

The Cost of Living Index for March 1929

A RISE OF ONE POINT

Increase over July 1914 .. All articles .. 46 per cent.
 .. Food only .. 46 per cent.

In March 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 one point higher than in the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the general index number was 149 in February and 149 in March 1929. The general index number is thus 44 points below the high-water mark (193) reached in October 1928 and 2 points higher than the twelve-monthly average for the year 1928. As compared with February 1929, the index number for all food articles remained the same. The index number for cereals advanced by 3 points owing to an increase in all the cereals except jowari which was stationary at 121. Gram and tur dal rose by 4 points each. The index number for all food grains stood at 132 as against 130 in the previous month. Among other food articles, there was a fall of 7 points in refined sugar but raw sugar (gul) was stationary at 133. Tea, nutmeg, potatoes, onions and coconut oil were cheaper by 7, 3, 27, 38 and 2 points respectively while ghee and salt registered a rise of 5 and 4 points respectively. The index number for the "Other food" group declined by 4 points to 169.

The "Fuel and lighting" index number remained stationary at 143. The index number for the "Clothing" group fell by 1 point to 159 due to a fall in the price of chudders and shirtings.

All items : Percentage increase over July 1914

	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
January ..	73	56	59	57	55	56	54	49
February ..	65	55	56	57	54	55	48	48(a)
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 and fuel and lighting, clothing and house-rent. The articles have been given the relative importance which each bears to the total all-inclusive aggregate expenditure. No allowance is made for any change in the standard of living since July 1914.

(a) Revised figure.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX—MARCH

Articles	Unit of measurement	Annual consumption (in crores)	Price per Unit of Quantity			Price		
			July 1914	Feb. 1929	March 1929	July 1914	March 1929	
Wheat	Maund	70	Rs. 5.594	Rs. 6.943	Rs. 7.026	Rs. 391.58	Rs. 486.01	
			21	5.594	7.417	7.750	117.47	155.76
			11	4.354	5.250	5.250	47.89	57.75
			6	4.313	5.964	6.125	25.88	35.78
Jowari	Maund	10			7.552	43.02	73.80	
					8.417	17.53	25.25	
Tur dal	Maund	10				60.55	100.77	
						100	166	
Gram	Maund	10		11.307	10.714	15.24	21.43	
				13.094	13.094	59.90	91.66	
Pulses	Maund	10		77.776	74.786	1.00	1.87	
				3.125	3.219	10.65	16.10	
Soyabean	Maund	10		0.510	0.510	9.04	14.28	
				0.740	0.724	13.76	23.89	
Salt	Maund	10		17.583	17.583	128.77	246.16	
				86.307	88.693	76.19	133.04	
Beet	Maund	10		7.740	6.547	49.27	72.02	
				4.167	3.573	4.66	10.72	
Ghee	Maund	10		27.974	27.380	12.70	13.69	
Potatoes	Maund	10				361.18	657.79	
						100	169	
Other food	Maund	10				1,024.55	1,491.41	
						100	146	
Firewood	Maund	5	4.375	6.594	6.594	21.88	32.97	
			0.792	1.099	1.099	38.02	52.75	
Coal	Maund	48	0.542	0.641	0.656	0.54	0.64	
House-rent	Per month	10		19.440	19.440	113.02	194.40	
						100	172	
Shirtings	Lb.	27	0.594	0.953	0.938	16.04	25.33	
			0.641	1.042	1.036	16.03	25.90	
T. Cloths	Lb.	36	0.583	0.922	0.922	20.99	33.19	
Grand Total	Per month	10				53.06	84.42	
						100	159	
Cost of Living	Per month	10				1,251.07	1,857.14	
						100	148(a)	

(a) revised figure.

The following table shows the price levels of articles of food in February and March 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 :-

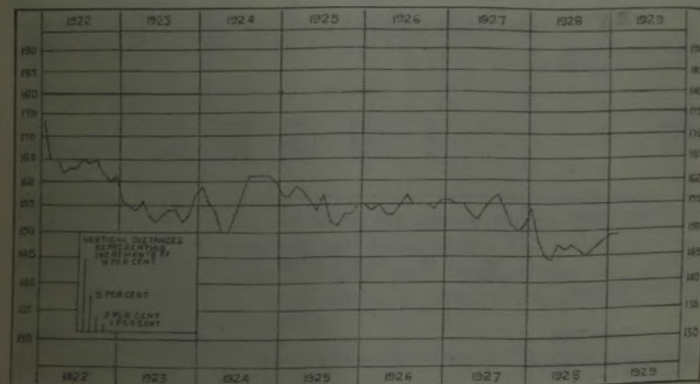
Articles	July 1914	Feb. 1929	Mar. 1929	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of 1929 over or below Feb. 1929	Articles	July 1914	Feb. 1929	Mar. 1929	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in Mar. 1929 over or below Feb. 1929
Rice	100	124	126	+ 2	Salt	100	147	151	+ 4
Wheat	100	133	139	+ 6	Beef	100	158	158	..
Jowari	100	121	121	..	Mutton	100	177	174	- 3
Bajri	100	138	142	+ 4	Milk	100	191	191	..
Gram	100	172	176	+ 4	Ghee	100	170	175	+ 5
Turdal	100	140	144	+ 4	Potatoes	100	173	146	- 27
Sugar (refined)..	100	148	141	- 7	Onions	100	268	230	- 38
Raw sugar (gul).	100	153	153	..	Cocoanut oil ..	100	110	108	- 2
Tea	100	194	187	- 7	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 21, Wheat 28, Jowari 17, Bajri 30, Gram 43, Turdal 31, Sugar (refined) 29, Raw Sugar (gul) 35, Tea 47, Salt 34, Beef 37, Mutton 43, Milk 48, Ghee 43, Potatoes 32, Onions 57 and Cocoanut Oil 7.

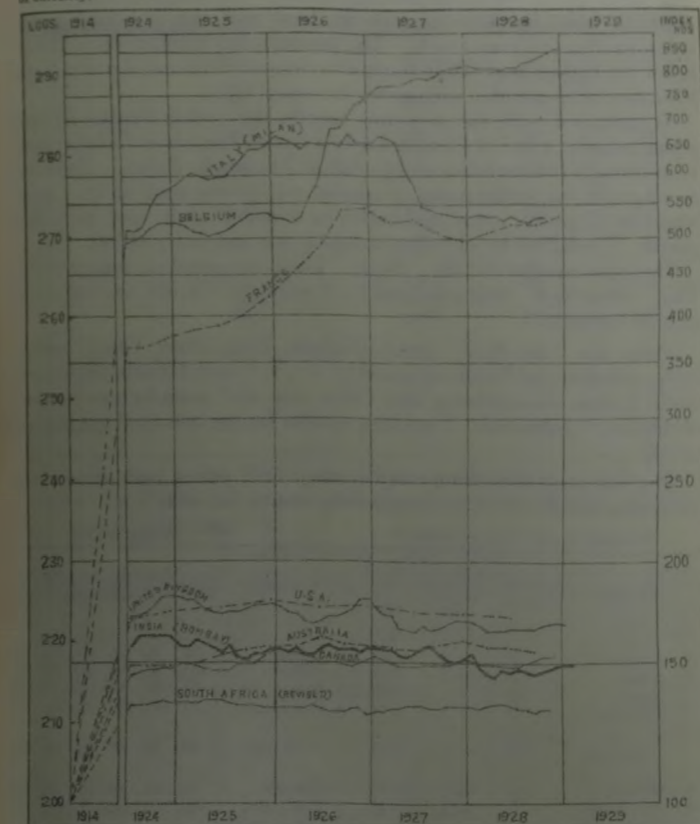
The purchasing power of the rupee being taken as 16 annas in July 1914, its purchasing power in the month under review was 10 annas and 9 pies for all items and 11 annas for food articles only.

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 1924. 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 1911 .. 50 per cent.

In February 1929, the number of wholesale prices in Bombay was 148 in the previous month. As compared with January, numbers for both the food and the non-food groups recorded a rise of 1 point each. The general index number was 113 points below the highest peak (263) reached in August 1918 and 4 points higher than the average for the year 1928.

Compared with the preceding month, the index number for food grains recorded a rise of 4 points due to a rise of 7 points in cereals, partially counterbalanced by a fall of 5 points in Pulses. There was a rise in the prices of cereals, rice having gone up by 1 point, wheat by 12 points, jowari and barley by 3 points each, and bairi by 6 points. The index number for gram was stationary at 140.

The index number for the Sugar group remained stationary at 131. The "Other food" index declined by 4 points to 176 due to a fall in the price of turmeric.

Under the "non-food" group, Oilseeds, Raw cotton, Other textiles, Hides and skins and Metals advanced by 1, 3, 15 and 2 points respectively while Cotton manufactures and Other raw and manufactured articles declined by 1 point each. The index number for the non-food group was at 118.

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

Groups	No. of items	Change		Groups	Average of 1928				
		with Jan. 1929	with Feb. 1929		Feb. 1928	May 1928	Aug. 1928	Nov. 1928	Jan. 1929	Feb. 1929
1. Cereals	7	+	+20	1. Cereals	98	96	106	112	117
2. Pulses	12	-	+1	2. Pulses	101	98	95	107	107
3. Sugar	8	-	8	3. Sugar	91	97	99	109	98
4. Other food	3	+	+14	4. Other food ..	87	101	107	106	101
All food	20	+	+15	All food ..	94	98	99	106	107
5. Oilseeds	4	+	+2	5. Oilseeds	95	102	98	103	105
6. Raw cotton	5	+	+1	6. Raw cotton ..	103	104	96	94	89
7. Cotton manufactures	1	-	-1	7. Cotton manufactures	97	98	101	102	102
8. Other textiles	6	+	+3	8. Other textiles	98	105	100	97	96
9. Hides & skins	2	+	+13	9. Hides & skins	103	99	101	106	116
10. Metals	3	+	+5	10. Metals	98	98	101	101	101
11. Other raw and manufactured articles	3	-	-1	11. Other raw and manufactured articles	95	101	106	103	97
All non-food	20	+	+3	All non-food ..	95	101	101	101	100
General Index No.	44	+	+6	General Index No.	97	99	100	102	101

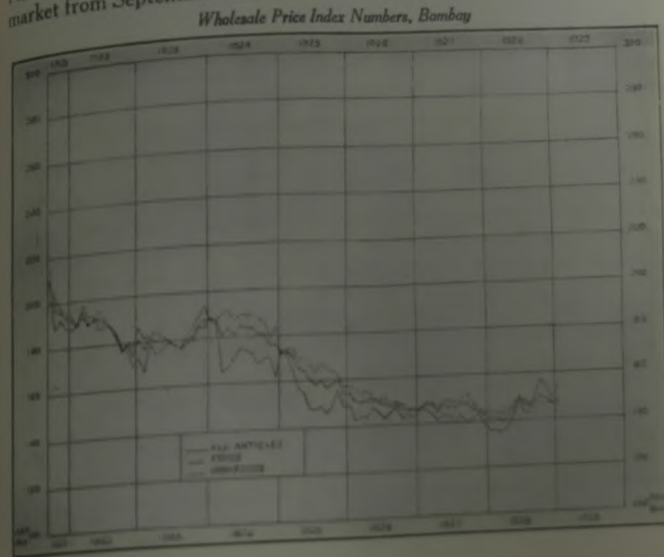
Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on pages 720-721.

MAR., 1929

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 1918 ..	171	275	239
" " 1919 ..	202	234	223
" " 1920 ..	206	219	216
" " 1921 ..	193	201	198
" " 1922 ..	186	187	187
" " 1923 ..	179	182	181
" " 1924 ..	173	188	182
" " 1925 ..	155	167	163
" " 1926 ..	145	152	149
" " 1927 ..	143	148	147
" " 1928 ..	144	146	146
Two-monthly " 1929 ..	155	147	149

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 1921.

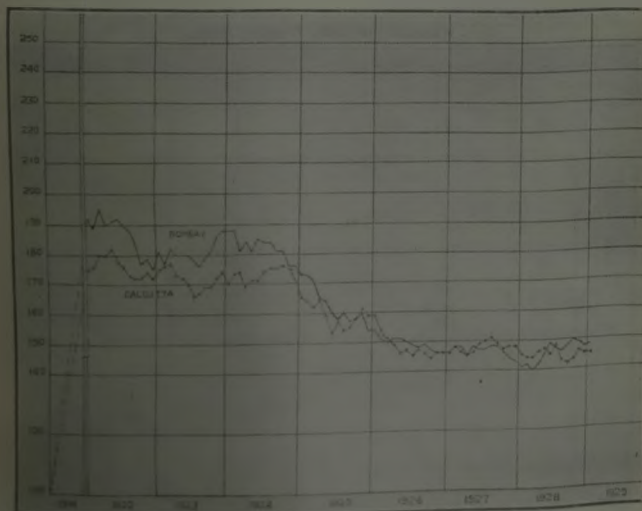


COMPARISON BETWEEN THE INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA

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

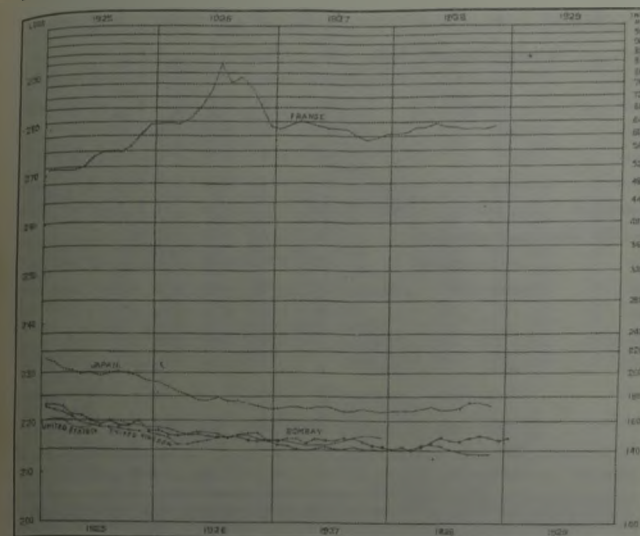
The items included in the indices are 44 for Bombay and 71 for Calcutta. The groups included in the Calcutta index but excluded from that for Bombay are tea (3 items), oil (2 items), jute-raw (3 items), jute manufactures (4 items) and building materials (1 item). There are no groups included in the Bombay 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 the middle of 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 Neth.-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

Article	Grade	Rate per	Equiva- lent in tolas	1929			Increase (+) or decrease (-) in Feb. 1929 over or below	
				July 1914	Jan. 1929	Feb. 1929	July 1914	Jan. 1929
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill.*	Paylee	204	As. p. 5 10	As. p. 7 2	As. p. 7 1	+1 3	-0 1
Wheat	Pissi Seoni**	"	200	5 10	7 5	7 5	+1 7	"
Jowari	Best Sholapuri	"	200	4 3	5 2	5 3	+1 0	+0 1
Bajri	Ghati	"	204	4 7	6 1	6 1	+1 6	"
Gram	Delhi*	"	192	4 4	7 1	7 1	+2 9	"
Turdal	Cawnpore	"	204	5 11	8 6	8 4	+2 5	"
Sugar (refined)	Java, white	Seer	28	1 1	1 6	1 7	+0 6	-0 2
Raw Sugar (Gul)	Sangli, middle quality	"	28	1 2	1 10	1 10	+0 8	+0 1
Tea	Loose, Ceylon, powder	Lb.	39	7 10	14 10	15 2	+7 4	"
Salt	Bombay, black	Paylee	176	1 9	2 10	2 9	+1 0	+0 4
Beef	"	Lb.	39	2 6	4 0	4 0	+1 6	-0 1
Mutton	"	"	39	3 0	5 9	5 9	+2 9	"
Milk	Medium	Seer	56	2 9	4 11	4 11	+2 2	"
Ghee	Belgaum, superior	"	28	7 1	12 3	12 1	+5 0	-1 2
Potatoes	Ordinary	"	28	0 8	1 1	1 1	+0 5	"
Onions	Nasik	"	28	0 3	0 7	0 7	+0 4	"
Cocoanut oil	Middle quality	"	28	3 7	3 10	3 11	+0 4	+0 1

Collection of prices.—The following are the areas and streets in which price quotations are obtained other than butcher's meat:—
 1. Durgam Chawl.
 2. Kumbharwada—Kumbharwada Road (North End).
 3. Chowki—Kumbharwada Road (South End).
 4. Elphinstone Road.
 5. Naigam—Naigam Cross Road and Development Chawls.
 6. Parel—Ponbardi.
 7. Parel—Parel Road.
 8. DeLisle Road.
 9. Superibag—Superibag Road.
 10. Chinchpokli—Parel Road.
 11. Grant Road.
 12. Nal Bazar.

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

The variations in prices during February 1929, as compared with the preceding month were within narrow limits. Under food-grains, rice declined by 1 pie per paylee and turdal recorded a decrease of 2 pies per paylee while jowari advanced by 1 pie per paylee. The price of wheat, bajri and gram showed no change. Among other articles of food, sugar (refined) and cocoanut oil advanced by 1 pie each per seer and tea rose by 4 pies per lb. Salt was cheaper by 1 pie per paylee and ghee by 2 pies per seer. The price of the remaining articles was practically stationary during the month under review.

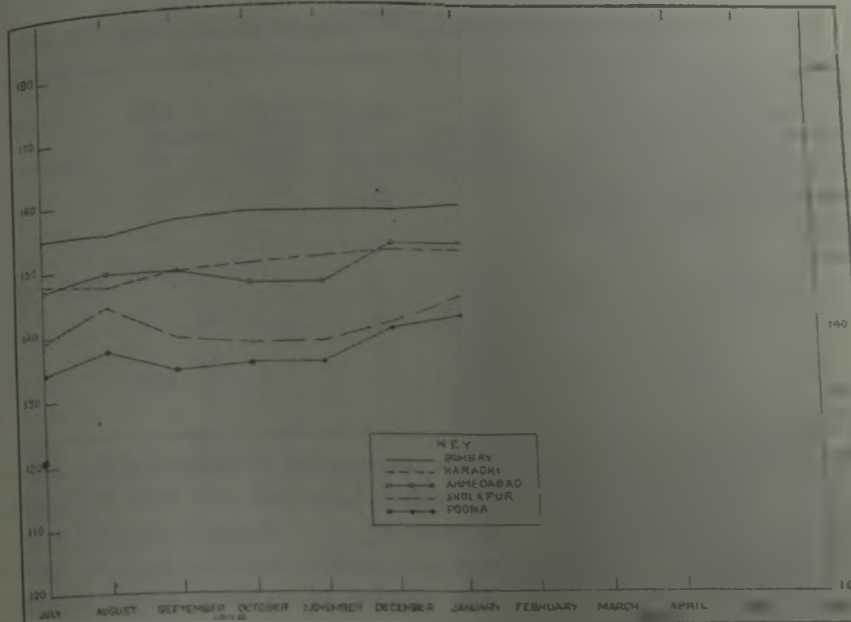
As compared with July 1914, all articles show a rise in prices. Onions are 133 per cent above the prewar price. Tea, mutton and milk have risen more than 75 per cent; gul, salt, beef, ghee and potatoes by more than 50 per cent.; and sugar (refined) by 46 per cent. The price of cocoanut oil is only 9 per cent. above its prewar level.

* Pissi Sarabatti and "Punjab" variety respectively.
 ** Pissi Sarabatti and "Punjab" variety respectively.

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

Articles	January 1929					February 1929				
	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
Rice (1)	160	109	130	132	132	160	109	130	152	122
Wheat (1)	163	133	129	128	144	163	160	170	123	132
Jowari	122	136	117	127	134	122	138	117	126	132
Bajri	146	136	142	127	135	146	136	142	122	133
Gram	182	175	133	141	135	182	181	133	141	127
Turdal	165	120	144	151	135	165	121	144	138	122
Sugar (refined)	150	138	129	107	113	150	135	129	107	110
Jagri (Gul)	141	135	129	129	145	141	135	129	129	130
Tea	190	225	200	171	200	190	225	200	171	200
Salt	131	145	151	150	156	131	145	151	150	152
Beef	179	180	100	201	141	179	180	100	201	141
Mutton	169	167	167	133	167	169	167	167	133	158
Milk	191	190	200	138	133	191	180	200	138	133
Ghee	154	156	144	152	129	154	156	144	152	129
Potatoes	159	110	191	182	182	176	114	131	181	147
Onions	184	198	200	156	131	202	207	216	160	131
Cocoanut oil	112	108	160	109	100	112	102	160	109	100
Average All food articles	159	152	153	145	142	160	152	151	144	136

Chart showing the unweighted Retail Prices food Index Numbers (1914 prices=100) 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 "Pissi Sarabatti" varieties instead of for "Rangoon Small Mill" and "Pissi Seoni" respectively.

Labour Intelligence—Indian and Foreign Industrial Disputes in the Presidency

Disputes in February .. 6 Workpeople involved . 4,335

At the end of this issue will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during February 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 February 1929, and the number of working days lost.

I.—Industrial Disputes Classified by Trades

Trade	Number of disputes in progress in February 1929			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in Feb. 1929	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in Feb. 1929
	Started before February	Started in February	Total		
Textile ..	1	4	5	2,545	13,492
Transport ..	....	....	....	....	....
Engineering ..	....	....	....	....	....
Metal ..	....	....	....	....	....
Miscellaneous ..	1	....	1	1,790	26,288
Total ..	2	4	6	4,335	39,780

During the month under review the number of industrial disputes was six of which three occurred in Bombay City and one each in Sholapur, Ahmedabad and Dhulia. The number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 4,335 and the number of working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days less workers replaced) was 39,780.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

II.—Industrial Disputes—Causes and Results, October 1928 to February 1929

	October 1928	November 1928	December 1928	January 1929	February 1929
strikes and	14	23	44	16	6
" " " "	4	3	7	7	2
" " " "	10	20	37	9	4
" " " "	11	16	37	14	5
" " " "	3	7	7	2	1
Aggregate duration in working days ..	1,258,581	37,414	73,861	20,890	4,335
Demands—					
Pay ..	6	16	29	4	3
Bonus ..	....	....	....	....	....
Personal ..	4	6	10	7	3
and hours ..	4	1	4	5	....
Results—					
In favour of employees..	1	4	12	3	....
Compromised ..	4	3	3	3	1
In favour of employers..	6	9	22	8	4

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	Disputes 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.)
March 1928 ..	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	..
November ..	23	20	16	156,855	56	25	19
December ..	44	37	37	..	59	32	9
January 1929 ..	16	9	14	134,018	56	22	22
February ..	6	4	5	39,780	80	..	20

* 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 February 1929 was 4 as compared with 9 in the previous month. The number of work-people involved was 1782 and the number of working days lost amounted to 13,492. Three of these disputes arose over wages questions and one over a question regarding the employment of a jobber. In addition, two disputes, involving 2553 workpeople, were in progress at the beginning of the month and resulted in a time loss amounting to 26,288 man-days. Out of the six old and new disputes, five terminated during the month. The results were favourable to the employers in four cases and in the remaining one case the result was a compromise.

Progress of Individual Disputes

BOMBAY CITY

There were three disputes in progress in Bombay City during the month under review. One of these was a continuation of the dispute which affected three factories of the Oil Companies in Bombay City. On the 1st, 29 strikers resumed work unconditionally. The Labour leaders continued to hold meetings and exhort the strikers to carry on vigorous picketing. As a result of the picketing carried on by the strikers, 40 workers absented themselves from the factories on the 4th, 36 on the 5th and 11 more on the 6th. Nor did the Oil Agents attend to receive their usual supply of oil for sale. On the 8th, a Cooly Contractor and his 100 men absented themselves from work. There was no change in the situation during the subsequent four days, but on the 13th, the Oil Agents commenced to attend at the Factories to receive their usual supply of oil for sale in the city and the strikers began gradually to resume work unconditionally from the 14th. By the 19th, the Standard Oil Company and the Indo-Burmah Petroleum Company were able to work with sufficient number of hands to carry on normal working in their factories. The dispute in the Burmah Shell Oil Company, however continued. On the 22nd, 70 strikers returned to work unconditionally at this factory which resumed normal working from the 23rd. The management notified the strikers who were still out that they were discharged from the Company's service. The strike thus ended in favour of the employers.

The second dispute occurred in the Kastoorchand Mill. On the 19th, 200 operatives of the spinning department refused to work demanding an increase in wages. As their request was refused they remained idle in the mill till the evening and then dispersed quietly. On the next day the Labour leaders asked the strikers to meet them in the evening but none of the Leaders turned up to meet the strikers as appointed. All the

strikers resumed work unconditionally on the 21st, and the strike thus terminated in favour of the employers.

