

The Cost of Living Index for February 1929

PRICES REMAIN STATIONARY

All articles .. 40 per cent.
 (Food only) .. 46 per cent.

In February 1929* the average level of retail prices for all the commodities taken into account in the statistics of a cost of living index for the working classes in Bombay City was the same as in the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the general index number was 149 both in January and February 1929. The general index number is thus 44 points below the highwater mark (193) reached in October 1920 and 2 points higher than the twelve-monthly average for the year 1928.

As compared with January 1929, the index number for all food articles remained the same. The index number for Cereals declined by 1 point due to a fall of 2 points in rice being partially counterbalanced by a rise of 2 points in jowari. Pulses also went down by 1 point owing to a fall of 3 points in turdal. The combined average for all food-grains stood at 130, being the same as in the previous month. Among other food articles, there was a rise of 7 points in refined sugar but raw sugar (gul) was steady at 153. Tea was higher by 4 points and coconut oil by 2 points while salt registered a decrease of 4 points. The index number for the "Other food" group remained stationary at 173.

The "Fuel and lighting" index number fell by 5 points to 143. The index number for the "Clothing" group remained stationary at 160.

All items : Percentage increase over July 1914

	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
January ..	73	56	59	57	55	56	54	49
February ..	65	55	56	57	54	55	48	49
March ..	65	54	54	59	55	55	45	49
April ..	62	56	50	58	53	53	44	
May ..	63	53	50	56	53	52	47	
June ..	63	52	53	54	55	54	46	
July ..	65	53	57	57	57	56	47	
August ..	64	54	61	52	55	57	46	
September ..	65	54	61	51	55	54	45	
October ..	62	52	61	53	55	51	46	
November ..	60	53	61	53	54	50	47	
December ..	61	57	60	55	56	51	48	
Yearly average ..	64	54	57	55	55	54	47	

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

* The figures in this index are based on the prices of commodities in Bombay for January 1929 and February 1929. The index for the year 1928 is based on the average of the twelve months ending in December 1928.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX—FEBRUARY

Articles	Unit of quantity	Annual consumption (Mass Units) (in crores)	Price per Unit of Quantity			Price × Mass Unit		
			July 1914	Jan. 1929	Feb. 1929	July 1914	Jan. 1929	Feb. 1929
Cereals—								
Rice	Maund	70	Rs. 5.594	7.026	6.943	Rs. 391.58	491.82	486.01
Wheat	"	21	5.594	7.417	7.417	117.47	155.76	155.76
Jowari	"	11	4.354	5.167	5.250	47.89	56.84	58.71
Guari	"	6	4.313	5.964	5.964	25.88	35.78	35.78
Total—Cereals						582.82	740.20	737.26
Index Numbers—Cereals						100	127	126
Pulses—								
Gram	Maund	10	4.302	7.380	7.380	43.02	73.80	73.80
Turdal	"	3	5.844	8.333	8.172	17.53	25.00	24.52
Total—Pulses						60.55	98.80	98.32
Index Numbers—Pulses						100	163	161
Other food articles—								
Sugar (refined)	Maund	2	10.714	10.714	11.407	15.24	21.41	22.61
Raw Sugar (Gul)	"	7	13.094	13.094	13.094	59.90	91.66	91.66
Tea	"	5	76.068	77.776	77.776	1.00	1.00	1.00
Salt	"	28	3.219	3.125	3.125	10.65	10.65	15.63
Beef	Seer	28	0.510	0.510	0.510	9.04	9.04	24.42
Mutton	"	14	0.740	0.740	0.740	13.76	13.76	246.16
Milk	Maund	14	17.583	17.583	17.583	128.77	131.19	130.96
Ghee	"	11	87.500	87.500	87.500	76.19	76.19	85.14
Potatoes	"	3	7.740	7.740	7.740	49.27	49.27	12.50
Onions	"	1	4.167	4.167	4.167	4.66	4.66	13.99
Coconut Oil	"	1	27.380	27.380	27.380	12.70	12.70	12.70
Total—Other food articles						381.18	658.53	659.29
Index Numbers—Other food articles						100	173	173
Fuel and lighting								
Total—Fuel and lighting						102.53	1,072.83	1,492.91
Index Numbers—Fuel and lighting						100	146	146
Clothing								
Shirts	Case	5	8.777	7.250	6.594	21.88	36.25	32.97
Shirts	Maund	48	1.099	1.099	1.099	38.02	52.75	52.75
Coal	"	1	0.661	0.661	0.641	0.54	0.66	0.64
Total—Clothing						60.44	89.66	86.36
Index Numbers—Clothing						100	148	143
House-rent								
Total—House-rent						117.00	194.40	194.40
Index Numbers—House-rent						100	172	172
Grand Total						1,211.92	1,866.56	1,858.64
Cost of Living Index Numbers						100	149	149

The following table shows the price levels of articles of food in January and February 1929 as compared with the price level for July 1914, which is taken as 100. The levels are calculated from the prices of articles per standard (or railway) maund or seer —

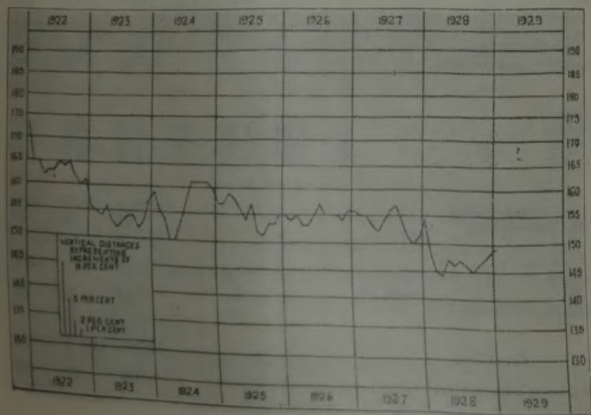
Articles	July 1914	Jan. 1929	Feb. 1929	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in 1929 over or below Jan. 1929	Articles	July 1914	Jan. 1929	Feb. 1929	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in 1929 over or below Jan. 1929
Rice	100	126	124	- 2	Salt	100	151	147	- 4
Wheat	100	133	133	..	Beef	100	158	158	..
Jowari	100	119	121	+ 2	Mutton	100	177	177	..
Bajri	100	138	138	..	Milk	100	191	191	..
Gram	100	172	172	..	Ghee	100	172	172	..
Turdal	100	143	140	- 3	Potatoes	100	173	173	..
Sugar (refined)..	100	141	148	+ 7	Onions	100	268	268	..
Raw sugar (gul).	100	153	153	..	Cocoanut oil ..	100	108	110	+ 2
Tea	100	190	194	+ 4	All food articles (weighted average)..	100	146	146	..

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

Rice 19, Wheat 25, Jowari 17, Bajri 28, Gram 42, Turdal 29, Sugar (refined) 32, Raw Sugar (gul) 35, Tea 48, Salt 32, Beef 37, Mutton 44, Milk 48, Ghee 42, Potatoes 42, Onions 63 and Coconut Oil 9.

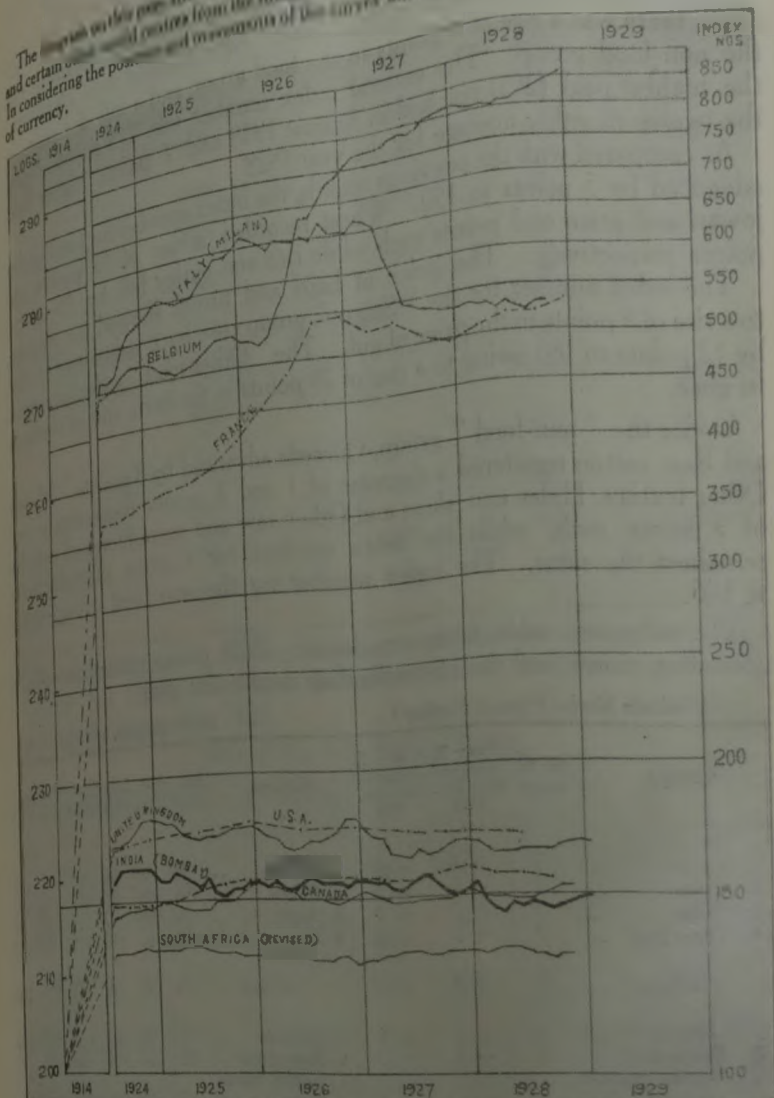
The purchasing power of the rupee being taken as 16 annas in July 1914, its purchasing power in the month under review was 10 annas and 9 pies for all items and 11 annas for food articles only.

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



Comparison with the Cost of Living in Other Countries

The diagram on this page shows the comparative levels of the cost of living Index Nos. in Bombay and certain other world centres from the middle of 1914. The diagram is on the logarithmic scale. In considering the position and movements of the curves allowance has to be made for depreciation of currency.



The following are the sources of the Index Nos.: (1) United Kingdom—Ministry of Labour Gazette, (2) New Zealand—Census and Statistics Office, Wellington (by cable), (3) South Africa—Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics, (4) U. S. A.—Monthly Bulletin issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, (5) Canada—The Labour Gazette, published by the Department of Labour, Canada, (6) Australia—Monthly Bulletin of Statistics published by the League of Nations, (7) All other countries—from the Ministry of Labour Gazette, United Kingdom. In the case of Italy the Index No. is for Milan. The India figure is for Bombay only.

In all cases the Index Number is for working classes only. The actual Index Numbers for twelve world centres will be found among the tables at the end of the volume. The centres for which figures are published are India (Bombay), the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Belgium, Norway, Switzerland, South Africa, France (Paris) and the United States of America. The Labour Office also maintains a register wherein the Index Numbers for all countries for which figures are available are recorded.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

1. WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY •

Increase over July 1914

In January 1929, the index number of wholesale prices in Bombay was 148 as against 147 in the previous month. As compared with December 1928, there was a rise of 6 points in the food group and a fall of 1 point in the non-food group. The general index number was 115 points below the highest peak (263) reached in August 1918 and 2 points higher than the twelve-monthly average for the year 1928.

As compared with the previous month, the index number for food grains advanced by 5 points to 150. Wheat recorded a rise of 19 points and jowari and gram of 3 points each while rice and barley fell by 15 and 5 points respectively. The price of bajri and turdal showed no change.

The index number for the "Sugar" group rose by 2 points to 131 due to a rise of 5 points in the price of gul. The "Other food" index advanced by 12 points to 180 owing to a rise of 29 points in turmeric and of 6 points in ghee.

Under the "non-food" group, Oilseeds advanced by 3 points. Metals and Raw cotton registered a decrease of 1 and 2 points respectively and Other textiles, Hides and skins and Other raw and manufactured articles of 3 points each, while the index number for Cotton manufactures remained the same. The index number for the non-food group stood at 146.

The subjoined table compares January 1929 prices with those of the preceding month and the corresponding month last year.

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay † 100 = Average of 1928

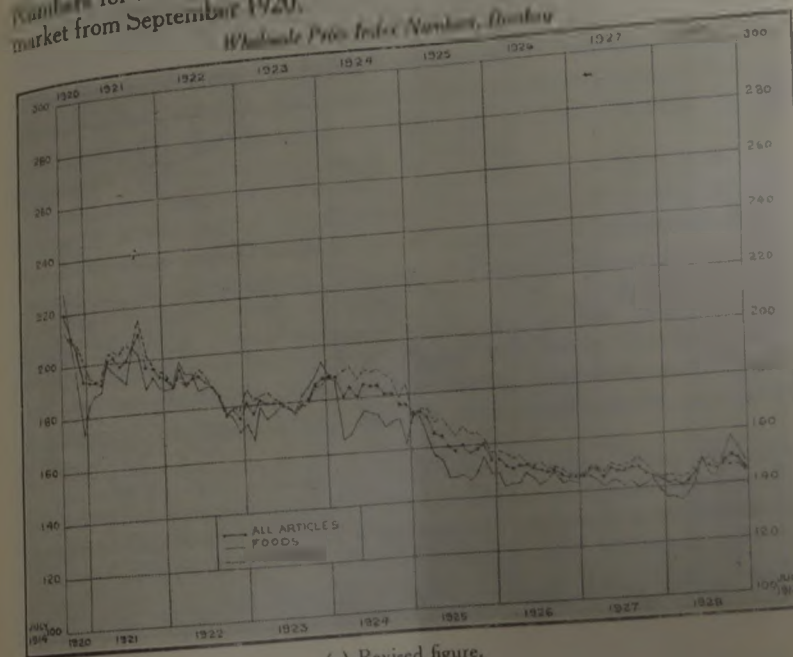
Groups	No. of items	+ or - % compared with Dec. 1928		+ or - % compared with Jan. 1928		Groups	Jan. 1928	Apr. 1928	July 1928	Oct. 1928	Dec. 1928	Jan. 1929
1. Cereals	7	+ 4	+17	1. Cereals	96	96	96	109	107	112		
2. Pulses	2	+ 1	+ 2	2. Pulses	104	101	93	107	106	107		
3. Sugar	3	+ 2	+ 7	3. Sugar	92	95	97	111	97	98		
4. Other food	3	+ 7	+18	4. Other food	86	91	110	116	94	101		
All food	15	+ 4	+13	All food	94	95	99	109	100	108		
5. Oilseeds	4	+ 2	+ 6	5. Oilseeds	99	98	101	103	103	105		
6. Raw cotton	5	- 1	-15	6. Raw cotton	105	100	107	96	91	89		
7. Cotton manufactures	6	—	+ 4	7. Cotton manufactures	98	97	103	102	102	102		
8. Other textiles	2	—	- 4	8. Other textiles	100	102	99	56	98	96		
9. Hides and skins	3	—	+15	9. Hides & skins	92	100	95	104	108	106		
10. Metals	5	—	+ 4	10. Metals	97	98	101	101	101	101		
11. Other raw and manufactured articles	4	- 2	+ 2	11. Other raw and manufactured articles	96	95	101	100	99	97		
All non-food	30	- 1	+ 1	All non-food	99	99	102	101	101	100		
General Index No.	44	—	—	General Index No.	97	97	101	103	101	101		

* Actual prices will be found on pages 622-623. † Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on pages 624-625.

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

	Food Index No.	Non-food Index No.	General Index No.
Twelve-monthly average for 1916	171	275	239
1917	202	234	223
1918	206	219	216
1919	193	201	198
1920	186	187	187
1921	179	182	181
1922	173	188	182
1923	155	167	163
1924	145	152	149
1925	143	148	147
1926	143	146	146(a)
1927	144	146	148
1928	154	146	148
1929			

The diagram below shows the course of the changes in the Index Numbers for Foods, Non-foods and all articles in the Bombay wholesale market from September 1920.



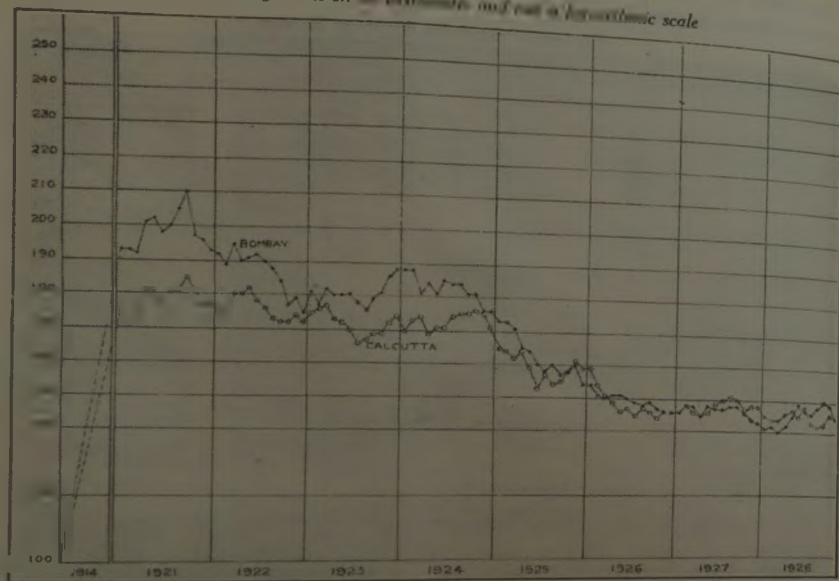
(a) Revised figure.

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

The diagram on this page shows the comparative movements of the index numbers of wholesale prices in Bombay and Calcutta. The index numbers for Calcutta are prepared by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence under the Government of India.

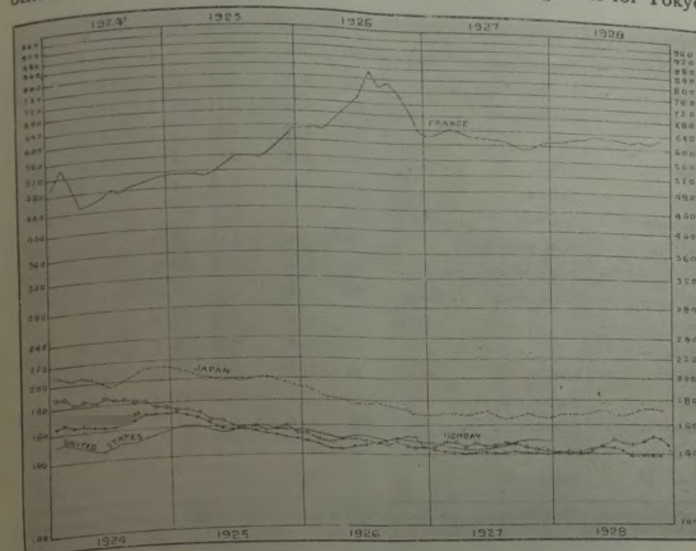
The items included in the index are 44 for Bombay and 71 for Calcutta. The groups included in the Calcutta index but excluded from that for Bombay are tea (3 items), oil (2 items), jute-raw (3 items), jute manufactures (4 items) and building materials (1 item). There are no groups included in the Bombay list but excluded from the Calcutta list. But the details of the different commodities differ. The method of constructing the index is the same in each case—the unweighted arithmetic average being used and certain important commodities being indirectly weighted by securing quotations for more than one grade of such commodities. The diagram shows that the correlation between the two indices is direct but not perfect, i.e., the changes in the two curves are in the same direction but not to the same extent. The increase in prices over July 1914 was definitely lower in Calcutta than in Bombay though there was a tendency for the divergence to diminish in degree, and at the end of 1925 and in the beginning of 1926 and 1927 the two curves temporarily crossed. Prices in Bombay were lower than those in Calcutta between June 1927 and May 1928 and in July 1928.

The diagram is on an arithmetic and not a logarithmic scale



COMPARISON WITH WHOLESALE PRICES INDEX NUMBERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

The following diagram illustrates the comparative level of Wholesale Prices Index Numbers in five countries. The bases are 1913 for the other centres and July 1914 for Bombay. The Japan figure is for Tokyo.



The sources of these five Index Numbers are:—Bombay, the Labour Office; United Kingdom, the Board of Trade; United States of America, the Bureau of Labor Statistics; France and Japan, Monthly Bulletin of Statistics published by the League of Nations.

These Index Numbers and those for eight other countries will be found in a table at the end of the Gazette. The sources of information for these eight other Index Numbers are:—Canada, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics; China (Shanghai), Ministry of Finance, Bureau of Markets, Shanghai; Egypt (Cairo), Monthly Agricultural Statistics, published by the Statistical Department, Ministry of Finance Java (Batavia), Monthly Bulletins of Statistics of Prices and Index Numbers in the Netherlands Indies; Australia Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, published by the League of Nations; Norway, Sweden and Holland, figures republished in the Statist.

The Labour Office also keeps on record 20 other Index Numbers, including three privately published for the United Kingdom and three for the United States of America. The three privately published figures for the United Kingdom are those of the *Statist*, the *Economist* and the *London Times*, and the three for the United States of America are those of Bradstreet, Prof. Irving Fisher and Dun.

2. RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN BOMBAY

FEB. 1929

Article	Grade	Rate per	Equiv- alent in tola	July 1914			Dec. 1928			Jan. 1929			Increase (+) or decrease (-) in Jan. 1929 over or below	
				As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.			
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill*	Paylee	204	5 10	7 1	7 2	7 1	7 2	+1 4	+0 1				
Wheat	Pisai Seoni*	"	200	5 10	7 4	7 5	7 4	7 5	+1 7	+0 1				
Jowari	Best Sholapuri	"	200	4 3	4 11	5 2	4 11	5 2	+0 11	+0 1				
Bajri	Ghati	"	204	4 7	5 10	6 1	4 7	5 10	+1 6	+0 3				
Gram	Delhi*	"	192	4 4	6 9	7 1	4 4	6 9	+2 9	+0 4				
Turdal	Cawnpore	"	204	5 11	8 3	8 6	5 11	8 3	+2 7	+0 3				
Sugar (refined)	Java, white	Seer	28	1 1	1 8	1 6	1 1	1 8	+0 5	-0 2				
Raw Sugar (Gul)	Sangli, middle quality	"	28	1 2	1 11	1 10	1 2	1 11	+0 8	-0 1				
Tea	Loose, Ceylon, powder	Lb.	39	7 10	14 10	14 10	7 10	14 10	+7 0					
Salt	Bombay, black	Paylee	176	1 9	2 11	2 10	1 9	2 11	+1 1	-0 1				
Beef	"	Lb.	39	2 6	4 0	4 0	2 6	4 0	+1 6					
Mutton	"	"	39	3 0	5 9	5 9	3 0	5 9	+2 9					
Milk	Medium	Seer	56	2 9	4 11	4 11	2 9	4 11	+2 2					
Ghee	Belgaum, superior	"	28	7 1	12 5	12 3	7 1	12 5	+5 2					
Potatoes	Ordinary	"	28	0 8	1 0	1 1	0 8	1 0	+0 5	-0 2				
Onions	Nasik	"	28	0 3	0 6	0 7	0 3	0 6	+0 4	+0 1				
Cocoanut oil	Middle quality	"	28	1 7	3 11	3 10	1 7	3 11	+0 3	-0 1				

Collection of prices.—The prices are the areas and in () which price quotations are obtained from other than butcher's meat.

- 1. Kumbharwada—Kumbharwada Road.
- 2. Kumbharwada—Kumbharwada Road (North End).
- 3. Kumbharwada—Kumbharwada Road (South End).
- 4. Kumbharwada—Kumbharwada Road (Central).
- 5. Kumbharwada—Kumbharwada Road (East End).
- 6. Kumbharwada—Kumbharwada Road (West End).
- 7. Kumbharwada—Kumbharwada Road (North East).
- 8. DeLisle Road.
- 9. Kumbharwada—Kumbharwada Road (North West).
- 10. Kumbharwada—Kumbharwada Road (South West).
- 11. Kumbharwada—Kumbharwada Road (South East).
- 12. Kumbharwada—Kumbharwada Road (Central West).
- 13. Kumbharwada—Kumbharwada Road (Central East).
- 14. Kumbharwada—Kumbharwada Road (Central South).
- 15. Kumbharwada—Kumbharwada Road (Central North).

The prices for mutton and beef are collected from the Central Municipal Market. The number of quotations for each article during the month is, on an average, 100. The prices are collected by the Labour Office.

The variations in prices during January 1929, as compared with the preceding month were within narrow limits. Under food grains, gram and turdal advanced by 4 and 3 pies respectively per paylee; rice and wheat recorded a rise of 1 pie each per paylee and jowari and bajri rose by 3 pies each per paylee. Amongst other food articles, gul and cocoanut oil fell by 1 pie each per seer and salt by 1 pie per paylee; but potatoes and onions registered a rise of 1 pie each per seer. Sugar (refined) and ghee were cheaper by 2 pies each per seer. The price of the remaining articles was practically stationary during the month under review.

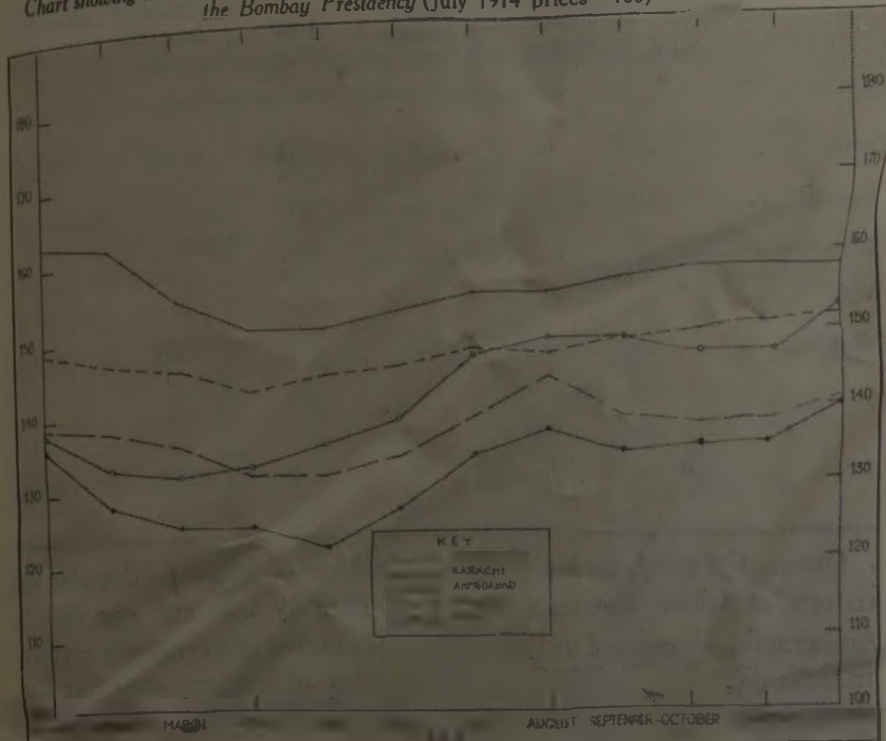
As compared with July 1914, all articles show a rise in prices. Onions are 133 per cent. above the prewar price. Tea, mutton and milk have risen by more than 75 per cent., gul, salt, beef, and potatoes by more than 50 per cent., and sugar (refined) by 38 per cent. The price of cocoanut oil is only 7 per cent. above its prewar level.

* In the case of rice, wheat and gram, the variations in tola figures in column 4 relate to "Mandla," "Pisai Seoni" and "Pisai" variety respectively.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX NUMBERS OF FOOD ARTICLES IN FIVE CENTRES OF THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY (July 1914 = 100)

Articles	December 1928					January 1929				
	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
Rice (1)	155	105	130	159	151	160	109	130	159	132
Wheat (1)	153	158	160	123	138	163	155	170	128	144
Jowari	120	138	117	120	121	122	138	117	128	134
Bajri	139	138	136	101	121	146	136	142	127	135
Gram	177	177	133	132	133	182	175	133	141	135
Turdal	159	120	144	145	140	165	120	144	151	135
Sugar (refined)	159	138	131	114	113	150	118	129	107	113
Jagri (Gul)	153	137	133	137	150	141	135	129	129	145
Tea	190	225	200	171	200	190	225	200	171	200
Salt	131	145	151	151	159	131	145	151	150	156
Beef	179	180	100	201	141	179	180	100	201	141
Mutton	169	167	167	133	158	169	167	167	133	167
Milk	191	190	200	138	133	191	190	200	138	133
Ghee	162	156	144	163	129	154	156	144	152	129
Potatoes	159	134	123	182	168	159	110	191	182	182
Onions	184	169	136	123	131	184	178	200	156	131
Cocoanut oil	112	108	100	109	100	112	108	100	109	100
Average—All food articles	158	152	153(b)	141	140	159	152	153	145	142

Chart showing the unweighted Retail Prices and Index Numbers (17 articles) in five centres of the Bombay Presidency (July 1914 prices = 100)



(1) The Bombay index numbers for rice and wheat since June 1928 are for Mandla and Pisai Sarabati varieties instead of for "Rangoon Small Mill" and "Pisai Seoni" respectively.
(2) Revised figures.

Labour Intelligence—Indian and Foreign Industrial Disputes in the Presidency

Disputes in January .. 16 Workpeople involved .. 20,890

At the end of this month will be found a statement of each progress during January 1929, with the number of workpeople the date when the dispute began and ended, the cause and the result. The word "dispute," in the official sense, means an interruption of work and it is here used in that sense as virtually synonymous with "strike." A dispute, as counted by the Labour Office, is an interruption of work involving ten or more persons and of not less than twenty-four hours' duration. Detailed statistics have been collected since 1st April 1921, the date on which the Labour Office was instituted.

Summary tables have been constructed in order to show the position at a glance. Table I shows the number and magnitude of January 1929, and the number of working days lost.

