (Amendment) Act (II of 1922), the Indian Ports (Amendment) Act (XV of 1922) and the Indian Mines Act (IV of 1923).

Mr. Chaman Lal asked: Is Government aware that the law prescribes wages for male adults at less than fifteen rupees a month on an average in the tea plantations of Assam and for female adults at less than seven annas a day and for children less than four annas a day?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee replied: The Honourable Member is mistaken. The law prescribes nothing of the kind.

Mr. Chaman Lal asked: (a) Is the Government aware that in the published annual report of the working of the Assam Labour Board during the year ending the 30th of June 1923, occur the following remarks:—

"The only feature calling for remark is the tendency for cases of interference with emigrants, on the part of minor political agitators and petty officials to increase. Such persons when they see a batch of Tea Garden emigrants in a train endeavour to dissuade them from going to Assam and in a number of cases have succeeded in doing so. As they in every case leave the emigrants stranded in a strange place and never offer to assist them to return to their homes, it is clear that they are actuated by motives of philanthropy."

(b) Will Government place on the table a copy of the evidence on which such charges as above have been based?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee replied: (a) Yes.

(b) The statement quoted was made not by Government, but by the Assam Labour Board to whom the Honourable Member is at liberty to refer.

Mr. Chaman Lal asked: (a) Will Government be pleased to state their intentions in regard to the Bill for the Registration and Protection of Trade Unions?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is their intention to introduce legislation for the Registration and Protection of Trade Unions on the lines of British legislation on this subject?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee replied: The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to-day to Mr. V. J. Patel's question on the same subject.

Mr. Chaman Lal asked: Is Government prepared to legislate for the establishment of a minimum wage for jute and cotton workers in India?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee replied: The answer is in the negative.

Mr. N. M. Joshi asked: (a) With reference to the reply given on the 2nd July 1923 to my unstarred question No. 41, will Government be pleased to state whether their despatch which was then under issue, regarding the steps to be taken to include seamen serving on ships registered in Great Britain, under the Workmen's Compensation Act of the Indian Legislature, has been sent to the Secretary of State for India? If so, when?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether they have received a reply from the Secretary of State for India? If so, will they be further pleased to state what that reply is?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee replied: (a) The despatch was sent on 5th July 1923.

(b) No reply has yet been received.

Mr. N. M. Joshi asked: With reference to the reply given on the 2nd July 1923 to my unstarred question No. 42, will Government be pleased to state whether, as stated by them in that reply, they have again considered the matter of giving the benefit of the Workmen's Compensation Act to Postal runners and some other classes of the Postal employees? If so, will they be pleased to announce their decision?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee replied: The Government of India have under consideration the possibility of including certain classes of Postal servants in the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mr. R. D. Shinde asked: Will Government be pleased to state what steps were taken by them with regard to the agriculturists' strike in Niphad Taluka (Nasik District) in 1922-23?

The Honourable Mr. C. V. Mehta replied: Government are aware that in 1922-23 the relations between the Brahmin and Marwari landholders in the Niphad Taluka and their Maratha and non-Brahmin cultivators were strained, but the so-called "strike" was not of such dimensions as to justify interference on the part of Government.



Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	March 1923.	February 1924.	March 1924.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cereals—						
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	Md.	4 11 3	6 1 2	6 1 2	6 1 2
Wheat	Delhi No. 1	Cwt.	5 9 6	7 8 9	6 12 9	6 13 0
Do.	Khandwa Seoni	Candy	45 0 0	70 0 0	65 0 0	57 8 0
Do.	Jubbulpore	"	40 0 0	47 8 0	48 0 0	46 0 0
Jowari	Rangoon	Md.	3 2 6	4 0 4	4 2 0	4 7 1
Barley	—	"	3 4 6	3 2 10	3 2 10	3 6 2
Bajri	Ghati	"	3 4 6	4 3 9	4 2 0	4 0 4
Pulses—						
Gram	Punjab yellow (2nd sort).	"	4 3 9	4 0 4	3 9 7	3 4 6
Turdal	Cawnpore	"	5 10 5	5 1 3	5 1 3	5 1 3
Sugar—						
Sugar	Mauritius No. 1	Cwt.	9 3 0	28 4 0	28 6 0	26 12 0
Do.	Java white	"	10 3 0	27 12 0	28 3 0	26 4 0
Raw (Gul)	Sangli	Md.	7 14 3	11 9 0	9 8 5	8 13 6
Other food—						
Turmeric	Rajapuri	"	5 9 3	25 13 7	34 6 9	25 0 7
Ghee	Deshi	"	45 11 5	85 11 5	94 4 7	85 11 5
Salt	Bombay (black)	"	1 7 6	3 8 0	3 4 0	2 4 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Cereals—						
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	"	100	129	129	129
Wheat	Delhi No. 1	"	100	135	122	122
Do.	Khandwa Seoni	"	100	156	144	128
Do.	Jubbulpore	"	100	119	120	115
Jowari	Rangoon	"	100	127	131	141
Barley	—	"	100	97	106	103
Bajri	Ghati	"	100	129	126	123
Average—Cereals			100	127	125	123
Pulses—						
Gram	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	"	100	95	85	77
Turdal	Cawnpore	"	100	90	90	90
Average—Pulses			100	93	88	84
Average—Food grains			100	120	117	114
Sugar—						
Sugar	Mauritius No. 1	"	100	307	309	291
Do.	Java white	"	100	272	277	258
Raw (Gul)	Sangli	"	100	147	121	112
Average—Sugar			100	242	236	220
Other food—						
Turmeric	Rajapuri	"	100	463	617	449
Ghee	Deshi	"	100	188	206	188
Salt	Bombay (black)	"	100	238	221	153
Average—Other food			100	296	348	263
Average—All food			100	179	187	165



Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	March 1923.	February 1924.	March 1924.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Oilseeds—						
Linseed	.. Bold	.. Cwt.	8 14 6	13 6 0	13 4 0	12 7 0
Rapeseed	.. Cawnpore (brown)	.. ..	8 0 0	10 9 0	10 13 0	9 12 0
Poppyseed	.. Do.	.. ..	10 14 0	14 2 0	13 6 0	12 10 0
Gingelly	.. White	.. ..	11 4 0	16 0 0	15 8 0	15 8 0
Textiles—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton—raw—						
Broach	.. Good	.. Candy	251 0 0	473 0 0	580 0 0	560 0 0
Oomra	.. Fully good	.. ..	222 0 0	.. ..	540 0 0	530 0 0
Dharwar	.. Saw-ginned	.. ..	230 0 0	.. ..	505 0 0	520 0 0
Khandesh	.. Machine-ginned	.. ..	205 0 0	.. ..	.. ..	515 0 0
Bengal	.. Do.	.. ..	198 0 0	419 0 0	.. ..	.. ..
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Twist	.. 40S	.. Lb.	0 12 9	1 10 0	1 12 0	1 14 0
Grey shirtings	.. Fari 2,000	.. Piece	5 15 0	12 12 0	13 12 0	13 14 0
White mulls	.. 6,600	.. ..	4 3 0	10 0 0	8 12 0	9 0 0
Shirtings	.. Liepmann's 1,500	.. ..	10 6 0	25 8 0	28 8 0	29 0 0
Long cloth	.. Local made 36" x 37½ yds...	.. Lb.	0 9 6	1 6 6	1 7 6	1 7 6
Chudders	.. 54" x 6 yds.	.. ..	0 9 6	1 4 9	1 4 9	1 4 9

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Oilseeds—						
Linseed	.. Bold	.. ..	100	150	149	140
Rapeseed	.. Cawnpore (brown)	.. ..	100	132	135	122
Poppyseed	.. Do.	.. ..	100	130	123	116
Gingelly	.. White	.. ..	100	142	138	138
Average—Oilseeds	.. ..	.. ..	100	139	136	129
Textiles—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton—raw—						
Broach	.. Good	.. ..	100	.. ..	231	223
Oomra	.. Fully good	.. ..	100	213	243	239
Dharwar	.. Saw-ginned	.. ..	100	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Khandesh	.. Machine-ginned	.. ..	100	.. ..	261	254
Bengal	.. Do.	.. ..	100	212	255	260
Average—Cotton—raw	.. ..	.. ..	100	213	248	244
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Twist	.. 40S	.. ..	100	204	220	235
Grey shirtings	.. Fari 2,000	.. ..	100	215	232	234
White mulls	.. 6,600	.. ..	100	239	209	215
Shirtings	.. Liepmann's 1,500	.. ..	100	246	275	280
Long cloth	.. Local made 36" x 37½ yds...	.. ..	100	237	247	247
Chudders	.. 54" x 6 yds.	.. ..	100	218	218	218
Average—Cotton manufactures	.. ..	.. ..	100	227	234	238
Average—Textiles—Cotton	.. ..	.. ..	100	223	239	241



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

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	March 1923.	February 1924.	March 1924.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Other textiles—						
Silk	.. Manchow	.. Lb.	5 2 6	9 10 0	6 0 10	9 13 0
Do.	.. Mathow Lari	.. ..	2 15 1	6 0 0	6 11 6	6 3 9
Hides and Skins—						
Hides, Cow	.. Tanned	.. ..	1 2 6	1 11 5	1 15 6	1 11 9
Do. Buffalo	.. Do.	.. ..	1 1 5	0 15 6	1 5 6	0 11 11
Skins, Goat	.. Do.	.. ..	1 4 0	2 3 1	2 5 11	2 7 11
Metals—						
Copper braziers	.. ..	.. Cwt.	60 8 0	82 0 0	74 8 0	74 8 0
Iron bars	.. ..	.. ..	4 0 0	6 4 0	7 0 0	7 0 0
Steel hoops	.. ..	.. ..	7 12 0	14 0 0	11 12 0	11 4 0
Galvanized sheets	.. ..	.. ..	9 0 0	17 12 0	17 0 0	16 4 0
Tin plates	.. ..	.. Bus	8 12 0	19 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0
Other raw and manufactured articles—						
Coal	.. Bengal	.. Ton	14 12 0	26 10 0	24 10 0	24 10 0
Do.	.. Imported	.. ..	19 11 6	30 12 0	25 11 8	26 11 8
Kerosene	.. Elephant Brand	.. 2 Tin	4 6 0	7 8 0	6 15 6	7 4 6
Do.	.. Chester Brand	.. Case	5 2 0	10 0 6	9 8 0	9 8 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Other textiles—						
Silk	.. Manchow	.. ..	100	187	117	190
Do.	.. Mathow Lari	.. ..	100	203	228	280
Average—Other textiles	.. ..	.. ..	100	195	173	235
Hides and Skins—						
Hides, Cow	.. Tanned	.. ..	100	148	170	150
Do. Buffalo	.. Do.	.. ..	100	78	113	69
Skins, Goat	.. Do.	.. ..	100	175	190	200
Average—Hides and Skins	.. ..	.. ..	100	134	158	140
Metals—						
Copper braziers	.. ..	.. ..	100	136	123	123
Iron bars	.. ..	.. ..	100	206	175	175
Steel hoops	.. ..	.. ..	100	181	152	145
Galvanized sheets	.. ..	.. ..	100	197	189	181
Tin plates	.. ..	.. ..	100	217	229	229
Average—Metals	.. ..	.. ..	100	187	174	171
Other raw and manufactured articles—						
Coal	.. Bengal	.. ..	100	181	167	167
Do.	.. Imported	.. ..	100	156	130	136
Kerosene	.. Elephant Brand	.. ..	100	171	159	166
Do.	.. Chester Brand	.. ..	100	196	185	185
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles	.. ..	.. ..	100	176	160	164
Total—Food	.. ..	.. ..	100	179	187	165
Total—Non-food	.. ..	.. ..	100	183	188	190
General Average	.. ..	.. ..	100	182	188	181



Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	March 1923.	February 1924.	March 1924.
			Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.
Cereals—						
Rice	Larkana No. 3	Candy	39 0 0	50 0 0	49 0 0	49 0 0
Wheat, white	5% barley 3% dirt		31 8 0	40 0 0	36 12 0	35 12 0
.. red	30% red. 5% barley 3% dirt		31 4 0	39 4 0	36 0 0	35 0 0
.. white	92% red. 2% barley 1 1/2% dirt		32 8 0	41 4 0	37 14 0	36 12 0
.. red	2% barley 1 1/2% dirt		32 4 0	40 8 0	37 0 0	36 0 0
Jowari	Export Quality		25 8 0	23 0 0	29 0 0	29 4 0
Barley	3% dirt		26 8 0	24 8 0	28 12 0	26 4 0
Pulses—						
Gram	1% dirt		29 8 0	29 0 0	26 4 0	24 8 0
Sugar—						
Sugar	Java, white	Cwt.	9 2 0	26 4 0	27 6 0	26 7 0
Do.	.. brown		8 1 6	....	....	....
Other food—						
Salt		Bengal Maund	2 2 0	2 14 0	2 14 0	1 10 3

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Cereals—			100	128	126	126
Rice	Larkana No. 3		100	128	117	113
Wheat, white	5% barley, 3% dirt		100	126	115	112
.. red	30% red. 5% barley, 3% dirt		100	127	117	113
.. white	92% red. 2% barley, 1 1/2% dirt		100	126	115	112
.. red	2% barley, 1 1/2% dirt		100	90	114	115
Jowari	Export Quality		100	92	108	99
Barley	3% dirt		100			
Average—Cereals			100	117	116	113
Pulses—						
Gram	1% dirt		100	98	89	83
Sugar—						
Sugar	Java, white		100	288	300	290
..	.. brown		100	....	....	....
Average—Sugar			100	288	300	290
Other food—Salt			100	135	135	77



Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	March 1923.	February 1924.	March 1924.
			Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.
Oilseeds—						
Cotton seed	3% admixture	Mixed	2 11 3	4 2 0	4 7 0	4 3 0
Raymond	Black, 9% admixture	Candy	51 0 0	61 8 0	61 8 0	62 4 0
Cargilly			62 0 0	62 0 0	....	....
Textiles—						
Jute bags	B. Twills	100 bags	38 4 0	52 0 0	53 8 0	56 0 0
Textiles—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind	Maund	20 4 0	43 0 0	....	....
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Drills	Pepperill	Price	10 3 4	23 14 0	26 12 0	29 8 0
Shirts	Lipsmann's		10 2 0	24 8 0	26 8 0	27 0 0
Yarns	4th. Grey (Plough)	Lk.	0 12 2	....	....	....
Other Textiles—						
Wool	Kandhar	Maund	28 0 0	38 0 0	40 0 0	42 0 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Oilseeds—			100	153	164	160
Cotton seed	3% admixture		100	121	130	122
Raymond	Black, 9% admixture		100	146	....	....
Cargilly			100			
Average—Oilseeds			100	141	147	141
Textiles—						
Jute bags	Twills		100	136	140	146
Textiles—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind		100	212	....	....
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Drills	Pepperill		100	234	281	289
Shirts	Lipsmann's		100	242	262	267
Yarns	4th. Grey (Plough)		100	....	....	....
Average—Cotton manufactures			100	238	272	278
Average—Textiles—Cotton			100	229	272	278
Other Textiles—Wool			100	136	143	150



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

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	March 1923.	February 1924.	March 1924.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Hides— Hides dry	Sind	Maund	21 4 0	14 8 0	17 0 0	18 8 0
	Punjab	"	21 4 0	14 8 0	17 0 0	18 8 0
Metals— Copper Braziers Steel Bars " Plates	....	Cwt.	60 8 0	81 0 0	70 0 0	70 0 0
	....	"	3 14 0	8 0 0	6 4 0	6 4 0
	....	"	4 6 0	7 12 0	7 12 0	7 12 0
Other raw and manufactured articles— Coal Kerosene "	1st Class Bengal	Ton	16 0 0	35 0 0	35 0 0	35 0 0
	Chester Brand	Case	5 2 0	9 14 6	9 6 0	9 6 0
	Elephant	2 Tins	4 7 0	7 6 0	6 13 6	7 2 6

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Article.	Grade.	July 1914.	March 1923.	February 1924.	March 1924.
Hides— Hides dry	Sind	100	68	80	87
	Punjab	100	68	80	87
Average—Hides	....	100	68	80	87
Metals— Copper Braziers Steel Bars " Plates	....	100	134	116	116
	....	100	207	161	161
	....	100	177	177	177
Average—Metals	....	100	173	151	151
Other raw and manufactured articles— Coal Kerosene "	1st Class Bengal	100	219	219	219
	Chester Brand	100	193	183	183
	Elephant	100	166	154	161
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles	....	100	193	185	188
Total—Food	....	100	134	134	124
Total—Non-food	....	100	163	164	166
General Average	....	100	152	151	149



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

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.
1921														
March	156	139	338	150	189	129	108	256	190	152	246	214	193	193
1922														
March	177	166	224	241	198	140	174	251	188	168	192	195	193	195
April	179	160	228	212	193	144	179	251	191	137	187	190	189	190
May	180	160	218	220	193	149	190	250	191	139	186	189	191	191
June	169	129	220	231	187	152	202	256	192	136	191	194	195	192
July	170	134	220	228	188	151	196	255	192	142	177	189	192	190
August	166	132	227	238	188	138	197	248	191	139	183	185	188	188
September	163	127	212	241	185	135	191	229	191	142	182	187	183	184
October	145	119	210	249	178	138	165	226	192	112	183	180	176	177
November	137	111	213	260	176	133	173	224	192	146	185	182	180	179
December	129	105	216	266	170	135	185	220	192	122	186	181	178	175
1923														
January	125	102	202	305	173	130	200	227	191	165	194	178	186	181
February	125	95	210	268	167	132	210	225	191	132	195	174	182	177
March	127	93	242	296	179	139	213	227	195	134	187	176	183	182
April	128	92	242	269	174	134	204	217	195	167	185	176	184	180
May	124	88	248	284	176	131	205	217	195	161	185	172	182	180
June	128	91	234	302	179	134	211	212	195	144	186	166	180	180
July	127	90	215	317	178	132	217	211	196	139	182	169	178	178
August	120	85	202	343	176	131	210	209	195	138	178	168	176	176
September	124	85	209	354	182	136	211	215	196	149	177	162	178	179
October	122	85	214	368	185	133	211	217	192	153	178	169	179	181
November	125	90	228	365	189	138	203	235	187	161	174	158	185	186
December	125	91	243	375	194	141	286	229	187	146	167	162	185	188
1924														
January	127	92	244	340	188	138	273	236	182	157	166	160	189	188
February	125	88	236	348	187	136	248	234	173	158	174	160	188	188
March	123	84	220	263	165	129	244	238	235	140	171	164	190	181

NOTE.—The figure in heavy type indicates the highest peak reached.

Retail prices of articles of food in Bombay in July 1914, February and March 1924

The prices quoted are for local weights and measures

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	Equivalent in tolas.	July 1914.	February 1924.	March 1924.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) in March 1924 over or below	
				As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	July 1914.	February 1924.
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	Paylee	210	5 10	7 9	7 6	+1 8	-0 3
Wheat	Punjab Pissi	"	202	5 10	7 1	7 2	+1 4	+0 1
Jowari	Sholapuri	"	198	4 3	5 4	5 4	+1 1	....
Barri	Ghati	"	200	4 7	5 4	5 2	+0 7	-0 2
Gram	Punjab red	"	200	4 4	5 1	4 11	+0 7	-0 2
Turdal	Cawnpore	"	204	5 11	7 1	6 11	+1 0	-0 2
Sugar (refined)	Java, white	Seer by weight	28	1 1	3 0	3 0	+1 11	....
Sugar (raw)	Sangli, middle quality	"	28	1 2	2 0	1 11	+0 9	-0 1
Tea	Ceylon, middle quality	Lb.	39	7 10	16 0	15 6	+7 8	-0 6
Salt	Bombay, black	Paylee	168	1 9	3 7	3 6	+1 9	-0 1
Beef	Crawford Market	Lb.	39	2 6	4 0	4 0	+1 6	....
Mutton	Average for sheep and goat	"	39	3 0	7 0	6 11	+3 11	-0 1
Milk	Medium	Seer by measure	56	2 9	4 11	4 11	+2 2	....
Ghee	Belgaum, Deshi	" by weight	28	7 1	14 0	13 9	+6 8	-0 3
Potatoes	Mettupalayam	"	28	0 8	1 0	0 11	+0 3	-0 1
Onions	Nasik	"	28	0 3	1 0	0 9	+0 6	-0 3
Cocanut oil	Middle quality	"	28	3 7	4 7	4 2	+0 7	-0 5