The third dispute affected the group of mills under the agency of Messrs. Currimbhoy Ebrahim & Sons, Ltd. The dispute started in the Pearl Mill on the 25th, where 22 operatives of the sizing department struck work on the ground that an application made by them to the management asking for an increase in wages about a month ago, remained still unanswered. The strikers went into the other mills under the same management and persuaded 16 sizers of the Fazulbhoy, 10 of the Pabaney, 12 of the Currimbhoy and 10 of the Crescent Mills to join them. Other departments were not affected. A few more sizers from these mills joined the strikers on the 26th and the 27th and on the latter date four sizers from each of the Premier and the Madhorao Scindia Mills also struck work in sympathy. The Secretary of the Bombay Girmi Kamgar Union convened a meeting of the strikers on the 27th and ascertained that the demand of the men was that they should get the same rates of wages as were obtaining in the Bradbury and the Mathradas Mills which are also under the same management. He promised to see the Agents in the matter. On the 28th, the sizing departments of the Currimbhoy, the Pabaney, the Fazulbhoy, the Premier and the Crescent mills were closed in consequence of the strike of the sizers. This dispute continued into the next month.

AHMEDABAD

The dispute in the Gujarat Ginning and Manufacturing Mill which had been in progress since December 1928 terminated on the 1st with the resumption of work by all the strikers in accordance with the preliminary award of the Arbitrators. It was reported that there still existed points of disagreement between the management and the workmen to be arbitrated upon. This dispute thus ended on the basis of a provisional compromise.

On page 429 of the *Labour Gazette* for January 1929 it was stated that "the Labour Union referred the dispute to the Millowners' Association with a view to placing the case before an Arbitration Board but the Association were not in favour of the idea." This should not be taken to mean that the Association was opposed to arbitration under any circumstances. On the other hand, the Association was from the beginning for arbitration but merely took some time to frame the issues for submission to arbitration in such a way as would not amount to contempt of court. This precaution had to be taken as a case regarding the alleged ill-treatment by the head jobber of the Gujarat Ginning Mill was pending before the local magistrate.

SHOLAPUR

There was an industrial dispute in progress in the Lakhshmi Cotton Manufacturing Mill during the month under review. The management dismissed a jobber of the roving department for having insulted the head of his department. On the morning of the 8th, 125 operatives of the department struck work complaining that the punishment meted out to the jobber was too severe for the default. They demanded that the

dismissed jobber should be taken back but their request was not acceded to. On the 9th, 5 strikers returned to work unconditionally and on the 10th, the remaining strikers expressed their willingness to resume work but the management proposed to take back only a few at a time in order to see if they worked properly. Twenty additional strikers resumed work on the 13th, and 25 more on the 16th. By the 20th, all the remaining strikers had secured jobs in other mills and the management engaged new hands in their place. The strike thus ended in favour of the employers.

DHULIA

During the month under review there was an industrial dispute in progress in the New Pratap Mills. On the 8th, 100 operatives struck work demanding better wages. By the 10th, 263 additional operatives had joined the strikers. Owing to the strike of the operatives of the weaving and roving departments the management closed the entire mills on the 11th. On the 13th, 520 hands of the roving and spinning departments resumed work and the weavers who were on strike discussed the situation with the management with a view to arriving at a settlement, but with no effect. In the afternoon of the same day, none of the operatives turned up for work and as a consequence, the management declared a lock-out. The mills continued to remain closed till the 22nd, and most of the strikers were paid their outstanding wages. In the meantime, several workers began enlisting themselves for work and as a result the management lifted the lock-out on the 22nd, on which date 850 hands resumed work unconditionally. On the 23rd, 22 more hands resumed work and on the 24th, the mill resumed normal working in spite of the absence of several old hands. The strike thus ended in favour of the employers.

The Bombay Oil Companies' Employees Union, Bombay

On page 483 of the January, 1929 issue of the *Labour Gazette*, in "Table II—Principal Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency," Mr. S. H. Jhabvala was shown as one of the vice-Presidents of the Bombay Oil Companies' Employees' Union, Bombay, in accordance with the information furnished by the Union in its application for registration under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926. Mr. Jhabvala however, informs us that he has no connection with this Union.

Employment Situation in February

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 126 or 83·44 per cent. of the mills reported as working during the month of February 1929. The average absenteeism in the textile industry as a whole amounted to 11·05 per cent.

In Bombay City out of 80 mills which were working during the month 76 or 95·00 per cent. furnished returns. The figures of absenteeism during the abnormal period of the riots in the city which lasted from the 3rd to the 13th February have not been included in the statistics. The average absenteeism during the rest of the month under review amounted to 13·71 per cent. as against 6·67 per cent. in the previous month. This increase in absenteeism is probably due to the reluctance on the part of many workers to return to work during the days immediately following the riots.

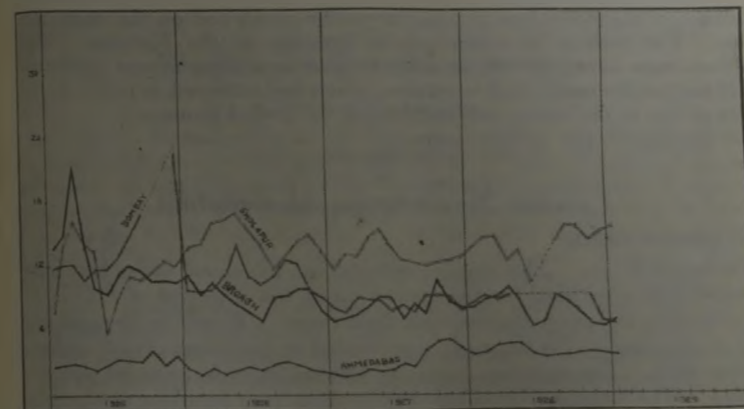
In Ahmedabad 61 mills were working during the month and 40 or 65·57 per cent. furnished information. Absenteeism amounted to 3·45 per cent. as against 3·65 per cent. in January 1929. The supply of labour was equal to the demand.

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 14·80 as against 15·79 in the previous month.

Information was supplied by only one mill in Viramgaum which was working during the month. The percentage absenteeism amounted to 3·19.

One of the three mills in Broach which furnished information reported that the supply of labour was inadequate. The absenteeism amounted to 7·64 per cent. as against 7·08 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. Here again, the riots were partly responsible for higher absenteeism. The average absenteeism in representative workshops was 18·20 per cent. as against 10·91 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 15.96 per cent. The average absenteeism in the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust was 10.06 per cent.

The Karachi Port Trust found both skilled and ordinary labour available in plenty. On an average 7.60 per cent. of the labourers absented themselves from work during the month under review.

Agricultural Outlook in the Presidency

The following summary of conditions in the Presidency during the period ending 20th September 1927 has been supplied by the Director of Agriculture.

Konkan.—Since the submission of the last report there was no rain anywhere in the division. The standing crops were doing well generally. The harvesting of *wal* and other *rabi* crops was in progress. Collection and burning of *rab* materials was also undertaken generally.

Gujarat.—The period under report was totally dry. The picking of early cotton and the harvesting of wheat, gram and threshing of *Jowar* continued. The standing crops which had escaped the severe cold and frost at the end of January were generally satisfactory, but crops like tobacco, cotton, etc., were only in a poor to fair condition.

Deccan and Karnatak.—There was practically no rain anywhere in these two divisions during the period under review. The harvesting of *rabi* crops such as wheat, gram and *rabi jowar* was in progress. The crushing of sugarcane was in progress on the canals and on the sugarcane areas. The picking of cotton was in progress in the Karnatak. The garden crops were generally in a fair to good condition except sugarcane in places on the canals and vegetables which had suffered in places in the Deccan due to the severe cold and frost at the end of January.

Labour News from Ahmedabad

THE LABOUR UNION

Increased Wages.—The original demand for increased wages has been changed into a demand for the restoration of the wage-cut of 1923 in all departments including the weaving department. It will be remembered that a reduction of 15½ per cent. was effected in the wages of mill workers during 1923. The question has been referred to arbitration by both the parties. The Labour Union has presented its case detailing the grounds on which the demand is based. A sub-committee of the Millowners' Association is preparing a memorandum pointing out that no case can be made out for the restoration of the cut. The arbitrators will give their award after Mr. Gandhi returns from his Burma tour. Both the parties will be afforded an opportunity to place their case personally before the permanent arbitrators—Mr. Gandhi and Seth Mangaldas.

Other Activities.—With a view to paying more attention to the interests of women workers the Union has decided to have one woman representative from each mill in the Council of Representatives of the Throstle Union.

During the year the Union proposes to carry on extensive propaganda for popularizing khadi, organizing the *Majur Seva Dal* and eradicating the drink evil.

An official of the Union has been deputed to Baroda to organize labour there. Representations have been made to the Baroda Government regarding the necessity of passing factory and workmen's compensation legislation on the lines of the Acts in force in British India.

THE MUNICIPALITY

The question of acquiring sixty acres of land in the town planning scheme for undertaking a housing programme for labour came up for discussion before the general Board of the Municipality. After a lengthy discussion it was resolved to appoint a committee to report on the programme in greater detail within two months.

THE SANITARY ASSOCIATION

Raikhad ward was visited in the course of the monthly round during February. In view of the fact that considerable hardship would be experienced by labour if all tenements in the city and suburbs found unfit for human habitation were demolished at one and the same time, the Association has recommended to the Municipality that a small number of such tenements should be repaired or demolished each week, so that they may be gradually eliminated.

Workmen's Compensation Act

Details of Proceedings

Information furnished by all the Commissioners in the Presidency for the month of February 1929 shows that out of 47 cases *disposed of* during the month, 33 were reported by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner in Bombay. The gross amount of compensation awarded in lump sums was Rs. 17,598-1-0 as against Rs. 20,906-1-0 in the previous month and Rs. 19,754-7-0 in February 1928. Out of the 47 cases in which compensation was claimed, 8 were in respect of fatal accidents, 7 of temporary disablement, 3 of permanent total disablement and 29 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 34. The corresponding figures for February 1928 were 30 and 29.

The total number of claimants for compensation in all the cases disposed of during the month was 47, all of whom were males over 15 years of age.

Out of the cases disposed of during the month under review 21 were original claims, 24 registration of agreements and 2 miscellaneous applications. Compensation was awarded in 18 cases, agreements were registered in 24 cases and the remaining 5 cases were dismissed.

Definition of a Factory
IN THE COURT OF COMMISSIONER FOR WORKMEN'S
COMPENSATION, BOMBAY.

Babu Gangaram More, residing at Zaobachi Wadi, Thakurdwar Road,
Bombay,

against

Messrs. Ahmedi Oil Mill, Mazagaon, Bombay.

Claim—Rs. 336.

In this case the applicant claims compensation for an injury received while working on a machine in the Ahmedi Oil Mills at Mazagaon. The preliminary objection has been taken that the applicant is not a workman within the meaning of the Act as he was not employed in a factory within the meaning of Sub-clause (a) of clause 3 of section 2 of the Indian Factories Act. That Sub-clause reads as follows

“(3) ‘factory’ means—

(a) any premises wherein, or within the precincts of which, on any one day in the year not less than twenty persons are simultaneously employed and steam, water or other mechanical power or electrical power is used in aid of any process for, or incidental to, making, altering, repairing, ornamenting, finishing or otherwise adapting for use, for transport or for sale any article or part of an article

It is admitted that on the day of the accident—and previously since July when the factory restarted working 20 men were not simultaneously employed on the premises. But an examination of the books shows that on one day subsequent to the accident and before December 31st, 1928, more than 20 persons were employed. The issue, therefore, is, does the fact that, after the accident, the premises became a factory entitle the applicant to recover compensation for an accident that happened when the premises were not a factory. In other words, has the definition in Sub-clause 3 of section 2 a retrospective effect. The proposition is a little startling because its effect would be to render persons liable to punishment for offences which were not offences at the time they were committed. Moreover, it would mean that a workman who is not legally entitled to compensation in June may, by delaying proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Act, recover compensation in December. It is therefore necessary to examine very closely the definition of factory in order to see whether it really does produce such peculiar results. In my opinion it does. The clause does not say that if on a particular date 20 men are employed then from that date to the end of the year the premises where they are employed becomes a factory. It merely says that, if at any time during the year 20 men are employed then it is a factory and a workman who is injured at any time during the year,—even months before 20 men were employed,—is entitled to recover compensation. On this part of the case, therefore, I find the applicant is a workman within the meaning of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

The parties having left the amount of compensation to me I award Rs. 126 on the basis of 15 per cent. disability the wages being Rs. 20, with Rs. 20 as costs.

(Signed) J. F. GENNINGS.

2nd February 1929.

Prosecutions under the Indian Factories Act
in February 1929

BOMBAY

The assistant manager of a cotton mill was prosecuted under section 41 (a) for breach of section 28 for employing certain persons over 11 hours. He was convicted and fined Rs. 5 in each of six cases.

The manager of an iron works was prosecuted under section 41 (a) for breach of section 22 (a) for employing certain persons on a Sunday without a holiday. He was convicted and fined Rs. 7 in one case and Rs. 5 in each of five other cases.

The occupier of a yarn glazing factory was prosecuted under section 41 (a) for breach of section 26 and 28 for employing certain persons for more than eleven hours and also beyond the hours fixed for their work. He was convicted and fined Rs. 30 in one case and Rs. 15 in each of seven other cases.

SHOLAPUR

The manager of a cotton mill was prosecuted under section 41 (a) for breach of section 23 (b) (c) read with Rule 75 for employing certain children at night. He was convicted and fined Rs. 10 in each of four cases.

The same manager was also prosecuted under section 41 (a) for breach of section 25 for employing certain persons in two factories on the same date. He was convicted and fined Rs. 10 in each of four cases.

The spinning master of another cotton mill was prosecuted under section 41 (f) for breach of section 18 (1) (c) read with Rule 33 (ii) for not maintaining the self-locking apparatus on hard waste breaker in effective order whereby an operative was injured. He was convicted and fined Rs. 50. The Court awarded Rs. 25 out of the fine to the injured person as compensation.

Social Legislation in Poland

WAGES BOOKS AND PAYROLLS

A Polish Decree of 8th November 1928 provides that wages books of a type described in the Decree must in future be given free of charge by employers to workers in every factory where more than four workers are employed.

Another Decree of the same date provides that all industrial undertakings shall be required to draw up payrolls giving exact details of the wages paid to every worker and certain other prescribed information. (From 'Industrial and Labour Information,' Geneva, January 28, 1929.)

Questions in the Legislatures

Workmen's Compensation Act

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Mr. T. Prakasam : (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the judgment of the commissioner for workmen's compensation of Bombay in *Durbaldas versus Great Indian Peninsula Railway* in application No. 271 B 26 of 1928 wherein the commissioner remarks that following the English practice of requiring notice of accidents without also providing facilities to give notice by maintaining a book wherein to enter all accidents as has to be done in every factory under English law is causing great hardship to illiterate Indian workmen?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the question of amending the Act so as to require the factories to publish in the Vernacular of the Division the formalities to be observed and the period of limitation for claiming compensation and to maintain a register of an entry in which will constitute sufficient notice?

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

(b) The matter will receive consideration in connection with the question of the further amendment of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act.

All-India Trade Union Congress

Pandit Nilakantha Das : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article, in the *Forward* of the 19th January and *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 16th January about the proceedings of the Jheria Trade Union Congress regarding election of advisers to the International Labour Conference at Geneva, written by Mr. Ram Parshad, Member of the Executive Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress? If so, do the Government propose to make an enquiry into the regularity, or otherwise of the recommendations, before considering the same?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The Government of India have seen a letter by Mr. Ram Parshad published in the papers referred to by the Honourable Member. The answer to the second part of the Honourable Member's question is in the negative.

Recruitment for Tea-gardens

Pandit Nilakantha Das : (a) Are Government aware of the fact that family groups of coolies are preferred to single male coolies by the agents of the tea-gardens and so recruited by the Sardars? If so, what are the reasons?

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that Sardars of tea-gardens, when they are deputed to bring fresh recruits from their parts of the country, are not allowed generally to take their family with them?

(c) Is it a fact that a male or female Sardar is generally sent out with an escort and the family of the Sardar remains *de facto* security for his or her return, and if the Sardar happens not to return, then the family is not allowed to join the Sardar?

(d) Is it a fact that many thousands of labourers in the tea-gardens are the forlorn members of such families?

(e) Is it a fact that men with fair complexion, cropped hair or having signs of education or urbanity of manners are not recruited by the agents even in spite of their able bodies and capacity for work?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The Honourable Member is presumably referring to recruitment for tea-gardens in the labour districts of Assam for which the only recognised system of recruitment is through the agency of garden sardars. The reply to part (a) of his question is in the affirmative. Government have no information about the precise reasons for the preference. Government see no reason to interfere with the recruitment of labour in family groups.

(b) to (e) Government have no information, nor have they received any complaint that garden sardars are being prevented from taking their families with them to their homes.

Pandit Nilakantha Das : (a) Are Government aware of the civil contract or the agreement with the labourers in the tea districts of Assam and Bengal whereby the liberty of the labourers is restricted?

(b) What are the general conditions in those contracts, and what is the penalty which the labourer will have to undergo if they are broken?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) and (b) Government have no information. But I may inform the Honourable Member that whatever may be the terms of an agreement or contract between a tea-garden labourer and his employer in Bengal or Assam, a breach of that agreement or contract cannot be dealt with as a penal offence.

BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Bombay City : Tenements, Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 per mensem

Mr. N. A. Bechar : Will Government be pleased to state the number of tenements fetching a monthly rent of Rs. 5 and above up to Rs. 10 in the city of Bombay?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Harilal D. Desai : The number of tenements in the City of Bombay fetching a monthly rent of Rs. 5 and above up to Rs. 10 is reported to be approximately 92,350.

Labour exchanges

Mr. S. C. Joshi : Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether they have received any letter from the Government of India inviting their opinion and suggestion regarding the establishment of Public Employment Bureau or Labour Exchanges;

(b) if so, what steps they have taken or propose to take on the letter;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government propose to appoint a small informal Committee including a few representatives of employers and employees to consider and report on the matter;

(d) whether they propose to invite the opinion and suggestions from the various labour unions in the Presidency;

(e) if the reply to (c) and (d) above be in the negative the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah : (a) Yes.

(b) (c) (e) The communication in question was a demi-official letter and was not referred to any private bodies or individuals. The letter has been replied to. I am sorry the contents of the reply cannot be made public.

Labour Unions, Karachi Port Trust

Mr. N. A. Bechar : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Karachi Port Trust employees have any Union ;
- (b) if the answer to (a) be in the negative, whether Government have made any enquiries regarding the cause of the non-existence of any Union of the Karachi Port Trust employees ;
- (c) if so, the nature of those enquiries and the result thereof ;
- (d) whether the non-existence of Port Trust Unions is in any way due to the authorities of the Karachi Port Trust being opposed to the formation of such Unions ;
- (e) if the reply to (d) be in the negative, whether the Port Trust have any objection to recognition of Unions duly constituted and registered under the Trade Unions Act ?

The Honourable Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah : As the Honourable Member is aware, the Local Government are merely the Agents of the Government of India in regard to "Major Ports." Their information as regards this matter is, however, as follows :—

- (a) Government understand that a Labour Union of the Karachi Port Trust employees was formed in November last. The Union, however, has not been registered.
- (b) and (c) The questions do not arise.
- (d) The Karachi Port Trust authorities are not opposed to the formation of Port Trust employees' Unions.
- (e) No.

Agricultural Instruction

Rao Saheb R. V. Vandekar : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) what steps they have taken to impart agricultural instruction to the agriculturists in the different divisions of the Presidency ;
- (b) whether there are any permanent arrangements made to impart such instruction to the agriculturists in their spare time ;
- (c) the present means employed to carry out this work ;
- (d) the results of the efforts of Government in the matter.

The Honourable Mr. B. V. Jadhav : (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture for 1926-27, a copy of which is to be found in the Council library and to the syllabus of the Agricultural College, printed in the calendar of the college, a copy of which is placed on the Council Table.

(b) Permanent arrangements can only be made at central institutions and not at the homes of agriculturists. It is open to agriculturists to make it convenient to attend special courses and classes, but the dates of these are usually dependent upon the season, e.g., the sugarcane class is held during the cane-crushing season. The dates for Agricultural Shows, on the other hand, are frequently fixed with reference to the relative slackness of agricultural operations.

(c) The present means of carrying out this work is the whole propaganda organization of the Department of Agriculture.

(d) The honourable member is referred to the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture for 1926-27, and particularly to pages 3 to 17 thereof.

Agricultural Bias Schools, Sind : Number of Pupils

Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram : Will Government be pleased to state the number of pupils attending Agricultural bias schools in Sind and how many of them are Hindus ?

The Honourable Moulvi Rafiuddin Ahmad : The latest figures available were collected in May 1928 and show that the total number of pupils attending schools with agricultural bias classes in Sind is 188 out of whom 105 are Hindus.

Tenancy Legislation, Sind

Mr. N. A. Bechar : Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the total number of persons in Sind dependent on agriculture was nearly 19 lakhs according to the census of 1921 ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there are only about two lakhs of persons who are owners of agricultural land and the remaining 17 lakhs are only tenant population which mostly has no interest or right in land at all ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Government propose to take up at a very early date the question of bringing forward tenancy legislation to give occupancy and other rights to the cultivators of Sind and to see that cultivators share any and all benefits which the landowners may derive from Government under any revision of the revenue law ;
- (d) whether they are aware that such tenancy legislation exists in other provinces ?

The Honourable Mr. J. L. Rieu : (a) Yes.

(b) The figures are—

Number of persons receiving income from rent of agricultural land	.. 157,201
Do. of Cultivating owners	.. 246,314
Do. of Cultivating tenants	.. 1,427,824
Do. of Cultivators unclassified	.. 22,703

(c) The general question of tenancy legislation is under the consideration of Government, but Government are not at present prepared to say whether any legislation that may be proposed will be so framed as to provide for the objects indicated by the Honourable Member.

(d) Yes.

Sickness Insurance

Mr. S. C. Joshi : Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether they have recently received a letter from the Government of India on the question of the feasibility of introducing a scheme of sickness insurance either on the lines of the Draft Convention and recommendations adopted by the Tenth International Labour Conference or on some other suitable lines ;

(b) if so, whether the Government of India have also suggested that the examination of the matter may be entrusted to a small and informal committee including a few representatives of employers and employees ;

- (c) what the views of Government in the matter are ;
 (d) if the reply to (b) above be in the affirmative, whether they propose to appoint such a committee and to entrust the matter to it ;
 (e) if not, the reasons therefor ;
 (f) whether Government will invite the opinion and suggestions of the various labour unions in the Presidency ?

The Honourable Sir Ghulam Husain Hidayatallah : (a) and (b) Yes, (c) to (e) Government do not think that any useful purpose would be served by the appointment of a committee at this stage, as the subject will probably form one of the terms of reference to the Whitley Commission.

(f) Does not arise.

Emigration from Bombay in 1927

Only skilled labourers are recruited from the ports of Bombay and Karachi, and they proceed to Mombasa, Uganda, Kenya, Zanzibar, Dar-es-Salaam, Nyasaland, Portuguese East Africa, Abadan, Mohammerah, Basra, Bahrein, Persia, Iraq and British Somaliland. During 1927 a falling off in the wages of skilled labourers recruited for service abroad was noticed, especially in the case of those recruited for Iraq and Persia. The number of recruits was, however, appreciably in excess of the number recruited in the previous year. The skilled labourers are engaged by authorised recruiting agents in Bombay and Karachi, under agreements approved by the Government. Some authorised recruiting agents, or the sub-agents appointed by them, are reported to have extracted commission from prospective emigrants on engagement. Neither the Indian Emigration Act, nor the rules framed thereunder, contain any specific provisions whereby the rate of commission can be controlled or restricted. A reference was therefore made to the Government, which directed that unless the agents agreed to charge not more than 25 per cent. of one month's salary to emigrants as commission, the permission granted to them for recruiting skilled labour under section 17 of the Act should be withdrawn.

In other cases it came to light that firms were despatching individuals under agreements without complying with the provisions of the Indian Emigration Act. As a result of the action taken, 12 firms were made to comply with the provisions of the Act. Prosecutions were also undertaken in 5 cases.

The total number of emigrants who signed agreements before the Protector of Emigrants at Bombay and proceeded overseas was 1418, and the number who proceeded from the port of Karachi was 18, making a total of 1436. The number of those who returned after the expiry of the period of their contracts and termination of their agreements was 1193. In addition 302 unskilled emigrants arrived from Mauritius. (From "International Labour Review" Geneva, February 1929.)