I.—Industrial Disputes Classified by Trades

Trade	Number of disputes in progress in January 1929			Total	Workpeople involved	Working days lost
	Started before January	Started in January	Total			
Textile ..	6	8	14	19,018	92,626	
Transport ..						
Engineering ..						
Metal ..						
Miscellaneous ..	1	1	2	1,872	41,392	
Total	7	9	16	20,890	134,018	

During the month under review the number of industrial disputes was sixteen of which thirteen occurred in Bombay City and one each in Ambernath, Ahmedabad and Jalgaon. The number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 20,890 and the number of working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days, less workers replaced) was 134,018.

II.—Industrial Disputes—Causes and Results, September 1928 to January 1929

	September 1928	October 1928	November 1928	December 1928	January 1929
No. of strikes and ..	5	14	23	44	16
..	3	4	3	7	7
..	2	10	20	37	14
..	4	11	16	37	2
..	4	3	7	7	20,890
..	171,269	175,965	37,414	73,861	20,890
..	4,088,637	1,258,581	156,855	364,875	134,018
..			16	29	4
..	4	6	6	10	7
..		4	1	1	5
..		4	1	4	
..	1		4	12	3
..		1	3	3	3
..		4	9	22	8
..	1	6			

Table II shows, among other things, the proportion of strikes of the employers, the employees, or compromised.

Disputes Settled

Month	Disputes in progress	Disputes which during the month	Disputes working days lost	In favour of employers (Per cent.)	In favour of employees (Per cent.)	Comp. (Per cent.)
February 1928 ..	10	8	8	100	13	..
March ..	14	12	12	100	..	..
April ..	10	8	5	50	..	50
May ..	8	6	3	..	33	..
June ..	7	3	3	67	33	..
July ..	6	2	3	100	..	..
August ..	6	3	3	..	9	36
September ..	5	2	11	..	..	19
October ..	14	10	16	..	..	..
November ..	23	20	37	..	..	..
..	44	37	37	..	..	..
..	16	9	14	..	..	..

* This differs from tables which merged into ... ewly ...



Labour Intelligence—Indian and Foreign Industrial Disputes in the Presidency

Disputes in January .. 16 Workpeople involved .. 20,890

At the end of this issue will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during January 1929, with the number of workpeople involved, the date when the dispute began and ended, the cause and the result. The word "dispute," in the official sense, means an interruption of work and it is here used in that sense as virtually synonymous with "strike." A dispute, as counted by the Labour Office, is an interruption of work involving ten or more persons and of not less than twenty-four hours' duration. Detailed statistics have been collected since 1st April 1921, the date on which the Labour Office was instituted.

Summary tables have been constructed in order to show the position at a glance. Table I shows the number and magnitude of strikes in January 1929, and the number of working days lost.

I.—Industrial Disputes Classified by Trades

Trade	Number of disputes in progress in January 1929			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in Jan. 1929	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in Jan. 1929
	Started before January	Started in January	Total		
Textile	6	8	14	19,018	92,626
Transport
Engineering
..
..	2	1,872	41,392
..	16	20,890	..

.. the number of industrial disputes was .. occurred in Bombay City and one each in Amber .. and Jalgaon. The number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 20,890 and the number of working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days, less workers released) was 134,018.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

II.—Industrial Disputes—Causes and Results, September 1928 to January 1929

	September 1928	October 1928	November 1928	December 1928	January 1929
Number of strikes and lock-outs ..	5	14	23	44	16
Disputes in progress at beginning ..	3	4	3	7	7
Fresh disputes begun ..	2	10	20	37	9
Disputes ended ..	1	11	16	37	14
Disputes in progress at end ..	4	3	7	7	2
Number of workpeople involved ..	171,289	175,965	37,414	73,861	20,890
Aggregate duration in working days ..	4,088,637	1,258,581	156,855	364,875	134,018
Demands—					
Pay ..	4	6	16	29	4
Bonus ..	..	..	..	..	..
Personal ..	..	4	6	10	7
Leave and hours ..	..	..	..	1	..
Others ..	1	4	..	4	5
Results—					
In favour of employees ..	..	1	4	12	3
Compromised ..	..	4	3	3	3
In favour of employers ..	1	6	9	22	8

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

III.—Industrial Disputes—Progress for last 12 months †

Month	Disputes in progress	which began during the month	Disputes ended during the month	Aggregate number of working days lost	Disputes Settled		
					In favour of employers (Per cent.)	In favour of employees (Per cent.)	Compromised (Per cent.)
February 1928	10	8	8	249,083	87	13	..
March ..	14	12	12	72,239	92	8	..
April ..	10	8	5	1,314,041	100	..	..
May ..	8	6	4	4,243,194	50	..	50
June ..	7*	3	3	4,211,847	100	..	..
July ..	6	2	3	4,141,454	..	33	67
August ..	6	3	3	4,151,788	67	33	..
September ..	5	2	1	4,088,637	100	..	..
October ..	14	10	11	1,258,581	55	9	36
November ..	23	20	16	156,855	56	25	19
December ..	44	37	37	364,875	59	32	9
January 1929 ..	16	9	..	134,018	57	21.5	21.5

* Three individual disputes which merged into the General Strike are not counted separately.

† This table differs from the tables published till January 1927 in two respects. Firstly, the third and the fourth columns are newly added, and secondly, the totals at the end have been omitted.

It may be of interest to state that the highest peak (4,243,194) in respect of the number of working days lost through strikes in this Presidency since April 1921 was reached in May 1928, whereas the lowest level was reached in December 1927, when no strikes were reported. The nearest approach to this was in May 1924 when only 390 working days were lost.

GENERAL REVIEW OF DISPUTES

The number of industrial disputes involving stoppages of work reported as beginning in the month of January 1929 was 9 as against 37 reported for the previous month. The number of workpeople involved was 11,892 and the number of working days lost amounted to 33,208 man-days. Two of these disputes arose over wages questions, three over questions regarding the employment of individuals, one over a question of granting leave for a day and the remaining three were due to "Other causes." In addition, seven disputes involving 8998 workpeople were in progress at the beginning of the month and resulted in a time loss amounting to 100,810 man-days. Out of the 16 old and new disputes, 14 terminated during the month. The employers were successful in 8 disputes, the workers in 3 disputes and compromises were effected in the remaining 3 disputes.

Progress of Individual Disputes

BOMBAY CITY

There were 13 disputes in progress in Bombay City during the month under review. One of these was a continuation of the dispute which affected 3 factories of the Oil Companies in Bombay City. On the 4th, the management of the Burma Shell Oil Storage and Distributing Company employed 14 Pathans in place of the strikers and 20 more on the 7th. All the affected establishments continued working partially during the month. Meetings of the strikers were held almost daily and the extremist labour leaders advised the men to remain firm and to carry on vigorous picketing. Fatal assaults were made by the strikers on 3 of the Pathans engaged in their place. Towards the close of the month, the labour leaders proposed to distribute rations to the needy strikers and to request Government's intervention to settle the dispute. This strike continued into the next month.

The second was a continuation of the dispute in the David Mills. On the 3rd, 13 additional new hands were employed by the management and 12 strikers resumed work unconditionally on the 5th. The remaining vacancies were filled by recruitment of more new hands and the strike ended in favour of the employers.

The third dispute which had begun in the Imperial Mill during the previous month was in progress during the month under review. There was no change in the situation till the 10th, on which date all the strikers resumed work unconditionally and the strike terminated. The result of this dispute was in favour of the employers.

The fourth was a dispute in the Jacob Sassoon Mill which carried forward from the previous month. There was no change in the situation till the 8th and the mill continued to remain closed. On the 9th, some strikers attempted to stop the oil men, fitters and mechanics from going into the mill for work. One of the strikers was arrested for disorderly

behaviour and was convicted and sentenced to one week's rigorous imprisonment on the 10th. There was no change during the subsequent days and on the 14th, a settlement was arrived at on the following

- (1) The men should not attempt to induce peaceful workers to strike.
 - (2) In the case of certain altered frames in the Throstle Department, work would be left to the choice of the workers to work double-sides when yarn of inferior quality is used, but when yarn of higher counts is used it would be compulsory to work double-sides;
 - (3) Men creating unrest on behalf of the Union would not be admitted into the mill;
 - (4) Any worker leaving his work and loitering about in the other departments would be dismissed without notice; and
 - (5) Any workman having any grievances should communicate them to the leaders concerned who would look into the matter.
- In pursuance of this settlement, work was resumed on the 14th and the strike ended. The result of the dispute was a compromise.

The fifth was the continuation of the dispute in the New China Mill which remained closed during the first three days of the month. On the 4th, the management agreed to appoint a Muhammadan weaver in the mill as a Line Jobber in place of the Line Jobber in question and, as a result, all the strikers resumed work on the same day. The strike thus ended in a compromise.

The sixth dispute occurred in the Manchester Mill. On the 2nd, all the weavers stopped work after the recess refusing to work the three loom system. The management explained to them that they should work the new system until the Bombay Strike Enquiry Committee gave its decision; but the men were not satisfied and they tried to stop work in the other departments by whistling and shouting. On the arrival of the Police they left the mill quietly in the afternoon. The mill was entirely closed on the 3rd and the 4th as the operatives of the Spinning Department were afraid to carry on work. On the 5th, the mill restarted work in the Spinning Department. The strikers were paid their outstanding wages on the 7th. There was no change in the situation till the 16th, on which date the management notified that the Weaving Department would be restarted with the three and four loom system as before, from the 17th. In accordance with the notice put up, 150 strikers resumed work on the 17th and the rest followed suit on the 18th. The strike thus ended in favour of the employers.

The seventh dispute occurred in the Jam Mill No. 2 where the weavers numbering 230, struck work after the recess on the 10th demanding an increase of one pie in the rates of wages. Their request was refused and the mill was closed in the evening. There was no change in the situation till the 22nd on which date all the strikers resumed work unconditionally and the strike terminated. The result of the dispute was in favour of the employers.

The eighth dispute took place in the Finlay Mill on the 12th. The management asked the operatives to clean their machines but the men refused to do so and struck work after the recess. The mill therefore

remained closed till the 15th on which date the management reopened the mill on the strikers agreeing to clean the machines. The strike thus ended in favour of the employers.

The ninth dispute occurred in the Swan Mill on the 12th. Here again, the operatives struck work after the recess refusing to clean their machines as heretofore. The mill remained closed till the 15th and was restarted on that date on the strikers agreeing to clean the machines. This strike also ended in favour of the employers.

The tenth dispute took place in the Edward Sassoon Mill. The weavers attended the mill as usual on the 14th but did not resume work demanding a holiday for "Sankranti." Although the management explained that the holiday was cancelled at the men's own request, the strikers were not satisfied and they forced the Spinning Department also to stop work, but on the arrival of the Police, they left the mill quietly at about 7-30 a.m. The entire mill remained closed till the 17th, on which date four strikers who were responsible for the strike were dismissed and the rest were allowed to resume work. The strike thus ended in favour of the employers.

The eleventh dispute occurred in the Kastoorchand Mill where on the morning of the 17th, 100 winders struck work demanding an increase in the rates of wages. As their request was not granted, the strikers persuaded the operatives of the other departments also to stop work in sympathy. On the management agreeing to grant certain increases in the rates of 10's and 20's yarn, all the strikers resumed work on the 19th. The strike thus ended in favour of the workers.

The twelfth was a dispute which affected the New China Mill for the second time during the month under review. On the 21st, the management appointed one Zainulla as a Fancy Jobber to supervise the newly introduced "dobby" work in the mill. The Hindu mill hands objected to the appointment of Zainulla and struck work on the 22nd. In spite of the promise made by the management to look into the grievances of the strikers, the latter did not resume work but left the mill in the morning. There was no change in the situation till the 25th, on which date the strikers resumed work on the management agreeing not to engage Zainulla as a Fancy Jobber. The result of this dispute was in favour of the workers.

The thirteenth dispute took place in the Dinshaw Petit Mill. The management dispensed with the services of the Manager of the mill. On the 25th, all the operatives struck work in sympathy and demanded the reinstatement of the dismissed Manager. As their request was not granted, the workers left the mill quietly and the mill remained closed. Subsequently, the strikers also demanded an increase in wages and the enlistment of more hands for work. The management refused to reinstate the dismissed Manager but agreed to grant increases of one or two pies in the rates of wages in respect of two new sorts of cloth. Thereupon, all the strikers resumed work on the 27th and the strike terminated. The result of the dispute was a compromise.

AMBERNATH

There was a dispute in progress in the Western India Match Factory during the month under review. The head office of the Factory

complained of shortages in match box bundles and consequently a worker was mainly responsible, was served with 14 days' notice of discharge while two other operatives were warned. As a result, 82 men of the Packing Department refused to resume work on the morning of the 5th and demanded that an enquiry should be held into the allegations made against the dismissed man. On the 7th, the workers of the Box Filling Department also struck work in sympathy. The management carried on negotiations with the Secretary of the Ambernath Labour Union and, as a result, agreed to reinstate the dismissed operative. Thereupon all the strikers resumed work at 10 a.m. on the same day and the strike terminated in favour of the workers.

AHMEDABAD

The dispute in the Gujarat Ginning and Manufacturing Mill which had begun in December 1928 was in progress during the month under review. Some of the strikers resumed work during the course of the month and the management continued to recruit new hands. The total strength of the Spinning Department stood at 450 at the beginning and rose to 750 by the close of the month. Picketing was carried on by the strikers as usual. Owing to an incessant demand from the Labour Union the dispute was referred to an Arbitration Board consisting of Mr. M. K. Gandhi and Seth Mangaldas G. Parekh, on the 9th. The Board gave their preliminary award on the 19th directing that all the strikers should be taken back to work, on and from the 21st, and that the points in dispute would only be taken up for consideration thereafter. The Agent of the mill apprehended trouble from the new hands already engaged and did not therefore come to any decision in the matter. The Labour Union, however, proposed that in case the Agent did not abide by the award before the 25th, to bring out the mill-hands of the Hathising and other mills which were helping the mill in question and also to bring about a general strike in the textile industry in Ahmedabad, if necessary. As the Agent did not give any definite reply in the matter, the Labour Union organised a huge procession of the labourers on the 26th. On the same day, the Agent agreed to take the strikers back and to dispense with the services of the new men, and a notice was put up to this effect on the 29th. The new hands who were offered payment of their outstanding wages on the 30th, refused to accept the same but on the Agent promising to re-employ about 200 of them they accepted their wages. Work was not resumed by the strikers on the 31st and the strike continued into the next month.

JALGAON

The dispute in the Bhagirath Spinning and Weaving Mill which commenced during the month of December was in progress during the month under review. On the 2nd, 157 operatives resumed work unconditionally and by the 7th the number of operatives working in the mill rose to 187. On the 8th, some of the strikers asked the Agent to discharge certain old employees who had been previously dismissed but not re-employed, and to increase the compensatory allowance. The Agent said that he would consider the first request provided all the strikers

resumed work but that he could not promise to increase the allowance. All the remaining strikers resumed work unconditionally on the 9th, and the strike terminated. The result of this dispute was in favour of the employers.

A Correction

On page 422 of the issue of the *Labour Gazette* for January 1929 it was reported that the result of the dispute in the Gold Mohur Mill, Bombay, was in favour of the *workers*. The result was in favour of the *employers*.

Workmen's Compensation Act

Details of Proceedings

Information furnished by all the Commissioners in the Presidency for the month of January 1929 shows that out of 38 cases disposed of during the month 34 were reported by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner in Bombay. The gross amount of compensation awarded in lump sums was Rs. 20,906-1-0 as against Rs. 15,301-10-2 in the previous month and Rs. 20,806-5-0 in January 1928. Out of the 38 cases in which compensation was claimed, 14 were in respect of fatal accidents, one of permanent total disablement and 23 of permanent partial disablement. No case of occupational disease has been reported since January 1925. The number of compensation cases in the textile industry amounted to 13 and in other industries to 25. The corresponding figures for January 1928 were 15 and 32.

The total number of claimants for compensation in all cases disposed of during the month was 39 of whom 38 were adult males and one an adult female.

Out of the cases disposed of during the month under review 24 were original claims and 14 registrations of agreements. Compensation was awarded in 19 cases, agreements were registered in 14 cases, 4 cases were dismissed and one case was allowed to be withdrawn.

Employment Situation in January

THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The sources of the statistics regarding absenteeism in the Textile Industry in the Bombay Presidency are the returns prepared and sent in by the various mills in the different centres of the Presidency every month. Returns were received from 118 or 78·15 per cent. of the mills reported as working during the month of January 1929. The average absenteeism in the textile industry as a whole amounted to 7·06 per cent.

In Bombay City out of 80 mills which were working during the month, 74 or 92·50 per cent. furnished returns. The supply of labour was

reported as adequate by a large majority of the mills and the average absenteeism amounted to 6·67 per cent. as against 6·88 per cent. in the previous month.

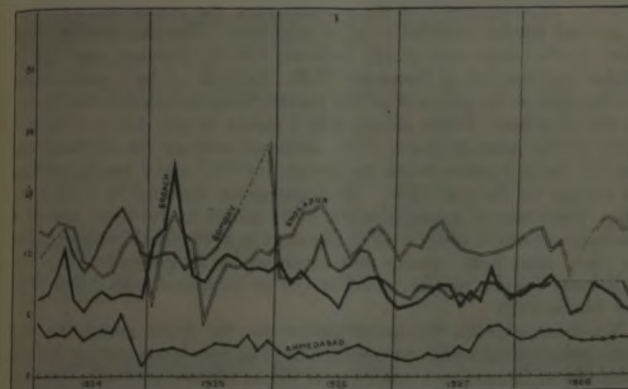
In Ahmedabad 61 mills were working during the month and 34 or 55·74 per cent. furnished information. Absenteeism amounted to 3·65 per cent. as against 3·84 per cent. in December 1928. The supply of labour was equal to the demand.

Returns were submitted by all the mills in Sholapur. Except in the case of one mill, the supply of labour was reported as adequate. The average percentage absenteeism amounted to 15·79 as against 15·44 in the previous month.

Information was supplied by only one mill in Viramgaum which was working during the month. The percentage absenteeism amounted to 2·82.

One of the three mills in Broach which furnished information reported that the supply of labour was inadequate. The absenteeism amounted to 7·08 per cent. as against 6·47 per cent. in the preceding month.

Chart showing the average percentage absenteeism in the Cotton Mill Industry in the Presidency



THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

In the engineering industry in Bombay City the supply of labour was adequate. The average absenteeism in representative Workshops was 10·91 per cent. as against 12·45 per cent. in the previous month. In the Marine Lines Reclamation Scheme absenteeism was 5 per cent. and in the Bombay Port Trust Docks it amounted to 11·54 per cent. The average absenteeism in the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust was 8·60 per cent.

The Karachi Port Trust found both skilled and ordinary labour available in plenty. On an average 9·30 per cent. of the labourers absented themselves from work during the month under review.

Wholesale Market Prices

VARIATIONS IN BOMBAY DURING 1928

The decline in wholesale commodity prices which began in 1918 but underwent a slight check in 1924 continued during the past four years. As will be seen, however, from the chart on page 527, the year 1928 showed a definite check in the downward trend of wholesale prices in Bombay and the general index number after having touched its lowest level (140) in March 1928, rapidly recovered to 150 in October 1928.

The annual average level for 1928 for all the commodities included in the wholesale prices index number compiled by the Labour Office was 46 per cent. above the level of July 1914 as compared with 47 per cent. in the previous year. The general index number was 146, being 1 point less than the average for 1927 and 3 points below the average for the year 1926. The monthly variations in the index numbers for the main groups during the last two years will be found on page 626 at the end of the Gazette. It will be seen that the general index of wholesale prices fluctuated about 141 during the first four months of the past year, sharply rose to 145 in May, thereafter varied between 146 in August and 150 in October, and again dropped to 147 in the month of December.

Foods.—As compared with the previous year, the annual index number for all food articles recorded a rise of one point. But the monthly foods index number fluctuated greatly between 136 in January and 157 in October and was 148 in December 1928. Cereals fell by 6 points owing to a decrease in the prices of all the commodities included in that group. On the other hand, Pulses advanced by 2 points, largely due to a rise of 7 points in the price of gram. The combined average for all foodgrains was 135, being 5 points below the average for 1927 and 7 points less than the average for the year 1926. The sugar group declined by 2 points to 133. There was an appreciable rise of 84 points in turmeric and of 4 points in salt which offset a fall of 20 points in ghee and the index number for the "other food" group thus advanced by 22 points to 178. The "all foods" index number stood at 144 as compared with 143 in 1927 and 145 in 1926.

Non-foods.—Unlike the index number for the foods group, the non-foods index varied within narrow limits. The non-foods average declined from 144 in January to a minimum of 143 in March, gradually recovered to a maximum of 149 in June and July and was stationary at 147 from August to December 1928. Among the various sub-groups included under "non-foods," the index number for Oilseeds fluctuated between 124 in February and 134 in December and the annual average for 1928 declined by 10 points to 130. The index numbers for Raw cotton and Cotton manufactures stood at 166 and 164 respectively in January 1928 and at 143 and 171 respectively in December 1928; and the annual averages for the two groups recorded a rise of 8 and 3 points respectively as compared with the previous year. On the other hand, the "other textiles" average declined by 13 points to 124. The "Hides and Skins" index figure varied between 140 in March and 165 in December and the annual average for that group (153) was 16 points higher than in 1927. Metals advanced from 132 in January to 138 in December, though

twelve-monthly average for the group (136) showed a further decrease of 7 points during the year under review. The index number for "Other and manufactured articles" declined by 15 points to 138, the range of variation of the index being between 131 in February and April and 146 in August 1928. The total "non-foods" index averaged 146 as against 148 in 1927 and 152 in 1926.

The following table shows the annual index numbers of the various groups and items included in the Bombay wholesale prices index number for the years 1926, 1927 and 1928:—

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in Bombay

(Prices in July 1914=100)

Group or item	Annual average for 1926	Annual average for 1927	Annual average for 1928	Percentage rise (+) or fall (—) in 1928 over or below 1927
Rice	140	133	118	—11
Wheat	152	151	149	—1
Jowari	135	140	122	—13
Barley	136	130	126	—3
Bajri	164	141	134	—5
Cereals	146	142	136	—4
Gram	121	117	124	+6
Turdal	130	146	144	—1
Pulses	126	132	134	+2
All food grains	142	140	135	—4
Sugar	150	135	133	—1
Turmeric	144	155	239	+54
Ghee	172	177	157	—11
Salt	138	135	139	+3
Other food	151	156	178	+14
All foods	145	143	144	+1
Oilseeds	134	140	130	—7
Raw cotton	140	150	158	+5
Cotton Manufactures	176	164	167	+2
Other Textiles	137	137	124	—9
Hides and Skins	148	137	153	+12
Metals	151	143	136	—5
Other raw and manufactured articles	152	153	138	—10
Total non-foods	152	148	146	—1
General average	149	147	146	—1

Agricultural Outlook in the Presidency

The following summary of conditions in the Presidency during the period ending 20th February 1929 has been supplied by the Director of Agriculture:—

The most characteristic feature of the weather of the period under review was the very severe frost which occurred on the 30th and 31st January and 1st February and which was responsible for a good deal of damage to crops in a large part of Sind and Gujarat and in places in the

Deccan. As a result of this frost, tobacco was nearly burnt up in the Kaira district, late sown cotton was damaged to the extent of 50 per cent. or more in areas north of the Narbada river while fruits, vegetables, etc., were damaged from 25 to 50 per cent. in Gujarat and Sind and in parts of Nasik, Ahmednagar and Poona, and Sugarcane was seriously checked in growth on the canal areas in the North Deccan. The above percentages are, no doubt rough but will still indicate the general position. The details regarding weather conditions in general will be found in the following notes on the various divisions of the Presidency:—

Gujarat.—Excepting some few cents in places, mostly in the north, on the 26th and 27th of January, there was practically no rain anywhere in the division during the period under review. Unprecedented severe cold and frost occurred on the last two days of January which caused serious damage particularly to tobacco and cotton as far south as the Narbada. Other crops were comparatively less affected but nevertheless, the damage was considerable. Full details regarding the damage to different crops in different areas are not yet to hand but from information so far received it is clear that except wheat which was not so seriously damaged and the grown up crops which could stand the frost, all the crops were damaged to a varying extent.

Konkan.—The whole period under review was almost dry. The late crops were progressing generally well. The harvesting of sugarcane, cardamom, betelnut and other garden crops continued in parts of the Kanara district. The garden crops and those under irrigation were doing well generally.

Deccan and Karnatak.—Since the submission of the last report, some light to fair rain was received between the 5th and 7th February in places mostly in East Khandesh, eastern part of the Nasik and Poona districts, in a few places in the Ahmednagar district and almost the whole of Sholapur and Bijapur districts. There was no rain elsewhere. This rain was somewhat injurious to the advanced *rabi* crops in places where it was received to a considerable extent. Severe cold and frost on the last two days of January caused serious damage to the grape vines in the Nasik district, to fruits and vegetables in parts of North Deccan, and to the sugarcane crop on the Godavari and Pravara Canals. Damage to a varying extent was also done to other crops in various places in the North Deccan.

Labour News from Ahmedabad

THE LABOUR UNION

The demand for increase in wages is being discussed between the Labour Union and a Sub-Committee of the Millowners' Association. The question will be referred to arbitration when Mr. Gandhi arrives here about the middle of February.

A strike fund is being raised in order to meet the extraordinary expenditure that has to be incurred during times of strikes. Every member of the Union has been asked to contribute one rupee to this fund.

With a view to assisting labour leaders in Baroda in their representations to the Baroda Government regarding the hours of work, etc., of factory workers in that state, Messrs. Sankarlal Banker and Gulzarilal Nanda of the Ahmedabad Labour Union paid a visit to Baroda during the last week of January.

THE B. B. & C. I. RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the Loco, Running and Shed staff was held on 23rd January 1929 at Kankaria with Mr. Vallabhai Patel in the chair. Resolutions were passed supporting the Association, condemning the formation of District and General Staff Committees and advising the staff all over the line to refrain from associating with, or taking any assistance from, such committees.

THE GUJARAT POSTMEN'S UNION

It is proposed to send a deputation of postmen to different parts of Gujarat towards the end of February in order to enrol postmen in other centres as members of the above Union.

Prosecutions under the Indian Factories Act in January 1929

BOMBAY

The foreman in charge of a boiler shop in an Engineering Works was prosecuted under section 41 (f) of the Factories Act for breach of section 18 (3) for not maintaining the fencing on an emery wheel whereby an operative was injured. The foreman was convicted and fined Rs. 75.

NAWABSHAH

The manager of a Cotton Ginning Factory was prosecuted under section 41 (a) for breach of section 24 (a) read with Rule 75 for employing certain women at 4-45 a.m. The manager was convicted and fined Rs. 50 in each of ten cases.

Rural Labour Conditions in H. E. H. the Nizam's Dominions

(Supplied by the Director of Industries and Commerce, Hyderabad, Deccan)

Rural labour in these Dominions may be divided into two parts, agricultural and industrial, and conditions of either have not changed to any marked degree since the great famines of 1896-1901, except that forced labour was abolished and made illegal by an order of H. E. H. the Nizam in May 1926.

The number of agricultural labourers has, during the decade ending with 1921, diminished by more than half a million as compared with that in the preceding decade. The reason is two-fold. One is the spread of education which has caught the imagination of the working classes as a sure means of securing a better living, comfort and happiness; the other

is the increasing tendency of villagers to migrate to towns and industrial cities in quest of more lucrative employment.

Agricultural labour is of two kinds, permanent and temporary. Permanent servants are engaged for a period of not less than one year, the contract being renewable at the close of it; but invariably the moral and economic obligations of the servant to the master become so intricate during the time that disengagement is almost impossible. In times of prosperity and adversity both the employer and employee adjust their relationship to mutual advantage.

Permanent servants get a fixed annual wage, say between Rs. 50 to 75 according to the size of the family and the number of persons fit to serve the master. They are paid in cash or a combination of cash, food and perquisites. At any rate, a part of it is paid in cash in advance so that the servant may free himself from encumbrances which he may have got into with the previous employer. The combination-wage means food, water and five articles of wear (a pair of dhoties, a pair of country foot wear, a blanket, a piece of cloth for head gear and a scarf). Food represents daily rations of jawar and pulses. All his other requirements and incidental charges are met by the master and debited to his account, for the liquidation of which he sends his wife or any grown-up child to do odd jobs. The servant works in his master's farm from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. with an hour's interval at noon for food.

Temporary agricultural labourers are engaged for daily wages during the season. They are paid in cash except at harvest time when a quantity of grain is given in part payment, the value of both not exceeding six to eight annas per male, three to four annas for a female and two annas for a child.

In non-agricultural seasons this class of labourers is engaged on odd jobs as cart drivers, messengers, watchmen, graziers, metal workers and quarriers under road contractors, the rate of wages being six to ten annas a day. Graziers are paid at two annas a cow and four annas a buffalo for a month.

Industrial concerns and manufactories in rural parts are not open to all classes of people. Caste is an insuperable barrier and lack of skill in a particular work is another. Except cotton ginning and pressing factories, other occupations such as weaving, dyeing or metal working demand caste labourers.

The rates of wages vary according to the class of work done. Carpenters and blacksmiths earn 12 annas a day and sunars (Gold and Silversmiths) get a rupee plus a small proportion of gold dust.

On 5th November 1928, the Conventions concerning sickness insurance for workers in industry and commerce and domestic servants and concerning sickness insurance for agricultural workers, adopted at the Tenth Session of the International Labour Conference (Geneva, 1927) were submitted to the Japanese Privy Council with a view to ratification.

The Cabinet decided, at its sitting of 2nd November 1928, not to adopt the Recommendation concerning the general principles of sickness insurance. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, November 19, 1928.)

Japanese General Federation of Labour

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONGRESS

The seventeenth Annual Congress of the Japanese General Federation of Labour was held in Osaka from 7th to 9th October 1928, under the chairmanship of Mr. Bunji Suzuki. About 280 delegates were present. It was reported that the membership at the end of September was 38,549.

It may be recalled that there has been a division of opinion in the Federation on the subject of proposals for the amalgamation of all Japanese workers' organisations in a single confederation. At the Congress, the representatives of the Western District Federation advocated the establishment of a confederation to include all organisations except those of extreme views; the Eastern District Federation delegates maintained their previous attitude and insisted that only the more conservative organisations should be admitted to affiliation. The matter was referred to the Central Committee.