Retail prices of Articles of food in February and March 1924

APRIL, 1924

Articles.	Price per	Bombay.		Karachi.		Ahmedabad.		Sholapur.		Poona.	
		February 1924.	February 1924.	February 1924.	February 1924.	February 1924.	February 1924.	February 1924.	February 1924.	February 1924.	February 1924.
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cereals—											
Rice	Mauud ..	7 4 4	6 10 8	8 14 3	7 4 1	9 0 8	7 2 3	6 10 8	8 14 3	7 1 9	8 14 3
Wheat	"	7 0 9	4 13 0	6 2 6	6 1 2	6 5 5	7 1 7	4 12 1	6 2 6	5 13 11	6 5 5
Jowari	"	5 6 2	4 0 0	3 7 8	4 6 2	4 10 8	5 6 2	4 0 0	3 7 8	4 7 0	4 10 8
Bajri	"	5 5 4	4 5 8	5 0 0	4 1 7	5 5 4	5 2 8	4 3 4	5 0 0	4 1 7	5 5 4
Pulses—											
Gram	"	5 1 11	4 0 0	5 11 5	4 3 5	4 1 4	4 14 8	3 13 8	5 11 5	4 3 5	4 1 4
Turdal	"	6 15 7	6 15 4	6 10 8	6 9 4	8 14 3	6 12 6	6 15 4	6 10 8	6 6 0	8 14 3
Other articles of food—											
Sugar (refined) ..	"	21 7 7	19 12 1	21 5 4	22 1 1	21 12 4	21 6 10	20 14 8	21 5 4	22 1 1	22 8 7
Jagri (gali)	"	14 4 7	10 10 8	13 5 4	10 5 2	10 8 5	13 11 1	10 10 8	13 5 4	10 0 0	9 10 3
Tea	Lb.	1 0 0	0 13 10	1 4 9	1 1 9	0 14 6	0 15 6	0 13 10	1 4 9	1 1 9	1 0 5
Salt	Mauud ..	4 3 9	3 1 3	3 5 4	4 4 10	4 3 4	4 2 8	2 12 11	3 2 8	4 2 8	4 3 4
Beef	Seer	0 8 2	0 10 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 8 2	0 10 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0
Mutton	"	0 14 4	0 12 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 11 0	0 14 2	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 10 0	0 6 0
Milk	Mauud ..	17 9 4	8 5 10	10 0 0	13 5 4	13 5 4	17 9 4	7 9 11	10 0 0	13 5 4	16 0 0
Ghee	"	100 0 0	77 9 4	80 0 0	80 0 0	74 6 8	98 3 5	77 9 4	80 0 0	80 0 0	74 6 8
Potatoes	"	7 2 3	5 6 9	6 10 8	9 2 3	4 2 7	6 8 9	5 2 7	5 11 5	6 10 8	3 5 11
Onions	"	7 2 3	5 15 8	5 8 3	5 13 1	3 8 2	5 5 9	6 0 7	4 7 1	5 6 1	3 0 1
Coconut oil	"	32 10 5	30 7 7	35 8 11	33 10 11	30 12 4	29 12 2	30 7 7	35 8 11	33 10 11	33 10 11

NOTE.—1 lb. = 39 tolas; 1 mauud = 82½ lbs.; 1 seer = 2½ lbs.; 80 tolas = 1 seer; 40 seers = 1 Indian mauud.

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

Articles.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
Cereals—										
Rice	130	100	144	137	157	128	100	144	134	154
Wheat	126	114	131	118	118	127	113	131	114	118
Jowari	124	110	91	153	136	124	110	91	155	136
Bajri	124	103	106	117	130	120	100	106	117	124
Average—cereals	126	107	118	131	135	125	106	118	130	133
Pulses—										
Gram	119	105	143	98	84	114	101	143	98	84
Turdal	119	104	108	113	135	116	104	108	109	135
Average—pulses	119	105	126	106	110	115	103	126	104	110
Other articles of food—										
Sugar (refined) ..	282	272	237	221	233	281	288	237	221	241
Jagri (gali)	147	153	150	133	150	160	153	150	137	137
Tea	205	206	287	171	177	199	200	287	171	200
Salt	198	234	221	193	224	196	214	210	189	222
Beef	158	200	100	240	141	158	200	100	240	141
Mutton	215	200	200	167	183	200	200	167	183	180
Milk	191	190	205	182	193	172	206	182	183	180
Ghee	197	182	191	142	144	193	182	180	142	146
Potatoes	159	100	175	229	124	146	95	150	167	150
Onions	466	379	226	233	175	345	232	222	215	150
Coconut oil	129	124	178	126	110	117	124	178	126	128
Average—other articles of food	215	198	199	185	163	201	196	190	177	164
Average—all food articles (average of all)	183	166	171	163	150	172	164	166	157	150

Table A—Bombay European Cost of Living Index

APRIL, 1924

Articles	Unit of quantity	Annual No. or quantity required per family	Prices			Total Expenditure		
			July 1914	January 1924	March 1924	July 1914	January 1924	March 1924
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Food—Bazaar								
Meat—								
Beef (selected) ..	Pound	132	0 250	0 375	0 375	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Beef (for soup and stewing) ..	"	720	0 125	0 188	0 188	90 00	49 50	49 50
Mutton	"	192	0 250	0 375	0 375	48 00	73 50	73 50
Kidneys	Each	96	0 047	0 094	0 094	4 51	9 02	9 02
Suet	Pound	36	0 313	0 438	0 438	11 27	15 77	15 77
Fish—								
Pomfret	Each	180	0 250	0 625	0 625	45 00	112 50	137 50
Poultry—								
Chicken	Each	48	0 375	0 750	0 750	18 00	36 00	36 00
Fowls	"	24	1 000	1 750	1 750	24 00	42 00	42 00
Eggs	Dozen	360	0 375	0 656	0 668	135 00	236 16	247 68
Dairy—								
Milk	Seer	900	0 250	0 500	0 500	225 00	450 00	450 00
Butter	Pound	96	0 750	1 250	1 250	72 00	120 00	120 00
Boiled	"	360	0 094	0 146	0 146	33 84	52 56	52 56
Vegetables—								
Potatoes	Seer	360	0 063	0 089	0 089	22 68	32 64	32 64
Onions	"	120	0 021	0 063	0 063	2 52	7 56	7 56
Tomatoes	"	60	0 094	0 094	0 109	5 64	5 64	6 54
Fruit—								
Bananas	Dozen	24	0 188	0 375	0 313	4 51	9 00	7 51
Food-Bazaar—Index No. and expenditure			100	183	191	774 97	1,421 21	1,677 14
Food—Stores								
Coffee	Pound	12	1 625	2 500	2 500	19 50	30 00	30 00
Tea	"	12	0 998	1 750	1 750	11 26	21 00	21 00
Rice	"	36	0 313	0 375	0 375	11 27	13 50	13 50
Flour	7 lb. tin	6	1 000	1 750	1 750	6 00	10 50	10 50
Sugar	Pound	240	0 125	0 313	0 313	30 00	75 12	75 12
Salt	2½ lb.	4	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 75	4 00	4 00
Cheese	Pound	24	0 408	2 125	2 125	24 00	51 00	51 00
Jam	"	48	0 438	0 625	0 625	21 02	30 00	30 00
Sauce	1 Bottle	12	1 625	2 000	2 000	19 50	24 00	24 00
Biscuits	2 lb. tin	12	1 438	3 000	3 000	17 26	36 00	36 00
Oats	"	24	0 625	0 875	0 875	15 00	21 00	21 00
Soda-water	Per dozen	96	0 375	0 750	0 750	36 00	72 00	72 00
Cigarettes	"	72	1 250	2 375	2 375	90 00	171 00	171 00
Cheroots	"	50	1 625	1 625	1 625	18 00	19 50	19 50
Food-Stores—Index No. and expenditure			100	181	181	320 56	578 62	578 62
Total All-Food—Index No. and expenditure			100	183	188	1,095 53	1,999 83	2,055 76
Fuel and lighting								
Coal	Ton	12	18 000	24 625	24 625	216 00	295 50	295 50
Electricity	Unit	768	0 250	0 250	0 250	192 00	192 00	192 00
Matches	Dozen	36	0 094	0 250	0 250	3 38	9 00	9 00
Kerosene oil	Tin	6	2 185	3 484	3 441	13 11	28 90	21 85
Fuel and lighting—Index No. and expenditure			100	122	122	434 49	517 40	518 35
Clothing—Men								
Shirts	Each	1 dozen	3 000	5 000	5 000	36 00	60 00	60 00
Vests	"	1	1 375	2 250	2 250	10 50	15 00	15 00
Waists	1 pair	9	2 500	5 000	5 000	22 50	45 00	45 00
Burkas	1 dozen	12	7 500	12 000	12 000	7 50	12 00	12 00
Collars (stiff, white 4 fold) ..	1	15 000	37 500	37 500	60 00	225 00	225 00	
Collars (soft, white)	Each	1	15 000	45 000	45 000	60 00	108 00	108 00
Cotton suit	"	1	15 000	27 000	27 000	12 50	14 50	40 00
Coat, Sports	4 pairs	4	12 500	14 500	14 500	18 00	55 00	55 00
Pyjamas, Suits	Each	1	18 000	40 000	40 000	32 50	21 80	21 80
Hats	Pair	1	65 000	109 000	109 000	13 00	20 00	20 00
Shoes	Each	1	65 000	109 000	109 000	11 00	20 00	20 00
Longer suit	"	1	2 750	5 000	5 000	342 08	659 80	659 80
Rain coat	"	4						
Ties	"	100	193	193				
Clothing—Men—Index No. and expenditure			100	193	193	342 08	659 80	659 80