Forced Labour in India

The International Labour Office has recently published a report on forced labour which it has prepared for submission to the General Conference of the Organization in 1929. The following extracts from the Report relating to India are reproduced below :—

FORCED LABOUR FOR GENERAL PUBLIC PURPOSES

Public Works

In Bihar and Orissa in British India, compulsory work is exacted by the Government in certain aboriginal areas in connection with the upkeep of public roads and minor public buildings in the vicinity of the village community from which the labour is levied. It is not quite clear how far this work may be regarded as being performed for general public purposes as distinct from local public purposes.

The situation in the Indian States is not clear. A question was asked in the British House of Commons in February 1927 as to the number of cases in which representations had been made by the Government of India to Indian rulers in respect of forced labour in their States, but the reply afforded no information as to whether forced labour for public works was, in fact, employed in any of the territories in question.

Porterage

In British India, under Bengal Regulation XI of 1806, the landholders of places through which troops, military officers, or other travellers are passing are bound, on requisition of the local civil authority, to provide carts, bearers, coolies and necessary supplies for payment at rates fixed by that authority. It is stated that the Regulation is now very rarely, if ever, used, as both military units and civil officers have their own means of transport.

No information is available as to conditions of porterage for general public purposes in the various Indian States.

Emergencies

In British India, labour may be impressed to avert sudden and serious damage to irrigation works under the following Acts : the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, 1873, the Bombay Irrigation Act, 1878, the Punjab Minor Canals Act, 1905, and the Madras Compulsory Labour Act, 1858.

The first two Acts provide for the preparation of lists of holders of land benefited by the irrigation work who are liable to furnish such labour. All four of the Acts provide that the labour must be paid for at a rate which is equal to (in Northern India, greater than) the full market rate. Penalties are imposed for non-compliance.

Under the Punjab Minor Canals Act, irrigators are bound, either by the conditions under which they hold their lands or by established custom, to furnish labour free of cost for the annual silt clearance and for the general maintenance of a number of minor canals. Further, under the provisions of Chapter VI of the Madras Compulsory Labour Act, members

of a village community are bound to contribute labour for those works of irrigation and drainage which are usually executed by the joint labour of the community.

Holders of rights in Government forests are liable to be called out to assist in extinguishing or preventing extension of fires. In such cases there is no provision for payment, and penalties are provided in case of non-compliance with the requisition.

The Office has no information as to the levying of forced labour in cases of emergency in the Indian States.

FORCED LABOUR FOR LOCAL PUBLIC PURPOSES

In Bihar and Orissa (British India) compulsory labour is exacted by the Government in certain aboriginal areas. In parts of the Santal Parganas (districts) and of Singhbhum, the Government, instead of imposing local taxation, require village communities to maintain each their own share of the public roads and minor public buildings in the immediate neighbourhood of their homes. The distribution of work is left to the village headman, the work is done at the leisure of the villagers, and the method is considered appropriate to the state of economic and political development of these areas.

The International Labour Office has no information concerning the levying of forced labour for local public purposes in the Indian States.

Labour Statistics in British Columbia

The *British Columbia Gazette*, December 20, 1928, published the draft forms prepared under the provisions of the Department of Labour Act, for the collection of statistical and other information in regard to industry in the province. The information secured from the employers by means of these returns is used as the basis of the full and informative annual reports of the provincial department on the prevailing conditions of labour. In addition to details regarding the nature of their products, employers are required to furnish the following information regarding their operations during the past year:—

- Total salary and wage payments during the year;
- Average number of wage earners (not including salaried officials);
- Nationality of employees on pay roll for week of employment of the highest number;
- Number of wage earners classified in groups according to amount of wages paid, thirty such groups being specified;
- Number of hours per week worked normally by wage earners;
- Capital invested, showing fixed and working capital;
- Value of production, including gross value, or total value of all commodities produced; and net value, or gross value less cost of materials used only in manufacture;
- Normal hourly rates of wages paid to the different classes of male employees.

Employers are obliged by the terms of the Act to supply this information, the correctness of their replies being vouched for. (From "*Labour Gazette*," Canada, January 1929.)

The Eighth Soviet Trade Union Congress

THE PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT

The problem of dealing with unemployment was one of the greatest tasks of the Commissariat for Labour. The number of persons unemployed, which was 1,040,000 on 1st October 1927, amounted to 1,374,000 on 1st October 1928. The number of workers was 11,801,000, as against 10,670,000 in 1925.

The two main causes of unemployment were the great mobility of labour in industry and the movement of the rural population to the towns. Among those unemployed there were, on 1st October 1928, 350,000 persons who had never worked as wage earners, 200,000 industrial workers, 250,000 salaried employees, 350,000 labourers, 100,000 building workers and 120,000 workers in sundry occupations. It was probable that in the course of the year 1928-1929 unemployment would increase still further for various reasons, such as the poor harvest in certain districts which provided the cities with food, the natural increase of the population, etc.

In the course of the past year the measures adopted against unemployment had for the most part taken the form of relief in cash. On an average about 700,000 persons had received unemployment allowances, at a cost of about 100 million roubles. On the other hand, work had been found for 227,000 persons, the greater part of whom had been engaged on public works. The Commissariat for Labour was of the opinion that it would be increasingly necessary to develop this latter method. On this question Mr. Uglanov expressed the view that the best means of combating unemployment were firstly the development of industry, secondly the enforcement of the seven-hour day, and finally the adoption of measures by which surplus labour could be retained in the country. In this sphere several resolutions in principle had been passed by recent congresses or conferences; they envisaged the reintegration of farms, emigration, co-operation, the development of small crafts and local industries utilising agricultural products, etc.

Labour Exchanges

The labour exchanges were the subject of much criticism. Nevertheless, according to the report of the Commissariat, their work was making rapid progress. In 1925-1926 they found work for 2,000,000 men, in 1926-1927 for 3,600,000, and in 1927-1928 for 5,000,000. Their working showed a certain rigidity and bureaucratic tendencies. The unemployed complained that the exchanges subjected them to numerous and wearisome administrative formalities; the managements complained that the exchanges did not supply them with the necessary labour.

One of the causes of this state of things was the paucity of exchanges. The increase in their number had not kept pace with the growth of unemployment. Each employee of the labour exchanges served on the average 500 workers in 1922, 750 in 1924 and 1250, and in certain regions three or four thousand, in 1928. The way in which certain officials of the

labour exchanges performed their duties also left much to be desired. Of late a great number of them had been relieved of their posts for nepotism, negligence, etc. Among officials dismissed for these reasons, 85 per cent. were militant workers nominated by the trade unions. As the report of the Commissariat for Labour observed, this showed that the trade union executives did not pay sufficient attention to the question of finding employment.

The unemployed persons were themselves partly responsible for the bad working of the exchanges. An increase in disorderly conduct had been noted among them. Finally, the shortage of premises had impeded the general activity of the exchanges.

It was said that managements too often engaged labour without approaching the exchanges. In order to engage their favourites they had recourse to various devices; for instance, they required of the person to be engaged at the exchange qualifications so unusual that no candidate presented by the exchange possessed them, and thus were able to engage the man they desired.

In the course of the discussion on this question many remarks were made in confirmation of these statements. In regard to the engagement of labour outside the exchanges, one speaker observed that out of 18,000 workers recently hired in Moscow, 13,000 were engaged outside the exchanges. Another speaker stated that the labour exchanges, instead of obtaining employment for trade unionists, introduced non-unionists who had not even the excuse of being in need. The same speaker stated that the workers engaged did not receive advances on their wages, although the managements provided the employment exchanges with funds for this purpose.

The exchanges did not take enough care to classify the unemployed persons by trades. The result of this was that skilled workers remained out of work for several years in spite of the need for workers of their trades. The employment of temporary workers had become too widespread and the unions had opposed it too gently.

It appeared that in the country the labour market remained definitely outside the sphere of Government action. Thus, the sugar refineries, instead of calling upon the unemployed, recruited their labour directly from the local peasant population, which imposed its own conditions upon them.

Young Workers

The delegate of the Young Communists warmly criticised the report. He stated that 250,000 young persons registered each year with the labour exchanges and that only 50,000 found employment. In order to bring about an improvement he urged that the minimum contingent of apprentices should be increased, especially in the textile and metal-working industries, and that young persons should be engaged only through the labour exchanges. In his final speech Mr. Tolstopyatov questioned the accuracy of the figures quoted. He declared that in 1927-1928 the increase in young persons registered as unemployed had only been 13,000. Moreover, 60,000 young persons in 1926-1927 and 78,000 in 1927-1928 had been engaged by the labour exchanges for permanent posts.

To reduce unemployment and provide industry with the necessary labour it was necessary to provide the workers with a proper training. At the present time this training was far from being satisfactory. Several interesting results had, however, been obtained. In 1927-1928 the authorities had succeeded in rapidly training 11,500 building workers; they proposed to train 25,000 workers, of whom 500 would be instructors, by the same methods in the following year. But many factors had to be taken into account, and especially the specific requirements of different industries. In this connection the new Commissar for Labour emphasised the progress which must be made by the Central Labour Institute. He stated that the existing industrial schools could not by themselves supply all the labour required. The delegate of the Union of Commercial and Administrative Employees stated that that organisation had during the year spent 900,000 roubles to train for new occupations 5500 employees out of work, and that in order to continue this task it would require subsidies from the Commissariat for Labour.

Morbidity Among Workers

Morbidity among workers was considerable. Out of 4000 children subjected to a medical examination, 19 per cent. were found unfit for work. This large proportion was partly due to the living conditions which prevailed during the years of civil war, but also to the fact that young persons took too active a part in political, trade union and other activities. According to a representative of the Commissariat for Labour, the regulations for the protection of workers in mines were not enforced. Quite recently it had been necessary to prosecute the managements of two coal trusts, which had delayed too long the application of the new circulars on the six-hour day underground.

LABOUR DISPUTES

In the first half of the year 1927-1928 the total number of disputes had decreased.

In spite of the decisions of the previous Congress of Trade Unions in favour of the development of the work of conciliation chambers, the latter had increased their activity only by 8.7 per cent. In most cases disputes were still referred to the arbitration tribunals. These tribunals were called on to examine 70.6 per cent. of the disputes during the first half of 1926-1927, and 55.6 per cent. in the first half of 1927-28. It was observed that the number of disputes submitted to compulsory arbitration had declined, while the number of arbitration tribunals set up by agreement between the parties had increased. This showed that the bitterness of the disputes had decreased. Of the disputes relating to wages, 58.8 per cent. had been settled by arbitrators, 23.6 per cent. by agreement between the parties, and 17.6 per cent. by mixed methods. The fact that the arbitrator had had to intervene in the majority of cases showed that the managers of industry and the unionists were seeking to avoid their responsibilities. In two months more than 50,000 questions had been brought before the labour departments of the people's courts, which had settled about 70 per cent.: 35.8 per cent. in favour of the workers and 36.3 per cent. in favour of the employers.

SOCIAL INSURANCE

Mr. Nemchenko, Director of Social Insurance, recalled at the beginning of his report the instructions given by the Seventh Congress of Trade Unions in relation to social insurance. These instructions were to develop unemployment insurance, to maintain the level of other branches of social insurance and to render benefits easily obtainable by insured persons. Mr. Nemchenko held that the directions of the Seventh Congress had been followed, but that there was still much to be done.

Progress of Social Insurance.

The number of insured persons had risen since the Seventh Congress from 8 millions to 10 millions.

The number of invalidity pensions rose from 385,000 on 1st October 1926 to 570,000 on 1st October 1928; the number of survivors' pensions had risen during the same period from 275,000 to 350,000. This increase in the number of pensioners was partly due to rationalisation and to the dismissal of workers possessing only a limited working capacity.

WAGE POLICY

At the Congress the General Council of Trade Unions submitted a report on wage policy. The question of wages was also discussed in the Economic Committee of the Congress.

Report of the General Council

The report of the General Council of Trade Unions on wages stated that during the period between the Seventh and Eighth Congresses (from the end of 1926 to the end of 1928) the nominal value of the average monthly wage in heavy industry had increased by 24 per cent., and its real value by 20 per cent. In December 1928 the average monthly wage amounted to 70·5 roubles, or 123 per cent. of the average wage of 1913. The instructions of the Seventh Congress that wages should first of all be raised in heavy industry had not been carried out, for in this branch of industry wages had not increased in the same proportion as in light industry. For this reason the General Council urged that the next wage increases should be made in the first instance in the mining and metal industries. Wages should also be raised in the textile industry, where they were still distinctly below the general average.

The General Council was of the opinion that, under the system of the dictatorship of the proletariat, wage policy should be based mainly on the principle of a strict correlation between wage increases and the actual economic condition of the country, taking account of the economic problems which confront the working class. The allocation of the wages fund by the State should be more careful and more methodical. It ought not, however, to be based solely on the principle of equal pay for equal work; it ought also to take account of the following four factors: increase in individual output and its causes, such as intensification of physical labour, rationalisation, improvement in the equipment of undertakings; the skill of the workers; the dangers of the occupation and the influence of each

industry on the health of the worker; and the relative importance of each industry for the general economic system.

The General Council admitted that though wages had increased by 20 to 21 per cent. between 1926 and 1928 individual output had increased during the same period by 28 per cent.; but it considered that a gap of this kind was necessary in order to allow industry to raise the capital for the reconstruction of the economic system on a socialistic basis. For the same purpose it was necessary to strengthen the discipline of labour.

The General Council proposed to maintain the system of piece-work wherever it was capable of increasing individual output. But where this method of payment had given as much as could be anticipated from it, and especially in undertakings where labour had been properly rationalised and the process of manufacture had been mechanised, it would be necessary to substitute the hourly wage for the piece-work system, introducing at the same time a system of collective bonuses for work performed over and above the minimum standards of output laid down in the collective agreement. In regard to salaried employees, the Seventh Congress had recommended the adoption of a fixed scale of salaries corresponding to the various duties; this system was to be extended immediately.

THE POLICY OF INDUSTRIALISATION

Mr. Kuybyshev, Chairman of the Supreme Economic Council, gave an analysis to the Congress of the policy of industrialisation which the Soviet Government is pursuing at present. The following is a summary of his statements, and of the comments to which they gave rise.

The provisional programme of industrialisation worked out for the period 1928-1933 provides for the investment in industry of 12,765,000,000 roubles, of which 10,000,000,000 will be devoted to heavy industry. The execution of this plan would imply an increase in the number of industrial workers which might be estimated at 700,000 persons. Individual output would have to be increased by 95 per cent. while wages would increase by 35 per cent. in nominal value and 56 per cent. in real value, assuming that the cost of living declined in the proportion estimated. By 1933 the whole of industry should have been reorganised on the basis of the seven-hour day. Mr. Kuybyshev did not disguise from the Congress the great difficulties which the execution of this plan would encounter, both by reason of the very large sums which the Government was proposing to invest in industry, and because of the struggling economic condition of the country in general and of industry in particular. The backward condition of agriculture constituted a further difficulty, for it would be necessary to avoid a breach of proportion between the development of industry and that of agriculture. Nevertheless, Mr. Kuybyshev denounced the pessimism which certain Soviet economists had shown. He emphasised the absolute necessity of raising the Soviet economic system to a level equal or even superior to that of the industrial countries of Europe and America, in order to be able to reorganise it on a socialistic basis.

Opinions of Members

The report of Mr. Kuybyshev gave rise to animated discussion. Most of the speakers dealt with conditions of housing, wages, and the industrial

situation. They emphasised the difficulties of the present position, pointing out that many undertakings, especially in the textile industry, were short of raw materials, and they observed that the Supreme Economic Council had not explained where industry was to obtain the supplies of raw materials necessary for its development. Further, the plan of the Supreme Economic Council did not, according to the delegates provide for an increase in the effective utilisation of undertakings corresponding to the large sums which were to be invested. The increase in production anticipated in the course of the five years for which the plan had been drawn up was inadequate. There was a kind of vicious circle, as a delegate of the Textile Workers' Union declared: on the one hand, industry could not develop, on account of the shortage of raw materials on the market; on the other hand, the quantity of raw material available did not increase because industry was not supplying agriculturists with a sufficient quantity of manufactured products.

The method of drawing up the plan of industrialisation was itself strongly criticised. Mr. Ginsburg, of the General Council of Trade Unions, expressed his astonishment that the five-year plan had been altered considerably three times in the course of recent months, while the economic position had remained the same, and did not seem to justify such changes. In his view, plans were drafted too hastily, and were not discussed with sufficient care. The trade unions had often to give their opinions within a period of a few days, while a careful study of the questions submitted to them would require several weeks. The resolutions of the unions, moreover, were not always taken into consideration, and the workers resented this.

The management of industry was warmly criticised. Members of the Congress protested especially against the custom of the managers of State industry of making the workers responsible for every difficulty, by accusing them of failing to observe a strict enough discipline of labour. If discipline left something to be desired, the negligence of the management was at least an equal cause of the unsatisfactory working of undertakings.

The estimates relating to wages attracted much attention. The textile workers and the miners, in particular, remarked that the plan of industrialisation did not include a sufficient increase of wages in those branches of industry where the present level was below the general average. Certain members of the Congress asked if the estimated increase in nominal wages would really represent a 56 per cent. increase in real wages. For that it would be necessary that prices of agricultural products should be reduced by 10 per cent. in 1933, as compared with the beginning of 1928. Yet in 1928 there was an increase in such prices, which had not yet been checked, and which had reduced the real value of wages during the second half of the past year. Further, the plan did not take account of a definite increase in rents which would take place in the course of the next few years. Several delegates considered that the increase in wages should be in proportion to the improvement in output, because this improvement would largely be obtained by the rationalisation of labour,

which would include a better utilisation of the working day and an increase of the physical effort of the worker.

Finally, the housing problem was referred to by many delegates, who declared that the present position was intolerable, and that it was becoming still worse in undertakings reorganised on the basis of the seven-hour day. According to these delegates, if the number of houses available was not increased in proportion to the growth of industry, the universal extension of the seven-hour day would encounter serious difficulties. (*From "Industrial and Labour Information" Geneva, February 11 and 18, 1929.*)

Hours of Work

A GERMAN ENQUIRY

In response to a suggestion made by the International Federation of Trade Unions that national unions affiliated to it should undertake, in the first week of October 1928, an enquiry into hours of work in their respective countries, the German General Confederation of Trade Unions has carried out such an enquiry, as in previous years.

The enquiry extends to seven main groups of industries: building, printing, the chemical industries, the wood-working industry, the metal industry, and the shoemaking and textile industries. No report on mines was made, in spite of the proposal of the International Federation of Trade Unions, because complete data are regularly collected on this subject.

Similar enquiries were carried out by the German General Confederation of Trade Unions in May 1924, November 1924, April 1927 and October 1927. That of October 1928 deals, like the others, with hours actually worked in each undertaking during the week in question, in such a way as to include both short time and overtime, besides occasional excess work in the period. This resemblance to the previous enquiries makes it possible to compare the results.

The basis of the last enquiry is, however, somewhat wider than that of the previous ones. The number of local committees which reported rose from 535 in October 1927 to 556 in October 1928. The number of undertakings covered rose from 67,099 to 73,288, and the number of persons covered from 2,900,000 to 3,101,078.

In comparing the results of the different enquiries, it must be remembered that short time will exercise a greater or lesser influence, according to its extent, upon the total results. In October 1927, 1.7 per cent. of the persons covered were working short time; the corresponding figure for October 1928 was 11.3 per cent. The unfavourable business conditions, which caused the extension of short time, likewise resulted in reducing the normal hours of work of many wage earners, without bringing them below 48 per week. If this consideration were not taken into account, the results of the enquiry of October 1928 would lead to inaccurate conclusions.

RESULTS OF THE ENQUIRY

The enquiry showed that 26·6 per cent. of the workers covered were working more than 48 hours weekly (42·7 per cent. in October 1927 and 54·7 per cent. in May 1924); 23·2 per cent. were working between 48 and 54 hours a week, and only 3·2 per cent. more than 54 hours (6·2 per cent. in October 1927). Only 0·2 per cent. were working more than 60 hours. Finally, 62·1 per cent., excluding workers on short time, were working 48 hours a week or less (55·6 per cent. in October 1927), and 6·5 per cent. were working less than 48 hours (6 per cent. in October 1927.)

Even if we allow for the effect of the difficult economic position on hours of work, it will nevertheless be seen that considerable progress has been made. This is particularly marked in the industries which employ only a small number of workers on short time; but even in the industrial groups where the labour market is most depressed, especially in the textile industry, there is also a significant reduction in hours of labour. Out of every hundred persons covered by the enquiry, 11·3 were working on short time, while 62·1 were working not more than 48 hours a week.

If we study the different industries separately, it appears that it is in the building, printing and wood-working trades that the hours of work are shortest. In the chemical industries the group of wage earners working more than 48 hours a week has fallen from 34·7 per cent. to 27·4 per cent.; in the metal industry the reduction has been particularly large, from 52·3 per cent. to 34·3 per cent., with a corresponding drop from 9·5 per cent. to 5 per cent. in the number working more than 54 hours. In the textile industry, the result of the enquiry has been strongly influenced by short time; but hours of labour were nevertheless particularly long in this industry. Although more than one-fourth of the persons covered were employed on short time, one-third of them were working more than 48 hours, and 10 per cent. more than 51 hours a week.

The results obtained are strongly influenced by the condition of the labour market. The last enquiry, like the preceding ones, shows that undertakings in Westphalia and the Rhineland, where heavy industry predominates, have specially unfavourable hours. Although in Westphalia the number of workers working more than 48 hours has been reduced, 52·7 per cent. still belong to this group, in spite of the fact that 17·6 per cent. are working on short time. The results for the Rhineland are similar to those for Westphalia. The figures given for East Prussia are particularly favourable. In October 1927 only 55·6 per cent. were working as many as 48 hours, and in October 1928 the number was 81·8 per cent.

The enquiry thus shows the advance that has been made. In May 1924, 54·7 per cent. of the persons covered were working more than 48 hours a week, but there were only 26·6 per cent. of such workers in 1928. The investigators conclude that, even if this result is due in part to the bad condition of the labour market, the tendency for the forty-eight-hour week to be generally adopted is nevertheless clearly marked in Germany. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, February 4, 1929.)

The New Conciliation and Arbitration Act
in Australia

In the February 1929 issue of the *International Labour Review* there is an interesting article on the above subject by O. de R. Foenander. The writer, after discussing critically the history of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act of 1904, discusses the substance of the new Act which was passed in June 1928 and its relation to present conditions. The new Bill regarding Conciliation and Arbitration was drawn up after consultation with many interests including employers and employees and was introduced into the House of Representatives on 17th December 1927 by the Attorney General who explained that the Bill had both a negative and a positive object, namely, to avoid strikes and lockouts to the greatest degree possible and to build a "vigorous and positive co-operation between employer and employee towards a definite object—the success of the particular industry and the well-being and contentment of the community generally." The Bill was passed on 12th June against vigorous and bitter opposition by the Labour Party, and was reported to the Senate and passed by it on the 14th June. The following are some of the important provisions of the new Act:—

- (1) The prevention of overlapping between Federal and State tribunals;
- (2) The attempt to correlate the awards of the Court with economic realities;
- (3) The introduction of a system of voluntary arbitration as distinguished from compulsory arbitration;
- (4) The further application of the principle of conciliation;
- (5) Improvements in court procedure;
- (6) The responsibility of organisations for the conduct of their officers and members and for the general observance of awards;
- (7) Provisions relating to the rules of an organisation;
- (8) The introduction of the compulsory ballot into industrial organisations;
- (9) Provisions designed to secure the observance of awards and of the provisions of the Act and to protect the Court in the performance of its functions.

As regards the prevention of overlapping in Federal and State tribunals, the new Act embodies the following principles:—

- (a) If there is a conflict between the Federal and State awards, then, if the Federal award is within the constitutional power, it shall prevail;
- (b) even if there be no such direct conflict or inconsistency, nevertheless, the State award cannot stand if into that field the Federal Court has entered. The object of laying down these principles is to solve the problem of duplication in its worst features by preventing one party from playing off a Federal award against a State award and *vice versa*.

As regards the necessity for correlating the awards of the Court with economic realities, the new Act does not affect the practice of the Court

in fixing the basic wage for unskilled workers, with the implication that there shall be margins for skill. But in the determination of wages and in the matter of hours and conditions of labour, the Act insists that the Court's practice shall change. Hitherto the Court has prescribed wages and conditions according to what it considers the Australian standard of living, leaving it to the legislature to enable the industry to comply with the award. The Court is now directed to make its award in these matters within the limits of present possibilities; it must take into account the economic capacity of the industry and the economic condition of the community as a whole. The Act does not help the judges to determine what the capacity of the industry and the condition of the community are, but the Court must no longer suggest that the Houses should find ways and means to meet its awards. The Court is further obliged, in making its awards, to provide as far as possible for uniformity throughout the industry in relation to hours of work, holidays and general conditions in that industry.