RATIONALISATION

The following resolution was adopted on the subject of rationalisation: With a view to preventing the rationalisation of industry from becoming a mere tool of capitalistic employers for the exploitation of workers, the Congress demands and will strive to secure:

- (1) That the rationalisation of industry shall begin with the rationalisation of relations between employers and workers;
- (2) That, since one-sided control of industry can never lead to rational relations between employers and workers, industry shall be democratised;
- (3) That, with a view to the democratisation of industry, strong and sound trade unions shall be organised, and officially recognised as machinery for collective bargaining;
- (4) That, since the capitalistic method of production for profit, subject to no national or social regulation, gives rise to lamentable injustice and enormous waste, the inherent evils of this system shall be abolished.

OTHER DEMANDS

The Congress also called for the following measures:

- The abolition of differences in wages for work of the same nature;
- The speedy amendment of election laws;
- The introduction of the eight-hour day;
- The speedy adoption of legislation for the protection of the workers;
- The speedy amendment of the Health Insurance Act;
- The repeal of the Public Peace and Safety Maintenance Act;
- The creation of strike funds;
- The speedy adoption of a Trade Unions Act;
- The re-engagement of workers after the completion of military service;
- The abolition of the system of temporary employment;
- Prevention of the reduction of wages as a result of the abolition of night work;
- Reform or abolition of the dormitory system in factories.

Mr. M. Yonekubo, Japanese workers' delegate to the Eleventh Session of the International Labour Conference, submitted a report, which was approved, on the negotiations in progress for a Far Eastern Labour Conference. At the same time, he presented to the Chairman the presidential gavel used at the Eleventh Session of the International Labour Conference.

Mr. Bunji Suzuki was re-elected president. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, December 3, 1928.)

Labour in Bihar and Orissa

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIES FOR 1927-28

During the year under report the supply of both skilled and unskilled labour was satisfactory. Wages remained almost stationary with slight variations in certain localities. As usual, the rate of wages paid to labourers working in the mines was higher than that paid to agricultural labour. The prices of food-grains and various other food stuffs consumed by the working classes remained more or less stationary. The relations between employers and employees were apparently satisfactory during the period from April to December 1927. But since January 1928, there has been considerable unrest amongst labourers at the Tata Works at Jamshedpur.

As regards the welfare of labour, the health of the labouring population continued to be generally satisfactory throughout the year under review. Owners of large collieries were, on the whole, found to be taking as keen an interest in the matter of sanitation, medical relief, lighting arrangements and water-supply as in the previous year. Some of them established dispensaries attended by qualified doctors for the treatment of miners and others distributed medicines and made arrangements for free first-aid only. Owing to continued depression in the coal trade, progress in the provision of sanitary housing accommodation was slow, but was, on the whole, satisfactory. Some colliery proprietors also made arrangements during the year for imparting free primary education to the children of the miners.

The index numbers compiled by the Department show that as compared with the previous year the average cost of living during the year under report was almost stationary in three centres, namely, Patna, Muzaffarpur and Monghyr, while it registered a further fall of five points at Jamshedpur, nine points each at Jharia and Cuttack, and a further fall of fourteen points at Ranchi. During the year under review, the average price of food-grains showed a further rise at Patna, Monghyr, Jamshedpur and Cuttack while it was stationary at Muzaffarpur and Jharia and lower at Ranchi. The average price of other articles of food was lower in all the centres except Monghyr where it was stationary. The price of clothing registered a further fall in all the centres of between 8 to 31 points. Only at Ranchi did the general index number fall by fourteen points. Taking the mean average of the whole year, Cuttack continued to maintain its position as the cheapest centre for the workmen to live in, while Jamshedpur and Jharia were almost equally the dearest, the difference between the two extremes being as much as 41 points. The three centres in the Bihar Division and Ranchi were almost equally cheap.

Questions in the Legislature

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Prompt Payment of Wages

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have arrived at a decision in the matter of "Prompt payment of wages" (vide Government reply to starred question No. 263 in the Assembly on 8th September 1928)?

(b) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

(c) If not, by what time do they expect to arrive at a decision in the

m The Honourable Sir B. N. Mitra: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government is not yet in a position to say when a decision is likely to be reached.

Minimum Wages

Diwan Chaman Lal: Will Government state whether they intend to ratify the minimum wage convention passed by the International Labour Conference?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Not at present.

Labour Representatives at the International Labour Conference

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Is it a fact that the names of delegates and advisers recommended by the Jheria Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress for the International Labour Conference, were adopted by the President, without putting the names to the vote in spite of protests and cancelling certain names that were adopted by the Executive Council originally?

(b) If so, do the Government propose to enquire into the regularity of the proceedings before considering the recommendations sent by the Secretary as the recommendation of Labour in India?

(c) Do Government propose to invite recommendations from the various labour unions individually for the proper representation of Indian labour in the International Labour Conference?

(d) Are Government prepared to secure the representation of labour by consulting the members of the Central Legislature and such other methods as may be feasible.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) to (d) Government have no information and do not propose to hold any enquiry into the matter. All organised representative associations of employers and employed were asked to submit their recommendations for the nomination of the non-Government delegates and advisers to the International Labour Conference by the 15th January 1929, and in making such nominations the Government of India are bound by the provisions of Article 389 of the Treaty of Versailles.

Ratifications of the Hours of Work and Weekly Rest Conventions

Mr. Varahagiri Venkata Jogiah: Will the Government be pleased to state the date from which they incurred the obligation of enforcing the

provisions of the Washington Hours Convention and Geneva Weekly Rest Convention, by ratifying them?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: 14th July 1921 in the case of the Washington Hours of Work Convention and 19th June 1923 in the case of the Weekly Rest Day Convention.

Amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act

Mr. N. M. Joshi: (a) With reference to the reply to my starred question No. 266, regarding the amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act, on 8th September 1928, will Government be pleased to state if they have addressed the Provincial Governments in the matter?

(b) If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) Does not arise.

Labour Exchanges

Mr. N. M. Joshi: (a) With reference to the reply given to my starred question No. 258 on 4th September 1928, regarding Labour Exchanges, will Government be pleased to say if they have received replies from the Local Governments?

(b) If the reply be in the affirmative will Government be pleased to keep a copy of the correspondence in the Library?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what action they would be pleased to take on the matter?

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

(b) and (c) As the Honourable Member is aware Government hope to discuss this matter with the Standing Advisory Committee attached to the Department of Industries and Labour. Copies of the correspondence will be supplied to the members of that Committee. Government do not consider it necessary to place a copy in the library.

**Increases in Working-Class Rents in Great Britain,
1914-1928**

As a result of the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (War Restrictions) Act, 1915, rents of working-class dwellings were at the same level as immediately before the war, apart from increases on account of increased rates and water charges, from the end of 1915 up to the entry into operation of the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920. The general effect of this Act, which came into operation in July 1920, was to restrict increases in the inclusive rents of pre-war working-class dwellings to an amount equal to the excess of the current rates and water charges over the rates and water charges of August 1914, and in addition an amount equal to 30 per cent. of the pre-war net rents* with a further 10 per cent. on pre-war net rents as from July 1921.

* In the great majority of cases rates and water charges on working-class properties are paid by the landlord and the tenant pays an inclusive sum, known to him as the "rent," which covers rent, plus rates and water charges. In this article this inclusive sum is described as the gross rent, and the rent exclusive of rates and water charges is described as the net rent.

The foregoing restrictions on increases in rents are still applicable in the case of the great majority of working-class dwellings. The Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Act, 1923, however, removed from the controlling restrictions the rents of houses or parts of houses in actual possession of the landlord on 31st July 1923, or which have come into the actual possession of the landlord subsequently to that date, except in certain circumstances. The proportion of cases of de-control is now becoming appreciable, and accordingly inquiries have recently been made as to the rents of de-controlled tenancies, in addition to the inquiries into controlled rents which have been made regularly for some years past.

CONTROLLED RENTS

In order to ascertain the extent of the increases in controlled rents, inquiries have been made, from time to time, of Property Owners' Associations, Trades Councils and Tenants' Associations, and Town Clerks and other officials of Local Authorities; and the Department is indebted to them for their valuable assistance.

From the information received as a result of these inquiries, it is calculated that the net rent of urban working-class dwellings in 1914 was, on the average, about three-quarters of the gross rent, and the permissible increase of 40 per cent. on net rent is thus equivalent to about 30 per cent. of the gross rent of 1914. The average permissible increase on account of higher rates and water charges is in December 1928, about 21 per cent. of the pre-war gross rent. Thus the average permissible increase in controlled urban working-class rents in Great Britain is approximately 51 per cent. of the gross rents of 1914. The permissible increases have not been put into force in all cases, but inquiries in regard to the extent to which the permissible increases are actually being charged indicate that they are operative to the extent of 97 to 98 per cent., and that the actual increase in the controlled gross rents of urban working-class dwellings in Great Britain since July 1914, averages approximately 50 per cent. in December 1928.

DE-CONTROLLED RENTS

On the subject of de-controlled rents, information which has been collected from a number of Town Clerks and other officials of Local Authorities shows that the proportion of de-controlled to controlled rents varies appreciably as between different districts, but is generally small in the case of working-class dwellings, and averages about 6 per cent. in December 1928.

There is wide variation in the movement of rents on de-control. In some cases rents have been continued at the controlled figures; in other cases the de-controlled rent is much greater than the previous controlled rent. Much more often the de-controlled rent represents an intermediate increase on the controlled rent. In general, the information received indicates that the de-controlled urban working-class rents in December 1928, average about 85 to 90 per cent. above the level of July 1914.

CONTROLLED AND DE-CONTROLLED RENTS COMBINED

Although the level of de-controlled rents is substantially higher than that of controlled rents, the proportion of de-controlled rents is so small

that their influence on the general average level of rents is not very considerable. If the average increase in de-controlled rents is combined, in appropriate proportion, with the average increase of approximately 50 per cent. in controlled rents, the general average increase for controlled and de-controlled urban working-class rents together is approximately 52 per cent. in December 1928.

RENTS AND THE COST-OF-LIVING INDEX NUMBER

As the information now in the possession of the Ministry of Labour with regard to de-controlled rents is sufficient to warrant its inclusion among the figures used in the compilation of the cost-of-living index number, it has been so included in the calculation of the statistics for 1st December 1928, in the present issue of the *Gazette*.

Hitherto, the figures for rents have been based on controlled rents only. The inclusion of figures for de-controlled rents results in the final cost-of-living index number for 1st December being one point higher than it would otherwise have been, viz., 68 instead of 67 per cent. above the level of July 1914. As a result of recalculation of the statistics for dates from 1st March to 1st November 1928, it is found that if figures for de-controlled rents had been included the final cost-of-living index numbers as published for those dates would not have been altered. (From "*Ministry of Labour Gazette*," London, December 1928.)

Labour Conditions in Russia

EFFECT OF THE SEVEN-HOUR DAY

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution in 1927 the Central Executive Committee of the Soviet Union issued a manifesto announcing that the seven-hour day was to be introduced gradually in Russian industry within a period of five years. It was also announced that the governmental committee on the seven-hour day was to draw up a plan of application of the seven-hour system for the economic year 1928-29. The Committee has been working on this plan since last July, and recently published it. At its session of 30th October 1928 the General Council of Trade Union discussed the question of the seven-hour day. Mr. Schmidt, Chairman of the governmental committee, explained the results, particularly from the social point of view, of the experiments made in the first months of 1928, and the prospects for 1928-29. The following information which deals with the economic aspect of the question is of interest.

Field of Application in 1928.—In 1928 the seven-hour system was applied to 28 undertakings, employing 118,600 workers. The first result of the change to the seven-hour system was an increase in the number of workers employed. In the 24 textile undertakings the number of workers employed increased by about 20 per cent.

The Three-Shift System.—It has been necessary to make changes in organisation of work. The number of shifts has been greatly increased as the following table shows :—

Distribution per cent. of Workers in Cotton Factories according to the Number of Shifts worked

System	Work carried out in			
	One shift	Two shifts	Three shifts	Four shifts
Eight-hour system	4.3	87.5	7.2	1.0
Seven-hour system	1.1	30.8	66.9	1.2

At present one-third of the workers are still working in two shifts, but the three-shift system seems likely to spread. As the number of shifts increased, the distribution of workers in the shifts was equalised. Under the seven-hour system, if the first shift be taken as the basis of comparison, the numbers of the other two are represented by 96.7 per cent. and 93.4 per cent., respectively.

Night Work.—An important result of the reform is that it has greatly increased the amount of night work. Under the seven-hour system about 50 per cent. of the workers work at night, while under the eight-hour system this proportion was only 32 per cent. The general result of the seven-hour system as regards hours of labour at night is that while under the eight-hour system the worker employed at night worked on an average 1.64 hours at night, he now works 2.20 hours. The average number of hours of night work has risen for all workers from 0.53 to 1.07.

Advantage has also been taken of the change to the seven-hour system to reorganise the machine service. The number of machines served by each worker has been increased in proportions varying from 5 to 30 per cent.

Economic Results.—Up to the present the economic results of the reform have been unsatisfactory. For various reasons the economic results achieved in different textile factories have been variable, but the seven-hour system has nowhere reached as high a degree of efficiency as the eight-hour day. The technical results are also not yet entirely satisfactory.

While absolute production, especially in the textile industry, has increased to some extent, relative productivity has not increased in the same proportion. On the whole, it has rather declined. From the beginning the number of stoppages of work resulting from bad use of the plant has increased. Wages have risen even more quickly than individual production. In view of the bad use of plant, the decline in individual production and the proportionately excessive rise in wages, the change to the seven-hour day has not helped to reduce costs; in many undertakings, indeed, the cost of production of manufactured articles has increased.

Changes Required in Labour Legislation.—The change to the seven-hour day calls for the amendment of existing labour legislation. For the present it is not possible to carry out a complete revision, but it is necessary to amend the Acts relating to night work for women, child labour, etc.

The governmental committee has not yet decided on the changes to be made in the existing system.

The experience of these few months has shown that night work is more exhausting than work done by day. It is held that the night shift should work one hour less than the day shift. It will be necessary in any case to consider compensation in cases where the night shift cannot work less than seven-hours. This is being done in the textile undertakings.

Hours of labour for children according to the governmental committee should provisionally be maintained as at present, since the reduced hours provided by legislation for young persons are already a burden on industry.

The extension of the seven-hour system makes it necessary to improve the living conditions of the workers. The first question is that of housing. The employment of 30,000 new workers during the next year is anticipated. It will obviously be necessary to house them, and in many cases workers will have to change their domicile. The increase in the number of women workers calls for the development of certain services, such as factory nurseries.

The question of labour protection has also assumed the greatest importance. Unless it is seriously faced, an increase of illness, accidents and voluntary unemployment must be expected. For the textile undertakings which were placed under the seven-hour system in 1928, two million roubles were assigned for the development of labour protection; but these subsidies were not used since the preparatory work had not been done. The result has been an increase of illness and accidents.

Finally one of the fundamental problems to be considered is that of the recruiting of labour. The labour exchanges can supply practically no skilled workers. It is therefore necessary to train them in a continuous and methodical way. This year an attempt was made to teach the building trades to unemployed persons in towns, who have thus been able to find employment in preference to peasants.

EQUALISATION OF WAGES

The All-Union General Council of Trade Unions, which was held at Moscow from 26th to 29th October 1928 discussed among other things the question of wage policy.

The Seventh Trade Union Congress held in 1926 urged the adoption of measures (1) to reduce the disproportion between wages as fixed by the scale and the actual amounts paid to the workers; (2) to reduce the discrepancy between the wages of skilled and unskilled labour; and (3) to equalise wages between the different branches of industry.

With regard to the first point, noteworthy results have been achieved. In the scales of wages, the minimum rates have been increased from 30 to 50 per cent.; at the same time the standard of individual output has been raised.

The discrepancy between the earnings of skilled and unskilled workers has also been reduced. At present it is represented on an average by the proportion of three to one. It is estimated that only 8.5 per cent. of industrial workers are receiving a wage which does not exceed half of the average wage and that 48 per cent. are receiving a wage amounting to between 50 and 100 per cent. of the average wage.

The equalisation of wages in the different branches of industry is still far from being achieved. While the average monthly wage for the whole of the industry is 70 roubles, the workers in the rubber industry, who are the best paid, receive 101 roubles a month. Next to this comes the food industry and last of all the textile industry.

Several delegates pointed out that the considerable rise in the cost of living in recent months has noticeably reduced the real value of wages. According to one delegate, this reduction would amount to 10 per cent. A trade union representative stated, in addition, that though according to official statistics the co-operative stores supplied the workers with 25 per cent. of the products they required, the truth was that for many articles of prime necessity this proportion was only between 15 and 25 per cent., the rest being provided by private trade at higher prices.

To remedy this position the meeting decided to suspend the application of the measures for the reduction of the discrepancy between the scales of wages and the amounts paid to the workers in cases where such measures might bring about a reduction of wages for a large number of workers. The meeting further resolved that the State funds intended for the increase and regulation of wages should be devoted chiefly to the raising of wages in heavy industry, especially in the iron and steel trades and mining. Many delegates, however, declared that it would be very difficult not to make a similar increase in wages in light industry, in view of the rise in the cost of living. Finally the meeting resolved to approach the workers' co-operative institutions in order to secure better provision for the workers. (Abstracted from "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, December 3, 1928.)

The Labour Movement in Japan

GENERAL REVIEW

The Japanese business world, which had suffered a terrible blow in the Earthquake, had its weakness revealed in the financial crisis of last year. The depression in business circles was intensified as an aftermath of that crisis. Economic depression is notoriously responsible for changes, both industrial and social. The difficulties, in which the employers found themselves, compelled a readjustment in the economic world—a readjustment which meant a concentration of Capital and an increased dependence of entrepreneurs on financiers. The power of concentrated Capital makes itself felt more and more strongly by dint of political influence.

Such being the general situation, what have been the recent conditions in the relationship between Capital and Labour? The position may be summarized as an offensive on the part of Capital and a defensive on the side of Labour. In opposition to the Capitalists and Landlords, who took a strong attitude, the working people, whether in urban or agricultural districts, had to put up a hard fight for the defence of their position. As a direct consequence, a large increase was recorded in the number of disputes, both industrial and agrarian. In these struggles, the workers

lost on all sides—not a single important dispute was settled to their advantage. However, there was for the Labour Movement something encouraging in the prospect of a General Election, which was in this country the first ever to be held under Manhood Suffrage. So the workers decided all the more quickly to take a new direction in their movement. While fighting a rear-guard action against the Capitalists, they made an advance into the political field. This has been the most important development in the Japanese Labour Movement in the recent past.

The social ideas of the West, as might be expected, came to exercise a strong influence on the minds of the leaders, who were organizing the workers for political action. Their influence could be seen in splits among the three leading organizations—the Farmers' Union, the Labour Peasant Party and, later, the Federation of Labour. There followed a regrouping of forces, and three different positions, namely, the right wing, the centre, and the left wing, became more marked within the Movement. In spite of this division in the labour world, organization of workers, including women, was in progress, resulting in an increase in union membership. There were also indications that the "black-coated" proletariat was moving in the direction of the manual workers.

With Labour entering politics, the syndicalist movement which negatives political action has practically disappeared from the Movement. And among the farmer unions in Japan the same thing can be said. The aggregate membership of the Farmers' Unions, for instance, is still less than 200,000, in spite of the fact that they constitute 70 per cent. of the whole proletarian population. Moreover, at the present moment, the peasants' interest in unionism is lagging, on account of the good harvest of last autumn. The agrarian leaders recently did much for the cause of a united front of the agricultural workers. But the efforts were utterly unfruitful.

In this country, May-Day will be celebrated this year for the ninth time. Last year, the Day was observed in a hundred and twenty-three different places, an addition of some thirty places over the preceding year. An increased number of women participating in the celebrations was also a feature worth noticing. Labour in Japan, as elsewhere, is influenced by events in the international labour movement. During last year, the rise and fall of the Ou-Han Government in China had an effect on both wings of the labour movement in this country. Also, the internal dissension of the Russian Communist Party had a repercussion on the labour intellectuals in Japan.

While the recent history of the Japanese labour movement is a history of defeat in the industrial field, a new file has opened for labour in the political sphere. Labour had eight members returned to Parliament in the General Election held in February. Political activities are no unmixed blessing to the unions, which are already suffering a strain on the account. In spite of all that, however, there is in Labour circles here a growing desire for creating a Trade Union Congress of Japan, as a means of realizing working-class solidarity. (From "Present-Day Japan," 1928.)

Trade Unions in Great Britain

MEMBERSHIP AND INCOME IN 1927

The Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies has issued a Statistical Summary, giving preliminary figures of the membership, income, expenditure and funds in the years 1918-1927 of those trade unions in Great Britain which were registered under the Trade Union Acts.

Comparative figures for the years 1918, 1920 (when the aggregate membership of trade unions reached its highest point) and 1925-27 extracted from this Summary, are given below, the membership being shown to the nearest thousand, and the income, expenditure and funds to the nearest £1000. It should be observed that the figures relate only to Great Britain, and that registered trade unions of employers, as well as of employees, are included in the figures. The employers' unions included, however, form only a small proportion of the total, e.g., in 1927 they numbered 91, with a total membership of 44,000, an aggregate income of £125,000, expenditure of £108,000 and funds of £189,000.

Registered Trade Unions in Great Britain

	1918	1920	1925	1926	1927
Number of Unions on Register at end of Year ..	621	656	579	577	578
Membership at end of Year	5,294	6,982	4,492	4,192	3,947
Income—		Thousands of £			
From Members	6,231	11,315	8,097	7,120	7,465
From Ministry of Labour (Unemployment Insurance and Administration Expenses)	91	312	3,122	4,542	2,096
From Other Sources ..	814	1,372*	741	2,282	636
Expenditure—					
Unemployment, Travelling and Emigration Benefit† ..	283†	1,718†	4,527†	6,377†	3,131†
Dispute Benefit	295	3,219	313	5,617	187
Sick and Accident Benefit	666	748	793	808	772
Funeral Benefit	369	297	319	318	340
Other Benefits, including Superannuation and Grants to Members	563	724	1,063	1,141	1,136
Payments from Political Fund	134	185	114	108	135
Grants to Federations, Other Societies, etc.	396	1,687*	355	456	244
Management and Other Expenses ..	2,164	4,363	3,292	3,216	2,994
Total Funds—					
At beginning of Year ..	12,755	15,917	11,533	12,747	8,641
At end of Year	15,021	15,975*	12,717	8,650	9,899

*The sum of £1,687,000 shown under "Grants to Federations, Other Societies, etc.," in 1920, includes a substantial amount of funds transferred to the Amalgamated Engineering Union by certain unions which amalgamated to form that union in 1920, but not brought into account in the return of that union until 1921. The figures shown for 1920 under "Income from Other Sources" and "Total Funds at end of Year" are, accordingly, lower than would have been the case if these funds had been brought into account.

†The expenditure on Unemployment, Travelling and Emigration Benefit shown in this Table (e.g., £3,131,000 in 1927) represents the total amount paid by the unions, including, in addition to the benefit chargeable to the funds of the unions, the amounts disbursed by the unions and recoverable from the Ministry of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Acts. The total amount receivable each year from the Ministry of Labour on this account and in respect of administration expenses (e.g., £2,096,000 in 1927) is shown under "Income."

In the following Table details are given of the aggregate membership, income, expenditure and funds in 1927 in each of a number of different groups of trade unions:—

Group	Unions on the Register at end of 1927	Membership at end of 1927	Income	Expenditure		
				Unemployment, Traveling and Emigration Benefit	Other Expenditure	Funds at end of 1927
		Thousands.	£1,000's	£1,000's	£1,000's	£1,000's
Mining and Quarrying..	104	616	1,037	214	633	415
Metals, Machines, Implements and Conveyances ..	73	609	2,905	1,275	1,455	2,742
Textiles ..	66	244	781	422	235	1,545
Clothing ..	15	142	335	140	164	528
Papermaking, Printing, etc.	20	120	562	195	315	597
Building, Decorating, etc.	29	320	1,194	472	607	731
Transport ..	26	534	1,234	108	769	1,589
Commerce and Finance	33	217	335	19	281	335
Other and General	121	1,101	1,688	286	1,241	1,228
Total of above Registered Employers' Associations ..	487	3,903	10,071	3,131	5,700	9,710
	91	44	125		108	189
GRAND TOTAL ..	578	3,947	10,196	3,131	5,808	9,899

MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

Trade Unions

The statistics are compiled from returns collected by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, and by the Registrar of Friendly Societies for Northern Ireland, from Trade Unions registered under the Trade Union Acts, and by the Ministry of Labour from unregistered Unions. They relate to all organisations of employees—including those of salaried and professional workers, as well as those of manual wage earners—which are known to include among their functions that of negotiating with employers with the object of regulating the conditions of employment of their members.

The total number of such Unions known to have been in existence at the end of 1927* was 1127, as compared with 1136 at the end of 1926.

* The figures for 1927 are provisional, and may be subject to slight revision when further information is available. The figures for earlier years have been revised as necessary in accordance with the latest information. The subdivision of the total membership into male and female is not exact, as estimates have been made for some Trade Unions which are unable to state precisely the numbers of males and of females comprised within their membership.

The number of Unions dissolved in 1927, so far as reported, was 23, with an aggregate membership of 2000 at the end of 1926; 12 Unions, with an aggregate membership of 14,000 at the end of 1926, amalgamated with other Unions; while 26 new Unions, with a total membership of 7000 (including one Union formed by amalgamation), were reported as formed during the year.

The total membership at the end of 1927* was approximately 4,908,000*, as compared with 5,207,000 at the end of 1926, showing a decrease of 299,000, or 5·7 per cent. The number of male members was 4,116,000, a decrease of 280,000, or 6·4 per cent., as compared with the previous year, and the number of female members was 792,000, a decrease of 19,000, or 2·3 per cent.

The total of 4,908,000 includes about 29,000 members in Irish Free State branches, and 30,000 members in other overseas branches of certain Unions (compared with 30,000 in Irish Free State branches and 28,000 in other overseas branches in the previous year). It also includes a certain number of persons (principally teachers) who are members of more than one society, and are therefore counted more than once in the figures. When allowance is made for these cases the net number of members in Great Britain and Northern Ireland is estimated to have been about 4,840,000 at the end of 1927, compared with about 5,140,000 at the end of 1926. Of this total approximately 72,000 was the membership of Unions or branches of Unions in Northern Ireland.

Distribution of Membership in 1927

The manufacturing industries groups accounted for 41 per cent. of the total membership at the end of 1927, and of these the metal groups, with a total of 620,000, represented 13 per cent., and the textile groups, totalling nearly 600,000, accounted for 12 per cent. of the total membership of all Unions. Railway service (413,000) and water and other transport (464,000), together comprised 18 per cent.; mining and quarrying, with 678,000, 14 per cent., government (341,000), teaching (205,000), commerce, distribution and finance (221,000), and entertainments and miscellaneous (78,000), 17 per cent. General labour, with a membership of 448,000, accounted for 9 per cent. The male membership represented more than 75 per cent. of the total male and female membership in the manufacturing industries, more than 90 per cent. in general labour, and nearly 100 per cent. in mining and in transport; in the remaining groups of industries, taken together, it represented 70 per cent. of the total male and female membership. Female membership was mainly concentrated in the textile group (328,000) and the teaching group (140,000), which together accounted for nearly 60 per cent. of the total female membership in all groups.

* The figures for 1927 are provisional, and may be subject to slight revision when further information is available. The figures for earlier years have been revised as necessary in accordance with the latest information. The subdivision of the total membership into male and female is not exact, as estimates have been made for some Trade Unions which are unable to state precisely the numbers of males and of females comprised within their membership.

Changes in Distribution of Membership, 1926-1927

Of the 33 groups under which the Unions have been classified, there was a decrease in the total membership in 27 groups and an increase in 6 groups. The largest numerical decreases were 107,000 in mining and quarrying, 79,000 in railway service, 20,000 in road transport, dock labour, etc., 38,000 in the metal groups, 25,000 in general labour and 15,000 in cotton. The largest percentage decreases were in railway service (16), iron, steel, tinplate, etc., manufacture (15), mining and quarrying (14), building labourers (13), and pottery and glass (11).

The only groups showing increases in membership of 5000 or more were national and local government (8000), and teaching (5000), while no group showed a percentage increase on the year of more than 3 per cent.

As in the previous year the decrease in male membership was proportionately heavier than in female membership, the greatest losses having fallen upon groups of industries in which females are not largely employed. The largest numerical changes in the female membership were in cotton (-10,000), general labour (-4000), and teaching (+6000).

Comparison with 1913 and with 1920

In comparison with 1920, the year in which Trade Union membership reached its highest point, the only group to show an increase was that of teaching. The total membership decreased by over 41 per cent. The general labour group, which had the largest membership of all the groups in 1920, had lost nearly two-thirds of that membership by the end of 1927.

Compared with 1913 the total membership showed an increase of over three-quarters of a million (nearly 19 per cent.), the only groups showing a decrease being mining and quarrying (240,000, or 26 per cent.), and cotton (18,000, or 5 per cent.). Most of the groups showed increases of 30 per cent. or more.

The total female membership in 1927 had decreased by over 40 per cent. as compared with 1920. It was, however, more than 80 per cent. greater than in 1913, notwithstanding that the group with the largest number of female members, *viz.*, cotton, showed little increase.

A considerable part of the reduction in the total number of Trade Unions in recent years has been due to amalgamations of Unions among themselves. Since the end of 1920 there has been a net decrease of 239 in the number of Unions. The total reduction due to amalgamations during this period was 184, and that due to dissolutions was 260, while 205 new unions were formed (other than by amalgamation of existing unions). In the year 1927, when 25 new unions were formed (other than by amalgamation), 23 unions dissolved, and amalgamations reduced the number of unions by 11, the net reduction was nine.