Table A—Bombay European Cost of Living Index—*contd.*

Articles	Unit of quantity	Annual No. or quantity required per family	Prices			Total Expenditure		
			July 1914	January 1924	March 1924	July 1914	January 1924	March 1924
<i>Clothing—women and children—</i>								
Muslins	1 yard	12 yards	Rs. 0.750	Rs. 1.000	Rs. 1.000	Rs. 9.00	Rs. 12.00	Rs. 12.00
Prints	1 "	12 "	0.625	1.250	1.250	7.50	15.00	15.00
Satin	1 "	3 "	7.500	13.500	13.500	22.50	40.50	40.50
Silk for dresses	1 "	12 "	5.500	8.750	8.750	66.00	105.00	105.00
Crepe de Chene	1 "	12 "	4.500	6.500	6.500	54.00	78.00	78.00
Ribbon, Satin	1 "	18 "	0.375	0.563	0.563	6.75	10.13	10.13
Stockings	1 pair	9 pairs	10.500	18.750	18.750	94.50	168.75	168.75
Vests	1 vest	4 "	7.500	10.500	10.500	30.00	42.00	42.00
Shoes, walking	1 pair	2 pairs	14.000	31.500	31.500	28.00	63.00	63.00
<i>Clothing—women and children—</i> Index No. and expenditure ..								
			100	168	168	318.25	534.38	534.38
<i>All-clothing—Index No. and expenditure</i> ..								
			100	181	181	660.33	1,194.18	1,194.18
<i>House-rent</i> ..								
Per month		12 months	150.000	244.500	244.500	1,800.00	2,934.00	2,934.00
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>								
<i>Servants—</i>								
Butler	1	1	25.000	40.000	40.000	300.00	480.00	480.00
Cook	1	1	25.000	40.000	40.000	300.00	480.00	480.00
Hamal	1	1	18.000	26.000	26.000	216.00	312.00	312.00
Ayah	1	1	23.000	40.000	40.000	276.00	480.00	480.00
Dhobi	1	1	20.000	30.000	30.000	240.00	360.00	360.00
<i>Servants—Index No. and expenditure</i> ..								
			100	159	159	1,332.00	2,112.00	2,112.00
<i>Conveyance—</i>								
Chauffeur	1	1	40.000	70.000	70.000	480.00	840.00	840.00
Petrol	Gallon	360	0.937	1.781	1.781	337.50	641.16	641.16
Oil	"	12	3.500	5.500	5.500	42.00	374.50	374.50
Tyres	Set of 4 covers	1	272.000	374.500	374.500	272.00	55.00	55.00
Inner tubes	Set of 4	1	67.000	55.000	55.000	67.00	55.00	55.00
<i>Conveyance—Index No. and expenditure</i> ..								
			100	165	165	1,198.50	1,976.66	1,976.66
<i>School fees</i> ..								
Passages	One return passage	1	124.531	168.146	175.484	1,494.37	2,017.75	2,105.81
			1,138.500	1,951.375	2,005.938	759.00	1,300.92	1,337.29
<i>Income-tax</i> ..								
Per month		12 months	55.000	110.000	110.000	660.00	1,320.00	1,320.00
<i>House-hold necessities—</i>								
Forks, table	Dozen	3	27.500	45.000	45.000	4.13	6.75	6.75
Spoons, table	"	30	27.500	45.000	45.000	1.37	2.25	2.25
Knives, table	"	3	19.500	45.000	45.000	5.85	4.88	4.88
Tumblers, 1/2 pint	"	12	5.000	9.750	9.750	2.50	8.79	8.79
Tea-set	Set 40 pieces	1	29.000	52.750	52.750	4.83	14.01	14.01
Dinner-service	Set 93 "	1	91.000	140.125	140.125	9.10	78.00	78.00
Towels	Pair	One dozen	5.000	6.500	6.500	60.00	120.00	120.00
Sheets	"	6	18.500	20.000	20.000	111.00	120.00	120.00
<i>House-hold necessities—Index No. and expenditure</i> ..								
			100	125	125	198.78	248.18	248.18
<i>Others—</i>								
Stationery	5 quires (paper)	4	0.563	1.000	1.000	2.25	4.00	4.00
Medicine	Month	12 months	8.625	18.417	18.417	103.50	221.00	221.00
<i>Others—Index No. and expenditure.</i>								
			100	213	213	105.75	225.00	225.00
<i>Miscellaneous—Index No. and expenditure</i> ..								
			100	160	162	5,748.40	9,200.51	9,324.94
<i>Total Index No. and All-Expenditure</i> ..								
			100	163	165	9,728.75	15,845.92	16,027.23

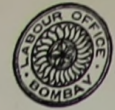


Bombay European Cost of Living Index—*concl'd.*

A—SUMMARY

B—ALTERNATIVE METHOD

Group of articles.	Total annual expenditure of a family at prices in			Group of articles.	Approximate percentage weight assigned to each article based on proportion to annual family expenditure at prices in July 1914.	Index Number		Weight × Index Number	
	July 1914	January 1924	March 1924			July 1924	Mar. 1924	January 1924	March 1924
Total Food-Bazaar ..	Rs. 774.97	Rs. 1,421.21	Rs. 1,477.14	Food-Bazaar ..	8.0	183	191	1,464.0	1,328.0
Total Food-Stores ..	320.56	578.62	578.62	Food-Stores ..	3.3	181	181	597.3	597.3
Total All-Food ..	1,095.53	1,999.83	2,055.76	Total and Average Index No.	11.3	183	188	2,061.3	2,125.3
Total Fuel and lighting ..	424.49	517.40	518.35	Fuel and lighting ..	4.3	122	122	524.6	524.6
Clothing, Men ..	342.08	659.80	659.80	Clothing, Men ..	3.5	193	193	675.5	675.5
Clothing, Women and Children ..	318.25	534.38	534.38	Clothing, Women and Children ..	3.3	168	168	554.4	554.4
Total All-Clothing ..	660.33	1,194.18	1,194.18	Total and Average Index No.	6.8	181	181	1,229.9	1,229.9
House-rent ..	1,800.00	2,934.00	2,934.00	House-rent ..	18.5	163	163	3,015.5	3,015.5
<i>Miscellaneous—</i>									
Servants ..	1,332.00	2,112.00	2,112.00	Servants ..	13.7	159	159	2,178.3	2,178.3
Conveyance ..	1,198.50	1,976.66	1,976.66	Conveyance ..	12.3	165	165	2,029.5	2,029.5
School-fees ..	1,494.37	2,017.75	2,105.81	School-fees ..	15.4	135	141	2,079.0	2,171.4
Passages ..	759.00	1,300.92	1,337.29	Passages ..	7.8	171	176	1,333.8	1,372.8
Income-tax ..	660.00	1,320.00	1,320.00	Income-tax ..	6.8	200	200	1,360.0	1,360.0
House-hold necessities ..	198.78	248.18	248.18	House-hold necessities ..	2.0	125	125	250.0	250.0
Others ..	105.75	225.00	225.00	Others ..	1.1	213	213	234.3	234.3
Total Miscellaneous ..	5,748.40	9,200.51	9,324.94	Total and Average Index No.	59.1	160	162	9,464.9	9,596.3
Total All-Expenditure ..	9,728.75	15,845.92	16,027.23	Grand Total of Weights ..	100.0				
General Index No. ..	100	163	165	General Average or Cost of Living Index (July 1914—100)	....	163	165	16,296	216,491.6



Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in India and Foreign Countries

Table with columns for Country, No. of articles, and various regional price indices (India, Japan, China, Java, Australia, New Zealand, Egypt, South Africa, United Kingdom, France, Italy).

Table with columns for Country, No. of articles, and various regional price indices (Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Canada, United States of America).

* July 1914 = 100. (a) New index numbers. (b) Revised figures. (c) Average Dec. 1913 to June 1914 = 100. (d) The figures from 1915-19 are for December. (e) February 1913 = 100. NOTE.—The absolute and secondary maxima are indicated in heavier type. (1) Statist. (2) Economist. (3) Board of Trade. (4) Times. (5) Bradstreet. (6) Bureau of Labour. (7) Federal Reserve Board. † In millions (000's omitted).



Securities Index

Table with columns for Government and Corporation securities (fixed interest), Banks, Railway companies, Cotton mills, Cotton spinning and pressing companies, Cement and man-gene companies, Electric undertakings, Miscellaneous companies, Industrial securities, and General average. Rows list months from 1914 July to 1924 March.

NOTE.—The maxima for the different groups are indicated in heavier type. In the case of the fixed interest securities the lowest figure is in bold type.

Accidents in Factories during March 1924*
1. Bombay City and Island

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of injury.						Total No. of persons injured.		Remarks.
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		January to March 1924.	March 1924.	
	January to March 1924.	March 1924.	January to March 1924.	March 1924.	January to March 1924.	March 1924.	January to March 1924.	March 1924.	January to March 1924.	March 1924.			
I Textile Mills— Cotton Mills Woolen Mills Others	31	2	13	5(a)	—	—	3	1	42	7	45	8	(a) Two persons in cotton mills injured by one accident.
Total	31	2	14	5	—	—	3	1	45	7	46	8	
II Workshops— Engineering Railway Misc Others	4	2	17	7	—	—	1	—	20	9	21	9	
Total	37	9	316	108	1	1	3	1	349	116	353	118	
III Miscellaneous— Chemical Works Flour Mills Printing Presses Others	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(b) Two persons in cotton mills injured by one accident.
Total	7	2	11	8	1	—	1	—	17	11	19	11	
Total, All Factories	75	13	341	122	2	1	7	2	419	134	418	137	

2. Ahmedabad

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of injury.						Total No. of persons injured.		Remarks.
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		January to March 1924.	March 1924.	
	January to March 1924.	March 1924.	January to March 1924.	March 1924.	January to March 1924.	March 1924.	January to March 1924.	March 1924.	January to March 1924.	March 1924.			
I Textile Mills— Cotton	18	5	2	—	1	—	10	3	9	2	20	5	
Total	18	5	2	—	1	—	10	3	9	2	20	5	
II Miscellaneous— Match Factory Flour Mills	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	
Total	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	1	
Total, All Factories	20	6	3	—	2	—	10	3	11	3	23	6	

* The progressive figure does not always represent the sum of the latest month's figure and of the progressive figure published in the preceding issue as corrections have to be made from month to month in these tables.
† Mainly burns, scalds, falls, cuts, shocks, flying pieces of metal, falling of heavy weights, etc.

Accidents in Factories during March 1924—contd.