The development of a system of voluntary arbitration as distinct from compulsory arbitration is a distinct feature of the new Act. Provision is made by which employers or employees may submit any industrial matter to a judge or conciliation commissioner of their own choosing. In other words, there is made available the skilled services of an impartial arbitrator appointed by the Commonwealth. For this purpose a dispute need not necessarily exist as it is not a question of invoking the Court's jurisdiction. The result of such voluntary arbitration proceedings is not, however, enforceable in law.

As regards the further application of the principle of conciliation, the new Act makes a further attempt to emphasise the prevention of disputes as distinct from their settlement. By virtue of an Act passed in 1926, a conciliation commissioner was appointed with power to deal with industrial troubles on the basis of conciliation. The new Act seeks to enlarge this principle by the constitution of conciliation committees. These committees are to consist of a chairman who is paid for his services, and an equal number of representatives from both sides and are to be appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court. In the appointment of these representatives the Chief Judge must take into consideration any recommendations submitted by the interested organisations. The Act also assists the conciliation principle in another way. Under the original Act, boards of reference consisting of employers and employees may be appointed to deal with matters referred to in an award. The new Act enables these boards to handle any matter which they think will affect the good relations of the parties in reference to an award. A decisive step has thus been taken by the Act to substitute the principle of the round table for that of the formal atmosphere of the Court environment.

The new Act has made considerable improvements in Court procedure. The three important improvements introduced are (a) the introduction of the representative action so long confined in England to the courts of equity. The object is to curtail the considerable expense associated with the service of the necessary court papers upon a large number of respondents when the matter is before the Court. (b) The permission

accorded to barristers and solicitors to appear in the Arbitration Court if the Court grants them leave; and (c) the policing of awards by Commonwealth officers. The Act provides for the appointment of inspectors whose duty it will be to see that the Act and the Courts' awards are being observed. Hitherto representatives of both sides have seen to this, and sometimes unpleasantness and irritation have followed from the indiscretion of these representatives.

There are, in the new Act, clauses the object of which is to regularise the position of the trade union in law by making the principle of vicarious liability applicable in practice to it. In Australia, the trade union upon registration becomes a corporation known to the Arbitration Act, and the new Act endeavours effectively to fix the union—as well as the employers' organisation—with liability for the acts of its members and servants. The original Act prohibits under a penalty of £1000 in the case of both the guilty organisation and the guilty member or servant, all inter-State strikes and lockouts. But the penalty has never been imposed. The penalty so far imposed has been effective in preventing lockouts but not strikes. The new Act retains the penalty of £1000 in the case of an organisation or an employer but in the case of the individual member or servant in default the penalty is £50. By exaction of the penalties, it is hoped to terminate the irritating tactics commonly spoken of as the "sectional strike" which has become in recent years a feature of Australian industrial warfare.

The new Act makes it imperative that the rules of a union shall provide for certain matters and the rules covering these matters may not be altered except by a majority vote taken by secret ballot. The Court may disallow any rule which (a) is contrary to law or to any order or award, (b) is tyrannical or oppressive, (c) prevents or hinders members from observing the law or the terms of an order or award, or (d) imposes unreasonable conditions upon membership or application for membership. It is mandatory that every organisation shall keep the following records: (a) a list of its members showing their names and postal addresses; (b) a list of the names, postal addresses, and occupations of the members of its committee of management, of its officers, and of every person holding, whether as trustee or otherwise, property of the organisation; (c) an account in proper form of its receipts and payments and of all its funds and effects. A certified copy of these records is to be filed with the Registrar of the Court.

In the view of many persons the most important clause in the Act is section 45 which introduces the compulsory ballot into industrial organisations. It is provided in section 45 that any 10 members of an organisation may, when any vote is taken or about to be taken in any election of the committee or of officers of the organisation or in respect of any resolution proposed for adoption by the organisation demand that the vote be taken by secret ballot. If the demand is not acceded to, the Court may authorise the taking of a ballot under the supervision of its officer, provided that the demand is *bona fide* and "relates to a matter of substantial importance." If the union does not hold this ballot as directed, it is liable to a fine of £500.

in fixing the basic wage for unskilled workers, with the implication that there shall be margins for skill. But in the determination of wages and in the matter of hours and conditions of labour, the Act insists that the Court's practice shall change. Hitherto the Court has prescribed wages and conditions according to what it considers the Australian standard of living, leaving it to the legislature to enable the industry to comply with the award. The Court is now directed to make its award in these matters within the limits of present possibilities; it must take into account the economic capacity of the industry and the economic condition of the community as a whole. The Act does not help the judges to determine what the capacity of the industry and the condition of the community are, but the Court must no longer suggest that the Houses should find ways and means to meet its awards. The Court is further obliged, in making its awards, to provide as far as possible for uniformity throughout the industry in relation to hours of work, holidays and general conditions in that industry.

The development of a system of voluntary arbitration as distinct from compulsory arbitration is a distinct feature of the new Act. Provision is made by which employers or employees may submit any industrial matter to a judge or conciliation commissioner of their own choosing. In other words, there is made available the skilled services of an impartial arbitrator appointed by the Commonwealth. For this purpose a dispute need not necessarily exist as it is not a question of invoking the Court's jurisdiction. The result of such voluntary arbitration proceedings is not, however, enforceable in law.

As regards the further application of the principle of conciliation, the new Act makes a further attempt to emphasise the prevention of disputes as distinct from their settlement. By virtue of an Act passed in 1926, a conciliation commissioner was appointed with power to deal with industrial troubles on the basis of conciliation. The new Act seeks to enlarge this principle by the constitution of conciliation committees. These committees are to consist of a chairman who is paid for his services, and an equal number of representatives from both sides and are to be appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court. In the appointment of these representatives the Chief Judge must take into consideration any recommendations submitted by the interested organisations. The Act also assists the conciliation principle in another way. Under the original Act, boards of reference consisting of employers and employees may be appointed to deal with matters referred to in an award. The new Act enables these boards to handle any matter which they think will affect the good relations of the parties in reference to an award. A decisive step has thus been taken by the Act to substitute the principle of the round table for that of the formal atmosphere of the Court environment.

The new Act has made considerable improvements in Court procedure. The three important improvements introduced are (a) the introduction of the representative action so long confined in England to the courts of equity. The object is to curtail the considerable expense associated with the service of the necessary court papers upon a large number of respondents when the matter is before the Court. (b) The permission

accorded to barristers and solicitors to appear in the Arbitration Court if the Court grants them leave; and (c) the policing of awards by Conciliation officers. The Act provides for the appointment of inspectors whose duty it will be to see that the Act and the Courts' awards are being observed. Hitherto representatives of both sides have seen to it that sometimes unpleasantness and irritation have followed from the discretion of these representatives.

There are, in the new Act, clauses the object of which is to regularise the position of the trade union in law by making the principle of vicarious liability applicable in practice to it. In Australia, the trade union upon registration becomes a corporation known to the Arbitration Act, and the new Act endeavours effectively to fix the union—as well as the employers' organisation—with liability for the acts of its members and servants. The original Act prohibits under a penalty of £1000 in the case of both the guilty organisation and the guilty member or servant, all inter-State strikes and lockouts. But the penalty has never been imposed. The penalty so far imposed has been effective in preventing lockouts but not strikes. The new Act retains the penalty of £1000 in the case of an organisation or an employer but in the case of the individual member or servant in default the penalty is £50. By exaction of the penalties, it is hoped to terminate the irritating tactics commonly spoken of as the "sectional strike" which has become in recent years a feature of Australian industrial warfare.

The new Act makes it imperative that the rules of a union shall provide for certain matters and the rules covering these matters may not be altered except by a majority vote taken by secret ballot. The Court may disallow any rule which (a) is contrary to law or to any order or award, (b) is tyrannical or oppressive, (c) prevents or hinders members from observing the law or the terms of an order or award, or (d) imposes unreasonable conditions upon membership or application for membership. It is mandatory that every organisation shall keep the following records: (a) a list of its members showing their names and postal addresses; (b) a list of the names, postal addresses, and occupations of the members of its committee of management, of its officers, and of every person holding, whether as trustee or otherwise, property of the organisation; (c) an account in proper form of its receipts and payments and of all its funds and effects. A certified copy of these records is to be filed with the Registrar of the Court.

In the view of many persons the most important clause in the Act is section 45 which introduces the compulsory ballot into industrial organisations. It is provided in section 45 that any 10 members of an organisation may, when any vote is taken or about to be taken in any election of the committee or of officers of the organisation or in respect of any resolution proposed for adoption by the organisation demand that the vote be taken by secret ballot. If the demand is not acceded to, the Court may authorise the taking of a ballot under the supervision of its officer, provided that the demand is *bona fide* and "relates to a matter of substantial importance." If the union does not hold this ballot as directed, it is liable to a fine of £500.

The Act makes available a penalty of £20 or in the case of a registered organisation £100, should any person prevent or endeavour to prevent any person from offering or accepting employment or working in accordance with the terms of an award or order of the Court by any of the following methods: (a) violence to the person or property; (b) threats; (c) pecuniary penalty or injury; (d) intimidation of any kind, to whomsoever directed; (e) abusive or insulting language; (f) declaring or joining with other persons in declaring goods or places or persons or undertakings or positions "black"; (g) any other form of boycott or threat of boycott.

It is pointed out that the measure was received by the Parliamentary Labour Party and the unions with the greatest resentment as it is regarded as a gigantic attack on trade unionism and the industrial conditions and privileges won by the workers. The Labour intelligentsia contends that industrial peace will not be gained with the present Act; it is only possible with a comprehensive survey of the situation. Since the passage of the Act, however, an invitation issued by the Associated Chambers of Manufacturers of Australia to trade unions to meet them in conference to discuss unemployment and industrial matters generally has been accepted by the All-Australia Trade Union Congress. It has been suggested by union officials that out of this session there may develop some new machinery of direct contact between employer and employee that will make resort to the Court unusual. If this suggestion fructifies, then one of the larger objects of the Act—the encouragement of conciliation—will have been achieved.

Workmen's Compensation in Great Britain, 1927

The Home Office have issued a White Paper containing statistics of compensation and of proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, in Great Britain during the year 1927. The statistics relate to seven great groups of industries—mines, quarries, railways, factories, docks, constructional work, and shipping—in regard to which particulars of compensation are received from or on behalf of employers under section 42 of the consolidating Act of 1925. These groups embrace a large proportion of the chief industries, but it has to be borne in mind that they do not by any means cover the whole field. Besides the various commercial, clerical, and domestic employments to which the Act applies, there are several important industries which are not covered by the returns, for example, building, road transport, and agriculture.

Owing to the abnormal conditions prevailing in the year 1926, comparison is made throughout the statistics with the figure for 1925 rather than with those for 1926.

The aggregate number of persons coming within the provisions of the Acts who were employed in Great Britain in the seven groups of industries to which the returns relate was 7,403,222 in 1927, as compared with 7,541,014 in 1925, and with 8,359,183 in 1919, the largest number in any

year for which statistics exist. It should be noted that the figure which the employer is asked to give is the average number employed throughout the year.

The following Table gives comparative figures for 1914,* 1925, and 1927

	1914*	1925	1927
Number of workpeople covered by returns	7,057,111	7,541,014	7,403,222
Number of cases:—			
Fatal	4,216†	3,030	2,567
Non-Fatal	437,900	473,055	455,852
Total ..	442,116	476,085	458,419
Payments for compensation:—			
In fatal cases	£ 679,732	£ 864,726	£ 763,271
In non-fatal cases ..	2,785,629	5,778,204	5,552,532
Total ..	3,465,361	6,642,930	6,315,803

The average amount of compensation paid in fatal cases in 1927 was £297, as compared with £285 in 1925, and with £161 in 1914. The average amount paid in 1927 in non-fatal cases was £81 9s. for lump-sum payments and £8 14s. for weekly payments, as compared with £82 10s. and £8 19s., respectively in 1925; the average for all non-fatal cases was £12 4s. in 1927, the same sum as in 1925, as against £6 7s. in 1914.

The following Table shows the number of persons employed, the total compensation paid, and the cost per person employed, in each of the seven groups of industries covered by the returns for the years 1925 and 1927:—

Industries	Persons employed		Total compensation paid.		Cost per person employed	
	1925	1927	1925	1927	1925	1927
Shipping	207,194	201,391	£ 237,148	230,219	s. 22	d. 11
Factories	5,318,658	5,289,978	2,288,580	2,270,213	8	7
Docks	142,550	151,721	263,223	273,368	36	11
Mines	1,157,085	1,052,216	3,275,547	3,014,161	56	7
Quarries	76,274	76,017	107,754	105,883	28	3
Constructional work	108,813	122,762	151,943	141,232	27	11
Railways	530,440	509,137	318,735	280,727	12	0
Total	7,541,014	7,403,222	6,642,930	6,315,803	17	7

*The figures for 1914 include Ireland; those for 1925 and 1927 do not.

†There was a great colliery explosion in this year.

The figures given above as to total compensation paid in the seven groups of industries represent only the actual amount paid to workpeople or their dependants, and not the total charge on the industries, which would need to include the administrative expenses and medical and legal costs of employers, insurance companies, and mutual indemnity associations, the amounts placed in reserve, and the profits earned by the insurance companies.

Statistics regarding the various industrial diseases included under the Workmen's Compensation Acts show that compensation was paid, in the seven groups of industries, in 25 fatal cases in 1927, to the amount of £5278, and in 17,079 disablement cases, to the amount of £548,492. The 25 fatal cases included 6 of lead poisoning, 3 of anthrax, 3 of epitheliomatous cancer, and 10 of scrotal epithelioma. The bulk of the cases occurred, as in previous years, in the mining industry, the majority being due to miner's nystagmus, "beat hand" and "beat knee". Cases of miner's nystagmus accounted for over 56 per cent. of the total number, and, together with "beat elbow" and inflammation of the synovial lining of the wrist joint and tendon sheaths, numbered 15,450 or 90.3 per cent. of the total number. The cases of miner's nystagmus, totalling 9736 in 1927, showed a decrease of 1599 compared with 1925.

Under the scheme of compensation for silicosis for the refractories industries (ganister mines and quarries, and factories engaged in the manufacture of silica bricks and similar articles for lining furnaces) compensation was paid during the year in 269 cases of disablement. Nineteen of these cases terminated fatally, and the compensation due in case of death was paid. At the end of the year there were 230 cases in receipt of weekly payments under the scheme, 43 for total incapacity and 187 for partial incapacity. The total amount paid in compensation during the year was £14,520, of which £3245 was in respect of death claims and £11,275 for disablement. The Medical Board appointed under the scheme carried out during the year 1718 periodic examinations of workmen, including 242 initial examinations of new workmen.

Statistics in regard to the administration of the Acts show that the total number of cases under the Workmen's Compensation Acts taken into court in Great Britain in 1927 was 6426. Many of these, however, were applications for dealing with allowances already granted, and many were settled out of court or otherwise disposed of, so that only 2889 original claims were finally settled with the cognisance of the courts. The decision in 2160 cases, or 74.8 per cent., was in favour of the applicant.

There were 31,766 cases in which memoranda of agreements and informal arbitrations were registered in the courts, as compared with 29,771 in 1925.

Cases under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, numbered only 45 in 1927, as compared with 583 in 1907, when the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, came into full operation. Subject to minor fluctuations, the figures have steadily diminished, and show that the remedy provided by the older Act is falling into disuse. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, February 1929.)

Employment of Women in Japanese Industry

In the February 1929 issue of the *International Labour Review* there is an interesting article on the above subject by Iwao F. Ayusawa containing a statistical survey of the position of women in Japanese Industry. It is pointed out that a striking fact in the economic organisation of Japan is that the aggregate number of women engaged in all kinds of labour exceeds that of men and that certain basic industries are largely dependent on female labour.

WOMEN IN FACTORIES

At the end of 1927 the total number of women employed in factories was 1,009,550. Of these women 128,796 were unprotected by the factory Act because they were employed in workshops or small factories which employed regularly fewer than 10 persons and in which the work performed was not considered of a dangerous nature or injurious to health.

As a result of the revision of the Factories Act which came into operation since 1st July 1926, 22,573 new work places have come under the provisions of the law, the increase of the total number of workers employed being 173,293 and of women alone 44,834.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN

The legal minimum age for industrial employment of children is now 14 instead of 12. By raising the standard minimum age to 14, Japan has come up to the general standard of the Washington Convention of 1919 fixing the minimum age for admission of children to industrial employment. The only exception, besides certain transitional provisions, is that if a child has completed the course at an elementary school before reaching the age of 14 it may, by obtaining special permission, be employed while under the age of 14, but under no circumstances before reaching the age of 12. Employers who contravene this provision are liable to a fine which may be as much as 1000 yen.

The effectiveness of the application of the Act is apparent from the reports of the inspectors. In the first six months after the Act came into force there were 789 cases reported of the employment of children below the minimum age. Warnings were given by the inspectors and 11 employers were fined for not discharging the children immediately upon receipt of the warning.

The writer points out that a total of only 11 penalties among 789 offenders cannot be said to be many and suggests that this somewhat lenient attitude was deliberately adopted in the first half year in view of the fact that the law was being applied for the first time in industrial and mining undertakings other than factories, and allowance was also made for the lack of legal knowledge of the employers.

The enforcement of the law in new fields is made difficult by the extreme poverty prevailing in some rural districts. It has recently been found that in a large number of cases the earnings of the children are an indispensable part of the income of the family for their subsistence. Early in 1928 there was an official statement in the *Labour Gazette* that the apparent hardship resulting from the strict application of the law indicates the urgent need of enacting another law for the relief of the poorer workers.

EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS

The problem of the employment of young persons and in particular of young women workers in their adolescent or pre-matrimonial period is far more acute than that of employment of children, which may be considered as almost wholly disposed of. The difficulty lies in the peculiar situation of the basic industry of Japan, namely, that the textile mills are operated almost exclusively by young women before their marriage. It is seen from the available statistics regarding age distribution of workers in Japanese factories during 1922 to 1925 that the number of boys under 16 years of age employed in factories has diminished considerably and that of men above 16 has increased. In the case of female workers the number of girls under 14 has decreased and of those above 14 have increased. If the proportions of these workers in the different age groups are worked out it is seen that in 1925 as many as 95·41 per cent. of the male workers were above the age of 16 while women workers above 16 years of age were 73·88 per cent. of the total leaving 26·12 per cent. for girls below the age of 16. In other words, among women factory workers in Japan every fourth person is a young girl below 16 years of age.

The following table shows the distribution by age of workers in Japanese factories in the year 1925 :—

Distribution by Age and Industries of Workers in Japanese Factories in 1925

Industrial group	Below 16		Above 16		Total
	Boys	Girls	Men	Women	
Textiles	13,095	199,784	167,937	591,815	972,631
Machines and Tools	3,275	1,721	260,520	16,319	286,835
Chemicals	6,656	6,144	114,287	42,320	169,407
Food and drink	2,452	7,650	121,006	39,540	170,648
Gas, electricity, metal refining	196	8	34,988	1,654	36,846
Miscellaneous	9,179	7,972	113,963	40,900	172,014
Total	39,853	223,279	812,701	732,548	1,808,381

The above table shows a striking preponderance of young women in the Textile Industry. It will also be seen that of the young person under 16 years of age, girls are more than 15 times as numerous as boys, while among the adults there are between 3 and 4 times as many women as men.

WOMEN WORKERS IN MINES

The Mining Industry in Japan has made considerable progress in recent years. In 1927 the number of women employed in mines was 64,237. The proportion of women to men is about one-third. It is pointed out that the presence of many women workers in mining work, which involves hardship and physical danger, is in itself a problem, whose seriousness

is intensified by the fact that there are many women, some of them quite young, employed in underground work. In 1925 out of 208,295 miners working underground about 47,071 were women, 8672 of whom were under 20 years of age. It must however be remembered that the employment of women in underground work is an old custom in the country, especially in the southern coal mines where hewers are accompanied by their wives, sons and daughters.

Minimum Wage Rates in Great Britain

In reply to a question in the House of Commons on 14th November 1928, the British Minister of Agriculture gave particulars of the minimum rates of wages for ordinary male workers of 21 years of age and over and for female workers of 18 years of age and over as fixed by orders of the Agricultural Wages Board under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act of 1924 and operative on 10th November 1928.

In all but three areas, wages for ordinary male workers of 21 years and over are from 30s. to 35s., for a week ranging from 48 to 54 hours. There are no rates below 30s., but 14 areas have fixed the weekly wage rate at this figure. In Lancashire, East area, a wage of 42s. (the highest rate awarded in the country) is paid for a sixty-hour week; in the North area the wage is 37s. 6d. for a week of the same duration; in Yorkshire, East riding, it is 36s. for a week of 52½ hours.

Women are usually paid by the hour, the usual rate being 5d.; in two areas, however, the rate is 4½d., and in sixteen it is 6d. per hour.

NUMBER OF WORKERS EMPLOYED

The Minister of Agriculture also gave statistics of workers employed on agricultural holdings exceeding one acre in extent in England and Wales and in Scotland since 1921.

Year.	Regular Workers.			Casual Workers.		Total.
	Males of 21 years and over.	Males under 21 years.	Women and girls.	Males.	Women and girls.	
	England and Wales.					
1921	456,783	155,289	73,180	171,311	52,678	869,183
1924	441,491	140,772	62,276	114,994	46,930	806,463
1927	452,835	134,238	62,629	26,112	39,635	774,449
	Scotland.					
1921	55,812	23,287	21,772	1,544	11,801	126,898
1924	58,014	22,073	20,098	1,518	12,000	117,342
1927	59,826	22,273	19,486	2,119	8,472	119,275

—The occupier, his wife, and domestic servants are excluded from the above figures.

The decline in every group of labour in England and Wales from 1921 to 1927 has been extraordinarily regular. Among the regular workers, adult males have decreased by nearly 4000, males under 21 years by over 20,000, and women and girls by nearly 11,000, while among the casual workers males declined by about 46,000 and women and girls by 13,000. The total decline in agricultural labour has therefore been about 95,000 persons.

The figures for adult males are the most important and here the decline has been the smallest; moreover, a certain recovery is noticeable since 1923, when, owing no doubt to the agricultural crisis, the figure had sunk to 426,925 persons; since then it has risen gradually to 452,835. But even though the decline in males of 21 years and over is small, the total decline is considerable.

In Scotland a total decline in the number of persons employed is registered, from 126,898 persons in 1921 to 119,275 in 1927. This decline is registered in all classes, except that of adult males, which shows a steady rise from 1921 onwards; not even the agricultural crisis brought the figures down. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, February 11, 1929.)

A New Index Number of Wages

A new series of index numbers, compiled by Dr. A. L. Bowley, has been published by the London and Cambridge Economic Service. It is designed to provide a measurement of the movements of average wages in this country month by month since December 1924, in relation to their level both at that date and at July 1914. Estimates have from time to time been published by the Ministry of Labour of the average increase in weekly rates of wages since July 1914, but these estimates have avowedly made no attempt to reflect changes in average earnings resulting from the operation of such factors as increases in the efficiency of machinery, the extension of payment at piece-rates, and changes in the proportions of workpeople employed in different occupations and industries. Index numbers hitherto published by the London and Cambridge Economic Service have taken partial account of some of these factors, and thereby shown a somewhat higher percentage of increase than the Ministry of Labour estimates. Professor Bowley's new series is intended to measure, at December 1924, the change since July 1914, in the average level of a week's earnings of all fully or partially employed manual workers, and for subsequent dates to reflect the average change in rates of wages, month by month, until it can be rectified by further information upon earnings. The belief is expressed that since 1924 the movement of earnings cannot have differed significantly from the movement of rates of wages.

The 1914 level of earnings is arrived at by adjusting, industry by industry, the results of the 1906 official census of wages in correspondence with the recorded changes in rates of wages between 1906 and 1914. For the 1924 earnings the results of the 1924 official enquiry into earnings are used. Comparison of these two estimates yields increases in average weekly

earnings, between 1914 and 1924, ranging from 63 per cent. in coal mining to 147 per cent. for printers, the general (weighted) average being approximately 95 per cent. The index numbers of subsequent changes are based on a comparison of rates of wages at December 1924, and later dates, in a selection of twenty occupational groups.