FEDERATIONS OF TRADE UNIONS

Returns obtained by the Ministry of Labour show that at the end of 1927 the gross total membership of Federations of Trade Unions in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as reported to the Ministry of

was about 3,437,000. Corresponding figures are given below for the year of each one since 1913.—

Year	Number of Federations	Approximate Gross Total Membership	Year	Number of Federations	Approximate Gross Total Membership
1913	125	4,370,000	1921	105	4,221,000
1914	137	4,730,000	1922	95	4,276,000
1915	148	4,943,000	1923	92	3,507,000
1916	163	4,980,000	1924	90	4,441,000
1917	182	6,481,000	1925	82	4,191,000
1918	152	8,631,000	1926	82	3,901,000
1919	134	9,896,000	1927	79	3,437,000
1920	116	10,747,000			

The above Table shows that there has been a decline in the number of Federations almost every year since the end of 1917. In some years this decline was mainly due to the merging of local into national organisations. The decline in the gross total membership in recent years is partly the result of amalgamation superseding federation.

Of individual Federations, the General Federation of Trade Unions included, at the end of 1927, 102 Trade Unions, which paid fees to the Federation on a membership of 558,000.

Among other Federations, those which had the largest membership were the Miners' Federation of Great Britain; the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades; the Northern Counties Textile Trades Federation and the United Textile Factory Workers' Association (representing the cotton industry); the National Association of Unions in the Textile Trades (representing other textile industries); the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation; the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives; and the National Federation of Professional Workers.

In many instances Trade Unions, or branches of Trade Unions, are affiliated to more than one Federation, and therefore a large number of Trade Union members are counted more than once in the gross membership given above.

The proportion of federated membership at the end of 1927 showed a decrease in seven groups and an increase in one group.

The considerable decreases in the metal and clothing groups were due to the secession of a large Union in each group from the General Federation of Trade Unions. In the "other transport" group the decrease was caused by the secession of the National Union of Seamen from the National Transport Workers' Federation, followed by the dissolution of that Federation.

TRADES UNION CONGRESS

For the purpose of the Ministry of Labour's statistics the Trades Union Congress is not regarded as a Federation of Trade Unions. At the 60th Annual Congress in September 1928, the membership of organisations

* The reduction shown in comparison with 1923 is partly due to a change in the basis of membership of one large federation, which formerly returned the gross membership in all industries of its constituent Unions, but now bases its fees upon their membership in the industries with which it deals.

affiliated to the Congress was approximately 3,815,000, as compared with 4,164,000 in the previous year. The decrease since 1927 was partly due to reductions in the membership of affiliated unions, notably in the mining group, and partly to the operation of the Trade Disputes and Trade Union Act, 1927, as a result of which unions of Post Office workers and other Government workers were no longer represented. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette" London, December 1928 and January 1929.)

Hours of Labour in Germany : Trade Union Report

The results have been published of an inquiry made by the General Confederation of German Trade Unions into the hours actually worked in the building, printing, chemical, woodworking, metal and engineering, boot and shoe, and textile industries in Germany in the first week of October 1928. Similar inquiries had previously been made by the Confederation in May and November 1924, and in April and October 1927.

The figures for the inquiry of October 1928, a summary of which is given below, are based on returns furnished by 556 local trades councils, and cover 73,288 undertakings, in which 3,101,078 workers were employed during the week in question. The corresponding figures for the inquiry of October 1927, were, respectively, 535, 67,099 and 2,904,849. The following table shows the percentages of the total number of workers in the various industries (a) working short time, and (b) working a full week (including overtime, where worked) of the number of hours stated

Industry	Total Number of Workers covered	Percentage of Total Number of Workers in each Industry employed during the week ended 6th October 1928, on					
		Short time	Full time (including overtime, where worked) of				
			Under 48 hours	48 hours	Over 48 and up to 51 hours	Over 51 and up to 54 hours	Over 54 hours
Building	414,086	..	25.7	65.4	3.8	3.9	1.2
Printing	96,369	1.0	3.9	84.1	5.9	3.1	2.0
Chemical	230,567	3.0	2.5	67.1	4.8	15.2	7.4
Woodworking	222,160	5.0	11.3	75.6	4.5	2.9	0.7
Metal and Engineering	1,525,591	9.4	1.8	54.5	12.5	16.8	5.0
Boot and Shoe	81,879	59.0	1.9	35.2	3.4	0.4	0.1
Textile	530,426	25.9	5.9	35.6	21.9	9.8	0.9
All industries combined Oct., 1928	3,101,078	11.3	6.5	55.6	11.3	11.9	3.4
Do. Oct., 1927	2,904,849	1.7	6.0	49.6	14.4	22.1	6.2

The Report draws attention to the fact that while in October 1927, 1.7 per cent. of the workers covered by the inquiry were working short time, this percentage had increased to 11.3 in October 1928. This is due to the unfavourable condition of industry, which has brought about the working of short time in many trades, and this factor, it is emphasised, must be kept in mind, in order to avoid arriving at erroneous conclusions. The present inquiry shows that only 26.6 per cent. of the persons reported worked more than 48 hours weekly, compared with 42.7 per cent. in October 1927; 23.2 per cent. worked over 48 and up to 54 hours in October 1928, compared with 36.5 per cent. in October 1927; while 1.4 per cent. exceeded 54 hours in 1928, compared with 6.2 in 1927. Notwithstanding the effects of short time, it is considered that the present inquiry shows that progress is being made in the endeavour to attain a general working day of eight hours. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette" London, December 1928.)

Wages and Hours in the Cotton and Wool Industries in the United States

COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The United States Bureau of Labour Statistics has recently published the results of a survey of earnings and hours in the cotton spinning and weaving industry, made during March to June, 1928. (A summary of the results of a similar inquiry made in 1926 was given in the issue of "Labour Gazette" for June 1927, page 899.) The data were collected from the pay rolls and other records of 158 representative cotton mills in 11 States, in respect of 49,861 male and 38,145 female wage-earners. In 1925, over 88 per cent. of the total number of wage-earners in the industry were employed in the 11 States from which the data were drawn.

The survey shows that earnings in the industry were slightly lower in 1928 than in 1926. In 1928, average hourly earnings for all employees were found to be 32.4 cents, and average full-time earnings per week were 17.30 dollars, compared with 32.8 cents and 17.48 dollars respectively in 1926. The average full-time hours per week were approximately the same, being 53.4 in 1928 and 53.3 in 1926. The following Table shows the average full-time weekly hours of labour, the average hourly earnings and the average full-time weekly earnings for some of the principal classes of workpeople:—

Occupation	Average full-time hours per week	Average earnings per hour	
		Cents	Dollars
Picker tenders .. male	54.5	28.2	15.37
Card tenders and strippers .. male	54.2	31.4	17.02
Card grinders .. male	53.9	40.7	21.94
Drawing frame tenders .. male	54.9	28.2	15.48

Occupation		Average full-time hours per week	Average earnings per hour	Average earnings per week
Drawing frame tenders	..female	53.9	34.5	18.60
Slubber tenders	..male	52.9	29.6	15.66
Speeder tenders	..female	53.4	32.4	17.30
Spinners, mule	..male	53.9	34.5	18.60
Spinners, frame	..female	52.9	29.6	15.66
Doffers	..female	53.4	32.4	17.30
Spooler tenders	..male	53.9	34.5	18.60
Beamer tenders	..female	52.9	29.6	15.66
Drawers-in, hand	..male	53.4	32.4	17.30
Loom fixers	..male	53.9	34.5	18.60
Weavers	..female	52.9	29.6	15.66
Weavers	..male	53.4	32.4	17.30
All employees*	{ male	53.9	34.5	18.60
	{ female	52.9	29.6	15.66
	{ average	53.4	32.4	17.30

The variations in average full-time hours per week and average full-time earnings per week for male and female workers as between one State and another in 1928 are shown in the following Table—

State	Average full-time hours per week		Average full-time earnings per week	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Alabama	55.0	55.0	Dollars 14.58	Dollars 11.88
Connecticut	50.9	50.7	21.53	17.85
Georgia	56.2	56.0	15.79	12.77
Maine	54.1	54.0	20.02	15.71
Massachusetts	49.7	47.9	21.22	16.91
New Hampshire	53.9	53.3	24.52	20.31
New York	48.6	48.4	31.34	18.15
North Carolina	55.8	55.8	17.41	14.62
Rhode Island	52.1	52.2	23.08	19.47
South Carolina	55.0	55.0	15.46	12.32
Virginia	55.2	55.1	19.04	14.99
All above States	53.9	52.9	18.60	15.66

* Including some occupations not mentioned above.

(From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, January 1929.)

The Trade Disputes Bill

Views of Organisations Consulted on the Provisions of the Bill

In October 1928, the Government of India in the Legislative Department issued a circular letter to all Local Governments, forwarding copies of the above Bill together with copies of an extract from the Legislative Assembly debates of the 21st September 1928 regarding the Bill, and inviting expressions of opinion, after consulting the interests concerned, on the provisions of the Bill. A copy of the Bill was published on pages 1071 to 1077 of the August 1928 issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The Government of Bombay in the General Department addressed certain officials and bodies in the matter, vide G. D. G. R. No. 6928, dated the 22nd October 1928, and left it to the Labour Office to consult any additional persons and bodies whom it may deem it necessary to address in the connection. In all 75 persons and bodies were consulted out of whom 33 replied. The following summary contains the views forwarded by the principal non-official organisations consulted, classified under different headings—

I Principle of the Bill

EMPLOYERS' INTERESTS

The Chamber of Commerce, Bombay

The acceptance of the principle of the appointment of Committees of Inquiry and Boards of Conciliation involves to some extent a new departure for the Chamber which in the past had opposed Government intervention in industrial disputes except on the motion of both the parties concerned. Times are however changing and opinion is now leaning round to the view that the Government has a certain responsibility in these matters. In England it has been found necessary to introduce legislation after the failure of the general strike in 1926 and the Trade Disputes and Trades Unions Act, 1927, has been passed to prevent a repetition of any similar stoppage. The Indian Trade Disputes Bill is framed in connection on the lines of the English Act and after their experience in India of labour unrest during the present year and the causes thereof, the Committee of the Chamber are of opinion that legislation of this description is necessary. They are therefore prepared to accord their approval to the Bill subject to certain reservations detailed under the separate heads.

The Karachi Chamber of Commerce

Resolutions to raise in regard to the Bill.

The Ahmedabad Millowners' Association

The principle underlying the Bill is no doubt commendable but it is hoped that Government will refer any trade disputes to a Court of Inquiry or a Board of Conciliation only after all reasonable avenues of settlement between the parties concerned in such disputes have been exhausted and

the dispute has practically reached the stage of a crisis. The future success of such legislation mainly depends upon the development of strong and responsible Trade Unions on the one hand, and the judicious selection of persons comprising the contemplated Courts of Inquiry and Boards of Conciliation on the other. Government are no doubt given a free hand in such selection. Further, it should be borne in mind that they will choose such people in relation to a particular dispute as would command the highest confidence of the public in general and whose judgment would prove effective in mobilising the force of public opinion.

The Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay

The Committee generally approve of the principles underlying the Bill. They view the present industrial situation in this country with such grave apprehension that they thought it their duty in collaboration with the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce to urge the Government of India to take immediate steps to get the Trade Disputes Bill passed through the legislature.

The Karachi Indian Merchants' Association, Karachi

The Association consider that clauses 1 to 14 are mainly unobjectionable but that sections 15 to 20 are highly objectionable as they considerably affect adversely the position of an employee and give power to Government to declare strikes illegal and inflict punishment on persons declaring or instigating the same.

The Bombay Presidency Trades Association, Bombay

As all the members of the Association are engaged in retail trade only, they are not directly interested in the Bill under consideration except in so far as it is a matter which is of urgent importance as regards the welfare of the body politic generally. Viewed from this standpoint, they approve of the provisions contained in the Bill.

LARGE LABOUR-EMPLOYING ORGANISATIONS

The Chairman, Bombay Port Trust

The Bombay Port Trust is in complete agreement with the principles of the Bill.

The Chairman, Karachi Port Trust

Such legislation is desirable.

The Municipal Commissioner, Bombay Municipality

"It is presumed that the proposed Act does not override the provisions of the Municipal Servants' Act. If this presumption is correct, I have no remarks to offer."

The Bombay Telephone Company, Ltd.

Favours the principle of the Bill and in particular, of the special provision regarding public utility services.

The Bombay Gas Company, Ltd.

The draft Bill appears to be clear and reasonable.

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The Kamgar Hitwardhak Sabha, Bombay

The Sabha is in full accord with the general tenor of the measure and it thinks that there are hardly any objections that can be taken to the proposed provisions.

The Bombay Municipal Workmen's Union and G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union

The Bill as a whole must be vigorously opposed as a repressive measure and it should be demanded that Government stop encroaching on the already meagre rights that the workers of India possess to-day.

The Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay, and the Bombay Dock Workers' Union

The Unions approve of the principle of the Bill as regards the establishment of Courts of Inquiry and Boards of Conciliation to deal with trade disputes with the object of their settlement. The creation of such a machinery by legislation was long overdue to prevent long-drawn out strikes due to the unfair attitude several times adopted by employers to the detriment of industrial progress and the welfare of the workers. The Unions, however, feel constrained to say that the Bill, as it is drafted, is conceived more in the interests of capital than those of labour, while it should be the first object of a Bill of such a nature to safeguard the welfare of the workers in conformity with the best interests which should be looked upon more as national assets than mere private enterprises entitled to exploit labour. Further, though there may be a few undesirable political agitators taking part in the trade union movement, it is hardly sagacious to import political prejudices in a piece of legislation intended and calculated to safeguard both labour and industry against unreasonable and unconscionable demands and exploitation.

Bombay Kasbi Karigars' Union

The proposed Bill is worthy of support in its general principles but the Union is opposed to clauses 15 to 20.

The Bombay Textile Labour Union

On the whole the Union welcomes the Trade Disputes Bill as such legislation is very necessary and has been overdue. They take objection to some of the provisions in the Bill which will adversely affect some of the legitimate activities of trade unions and retard their growth on a sound footing. They welcome the idea of setting up of Courts of Inquiry and Boards of Conciliation as these will tend to minimise the harmful effects of trade disputes which generally drag on till one of the parties climbs down. Government have taken the right step in not recommending compulsory arbitration.

The Union strongly objects to clauses 15 and 16 since they have been worded as to make the position of workers more unsafe. Clauses 19 and 20 are also calculated to do much harm to the growth and consolidation of the position of trade unions and the Union is definitely against the inclusion of such reactionary principles in the present Bill. In fact, the

last 7 clauses have vitiated the whole position as the Bill assumes to give with one hand what it takes away with the other. The principle of the Bill is welcomed but it is of the utmost importance that it should be radically amended before it can be acceptable to labour in general.

The Karachi Municipal Sweepers' Union, Karachi

The Union recognises the need of suitable legislation to settle industrial disputes but is strongly of the opinion that the measure which the Government has proposed is a menace to the labour movement as a whole and it seeks to take away the fundamental right of every worker, whether employed in public utility service or elsewhere, to strike and to show sympathy to their comrades by resorting to a sympathetic strike.

Legislation of this nature is long overdue but if certain undesirable provisions which are highly detrimental to labour interests in general are tacked on to a useful measure, the remedy proposed would be far worse than the disease itself and the legislation would not only be opposed by all labour organisations in particular and by the general public but will jeopardise the passing of an important piece of legislation which will ultimately result in continuing for a long time the present unsatisfactory state of affairs.

All-India and Burmah Covenanted Non-Gazetted Railway Services Association, Bombay

The Committee of the Association whilst agreeing with the general terms of the Bill, consider that punishment under paragraph 15 is too harsh in view of the illiteracy of the Indian workmen.

The G.I.P. Railway Sholapur Staff Union, Sholapur

Sections 15 to 20 of the Bill will be a great hardship on labour and are therefore unacceptable.

The Bombay Millworkers' Union, Bombay

The Committee of the Union do not see their way to object to the general principles regarding the formation and establishment of Courts of Inquiry and Boards of Conciliation in the national interests.

The Bank Peons' Union, Bombay

On the whole the Union welcomes the intention of the Government in bringing into force such a Bill as the one proposed subject, however, to the deletion of clauses 15 to 20.

The G.I.P. Railway Staff Union, Bombay (Covers the views of all affiliated Unions) and the Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Association

Part III of the proposed Bill which deals with illegal strikes and lock-outs is likely to retard the progress of the Indian Trade Union movement rather than accelerate it. The Bill has consequently become most disappointing and mischievous.

The National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma, Bombay

The Union agrees with the views expressed by Col. Gidney in the Legislative Assembly at Simla on the 21st September 1928 as he represents

only the members of the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Association but the same classes are largely employed on the various Railways in India and Burma including Indians as well.

The Clerks' Union, Bombay

The anxiety of the Government of India seems not so much to provide a machinery for the settlement of oft-recurring strikes and disputes, as to strengthen the hands of the capitalist employers and indirectly their own and to perpetuate the miserable lot of workers in India by depriving them of their only weapon under the present conditions, for getting their grievances redressed, viz., a strike.

The B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees' Union, Bombay

The Bill as a whole is highly contentious and is a deliberate and unjustifiable attack on the elementary rights of labour. In the first place labour in India is in its infant stages and there can be no analogy between the conditions prevailing in other countries and this country. Government as a representative of the capitalists are bound to side with them. It has been claimed that this Bill, far from being hostile, is really in the interests of labour. But young as the Trade Unions at present are, they are competent to look after their own interests. The Bill is much wider than the English and Canadian Acts and seems to be a counterpart of the Public Safety Bill. In the Public Safety Bill, Government wanted to deport European British subjects: in this Bill Government seek to fine and imprison Indian British subjects. In either case it is the intention of the Government to cripple the Trade Union movement in India by depriving workers of the help that is being given to them of the idealists. The Union are emphatically opposed to any attempt on the part of Government to limit or to control the freedom of action which all Trade Unions now possess and want to have in the future.

The Bill if passed will intensify the national struggle for independence and also class-war. Any Committee appointed by Government will fail to enjoy the confidence of Trade Unions because the results of any enquiry would be foregone conclusions. The Bill betrays a clear intention on the part of Government to penalise any political action on the part of Trade Unions. The Bill is reactionary and mischievous and is calculated to render every help to capitalists and to Government themselves. It tries to impose several obligations on workers. But there is not a single word about the right of workers to employment unless dismissed after due enquiry by an impartial tribunal. It is a piece of step-motherly legislation which crushes out all independent spirit. Strikes and industrial unrest are the necessary accompaniments of the present day capitalist system and any Bill which attempts to remove the same without trying to remove the root cause is bound to fail. If there are to be peace and prosperity in industry, then all industries must be nationalised under democratic national Government, and, in the second place, workers must be given complete control in the management of a national industry. Government

should direct their misguided energy more to the granting of national councils of management in each industry on the lines of the Whitley Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Bombay European Textile Association

After very careful consideration, the Association is emphatically in favour of the Bill. It is one which is long overdue and it is hoped that it will be brought into force at the very earliest opportunity.

II. General Remarks on the Machinery provided for Investigation and Conciliation

(Clauses 3 to 14)

LARGE LABOUR EMPLOYING ORGANISATIONS

The Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Co., Ltd.

Both clauses should read "consist of one independent person."

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The Bombay Municipal Workmen's Union and G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union, Bombay

The machinery created for Courts of Inquiry and Boards of Conciliation appears to have been intended to be designed to prevent and settle disputes between employer and employee but as neither party will be under any obligation to accept the findings of the Court or the advice of the Board, this portion of the Bill will not carry out the function that those who designed it claim it will, namely, to prevent and settle disputes. It appears to be simply the thin end of the wedge to bring in legislation for compulsory arbitration.

The Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay, and the Bombay Dock Workers' Union, Bombay

The provisions of the Bill with regard to the constitution of Courts of Inquiry and Boards of Conciliation are not conceived with a due regard to the interest of the workers. It would be more conducive to their welfare if a panel of persons who would be required to constitute either the Court or the Board is sought to be created. If such a provision is made public, men who are interested in the welfare of workers and the industries will be called upon to decide or settle industrial disputes and the decisions arrived at or settlements reached will have the support of the public. The argument that persons of standing and experience of public affairs will be unwilling to constitute a panel is obviously not a sound one. No public man actuated by a desire to serve the community should think it derogatory to his dignity to be a member of the panel, and if he does think so, he is not worth his salt.

The Bombay Textile Labour Union, Bombay

Labour interests should be safeguarded in the constitution of Courts of Inquiry and Boards of Conciliation by establishing a system of panels from

which the members may be elected. This idea of establishing panels found favour with the Government when they circulated the Trade Disputes Bill in 1924. There should be a definite provision for this in the present Bill. If this view does not find favour there is every fear that the appointment of an *ad hoc* committee would give rise to suspicion and complaints where Government themselves are an interested party as the employers in the dispute under question.

It is not made clear when a Court of Inquiry or a Board of Conciliation will be called into existence. This is a serious defect in the Bill for everything depends on the initiative Government might take in the case of a private dispute; for where Government themselves are concerned they might be expected to act speedily to see that the trouble is averted. There must be some definite process by which Government may be made to act speedily to gain their ends for which the Bill is designed, as labour in India, at present, is not sufficiently organised and its staying power is very low. In the absence of such a provision the employers might prolong the dispute and compel the workers to surrender. If the Local Government are expected to wait till they are approached, the very necessity for such a legislation disappears as such Courts of Inquiry have been till now appointed only when struggles have reached a bitter end. The provisions of the Bill make the Government sole judges whether they should intervene or not.

The Karachi Municipal Sweepers Union, Karachi

The Union are in general agreement with clauses 3 to 14 which relate to the establishment of tribunals for the investigation and settlement of trade disputes.

The Press Workers' Union, Bombay

There should be a Standing Conciliation Committee in every province and labour should have the right to elect their own representatives to sit on such Committees.

The Clerks Union, Bombay

It is not worth while of the legislature to pass a Bill of the nature proposed if it is optional to the disputants to refer their dispute to the Boards or Courts and if the decision of the Boards or Courts is only to be treated as an expression of their opinion which cannot be enforced. The decision of Courts or Boards should be binding and enforceable upon the parties to the dispute.

The Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Association, Bombay and the G.I.P. Railway Staff Union (covers the views of all the affiliated Unions)

The reasons given by the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill against the appointment of panels out of which the representatives of labour and the representatives of employers should be chosen are based on false fears. The Unions do not agree with the statement that it will be difficult to obtain the right kind of persons from the standing panels and that the men who would be useful on these Boards would not be willing to have their names registered continuously as members of a panel.

Both these statements do injustice to the public-spirited citizens of India. Instances can be shown where persons of standing have rendered valuable service as arbitrators under the Co-operative Credit Societies Act for several years. It would not therefore be very difficult to find men coming forward to help the cause of labour by having their names on the panel. It is the considered opinion of the Unions that the panel system ought to be introduced in this connection.

The B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees' Union, Bombay

There is not much reason to object to the principle underlying the provisions in the first part of the Bill as it has been made clear that the decisions are not binding on either of the parties. Being the biggest employer of labour, Government cannot be the appointing authority if the tribunals are to inspire confidence in the workers. Arbitrators should be chosen by the parties themselves and not by an outside body like Government as provided in this Bill. On the whole, the provisions in sections 3 to 14 are dangerous, and the Unions will never accept them as they are.

III. Interpretation—Definition of "Employer"

[Clause 2 (c)]

EMPLOYERS' INTERESTS

The Chamber of Commerce, Bombay

The Bill is undoubtedly intended to provide for the investigation and settlement of all trade disputes either between private employers and their employees or Government Departments and their employees. The interpretation of the term "employer" in section 2 (c) is ambiguous and should be amplified so as to make it clear that the term includes a private employer.

The Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay

The term "employer" should be defined more clearly and it should include the "occupier" as defined in the Indian Factories Act, or manager or any other person appointed by him for this purpose.

The Ahmedabad Millowners' Association

"Employer" should include a managing agent or other person authorised to represent the occupier of a factory.

LARGE LABOUR EMPLOYING ORGANISATIONS

The Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Co., Ltd.

It should be made clear that a private employer is also covered by the definition of the term "employer."

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The Bombay Textile Labour Union

The interpretation of the word "employer" has been left rather ambiguous and not so clear as the interpretation of the word "workman" in sub-clause (j) of section 2. It should therefore be so clearly worded as

include a private employer also, for, as it is, the word is liable to mean the Government or the head of the department and the scope of the Bill will thus be narrowed down to only settling disputes when the employer is the Government.

IV. Interpretation—Definition of "Lock-out"

[Clause 2 (d)]

EMPLOYERS' INTERESTS

The Ahmedabad Millowners' Association

"Lock-out" should be so defined as would prevent any possibility whatsoever of misuse or misinterpretation.

V. Interpretation—Definition of "Public Utility Service"

[Clause 2 (f)]

EMPLOYERS' INTERESTS

The Chamber of Commerce, Bombay

The Bill of 1924 which was not proceeded with included tramways and inland steamer services in the definition of the term "public utility service." The inclusion of tramways and inland steamer services should be made in the definition of "public utility service." The Chamber consider that notification by the Governor General in Council is unnecessary in the case of these services and they recommend that the sub-section should be amended by the omission of the words "which the Governor General in Council may, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, declare to be a public utility service for the purposes of this Act," and replacing them by the words "any railway, tramway or inland steamer service, or."

The Chamber further suggest that section 2 (f) (iii) may be altered to read "any industry, business or undertaking which supplies light, water or power to the public; or."

Three months' notice appears too long a period unless it is intended to notify all likely industries immediately the Bill becomes law.

The Ahmedabad Millowners' Association

The interpretation of the term "public utility service" is not only too wide but vague and ambiguous. It gives unrestricted powers to Government to include any industrial business or undertaking within the scope of the term by notification in the *Gazette of India*.

The Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay

The term "public utility service" is very vague and gives wide powers to the Governor General in Council, which, it is feared, may be abused. There would be nothing under section 2 (f) to prevent, even the jute industry, from being declared a public utility service. In times of war the textile industry might be deemed a public utility service but in ordinary times of peace there should be a clear and a definite limitation of the term "public utility service" and Government should not be free to determine

which should be declared and should not be declared "public utility services."

LARGE LABOUR EMPLOYING ORGANIZATIONS

The Chairman, Bombay Port Trust

Major Port Administrations should be included in the category of public utility service as defined in section 2 (f). Ports are as much an essential link in the chain of transportation and supply as railways and it has been abundantly proved in other countries,—e.g., Australia,—that an industry can be disorganised and the well-being of the public seriously affected by sudden stoppages of work in ports. In the present illiterate and unorganised condition of labour in India, it is very necessary that,—as regards all essential services and public utility services,—the law should provide prompt and adequate means of restraining the activities of irresponsible and revolutionary labour leaders. It is true that clause 2 (f) of the Bill would permit of Ports being notified as public utility services after three months' notice in the *Gazette of India* but the delay of three months in enforcing the provisions of the law might easily prove disastrous to trade and industry and to the public welfare. It is therefore strongly recommended that Ports should be clearly defined as a "public utility service" under clause 2 (f).

The Chairman, Karachi Port Trust

If railways are to be considered as "public utility service" then Port Trusts should also be considered as such.

The Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Co., Ltd.

This clause should be modified to include transportation service such as tramways or omnibuses. Also that instead of the words "supplies light," the words "supplies electrical energy or other power" should be inserted.

The Municipal Commissioner, Bombay Municipality

If the Bombay Municipal Servants' Act is superseded by the proposed Act, the Municipal Fire Brigade Service should be included under the definition of "public utility service."

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay, and the Bombay Dock Workers' Union, Bombay

The power conferred on the Governor General in Council in clause 2, sub-clause (f) is so wide that it is not justifiable at all except as an emergency power during a state of war. No Executive whether constituted of the Governor General in Council or elected by a popular vote should be entrusted with such wide and arbitrary powers.

The Bombay Textile Labour Union

The definition of "public utility service" is so framed as to give absolute power to the Government to declare any industry a public utility service,

question as to what may be called public utility services is a thorny one and care should be taken to include only those services that might be regarded as "essential" services for the health and safety of the public.

The G.I.P. Railway Staff Union, Bombay (covers the views of all affiliated Unions) and the Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Association, Bombay

There is no necessity for defining the term "public utility service." The time has not yet arrived in India when special provision need be made. The provisions already existing in the Provincial and Central enactments afford sufficient protection to the community. The Unions moreover object to the inclusion of the Railway service as coming under public utility services. The objection to the cessation of work in public utility services is based on the fact that it endangers the life of an individual as a necessary consequence thereof. Such cannot be the case of the services mentioned in clause (f). The Unions are further opposed to the reservation of power to the Governor General in Council for declaring any other industry, business or undertaking to be a public utility service for the purposes of this Act. Such a wide power given to the Executive is sure to be misused to the detriment of the workers. It may be noted in this respect that the Bill is much wider than the English enactment wherein only gas works and water works necessary for the community and not for private purposes are considered to be public utility services.

VI. Interpretation—Definition of "Strike"

[Clause 2 (h)]

EMPLOYERS' INTERESTS

The Ahmedabad Millowners' Association

"Strikes" should be so defined as would preclude any possibility whatsoever of misuse and misinterpretation.

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The G.I.P. Railway Staff Union, Bombay (covers the views of all affiliated Unions) and the Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Association, Bombay

The definition of the term "workman" needs to be amended by the addition of the words "whether or not in the employment of the employer with whom a trade dispute arises" after the words "for hire or reward." The addition of these words would bring the definition in a line with the one given in the English Trade Disputes Act, 1906.

The Bombay Port Trust Railwaymen's Union

"Illegal strikes," "union" and "picketing" should be defined as follows:—

An illegal strike should be defined so as to draw a distinction between a general strike and a sympathetic strike—the former to mean a strike in an

industry, etc., unconnected with the strike in question and the latter to mean a strike in industries ultimately connected with the strike in question—the objective of such a sympathetic strike being the obtaining of conditions applicable to all, strikes in the former category only being illegal.