3. Karachi

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of injury.						Total No. of persons injured.		Remarks.
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		January to March 1924.	March 1924.	
	January to March 1924.	March 1924.	January to March 1924.	March 1924.	January to March 1924.	March 1924.	January to March 1924.	March 1924.	January to March 1924.	March 1924.			
I Workshops— Railway and Port Trust Engineering	3	1	7	3	—	—	1	—	9	4	10	4	
Total	3	1	7	3	—	—	1	—	9	4	10	4	
II Miscellaneous—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	
Total	4	1	7	3	—	—	1	—	10	4	11	4	
Total, All Factories	4	1	7	3	—	—	1	—	10	4	11	4	

4. Other Centres

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of injury.						Total No. of persons injured.		Remarks.
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		January to March 1924.	March 1924.	
	January to March 1924.	March 1924.	January to March 1924.	March 1924.	January to March 1924.	March 1924.	January to March 1924.	March 1924.	January to March 1924.	March 1924.			
I Textile Mills— Cotton Mills Others	14	5	4	2	—	—	4	2	14	3	18	7	
Total	16	6	5	3	2	1	4	2	15	6	21	9	
II Workshops— Railway Arms and Ammunition Works Others	3	—	40	15	—	—	—	—	40	15	40	15	
Total	5	2	42	16	—	—	1	1	46	17	47	18	
III Miscellaneous— Ginning and Pressing Factories Paint Works Others	10	2	2	—	3	—	1	1	8	1	12	2	
Total	10	2	4	2	3	—	1	1	10	3	14	4	
Total, All Factories	31	10	51	21	5	1	6	4	71	26	82	31	



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

Count or Number	Month of February.			Eleven months ended February.		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
No. 1	6,776	5,961	864	22,599	25,579	6,000
No. 2	10,800	19,320	5,903	225,326	223,536	42,300
No. 3	12,600	11,533	5,365	145,627	147,377	30,200
No. 4	1,014	812	651	11,556	14,377	10,200
No. 5	175	118	140	1,869	1,318	12,100
No. 6	25	9	8	376	179	2,000
Waste, &c.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	38,530	52,756	12,851	454,553	498,638	102,600

Bombay Island

Count or Number	Month of February.			Eleven months ended February.		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
No. 1	6,336	5,394	23	65,305	69,239	15,700
No. 2	13,418	13,746	213	162,138	158,798	34,400
No. 3	7,505	6,707	40	67,367	69,541	20,200
No. 4	39	35	30	543	570	4,400
No. 5	2	30	6	98	95	1,000
No. 6	-	-	-	12	12	100
Waste, &c.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	27,885	26,546	95	327,401	328,546	76,600

Ahmedabad

Count or Number	Month of February.			Eleven months ended February.		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
No. 1	2,316	2,235	207	21,118	21,655	28,000
No. 2	3,760	3,610	3,079	41,670	41,075	32,000
No. 3	307	314	407	4,675	4,852	6,000
No. 4	21	6	65	184	172	1,000
No. 5	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. 6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Waste, &c.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	7,204	6,574	7,652	70,757	72,754	77,000



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

Description	Month of February.			Eleven months ended February.		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods	800	800	800	800	800	800
Checkers	100	100	100	100	100	100
Dolls	100	100	100	100	100	100
Dolls and jeans	100	100	100	100	100	100
Corduroys and lawns	100	100	100	100	100	100
Prints	100	100	100	100	100	100
Shirtings and long cloths	100	100	100	100	100	100
T. cloth, domestic, and shirtings	100	100	100	100	100	100
Tartan cloth	100	100	100	100	100	100
Other sorts	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total	800	800	800	800	800	800
Coloured piece-goods	100	100	100	100	100	100
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods	100	100	100	100	100	100
Heavy	100	100	100	100	100	100
Manufactures	100	100	100	100	100	100
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	100	100	100	100	100	100
Grand Total	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000

Bombay Island

Description	Month of February.			Eleven months ended February.		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods	800	800	800	800	800	800
Checkers	100	100	100	100	100	100
Dolls	100	100	100	100	100	100
Dolls and jeans	100	100	100	100	100	100
Corduroys and lawns	100	100	100	100	100	100
Prints	100	100	100	100	100	100
Shirtings and long cloths	100	100	100	100	100	100
T. cloth, domestic, and shirtings	100	100	100	100	100	100
Tartan cloth	100	100	100	100	100	100
Other sorts	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total	800	800	800	800	800	800



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

APRIL, 1924

Description.	Month of February.			Eleven months ended February.		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Coloured piece-goods Pounds ..	4,479	4,381	2,078	65,769	61,801	(000)
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods ..	162	157	8	1,774	2,040	66,401
Hosiery ..	5	9	6	111	103	54
Miscellaneous ..	75	106	.....	981	1,189	954
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool ..	2	11	.....	57	86	135
Grand Total ..	14,948	12,677	6,522	190,644	181,156	186,451

Ahmedabad

Description.	Month of February.			Eleven months ended February.		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—						
Chudders Pounds ..	275	506	334	4,162	5,659	4,649
Dhotis ..	3,781	4,878	3,577	39,055	38,231	31,991
Drills and jeans ..	10	52	35	282	260	261
Cambrics and lawns ..	17	21	11	110	222	82
Printers ..	311	319	298	2,862	3,256	2,565
Shirtings and long cloth ..	1,456	2,111	1,931	20,272	21,643	16,261
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings ..	140	232	217	2,327	1,877	1,819
Tent cloth ..	.....	2	20	24	24	257
Other sorts ..	170	536	347	2,806	4,154	4,531
Total ..	6,160	8,657	6,770	71,900	75,326	62,418
Coloured piece-goods ..	296	923	994	4,316	5,582	8,106
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods ..	.....	1	1	21	9	8
Hosiery ..	4	7	4	74	72	75
Miscellaneous ..	.....	9	5	.....	21	45
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool ..	.....	.....	.....	8	11	9
Grand Total ..	6,460	9,597	7,774	76,319	81,021	70,661



Principal Trade Disputes in progress in March 1924

APRIL, 1924

Name of concern and locality.	Approximate number of work-people involved		Date when dispute		Cause	Result
	Directly.	Indirectly.	Began.	Ended.		
			1924.	1924.		
Textile Trades.						
1. General Strike (Bombay City and Island)—			1924.	1924.		
(a) The Standard Mill, Parbhadevi Road, Lower Parel, Bombay.	2,557	.....	17 January ..			
(b) The Crown Mills, Parbhadevi Road, Lower Parel, Bombay.	1,670	.....	21			
(c) 5 Cotton Mills ..	12,025	.....	25			
(d) 9 Cotton Mills ..	17,579	.....	26			
(e) 3 Cotton Mills ..	8,923	.....	28			
(f) 45 Cotton, 2 Silk and 2 Woollen Mills.	92,162	.....	29			
(g) 7 Cotton Mills ..	16,807	.....	30	25 March ..	Demand for the payment of Work resumed second- on annual bonus for the year 1923.	ennially.
(h) The Emperor Edward Mill, Roay Road, Margao, Bombay.	2,586	.....	31			
(i) The Manockjee Petit Mill, Tardeo, Bombay.	5,646	.....	1 February			
(j) The Colaba Land and Mill and the Jehangir Wadia Mill, Victoria Bunder, Colaba, Bombay.	2,400	.....	15			
(k) 2 Dye-Works (Miscellaneous Trades.)	1,325	.....	29 January ..			
2. The Javeri Spinning and Manufacturing Company, Ltd., Sarangpur Road, Ahmedabad.	100	.....	24 March ..	26 March ..	Against the dismissal of a Jollier.	Work resumed second-ennially.
3. The New Maneckchok Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd., Ahmedabad.	290	.....	31 .. ..	.....	Against the supply of bad yarn.	
Miscellaneous.						
4. The Asiatic Petroleum and Tank Storage Company, Bombay.	750	.....	4	6 March ..	Against the alleged ill-treatment by the Managers and the discharge of old hands without previous notice.	Demands granted.



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 following table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July 1914, for all items included in the statistics of the cost of living of a working class family since January 1919:—

Average Percentage increase since July 1914

All items (food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.)

Table with columns for months (January to December) and percentage increases for years 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, and 1924.

The following table shows the trade union percentage of unemployed month by month since the year 1913:—

Trade Union Unemployment Percentages

Table with columns for months (January to December) and trade union unemployment percentages for years 1913, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, and 1924.

* Excluding coal miners.

It has been decided that a Census of Production in respect of the year 1924 is to be taken by the Board of Trade in 1925. This Census will cover Great Britain.

It is understood that the Government of Northern Ireland are taking steps for a similar Census within their area. This periodical review of the facts of industry was suspended for some time owing to the war when the conditions of industry were too abnormal and fluctuating to make a Census practicable.

Canada.—According to the Canadian Department of Labour, from the inauguration of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act in March 1907 up to 31st March 1923, there were 597 disputes in which applications for Conciliation Boards were received under the Act, and only in 37 of these was a strike not averted. In the mining industry there were 88 disputes, of which 73 were settled under the Act, in transportation and communications out of 336 disputes 322 were successfully settled, and out of 51 miscellaneous industrial disputes submitted 47 were settled. The number of disputes not falling directly within the scope of the Act (such as public utilities under provincial or municipal control) was 120, of which 118 were settled.

Italy.—A recent report from the United States Consul at Rome states that a new Government Department to be known as the Ministry of National Economy was instituted in Italy on July 31st, 1923, to take the place of the Ministries of Agriculture and of Industry, Commerce and Labour. Senator Orso Mario Corbino has been appointed as Minister in charge of the new department. The new ministry will be the executive and administrative section of the Government in all matters pertaining to the economic life of the country, with the exception of finance. It will comprise the bureaux of commerce, industry, agriculture, mining and forestry. All the activities of the two discontinued ministries are transferred to the newly created department.