The figures for selected dates related to the level of wages (a) in December 1924, and (b) in July 1914, taken in each case as 100, are reproduced below, together with the Ministry of Labour cost-of-living index numbers for the same dates:—

	Base: Dec. 1924 = 100		Base: July 1914 = 100	
	Wages	Cost of Living	Wages	Cost of Living
1924—Dec. 1	100	100	195	181
Nov. 1	101	99	196½	179
1926—March 1	100	97	196	176
1927—March 1	100	95	196	172
1927—Nov. 1	100	94½	197	171
1928—March 1	100	94	196	169
Nov. 1	100	91	194½	164
1928—Nov. 1	100	92	194	167

On this computation average "real" weekly earnings for workpeople in employment had risen about 8 per cent. between July 1914 and December 1924, and 16 per cent. between July 1914, and November 1928. These are, of course, the increases in weekly earnings; in view of the shortening of the working week the hourly increases are greater.

The bearing of such statistics on questions affecting the conditions of the workers gives these conclusions a more than academic interest, and special attention is likely to be focussed on the difference between the increase of 94 per cent. in average earnings between 1914 and the end of 1928, as measured by these index numbers, and that of 70 to 75 per cent. in weekly rates of wages, as estimated by the Ministry of Labour. The movements in wages between 1924 and 1928, which have been very slight on the average, show a close correspondence in both series of figures, and the origins of the wide margin between the levels of the two sets of estimates in relation to July 1914, are to be sought in the increase of earnings, as compared with time rates, between 1914 and 1924. Professor Bowley states that certain assumptions have been necessary for the purposes of these comparisons, e.g., as to the changes in earnings between 1906 and 1914 in industries included in the official enquiries into earnings in 1906 and 1924, and as to the increases in industries covering about one-fourth of the men and more than half the women, for which no definite information exists. The proportions of increase which he records for different industries certainly show some surprising disparities, and he notes that there is a doubt as to the accuracy of some of the figures. The opinion is expressed, however, that the general average for all industries is more accurate than some of the averages for individual industries, and that after consideration of all the

sources of error the increase of 95 per cent. is the best estimate that can be made for 1924. The publication in greater detail of the calculations leading up to this figure, including the average earnings for each industry in 1914 and 1924, from which the percentages of increase have been computed, would be of considerable interest of students of wages problems, and it is much to be hoped that Professor Bowley may find an opportunity to expound his detailed treatment. In the meantime it is important to note that the estimated increases in earnings of 95 per cent. in 1924 and 94 per cent. at the end of 1928 are expressly stated to take no account of the effects of increased complete unemployment since 1914. An allowance for this factor would, of course, materially reduce the figure.

Professor Bowley very appositely remarks that a variety of purposes is served by measurements of average wages, and to each purpose corresponds an appropriate definition and method of computation. It is important that this warning should be borne in mind in any use to which his new series of figures may be put. Their primary object is to measure the changes in the average earnings of all manual workers, from whatever causes these changes may arise, and they therefore include within their scope changes in the average wage resulting, for example, from the upgrading of workers, from alterations in the proportions of males and females, adults and juveniles, in employment. Whilst index numbers on this basis are specially adapted for use in measurements of changes in the total income of employed wage-earners or in connection with computations of the national income, they are perhaps less suitable for application in the solution of problems as to the adequacy of the remuneration of particular classes of workpeople. In the consideration of such questions index numbers designed to measure the amount of changes in rates of wages unaffected by variation in average earnings resulting, for example, from the abolition of the half-time system and the raising of the school-leaving age, will still retain their value. (From "Economist," London, February 16, 1929.)

Ministry of Labour Cost-of-Living Figures

In answer to a question as to the possibility of a fresh inquiry into the cost of living, with a view to a revision of the basis of the present index number, the Minister of Labour made the following statement in the House of Commons on 6th February:—

"I regret that conditions of employment are not sufficiently normal to warrant the extensive inquiries which would be necessary in order to provide the data required to form a basis for a revised cost-of-living index number. It is desirable that a revised basis, when determined, should receive general acceptance and serve for a long period of years, and in view of this I think that the revision cannot well be undertaken at the present time." (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, February 1929.)

The Fawcett Committee

Summary of Report

The Report of the Bombay Strike Enquiry Committee appointed by Government in a resolution dated the 13th of October 1928 has been presented to Government and is now being published. The Committee consisted of the Honourable Sir Charles Fawcett, I.C.S., Chairman, M. Khareghat, I.C.S. (Retired), and Mr. B. S. Kamat, with N. A. Mehrban, Investigator, Labour Office, as Secretary. The terms of reference to the Committee were—

- (a) Whether the amended scheme of a standardized schedule of rates and of a standardized muster prepared by the Millowners' Association, and also the scheme prepared by the Strike Committee is fair and reasonable;
- (b) Whether the seventeen demands advanced by the Strike Committee are fair and reasonable and to what extent, if any, they should be met;
- (c) Whether the Standing Orders for operatives as amended and presented by the Millowners' Association on the 4th of October 1928 are fair and reasonable.

The Report of the Committee extends to 260 pages and includes 16 appendices. The Committee state that the general result of their enquiry is "that we regard the proposals of the Millowners' Association (a) for Standardisation of the wages, duties and numbers of operatives in a mill, and (b) for Standing Orders for the operatives regarding the conditions of their employment, as being in the main fair and reasonable." As regards the seventeen demands, ten of them are held to be fair and reasonable and all of them, with two exceptions, were eventually conceded by the Millowners' Association. Two have been held to be unfair and unreasonable, and the remaining three have been held to be partly fair and reasonable and partly not.

On the question of the wage cut, proposed by the Millowners' Association, of 7½ per cent. in weavers' wages, the Committee state "on the whole we are of opinion that the weight of arguments is in favour of the proposed wage-cut being justifiable, but we think there is an over-riding consideration against the Millowners' Association pressing the proposal any further. This is the necessity for the full co-operation of the Labour leaders in working the new Standardisation Scheme. Without such co-operation it will be difficult, if not impossible, to introduce the scheme or revise it after a short period of trial, as contemplated. The agreement arrived at about most parts of the Scheme and about the constitution of the Joint Committee is a step forward of a satisfactory kind. It will be disappointing if the prospect of future co-operation in introducing and working the scheme is blighted by conflict over this question of a wage-cut, and we think the Association should agree to drop it, if the Labour leaders in their turn undertake to give real co-operation in trying to make the Standardisation Scheme work properly. We do not of course mean that they should thereby bind themselves to agree to everything that may be proposed by the mill representatives; what we have in mind is co-operation in the same manner as Trade Unions have co-operated in working the "Uniform Lists"

in Lancashire. If this object is attained, we think the industry should benefit much more than by the annual saving that it is expected to get from the wage-cut. It is not as if the Millowners will get no saving from the adoption of the Standardisation Scheme; on the contrary the evidence before us showed that many mills would make some savings by reduction in the number of employees, etc., but there is a still stronger consideration. It may be a platitude to say that what is more likely to help to put the industry on its feet again is "Industrial Peace", but we think it none the less true and important for all that. Accordingly we are of opinion that although there is justification for the proposed cut, under present circumstances it would be in the interests of both parties for it to be dropped, on the understanding about Labour co-operation that we have mentioned. We are encouraged to think that such co-operation may be obtained in view of the opinion which Mr. Bakhale on behalf of the Joint Strike Committee expressed in the course of his summing up on the 13th February 1929 that, if the cut is removed, and if the Standardisation Scheme is based upon the average wages obtaining at the present time in Bombay, those who have influence with the workers would do their level best to have the principle of standardisation accepted and persuade the workers not to go on strike, as far as possible. We were informed by the Millowners' Association that they propose to introduce the Scheme in October next; and it is to be hoped that the Labour leaders will meanwhile try to explain the main points of the Scheme to the workers and to persuade them to give it at any rate a trial before rushing into hostilities. The scheme will of course result in some workers getting less than they do at present. On the other hand some others will benefit; and if the value of uniformity of rates of wages is properly explained to the workers, it should result in acceptance of lower rates by those affected for the benefit of the operatives as a whole, just as happened in the case of the English weavers.

ADVANTAGES OF STANDARDISATION

Dealing with the Standardisation Scheme the Committee points out that the main scheme put forward by the Millowners' Association was considerably modified as a result of meetings that took place between Sub-Committees of the Association and the Joint Strike Committee in January and February of this year, and this modified Scheme has been accepted by the Joint Strike Committee, subject to some general objections and some qualifications. This scheme in its final form is printed as an appendix to the report and the Committee hold that the scheme as modified with some concessions in certain occupations and "allowances" for weavers is fair and reasonable. But this is subject to such revision of the part of the scheme that regulates the wages of weavers as may be necessary to prevent a cut of 7½ per cent in their wages if the Committee's recommendations on this point (referred to above) are adopted.

The Committee summarise the advantages of the scheme as follows

(1) The method adopted is that of fixing piece-prices by reference to a standard, with provisions for the extras payable and deductions to be made if any variation is made from this standard. A list framed on these lines can readily be applied not alone to the fixing of prices in

relation to articles and processes existing at the time of the compilation of the list and specifically provided for in its construction, but also to the determination of piece-wages in relation to new articles and processes which may from time to time be introduced.

(2) The scheme aims at providing automatically for an operative getting the benefit of any increased effort on his part, e.g., an increase in the number of spindles he looks after or in the rate of speed of the machinery. This tends to make both the mills and the operatives try to increase their efficiency.

(3) Indirect deductions from wages such as were complained of at the time of the general strike will be almost entirely prevented.

(4) Subject to exceptions and special cases, an exact uniformity of the rate of remuneration is maintained between man and man and mill and mill, so that competition between mills, and disputes due to higher or lower wages being given in different mills for the same quantity and quality of work, are practically done away with.

(5) While the element of error cannot be totally eliminated, it has been found in Lancashire to be reduced to small proportions.

(6) The scheme does not hinder or prevent an increase or reduction in wages due to rise or fall in prices; the usual method in Lancashire is not to alter the list but to add or deduct a certain percentage on or off all piece-work prices, and the same could be done here.

(7) The scheme has the desirable element of welcoming the co-operation of labour representatives which, it may be hoped, will, as in Lancashire, lead to reduction in the number of serious disputes and consequent strikes or lockouts.

CONCILIATION MACHINERY

The Committee therefore think that Standardisation of Wages is desirable, that the Millowners were well advised to follow the lines of the Lancashire lists in drawing up their Scheme, and that the basis of the proposed standardisation is a suitable one. It will afford a great improvement on the present conditions under which the worker sometimes does not obtain commensurate or even any increase of remuneration for extra effort or skill. But the Committee also point out that the scheme itself reserves various matters for subsequent standardisation, and it is proposed to revise it after a few months' trial. With this object, and that of avoiding strikes and lockouts, machinery has been provided by the "Mediation Rules" agreed to by both sides for setting up Joint Committees to enquire into disputes arising under the scheme and to endeavour to arrange for settlement. The Committee draws attention to the fact that no fewer than 70 strikes took place in the textile industry in Bombay City during the proceedings of the Committee. "It is obvious," says the Report, "that this state of things is prejudicial to the well-being of the industry, including that of the workers themselves, and that its continuance, when combined with the high level of wages in Bombay, may result in increasing the existing tendency of Millowners to establish mills up-country, where labour is cheaper and works more steadily. The present greater uncertainty as to when a lightning strike may take place in a mill necessarily disables its management in many

ways, e.g., in accepting large contracts, and the workers themselves will surely benefit by progress towards the stage now generally reached in Europe, where discussion and an attempt at settlement between the Workers' and the Employers' Organisations are almost necessary preludes to a strike or a lockout.

In connexion with the Standardisation Scheme the Committee recommend that the textile trade unions should combine to arrange for the assistance of an expert technical adviser in dealing with disputes arising under the scheme.

That part of the Standardisation Scheme which is called the "Rational" or "Efficiency" System, and which aims at reducing the number of operatives employed in mills, while raising their wages and providing conditions favourable for the extra efficiency expected from the operatives, is also held to be fair and reasonable. In this connexion the Committee point out that the proposed reduction of operatives under the Standardisation Scheme proper will be about 1500, mostly dofferboys and tarwallas in the Spinning Department. The number of operatives that will be displaced by a general adoption of the "Rational" or "Efficiency" Scheme will be very much larger. This of course will give rise to some distress among the men and women discharged, though it is probably an exaggeration to speak of starvation, as has been done by the Labour representatives. "But the fear of unemployment contributed largely to the strike and one has only to put oneself in the place of a worker who is threatened with loss of employment to realise that it is a natural feeling. An entire disregard of the suffering entailed by loss of employment is out of place, and has caused much bitterness on the side of labour." The Committee considers that it is in the interests of the Millowners to take some steps to mitigate hardships entailed in the introduction of the Scheme and thus lessen the opposition to it or at any rate any reasonable cause for bitterness. The Committee therefore make certain recommendations in this respect.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND

They consider that they are not in a position to estimate accurately the volume of eventual unemployment which may follow if "Rationalisation" proceeds gradually as it suggests; neither is it easy, in a country where unskilled operatives are mostly agricultural workers and can resort to agriculture, to gauge real unemployment, in the sense in which the term is understood in industrial countries. In the Sassoon group of nine mills a total of about 5100 men were retrenched from a muster of approximately 27,000 as a result of the introduction of the efficiency system during the last three years. But this does not necessarily mean that every one out of the 5100 men has remained on the unemployment list, although it must be recognised that there must have been some hardship caused to a portion of them, particularly the skilled workers, during the waiting period before they found some employment. "It is to meet such cases, and with a view to avoid delay in the settlement of this question pending the Report of the forthcoming Royal Commission on Labour and any action thereon by the State," says the Report, "that we make, though not without considerable diffidence, the following suggestions for

in tentative measures for the consideration of the Millowners and the Trade Union leaders—

(1) The Millowners should set up some machinery for taking note of all cases where workers are discharged on account of reduction of staff and help them as far as possible to get suitable employment either in some other mill or in some other industry.

(2) The Millowners' Association should consider the feasibility of a scheme for the payment of a gratuity to a worker, which may amount to say, four weeks' or six weeks' wages according to the length of service, payable in suitable cases of discharged employees, who may need help during the waiting period while they are seeking employment. With this view the Committee suggest the formation of an "Out-of-work Donation Fund" on a voluntary basis, to be created by a system of setting aside a contribution by the Millowners of one anna per operative per month, to which fund the Operatives through their Representatives should be invited to contribute one anna or at least a half-anna per head per month. As there are about 150,000 operatives in the textile trade in Bombay, we expect this will yield on the one anna basis about Rs. 18,750 per month, or in the case of the half-anna basis about Rs. 14,000 per month. The Committee have reason to believe that such a small contribution will not be felt a burden in the case of the workers, especially by the weavers, whose wages are about Rs. 50 per month. This fund could be administered in consultation with the Labour leaders through the Joint Committee to be set up, or through a separate Committee if necessary for this special purpose. In the case of the Millowners, this contribution will involve a burden of about Rs. 125 on an average per mill per month, and such a small addition to the monthly wages bill of each mill will be a wise investment and a good price for the eventual prosperity and improvement of the trade. A deliberate adoption of a system that will lead to considerable unemployment makes it reasonable that the persons adopting it should do something to give financial help to the discharged worker in the manner suggested.

(3) Care should be taken by the Millowners to see that the scheme is introduced gradually as regards the reduction of staff so that the consequent unemployment may be spread over a period of time and not caused suddenly.

(4) Pending the full introduction of the scheme, a mill might follow what is a common practice in the reeling and winding departments, viz., employ more hands than are required, so that the workers, who do not do a full day's work, get a reduced wages.

The above suggestions are intended to be mainly preliminary to any large extension of the "Efficiency" system likely to result in a considerable amount of unemployment.

WEAVERS' WAGES

In discussing the proposed wage-cut the Committee make the suggestion that possible economies in management might be effected by an amalgamation of mills such as recently took place in Lancashire, or by a less extensive scheme for a combination to regulate the production of certain classes of goods and their export and sale. On the other hand the Committee

have rejected the contention that the wage-cut is unjustifiable because all possible economies in management have not been effected, or because the Millowners failed to make proper provision in boom times for a future depression in the industry such as now exists. After a survey of statistical and other information the Committee hold that while there has been some improvement in the condition of the mill industry during the years 1926-27 and 1927-28, and the prospect is more hopeful than it was in the antecedent period, the depression in the industry is still undoubtedly prevalent.

On the question of weavers' wages the Committee state that there are grounds for saying that the rise in the weaver's wage since 1914 is much higher than the rise in the cost of living and that the weavers' wages have risen in a higher proportion—at least 10 per cent.—than those of other male operatives. But objections can be urged against making a cut in view of the fact that their wages have remained at the same level for nearly eight years and the fall in the cost of living has remained substantially at the present level since the beginning of 1923. The disparity between the weavers' wages and spinners' wages exists in some other countries and is even higher in some places in India. While such a disparity is consonant with the extra skill required of a weaver, its percentage increase is higher than that existing in most countries and it can therefore be said to be excessive.

The Committee have discussed at length the Standing Orders put forward by the Millowners' Association and made various amendments thereto. The most important of the Standing Orders as now amended are as follows:

Provision is made for a regular system of granting leave and while the present hours of work, *viz.*, from 7 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. are retained, they may be modified with the approval of the Factory Inspector and the consent of the operatives or their representatives so as to allow of a morning recess in addition to the mid-day one.

One of the most important of the Standing Orders refers to the question of "playing-off" and this was considered by the Committee at some length. The Committee proposed a Standing Order on this point—

"The Company may at any time or times and

(a) for any period or periods at their discretion in the event of a strike, fire, catastrophe, epidemic or other emergency rendering it necessary or advisable to do so, and

(b) for a period not exceeding two days in the event of the state of the trade rendering it necessary to do so,

stop any machine or machines, department or departments. The operatives employed on those machines or in those departments will be "played off" *i.e.*, temporarily stopped without notice and without compensation in lieu of notice, provided that an employee "played off" for a period longer than seven days may leave the Company's service on intimation of his intention to do so, without any further notice. The employees so "played off" are not to be considered as dismissed from service, but are temporarily unemployed and will not be entitled to wages during such unemployment, except to the extent mentioned in Order 13-A. Such employees will be

given the first chance of work again on the resumption of work on such machines or departments.

In the event of a stoppage of any machine or department under Order 13 during working hours, the operatives affected shall be informed, as soon as practicable, when work will be resumed and whether they are to remain or leave the mill. The period of detention in the mill shall not ordinarily exceed one hour after the commencement of the stoppage. If the period of detention does not exceed one hour, operatives so detained shall not be paid for the period of detention. If the period of detention in the mill exceeds one hour, operatives so detained shall be entitled to receive wages for the whole of the time during which they are detained in the mill as a result of the stoppage. In the case of piece-workers, the average daily earnings for the previous month shall be taken to be the wages for 10 hours.

Rules with regard to notice are as follows:—

"The service of any operative may be terminated by 14 days' notice or by payment of 13 days' wages in lieu of notice. If he draws wages on a piece rate basis, the 13 days' wages shall be computed on the average daily earnings of such operative for the previous calendar month.

Any operative desirous of leaving the Company's service shall give 14 days' notice to the Head of the Department concerned. The wages due to such an operative must if possible, be paid on the day the notice expires and in any case within three days after the expiry of the notice. If any permanent operative leaves without notice, he shall be liable to forfeit by way of liquidated damages at the discretion of the Manager the whole or part of the wages due to him for the 14 days immediately prior to his so leaving, provided that no such order of forfeiture shall be passed without giving the operative an opportunity of being heard, if he is present or his attendance can be procured without undue difficulty."

QUESTION OF DAMAGED CLOTH

Another important rule proposed by the Committee is that the mill shall not be entitled to debit a weaver's wages with the cost of cloth damaged by his negligence, unless he elects to take it over on those terms. Otherwise the Company may deduct from his wages an amount corresponding to the estimated loss caused to it by such negligence, provided that, if the proposed deduction exceeds a sum to be settled hereafter, or the weaver disputes the damage being due to his negligence, the deduction shall not be made by an officer of the Company lower in rank than an Assistant Weaving Master. If the weaver disputes his liability there should be a joint examination of the damaged cloth by a representative of the mill and a representative of the weavers. The latter may be an official of a registered trade union. If they agree the Manager shall accept their decision. If they disagree and there is no independent person to whom the Manager and the weavers' representative agree to refer the dispute, the Manager shall decide what amount shall be deducted from the weavers' wages.

The Committee does not support the abolition of fines and point out that the Legislature is considering this matter. Striking work without notice or inciting others to do so can rightly be treated as misconduct

rendering an operative liable to dismissal. The total amount of fines shall in no case exceed two per cent. of the operative's total earnings for that month and all fines imposed will be credited to a Welfare Fund and utilised for such benefit or benefits to the operatives as the Company may determine. The Committee consider that the Standing Orders should not be rescinded or altered unless at least two months' clear notice has been posted up in the vernacular and objections or suggestions put forward by the operatives or their representatives within one month after the posting up of the notice have been considered by the Company. The Millowners' Association must also signify its assent in writing to the proposal and the alterations will not be given effect to until after fourteen days' notice has been given to the workers.

As regards the 17 demands the Committee state that they would not be justified in importing the principle of a minimum wage to the extent demanded, viz., the fixing of a definite standard of Rs. 30 below which the wages of no mill-operative in Bombay should fall, but should confine themselves to seeing that there was no diminution in the wages of operatives who have been hitherto getting a low pay, and that relief is given in those cases where they were unduly low. The principle of equality of pay for males and females cannot properly be applied in this enquiry, and the Committee would not be justified in going beyond seeing that the lowest pay of a woman under the Standardisation Scheme is sufficient to enable her to maintain herself without dependants. The Committee favour the proposal to consolidate the existing high prices allowance with the original wages, subject to the understanding that this will not affect any prospective revision of wages according to the cost of living.

In conclusion the Committee state: "We have endeavoured to deal comprehensively, and at the same time concisely, with all the wide points that are involved in the questions referred to us for opinion, but we are conscious that we may have failed to notice in our report some of the arguments raised before us. It would, however, have made it unduly long to deal with everything that was discussed at our sittings, and we believe we have dealt with all the important points. We hope our report will be of utility, not only to the Millowners and the workers and their representatives, but also to Government and the public in aiding them to form a proper opinion upon the disputes, which led to this Enquiry. We think we can claim that both sides were given ample opportunities to place their full cases before us; and even if the Enquiry serves no other useful purpose, it has resulted in the two sides getting nearer an agreement than they were in October 1928."

The price of the report is 13 annas and copies may be obtained from the Government Book Depot, Charni Road Gardens, Bombay.

Seamen in Bombay

On page 410 of the January 1928 issue of the *Labour Gazette* it was stated in connection with the activities of the Indian Seamen's Union that an enquiry into the conditions of life and work of seamen in Bombay had been undertaken by Mr. P. G. Kanekar of the Bombay Social Service League. A Report* containing the results of the enquiry has now been published. In the course of the enquiry 26 lodging houses for seamen in various localities were visited and in all 243 statements were taken from seamen of different classes and creeds. The seamen covered by the enquiry fall into three occupational classes, viz., Saloon workers, Deck workers and Engine Room workers and consisted of Goans, Konkani Muhammadans, Kharwas, Punjabis and Muhammadans from Malabar, South Kanara and Bengal. Among the seamen in Bombay there are also some Bombay Muhammadans and a few from Muscat.

THE GOAN SEAMEN

The seamen coming from Goa are generally employed as Saloon workers and live in *Kurs*. The members of each *Kur* belong to a particular village in Goa and the bond of unity among them is very strong. Some of the *Kurs* are so big that large buildings are occupied by them for which a monthly rent of Rs. 500 to Rs. 600 is paid. The *Kurs* are run on co-operative lines and the funds of the *Kurs* are utilised for the benefit of the members. Some *Kurs* provide for death benefits and advance loans to their members on easy rates of interest ranging from 5 to 9 per cent. per annum. On account of this facility the Goan seamen very rarely resort to Marwaris for obtaining loans. The monthly rent payable by a seaman living in a *Kur* varies from Rs. 1-4-0 to Rs. 2 per month. Boarding in *Kurs* is optional. The monthly food charges for Goan seamen vary from Rs. 16 to Rs. 30. In one *Kur*, however, the monthly charges for two meals a day were reported to be Rs. 7 only. The *Kur* organization is a great blessing to Goan seamen. A small shrine dedicated to the Patron Saint of the village is to be found in each *Kur* and the place thus serves also as a Chapel.