A union should be defined as to indicate those Unions which are duly registered under the Indian Trade Unions' Act.

Picketing should be defined so as to make picketing without intimidation permissible.

VII. Interpretation—Definition of "Trade Dispute"

[Clause 2 (i)]

No views expressed.

VIII. Interpretation—Definition of "Workman"

[Clause 2 (j)]

No views expressed.

IX. Reference of Disputes to Courts and Boards

(Clause 3)

EMPLOYERS' INTERESTS

The Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay

It does not appear to be clear at whose instance the particular subject-matter of disputes will be referred to a Court of Inquiry or a Board of Conciliation. The following amendment to section 3 is therefore suggested :—

"If any trade dispute exists or is apprehended between an employer other than the head of a department under the control of the Governor-General in Council or any public utility service which has been affected or in the opinion of the Local Government is likely to affect a trade or industry to a considerable extent the Local Government may :—

(1) at the request of either the employers or the workmen, by order in writing, refer any matters appearing to be connected with or relevant to the dispute to a Court of Inquiry to be appointed by the Local Government ;

(2) at the request of both the employers and the workmen refer the dispute to a Board of Conciliation to be appointed by the Local Government for promoting the settlement thereof.

If any trade dispute exists or is apprehended between an employer who is the head of a department under the control of the Governor-General in Council or is a public utility service, the Governor-General in Council may by order in writing :—

(a) refer any matters appearing to be connected with or relevant to the dispute to a Court of Inquiry to be appointed by the Governor-General in Council ;

(b) refer the dispute to a Board of Conciliation to be appointed by the Governor-General in Council for promoting a settlement thereof."

The Karachi Indian Merchants' Association

The Committee of the Association are of opinion that the vesting of in connection with industrial disputes in the hands of Government officers is likely to be abused for political considerations or in favour of foreign economic interests.

The Ahmedabad Millowners' Association

Unrestricted powers should not be vested in Government to refer any matters that appear to be connected with or relevant to the dispute to a Court of Inquiry or a Board of Conciliation without previous application from either party connected with the said dispute in cases where such a dispute does not relate to any public utility service. A proviso should therefore be added to the effect that Government should refer such disputes as do not take place in public utility services to a Court of Inquiry or a Board of Conciliation on a request from either party concerned in the dispute, the employers or their operatives.

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay and the Bombay Dock Workers' Union

It is necessary to lay an obligation on Government to refer any dispute or matters connected with any dispute to a Court or a Board on an application by either party to the dispute. The bill gives Government an option to do so but a positive duty should be cast on Government to refer the dispute to the Court or the Board as the case may be.

The Clerks Union, Bombay

The Board should be constituted within a week of a reference being made by one of the parties to a dispute whether such a dispute is likely to bring about a strike or not, and if the other side does not nominate its representatives, the Inquiry should proceed *ex parte*.

The Bombay Port Trust Railwaymen's Union

The President of a Union should be allowed to refer to the Local Government any dispute and to request for the appointment of a Court or Board. The Local Government on receipt of such a request should take action as contemplated in sections 3 (a) and (b).

X. Constitution of Courts of Inquiry

(Clause 4)

EMPLOYERS' INTERESTS

The Chamber of Commerce, Bombay and The Bombay Engineering Employers' Federation

The word "independent" should be inserted between "one" and "person" so as to conform with sub-section (i) of section 6.

The Ahmedabad Millowners' Association

The words "consist of one person" should be altered to read "consist of one independent person" as in the last line of section 6 (t).

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The Kamgar Hitwardhak Sabha, Bombay

Under no circumstances the proposed Court should consist of less than three members and there should be distinct provision as to the appointment of persons who are quite independent, that is to say, they should have no direct personal interest in the trade.

The G.I.P. Railway Staff Union, Bombay (covers the views of all affiliated Unions.) and the Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Association, Bombay

The Chairman of a Court of Inquiry should be a man of high judicial experience. The words "or may, if such authority thinks fit, consist of one person" occurring at the end of the clause should be deleted.

XI. Proceedings of Courts "in Camera"

(Clause 5)

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The G.I.P. Railway Sholapur Staff Union

All enquiries before Courts should always be open to the public.

The Clerks' Union, Bombay

All enquiries before Courts or Boards should be open—public—and should be concluded with as little delay as possible. The Union opposes any proposal of treating any of the matters brought before the Board or the Court as confidential.

The Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay and the Bombay Dock Workers' Union

The provision as regards holding enquiries in private should be deleted. If it is the object of the Bill to interest the public in industrial disputes, it is absolutely necessary that the proceedings should be conducted in public, as only then the public will have confidence in the fairness of the enquiry and lend their support to the findings arrived at.

The B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees' Union, Bombay

Strong objection is taken to the clause which provides for secrecy in recording the evidence. If the object is to rely upon public opinion, nothing can be secret. The object of this clause seems to help the capitalists whenever it is to their interests. Organised labour, as represented by the Unions, has nothing to conceal from the public.

XII. Constitution of Boards of Conciliation

(Clause 6)

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The Kamgar Hitwardhak Sabha, Bombay

The Board of Conciliation should never consist of less than four persons out of whom at least two should be independent.

Bombay Kasbi Karigars' Union

The right of nominating members on the Boards of Conciliation should be vested in the hands of the Unions.

The Bombay Mill-Workers' Union

Workers should have the right to elect their representatives on Boards of Conciliation.

The G.I.P. Railway Sholapur Staff Union, Sholapur

The Board must consist of equal number of representatives of labour and employers and one quite independent Chairman.

The Bank Peons' Union, Bombay

There should be a Conciliation or Arbitration Board in every province consisting of representatives from labour as well.

XIII. Duties of Boards of Conciliation

(Clause 7)

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The Bombay Port Trust Railwaymen's Union

Adjournment of the proceedings of a Court or a Board for any period should not be allowed. The retention of this may lead to grave hardships on the workers who are not sufficiently well off to prolong a strike. An early settlement of all disputes should be the aim of the legislation.

The Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay, and The Bombay Dock Workers' Union

The provision authorising Boards of Conciliation to adjourn proceedings for any indefinite period is not a wholesome one. Some time-limit should be prescribed for coming to an agreement of the terms of settlement.

The B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees Union, Bombay

The provision which empowers Boards to adjourn their proceedings with a view to effect compromise is detrimental to the interests of labour. Such a procedure would result in dilatory proceedings which are calculated to starve out the labourers.

XIV. Procedure and Powers of Courts and Boards

(Clause 9)

EMPLOYERS' INTERESTS

The Chamber of Commerce, Bombay

The words "provided such documents and material objects are directly relevant to the dispute in question" should be added to sub-section (ii) (b) of section 9.

The Ahmedabad Millowners' Association

The powers of Courts and Boards should be so prescribed as would only cover the relevancy of the dispute under consideration.

The Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay

The power of Courts to call for documents, etc., should be limited to documents relevant to the dispute or inquiry.

The Karachi Indian Merchants' Association

Compulsion of witnesses to appear before Courts of Inquiry and Boards of Conciliation would better be dispensed with.

LARGE LABOUR EMPLOYING ORGANISATIONS

The Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Co., Ltd.

The word "relevant" should be inserted before the word "documents."

XV. Form of Report

(Clause 11)

LARGE LABOUR EMPLOYING ORGANISATIONS

The President, Ahmedabad Municipality

The findings of Courts of Inquiry and Boards of Conciliation should be in the nature of awards binding on both the parties but as there is opposition in the present Bill, it is desirable that the Bill as it is be passed into law.

XVI. Publication of Results of Enquiry

(Clause 12)

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The Kamgar Hitwardhak Sabha, Bombay

A distinct provision should be made for the publication of the report in the vernaculars of the province.

XVII. Certain Matters to be Confidential

(Clause 13)

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The Bombay Textile Labour Union

The inquiries of Courts should not be conducted *in camera* as such a procedure would not help the public to form their opinion in cases where certain relevant matters are withheld.

The Bombay Port Trust Railwaymen's Union

Section 13 should be deleted completely as any suppression will act prejudicially and will vitiate the whole report made by the Court or the Board.

The Professional Motor Drivers' Union, Bombay

The Union considers that clause 13 requires alteration as nothing should be kept private from the public.

The B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees' Union, Bombay

Strong objection is taken to the clause which provides for secrecy with regard to publishing evidence recorded. If the object is to rely upon public opinion nothing can be confidential. The object of this clause seems to help the capitalists whenever it is to their interests. Organised labour, as represented by the Unions, has nothing to conceal from the public. The object of Government in providing for secrecy in the proceedings of the inquiry is apparent to any one at once.

XVIII. Representation of Parties by Legal Practitioners

(Clause 14)

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay, and The Bombay Dock Workers' Union

Clause 14 is not conceived in the best interests either of industry or workers. Democracy has come to stay in India and it is a natural right of any person before any enquiry to be represented by a legal practitioner and no restrictions should be created limiting this right.

The Bombay Textile Labour Union

No objection should be raised to a party being represented by a legal practitioner. In the present circumstances the workers cannot be expected to represent their case ably enough against the employers. This is therefore an uncalled for handicap which is really unfair to the workers.

The Bombay Port Trust Railwaymen's Union

The restriction in section 14 should be modified in view of the fact that in the present state of Trade Union organisation many of the officials of a Union are "legal practitioners."

XIX. General Remarks on Special Provision Regarding Public Utility Services

(Clause 15)

EMPLOYERS' INTERESTS

The Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay

As certain public utility concerns employ workmen on a daily basis, this clause might be amended to include such workmen also.

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The Bombay Municipal Workmen's Union, The G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union, Bombay, and The Press Workers' Union

The clauses in connection with public utility services are definitely anti-working class and anti-Trade Unionism and are designed to operate only against the worker and to take away from him the right to strike. As such, the Unions take special objection to them.

The Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay, and The Bombay Dock Workers' Union

Public utility services can be best protected by a special Act of legislation which, while creating safeguards in the interests of the community, will concede certain special benefits to the workers themselves.

The Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Association, Bombay and the G.I.P. Railway Staff Union, Bombay (covers the views of all the affiliated Unions)

It is unjust to impose any special obligations on the employees in public utility services without providing special benefits for them. The safeguards already provided, under other enactments are quite sufficient. Moreover, the provisions contained in clause 15 are too wide. They do not relate only to a strike but would render even a single employee criminally liable for cessation of work. The whole of clause 15 is unnecessary and ought to be deleted.

XX. Specific Remarks on Clause 15

EMPLOYERS' INTERESTS

The Bombay Chamber of Commerce, Bombay

Many railwaymen are paid monthly but the basis of calculation is a daily wage. It is understood that the point has been submitted to the Railway Board but who no doubt give their views as to how such men would be affected by this section and whether it requires amendment.

The Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay

The Bill penalises the workmen and does not entail any corresponding obligation on the employer in any public utility service to give any notice to the workman or workmen before his or their services are dispensed with. The Chamber would like the efficiency of public services to be maintained intact and would not tolerate any breaking down of these services by designing persons, but at the same time they would not like to place weapons in the hands of the authorities which may be misused. Every legislation must be based on principle of fairness and justice, and it is because it is apprehended that these principles are contravened by the second part of the Bill, that they have ventured the above suggestion.

LARGE LABOUR EMPLOYING ORGANISATIONS

The Chairman, Bombay Port Trust

As most Ports have a large number of daily-rated employees on their rolls, section 15 (1) should be suitably modified; if Ports are classed under

category of public utility service so as to include daily-rated labour paid on a monthly basis as persons on monthly wages.

The Bombay Gas Company, Limited

Section 15 appears to be apparently intended to apply to employees receiving monthly wages. If this is so, it negatives the proposals in connection with public utility services as the majority of the workpeople of the Bombay Gas Company are on a daily rate of wage although the payment is made monthly. The system is in vogue for over 50 years and is preferred by the employees who are not desirous of any change being made from the present system.

The Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Co., Ltd.

The pay of many of the staff employed by the Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Company, Limited, is a daily wage, payable monthly for the actual number of days worked in each month. In such cases, when a monthly wage is spoken of, that is merely an indication of the total amount that can be earned if a full month be worked. The sentence "being employed on monthly wages in a public utility service" needs modification. It is suggested that it might be altered to read "Any person who, being in receipt of wages paid monthly in a public utility service."

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The Kamgar Hitwardhak Sabha, Bombay

No punishment of imprisonment should be awarded in the case of an offence specified in section 15 (1). And imprisonment should be awarded only in the case of default of the payment of fine in the case of the offence specified in section 15 (2).

The Bombay Textile Labour Union

If a worker is to be sent to jail for having ceased work, a corresponding punishment should be provided for an employer who dismisses a worker without notice. The clause not only makes sudden strikes in utility services illegal, but the cessation of work even by a single individual is made illegal and this amounts to depriving him of his rights as a free person. If public utility services are to be safeguarded provision must be made for smoothening the conditions of work by means of instituting old-age pensions, sickness insurance, maternity benefits, and other social schemes. A worker would otherwise be committing a veritable sin in accepting a job in a public utility service.

Sub-clause (2) of this section also does not find favour with the Union because there is every danger that an office-bearer of a Union who may not be an actual worker may be held up under this section. It is necessary to delete this provision inasmuch as even the Trade Unions Act gives outsiders a legal status in Trade Union activities.

The G.I.P. Railway Sholapur Staff Union

One month's previous notice by an employee should equally be binding on the employer and in its breach the latter should be liable to the rigour of the law. There must be some remedy available to the worker to seek the protection of the Civil Court.

The Karachi Municipal Sweepers Union

This section should be entirely deleted as it seeks to take away the fundamental right of workmen to strike. The provisions made are so wide that even those workmen who are compelled by force of circumstances to withdraw their labour without notice would be penalised and no safeguard is provided for inflicting penalties on employers when the latter change the conditions of work to the detriment of the workers compelling them to resort to cessation of work. This clause is dangerous to the safety of labour and takes away the merits of the whole Bill.

The G.I.P. Railway Staff Union, Bombay (covers the views of all affiliated Unions) and The Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Association, Bombay

The Unions are opposed to clause 15 and insists on its deletion.

The Bombay Port Trust Railwaymen's Union

This cannot be accepted unless provision is made against the discharge of a worker by an employer without due enquiry or for proved misconduct or without a month's notice of such discharge being given to the worker.

The B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees' Union, Bombay

If even a single individual is to be penalised for stopping work, an employer ought to be penalised for discharging a worker either without notice or without giving him an adequate compensation for loss of employment. If it is sought to put certain disadvantages on the workers, it is proper that certain advantages should be also conferred upon them. This is a one-sided clause and it is recommended that it should be deleted.

XXI. General Remarks on Special Provision regarding Illegal Strikes and Lock-outs

(Clauses 15 to 20)

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The Bombay Textile Labour Union

The Union finds it difficult to approve sections 15 to 20. It is the inherent right of workers to stop work when satisfactory conditions do not obtain, or whenever they fail in their attempt to get satisfactory conditions. To declare a strike under such circumstances illegal, is to deprive labour of the only weapon it can wield. So far as the essential services are concerned, there may be some provision to see that the public is not much inconvenienced but it is at the same time necessary that conditions in those works should be such as to keep the workers contented by providing extra facilities in view of the extra burdens that are to be imposed. If the workers are to give a month's notice to the employers it is necessary that the Court of Inquiry or the Board of Conciliation, as the

case may be, should at once be called into existence if mischief is to be averted. If there is no provision of this sort and if the employer is to be given a month's notice without corresponding obligation on the employer to give the worker the same amount of time to find work elsewhere, this provision will work very hard on the employees. It will then be a one-sided contract where the employer will always be able to win, for the workers might be asked to walk away after the expiry of the notice, having already recruited labour to replace the discharged men. If the worker could be dismissed without notice, justice demands that he should also be free to give up work without notice whenever he pleases.

The Bombay Municipal Workmen's Union, Bombay

The word "lock-out" in sections 16-20 might easily be dropped because these clauses seem to apply only to strikes and they are designed to prevent one section of workers coming to the assistance of another section of workers who may be in dispute. It does not say that an employer of labour should not go to the assistance of another who may be in dispute with his employees.

The Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay, and the Bombay Dock Workers Union, Bombay

The Unions completely disagree with the principles underlying clauses 15 to 20.

Clause 15 is clearly not intended against a sudden strike either special or general in public utility services but any person who ceases work voluntarily for any reason is made liable to be punished either by fine or imprisonment. This provision strikes at the very root of a natural right which is recognised by justice and fairness. It should never be considered to be unlawful for a person to withdraw his labour from any employer, be he a private employer or an employer of a public utility service. The marginal note of the clause thoroughly belies the clause itself and seems to be inserted as a blind to the plain intent of the clause. Apart from the point that the employer is not made liable to a similar punishment for a wrongful dismissal of a worker, it is obvious that the clause is bound to create mischief of a very serious nature. The sub-clause (2) is clearly directed to stifle the Trade Union movement as it is likely to frighten away public workers who may like to devote their time and energy in the cause of labour. Labour in India is not so thoroughly organised as it is in some of the western countries and as the whole economic adjustment of the country is dependent upon raising labour to a certain acceptable standard of living, it is absolutely necessary in the present stage of labour movement for the public-spirited men whether they belong to the class of wage-earners or to the leisured class to guide and help the movement in the best interests of the workers. The standard of life in India is notoriously low and unless the Trade Union movement is ensured against the onslaughts of capitalism, it is physically impossible to attain anything like a fair distribution of wealth.

The Bombay Millworkers' Union and the Bank Peons' Union, Bombay
Clauses 15 to 20 must be deleted.

The G.I.P. Railway Staff Union, Bombay (covers the views of all affiliated Unions) and The Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Association, Bombay

The Unions are totally opposed to part three of the Bill which deals with illegal strikes and lock-outs. Their retention will seriously hamper the growth of healthy Trade Unionism in India. The clauses seem to have been copied from the British enactment of 1927 which, as is well-known, was passed under special and panicky circumstances. There is no special reason for a similar provision in India at this stage of the Indian Trade Union movement. Sympathetic strikes should under no circumstances be declared illegal.

The Professional Motor Drivers' Union, Bombay

The Union is in agreement with the several principles of the Bill but strongly condemns sections 15 to 20 which the Union believe entrust arbitrary powers to the employers. The Union recommends that these should be totally omitted.

The Press Workers' Union, Bombay

Heavy penalties are imposed by sections 15 to 20, black-legs are protected, and restraints placed upon the use of Trade Union funds. Clauses 15 to 20 must therefore be deleted.

The G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union, Bombay

The word "lock-out" in sections 16-20 might easily be dropped because these clauses seem to apply only to strikes and they are designed to prevent one section of workers coming to the assistance of another section of workers who may be in dispute. It does not say that an employer of labour should not go to the assistance of another who may be in dispute with his employees.

The Clerks' Union, Bombay

Sections 15 to 20 of the draft Bill are unnecessary, but even otherwise, the Union are strongly opposed to all the provisions contained in these sections.

The B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees' Union, Bombay

It is not understood why public utility services should be treated in a special manner. It is the right of every worker whether employed in a public utility service or not to withdraw his labour whenever he thinks fit. This clause is in the interests of capitalists. Every industry may be classified as a public utility service. Further as Government are being empowered to declare which industry is a public utility service and which is not, under these provisions Government can practically declare any and every strike illegal thus giving very wide powers to Government.

XXII. Illegal Strikes and Lock-outs

[[Clause 16 (1)]]

EMPLOYERS' INTERESTS

The Ahmedabad Millowners' Association

The provision which relates to illegal strikes and lock-outs is vague in so far as it includes the indefinite mentioning of "any object, other than, in addition to, the furtherance of a trade dispute," as also the words "is a strike or lock-out designed or calculated to coerce the Government either directly or by inflicting hardship upon the community." The words quoted are capable of wide interpretation and are likely to create serious misapprehensions and misunderstandings in referring any trade disputes particularly those connected with public utility services to the proposed Courts or Boards.

The Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay

This section is extremely vague. An illegal strike being defined as that which "has any object other than, or in addition to, the furtherance of a trade dispute within the trade or industry in which the strikers are engaged and is a strike designed or calculated to coerce the Government either directly or by inflicting hardship upon the community," the Committee of the Chamber fear that each and every strike, whatsoever may be its object, may, if so desired, be included in this definition. With regard to lock-outs, it may safely be averred that they will not generally come in under this section as, according to a well-known writer on labour questions, "the lock-out is a far less necessary weapon than the strike is to the workmen." A purely industrial view point might not be taken by the authorities when declaring a strike as illegal and political considerations may be incorporated in such a decision. The definition of an illegal strike should be made more exact and drafted in such a manner as to preclude the authorities from abusing the powers in their possession. The Chamber agree that there are certain illegal strikes which should not be encouraged, but they are not in favour of the steps suggested in section 16.

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The Kamgar Hitwardhak Sabha, Bombay

Sub-section (2) of section 16 should be deleted.

The Bombay Municipal Workmen's Union and The G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union, Bombay

The definition of the term "illegal strikes" requires to be modified in view of the fact that this clause may be applied to any strike that those who designed the Bill wish it to apply to. Any strike may be considered to cause hardship on the community, coerce the Government, etc. Heavy penalties are imposed, black-legs are protected and restraint is placed upon the use of Trade Union funds. The whole of this clause is designed to prevent the use of Trade Union organisation to obtain better conditions for the workers.

The Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay, and the Bombay Dock Workers' Union

The making of certain strikes and lock-outs illegal is not called for under the present political situation of the country. The power to declare a strike illegal should be so restricted as to safeguard *bona fide* and legitimate strikes consequent on real trade disputes. It is difficult to decide what is an object which is other than or in addition to the furtherance of a trade dispute, as strict classification in this matter is an impossibility. It is still more difficult to define "hardships upon the community." Every industrial strike, however *bona fide* or legitimate it may be, is likely to inflict some hardship upon the community. Moreover the idea of hardship will be as uncertain as the proverbial foot of the chancellor, and, instead of the community being inflicted with any hardship, the Trade Union movement will run a precarious course to the detriment of the workers.

The Bombay Textile Labour Union, Bombay

This section seems to have been rather loosely worded because it is difficult to make out what is an object other than, or in addition to, the furtherance of a trade dispute, as it is difficult to demarcate one from the other. Sub-clause (ii) of this section will make the Union powerless to act if a strike is declared illegal. For, it is not possible to conduct a strike without adequate monetary help.

The Karachi Municipal Sweepers' Union, Karachi

Sympathetic strikes are an inevitable necessity of labour for safeguarding the conditions of work and life of the weaker members of the community and whatever may be said to the contrary the provisions made in sections 16 to 20 of the Bill seek to make sympathetic strikes illegal. It is not advisable to follow panicky acts such as the British Trade Disputes and Trades Unions Act of 1927 especially when the picture of an attack on society conjured up here is only a nightmare.

The Press Workers' Union, Bombay

The word "lock-out" might easily be dropped because this clause appears only to apply to strikes. It is designed to prevent one section of workers coming to the assistance of another section of workers who may be in dispute. It does not say that an employer of labour should not go to the assistance of another employer who may be in dispute with his employees. The provision that a strike is illegal that causes hardship to the community, coerces the Government, etc., may be applied to any strike that those who designed the Bill wish it to apply.

The G.I.P. Railway Staff Union, Bombay (covers the views of all affiliated Unions), and The Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Association, Bombay

The insertion of the expression "by inflicting hardships on the community" in clause 16 (1) (b) will work great hardship inasmuch as almost every strike is sure to cause hardship to the community.

The B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees' Union, Bombay

Every strike in some measure causes hardship to the community. Sympathetic strikes are also declared illegal at the sweet will of Government. The object of Government is clear to even the most simple-minded. What the Government really seek is to arm themselves with arbitrary powers to weaken the strength of the Unions.

XXIII. Financial or other Support for
Illegal Strikes

[(Clause 16 (2))]

No views expressed.

XXIV. Definition of Term "Trade Dispute"

[(Clause 16 (3))]

No views expressed.

XXV. Strikes or Lock-outs to Coerce Government

[(Clause 16 (4))]

No views expressed.

XXVI. Penalties for Illegal Strikes and Lock-outs

(Clause 17)

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The Bombay Port Trust Railwaymen's Union

Officers of a Union should be punishable by fines only and not with imprisonment.

The B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees' Union, Bombay

The penal provisions are clearly intended to harass and punish disinterested public workers in the cause of labour. If the workers want to follow the lead given by a particular man, it cannot be seen how anybody can take objection to it, provided such a leader enjoys their full confidence.

XXVII. Sections 17 and 18 of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, not to Apply to Illegal Strikes and Lock-outs

(Clause 18)

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The Bombay Textile Labour Union

This section is in conflict with the spirit of the Indian Trade Unions Act which has recognised the legitimate inclusion of outsiders in Trade Unions. The Union strongly objects to the deprivation of the legal status of the office-bearers of the Union.

XXVIII. Protection of Persons Withholding from Illegal Strikes or Lock-outs

(Clause 19)

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The Bombay Textile Labour Union

This section enunciates a dangerous principle and aims a blow at the solidarity of Unionism. It is a reactionary principle to give legal protection to black-legs. When once workers have been enrolled as members of a Union the provisions under this section take away absolutely the power of the exercise of discipline within a Union. Any concerted action for collective bargaining would be impossible. The position of a Union would be vulnerable and it may be easily attacked even by employers by getting their men inside it. The Union is therefore in opposition to this clause and is against the inclusion of it in the text of the bill.

The Karachi Municipal Sweepers' Union

This clause is an unwarranted encroachment on the liberty of action of a Trade Union and is bound to lead to indiscipline, divisions and dissatisfaction in the working of Trade Unions—things highly injurious to the movement in this country in its present infant stage. Such a charter can, on no account, be given to black-legs who should not be shown any leniency for their misconduct.

The Bombay Port Trust Railwaymen's Union

The protection of persons withholding from illegal strikes or lock-outs should apply only to the members of a duly registered Union who have intimated in writing to the Secretary of the Union within three days of the receipt of a month's notice as provided for in section 15 of their intimation not to withdraw from their duties.

The B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees' Union, Bombay

One can easily see through Government's intentions in introducing special provisions for encouraging black-legs. Government are trying to needlessly interfere with the internal management of Trade Unions which are daily becoming more and more powerful. The black-legs provisions are calculated to give ample scope for Government's spies and employers' agents to sabotage the growth of Trade Unions.

XXIX. Injunction for Restraint of Application of Funds in Contravention of Clause 16

(Clause 20)

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The Bombay Textile Labour Union

The Union objects to this section and urges its deletion from the text of the Bill.

XXX. Rules and Regulations

(Clause 21)

No views expressed.

XXXI. Additional Suggestions

EMPLOYERS' INTERESTS

The Chamber of Commerce, Bombay

The Bill contains no reference to picketing or intimidation. In December 1924 the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon passed a resolution on Trade Unionism recommending that picketing should be declared illegal. Section 3 of the British Trade Disputes and Trades Unions Act, 1927, contains express provisions against intimidation and although it is recognised that the difficulties in the way of enforcing such provisions are particularly great in this country, a section on the lines of section 3 of the English Act should be inserted in the Bill under reference since it is probable that the mere existence of such a provision would act as a deterrent. It has no desire to press this point in view of the remarks made by the Honourable Mr. A. C. McWatters in the Legislative Assembly on the 21st September last but the Chamber considers that the existing law should be enforced whenever possible.

The Ahmedabad Millowners' Association

A rule should be provided to the effect that neither the employers nor the operatives concerned in the dispute shall use such means or force with a view to further the object of either party as would create tension or result in bitterness till the matter was *sub judice*. This should include a clear reference to picketing which is a means of intimidation particularly during the times of a truce between the parties.

The Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay

Without going into the merits of picketing during pre-reference or pre-conciliation period, and about this there may be difference of opinion, the Committee of the Chamber are strongly of opinion that after a matter under dispute has been referred to a Court of Inquiry or Board of Conciliation, and positively after award, picketing, unless it is made illegal, will defeat the object of reference or conciliation. When a matter has been thus referred to a Court of Inquiry or Board of Conciliation it, at once, becomes *sub judice* and neither of the parties to the dispute should be allowed to go behind such a reference and to use force or intimidation towards any individuals or groups of individuals to act in a particular manner. Looking to the trend of events in industrial disputes not only in Bombay but at different places, the Committee are firmly of opinion that unless some such action is taken with regard to picketing, of the nature above referred to, the condition of industries will be going from bad to worse.

LARGE LABOUR EMPLOYING ORGANISATIONS

The Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Co., Ltd.

It is a great disappointment that no allusion has been made to picketing or to what is even more important, intimidation. Though the enforcement of any law regarding intimidation would be fraught with difficulty, the mere existence of a clause making picketing and intimidation illegal would have a markedly deterrent effect and would tend to overcome one of the greatest difficulties apparent when strikes occur in this country. A reference in the Bill to picketing and intimidation would be more effective than placing reliance on the provisions of the Indian Penal Code under which "picketing amounting to intimidation" is illegal.

Unemployment Relief in Japan

Various proposals have recently been made by the Japanese Bureau of Social Affairs with a view to relieving unemployment.

In the first place it is suggested that the public employment exchanges (which under the Employment Act at present in force are subsidised by the State to the extent of half the cost of establishment and one-sixth of the cost of operation) should be taken over completely by the State and operated at the public expense. The Bureau further proposes that the public employment exchange system should be extended to Chosen (Korea) in order to deal more effectively with unemployment in that area.

It has been customary for the Government to encourage public works in the six largest cities in Japan during the period from 1st December to 31st March, for the purpose of relieving seasonal unemployment. The Government has decided to follow the same programme this winter, and in addition the Bureau of Social Affairs has proposed that it should be extended to other large cities.

The Bureau has also proposed that a Joint Commission for the Investigation of Unemployment should be instituted by the Departments of Home Affairs, Finance, Education, Foreign Affairs, Communications and Railways. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, December 17, 1928.)

Ratifications by Japan

The formal ratification by the Government of Japan of the Conventions concerning workmen's compensation for occupational diseases, and concerning equality of treatment for national and foreign workers as regards workmen's compensation for accidents, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its Seventh (1925) Session, and the Convention concerning the simplification of the inspection of emigrants on board ship, adopted at the Eighth (1926) Session, was registered by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations on 8th October 1928. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, October 22, 1928.)

Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency
Returns for Fourth Quarter

(Continued from page 459 of the January 1929 issue.)

Federations of Trade Unions

The Table on pages 472 to 474 of the January 1929 issue shows that there are six Federations of Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency—(1) The Central Labour Board in Bombay; (2) The Bombay Presidency Postal R.M.S. Association with its head office in Bombay; (3) The Bombay Presidency Postmen's and Lower Grade Staff Union also with its head office in Bombay; (4) The G.I.P. Railway Staff Union with its head office in Bombay; (5) The Bombay Trades Council with its head office in Bombay; and (6) The Labour Union in Ahmedabad, which is not strictly a Federation in the accepted sense of the term but rather a Central Bureau which controls under one management all the various Unions of cotton mill operatives in Ahmedabad City. This Union extended its sphere of activities during the quarter ended the 1st June 1928 by organising a new Union of Municipal Sweepers in Ahmedabad City which it controls. The Union is now extending its activities further by attempting to organise the cotton textile operatives in Baroda State. The constitution of the first three Federations and the terms of affiliation of each of their members were fully described in the issues of the *Labour Gazette* for December 1925 and March 1926. The Bombay Port Trust Employees' Central Union, which had functioned as a Federation of the three Unions of Port Trust workers during the first year of its creation in 1926, decided not to function as a Federation but to act as a Central Council of the Bombay Port Trust employees. This Council is composed of representatives from each of the three Port Trust Unions and it functions only when the interests of all the workers of the different departments of the Bombay Port Trust are affected.

In addition to the six Federations, there are also (1) The All-India Postmen's and Lower Grade Staff Union whose head offices have been transferred from Delhi and Lahore to Bombay; and (2) The All-India Trade Union Congress with a Provincial Committee for the Bombay Presidency which has the management of matters connected with the Bombay Unions.

The Central Labour Board.—In view of the formation of the Bombay Trades Council which has taken up the activities of the Central Labour Board in connection with Trade Union propaganda and organisation of workers into Unions, the activities of the Board are now mainly confined to Purity Mission work and to organising and delivering occasional lectures on temperance, thrift and hygiene. The Board, however, continues to maintain a separate entity for purposes of submitting representations to Government in response to enquiries concerning questions dealing with new proposals for labour legislation and matters common to labour in general.

The Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Association.—This Association has sixteen Divisional and District Postal Unions affiliated to it

and although persons from the lower grades of the Postal service are included in the membership of the Divisional and District Unions affiliated to it, its membership is mainly composed of the clerical classes in the Postal Service. During the quarter under review its activities were confined to collecting information from the district Unions regarding the standard or measure of work in the various postal departments in the Presidency with a view to preparing and formulating the Association's memorandum in connection with the question of Time Test in the Post Offices for submission to Mr. Bewoor, I.C.S., the Special Officer appointed by Government to investigate this question, and to submit a report on his findings. The Bombay Association appointed a Sub-Committee to examine the reports received from the Divisional Unions and to prepare a joint memorandum in collaboration with the All-India Federation.

The Association deputed six councillors to attend a meeting of the All-India Postal Executive Council at Calcutta on the 23rd and 24th November 1928 for the consideration of some of the more important items in connection with the work and conditions of service of postal employees and the preparation of a budget to be placed before the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Conference held at Rangoon from the 24th to 27th December 1928. Fourteen delegates from the various District and Divisional Unions in the Bombay Presidency affiliated to the Association attended this Conference.

The G.I.P. Railway Staff Union.—This Union which is a Federation of nine different Unions of the employees of the G.I.P. Railway was registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, on the 17th August 1928 and is the only Federation that has yet been registered under that Act in the Bombay Presidency. The Union derives its income from affiliated Unions at the rate of two annas per month for each member from the clerical staff and one anna per month per member from those below clerks. The income of the Union during the quarter under review amounted to Rs. 1011-2-0 and the expenditure to Rs. 830-8-0. In November 1928, the Union appointed a Committee of Enquiry to investigate the grievances of the staff with a view to the preparation of a joint memorandum to the Railway authorities in connection with the improvement of conditions of work and service of all its employees. Mr. P. S. Kolhatkar, B.A., the Honorary Organiser of the Union, visited several places in the Central Provinces and Berar in order to organise the G.I.P. Railway workers in that province. The Agent of the G.I.P. Railway granted official recognition to the Union on the 9th November 1928. The Union states that it submitted a representation to the Agent on the question of free passes to non-Christian employees of the Railway after the 14th December, and that the request made was complied with.

Since its recognition by the Railway administration, the Association was successful in arranging two meetings between deputations from the Wadi Bunder and the Cabin Staff Unions and the Agent on the 5th and the 12th December. Various grievances in connection with questions of increased pay on time-scale, long hours of attendance, inadequate staffs, privilege and casual leave and holidays, allowances, fines and debits,

medical examination, provident fund, security of service, grant of free forms, and the stopping of trains at distant cabins in order to put down take up workers employed at such cabins, etc., were placed before the Agent who granted immediate concessions in certain matters and promised consideration in some others. As a result of this Conference, the pay of the senior cabinmen attached to the A cabin of the Victoria Terminus was revised to Rs. 80-5-100 and of the B cabin to Rs. 75-5-90 and of the junior cabinmen in the A cabin to Rs. 70-5-80 and the B cabin to Rs. 60-5-70 with effect from the 1st October 1928. The Agent regretted that he could not agree to any modifications in the existing orders regarding fines and debits and the stopping of certain trains at distant cabins. With regard to a demand made for introducing a system of allowing a week-day off to employees of the cabin staff as required by the Geneva Conference, the Agent stated that the matter was under consideration.

The Labour Union, Ahmedabad.—As compared with the previous quarter the membership of the Labour Union increased by 5268 which is mainly due to an increase in the membership of the Throstle Union from 7055 to 11,180, and in the membership of the Card Room Union from 3325 to 3725. The membership of the Jobbers' Union also increased from 50 to 700. The main activities of the Union during the quarter under review were (1) the raising of a strike fund at the rate of one anna per month per member; (2) the organisation of a social boycott of all "black-legs"; (3) the organisation of a Union of cotton textile workers in Baroda State and the formulation of a demand for a 10-hour working day in the mills in the Baroda State; (4) the establishment of a practice of the collection of subscriptions from members on the premises of each mill by Union officials; and (5) the formulation of a case for a demand for an increase in wages. The Union was successful in reinstating Union workers dismissed in the Gujarat Ginning Mill, in securing payment of wages in the Hathising Mill for a declared holiday, and in overcoming the opposition to the formation of Unions of workers in the Asoka and the Bharat Laxmi Cotton Mills. With regard to the strike in the Becharadas Mill in connection with the opposition of the management to the formation of a Union, the Union granted a donation of Rs. 20 per month to each striker and helped most of the strikers to get employment in other mills. The Union also submitted proposals to the Ahmedabad Municipality for a comprehensive Housing Scheme for Ahmedabad textile workers, and for increasing the wages of Municipal sweepers. The Housing Scheme is reported by the Labour Investigator at Ahmedabad to be still under consideration by the Municipality, but an increase of Rs. 3 per month in wages was granted to the sweepers.

PROGRESS OF INDIVIDUAL UNIONS

BOMBAY

The Bombay Textile Labour Union.—The membership of this Union fell from 8436 to 6749 during the quarter. The average monthly income amounted to Rs. 923 as against an average monthly expenditure of Rs. 1310 which does not take into account an amount of Rs. 2008-14-0 spent by the Union for giving relief to its members during the General Strike.

A new centre of the Union was opened at Dharavi and 42 Propaganda Meetings were held during the quarter. Fifteen meetings of the Centre Committees at Madanpura, Kurla, DeLisle Road, Damodar Thackersey Hall and Dharavi were held. Five Election Meetings and 9 meetings of the Mill Committees were also held. Out of the 321 complaints received by the Union, during the three months ending November 1928, 132 were handled successfully, 103 were dropped, 21 were unsuccessful and 65 were pending. In addition to this, the Union reports that its mediation was successful in the case of 16 strikes regarding questions of cutting wages and reinstatement of dismissed hands.

Mr. R. R. Bakhale, the General Secretary of the Union who had been deputed by the textile workers of India to attend the International Conference of Textile Workers at Ghent as a fraternal delegate from India returned to India early in December and replaced Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A., who was compelled by ill-health to resign from his position as Chairman of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Joint Strike Committee to conduct the proceedings on behalf of Labour before the Bombay Strike Enquiry Committee.

The National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma.—(Formerly the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants of India and Burma, Limited). The membership of this Union increased from 1570 to 1653. This Union, which was formerly registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1913, was registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act on the 22nd August 1928 with its new name. The average monthly income of the Union amounted to Rs. 3450 and the average monthly expenditure to Rs. 2850. Before its registration under the Indian Trade Unions Act, the Amalgamated Society conducted three separate funds for family benefit, voluntary legal defence, and sickness insurance. The subscriptions from members to these funds were banked separately with an account for each fund. As the Trade Unions Act permits expenditure on account of family benefit, sickness insurance and legal assistance from the general funds of a Union, the revenues of the Union from all sources are now treated as credits to the general fund account. The figure given above for the income of the Union, therefore, does not represent fees for subscription from members alone and includes the subscriptions to the various insurance funds also. The Union opened a new branch at Dhanbad on the East Indian Railway and another branch in Burma which now brings the total number of branches controlled by the Union to 54. Several representations and appeals were submitted by the Union to the Railway Board and the Agents of the various Railways in connection with the grievances of and privileges sought by members. The Union states that its representations were, on the whole, given kindly consideration. The details of the benefits granted by the Union to its members during the quarter under review were as follows :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Life Insurance Benefits	2,500	0	0
Death Benefits . .	700	0	0
Sickness Insurance Benefits	370	7	0
Unemployment Benefits	15	0	0
Legal Defence Fund Benefits	500	0	0

The Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay.—This Union improved its membership from 19,931 to 21,187. The average monthly expenditure of the Union amounted to Rs. 1222 as against an average monthly income of Rs. 1353. No details were furnished by the Union with regard to the disposal of its membership over the three separate Departments for Saloon, Engine and Deck crews. At a meeting of the Executive Council of the Union held in the month of November, it was unanimously resolved "that, pending the abolition of the shipping brokers system, until the appointment of a Government Recruitment Officer for seamen in Bombay, or until the passage of Mr. Abdul Matin Chowdhury, M.L.A.'s Bill to amend the Indian Merchants Shipping Act in the Assembly, the Union should secure a license from Government under section 24 of the said Shipping Act in order to supply seamen for service on board ships" and "that the Union authorises its General Secretary, Mr. Syed Munawar, M.L.C., to make the necessary application to Government and to take all such necessary steps as may be required to expedite the issue of the license to the Union."

Messrs. R. S. Asavle, Pradhan, Thomas D'Souza, Syed Munawar, and Mahomed Ibrahim were elected by the Union to represent it as their delegates at the All-India Trade Union Congress held at Jharia from the 18th to the 20th December 1928. The Union has applied for affiliation to the International Transport Workers' Federation at Amsterdam. Representations were submitted by the Union to the authorities concerned in connection with the granting of passes to Union officials for visiting steamers and the Shipping Office, the obstruction by some Pathans of the Shipping Brokers in the Union's collection of subscriptions from its members, and with regard to the engagement of Punjabee crews. The Union states that as a result of these representations no more obstruction is caused in its work of collecting subscriptions. The Union endeavours to secure for its members service on land during periods of unemployment and was successful in finding work for 63 members of the Saloon Department on daily wages at the Willingdon Sports Club. In collaboration with Mr. Kanekar of the Bombay Social Service League, the Union arranged for an exhaustive enquiry to be conducted into the conditions of seamen's recruitment and their life and work in Bombay and, as a result of this enquiry, a pamphlet entitled "Seamen in Bombay" was published at the beginning of the quarter. An article based on this Report will be published in the March issue of the *Labour Gazette*.

The G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union, Bombay.—The membership of this Union, which is an amalgamation of the G.I.P. Railway Employees' General Union and the G.I.P. Railway Workmen's Union, increased from 21,554 to 41,000 during the quarter under review. The Union has opened several new branches on the G.I.P. Railway system. No details were made available regarding the total number of branches and the membership at each branch. During the quarter ending 1st December 1928, several extraordinary general meetings of the members were held at Igatpuri, Dongri, Manmad, Dhond, Poona, Kurla, Lonavla, Matunga, Bhusaval, Khandevle, Sholapur, Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Raichur, Kasara, Thana, Puntamba, Nandgaon, Satara, Wardha and other places at which

resolutions pertaining to the several grievances of the staff were passed. The 27th day of November 1928 was observed as a "protest day" all over the line and resolutions were passed condemning the attitude of the Agent in refusing to concede the demands of the men.

On the 7th November, a deputation of the representatives of the Union waited upon the Agent to discuss certain matters in connection with the grievances of the Railway staff. Another deputation consisting of Messrs. D. B. Kulkarni and S. H. Jhabvala met the Agent again on the 23rd November when questions in connection with some of the principal grievances submitted at the earlier meeting were discussed. One hundred and fifty written complaints were submitted to the Agent during the three months under review. The Union in their written statement submitted for the purposes of this Review state, that owing "to the unsatisfactory reply of the Agent and his disregard to the aspirations of the men, the Managing Committee has appointed a Strike Committee with powers to decide to create local Strike Committees at centres and appoint fractional leaders to raise a strike fund, to create publicity for Marathi, Hindi and English papers, to appoint divisional organisers and carry on propaganda of strike organisation." It further reports that "the Strike Committee is vigorously working to prepare the men for a general strike on the whole line and for this purpose meetings are being arranged all over the line every day." Up till now the Union was issuing two monthly journals of its activities, one in Marathi and the other in English. It has now been decided to make this journal a weekly one and to print it in three languages, viz., in English, Marathi and Hindi. An Editorial Board has been appointed for the proper conduct of this paper.

The Bombay Port Trust Employees' Union.—The membership of this Union has increased from 1814 to 1893. Four special meetings of the Managing Committee were held during the quarter at which enquiries were held and cases formulated for submission to the authorities in connection with the compulsory unemployment of the members of the Union, fines, and victimisation. The question of the amalgamation of the three separate Unions of the workers of the Bombay Port Trust was also considered. The representations of the Union with regard to the revision of the time-scales of pay and compulsory unemployment are stated to be under the consideration of the Port Trust administration, but the representation regarding working hours was settled in favour of the Union. The Union continued the publication of its monthly periodical entitled the "Port Trust Kamgar." The balance sheet and the income and expenditure account of the Union for the year ending the 31st March 1928 have been published in the November issue of this journal. The total income for the year, including an amount of Rs. 540-13-0 which accrued as interest on the Union's investments, amounted to Rs. 2900-9-0 and the expenditure to Rs. 1411-2-0 leaving a balance of Rs. 1489-7-0 to be carried forward to the credit of the general

fund account. The balance sheet shows an amount of Rs. 9426-2-0 at the end of the year mainly invested in Office 5-Year Cash Certificates of the face value of Rs. 5500 and an amount of Rs. 3567-2-6 as "cash on hand" at the bank and at the office.

The Clerks' Union.—The membership of this Union improved from 250 to 327 with an average monthly expenditure of Rs. 206 as against an average monthly income of Rs. 76. The excess expenditure was incurred on account of purchase of office furniture and the cost of organising and printing the Union's paper entitled *The Indian Clerk*, a journal stated to be devoted to the ventilation of the grievances and promotion of the welfare of clerical labour. In addition to the Co-operative Credit Society which the Union has been conducting for some time, it now intends to start a Co-operative Stores and a beginning has already been made with a tailoring department. Steps have been taken to register these Stores under the Co-operative Societies Act. A social gathering of the members of the Union was held on the 2nd September 1928 in order to bring all the members together and to promote goodwill amongst them. Four cases of wrongful dismissal by employers were brought to the notice of the Union during the quarter under review. A favourable settlement was effected in two cases, a suit has been filed in the High Court with regard to the third, and the Union states that the fourth case will also be taken to court if a favourable settlement is not reached. The Union gave financial relief to one member in connection with the legal expenses he had to incur in filing a suit against his employer.

The Bombay Postmen's Union.—This Union also improved its membership from 1646 to 1786. The average monthly expenditure of the Union amounted to Rs. 542 as against an average monthly income of Rs. 582. The annual general meeting of the Union was held on the 13th October 1928 at which the annual report for the year 1927-28 together with the statement of the income and expenditure was adopted. The most important resolution passed at the meeting was with regard to the action of the Post Office Department in attempting to compulsorily house a certain number of postmen in the Development Department's chawls at Naigaum. The resolution protested against the action of the Department in this matter and laid down that no Postman should occupy any of the tenements in the Development Department's chawls. A lengthy representation was submitted by the Union to the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs on the 9th October pointing out the various defects of the last revision granted in connection with the pay of Postmen and lower grade staff. This statement is stated to be under the consideration of the authorities. The Union granted retirement benefits to the extent of Rs. 92-0-3 and death benefits amounting to Rs. 101-6-0 during the quarter.

The Government Peons' and Menials' Union.—The membership of this Union has increased from 1002 to 1060 distributed over the various Government offices in Bombay as follows :—

New Custom House ..	250
Income Tax Office ..	120
High Court ..	118
Offices in the Old Custom House ..	113
Secretariat ..	76
Accountant General's Office ..	52
Small Causes Court ..	40
Public Works Department ..	43
Excise and Tobacco Department ..	210
Miscellaneous Government Offices ..	38
Total	1,060

The average monthly expenditure of the Union amounted to Rs. 180 against an average monthly income of Rs. 125. Three meetings of the Managing Committee were held during the quarter and resolutions were passed for starting a Co-operative Credit Society and a monthly official organ and for submitting a representation to the Minister for Education to admit the boys of Government peons free of charge to Government high schools.

The Bombay Port Trust Railwaymen's Union.—The membership of this Union fell from 587 to 543. At a meeting of the Managing Committee of the Union held on the 24th October, a Sub-Committee was appointed to draft a constitution for a legal defence fund. At a meeting held on the 20th November, it was decided that a representation should be forwarded to the Chairman of the Port Trust to establish a Staff Sub-Committee on the lines of the Whitley Councils to meet weekly or fortnightly for the disposal of individual departmental complaints—the Sub-Committee to consist of two representatives from the Union and two representatives from the management. The Union has received a reply from the authorities to say that a Sub-Committee has been appointed to report on this proposal and that the result will be communicated to the Union in due course. The Union continued publication of its monthly organ called *The B.P.T. Railwayman* throughout the quarter.

The Bombay Port Trust Docks Staff Union.—The membership of this Union fell from 1111 to 942 with an average monthly expenditure of Rs. 206 against an average monthly income of Rs. 290. A deputation of the Union met a Staff Committee appointed by the Trustees of the Port Trust to discuss the grievances submitted by the Union from time to time. The Union has formed separate branches for the Lascars working in the Princess and Victoria Docks, and for the Carpenters and other workmen working under the Dock Master. As in the case of the other two Unions of the Port Trust, this Union also publishes a separate periodical of its own entitled "*The B.P.T. Dockman*", the first monthly issue of which was published on 15th August 1928.

Bombay Municipal Officials Union.—The membership of this stands at 615. Its average monthly expenditure amounted to Rs. 163 as against an average monthly income of Rs. 129. The Municipal Commissioner gave a donation of Rs. 500 out of the Municipal Fund for the library of the Union. Representations were submitted to the Standing Committee of the Corporation with regard to equalisation of the time scales of pay in the Ward offices with those of the Municipal Corporation and for counting active service for the purpose of annual increments. These questions were stated by the Union to be under the consideration of the Municipal Establishment Sub-Committee. The Association has started a quarterly journal under the name of the "*Bombay Municipal Journal*" the first issue of which was published on the 15th November 1928. Mr. H. P. Mody, M.A., LL.B., Advocate, the Chairman-elect of the Bombay Millowners' Association for the next year is the President of this Association.

The Bombay Taxi Drivers' Union.—This Union was formed on the 1st September 1928 under the name of the Bombay Professional Motor Drivers' Union but decided later to limit its membership to taxi drivers alone. There is an increasing tendency among Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency at present to publish their own official periodicals and the Bombay Taxi Drivers' Union has also started a monthly journal of its own under the name of the "*Bombay Motor Driver*" the first issue of which was published on the 1st November 1928.

The Press Workers' Union.—The membership of this Union fell from 325 to 310 during the quarter under review. An extraordinary general meeting of the Union was held on the 26th November 1928 to discuss the various grievances of press workers and to formulate statements of their demands for submission to press employers. These demands include the following :—

- (1) Living wage ;
- (2) Time-scale promotion ;
- (3) Duty for fixed hours ;
- (4) Privilege leave and sick leave ;
- (5) Provident fund ;
- (6) Gratuity ;
- (7) Doing away with illegal fines ;
- (8) Fixed holidays with full pay ;
- (9) Doing away with contract system of work ;
- (10) Mitigating unemployment by the creation of a Press through the Union ;
- (11) Recovery of unpaid and forfeited wages ;
- (12) Assurance of permanency for men who have worked in one press for a period of one year ; and
- (13) The grant of adequate pay for overtime work.

(To be continued.)

Industrial Disputes in the Bombay Presidency A Review for the year 1928

Statistics regarding industrial disputes in the Bombay Presidency have been collected by the Labour Office since its inception in April 1921 and detailed particulars regarding the facts and figures in connection with each dispute have been published every month in the *Labour Gazette*. A complete review of all disputes during the five years from 1st April 1924 to 31st March 1926 was published in the issue of the *Labour Gazette* for May 1926. Annual reviews of the industrial disputes in the Bombay Presidency for the years 1925, 1926 and 1927 were published in the issues of the *Labour Gazette* for January 1926, February 1927 and January 1928 respectively. The present article reviews and summarises these statistics for the year 1928.

The total number of disputes in the Bombay Presidency during the year 1928 was 114 of which 103 or 90·3 per cent. occurred in the Textile Industry, 2 or 1·8 per cent. in Metal and Engineering Workshops and the remainder in other industries. All these disputes, except the strike in the Sasoon general mills, the general strike in the Bombay Textile Mills, the strike in the Kurla Mills, the Sholapur Mills strike and the Bombay Oil strike occurred in individual concerns. The general strike in the Bombay Textile Industry was the biggest dispute during the year under review and affected 68 cotton mills, two silk mills and one bleaching mill. A complete account of the general strike was given in a special article published on pages 147 to 166 of the October 1928 issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The following table shows the location of the disputes classified according to the more important industries

Number of Industrial Disputes

Locality	Spinning and Weaving	Metal and Engineering	Others	Total
Viramgaum	2	..	..	2
Ahmedabad	17	..	..	17
Bombay	78*	2	5†	85
Kurla	1‡	..	1	2
Ambernath	1	..	..	1
Broach	1	..	..	1
Barsi	1	..	..	1
Poona (Kirkee)	1§	..	..	1
Sholapur	1	..	..	1
Surat	1	..	..	1
Jalgaon	1	..	..	1
	103	2	9	114

* One dispute affected 71 mills and another 8 mills.
‡ Affected two mills.

† One dispute affected 5 mills.
§ Affected 5 mills.

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During the year under review, several industrial establishments were affected by disputes more than once, and in one case six strikes occurred in the same establishment. The following table shows the frequency of disputes by classes of industries—

Frequency of Disputes—By Classes of Industries

Class of Industry	Number of establishments in which disputes occurred					
	Once	Twice	Thrice	Four times	Five times	Six times
Spinning and Weaving	50	27	19	2	2	..
Metal and Engineering	2	1	..	..	..	..
Total	61	28	19	2	2	1
Individual establishments	61	56	57	8	10	6

The number of workpeople involved in all disputes during the year amounted to 326,196, out of whom 319,879 or 98·1 per cent. were Cotton workpeople. The following table gives the number of workpeople involved classified according to industries in the various localities.—

Number of Workpeople Involved

Locality	Spinning and Weaving	Metal Engineering	Others	Total
..	570	..	..	570
..	4,464	..	..	4,464
..	289,977	250	2,296	292,523
..	5,512	..	823	6,335
..	..	..	2,490	2,490
..	1,112	..	..	1,112
..	606	..	..	606
..	..	..	458	458
..	16,928	..	..	16,928
..	150	..	..	150
..	560	..	..	560
Total	319,879	250	2,296	326,196

The importance of the disputes that occurred during the year will be seen from the following table which shows the classification of disputes by the number of workers affected :—

Number of workpeople affected	Number of disputes (classified by industries) in which the number of workpeople involved was within the limits shown in the first column			
	Spinning and Weaving	Metal and Engineering	Others	Total
10 to 100	16			16
101 to 250	8	1	3	12
251 to 500	15	1		16
501 to 1,000	13		2	15
1,001 to 2,000	19		1	20
2,001 to 3,000	15		3	18
3,001 to 4,000	6			6
4,001 to 5,000	0			0
5,001 to 10,000	0			0
10,000 and above	1			1
Total	101	2	9	114

The total number of working days lost in the disputes in progress during the year amounted to 24,629,715, the loss in time to the Cotton mill industry alone amounting to 24,571,569 working days or 99.8 per cent. The general strike in the Bombay Textile Industry was responsible for a loss of 21,691,503 working days or 88.1 per cent. of the total time lost. The detailed figures for working days lost are set out in the following table classified by industries and localities :—

Number of Working Days Lost

Locality	Number of Working Days Lost			Total
	Spinning and Weaving	Metal and Engineering	Others	
Virangaum				1,866
Ahmedabad				13,252
Bombay		1,108	30,492	23,014,666
Kurla			2,873	658,990
Ambernath			17,470	17,470
Broach				6,120
Barsi				1,727
Poona (Kirkee)			6,203	6,203
Sholapur				897,012
Surat				225
Jalgaon				12,184
Total	24,571,569	1,108	57,038	24,629,715

The magnitude of the disputes judged by the resultant loss in working time, will be evident from the table below which classifies

the number of disputes according to the number of working days lost :—

Number of working days lost	Number of disputes (classified by industries) in which the number of working days lost was within the limits shown in the first column			
	Spinning and Weaving	Metal and Engineering	Others	Total
0 to 100	9			9
101 to 250	10			10
251 to 500	10			10
501 to 1,000	7			7
1,001 to 2,500	13			13
2,501 to 5,000	8			8
5,001 to 10,000	16			16
10,001 to 20,000	10			10
20,001 to 30,000	3			3
30,001 to 50,000	4			4
50,001 to 100,000	3			3
100,000 and above	4			4
Total	107*			107*

* Seven disputes in progress at the end of the year not included.

CAUSES OF DISPUTES

Questions relating to Pay and Allowances were responsible for 59 or 51.8 per cent. of the total number of disputes while "Personal" causes gave rise to 27 or 23.7 per cent. No dispute due to "Fines" or "Bonus" was reported during the year. Disputes in connection with Pay and Allowances included stoppages of work on account of alleged reduction in rates of wages. Personal causes included demands for dismissal or reinstatement of Jobbers and other individuals. The following tables show the causes of disputes (1) by localities and (2) by classes of industries :

Causes of Disputes—By Localities

Locality	Causes of Disputes				
	Pay and Allowance	Personal	Conditions of work, discipline, etc.	Others	Total
Virangaum	1			1	2
Ahmedabad	1	12		4	17
Bombay	48	14	11	12	85
Kurla	2				2
Ambernath	1	1			2
Broach	1				1
Poona (Kirkee)	1				1
Sholapur	1				1
Surat	1				1
Jalgaon					
Total	59	27	11		114

Causes of Disputes—By Classes of Industries

Class of Industry	Pay and Allowances	Personal	Conditions of work, discipline, etc.	Others	Total
Spinning and Weaving ..	55	23	10	15	103
Metal and Engineering ..	....	1		1	1
Others ..	4	3	1	1	9
Total ..	59	27	11	17	114

RESULTS OF DISPUTES

Out of the 107 disputes which were settled during the year, in 20 or 18.7 per cent. of the disputes the results were entirely favourable to the workers while in 19 or 16.8 per cent. the workers secured only partial success and in the remaining 69 disputes the employers were successful. The following tables show the results of the disputes classified according to (1) localities and (2) classes of industries—

Results of Disputes—By Localities

Locality	Entirely favourable to workers	Favourable to workers	Entirely unfavourable to workers	In progress	Total
Viramgaum ..	1		1		2
Ahmedabad ..	1	1	14	1	17
Bombay ..	18	14	48	5	85
Kurla ..	..	1	1	..	2
Ambarnath ..	..	2		..	2
Broach ..	....	..	1	..	1
Barsi ..	..	..	1	..	1
Poona (Kirkee) ..	..	..	1	..	1
Sholapur ..	..	..	1	....	1
Surat ..	..	..	1	..	1
Jalgaon ..	....	..		1	1
Total ..	20	18	69	7	114

Results of Disputes—By Classes of Industries

Class of Industry	Entirely favourable to workers	Favourable to workers	Entirely unfavourable to workers	In progress	Total
Spinning and Weaving ..	18	15	64	6	103
Metal and Engineering ..	1	....	1	..	2
Others ..	1	3	4	1	9
Total ..	20	18	69	7	114

DURATION OF DISPUTES

The figures given in the tables below are given in terms of calendar days. It will be seen that 11 or 9.2 per cent. of the total number of disputes lasted for one day only and 46 or 40.4 per cent. lasted for more than one day. The following tables set out the details in connection with the duration of disputes (1) by localities and (2) by classes of industries—

Duration of Disputes—By Localities

Locality	Number of disputes lasting						In progress	Total number of disputes
	One day	Two days	Three days	Four days	Five days	Over five days		
Viramgaum				1		1		2
Ahmedabad	6	4	2	1	1	2	1	17
Bombay	5	12	5	16	8	34	5	85
Kurla	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Ambarnath	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Broach	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Barsi	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Poona (Kirkee) ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Sholapur	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Surat	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Jalgaon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	11	16	7	18	9	46	7	114

Duration of Disputes—By Classes of Industries

Class of Industry	Number of disputes lasting						In progress	Total number of disputes
	One day	Two days	Three days	Four days	Five days	Over five days		
Spinning and Weaving	11	15	7	16	9	39	6	103
Metal Engineering		1		2		1		2
Others						6	1	9
Total	11	16	7	18	9	46	7	114

The following table shows the general effects of industrial disputes in the Bombay Province during the last eight years—

Year	Number of disputes	Number of workpeople involved	Working days lost
1921*	103	1,107,999	1,272,362
1922	143	1,138,900	756,747
1923	109	1,099,552	2,836,000
1924	50	1,179,600	7,559,401
1925	69	1,199,811	11,387,797
1926	57	778,111	78,113
1927	54	2,207,811	165,061
1928	114	1,550,199	24,629,715

* The figures are for the period from April to December.