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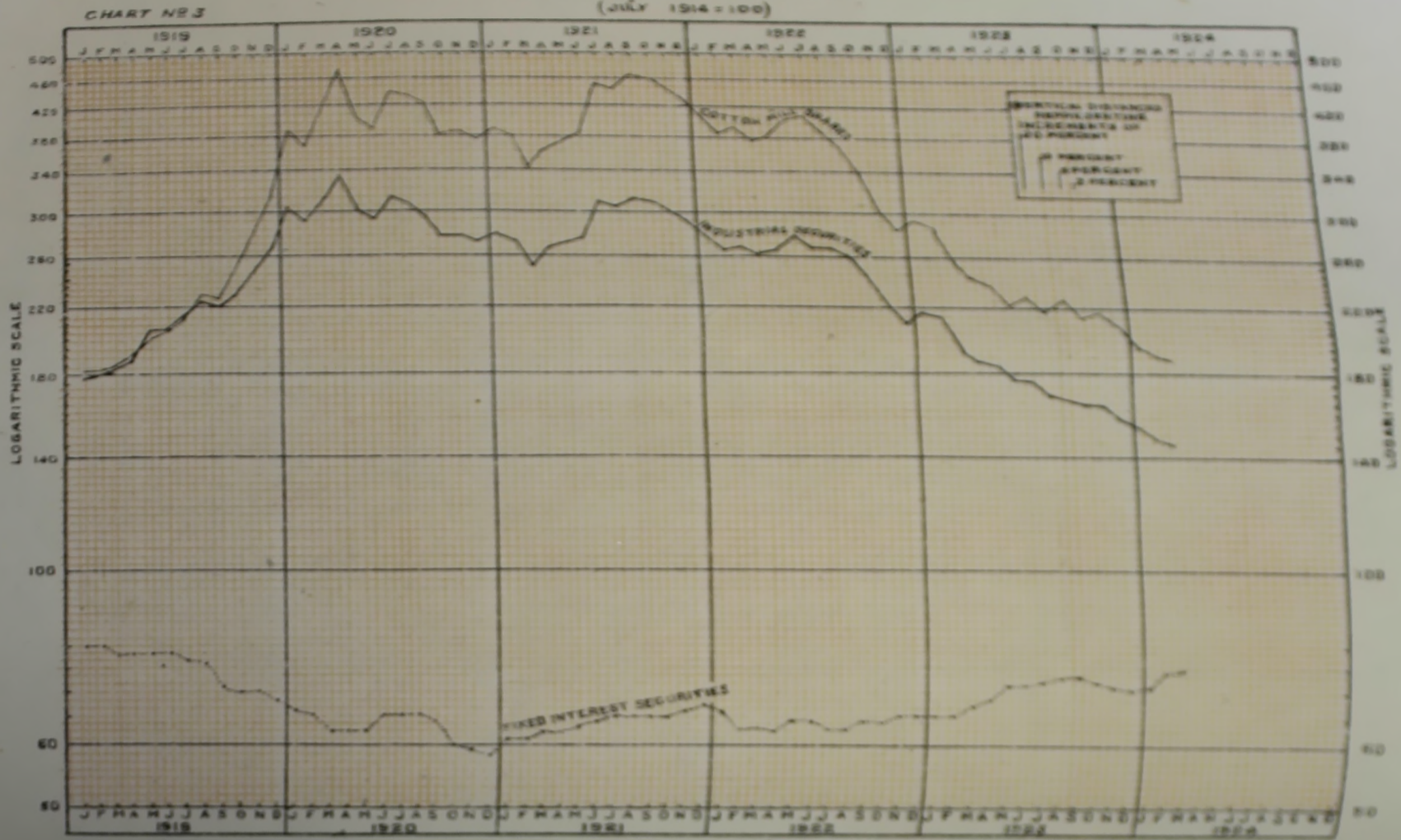
T. P. C.

Agent.

CHARTS

1. Cost of Living in Bombay.
2. Progress of the Monsoon, 1923.
3. Securities Index.
4. Rainfall for the period June to November 1923.
5. Index numbers of Wholesale Prices in India and Foreign Countries.
6. Retail Prices of Rice, Pulses, Cereals and Other Articles of food in Bombay.
7. Cost of Living Indexes in India and Foreign Countries.
8. Imports and Exports of Merchandise—India.
9. Rate of Exchange in Bombay.
10. Wholesale Prices in Bombay, Foods and Non-foods.
- 11 & 12. Strikes in the Bombay Presidency.

SECURITIES INDEX
RATIO OR LOGARITHMIC CHART
(JULY 1914=100)



RAINFALL OF PERIOD JUNE TO NOVEMBER 1925.

CHART NO. 4

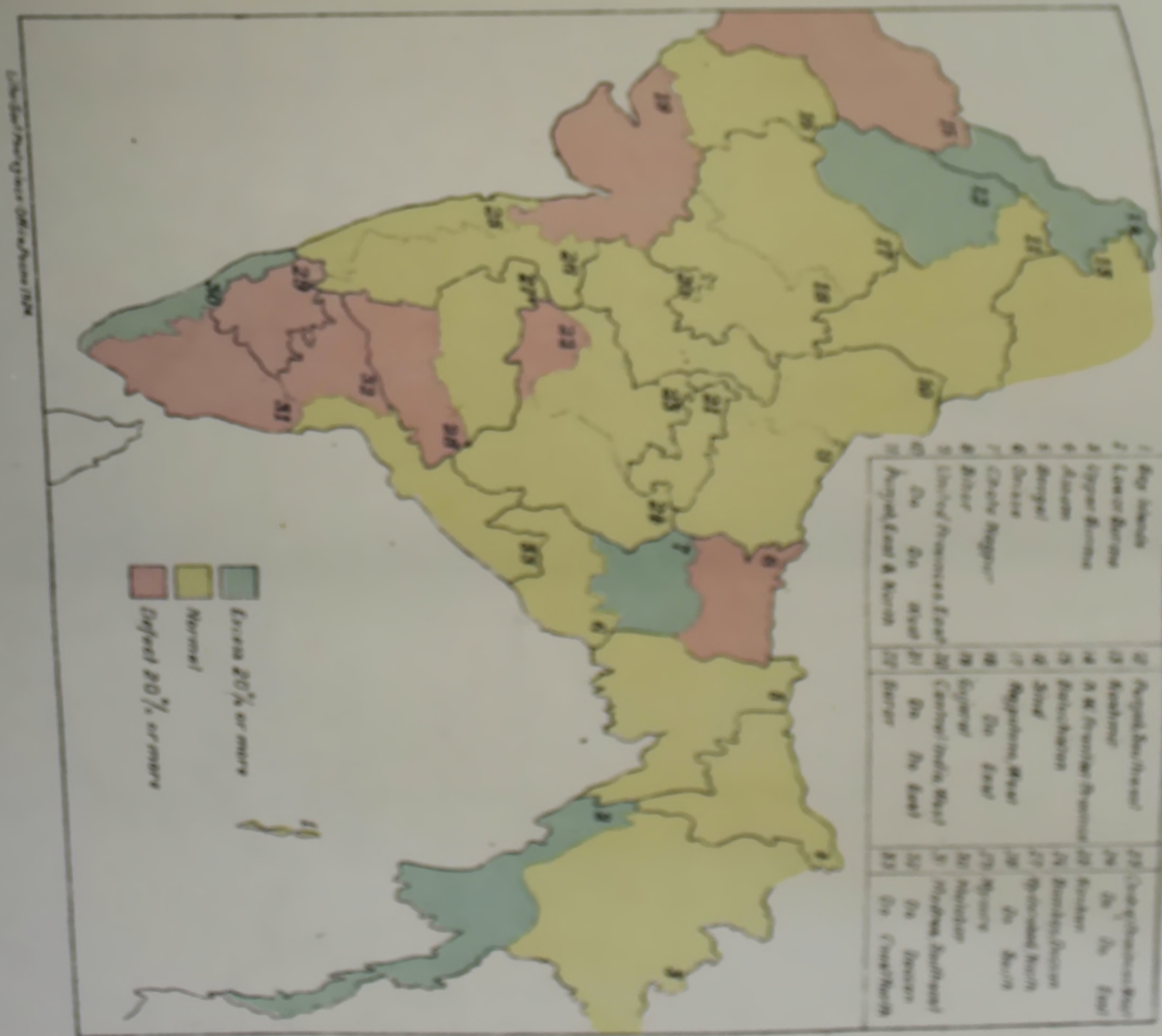
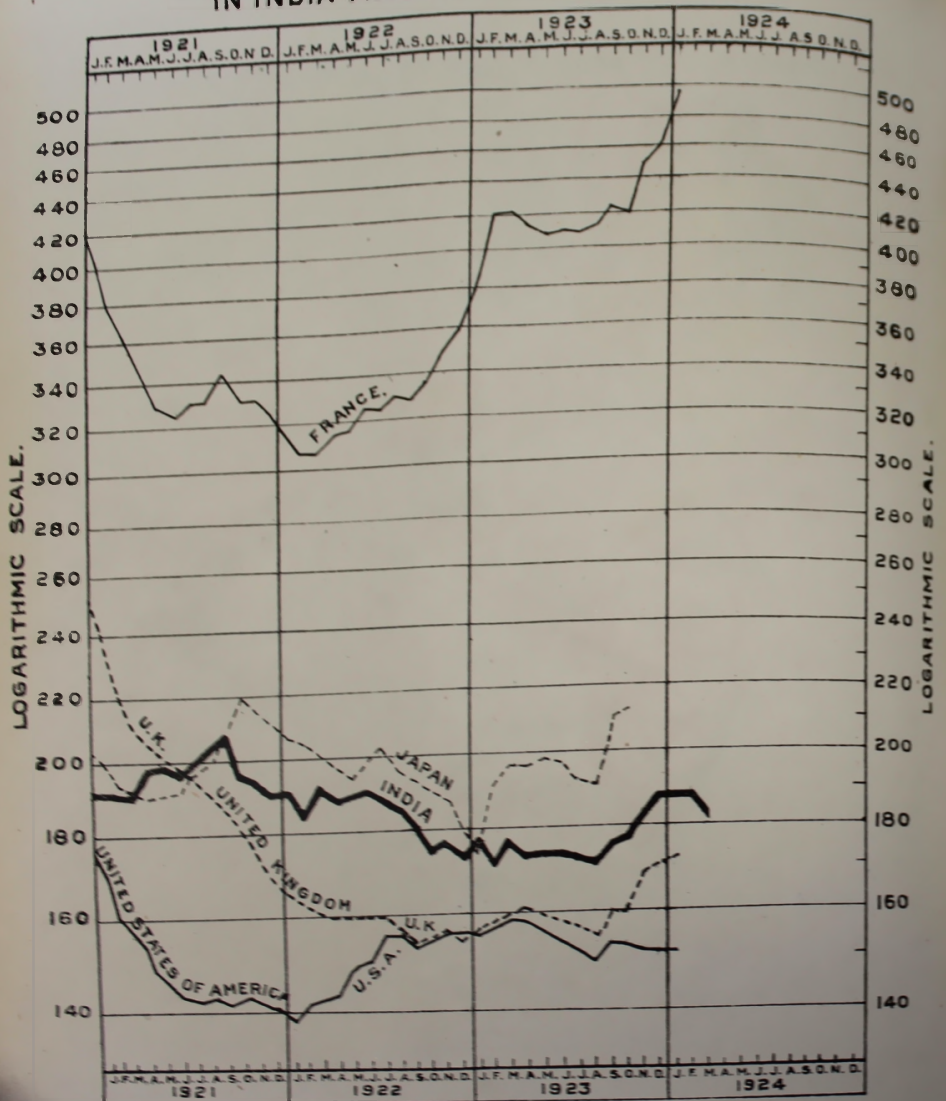
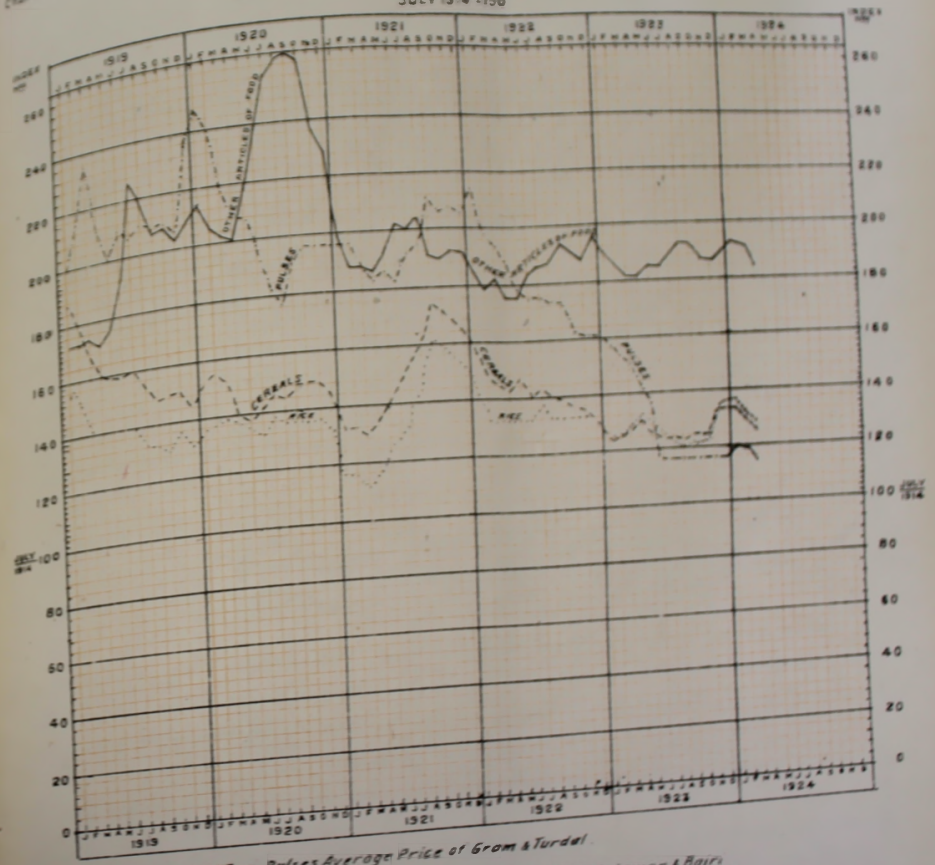