During the enquiry 109 statements from seamen at different *Kurs* were taken. Despite the facilities for easy credit loans, only 2 of the 109 seamen were free from debt. This state of affairs is attributed partly to unemployment and partly to the costly social customs such as marriages of daughters for which the common amount of dowry is Rs. 2000.

Many of the Goan seamen are unemployed for several months and not a few are without employment for over a year. In some cases the period of unemployment has lasted 3 or 4 years. The Saloon workers who supplied information are reported to have complained against the present system of recruitment whereby they are obliged to pay bribes in securing employment, the amount payable being one month's wages each time.

* Obtainable from the Servants of India Society's Home, Sandhurst Road, Girgaum, Bombay, pp. 44. Price Annas 8.

THE KHARWA SEAMEN

These are the only Hindu Seamen in Bombay and come from Surat, Daman and the adjoining territory. They are Deck workers. Their lodging houses are called *lattis* but there are at present not many of them in Bombay as the Kharwas do not stay in the City except when the prospect of employment is near. Two *lattis* were visited during the course of the enquiry, where the rent paid by each member varied from Rs. 1-4-0 to Rs. 2 per month. The monthly boarding charges of Kharwa seamen amount to Rs. 15 or Rs. 16. In all 12 statements were taken from the Kharwas and it was found that only one of them was free from debt. Those who were indebted pay interest at the rate of 12 per cent. to 36 per cent. per annum. A large majority of the Kharwa seamen are unemployed as can be seen from the fact that at one of the *lattis* visited the number of members staying in Bombay was 60, the number employed abroad was 350 and the number of those who were at their native villages was about 1000. In a certain number of cases the duration of unemployment extended over three years. The principal grievance of these seamen also is that they have to pay heavy bribes for securing employment.

THE KONKANI MUHAMMADAN SEAMEN

These seamen come from the districts of Kolaba and Ratnagiri and are mostly Engine Room workers. They live in lodging houses also called *lattis* which are conducted privately and with no regular membership. The monthly rent is Re. 1 or more and no arrangement for boarding is generally made. Statements were taken from 36 persons, residing in 6 *lattis*, of whom 8 were found to be free from debt. Of those who were indebted, some paid interest at rates ranging from 12 to 150 per cent. whereas others paid at the rate of 12 to 36 per cent. A number of these seamen are without employment for months and some for over a year. These seamen also have to pay heavy bribes for securing employment.

OTHER MUHAMMADAN SEAMEN

The Muhammadan seamen from Bombay proper and from Malabar, South Kanara and Bengal as well as those from Muscat are included in this group. They are either Deck workers or Engine Room workers and live in *lattis*. In the course of the enquiry statements were obtained from 42 men in this group. The usual rent paid by them is Rs. 2 per month but in one *latti* the rent is Rs. 4 for the first month and Rs. 2 afterwards. There are no boarding arrangements in these *lattis*. Many of these men are indebted to Marwaris and pay interest at rates varying from 37½ per cent. to 150 per cent. Unemployment prevails amongst them and out of those covered by the enquiry some had been unemployed for over a year. It is reported that owing to want of employment at sea some of these seamen tried to get jobs on daily wages in the docks but were unsuccessful. The men complained that it was not possible to obtain employment either on the Deck or in the Engine Room of a ship without offering bribes.

THE PUNJABI SEAMEN

These seamen constitute a large portion of the Engine Room workers and live in lodging houses known as *Deras*. Each man pays a monthly rent of Re. 1. There are no boarding arrangements in any of the *Deras* and accommodation is not sufficient as they are primarily meant for keeping the seamen's kit and to serve as sick rooms for such of the members as are in need of them. As compared with the *Kurs* and the *Lattis*, the *Deras* are very insanitary. Statements were taken from 43 Punjabi seamen residing in the *Deras* and it was found that only 4 of them were free from debt. The lowest amount of debt was Rs. 12 and the highest Rs. 4000. Indebtedness to the extent of Rs. 100 to Rs. 500 was very common. The highest rate of interest paid was 150 per cent. and the lowest was 25 per cent. The problem of unemployment is very serious amongst these people. Many of them are unemployed for a long time and are unable even to return to their homes owing to poverty. Most of these men are unemployed for periods ranging from 6 months to 2 years. Several of these men complained that they had to pay heavy bribes ranging from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 for securing jobs.

SUGGESTIONS REGARDING CAUSES AND REMEDIES OF UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG SEAMEN

The report points out that the problem of unemployment amongst seamen in Bombay cannot be separated and treated effectively, as unemployment is a national problem. The presence in Bombay of men from various parts of India seeking employment at sea points to the fact that the men cannot secure employment on land in their native places. These men are not sea-faring men by habit, tradition or tastes but become seamen only because they are not able to secure any better employment. The maritime labour market in Bombay has thus become congested and the supply of labour has exceeded the demand.

The method suggested for dealing with the problem is the rationalization of the methods of recruitment of seamen. It is pointed out that from the evidence collected during the enquiry, there is no doubt that bribes are paid by seamen for securing jobs and that employment is often offered to the highest bidder. The result of this method is that the man who is really in need cannot afford to pay anything and remains unemployed. The report appeals to Government to take the matter in hand and bring the offenders to book. The Union of seamen, it is suggested, can also do something to stop the existing evils of recruitment. It is pointed out that the establishment of an employment bureau as recommended by the Clow Committee would remedy some of the present evils and a recommendation has been made for the setting up of Advisory Committees of representatives of shipowners and seamen as contemplated by the Genoa Convention.

The Report also contains the following valuable Appendices:—

- (1) The systems of recruiting seamen at Bombay and Calcutta;
- (2) Existing legal measures for the protection of seamen;
- (3) Draft Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference with regard to the conditions of seamen and

(4) Resolutions passed in the Legislative Assembly regarding Draft Conventions and Recommendations of the International Labour Conference on questions relating to seamen.

Old Age Pensions in South Africa

The Old Age Pensions Act which was adopted in the Union of South Africa during the parliamentary session of 1928, came definitely into force on January 1, 1929. The provisions of the Act follow the main recommendations of the special commission on Old Age Pensions. After the passing of the Act, six commissioners were appointed to organize the work of its administration. These officers ceased to function on January 1, and the administration of the Act is now centralized at the head pensions office at Pretoria. The magistrates in all districts except six, have been appointed to act as District Officers, special arrangements being made for the more populous centres. Application forms are obtainable on application to the magistrates, postmasters and officers in charge of police stations. They may be submitted by any white or coloured person who attained the age of 65 on or before January 1, 1929. Applicants must be domiciled and resident of the Union at the time of application, and must have been British subjects for five years, and ordinarily resident in the Union for fifteen out of the twenty years immediately preceding the date of application. Pensions cannot be assigned, transferred, pledged or hypothecated, or attached. They may be suspended in the event of misconduct and are not payable when pensioners are confined in a mental hospital, prison, etc. If it is deemed to be inadvisable to pay a pension to a pensioner direct, payment may be made to some person acting on his behalf. Pensions may be paid to institutions such as hospitals and homes for old people in respect of pensioners supported and under treatment in these institutions.

A pension will be discontinued in respect of any absence of the pensioner from the Union in excess of sixty consecutive days, unless reciprocal arrangements have been entered into with the country in which he is living during his absence.

Machinery will be set up for the review of pension awards where the circumstances of the pensioners may be changed. At any time subsequent to the award of the pension the commissioner may require the pensioner to furnish him with a statement of his means, and if after investigation the commissioner is satisfied that the pension be discontinued, increased or reduced, he may take action accordingly.

Old age pensions are granted to persons of small means who have reached the age of 65 years. The pensions for Europeans is £30 per annum and for coloured persons (not including natives), £18 per annum, the means limit being £54 and £36 respectively. If the income is below £24 and £18 respectively, the full pension is paid, and as the means increase to £51 and £33 respectively, the pension is reduced in the same proportion. (From "Labour Gazette," Canada, January 1929.)

Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency

Returns for the Fourth Quarter

(Continued from page 599 of the February 1929 issue)

The G.I.P. Railway Cabin Staff Union.—There was a fall from Rs. 49 to Rs. 31 in the average monthly income of the Union during the quarter as compared with the previous quarter while the average monthly expenditure increased from Rs. 15 to Rs. 51. Two meetings of the Managing Committee were held during the quarter at which the Report of the All India Railwaymen's Federation held at Simla was adopted, and the grievances of the Cabin Staff were formulated with a view to representing them to the administration. The Union made several representations to the Agent, G.I.P. Railway, regarding the grievances of the Cabin Staff relating to pay, long hours of duty, leave rules, medical re-examination, stoppage of trains, supply of uniforms, etc. It is reported that the grievances are under the consideration of the Agent.

The All-India and Burma Covenanted Non-Gazetted Railway Services Association.—The membership of this Union increased by 50 during the quarter and stood at 284, on the 1st December 1928. There was a corresponding increase in the monthly income and expenditure. The Annual Delegates' Meeting was held at Lahore on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th October 1928. The delegates were composed of members from the G.I.P., B.B. & C.I., N.W., B.N., S.I., and M. & S.M. Railways. The meeting discussed questions connected with the administration of the Association and the revision of the rules. The Union reports that through the kindness of the Mechanical Engineer, N.W. Railway, the delegates were allowed to visit the Mogulpura workshops where they spent a very enjoyable time. The usual Branch Meetings were held regularly every month and the Executive Committee Meetings were held four times during the quarter.

The G.I.P. Railway Audit Staff Union.—The membership of this Union rose to 300 during the quarter as compared with 274 during the previous quarter. The increase is reported to be due to the successful representation made to the authorities in regard to the threatened reduction of pay in the month of October 1928 in the grades of some clerks. The average monthly income and the average monthly expenditure both increased and were Rs. 65 and Rs. 43 respectively. An application for recognition was made to the Accountant General, Railways, New Delhi, on the 25th August and it is reported that the question had been referred to the Auditor General. Owing to want of recognition, several representations made regarding inadequate pay and unsatisfactory leave rules are reported to have neither been considered nor replied to by the authorities. In the month of October 1928, the Chief Auditor notified some 48 clerks of the Traffic Audit Section that their pay would be reduced with effect from the next month by approximately about Rs. 20 each on account of the reduction in establishment consequent on the transfer of the entire Foreign Traffic Audit Section to the Clearing House

at Delhi. This created deep resentment and discontent amongst the staff and the Union took up the matter and brought the alleged injustice to the notice of the Accountant General, Railways, by means of a series of letters and telegrams and, as a result, sanction was ultimately accorded not to cut the pay of the clerks in question.

The Bombay Dock Workers' Union.—(Subsequently changed to the R.I.M. Dock Workers' Union.) The membership figure increased from 801 in the previous quarter to 839 during the quarter under review. Three meetings of the Executive Council were held when it was resolved to change the name of the Union into "The R.I.M. Dock Workers' Union, Bombay." It was proposed to request Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A., to move a resolution in the Legislative Assembly regarding provident fund, gratuity, better leave rules, security of service, etc., for the R.I.M. Dock workers, but the proposal was held in abeyance pending the recognition of the Union by the Government of India. The views of the Union on the Trade Disputes Bill and the Workmen's Compensation Amendment Bill were formulated and approved by the meeting for being submitted to Government. An Extraordinary General Meeting was held at Elphinstone Garden on the 16th October 1928, when resolutions approving the change of the Union's name to "R.I.M. Dock Workers' Union," Bombay, and certain changes in the constitution and rules of the Union, were passed. Representations for the grant of gratuity were made to the Director, R.I.M., Bombay, in seven cases, and in two of these cases replies were received to the effect that the matter had been referred to the Simla office for consideration. A representation regarding retrenchment of certain workers was also made to the authorities who, however, replied stating that owing to shortage of work retrenchment was inevitable but that when vacancies arose the retrenched men would be considered for appointment.

The Bombay Mill Workers' Union.—The membership improved to 848 as compared with 738 during the previous quarter. The average monthly income and the average monthly expenditure, which amounted to only Rs. 2 and Rs. 3 respectively during the previous quarter increased to Rs. 83 and Rs. 19 respectively during the quarter under review. Six Managing Committee Meetings and one General Meeting were held and the President visited various mills in order to secure redress of grievances of the members of the Union.

The Tramwaymen's Union.—The membership rose from 769 to 824 during the quarter under review. The average monthly income amounted to Rs. 123 and the average monthly expenditure to Rs. 61. A general meeting was held on the 26th November 1928, when the result of the deputation which had waited on the General Manager of the Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Company, Limited, on the 14th November 1928 was communicated to the members. A small brochure setting forth briefly the questions and answers that were interchanged between the Union's deputation and the representatives of the management, was published in English and Marathi and was distributed to all the employees of the Company.

The Bombay Branch of the All-India Telegraph Union.—The membership of this Union was almost stationary and stood at 139 on the 1st December 1928. The rates of membership fees were reduced and the new scale adopted is as follows:—

Those drawing monthly salary of Rs. 150 and more ..	Rs. 1
.. .. between Rs. 100 and Rs. 150	Rs. 12
.. .. " Rs. 50 and Rs. 100	Rs. 8
.. .. less than Rs. 50	Rs. 4

The average monthly income amounted to Rs. 70 and the average monthly expenditure to Rs. 56. Representations were made to the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, New Delhi, regarding the pay of two B-cadre clerks employed in the Sewri Telegraph Stores, Bombay, and the blocking of clerks in the Central Telegraph Office for two years at Rs. 76. The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Industries and Labour, New Delhi, was also addressed regarding the revision of pay and prospects of clerks employed in the Central Telegraph Office, Bombay. In all the three cases, the matter is reported to be under consideration by the authorities concerned. The monthly organ of the Union, namely, "The Telegraph Messenger" continued to be published, ventilating grievances of the staff regarding hours of work and grades of pay and leave rules.

The Bombay Telephone Company's Employees' Union.—There was practically no change in the membership of the Union during the quarter. The average monthly income amounted to Rs. 45 and the average monthly expenditure to Rs. 28 as against the corresponding figures of Rs. 67 and Rs. 4 for the previous quarter. An extraordinary General Meeting was held on the 6th October 1928 under the presidentship of Mr. N. M. Joshi, to protest against the attitude of the Bombay Telephone Company, Limited, in not considering the two demands made by the Union, namely, (1) the alteration in the provident fund rules, and (2) the amendment of rules regarding privilege leave, to the Union's satisfaction. The management was asked to amend clauses 14 and 30 of the provident fund rules so as to entitle every employee of the Company to the Company's contribution after 5 years of service instead of after 15 years as at present, and also that the original practice of taking over one month's pay for each employee towards the provident fund be restored in place of the present system of deducting one anna in the rupee per month. It was also represented to the authorities (1) that the period of privilege leave that an employee could enjoy should be increased from 14 days to one month in a year and that it should be left to the option of the employee to enjoy the same when due or to accumulate it for three years, and (2) that for the better understanding of the staff, the various grades of pay, with minima and maxima, should be defined and notified, as the want of such information created misgivings in the minds of the staff regarding seniority and periodical increases of pay. As a result of these representations, the management agreed to allow privilege leave to accumulate up to a maximum of 28 days subject to the condition that the accumulated leave should be availed of by the employee within one year of its

having accumulated. The management also undertook to put up notices showing the graded scales of pay.

The G.I.P. Railway Mechanical Department Office Staff Union.—An increase of 29 was recorded in the membership of this Union during the quarter which stood at 216 as at 1st December 1928. The average monthly income and the average monthly expenditure amounted to Rs. 49 and Rs. 37 respectively. A meeting of the Managing Committee was held with a view to drafting a representation to the Agent, G.I.P. Railway on the question of the grievances of the members. A representation was submitted to the Agent requesting the grant of official recognition to the union which was registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, on the 13th October 1928. The Agent replied that in view of the fact that the G.I.P. Railway Staff Union (the Federation of which this Union is a member) was already accorded recognition, it was not necessary that separate recognition should be accorded to each affiliated Union.

AHMEDABAD

The activities of the Unions of cotton mill operatives in Ahmedabad which are under the control of the local Labour Union have been dealt with in the article under the heading "Federations of Trade Unions" published in the February 1929 issue of the *Labour Gazette*.

The B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees Association.—The membership of this Union increased from 5664 to 6032. The work of general organisation was continued by the Secretary visiting several railway districts. Since the Union was recognized by the Agent, several grievances were represented to the authorities and redress obtained in some cases. Two circular letters were issued to the members of the Association. These circulars give in detail the demands of the locomotive staff of the broad gauge and of the traffic staff of the Bombay district, the grievances in regard to leave and the heavy penalties inflicted on the traffic staff of Mhow district, the housing difficulties of the goods shed staff at Indore and the hardships of the luggage hamals at Ahmedabad in regard to pay, hours of work, leave, etc. It is understood that a Staff Officer has been attached to the Railway Agent's Office to deal with all questions addressed by the employees' Unions, to the Agent.

The Ahmedabad Postal and R.M.S. Union.—The membership of this Union increased by 15—from 145 to 160. One of the resolutions passed by the Union relates to the question of placing the clerks of the post office on the same footing as telegraphists. Another resolution demands that the posts of Town Inspectors should be filled up strictly according to seniority and qualifications, and protests against reinstating displaced officials without regard for qualifications.

The Gujarat Postmen's Union.—At a meeting held on 18th October 1928 this Union passed resolutions demanding a revised scale of pay and house-rent for postmen, etc. The revised scale of pay demanded is as follows

	Rs.
Overseers	.. 75—5—110
Readers	.. 70—5—110
Postmen	.. 30—2—70
Packers and Mail Peons	.. 25—1—40

A house-rent allowance of Rs. 8 is demanded in place of the present allowance of Rs. 4 per mensem.

KARACHI

The N.W. Railway (Recognised) Union.—The membership declined from 2000 reported for the previous quarter to 955 during the quarter under review. The rates of membership fees are as follows:—

Those earning Rs. 20 and below	..	..	As. 1
" " between Rs. 21 and Rs. 40	..	..	" 2
" " " 41 " " 80	..	..	" 4
" " " 81 " " 120	..	..	" 6
" " " 121 " " 200	..	..	" 8
" " " 201 " " 300	..	..	" 12
" " above " 300	..	..	Re. 1

The average monthly income amounted to Rs. 167 and the average monthly expenditure to Rs. 172. The Secretaries of the Union toured the districts covered by the N.W. Railway in order to enrol more members on the line. Three meetings of the general body were held at which various grievances of the staff were discussed. Representations were made to the Railway authorities regarding the grievances of individual members but only in a few cases was redress obtained while the other cases are reported to be still under correspondence.

The Karachi Municipal Sweepers' Union.—The membership increased from 870 in the previous quarter to 900 as at 1st December 1928. The average monthly income from all sources amounted to Rs. 333 and the average monthly expenditure to Rs. 344. Representations regarding alleged malpractices and ill-treatment by the officials of the Municipality were brought to the notice of the authorities. As a result of the endeavours of the Union (1) the Drainage Department men were granted a half day's weekly rest, (2) the hours of work for mud coolies were fixed, (3) the payment of wages was regularised and the 11th day of the month was fixed for payment, and (4) electric lights were provided in the sweepers' quarters. A case regarding the men of the Garden Department whose wages were required to be put on a par with their fellow workers in the Health Department was reported to be still pending final disposal.

Legal help was given to two members. Arrangements were made for the propagation of physical culture amongst the members and a Co-operative Credit Society was started. The second quarterly meeting was held on the 28th October 1928 which was attended by about 400 members. After adopting the report of the work done during the previous quarter, speeches were made by the officials of the Union emphasizing the need for social reform and complete abstinence from drink. The President, Mr. Narandas Anandji Bechar, M.L.C., welcomed the presence of women members at the meeting, exhorted the members to enrol themselves as members of the newly formed Co-operative Society in order that they might save themselves from chronic indebtedness and explained to them the necessity of being very regular in their work, pointing out that the success of their efforts mainly depended upon their loyalty to their work.

The Karachi Port Trust Labour Union.—This Union was formed in November 1928 and was registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act on the 28th February 1929. A General Meeting of the members was held on the 9th December at which the office-bearers and the members of the Managing Committee representing different departments were elected. A resolution was passed requesting the Karachi Port Trust to allot one tenement in their buildings for the use of the Union's office in Keamari village, on usual rent.

POONA

The Military Accounts Association.—The membership rose from 1529 in the previous quarter to 1738 during the quarter under review. The average monthly income and the average monthly expenditure amounted to Rs. 465 and Rs. 218 respectively. Three meetings of the Managing Committee were held and the grievances of the members were represented to the authorities concerned. Branches of the Union were opened at Bareilly, Jullundur and Lahore. The quarterly magazine called *The Military Accounts Association News* conducted by the Association continued to be published during the quarter. The audited accounts of receipts and expenditure for the months June to August 1928 show that the total receipts and expenses for the period amounted to Rs. 1437-3-1 and Rs. 417-3-7 respectively, leaving a balance which together with the amount at the credit of the Union's account on the 1st June 1928, amounted to Rs. 5776-10-4.

The Poona Postal and R.M.S. Union.—Two meetings of the General Body were held during the quarter and the following questions were discussed: (1) Duty allowance to Postal signallers, clerks in the office of the Divisional Superintendent of Post Offices, correspondence clerks in the First Class Head Offices and clerks working in the Accounts Branch of the Head Office; and (2) recruitment in the Circle Offices and the Director-General's Office. Representations were made to the authorities for the appointment of the Accountant of the Poona Head Office to be converted into that of a Selection Grade appointment, and this was granted with effect from the 1st November 1928. Certain inconsistencies in the declaration of examinations for Selection Grade appointments, Reserve Clerks and Accountants were pointed out, and, as a result, the first examination for selection grade appointments was postponed till March 1929. The question of exemption from furnishing fresh security bonds in the case of officials who had furnished a personal security bond issued by an Insurance Company, was represented but no reply is reported to have yet been received. A memorandum showing the defects in the Time Test introduced in the Post Offices was prepared and the Special Duty Officer appointed by the Government of India in this behalf was interviewed by the representatives of the Union. The monthly publication entitled *The Poona Post and R.M.S. Union* continued to be published during the quarter as usual. Some of the more important questions dealt with in the issues of the above publication are (1) Fidelity Bonds by Insurance Companies, (2) Uncertainty of Conditions of several Departmental Examinations, (3) Joining Time of Officials under orders of transfer within five miles, (4) Time Tests, and

Control over the Sorting work done in the Post Offices and the R.M.S. at Poona.
Poona R.M.S. B-Division Branch (of the All-India including Postal and R.M.S. Union).—This Union, which was brought into existence on the 1st April 1926 has a membership of 303. The rates of subscription are as follows:—
 Rs. 8 per month per member in clerical cadre.
 „ 2 „ „ Mail Guard.
 „ 1 „ „ van peon, porter, etc.

The average monthly income from all sources amounted to Rs. 152 and the average monthly expenditure to Rs. 81. Three ordinary and one special general meetings were held. A delegate was elected to attend the Rangoon session of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Conference and an amount of Rs. 150 was voted out of the funds of the Provincial Association towards the relief of the mill workers in Bombay during the strike. The "*R.M.S. B-Division Circular*" continued to be published as usual.

The Poona District Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union.—There was a slight fall in the membership from 345 reported for the previous quarter to 336 during the quarter under review. An experienced Organiser of Trade Unions was appointed (1) to look after all the affairs of the Union, as the workers themselves were not able to carry on the work of organisation owing to alleged obstruction from departmental authorities, (2) in order that the Union's office might be regularly kept open, and (3) to see that the grievances of the members were attended to promptly. A long-standing grievance of Postmen regarding carriage of parcels of heavy weight for delivery was represented to the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, with success.

NASIK

The Nasik Divisional Postmen and Lower-Grade Staff Union.—The membership increased from 73 to 105 during the quarter. Almost every month meetings of the members of the Managing Committee were held and the Annual General Meeting was held on the 11th November 1928 when the Annual Report and the Balance Sheet were adopted. The members felt the necessity of opening a branch of the Union for the benefit of the members working at Thana and in its vicinity, and it was agreed to open a branch accordingly. As a result of the representation of the grievances of the members to the authorities, a concession of pie-money to signallers at Deolali was secured; and provision of quarters for the staff at Deolali and Manmad was promised. Delegates were elected and sent to the Annual Provincial Conference held at Satara to represent the Union. The Postmaster General and the Deputy Postmaster General, Bombay, paid a visit to the Union's office when the following points were discussed with them: (1) Pie-money allowance at Deolali office, (2) the grievances of the officials in the Thana District, and (3) house-rent allowance for employees at certain places.

AMBERNATH

The Ambernath Labour Union.—The membership declined from 800 reported for the previous quarter to 733 during the quarter under review.