Industrial Disputes in India
Statistics for the Quarter ended the 30th September 1928

The statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the third quarter of the year 1928, published by the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, show that there were 35 disputes in progress during the quarter. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 266,199 and the aggregate time lost amounted to 15,306,378 working days. The following tables show the general effects of the disputes (1) by Provinces and (2) by Classes of Establishments.

General Effects of Disputes By Provinces

Province	Number of disputes	Number of workpeople involved	Number of working days lost
Bombay	11	173,373	1,272,362
Bihar	1	45,987	78,113
Madhya Pradesh	1	18,651	165,061
Madras	1	25	27,793
United Provinces	1	26,400	1,690,400
West Bengal	1	1,150	1,272,362
Others	1	613	78,113
Total	35	266,199	15,306,378

General Effects of Disputes By Classes of Establishments

Class of Establishments	Number of disputes	Number of workpeople involved	Number of working days lost
Cotton and woollen mills	13	174,793	12,379,621
Others	3	12,542	685,778
Others	2	26,400	1,690,400
Others	3	46,146	522,786
Others	14	6,318	27,793
Total	35	266,199	15,306,378

The largest number of disputes, 16, occurred in Bengal. Bombay was next with 11 disputes. The number of workpeople affected by the disputes in Bengal and the time lost was nearly 13 times as much. The statistics are considered according to Classes of Establishments. The largest were most frequent in Cotton and Woollen Mills, if the group disputes were most frequent in Cotton and Woollen Mills, if the group of establishments included under "Others" is included. The number

of Cotton and Woollen Mill operatives affected amounted to over 65 per cent. of the total number of workpeople affected by all the disputes, and the loss in time suffered by the Cotton and Woollen Mill Industry amounted to about 80 per cent. of the total time loss.

CAUSES OF DISPUTES

About fifty-four per cent. of the disputes were due to wages questions, and nearly twenty-three per cent. to questions regarding the employment of individuals. The causes of the disputes classified (1) by Provinces and (2) by Classes of Establishments are given in the two following tables :—

Causes of Disputes—By Provinces

Province	Pay	Personnel	Leave and hours	Others
Bombay	5	3		3
Bengal	10	4	1	1
Madras	1			2
Assam	1			
Bihar and Orissa	1	1		
Central Provinces	1			
Punjab				1
Total	19	8	1	7

Causes of Disputes—By Classes of Establishments

Class of Establishments	Pay	Personnel	Leave and Hours	Others
Cotton and Woollen Mills	7	2		4
Jute Mills	1	1	1	
Engineering Workshops	1	1		
Railways including Railway Workshops	1	1		1
Others	9	3		2
Total		8	1	7

RESULTS OF DISPUTES

Out of the 29 disputes in which settlements were arrived at during the quarter, in 5, or about 17 per cent. the employees were entirely successful while in 7, or about 24 per cent. they were partially successful. The results in the case of the remaining disputes were favourable to the

employers. The details of the results (1) by Provinces and (2) by Classes of Establishments are given below :—

Results of Disputes—By Provinces

Province	Number of disputes in which the employees were			Number of disputes in progress at end
	Successful	Partially successful	Unsuccessful	
Bombay	2	2	3	4
Bengal	3	1	11	1
Madras		2	1	
Bihar and Orissa		1	1	
Central Provinces				1
Punjab		1		
Total	5	7	17	6

Results of Disputes—By Classes of Establishments

Class of Establishments	Number of disputes in which employees were			Number of disputes in progress at end
	Successful	Partially successful	Unsuccessful	
Cotton and Woollen Mills	1	2	5	5
Jute Mills			2	1
Engineering Workshops		1	1	
Railways including Railway Workshops			3	
Others	4	4	6	
Total	5	7	17	6

The following table shows the progress and the general effects of the disputes according to months :—

Progress and General Effects of Disputes according to Months

Month	Number of disputes in progress at beginning	Number of fresh disputes begun	Number of disputes ended	Number of disputes in progress at end	Number of workpeople involved	Number of working days lost
July	9	11	13	7	260,539	5,422,026
August	7	7	9	5	223,492	5,224,367
September	5	8	7	6	211,162	4,659,985
Quarter (July to September)	9	26	29	6	266,199	15,306,378

Report of the Trade Mission to the Near East and Africa

The Government of India decided early last year in accordance with the recommendation of the Indian Tariff Board (Cotton Textile Industry Enquiry) to send a Trade Mission to certain countries in the Near East and in Africa to make a survey of their potentialities as markets for Indian cotton goods and to make recommendations for the encouragement of the export of cotton manufactures from India, including the appointment of Indian Trade Commissioners wherever desirable. The Mission consisted of Dr. Meek, Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, and Mr. T. Maloney, Secretary, Bombay Millowners' Association. Mr. J. P. Dhutia was appointed Commercial Adviser to the Mission.

The Mission assembled in Bombay on 27th January 1928 and arrived back in Bombay on July 7th having been absent from India for five months and ten days and having covered a distance of approximately eighteen thousand miles.

The Mission in their enquiry while concentrating mostly on the possibilities of the development of trade in cotton goods have also enquired into and made suggestions regarding the development of trade in other commodities. From the point of view of general trade the conclusion reached is that Persia, Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Egypt are the most important. From the point of view of the cotton textile trade, besides the above countries Portuguese East Africa, Union of South Africa and the interior areas served from these two countries are also important. The markets offering the greatest potentialities for the development of India's export trade in cotton piecegoods are the Levant and South Africa.

It is pointed out that in piecegoods there are certain very large lines in which the complete trade is held by Japan as a result of the prices at which she is able to offer them. There is no other obstacle preventing India obtaining the share in the market. The two most important of these lines are

- (a) 36" × 30 yds. × 10 lbs. grey sheeting.
- (b) 27' × 30 yds. × 7·7½ lbs. bleached ground striped drill.

The attention of the Mission was repeatedly drawn by merchants in other countries to the following points in which they stated that Indian exporters fall short of the standard set by their competitors :

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (1) Finish ; | (5) Deliveries ; |
| (2) Folding and making-up ; | (6) Sampling ; |
| (3) Stamping and ticketing ; | (7) Variety of designs ; and |
| (4) Packing ; | (8) Uniformity. |

The Mission point out that in these competitive times all other producing countries are paying the very greatest attention to these points and that

they are matters which have played a very decided part in assisting India's competitors to obtain markets and that Indian exporters would find it to their advantage to improve the requirements of the various markets in these respects.

It is pointed out that so far as the export of most goods dyed in the yarn are concerned, India is at present in a competitive position as regards prices for the low and medium qualities and an extension of her export market in this line rests chiefly on developments in finish and design. Excluding Turkey and South Africa, the total market for bleached goods in the countries considered is approximately 130 million yards and for printed and dyed in the piece almost 260 million yards. Under existing conditions India's share of the market for bleached and printed is necessarily very small and even in dyed in the piece competition abroad is only possible in the lowest qualities which require no special finish. India also imports large quantities of these goods and the field in the home and the export market is thus still large. The Mission endorse the recommendation of the Tariff Board that assistance from Government should be given if a satisfactory scheme for a combined bleaching, dyeing and printing plant can be put forward by the Bombay Mill Industry and recommend that this subject should receive detailed and technical examination.

It was represented to the Mission by a number of merchants abroad that the shipping freights from India were higher than those on similar goods from certain other more distant countries. An examination of the incidence of freight on the prices of cotton piecegoods however showed that the total shipping freight on these goods from India to the countries in question was less than 2 per cent. of the value of the goods. The Indian prices for such goods in these markets are from 10 per cent. to 15 per cent. higher than the market prices of similar goods from Japan. The Mission have therefore arrived at the conclusion that while the shipping freight cannot be considered as the most important factor preventing the sale of such Indian piecegoods in these markets, there are other classes of piecegoods in which some reduction on freight would be of definite assistance to Indian exporters.

The Mission have discussed at some length the export marketing methods of Great Britain, Holland, Italy and Japan. Contrasting their methods with those of India, it is pointed out that in the past, India's attention has been chiefly centred on supplying the demand in the home market and no serious organised effort has been made so far to cater for the requirements of the export trade. It is pointed out that practically the only countries in which Indian cotton goods have found an export market have been those in which there is a considerable Indian mercantile community or where, owing to the proximity, the styles of piecegoods in demand are similar to those consumed in India. Now that the necessity of finding outside market has arisen, the Mission strongly recommend the desirability of the Millowners forming a powerful export selling organisation to deal with the export trade in cotton piecegoods and yarn.

They recommend that the organisation might profitably take the following form :—

- (1) The formation of a single export selling organisation with the Millowners as members.
- (2) All selling of cotton goods produced by members for the export market to be done through this one organisation.
- (3) The head office of this organisation to be in Bombay.
- (4) There should be branch offices in those overseas markets, in which the present trade or the potentialities are large, and agents in those places with smaller markets or where there are existing means of distribution which could be utilised.
- (5) Branch offices should be established at Baghdad, Alexandria, Mombasa and Durban and for selling agents, appointed by the organisation, at Port Sudan, Aden, Zanzibar, Dar-es-Salaam, Mozambique, Beira and Lourenco Marques.
- (6) The branch offices would each be responsible for considerable areas and travelling assistants should be attached to these branch offices to tour periodically and call on merchants.
- (7) A complete system of sampling, etc., should be arranged and put into effect by the head office of this organisation.
- (8) In order to secure close contact between the manufactures and the merchants in foreign markets, periodic visits should be paid by members of the organisation to branch offices, agents and customers overseas.

The Mission further point out that if such a selling organisation is established, the question of cotton purchases in Iraq, Egypt, Uganda and South Africa by the same organisation should receive careful study.

As regards the financial aspect of the proposed organisation, it is pointed out that the paid-up capital from the Millowners need not be more than Rs. 10 lakhs. The financing of the overseas sales which would fall on the organisation would, however, necessitate large credits from banks. The Mission are of opinion that the Millowners and members of the organisation should guarantee such credits to the extent of fifty lakhs of rupees. If this is done, the Mission consider that the position would then warrant the examination of the possibility of the provision of cheap export trade facilities within the limits of the guarantee by the Government of India.

As regards the extent of market for such organisation, it is pointed out that India's export market in the area covered is at present about 110 million yards in cotton piecegoods, 12 million lbs. in yarn and 150,000 blankets. At present prices in lines in which India can compete there is a further market held by other manufacturing countries of 80 to 90 million yards in piecegoods, 3 to 4 million lbs. in yarn and 2½ million cotton blankets.

As a result of their study of the trade and trade conditions in the countries surveyed, the Mission recommend the appointment of three

Trade Commissioners for India stationed at Alexandria, Mombasa and Durban. It is suggested that the areas under investigation by these officers should be as follows :—

The Trade Commissioner at Alexandria : Egypt, the Levant, Iraq, and Persia.

The Trade Commissioner at Mombasa : Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

The Trade Commissioner at Durban : The Union of South Africa, Portuguese East Africa and Rhodesia.

It is recommended that Trade Commissioners should be appointed for a period of three years and should be given an average salary of Rs. 2000 per mensem.

The Mission hold that it is of importance that the Bombay mill industry should have its own representatives in these foreign markets. The Trade Commissioners should do extensive touring and work in close co-operation with the branch offices of the Export Marketing Organisation.

Comparative Effects of Variety and Uniformity in Work

REPORT OF THE INDUSTRIAL FATIGUE RESEARCH BOARD

The Industrial Fatigue Research Board has recently published a report containing the results of certain investigations into the comparative effects of variety and uniformity in the case of light repetitive work. The following is a summary of the conclusions arrived at :—

- (1) Uniformity in the method of procedure is generally less productive and conducive to greater irregularities in the rate of working than are varied forms of work.
- (2) The highest output is obtained when the form of activity is changed after 1½ or 2 hours of unvaried work.
- (3) Many changes are detrimental to output because of their interference with the swing of work.

In addition, there is a certain amount of evidence to show that

- (4) In repetitive work of a fatiguing nature, changes in the form of activity should be relatively more frequent.
- (5) A high degree of resemblance between the alternating forms of activity, although subjectively satisfying, is not conducive to increased output.

Current Periodicals

Summary of titles and contents of special articles

THE LABOUR MAGAZINE—VOL. VII, NO. 9, JANUARY 1929. (The Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party, London.)

Special Articles: (1) *The "Safeguarding" of the Wool Textile Industry*, by The Right Hon. Philip Snowden, M.P. pp. 387-389.

(2) *This Misery of Boots*, by Margaret Bonfield, M.P. pp. 390-392.

(3) *Where Socialist Dreams Come True*, by Herbert Morrison.—Civil departments; how money is raised; hotel tax; national taxes shared; staff conditions; fine housing architecture pp. 393-395.

(4) *The Life of an Irish Agitator*, by Con O'Leary. pp. 396-398.

(5) *Sir Oscar Warburg and His Associates*, by J. T. Walton Newbold. pp. 399-401.

(6) *The Political Puzzle in the U. S. A.*, by Mark Starr. pp. 402-404.

(7) *Our Coming Labour State Organism*, by Edward Hunter. pp. 405 and 406.

(8) *Put Not Thy Faith in Princes*, by C. Wye Kendall. pp. 415-417.

(9) *The County Library Movement*, by R. B. Suthers. pp. 418-420.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

INDUSTRIAL WELFARE—VOL. XI, NO. 121, JANUARY 1929. (The Industrial Welfare Society, London.)

Special Articles: (1) *Employers and Accident Prevention*. pp. 3-8.

(2) *An English Employer on America*. pp. 9 and 10.

(3) *Some Features of a Modern Factory*. pp. 11-13.

(4) *Accident Prevention in Germany*. pp. 14-17.

(5) *Trade Unions and Welfare*. pp. 18 and 19.

(6) *Workmen's Compensation*. pp. 19 and 20.

(7) *The Problem of Accident Anxiety*. pp. 21-22.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR REVIEW—VOL. XVIII, NO. 6, DECEMBER 1928. (International Labour Office, Geneva.)

Special Articles: (1) *Economic Questions and the International Labour Organisation*, by G. Curcin pp. 705-713.

(2) *The Ratification of International Labour Conventions*, by R. Telsik.—Obligation to submit draft conventions to the competent authority; decision of the competent authority; act of ratification; communication of ratifications to the secretary-general and registration of ratified conventions. pp. 714-730.

(3) *Some Problems of Statistics of Accidents as illustrated by the British Statistics*, by J. W. Nixon (Assistant Chief of the Statistical Section, International Labour Office).—The four classes of accident statistics in Great Britain—statistics of reported cases, statistics of compensated cases, statistics of investigated cases, statistics of registered cases; what is a fatal accident? the completeness of the statistics of industrial accidents; the causes of accidents—causes of reportable accidents, general classification of causes (all accidents), causes of accident (according to the international list); the measurement of risk—frequency rates; severity rates; summary and conclusions. pp. 731-758.

(4) *Agricultural Wages and Labour Conditions in the Netherlands*.—Wages of adult male workers—crop growing and stock tending, horticulture; seasonal work and piece work; women's wages; wages of young persons; allowances in kind; hours of work; social protection—sickness allowances, pensions, holidays. pp. 760-773.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

MONTHLY LABOUR REVIEW—VOL. XXVII, NO. 2, AUGUST 1928. (U. S. Department of Labour, Washington.)

Special Articles: (1) *Housing Activities of Labour Groups*.—Amalgamated clothing workers' buildings, location of buildings, description of apartments, financing, conditions of ownership and management, co-operative and communal activities, further housing activities, attitude of the union; united workers' buildings—financing, conditions of ownership, co-operative and communal features, labour policy; locomotive engineers' project; home finance companies of trade-unions—Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio, Texas. pp. 1-18.

(2) *Stability of Railroad Employment*, by Walter H. Dunlap.—Index of employment stability; employment conditions in 1927; trend of employment, by years—clerks, machinists, telegraphers, section labourers, road freight firemen, yard brakemen; cautions in use of data. pp. 19-28.

(3) *Labour Movement in China*, by S. K. Sheldon Tso, M.A., Ph.D.—Attitude of capital and labour; character of Chinese labour; ancient wage system; ancient Chinese state socialism; efficiency of Chinese labour; unionization of Chinese labour: solution of the problem. pp. 28-33.

(4) *Working Conditions and Extra Compensation Plans*.—Hours of work; vacations; and promotion; welfare and education. pp. 34-36.

(5) *Cost of Production of Pig Iron in China*.—Items of cost of pig iron; cost of labour; manufacturing expense; raw materials ninety times the cost of direct labour; comparison of large and small furnaces. pp. 43-47.

(6) *Mortality of Office Workers*.—Morbidity rates. pp. 58-60.

(7) *Bills and Legislation of Interest to Labour in First Session of Seventieth Congress (1927-28)*.—Contract labour; contract labour; wages and hours of labour; safety and health—child labour, child welfare, negro welfare, safety; housing; labour activities—coal miners strike, injunctions, miscellaneous; unemployment; social insurance—workmen's compensation, employers' liability, old-age pensions, unemployment insurance; education—vocational education, vocational rehabilitation, industrial schools; government contract work; government employees. pp. 90-97.

(8) *Wages and Hours of Labour in the Manufacturing of Utensils and Wares from Aluminium, Brass, and Copper, 1927*.—Processes and occupations; overtime rates and bonuses; statistics of wages and hours. pp. 122-129.

(9) *Wages and Hours of Labour in Brass and Copper Sheet, Rod, Tube, Wire and Shape Mills, 1927*.—Over-time pay and bonuses; statistics of wages and hours. pp. 130-138.

(10) *Changes in Cost of Living in the United States*. pp. 186-199.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

THE JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE—VOL. X, NO. 10, DECEMBER 1928. (Harvard School of Public Health Baltimore.)

Special Articles: (1) *Physiologic Reactions of Resting Subjects to Cooling Power and Effective Temperature*, by J. Argyll Campbell and T. C. Angus (from the National Institute for Medical Research, Hampstead, London).—Introduction; plan of investigation; physiologic reactions—pulse rates, skin temperatures, insensible perspiration, effects of metabolism; relative value of Kata-thermometer and effective temperature; comfort; summary; bibliography. pp. 331-349.

(2) *The Summer Comfort Zone: Climate and Clothing*, by C. P. Yaglou and Philip Drinker (Department of Ventilation and Illumination, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Mass.).—Experimental procedure; data and discussion by results—sensations of comfort in relation to effective temperature, diurnal and monthly changes in outdoor temperature in relation to optimum indoor temperature, influence of room occupancy on optimum temperature, comfort chart; climate and clothing—influence of climate, clothing, and heating methods on comfort standards; summary; bibliography. pp. 350-363.

(3) *Some Effects of Atmospheric Conditions on the Industrial Worker*, by T. Bedford, Ph.D., (Investigator to the Industrial Fatigue Research Board, London).—Theories of ventilation—old theories, modern physical theory; atmospheric conditions in relation to comfort—comfort at ordinary temperatures, comfort at high atmospheric temperatures, effect of clothing; some physiologic effects of high atmospheric temperatures; atmospheric conditions and their effects on efficiency—influence on working capacity, influence on working of materials; atmospheric conditions and health; conclusion; bibliography. pp. 364-390.

(4) *Further Experimental Observations to determine the Relations between Kata Cooling Powers and Atmospheric Conditions*, by Leonard Hill, F.R.S., T. C. Angus and E. M. Newbold (from the National Institute for Medical Research, Hampstead, London).—Method of taking observations; discussion of data—kata factor, dry kata, accuracy of relations between dry kata, dry bulb, and air velocity, wet kata, accuracy of wet kata values as found from equation; appendix—method of drawing monogram; bibliography. pp. 391-407.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE—VOL. XXVIII, NO. 12, DECEMBER 1928. (The Department of Labour, Canada.)

Special Articles: (1) *Special Effort to Secure Ratification by Canada of Child Labour Conventions*. pp. 1335 and 1336.

(2) *State Price Fixing in Queensland*. pp. 1336 and 1337.

(3) *Mothers' Allowances in Ontario and Alberta*.—Ontario; Alberta. pp. 1337 and 1338.

(4) *Camp Regulations in Saskatchewan*. pp. 1339 and 1340.

(5) *All-Canadian Congress of Labour*.—Proceedings of second annual convention; report of executive board; financial report; resolutions; officers elected. pp. 1348-1350.

(6) *Employment and Unemployment in Other Countries*.—Great Britain; United States. pp. 1373 and 1374.

(7) *Recent Industrial Agreements and Schedules of Wages*.—Manufacturing: food, drink and tobacco; manufacturing; printing and publishing; correction. pp. 1374 and 1376.

(8) *Agreements in Settlement of Dispute between Building Contractors in Vancouver and Carpenters*. pp. 1377 and 1378.

(9) *Union Wages and Hours of Labour in the United States*. p. 1384.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

Current Notes from Abroad

UNITED KINGDOM

Employment during the first three weeks of December showed a substantial improvement, owing largely to Christmas trade and to the approach of the holidays. By the end of the month there was a sharp rise in the number unemployed, mainly due to a large increase in extended short-time working, which left the position considerably worse than it was at the end of November. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, January 1929.)

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Ministry of Labour, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in December resulted in an increase of about £3250 in the weekly full-time wages of over 33,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of £40 in those of 250 workpeople.

The principal change affected men employed by civil engineering contractors, who received an increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d per hour under a cost-of-living sliding scale. Other bodies of workpeople whose wages were increased during the month included those employed in the metallic bedstead industry in various districts, and mechanics in dyeworks in the West Riding of Yorkshire. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, January 1929.)

At 1st January the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 67 per cent. above that of July 1914, as compared with 68 per cent. a month ago and a year ago. For food alone the corresponding figures were 59, 60 and 62. The fall in the percentages since 1st December was mainly due to reductions in the prices of eggs, partly counterbalanced by increases in those of butter. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, January 1929.)

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Ministry of Labour as beginning in December, was 15. In addition, 12 disputes which began before December were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in December (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 6000, and the aggregate duration of all disputes during December was about 32,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of 7000 workpeople involved and 64,000 working days lost in the previous month, and with 7600 workpeople involved and 38,000 days lost in December 1927. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, January 1929.)

 1929
 RETAILED STATEMENT OF THE QUANTITY (IN POUNDS) AND THE COUNTS
 (OR NUMBERS) OF YARN SPUN
 BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

Quantity Number	Month of December			Nine months ended December		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
.. ..	7,485	5,975	6,905	63,285	57,467	23,021
.. ..	20,519	17,047	18,202	169,165	159,713	83,833
.. ..	13,361	15,228	15,014	127,904	137,562	80,718
.. ..	1,532	2,177	2,880	15,072	18,599	17,261
.. ..	965	813	1,096	7,844	8,203	6,057
.. ..	106	95	110	942	917	372
Total ..	43,968	41,335	44,207	384,212	383,261	211,262

BOMBAY CITY

Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
.. ..	6,528	5,118	6,062	55,972	50,170	16,847
.. ..	14,017	10,186	11,385	115,287	104,682	31,956
.. ..	7,702	8,817	8,160	77,766	84,113	25,328
.. ..	767	1,068	1,419	6,953	9,043	4,787
.. ..	353	406	589	3,008	4,006	1,747
.. ..	96	95	109	856	916	371
Total ..	29,463	25,690	27,724	259,842	252,930	81,036

AHMEDABAD

Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
.. ..	273	228	240	1,954	1,756	1,813
.. ..	3,354	3,700	3,731	29,149	29,387	29,700
.. ..	4,274	5,153	5,199	36,748	42,067	42,998
.. ..	635	812	1,079	6,484	7,258	9,451
.. ..	454	240	344	3,677	2,878	3,106
Total ..	8,950	10,133	10,593	78,222	83,144	87,068

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

Description	Month of December			Nine months ended December		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	1,011	1,274	2,145	16,495	20,116	7,353
Chudders	1,523	1,366	1,790	14,288	14,954	9,347
Dhotis	2,668	8,420	8,114	67,643	73,622	54,717
Drills and jeans	1,278	7,331	1,992	9,210	11,632	6,464
Cambrics and lawns	38	22	91	265	540	461
Printers	173	179	176	1,413	1,376	1,449
Shirtings and long cloth T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	7,211	9,942	11,167	83,292	88,290	48,851
Tent cloth	1,887	1,184	1,498	12,094	12,778	6,787
Other sorts	295	31	137	1,035	443	506
	439	405	727	3,892	4,117	3,668
Total	23,725	24,875	27,837	209,627	227,868	139,693
Coloured piecegoods	11,911	10,289	10,574	89,420	92,838	44,616
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	191	65	316	2,043	2,037	1,020
Hosiery	24	31	44	191	259	330
Miscellaneous	276	325	279	2,162	2,627	1,238
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	204	249	197	1,462	2,690	1,424
Grand Total	36,331	36,137	39,247	304,905	328,319	188,231

BOMBAY CITY

Description	Month of December			Nine months ended December		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	2,547	1,565	1,389	14,512	15,958	3,842
Chudders	959	944	912	9,911	10,481	3,028
Dhotis	2,273	2,531	2,489	20,811	25,255	8,295
Drills and jeans	1,189	1,203	1,755	8,449	10,859	5,295
Cambrics and lawns	6	35	64	41	278	186
Printers	5,921	7,139	6,585	64,456	64,396	20,075
Shirtings and long cloth T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	1,098	765	918	8,600	8,973	2,929
Tent cloth	259	8	136	888	365	467
Other sorts	264	291	349	2,171	2,412	1,211
Total	14,516	14,481	14,657	129,839	139,017	45,328
Coloured piecegoods	8,796	6,843	6,856	64,262	65,281	20,369
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	180	257	266	1,963	2,002	819
Hosiery	7	11	13	48	88	48
Miscellaneous	224	265	197	1,755	2,108	566
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	162	117	87	1,013	1,747	503
Grand Total	23,885	21,974	22,116	198,880	210,243	67,633

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

Description	Month of December			Nine months ended December		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	180	77	457	566	995	1,748
Chudders	458	344	699	3,369	3,251	4,888
Dhotis	4,409	4,805	4,648	38,266	38,596	38,519
Drills and jeans	23	11	110	224	220	428
Cambrics and lawns	33	42	7	220	258	260
Printers	84	160	68	720	621	731
Shirtings and long cloth T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	1,275	2,159	3,814	14,021	18,143	23,812
Tent cloth	412	317	420	2,755	2,885	2,844
Other sorts	5	24	..	15	39	3
Total	6,989	8,017	10,523	61,091	66,069	74,812
Coloured piecegoods	1,981	2,119	2,223	15,965	16,448	14,704
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	3	2	42	14	11	75
Hosiery	15	20	31	142	172	282
Miscellaneous	40	50	76	365	449	604
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	41	130	108	436	922	908
Grand Total	9,069	10,338	13,003	78,013	84,071	91,385

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS IN JANUARY 1929

Name of concern and locality	Approximate number of workpeople involved		Date when dispute		Cause	Result	Number of working days lost during the month	Total number of working days lost in the dispute on termination
	Directly	Indirectly	Began	Ended				
<i>Textile Industry</i>								
1. The Bhagirath Spinning and Weaving Mill Jalgaon.	260	300	1928 3 Dec.	1929 9 Jan.	Demand for an increase in the compensatory allowance.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	2,881	15,065
2. The David Mills, De Lisle Road, Bombay.	100	....	15 Dec.	5 Jan.	Alleged reduction in wages.	Do.	86	1,154
3. The Gujarat Ginning and Manufacturing Mill, Idga Road, Ahmedabad.	763	....	17 Dec.	....	Demand for dismissal of a Head Jobber.	No settlement reported	2,753	
4. The Imperial Mills, Haines Road, Bombay.	85		24 Dec.	10 Jan.	Demand for reinstatement of a dismissed operative.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	680	1,183
5. The Jacob Sassoon Mill, Supari Baug Road, Bombay.	1,200	3,300	28 Dec.	14 Jan.	Protest against the introduction of longer spinning frames.	The strike ended in a compromise.	49,500	59,700
6. The New China Mill, Sewri, Bombay.	100	1,100	28 Dec.	4 Jan.	Demand for reinstatement of a Muhammadan Line Jobber.	Do.	3,600	7,200
7. The Manchester Mill, Chinchpokli, Bombay.	275	825	1929 2 Jan.	18 Jan.	Introduction of three loom system.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	5,213	5,213
8. The Jam Mill, No. 2, Sewri, Bombay.	230	670	10 Jan.	22 Jan.	Demand for better wages.	Do.	8,215	8,215
9. The Finlay Mill, Parel, Bombay.	1,600	....	12 Jan.		Refusal to clean Machinery.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	3,200	3,200
10. The Swan Mill, Sewri, Bombay.	1,300	....	12 Jan.	15 Jan.	Do.	Do.	2,600	
11. The Edward Sassoon Mill, Ferguson Road, Bombay.	488	1,112	14 Jan.	17 Jan.	Demand for Sankranti holiday.	Do.	3,688	3,688
12. The Kastoorchand Mill, Dadar, Bombay.	100	1,860	17 Jan.	19 Jan.	Demand for better wages.	The strike ended in favour of the workers.	2,360	2,360
13. The New China Mill, Sewri, Bombay.	323	827	22 Jan.	25 Jan.	Appointment of a Fancy Jobber.	Do.	3,450	3,450
14. The Dinshaw Petit Mill, Parel, Bombay.	2,200	....	25 Jan.	27 Jan.	Dismissal of the Manager.	The strike ended in a compromise.	4,400	4,400
<i>Miscellaneous</i>								
15. The Bombay Oil Strike—				1929				
(1) The Burma Shell Oil Storage and Distributing Co.	1,525	....	7 Dec.	....			
(2) The Standard Oil Co.	230	....	11 Dec.	....	Retrenchment of hands.	No settlement reported	41,310	
(3) The Indo Burma Petroleum Co.	35	....	13 Dec.	....			
16. The Western India Match Factory, Ambernath, Bombay.	82	5 Jan.	7 Jan.	Protest against the dismissal of a worker.	The strike ended in favour of the workers.	82	82