CHART N^o 5
 INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES
 IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES



Note:- Average of the year 1913=100 except in the case of India where July 1914=100

CHART N^o 6
 RETAIL PRICES OF RICE, PULSES, CEREALS AND
 OTHER ARTICLES OF FOOD IN BOMBAY
 JULY 1914 = 100



NOTE = Pulses Average Price of Gram & Turdal
 "Rice" Clean
 "Cereals" Average Price of Rice, Wheat, Jawar & Bajra
 "Other articles of food" Average Price of Sugar, Tea, Salt,
 Beef, Mutton, Ghee, Potatoes, Onions, Coconut oil & c.

CHART No 7
 COST OF LIVING INDEXES IN INDIA
 AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.
 JULY 1914-100.

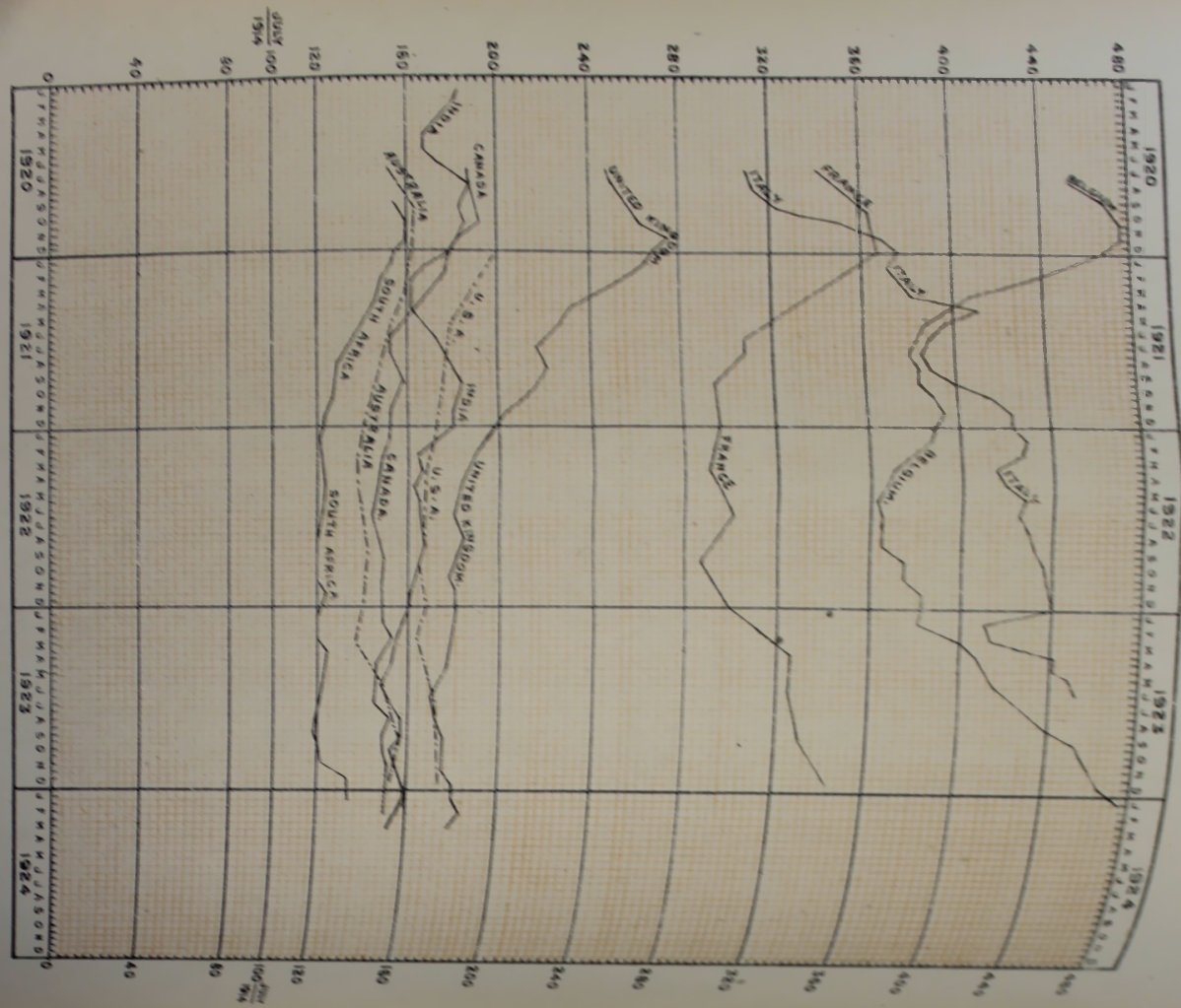
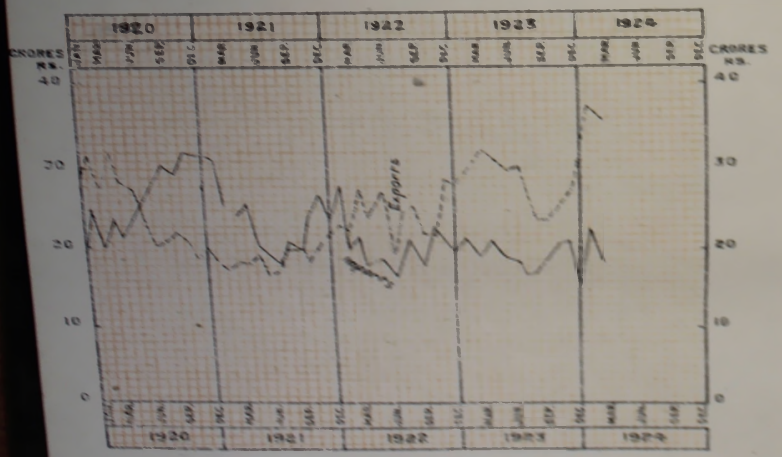
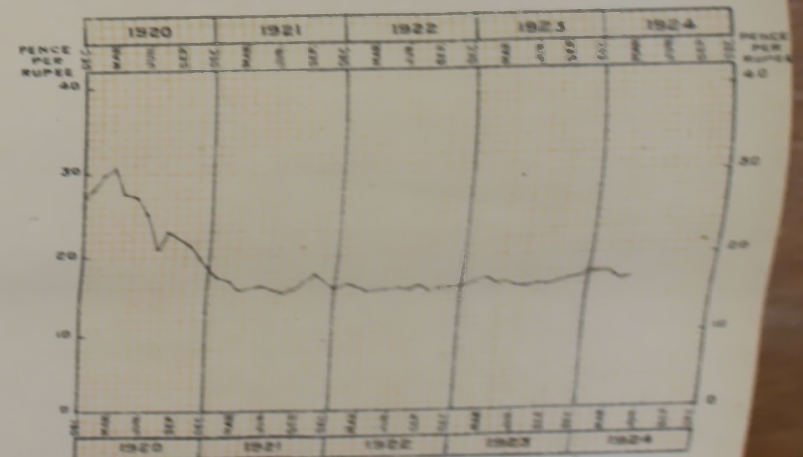


CHART No 8
 IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE - INDIA



Note: Each Square = one crore (10 millions) of Rupees.

CHART No 9
 RATE OF EXCHANGE IN BOMBAY



Note: (1) The reason for the fall of Exchange will be credited from the preceding chart when the balance of trade is shown as exports greater than imports. Exchange also tends to be adverse from Indian point of view. This is the Telegraphic Transfer rate on London.
 (2) Each square equals 1 penny.

WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY FOODS & NONFOODS

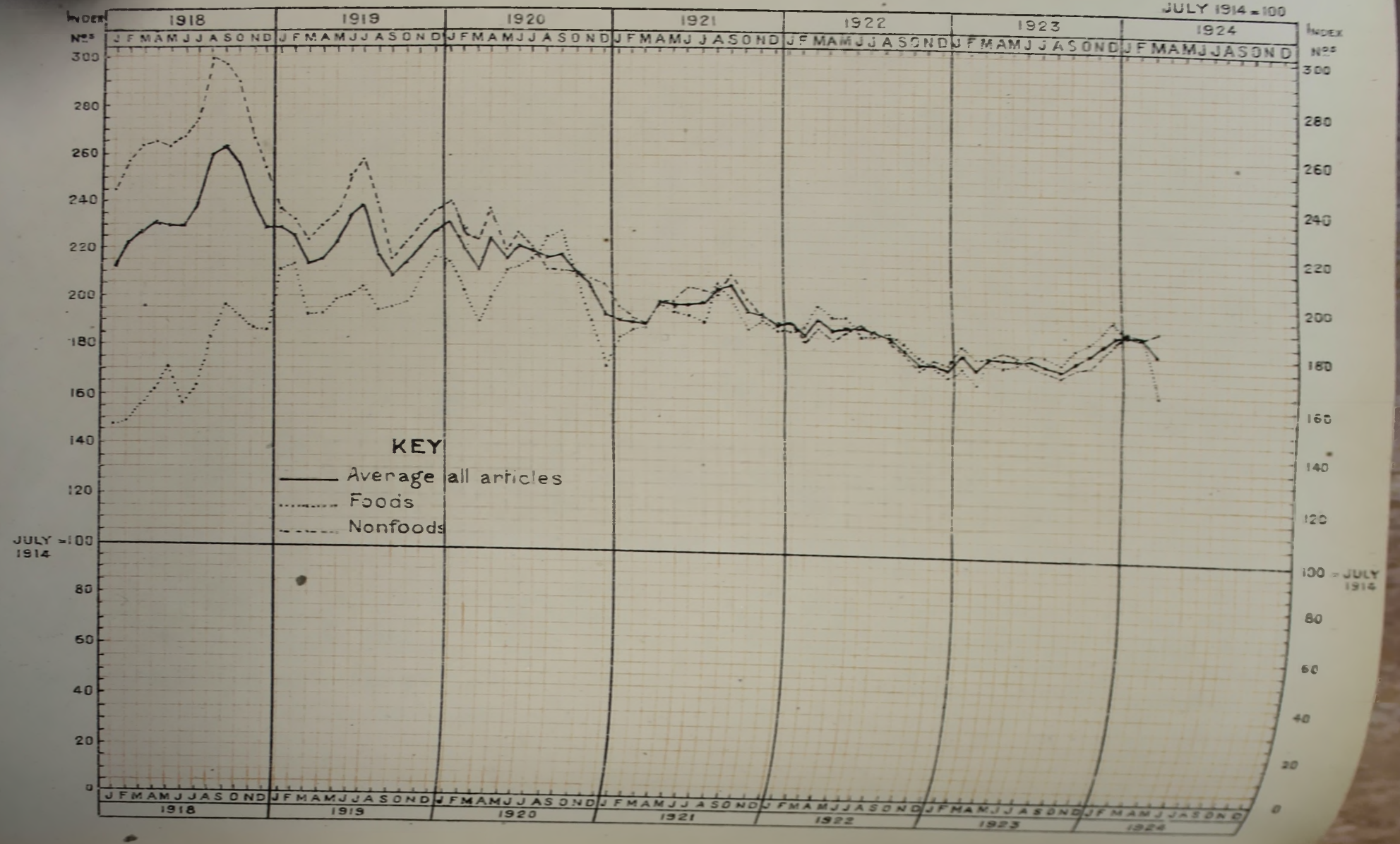
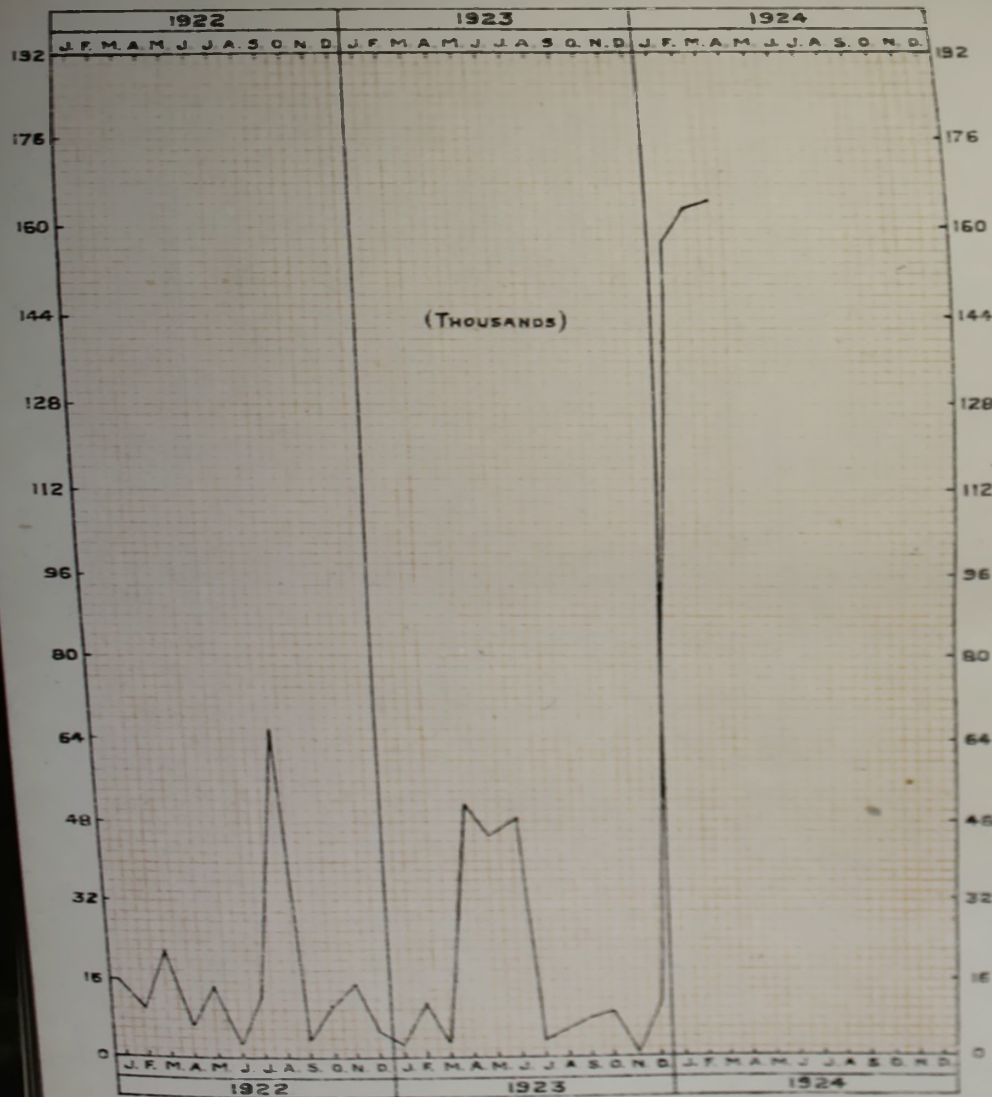


CHART No. 11.

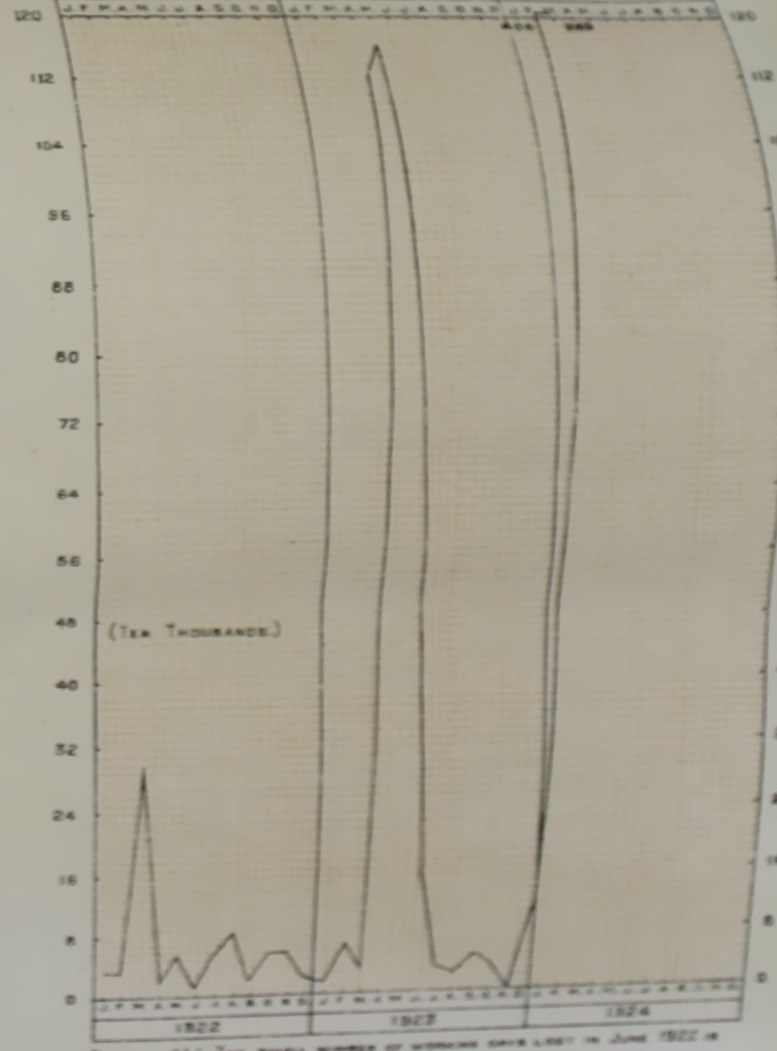
NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED



NOTE - EACH SQUARE ABOVE = 2000.

CHART No. 12.

NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST



NOTE - (1) THE SMALL NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST IN JUNE 1922 IS DUE TO THE SHORT DURATION OF STRIKE.
 (2) THE LARGE NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST IN APRIL 1923 IS DUE TO THE BIG GENERAL STRIKE IN AMHARAD COTTON MILLS.
 (3) THE LARGE NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST (112,000) IN FEBRUARY AND (24,000) IN MARCH 1924 IS DUE TO THE GENERAL STRIKE IN BOMBAY COTTON MILLS.
 (4) 2400 WORKING DAYS LOST IN 1924.