The average monthly income and the average monthly expenditure however showed increases over the previous quarter and worked out at Rs. 252 and Rs. 251 respectively. Seventeen complaints about wages were dealt with, out of which 8 were settled in favour of the members. On representations being made by the Union, compensation was obtained for one worker who met with an accident in the course of his work; *Nahanis* (washing places) were provided in each room in the Company's chawl where the workers resided; in one case wages for overtime were granted; a fine was refunded in one case; and a notice served on a workman was withdrawn. Legal aid was given to 15 members who were accused of having taken part in a fracas on the 10th October 1928. A Co-operative Credit Society was started for the benefit of the members 65 of whom have joined it. The financial position of the Society can be seen from the following figures:—

Receipts		Payments	
	Rs. s. p.		Rs. s. p.
Entrance Fees ..	68 0 0	In Bank ..	800 0 0
Shares	838 0 0	Miscellaneous ..	8 0 0
Loans instalments	289 0 0	Deposit ..	71 0 0
Interest	18 1 0	Loans ..	1,077 0 0
From Bank	103 0 0	Shares refunded ..	50 0 0
Deposits	406 0 0		1,000 1 0
		Balance	10 0 0
	1,221 1 0		1,221 1 0

REST OF THE PRESIDENCY

Until recently by far the great majority of the remaining Unions in the Bombay Presidency outside the Cities of Bombay and Ahmedabad were Postal Unions affiliated either to the Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Association or to the Bombay Postmen's and Lower Grade Staff Union. The activities of these Unions were more or less confined to agitation for the removal of specific grievances and for improvements in conditions of service. As separate returns showing the activities of several of these affiliated Unions are now available, notes regarding the activities of the individual Unions have, however, been given in addition to the activities of the two Federations of Postal Unions under the heading "Federations of Trade Unions." The other Unions include the Kirkee Arsenal Workmen's Union at Poona, the Sholapur Branch of the Bombay Textile Labour Union, the Sind Workers' Union, Hyderabad, and the Khandesh Postmen's and Lower Grade Staff Union, Jalgaon. In view of the fact that these Unions and certain others are recent formations and most of them have been mainly engaged in drawing up their constitutions and rules, they have no interesting activities to report. Endeavours will be made however to collect as much information as possible regarding Unions in centres outside Bombay and Ahmedabad cities for the next quarterly review, to be published in the issue of the *Labour Gazette* for April 1929.

Industrial Disputes in India

Statistics for 1928

The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour have published two bulletins, one containing the statistics of industrial disputes in British India during the last quarter of the year 1928 and the other containing similar statistics for the whole of that year. The statistics for these two periods are dealt with in two parts below.

1

STATISTICS FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 1928

During the quarter under review there were 82 industrial disputes in progress involving 294,877 workpeople and resulting in an aggregate time loss of 2,322,577 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	71	272,656	1,780,311
Bengal	9	20,691	529,011
Assam	1	380	1,805
Central Provinces ..	1	1,150	11,450
Total ..	82	294,877	2,322,577

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	69	271,248	1,755,737
Jute Mills	3	19,694	524,738
Others	10	3,935	42,102
Total ..	82	294,877	2,322,577

The highest peak in respect of the quarterly number of industrial disputes in the Bombay Presidency was reached during the quarter under review and amounted to 71 or about 87 per cent. of the total number of disputes. The number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 92 per cent. of the total number of workpeople involved in all the disputes and the resulting time-loss due to these disputes works out at 77 per cent.

of the total time-loss in all the disputes. Bengal comes next with 9 disputes affecting about one-thirteenth of the number affected by the disputes in the Bombay Presidency and resulting in a time-loss which amounted to less than a third as much. If the statistics are considered according to classes of establishments, the cotton and woollen mills were most frequently affected by disputes, the total number of disputes in these mills during the quarter amounting to 69. The time-loss suffered by this class of establishments amounted to nearly 76 per cent. of the total time-loss.

CAUSES OF DISPUTES

About 65 per cent. of the disputes arose over questions relating to wages and about 21 per cent. over 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	45	16	1	9
Bengal	6	1	1	1
Assam	1			
Central Provinces	1			
Total ..	53	17	2	10

Causes of Disputes—By Classes of Establishments

Class of Establishments	Pay	Personnel	Leave and hours	Others
Cotton and Woollen Mills	45	15	1	8
Jute Mills	2		1	
Others	6	2		2
Total ..	53	17	2	10

RESULTS OF DISPUTES

During the quarter settlements were arrived at in the case of 75 disputes out of the 82 that were in progress. In 30 or 40 per cent. of the disputes only were the employees able to secure any concessions. The details

of the results (1) by Provinces and (2) by Classes of Establishments are as follows:—

Results of Disputes—By Provinces

Province	Number of disputes in which employees were			Number of disputes in progress at end
	Successful	Partially successful	Unsuccessful	
Bombay	16	10	38	7
Bengal	2	1	6	
Assam			1	
Central Provinces				
Total ..	18	12	45	7

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 ..	16	10	37	6
Jute Mills	2	2	3	....
Others			5	
Total ..	18	12	45	7

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

Months	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
October	6	13	14	5	190,263	1,505,103
November ..	5	25	20	10	58,711	355,490
December ..	10	38	41	7	93,295	461,984
Quarter (October to December)	6	76	75	7	294,877	2,322,577

II

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31ST DECEMBER 1928

The total number of disputes during the year 1928 was 203 which involved 506,851 workpeople and resulted in a time-loss amounting to 31,647,404 working days. The total number of working days lost during the year is even greater than the total number of working days lost in the 5 preceding years taken together. Besides the General Strike in the Bombay Textile Mills which lasted for nearly 6 months, the other prolonged strikes during the year were in the Tata Iron and Steel Works at Jamshedpur, the East Indian Railway, the South Indian Railway and the Fort Gloster Jute Mills, Bengal. The general effects of the disputes classified by (1) Provinces and (2) Classes of Establishments are set out in the two following tables:—

General Effects of Disputes—By Provinces

Province	Number of disputes	Number of workpeople involved	Number of working days lost
Bombay	111	318,531	24,629,715
Bengal	60	126,575	3,940,457
Madras	7	19,778	291,284
Assam	5	1,546	10,870
Bihar and Orissa	8	30,288	2,523,994
Burma	7	3,873	14,426
Central Provinces	1	1,150	14,100
United Provinces	2	2,163	173,258
	2	2,947	49,300
Total	203	506,851	31,647,404

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	110	323,484	24,851,274
Engineering Workshops	19	64,524	1,556,808
Railways (including Railway Workshops)	11	37,688	3,148,706
Mines	9	49,400	1,874,313
Others	1	638	5,104
		31,117	211,199
Total	203	506,851	31,647,404

Disputes were most frequent in Bombay where 111 or nearly 55 per cent. of the total number of disputes occurred during the year. Bengal comes next with 60 disputes. The number of workpeople involved in the disputes in Bombay was about 6 times the number affected in Bengal

while the loss in time was about 6 times as much. Reviewing the statistics by classes of establishments, Cotton and Woollen Mills were most affected by industrial disputes during the year, 110 or nearly 54 per cent. of the total number of disputes occurring in this class of establishments. The number of cotton mill operatives involved is about 64 per cent. of the total number workpeople involved in all the disputes and the time-loss to the cotton and woollen mill industry amounted to nearly 78 per cent. of the total time-loss.

CAUSES OF DISPUTES

Wages questions were responsible for 109 or 54 per cent. of the total number of disputes while 44 or 22 per cent. of the disputes arose over questions regarding the employment or dismissal of individuals. The following tables show the causes of disputes (1) by Provinces and (2) by Classes of Establishments:—

Causes of Disputes—By Provinces

Province	Pay	Bonus	Personnel	Leave and hours	Others
Bombay	56		27	4	24
Bengal	37	1	12	1	9
Madras	2		1	1	3
Assam	5				3
Bihar and Orissa	3		1		3
Burma	1				
Central Provinces			1		1
Punjab			2		
United Provinces					
Total	109	1	44	6	43

Causes of Disputes—By Classes of Establishments

Class of Establishments	Pay	Bonus	Personnel	Leave and hours	Others
Cotton and Woollen Mills	56			4	22
Jute Mills	7		7	1	4
Engineering Workshops	6		1		4
Railways (including Railway Workshops)	6	1	1		1
Mines					1
Others	34		7	1	11
Total	109	1	44	6	43

About 50 per cent. of the disputes in Bombay, over 60 per cent. of those in Bengal and all the 5 disputes in Assam arose over questions regarding wages. The only bonus dispute reported during the year occurred in the

Railway Workshops in Bengal while 4 out of the 6 disputes which arose over questions regarding leave and hours of work took place in Bombay. Considering the statistics by Classes of Establishments, disputes were questions regarding wages were most frequent in each class of establishments except "mines" and disputes due to "Personnel causes" were most in the order of frequency.

RESULTS OF DISPUTES

Out of the 196 disputes in which settlements were arrived at during the year under review, in about one-third of the strikes the employees were successful in gaining any concession. In 27 or 14 per cent. of the disputes they were able to gain entire success, and in 41 or 21 per cent. of the disputes only partial success. The results from the point of view of workers are detailed below according to (1) Provinces and (2) Classes of Establishments:—

Results of Disputes—By Provinces

Province	Successful	Partially successful	Unsuccessful	In progress
Bombay	20	15	69	7
Bengal	6	10	44	..
Madras	..	4	3	..
Annam	1	1	3	..
Bihar and Orissa	..	3	5	..
Burma	..	4	3	..
Central Provinces	..	1	..	..
Punjab	..	1	1	..
United Provinces	..	2	..	..
Total	27	41	128	7

Results of Disputes—By Classes of Establishments

Class of Establishments	Successful	Partially successful	Unsuccessful	In progress
Cotton and Woollen Mills	11	16	70	6
Jute Mills	1	2	16	..
Engineering Workshops	..	2	9	..
Railways (including Railway Workshops)	1	..	8	1
Others	7	21	24	1
Total	27	41	128	7

1929

The results of the majority of the disputes in Bombay, Bengal, Assam and Bihar and Orissa were unfavourable to the workers. Reconsidering the statistics by Classes of Establishments, except in the group "Others," the majority of disputes in the rest of the establishments ended unfavourably to the workers. The only dispute which occurred in the mines ended in favour of the employers while in none of the disputes in the engineering workshops were the employees able to secure entire success. In 34 or 17 per cent. of the disputes settled during the year were the cotton mill operatives able to secure either entire or partial success while in the case of the jute mills the corresponding percentage amounted to 18.

SUMMARIES OF DISPUTES ACCORDING TO MONTHS

The progress and the general effects of the disputes according to months are given in the following table:—

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
January	3	12	10	5	27,454	448,059
February	5	17	19	3	29,751	318,471
March	3	26	19	10	47,719	238,553
April	10	16	15	11	212,103	2,105,655
May	11	16	13	14	219,794	5,258,090
June	14	11	16	9	248,411	5,649,621
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
October	6	13	14	5	190,263	1,505,103
November	5	25	..	10	58,711	355,490
December	10	38	41	7	93,295	461,984
Whole Year	3	200	196	7	506,851	31,647,404

The following table shows the results of the disputes according to months:—

Results of Disputes according to Months

Months	Successful	Partially successful	Unsuccessful	In progress
January		4	6	5
February	2	4	13	3
March	1	2	16	10
April	1	1	13	11
May		6	7	14
June		5	11	9
July	4	4	5	7
August	1	2	6	5
September		1	6	6
October	3	4	7	5
November	4	4	12	10
December	11	4	26	7
Whole Year	27	41	128	7

Arbitration and Conciliation

While attempts are being made, in the face of many obstacles, to perfect a channel of approach between employers and employed in this country, a number of schemes for ensuring effective arbitration in labour disputes are under review on the Continent. In Germany it is believed that, as a result of the litigation in connexion with the award in the Ruhr dispute, changes will be demanded in the present system of compulsory arbitration. Meanwhile the Textile Employers' Association have proposed to the Labour Unions the appointment of a central arbitration committee with a view to a definite settlement of the widespread wage disputes in Saxony and other centres, though the workers seem likely to oppose this plan. In France a carefully considered Bill for "Compulsory Conciliation," brought forward by the Government, is proving unwelcome not only to the Communists but also to certain employers' organizations. This measure provides for several methods of procedure designed to induce unfettered discussion before any stoppage of work actually takes place. It is evident that in European countries it is not proving an easy matter to obtain a satisfactory basis for lasting peace in industry. (From "Times Trade and Engineering Supplement," London, February 16, 1929.)

Current Periodicals

Summary of titles and contents of special articles

THE LABOUR MAGAZINE—VOL. VII, NO. 10, FEBRUARY 1929. (The Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party, London).

Special Articles: (1) "Talygarn": The Miners' Convalescent Home, by Rt. Honourable Arthur Henderson, M.P. pp. 435-437.
 (2) The Bank and the Nation, by T. Dunsmore. pp. 438-441.
 (3) The League of Youth, by W. Arthur Peacock. pp. 442-444.
 (4) The Broadcasting Corporation and the Newspaper Combines, by Herbert Tracey.—The Betty combine; the Rothermere combine; the Inveresk combine; the Quaker group. pp. 445-447.
 (5) Those Three October Days, by J. T. Walton Newbold. pp. 448-450.
 (6) The Census of Production of 1924, by R. B. Suthers. pp. 451-453.
 (7) Why a Cotton Inquiry? by T. H. Richardson. pp. 454-456.
 (8) Russian Writers, by R. M. Fox. pp. 463-466.
 Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

INDUSTRIAL WELFARE—VOL. XI, NO. 122, FEBRUARY 1929. (Industrial Welfare Society, London).

Special Articles: (1) The Health of the Young Worker. pp. 29 and 30.
 (2) The Problems of Health and Sickness in Industry. pp. 41-44.
 (3) What is Rationalisation? The one best way; unification; grouping together; simplification; scientific management. pp. 45-47.
 (4) Some Employer-Opinions on Sun-Ray Treatment.—Effective for lesser injuries; time table for attendance; treatment of chromium sores; use in occupational diseases; disability periods shortened; suitable for large staffs. pp. 48-51.
 (5) Welfare in the Textile Industry.—Elimination of dust; unusual medical service; first aid facilities; sport and recreation; the use of badges; the welfare association; the spirit of welfare pp. 52-54.
 (6) Factory Inspection. pp. 55-57.
 (7) Guardians and Injured Workmen.—"Pending the settlement"; injured by tea-can; earning on court of referees; supply of artificial leg; notice of accident; outbreak of industrial diseases; date of disablement; riding on a tub; compensation figures for 1927; over £8,000,000. pp. 59-61.
 Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR REVIEW—VOL. XIX, NO. 1, JANUARY 1929. (International Labour Office, Geneva.)

Special Articles: (1) Migration Problems and the Havana Conference of 1928, by Louis Varlez (Professor in the University of Ghent; Former Chief of the Migration Service, International Labour Office).—Composition of the conference; the decisions of the conference; the great problems—the distinction between domestic and international questions, emigration as a social and political problem, the function of the Geneva organisations; the "declaration of the principles of migration" the Mexican proposal; the next conference on migration. pp. 1-19.
 (2) An Enquiry into the Conditions of Work and Life of Journalists, by Jean Artus (Research Division, International Labour Office.) pp. 20-38.
 (3) Seasonal Unemployment in the Building Industry in Great European Countries: I, by L. Hersch (Professor of Statistics, Geneva University).—The problem and the methods of investigation. pp. 39-59.
 (4) Social Legislation in China under the Nationalist Government, by C. S. Chan. pp. 60-75.
 (5) Industrial Relations in the United States. pp. 76-82.
 (6) Vocational Training and Technical Instruction in the Irish Free State.—Primary education in relation to technical education; continuation education; technical education in relation to employment; apprentice committees; technical education in relation to specified trades and occupations; higher technical education; localisation of schemes, local control and rating obligations; central control and finance; the Gaeltacht; the training of teachers required for continuation and technical schools; salaries and conditions of service of whole-time continuation and technical teachers. pp. 82-88.
 (7) Hours of Work in Great Britain in 1927.—Hours in general; the two-shift system for women and young persons. pp. 88 and 89.
 Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR REVIEW—VOL. XIX, NO. 2, FEBRUARY 1928. (International Labour Office, Geneva.)

Special Articles: (1) *The New Conciliation and Arbitration Act in Australia*, by O. de R. Foenander LL.M. (Lecturer in the Faculty of Commerce, University of Melbourne).—The first conciliation and arbitration act;—The federal arbitration court and its work, proposals for reform; the act of 1928 and its provisions—the prevention of overlapping between federal and state tribunals, the necessity for correlating the awards of the court with economic realities, the development of a system of voluntary arbitration as distinct from compulsory arbitration, the further application of the principle of conciliation, improvements in court procedure, the responsibility of organisations for the conduct of their officers and members and for the general observance of awards, provisions relating to the rules of an organisation, the introduction of the compulsory secret ballot, provisions designed to secure the observance of awards and of the provisions of the act and to protect the court in the performance of its functions; labour and other opinions on the act; future prospects. pp. 151-174.

(2) *Business Forecasting in the United States: Recent Developments by Individual Companies*, by J. H. Richardson, M.A., Ph.D. (Research Division, International Labour Office).—Development of forecasting; need for special forecasts; developments by individual companies; forecasting criteria used by individual companies; review of systems adopted by various companies, the American telephone and telegraph company, general motors corporation, the Walworth manufacturing company; conclusion. pp. 175-192.

(3) *The Employment of Women in Japanese Industry: I*, by Iwao F. Ayusawa, Ph.D.—Statistical survey—women in factories, employment of children, employment of young persons, women workers in mines. pp. 193-204.

(4) *Seasonal Unemployment in the Building Industry in Certain European Countries: II*, by L. Herseh (Professor of Statistics, Geneva University).—Analysis of the facts—Great Britain; Building compared with all industries together, the different occupations in the building industry, different parts of the United Kingdom. pp. 205-230.

(5) *The Effects of Special Legislation on the Employment Opportunities of Women in the United States*.—Origin and plan of the enquiry; occupational distribution of women's employment in the United States—the trend of employment; the application of legislation to women in gainful occupations regulatory legislation in manufacturing industries, laws applying to special occupations prohibitory legislation; conclusions. pp. 231-244.

(6) *Juvenile Employment in Sweden in 1927 and 1928*. pp. 245 and 246.

(7) *Unemployment Insurance in Queensland in 1927-1928*.—Financial operations. pp. 247 and 248.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

MONTHLY LABOUR REVIEW—VOL. XXVII, NO. 3, SEPTEMBER 1928. (U. S. Department of Labour, Washington.)

Special Articles: (1) *Time and Labour Cost of Production in the Woollen and Worsted Industry: United States, England, France, Germany*, by Charles E. Baldwin, (Assistant Commissioner of Labour Statistics).—Comparison of time and labour costs of various samples; weavers' rates per yard and productivity of looms; wages and hours of labour—United States, England, Germany, France. pp. 1-26.

(2) *Mule-Spinners' Cancer*, by Frederick L. Hoffman, LL.D., (Consulting Statistician, Prudential Insurance Co.).—British parliamentary discussions of scrotal cancer and proposed legislation; relative frequency of scrotal cancer; other cancers of male generative organs; assumed causation of mule-spinners' cancer; carcinogenic properties of mineral oils; bodily parts affected with cancer inquiry of British departmental committee—definition of mule-spinners' cancer, comparative occupational mortality rates from cancer of the scrotum, age incidence and number of deaths, 1895-1924, effect of duration of employment, clinical course of the disease, observations on causative factors, descriptive account of occupation, suggested remedies, geographical distribution of cases, age period of greatest mortality, site of the disease, suggestions for prevention, conflicting views on causation; alleged non-occurrence in America; medical observations; the oil question and other controversial questions; recent law case; nativity of mule-spinners' cancer cases in the United States. pp. 27-45.

(3) *Children at Work and in School*.—Children in street trades; school attendance in Indiana. pp. 60-62.

(4) *Studies of the Hazards of Spray Painting*.—Lacquer spraying and the benzol hazard; the lead hazard; hazard from vitreous enamels; physical examination of workers; methods of avoiding spray-coating hazards, types of booths used, air supply, other requirements for safe spraying. pp. 63-67.

(5) *Protection of Employee against Removal of Employer's Place of Business*.—Reimbursement by state for wage losses; reimbursement in case of moving of railroad terminals; railroad repair work to be done within state. pp. 78-81.

(6) *Labour Legislation in Yugoslavia*.—Measures to prevent strikes; hours of work and labour conditions; organization and representation of labour; employment bureaus; workmen's insurance; unions of tradesmen. pp. 87-89.

(7) *One Year under the Longshoremen's Act*.—pp. 90-93.

(8) *Union Scales of Wages and Hours of Labour, 1913 to 1928: Preliminary Report*. pp. 114-137.

(9) *Wages and Hours of Labour in the Manufacture of Radio Receiving Sets, Speakers, and Tubes, 1927*.—Description of occupations; speakers—description of occupations; tubes—description of occupations. pp. 138-149.

(10) *Injunctions in Labour Disputes; Select List of Recent References compiled by Laura A. Thompson* (Librarian, U. S. Department of Labour).—Books and pamphlets; periodical articles; congressional hearings and reports; court decisions. pp. 201-220.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

MONTHLY LABOUR REVIEW—VOL. XXVII, NO. 4, OCTOBER 1928. (U. S. Department of Labour, Washington.)

Special Articles: (1) *Co-operation of Trade-Unions with Employers*.—Attitude of labour leaders; improvement in operating efficiency—Baltimore and Ohio plan, printing trades, upholstery industry, carpet-weaving industry, cloth hat and cap industry, glass industry, clothing industry, street railways, railroads; shop sanitation and safety—women's garment industry, pocketbook industry, railroads, street railways; production and quality of work—clothing industry, textile industry; increasing workers' trade knowledge and efficiency; increasing the sale of product; handling of grievances and disputes—joint settlement of disputes, arbitration; other instances of co-operation. pp. 1-23.

(2) *Retirement Systems for Police and Firemen*.—Police retirement systems—employee representation in management, source of funds, cost of administration, conditions of retirement, retirement allowances, refunds, provision for dependents; retirement systems for firemen—employee representation in management, character of schemes and sources of funds, cost of administration, conditions for retirement, retirement allowances, refunds, provision for dependents; retirement systems for police and fire departments, combined—administration, source of funds, cost of administration, conditions for retirement, retirement allowances, refunds, provision for dependents. pp. 24-39.

(3) *Safety Movement and the International Labour Conference by Leifur Magnusson*. pp. 40-42.

(4) *Economic Situation of the American Indians*.—Occupations; living conditions; vocational training. pp. 43-47.

(5) *Health of Workers in Dusty Trades*.—Dust hazard in the cement industry; disability rates from respiratory diseases; chronic respiratory diseases. pp. 56-59.

(6) *Wages and Hours of Labour in Cotton-goods Manufacturing 1928*. pp. 89-95.

(7) *Entrance Wage Rates for Common Labour, July 1, 1928*. pp. 95-98.

(8) *Wages and Hours of Labour in European Coal Mines*.—Hours of labour; wages; output; summary. pp. 98-104.

(9) *Building Permits in Principal Cities of the United States, first half of 1928*.—Families provided for; building trend; per capita expenditure for buildings; housing in relation to population. pp. 108-140.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

MONTHLY LABOUR REVIEW—VOL. XXVII, NO. 5, NOVEMBER 1928. (U. S. Department of Labour, Washington.)

Special Articles: (1) *Stability of Employment in the Iron and Steel Industry*.—Results of the study; caution on use of data. pp. 1-3.

(2) *Industrial Research Work by Organized Labour*.—Research for the organization; organized information for members; general and industrial questions; sickness records; general cultural information. pp. 4-9.

(3) *Union Wage Rates in 1928*.—Summary; union scales of wages and hours of labour in May, 1928, by occupations. pp. 10-18.

(4) *International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions: Its Accomplishments, 1914 to 1928*.—Industrial-accident prevention; standardization of industrial accident statistics; workmen's compensation legislation; medical problems; standard permanent disability schedule; method of rating eye injuries; social insurance; claim procedure; legal aid; American remarriage table; occupational diseases; conclusion. pp. 19-26.

(5) *Average Construction Cost of Dwellings in Large Cities of the United States*. pp. 27-30.

(6) *Activities and Functions of a State Department of Labour*.—Labour law enforcement; administration of workmen's compensation law; accident-prevention work; placement of workers; settlement of industrial disputes. pp. 31-34.