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WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN BOMBAY

Article	Grade	Rate per	Prices in the month of				Index numbers			
			July 1914	Jan. 1928	Dec. 1928	Jan. 1929	July 1914	Jan. 1928	Dec. 1928	Jan. 1929
			Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.				
Cereals—										
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	Maund	4 11 3	5 13 4	6 0 11	5 6 1	100	124	129	114
Wheat	Delhi No. 1	Cwt.	5 9 6	7 5 3	7 13 6(5)	9 0 9	100	131	140	162
Do.	Khandwa Seoni	Candy	45 0 0	66 0 0	90 0 0	97 8 0	100	147	200	217
Do.	Jubbulpore	..	40 0 0	49 8 0	47 8 0	55 0 0	100	124	119	138
Jowari (1)	Cawnpore	Maund	3 2 6	4 7 1	4 2 0	4 3 9	100	141	131	134
Barley ..	..	..	3 4 6	3 14 8	4 12 2	4 10 6	100	119	145	142
Bairi ..	Chati	..	3 4 6	4 2 0	5 3 0	5 3 0	100	126	158	158
Index No.—Cereals	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	130	146	152
Pulses—										
Cram ..	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	Maund	4 3 9	5 4 8	5 13 1	5 14 10	100	125	137	140
Turdal..	Cawnpore ..	..	5 10 5	8 10 10	8 4 1	8 4 1	100	154	146	145
Index No.—Pulses	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	140	142	143
Index No.—Food grains ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	132	145	150
Sugar—										
(refined)	Mauritius	Cwt.	9 3 0	..	..	..	100	..	..	..
Do. (do.)	Java, white	..	10 3 0	14 2 0	13 9 0	13 9 0	100	159	133	133
Do. Raw (Gul)	Sangli or Poona	Maund	7 14 3	8 7 0	9 12 9	10 3 3	100	107	124	129
Index No.—Sugar	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	123	129	131
Other food										
Rajapuri..	..	Maund	5 9 3	9 6 2	11 15 7	13 9 8	100	168	215	244
Deahi	..	..	45 11 5	71 6 10	65 11 5	68 9 2	100	156	144	150
Bombay (black)	..	..	1 7 6	2 0 0	2 2 0	2 2 0	100	136	145	145
Index No.—Other food	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	153	168	180
Index No.—All Food	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	136	148	154
Other										
Bold ..	..	Cwt.	8 14 6	10 2 0	10 13 0	11 1 0	100	114	121	124
Cawnpore (brown) ..	..	..	8 0 0	10 4 0	10 10 0(7)	10 10 0(7)	100	128	133	133
White ..	..	..	10 14 0	17 5 0	19 8 0	20 4 0	100	159	179	186
..	..	..	11 4 0	12 11 0	11 11 0	11 15 0	100	113	104	106
Index No.—	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	129	134	137

Article	Grade	Rate per	Prices in the month of				Index numbers			
			July 1914	Jan. 1928	Dec. 1928	Jan. 1929	July 1914	Jan. 1928	Dec. 1928	Jan. 1929
			Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.				
Textiles—Cotton—										
Good	..	Candy	251 0 0	435 0 0	331 0 0(5)	331 0 0(5)	100	173	132	132
Fully good	..	..	222 0 0	339 0 0	319 0 0	319 0 0	100	153	146	144
Saw-ginned	..	..	230 0 0	442 0 0	349 0 0(6)	349 0 0(6)	100	192	152	152
Machine-ginned	..	..	205 0 0	321 0 0	295 0 0	289 0 0	100	157	144	141
Do.	..	..	198 0 0	305 0 0	281 0 0	274 0 0	100	154	142	138
Index No.—Cotton manufactures	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	166	143	141
Index No.—Textiles—Cotton ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	165	158	157
Other Textiles										
Silk	Manchow	Lb.	5 2 6	6 2 11	6 2 11	5 14 1	100	120	120	114
Do.	Mathow Lari	..	2 15 1	3 12 3	3 10 1(7)	3 10 1(7)	100	128	123	123
Index No.—Other Textiles	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	124	122	119
Hides and Skins										
Tanned	..	Lb.	1 2 6	1 9 6	1 14 3	1 12 7	100	138	164	154
Do. Buffalo	..	..	1 1 3	0 15 8	1 0 2	0 14 3	100	91	94	83
Skins, Goat	..	..	1 4 0	2 7 0	2 15 3(a)	3 1 9	100	195	236(a)	249
Index No.—Hides and Skins	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	141	165(a)	162
Metals										
Copper braziers	..	Cwt.	60 8 0	60 12 0	66 0 0	67 0 0	100	100	109	111
Iron bars	..	..	4 0 0	6 0 0	7 4 0	7 0 0	100	150	181	175
Steel hoops	..	..	7 12 0	8 12 0	8 10 0	8 10 0	100	113	111	111
Galvanised sheets	..	..	9 0 0	12 0 0	11 11 0	11 14 0	100	133	130	132
Tin plates	..	Box	8 12 0	14 8 0	13 12 0	13 12 0	100	166	157	157
Index No.—Metals	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	132	138	137
Other raw and manufactured articles—										
Coal (Z)	Bengal	Ton	14 12 0	21 0 0	18 0 0	17 12 0	100	142	122	130
Do.	Imported	..	19 11 6	20 10 0	17 12 0	18 11 1	100	105	90	95
Kerosene	Elephant Brand	2 Tins	4 6 0	5 0 0	7 4 0	6 9 6	100	114	166	151
Do.	Chester Brand	Case	5 2 0	8 8 6	8 11 6(8)	8 11 6	100	166	170	170
Index No.—Other raw and manfd. articles	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	132	137	134
Index No.—Food	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	136	148	154
Index No.—Non-food	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	144	147(a)	146
General Index No.	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	141	147(a)	148

* In the absence of price-quotations for the grade 6/600 the price quoted for white mullis is for the grade 6,000/56 since June 1925 and for 6,000/54 x 19 since October 1927.
 October 1925, the price-quotations for raw cotton are for the following five varieties, viz., Broach, Fully good; Oomra, Fine; Dharwar, Saw-ginned, F. G.; Khandesh, Fully good; Bengal, Fully good.
 (1) Quotation for Sholapur quality since March 1926. (2) Since June 1925, the quotation is for Bengal, 1st Class Jheria. (3) Quotation for 37" x 37 1/2 yds. since March 1926. (4) Quotation for since March 1926. (5) Quotation for September 1928. (6) Quotation for August 1928. (7) Quotation for October 1928. (8) Quotation for November 1928.
 (a) Revised figures.

WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN KARACHI*

Articles	Grade	Unit	Prices in the month of				Index numbers			
			Jan. 1928	Dec. 1928	Jan. 1929	July 1914	Jan. 1928	Dec. 1928	Jan. 1929	
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.				
Cereals—										
Rice (1)	Larkana No. 3	Candy	39 0 0	66 4 0	56 12 0	53 4 0	100	170	146	137
Wheat, white	5% barley, 3% dirt, 30% red	"	31 8 0	39 6 0	45 4 0	47 0 0	100	144	144	149
" red	5% barley, 3% dirt, 92% red	"	31 4 0				100			
" white	2% barley, 13% dirt	"	32 8 0	40 10 0	46 10 0	48 6 0	100	125	143	149
" red	2% barley, 13% dirt	"	32 4 0				100			
Jowari	export quality	"	25 8 0	35 12 0	39 8 0	38 12 0	100	140	155	152
Barley	3% dirt	"	26 8 0	32 8 0	35 4 0	34 8 0	100	123	133	130
Index No.—Cereals										
Pulses—										
Gram (2)	1% dirt	Candy	29 8 0	39 0 0	51 8 0	50 0 0	100	137	144	143
Sugar—										
Sugar	Java white	Cwt.	9 2 0	13 10 0	12 9 6	12 15 0	100	149	138	142
	" brown	"	8 1 6	13 0 0	12 0 0	12 2 0	100	161	148	150
Index No.—Sugar										
Other food—										
Salt		Bengal Maund	2 2 0	1 10 6	1 8 6	1 8 0	100	155	143	146
Oilseeds—										
Cotton seed		Maund	2 11 3	3 6 0	3 6 0 (3)	3 6 0 (3)	100	125	125	125
Rapeseed, bold	3% admixture	Candy	51 0 0	68 0 0	66 10 0 (4)	66 10 0 (4)	100	133	131	131
Gingelly seed	Black 9% admixture	"	62 0 0	72 0 0	79 0 0	76 0 0	100	116	127	123
Index No.—Oilseeds										
Jute bags	B. Twills	100 bags	38 4 0	50 10 0	53 12 0	52 12 0	100	125	128	126

Textiles—Cotton—										
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind	Maund	20 4 0	36 2 0	31 12 0	31 12 0 (6)	100	178	157	157
(b) Cotton manufactures—										
Drills	Pepperell	Piece	10 3 6	17 0 0	17 8 0 (5)	17 8 0 (5)	100	166	171	171
Shirtings	Liepmann's	"	10 2 0	18 0 0	18 0 0	18 0 0	100	178	178	178
Index No.—Cotton manufactures										
Index No.—Textiles—Cotton										
Other Textiles—Wool	Kandahar	Maund	28 0 0	33 0 0	36 8 0	38 0 0	100	118	130	136
Hides—										
Hides, dry	Sind	Maund	21 4 0	19 0 0	23 0 0	21 8 0	100	89	108	101
	Punjab	"	21 4 0	19 0 0	23 0 0	21 8 0	100	89	108	101
Index No.—Hides										
Metals—										
Copper Braziers		Cwt.	60 8 0	61 0 0	62 8 0	65 0 0	100	161	163	167
Steel Bars		"	3 14 0	6 4 0	6 14 0	6 12 0	100	161	177	174
" Plates		"	4 6 0	7 2 0	7 4 0	7 4 0	100	163	166	166
Index No.—Metals										
Other raw and manufactured articles										
	1st class Bengal	Ton	16 0 0	19 4 0	19 4 0	19 4 0	100	120	120	120
	Chester Brand	Case	5 2 0	8 6 0	8 9 0	8 9 0	100	163	167	167
	Elephant	2 Tins	4 7 0	6 3 6	6 7 0	6 7 0	100	140	145	145
Index No.—Food										
Index No.—Non-food										

* Yarn 40 (rt, Plough) has been omitted from the index for lack of quotations. (1) Quotation for Sukkur white, since August 1926. (2) Quotation for 3 per cent. mutual since April 1924. (3) Quotation for September 1927. (4) Quotation for May 1928. (5) Quotation for August 1928. (6) Quotation for December 1928.

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

Month	Cereals	Pulses	Sugar	Other food	Index No. food	Oilseeds	Raw cotton	Cotton manufactures	Other textiles	Hides and skins	Metals	Other raw and manufactured articles		
1926														
January ..	147	119	148	172	149	127	154	186	149	155	151	158	157	154
1927														
January ..	153	133	149	140	147	138	113	154	135	142	158	160	146	146
February ..	149	137	139	150	146	143	125	163	135	135	158	159	149	148
March ..	148	133	135	149	144	144	132	163	134	137	156	161	149	148
April ..	144	126	134	150	141	143	128	161	136	142	149	156	147	145
May ..	145	127	132	155	143	145	142	162	142	146	147	159	150	148
June ..	143	130	129	164	143	145	149	161	149	137	142	156	149	148
July ..	139	129	130	162	141	143	154	163	142	139	136	159	149	147
August ..	142	131	132	161	143	143	159	167	138	142	135	156	150	148
September ..	135	125	133	165	140	141	183	172	141	140	133	153	152	148
October ..	136	135	132	162	141	136	179	167	131	144	133	141	148	146
November ..	140	139	138	155	143	131	172	166	131	115	134	140	145	144
December ..	134	138	131	157	139	130	168	164	130	121	132	139	144	143
1928														
January ..	130	140	123	153	136	129	166	164	124	141	132	132	144	141
February ..	133	121	121	155	136	124	163	162	122	133	131	131	144	142
March ..	128	129	122	161	135	124	162	162	124	140	132	132	143	140
April ..	130	135	127	162	137	128	158	162	126	153	133	131	144	142
May ..	130	131	129	180	141	132	165	164	130	151	133	140	147	145
June ..	136	126	152	197	150	130	167	169	129	147	138	140	149	149
July ..	130	124	129	196	143	131	169	172	123	146	137	140	149	147
August ..	131	127	132	191	143	128	151	169	124	155	137	146	147	146
September ..	140	134	136	194	150	132	150	168	120	155	138	143	147	148
October ..	148	143	147	195	157	134	151	168	119	159	138	138	147	148
November ..	144	144	145	189	153	134	149	170	120	162	137	142	147	149
December ..	146	142	129	168	148	134	143	171	122	165(a)	138	137	147(a)	147(a)
1929														
January ..	152	143	131	180	154	137	141	171	119	162	137	134	146	148

(a) Revised figures.

COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS FOR INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Name of country	India (Bombay)	United Kingdom	Canada	Australia	New Zealand	Italy (Rome)	Belgium	Norway	Switzerland	South Africa	France (Paris)	U. S. of America
Items included in the index	Food, fuel, light, clothing and rent	Food, rent, fuel, light, clothing and miscellaneous	Food, fuel, light and rent	Food and rent	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, heat, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, heating, lighting and rent	Food, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, heating and lighting, rent and miscellaneous
	100	100	100	(a) 100(f)	(b) 100	(b) 100	(c) 100	100	(a) 100(b)	100(f)	100	(a) 100(m)
1914 July ..	100	100	100	119	(f) 108	99	...	(d) 117	...	105	...	105(m)
1915 ..	104	125	97	115	117	116	...	146	...	114	...	142
1916 ..	108	148	102	116	128	146	...	190	...	118	...	174
1917 ..	118	180	130	116	144	197	...	253	204(a)	118	...	199
1918 ..	149	203	146	118	158	205	...	(d) 275	222	126	...	200
1919 ..	186	208	155	132	157	205	...	453	307	155	(p) 341	174
1919 ..	190	252	190	154	182	313	...	379	294	200	(p) 307	200
1920 ..	177	219	152	152	178	387	...	366	251	164	(p) 302	170
1921 ..	165	184	147	140	159	429	...	429	238	164	(p) 334	173
1922 ..	153	169	146	151	158	(h) 487	...	429	249	169	(p) 366	178
1923 ..	157	170	144	149	160	512	...	493	259	168	(p) 390	178
1924 ..	152	173	146	153	163	598	...	509	259	168	(p) 485	176(m)
1925 ..	157	170	150	(a) 161	(f) 163	649	...	637	220	162(a)	130	...
1926 ..	156	166	149	...	...	548	...	790	203	160	132	...
1927 ..	151	167	149	...	...	536	...	804	196	161	132	...
October ..	150	169	150	...	161	536	...	809	195	162	132	...
November ..	151	169	151	...	159	531	...	812	195	162	132	498
December ..	150	169	150	...	...	532	...	813	194	161	132	...
1928												
January ..	154	168	151	...	...	533	...	811	194	161	131	...
February ..	148	166	150	...	157	531	...	806	193	160	132	507
March ..	145	164	149	...	...	531	...	807	193	160	133	...
April ..	144	164	149	...	...	526	...	805	193	160	133	...
May ..	147	164	148	...	162	530	...	811	193	161	132	519
June ..	146	165	148	...	...	526	...	811	193	161	131	...
July ..	147	165	148	...	...	522	...	819	192	161	131	...
August ..	145	165	151	...	155	526	...	825	185	161	130	...
September ..	146	166	152	...	...	528	...	834	184	162	131	...
October ..	147	167	152	...	...	528	...	842	184	162	131	...
November ..	148	168	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	531
December ..	149	167	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1929												
January ..	149	167	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
February ..	149	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

(a) From 1914 to 1926 figures relate to second quarter. (b) First half of 1914. (c) April 1914. (d) From 1915 to 1919 June figures are given. (e) June 1914=100. (f) Average for 1914-100. (g) Average 1913 is the base. (h) The figures for Italy from July 1923 are for Milan. (i) Revised series from March 1922. (k) Revised figures. (l) Figures from 1915 to 1926 refer to August. (m) Figures from 1915 to 1926 refer to December. (n) First half of the year. (o) Yearly averages for the years 1918-1926. (p) June figures.

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INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Country	India (Bombay)	Japan	China (Shanghai)	Java (Batavia)	Australia	United Kingdom (I)	Egypt (Cairo)	France	Holland	Norway	Sweden	Canada (I)	United States of America (I)
No. of articles	44	56	147	92	92	26	150	45	48	100	47	236	404
1914 January	100	100	(1) 100	100	100	100	100	100	100	(4) 100	(I) 100	100	100
1914 February	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 March	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 April	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 May	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 June	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 July	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 August	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 September	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 October	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 November	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 December	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 January	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 February	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 March	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 April	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 May	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 June	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 July	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 August	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 September	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 October	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 November	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 December	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1925 January	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* July 1914 = 100. (1) Average for half year ended June 1914 = 100. (2) Revised figures. (3) The figures from 1914-1920 are for December. (4) Figures for 1915 = 100. (5) Average January 1915 to July 1914 = 100. (6) Average for year ended June 1914 = 100. (7) Revised figures. (8) Figures for 1920 = 100. (9) Series discontinued. (10) Index of 1914 = 100. (11) Composite figures of Statistics. (12) Figures of Labor Statistics.

METAL FOOD INDEX NUMBERS FOR INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Name of country	India	United Kingdom	Canada	South Africa	Australia	New Zealand	United States of America	France (I)	Italy	Belgium	Finland	Holland	Norway	Sweden (I)	Denmark	Switzerland
No. of articles	17	20	29	18	46	59	45	15	9	..	37	23	..	51	..	
No. of stations	Bombay	630	60	9	30	25	51	Paris	Rome	59	21	Amsterdam	30	49	100	33
1914 July	100	100	100	(1) 100	100	100	100	100	100	(2) 100	(3) 100	(4) 100	100	100	100	100
1914 August	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 September	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 October	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 November	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 December	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 January	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 February	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 March	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 April	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 May	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 June	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 July	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 August	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 September	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 October	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 November	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924 December	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1925 January	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

(1) Average for the year 1914. (2) Includes fuel and bedding. (3) January to June 1914. (4) Revised series—1921=100. (5) Figure for June. (6) The figures for Italy from July 1923 are for Milan. (7) Figure for August. (8) June 1914=100. (9) Revised figures. (10) The figures from January 1926 are for the Hague since January to July 1914=100.

RETAIL PRICES OF ARTICLES OF FOOD IN DECEMBER 1928 AND JANUARY 1929*

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

Articles	Price per	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona	Bombay	Siwani	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
		December 1928	December 1928	December 1928	December 1928	December 1928	January 1929	January 1929	January 1929	January 1929	January 1929
		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 (1)	Maund	8 10 5 <i>155</i>	7 0 6 <i>105</i>	8 0 0 <i>136</i>	8 6 9 <i>159</i>	8 11 2 <i>151</i>	8 15 5 <i>160</i>	7 4 4 <i>109</i>	8 0 0 <i>130</i>	8 6 9 <i>159</i>	7 9 11 <i>132</i>
Wheat (1)	"	8 8 6 <i>153</i>	6 10 8 <i>158</i>	7 8 6 <i>160</i>	6 5 9 <i>123</i>	7 6 10 <i>138</i>	9 2 3 <i>163</i>	6 8 6 <i>155</i>	8 0 0 <i>170</i>	6 9 9 <i>128</i>	7 12 0 <i>144</i>
Jowari	"	5 3 8 <i>120</i>	5 0 0 <i>138</i>	4 7 1 <i>117</i>	3 6 11 <i>120</i>	4 2 6 <i>121</i>	5 5 4 <i>122</i>	5 0 0 <i>138</i>	4 7 1 <i>117</i>	3 10 10 <i>128</i>	4 9 9 <i>134</i>
Beiri	"	5 15 8 <i>139</i>	5 13 1 <i>138</i>	6 6 5 <i>136</i>	3 8 11 <i>101</i>	4 15 8 <i>121</i>	6 4 5 <i>146</i>	5 11 5 <i>136</i>	6 10 8 <i>142</i>	4 7 5 <i>127</i>	5 8 11 <i>135</i>
Index No.—Cereals		<i>142</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>136</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>136</i>	<i>136</i>
Pulses—											
Gram	Maund	7 9 11 <i>177</i>	6 11 9 <i>177</i>	5 5 4 <i>133</i>	5 10 9 <i>132</i>	6 7 10 <i>133</i>	7 13 6 <i>182</i>	6 10 8 <i>175</i>	6 1 2 <i>141</i>	6 9 2 <i>135</i>	6 9 2 <i>135</i>
Turdal	"	9 4 10 <i>159</i>	8 0 0 <i>120</i>	8 14 3 <i>144</i>	8 7 1 <i>145</i>	3 7 <i>140</i>	9 10 8 <i>165</i>	8 0 0 <i>120</i>	8 14 3 <i>144</i>	8 13 1 <i>151</i>	8 14 7 <i>135</i>
Index No.—Pulses		<i>168</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>135</i>

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Articles of food	Price per	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona	Bombay	Siwani	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
		December 1928	December 1928	December 1928	December 1928	December 1928	January 1929	January 1929	January 1929	January 1929	January 1929
		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.
Sugar	Maund	12 1 11 <i>159</i>	10 0 0 <i>138</i>	10 2 10 <i>131</i>	11 6 10 <i>114</i>	10 8 5 <i>113</i>	11 6 10 <i>150</i>	10 0 0 <i>138</i>	10 5 2 <i>129</i>	10 10 8 <i>107</i>	8 5 <i>113</i>
Jagri (gul)	"	13 1 0 <i>153</i>	9 8 10 <i>137</i>	11 13 8 <i>133</i>	10 10 8 <i>137</i>	10 8 5 <i>150</i>	12 0 6 <i>141</i>	9 6 7 <i>135</i>	11 6 10 <i>129</i>	10 0 0 <i>129</i>	10 3 1 <i>145</i>
Tea	Lb	0 14 10 <i>190</i>	0 15 7 <i>225</i>	0 15 7 <i>200</i>	1 1 10 <i>171</i>	1 0 5 <i>200</i>	0 14 10 <i>190</i>	0 15 7 <i>225</i>	0 15 7 <i>200</i>	1 1 10 <i>171</i>	1 0 5 <i>200</i>
Salt	Maund	2 12 9 <i>131</i>	1 14 6 <i>145</i>	2 4 7 <i>151</i>	3 5 4 <i>150</i>	2 15 11 <i>159</i>	2 12 9 <i>131</i>	1 14 6 <i>145</i>	2 4 7 <i>151</i>	3 5 4 <i>150</i>	2 15 0 <i>156</i>
Flour	Seer	0 9 3 <i>179</i>	0 9 0 <i>180</i>	0 6 0 <i>100</i>	0 5 0 <i>201</i>	0 6 0 <i>141</i>	0 9 3 <i>179</i>	0 9 0 <i>180</i>	0 6 0 <i>100</i>	0 5 0 <i>201</i>	0 6 0 <i>141</i>
Mutton	"	0 11 3 <i>169</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 8 0 <i>133</i>	0 9 6 <i>158</i>	0 11 3 <i>169</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 8 0 <i>133</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>
Milk	Maund	17 9 4 <i>191</i>	8 6 9 <i>190</i>	10 0 0 <i>200</i>	10 0 0 <i>138</i>	13 5 4 <i>133</i>	17 9 4 <i>191</i>	8 6 9 <i>190</i>	10 0 0 <i>200</i>	10 0 0 <i>138</i>	13 5 4 <i>133</i>
Ghee	"	82 0 10 <i>162</i>	66 10 8 <i>156</i>	64 0 0 <i>144</i>	91 6 10 <i>163</i>	66 10 8 <i>129</i>	78 0 9 <i>154</i>	66 10 8 <i>156</i>	64 0 0 <i>144</i>	85 5 4 <i>152</i>	66 10 8 <i>129</i>
Potatoes	"	7 2 3 <i>159</i>	7 4 4 <i>134</i>	10 0 0 (b) <i>263</i>	7 4 4 <i>182</i>	5 10 7 <i>168</i>	7 2 3 <i>159</i>	5 15 8 <i>110</i>	7 4 4 <i>191</i>	7 4 4 <i>182</i>	6 1 11 <i>182</i>
Onions	"	2 13 9 <i>184</i>	3 1 3 <i>169</i>	2 12 2 <i>138</i>	3 1 3 <i>123</i>	2 10 1 <i>131</i>	2 13 9 <i>184</i>	3 9 6 <i>198</i>	4 0 0 <i>200</i>	3 14 5 <i>156</i>	2 10 1 <i>131</i>
Cocanut oil	"	28 9 1 <i>112</i>	26 10 8 <i>108</i>	32 0 0 <i>160</i>	29 1 5 <i>109</i>	28 1 1 <i>100</i>	28 9 1 <i>112</i>	26 10 8 <i>108</i>	32 0 0 <i>160</i>	29 1 5 <i>109</i>	28 1 1 <i>100</i>
Index No.—Other articles of food		<i>163</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>162 (b)</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>161</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>145</i>
Index No.—All food articles (unweighted)		<i>158</i>	<i>152</i>	<i>153 (b)</i>	<i>141</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>152</i>	<i>153</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>142</i>

*The sources of the prices in this table are the Monthly Returns of Average Retail Prices Current supplied by the Director of Agriculture, Poona.
(1) The Bombay price quotations for rice and wheat since June 1928 are for 'Mandla' and 'Pissi Sarbatti' varieties instead of for 'Rangoon small mill' and 'Pissi Seoni' respectively.
(b) Revised figures.

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WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS IN BOMBAY BY GROUPS

FEB., 1929

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Months	Cereals	Meat	Vegetables and pulses	Other articles of food	All food	Fuel and lighting	Clothing	Housing	Cost of living
1928									
February	132	136	132	181	150	165	172	172	154
March	132	136	133	182	151	165	174	172	153
April	132	133	132	180	150	165	175	172	153
May	133	138	133	177	150	164	170	172	153
June	133	139	134	182	152	164	162	172	153
July	134	145	135	187	155	164	160	172	155
August	135	141	136	181	153	164	160	172	155
September	135	145	136	179	152	164	160	172	155
October	135	150	136	180	153	164	159	172	155
November	133	152	135	180	152	164	156	172	154
December	134	155	136	184	154	166	148	172	156
1927									
January	134	149	135	188	155	166	143	172	156
February	134	154	136	180	152	166	148	172	155
March	134	159	137	179	152	166	152	172	155
April	133	153	135	178	151	166	143	172	153
May	133	154	134	176	150	166	147	172	152
June	134	156	136	177	151	166	147	172	154
July	136	153	138	181	154	166	149	172	156
August	136	157	138	184	155	166	152	172	157
September	132	151	134	180	151	166	163	172	154
October	122	151	129	180	148	156	163	172	151
November	125	151	127	180	147	156	157	172	150
December	129	155	131	178	149	156	154	172	151
1926									
January	132	160	135	180	151	156	152	172	154
February	127	152	129	174	146	144	153	172	148
March	123	146	126	171	142	144	151	172	145
April	121	147	124	168	140	145	153	172	144
May	123	153	126	175	144	145	155	172	147
June	122	142	124	172	142	158	156	172	146
July	120	144	123	177	143	158	158	172	147
August	119	144	121	176	142	158	159	172	146
September	120	143	122	174	141	151	157	172	145
October	121	135	124	174	142	144	156	172	146
November	122	137	125	174	144	143	158	172	147
December	125	136	128	173	143	143	160	172	148
1929									
January	127	163	130	173	146	148	160	172	149
February	126	162	130	171	146	143	160	172	149

LABOUR GAZETTE

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

BOMBAY, MARCH, 1929

[No. 7

Vol. VIII]

The Month in Brief

FAWCETT COMMITTEE REPORT

On page 681 will be found a summary of the report presented to the Committee by the Committee appointed to consider various questions arising out of the General Strike in the cotton mills in Bombay City last year. The Committee have found that the wage-cut proposed by the millowners was justified but suggest that the Millowners should agree to drop it, provided the Labour leaders in their turn undertake to give proper co-operation in trying to make the Standardisation Scheme work properly. They should co-operate in the same manner as Trade Unions have co-operated in working the "Uniform Lists" in Lancashire.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE TEXTILE AND ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES

In the textile industry, as a whole the supply of labour was equal to the demand during the month of February 1929. The average absenteeism was 13.71 per cent. for Bombay City, 3.45 per cent. for Ahmedabad, 14.80 per cent. for Sholapur, 3.19 per cent. for Viramgaum and 7.64 per cent. for Dhule.

In the engineering industry in Bombay City the supply of both skilled and unskilled labour was adequate. Absenteeism was 18.20 per cent. in the engineering workshops, 5 per cent. in the Marine Lines Reclamation of the Development Directorate, 15.96 per cent. in the Bombay Port Trust Docks and 10.06 per cent. in the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust. In the engineering workshops of the Karachi Port Trust the percentage absenteeism was 7.60.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBER

In March 1929 the Bombay Working Class Cost of Living Index Number was 148, against 148 in the preceding month. The Index Number for food articles only was 146.

INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES

The Wholesale Price Index Number in Bombay for February 1929 was 150.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

There were no industrial disputes in the month of February 1929. The number of workmen employed was 471 and the number of workmen lost was 24,780.

STATE OF TRADE

During February 1929, the visible balance of trade, including securities, in favour of India amounted to Rs. 29 lakhs.