(7) *Effects of Labour Legislation on Employment Opportunities for Women*.—Regulatory legislation; hour laws in manufacturing industries; night-work laws in manufacturing industries; laws regulating working conditions in manufacturing industries; hour legislation in stores; hour and night-work legislation for woman waitresses; legislation applying to special occupations elevator operators, street-car conductors and ticket-agents, women in the printing trades, pharmacists; prohibitory legislation—grinding, polishing, and buffing, electric and acetylene welding, taxicab driving, gas and electric meter reading; summary. pp. 41-52.

(8) *Legal Status of Issuance of Group Life Insurance Policies to Labour Unions*, by Edwin E. Wite (Chief, Wisconsin Legislative Reference Library).—Historical background; legislation upon group insurance; forms of group insurance allowed to be written; arguments concerning issuance to labour unions. pp. 108-111.

(9) *Hours and Earnings in the Manufacture of Batteries and Small Motors, 1927*.—Manufacture of batteries; dry-cell batteries—description of occupation; storage batteries—description of occupation; manufacture of fractional-horsepower motors—description of occupations. pp. 120-130.

(10) *Census of Unemployment in Sweden in 1927*.—Extent of unemployment; ages of the unemployed; marital status and family responsibilities of unemployed; occupational distribution; physical and psychological conditions of unemployed; causes and duration of unemployment; unemployed threatened with permanent unemployment; personal resources of unemployed; the unemployed and public aid works; conclusions. pp. 165-170.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

THE JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE—VOL. XI NO. 1, JANUARY 1929.
(Harvard School of Public Health, Baltimore.)

Special Articles: (1) *The Fate of Old Employees*, by W. Irving Clark, M.D. (Worcester, Mass).—Conclusions. pp. 1-5.

(2) *The Evaluation of Physical Defects found during Pre-Employment Examinations*, by C. O. Sappington, M.D., Dr. P. H. (Medical Director, Montgomery Ward and Company, Oakland, Calif).—Rating scale; comments on rating scale; comments on data; summary and conclusion. pp. 6-11.

(3) *The Physiology of Industrial Hygiene: III. The Physiology of Industrial Fatigue*, by R. J. S. McDowall, D.Sc., M.B., F.R.C.P. (Edin). (Professor of Physiology, King's College, University of London).—Muscular fatigue; nervous fatigue. pp. 12-16.

(4) *The Development of Industrial Hygiene in Australia*, by H. W. Ammit (Sydney, Australia).—Early history; later developments; trade-unions and health conditions; Royal Commission on health; industrial hygiene—present conditions, morbidity amongst workers, medical services in industry, standards of health in industry, division of industrial hygiene, recommendations; other legislative measures; present position of industry in Australia; hospitals and philanthropic institutions; conclusion; pp. 17-36.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

LABOUR GAZETTE—VOL. XXIX, NO. 1, JANUARY 1929. (The Department of Labour, Canada.)

Special Articles: (1) *Old Age Pensions in Canada*.—Statistics for three provinces co-operating in the federal-provincial scheme. pp. 19-22.

(2) *Pensions for Winnipeg School Board Employees (Other than Teachers)*. pp. 22 and 23.

(3) *Silicosis and Other Compensable Diseases: Part of address by Dr. J. G. Cunningham (Director, Division of Industrial Hygiene, and Chairman, Silicosis Board of Ontario)*. pp. 43-45.

(4) *Annual Review of Employment in Canada, 1928*.—Employment by economic areas; employment by cities; manufacturing; logging; mining; communications; transportation; construction and maintenance; services; trade. pp. 49-70.

(5) *Recent Industrial Agreements and Schedules of Wages*.—Manufacturing: printing and publishing; construction: buildings and structures. pp. 91-93.

(6) *Recent Legal Decisions Affecting Labour*.—Employer not held negligent if workman neglected precautions; employees' substitute not entitled to damages for injury; province has jurisdiction to regulate marketing; compensation for diseases started by exposure. pp. 111-114.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

Current Notes from Abroad

UNITED KINGDOM

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 January resulted in an increase of about £3400 in the weekly full-time wages of 125,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of nearly £7000 in those of 102,000 workpeople.

The largest group of workpeople included in the former totals were operatives employed in the textile bleaching, dyeing, etc., industries in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Scotland, who obtained small increases under the operation of cost-of-living sliding scales; in Yorkshire the increases amounted to about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on current rates, and in Lancashire and Scotland to 3d. and 2d. per week in the case of men and women, respectively. Included among other workpeople whose wages were increased during the month were electrical cable makers, blastfurnacemen in Cleveland, bobbin and shuttle makers in England and Wales, and felt hat makers in Lancashire and Cheshire.

The principal reduction in January affected lower-paid coal miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire, where the subsistence allowance was reduced from 8s. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 7s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per shift. There was also a reduction of 11 per hour in the wages of men employed on civil engineering work. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, February 1929.)

* * * * *

At 1st February 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 65 per cent. above that of July, 1914 as compared with 67 per cent. a month ago and 66 per cent. a year ago. For food alone the corresponding figures were 56, 59 and 59. The fall in the percentages since 1st January was mainly due to reductions in the prices of eggs, bacon, fish, butter and cheese. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, February 1929.)

* * * * *

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Ministry of Labour as beginning in January, was 21. In addition, 7 disputes which began before January were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in January (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 9700, and the aggregate duration of all disputes during January was about 97,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of 6000 workpeople involved and 32,000 working days lost in the previous month, and with 10,000 workpeople involved and 50,000 days lost in January 1928. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, February 1929.)

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS IN FEBRUARY 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 Gujarat Ginning and Manufacturing Mill, Idga Road, Ahmedabad.	763	—	1928 17 Dec.	1929 1 Feb.	Demand for dismissal of a Head Jobber.	The strike ended in a provisional compromise.		9,255
2. The Lakhshmi Cotton Manufacturing Mill, Sholapur.	125	—	8 Feb.	20 Feb.	Protest against the dismissal of Jobber.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	1,010	1,010
3. The New Pratap Mills, Dhulia.	363	808	8 Feb.	24 Feb.	Demand for more wages.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	11,643	11,643
4. The Kastoorchand Mill, Dadar, Bombay.	200	—	19 Feb.	21 Feb.	Demand for an increase in wages.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	300	300
5. The strike in the Currimbhoy Group of Mills, Bombay—								
(1) The Pearl Mill	22	—	2 Feb.	2 Feb.	Demand for an increase in wages.	No settlement reported ..	539	—
(2) The Fazulbhoy Mill.	26	—	2 Feb.	2 Feb.				
(3) The Pabaney Mill ..	14	—	2 Feb.	2 Feb.				
(4) The Currimbhoy Mill.	12	—	2 Feb.	2 Feb.				
(5) The Crescent Mill ..	14	—	2 Feb.	2 Feb.				
(6) The Premier Mill ..	6	—	2 Feb.	2 Feb.				
(7) The Madhorao Scindia Mill.	4	—	2 Feb.	2 Feb.				
<i>Miscellaneous</i>								
6. The Bombay Oil Strike—			1928					
(1) The Burma Shell Oil Storage and Distributing Co.	1,525	—	7 Dec.	23 Feb.	Retrenchment of hands.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	26,288	95,839
(2) The Standard Oil Co.	230	—	11 Dec.	19 Feb.				
(3) The Indo-Burma Petroleum Co.	35	—	13 Dec.	19 Feb.				

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LABOUR GAZETTE

MAR. 1929

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

715

Count or Number	Month of January				Ten months ended January	
	1927	1928	1929	1927	1928	1929
Nos. 1 to 10	Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
	..	6,555	4,969	7,366	69,840	62,436
	..	19,740	15,054	18,692	188,905	174,767
	..	13,815	13,804	15,323	141,719	151,766
	..	1,514	2,137	2,781	16,586	21,136
	..	997	711	1,079	8,841	8,914
	..	110	106	118	1,052	1,023

Waste, etc.
Total ..	42,731	36,781	45,359	426,943	420,042	256,621
BOMBAY CITY						
Nos. 1 to 10	Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
	..	5,656	4,166	6,533	61,628	54,336
	..	13,046	8,583	12,081	128,331	113,261
	..	8,000	7,833	8,720	85,944	91,940
	..	766	1,056	1,409	7,719	10,099
	..	457	351	569	3,465	4,357
	..	101	107	118	957	1,023

Waste, etc.
Total ..	28,026	22,096	29,430	287,868	275,026	110,466
AHMEDABAD						
Nos. 1 to 10	Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
	..	223	192	210	2,177	1,944
	..	3,767	3,578	3,626	32,916	32,965
	..	4,491	4,651	5,020	41,239	46,718
	..	598	758	1,073	7,082	8,016
	..	419	196	357	4,096	3,074

Waste, etc.
Total ..	9,498	9,375	10,286	87,510	92,721	97,354

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

Description	Month of January		Ten months ended January		
	1927	1928	1927	1928	1929
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	2,407	1,407	1,742	16,902	19,900
Chudders	934	1,143	1,449	15,222	16,000
Dhotis	7,720	7,418	7,423	75,968	81,000
Drills and jeans	1,403	1,321	2,101	19,602	21,000
Cambrics and lawns	33	60	30	50	12,000
Printers	237	185	166	1,500	1,000
Shirtings and long cloth	8,608	8,720	11,184	91,300	1,261
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	1,728	997	1,341	1,000	1,000
Tent cloth	150	45	158	1,100	1,000
Other sorts	490	475	651	9,300	1,000
Total	33,116	21,771	26,245	232,743	249,600
Coloured piecegoods	10,814	8,437	9,945	100,234	102,315
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	209	253	317	2,252	2,290
Hosiery	27	31	54	218	290
Miscellaneous	248	280	261	2,410	2,907
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	171	302	182	1,633	2,992
Grand Total	34,585	32,114	37,004	339,490	360,433

BOMBAY CITY

Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	2,006	1,007	1,243	16,518	16,965	5,085
Chudders	565	707	774	10,476	11,188	3,802
Dhotis	2,678	2,081	2,732	23,489	27,376	11,027
Drills and jeans	1,244	1,212	1,911	9,693	12,071	7,206
Cambrics and lawns	9	35	21	50	313	207
Printers						
Shirtings and long cloth	5,931	6,274	7,032	70,387	70,670	27,107
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	1,258	634	803	9,858	9,607	3,732
Tent cloth	120	24	154	1,008	389	621
Other sorts	298	288	348	2,469	2,700	1,559
Total	14,109	12,262	15,018	143,948	151,279	60,346
Coloured piecegoods	7,641	5,987	6,890	71,903	71,268	27,259
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	203	141	277	2,166	2,244	1,000
Hosiery	6	11	11	54	100	59
Miscellaneous	205	209	191	1,960	2,337	757
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	121	111	75	1,134	1,878	578
Grand Total	22,205	18,612	22,462	221,165	229,105	90,095

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

Description	Month of January			Ten months ended January		
	1927	1928	1929	1927	1928	1929
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	119	22	221	685	1,017	1,969
Chudders	307	384	505	3,676	3,635	5,393
Dhotis	4,160	4,246	3,869	42,426	42,842	42,388
Drills and jeans	20	11	108	244	231	536
Cambrics and lawns	23	24	9	243	282	269
Printers	133	89	74	853	710	805
Shirtings and long cloth	1,518	1,948	3,313	15,539	20,091	27,125
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	367	251	428	3,122	3,136	3,272
Tent cloth	3	19	..	18	58	3
Other sorts	136	126	192	1,071	1,187	1,771
Total	6,786	7,120	8,719	67,377	73,189	83,531
Coloured piecegoods	2,004	2,227	1,749	17,569	18,675	16,453
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	2	2	23	16	13	98
Hosiery	21	20	43	163	192	325
Miscellaneous	35	40	62	400	489	666
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	49	170	105	485	1,092	1,013
Grand Total	8,897	9,579	10,701	86,910	93,650	102,086

WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN BOMBAY

Table with columns: Article, Grade, Rate per, Index numbers (July 1914, Feb. 1928, Jan. 1929, Feb. 1929). Rows include Cereals (Wheat, Rice), Pulses (Green, Yellow), Sugar (Refined, Raw), Other (Salt), Oilseeds (Lined, Rapeseed, Sesame seed).

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Table with columns: Article, Grade, Rate per, Index numbers (July 1914, Feb. 1928, Jan. 1929, Feb. 1929). Rows include Textiles (Cotton, Silk), Hides and Skins, Metals (Copper, Iron), and Other raw and manufactured articles (Coal, Kerosene).

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* In the absence of price-quotations for the grade 6/600 the price quoted for white mulls is for the grade 6,000/56 since June 1925 and for 6,000/54 x 19 since October 1927. † Since 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 100 vds. since March 1926. (4) Quotation for 50 x 6 vds. since March 1926. (5) Quotation for September 1928. (6) Quotation for August 1928. (7) Quotation for October 1928. (8) Quotation for January 1929.

WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN KARACHI*

Article	Grade	Rate per	Prices in the month of				Index numbers			
			July 1914	Feb. 1928	Jan. 1929	Feb. 1929	July 1914	Feb. 1928	Jan. 1929	Feb. 1929
			Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.				
Cereals— Wheat, white	Larkana No. 3	Candy	39 0 0	66 4 0	53 4 0	56 12 0	100	176	137	146
" red	3% barley, 3% dirt, 30% red	"	31 8 0	40 6 0	47 0 0	48 4 0	100	128	149	153
" white	3% barley, 3% dirt, 32% red	"	31 4 0	41 10 0	48 6 0	49 11 0	100	128	149	153
" red	3% barley, 3% dirt	"	32 8 0	41 10 0	48 6 0	49 11 0	100	128	149	153
Lowest	Export quality	"	25 8 0	34 4 0	38 12 0	43 12 0	100	134	152	172
Barley	3% dirt	"	26 8 0	34 0 0	34 8 0	44 0 0	100	128	136	166
Index No.—Cereals							100	138	143	158
Pulses— Gram (7)	1% dirt	Candy	29 8 0	38 0 0	50 0 0	53 8 0	100	129	169	182
Sugar— Sugar	Jess white	Cwt.	9 2 0	13 2 0	12 15 0	12 12 0	100	144	142	140
"	" brown	"	8 1 6	13 8 0	12 2 0	12 4 0	100	167	150	151
Index No.—Sugar							100	156	146	146
Other food— Salt		Pengal Maund	2 2 0	1 10 6	1 8 0	1 8 0	100	78	71	71
Oils— Cotton seed		Maund	2 11 3	3 6 0	3 6 0(3)	3 6 0(3)	100	125	125	125
Rapeseed, bold	3% dirt	Candy	51 0 0	68 0 0	66 10 0(4)	66 10 0(4)	100	133	131	131
Gingelly seed	3% dirt	"	62 0 0	75 0 0	76 0 0	77 0 0	100	121	123	124
Index No.—Oils							100	126	126	127
Textiles— Jute bags	B. Twills	100 bags	38 4 0	50 4 0	52 12 0	52 12 0(7)	100	131	138	138

Textiles—Cotton— (a) Cotton, raw	Sind	Maund	20 4 0	36 2 0	31 12	31 12	100	178	157	157
(b) Cotton manufactures— Drills	Perswell	Piece	10 3 6	17 0 0	17 8 0(5)	17 8 0	100	166	171	171
Shirtings	Simons's	"	10 2 0	18 8 0	18 0 0	18 0 0	100	183	178	178
Index No.—Cotton manufactures							100	175	175	175
Animal skins— Cattle— Hides, dry	Sind	Maund	28 0 0	35 0 0	38 0 0	39 0 0	100	125	136	139
"	Punjab	"	21 4 0	19 0 0	21 8 0	21 8 0(7)	100	89	101	101
"	"	"	21 4 0	19 0 0	21 8 0	21 8 0(7)	100	89	101	101
Index No.—Hides							100	89	101	101
Metals— Copper Braziers		Cwt.	60 8 0	60 0 0	65 0 0	65 0 0	100	99	107	107
Steel Bars		"	3 14 0	6 4 0	6 12 0	7 0 0	100	161	174	181
Plates		"	4 6 0	7 2 0	7 4 0	7 4 0	100	163	166	166
Index No.—Metals							100	141	149	151
Other raw and manufactured materials— Coal		Ton	16 0 0	19 4 0	19 4 0	19 4 0	100	120	120	120
Kerosene		Case	5 2 0	8 6 0	8 9 0	8 9 0	100	163	167	167
"		2 Tins	4 7 0	6 2 0	6 7 0	6 7 0	100	138	145	145
Index No.—Other raw and manufactured articles							100	140	144	144
Index No.—Non food							100	134	139	148
							100	137	140	141
							100	136	140	143

* Yarn (40 Grey, Floss) has been omitted from the index for want of quotation. (1) Quotation for Sukkur white since August 1926. (2) Quotation for 3 per cent. mutial since April 1924. (3) Quotation for September 1927. (4) Quotation for May 1928. (5) Quotation for August 1928. (6) Quotation for December 1928. (7) Quotation for January 1929.

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WHOLESALE PRICES INDEX NUMBERS IN BOMBAY BY GROUPS

Fixed in July 1914 = 100

Month	Cereals	Pulses	Sugar	Other	Index No., food	Oilseeds	Raw cotton	Cotton manufactures	Other textiles	Hides and skins	Metals	Other non-food articles	Index No., non-food	General Index No.
1914	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1915	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102
1916	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105
1917	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108
1918	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112
1919	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118
1920	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
1921	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135
1922	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145
1923	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155
1924	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165
1925	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175
1926	185	185	185	185	185	185	185	185	185	185	185	185	185	185
1927	195	195	195	195	195	195	195	195	195	195	195	195	195	195
1928	205	205	205	205	205	205	205	205	205	205	205	205	205	205
1929	215	215	215	215	215	215	215	215	215	215	215	215	215	215
1930	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225

(a) Revised figures.

COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS FOR INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Name of country	India	United Kingdom	France	Austria	New Zealand	Italy (Rome)	Belgium	Norway	Switzerland	U.S. of America		
Items included in the index	Food, fuel, light, clothing and rent	Food, fuel, light and rent	Food, fuel, light and rent	Food and rent	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, heat, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, heat, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, heating, lighting and rent	Food, clothing, heating, lighting and rent	Food, clothing, heating and light-miscellaneous		
1914 July	100	100	100	(a) 100(f)	(b) 100	(b) 100	(c) 100	100	(e) 100(b)	100(f)	100(j)	(g) 100
1915	104	125	97	119	(f) 108	99	.....	(d) 117	.....	103	.....	105(m)
1916	108	148	102	115	117	116	.....	146	.....	106	.....	118
1917	118	180	130	116	128	146	.....	190	.....	114	.....	142
1918	149	203	146	118	144	197	.....	253	.....	118	.....	174
1919	186	208	155	132	157	205	.....	275	.....	126	.....	199
1920	190	252	190	154	182	313	453	(d) 307	224	155	(n) 341	200
1921	177	219	152	152	178	387	379	394	200	133	(o) 307	174
1922	165	184	147	140	159	429	366	251	164	(i) 135	(p) 302	170
1923	153	169	146	151	158	(k) 487	429	238	164	130	(q) 334	173
1924	157	170	144	149	160	512	493	249	169	132	(r) 366	173
1925	157	173	146	153	163	598	509	259	168	133	(s) 390	178
1926	157	170	150	(a) 161	(f) 163	649	637	220	162(o)	130	(t) 485	176(m)
1927	156	166	149	.....	.....	548	790	203	160	132	.....	.....
1928	150	169	150	.....	161	536	809	195	162	132	.....	.....
1929	151	169	151	159	.....	531	812	195	162	132	498	172
1930	154	168	151	.....	.....	532	813	194	161	132	.....	.....
1931	148	166	150	.....	.....	533	811	194	161	131	.....	.....
1932	145	164	149	157	.....	531	806	193	160	132	507	.....
1933	144	164	149	.....	.....	531	807	193	160	133	.....	.....
1934	147	164	148	.....	162	526	805	193	160	133	.....	.....
1935	146	165	148	157	.....	530	811	193	161	132	519	170
1936	147	165	148	.....	.....	526	811	193	161	131	.....	.....
1937	146	165	150	.....	161	522	819	192	161	131	.....	.....
1938	145	165	151	155	.....	526	825	185	161	130	519	.....
1939	146	166	152	.....	.....	528	834	184	162	131	.....	.....
1940	147	167	152	.....	162	534	845(k)	184	162	131	.....	.....
1941	148	168	152	.....	.....	538	.....	181	.....	131	531	.....
1942	149	167	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1943	149	165	.....	.....	161	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1944	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. (j) Revised figure. (k) Figures from 1915 to 1926 refer to August. (l) Figures from 1915 to 1926 refer to December. (m) First half of the year. (n) Yearly averages for the years 1918-1926. (o) June figures.

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RETAIL PRICES OF ARTICLES OF FOOD IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 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	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
		January 1929	January 1929	January 1929	January 1929	January 1929	February 1929	February 1929	February 1929	February 1929	February 1929
Cereals—											
Rice (1)	Maund	8 15 5 160	7 4 4 109	8 0 0 130	8 6 9 159	7 9 11 132	8 15 5 160	7 4 4 109	8 0 0 130	8 0 4 152	7 1 0 122
Wheat (1)	"	9 2 3 163	6 8 6 155	8 0 0 170	6 9 9 128	7 12 0 144	9 2 3 163	6 11 9 160	8 0 0 170	6 5 9 123	7 1 9 132
Jowari	"	5 5 4 122	5 0 0 138	4 7 1 117	3 10 10 128	4 9 9 134	5 9 1 138	5 0 0 117	4 7 1 117	3 9 8 126	4 8 5 132
Bairi	"	6 4 5 146	5 11 5 136	6 10 8 142	4 7 5 127	5 8 11 135	5 15 8 139	5 11 5 136	6 10 8 142	4 4 10 122	5 7 1 133
<i>Index No.—Cereals</i>		148	135	140	136	136	148	136	140	131	130
Pulses—											
Gram	Maund	7 13 6 182	6 10 8 175	5 5 4 133	6 1 2 141	6 9 2 135	7 13 6 182	6 14 1 181	6 11 9 133	6 0 9 141	6 3 0 127
Turdal	"	9 10 8 165	8 0 0 120	8 14 3 144	8 13 1 131	8 14 7 135	9 4 10 159	8 1 7 121	8 14 3 144	8 1 4 134	8 1 4 122
<i>Index No.—Pulses</i>		174	144	139	146	135	171	151	139	140	125

Sugar (refined) ..	Maund	11 6 10 150	10 0 0 138	10 5 2 129	10 10 8 107	10 8 1 113	11 6 10 150	9 13 6 135	10 5 2 129	10 10 8 107	10 7 7 116
Jagri (gul)	"	12 0 6 141	9 6 7 135	11 6 10 129	10 0 0 129	10 3 1 145	12 0 6 141	9 6 7 135	11 6 10 129	10 0 0 129	9 1 5 130
Tea ..	Lb.	0 14 10 190	0 7 7 225	0 15 7 200	1 1 10 171	1 0 5 200	0 14 10 190	0 15 7 225	0 15 7 200	1 1 10 171	1 0 5 200
Salt ..	Maund	2 12 9 131	1 14 6 145	2 4 7 151	3 5 4 150	2 15 0 156	2 12 9 131	1 14 6 145	2 4 7 151	3 5 4 150	2 13 7 152
Beef	Seer	0 9 3 179	0 9 0 180	0 6 0 100	0 5 0 201	0 6 0 141	0 9 3 179	0 9 0 180	0 6 0 100	0 5 0 201	0 6 0 141
Mutton ..	"	0 11 3 169	0 10 0 167	0 10 0 167	0 8 0 133	0 10 0 167	0 11 3 169	0 10 0 167	0 10 0 167	0 8 0 133	0 9 6 158
Milk	Maund	17 9 4 191	8 6 9 190	10 0 0 200	10 0 0 138	13 5 4 133	17 9 4 191	8 0 0 180	10 0 0 200	10 0 0 138	13 5 4 133
Ghee ..	"	78 0 9 154	66 10 8 156	64 0 0 144	85 5 4 152	66 10 8 129	78 0 9 154	66 10 8 156	64 0 0 144	91 6 10 163	66 10 8 129
Potatoes ..	"	7 2 3 159	5 15 8 110	7 4 4 191	7 4 4 182	6 1 11 182	7 14 1 176	6 2 6 114	5 0 0 131	7 9 11 191	4 15 3 147
Onions ..	"	2 13 9 184	3 9 6 198	4 0 0 200	3 14 5 156	2 10 1 131	3 2 1 202	3 12 3 207	4 5 2 216	4 0 0 160	2 10 1 131
Cocconut oil ..	"	28 9 1 112	26 10 8 108	32 0 0 160	29 1 5 109	28 1 1 100	28 9 1 112	25 0 0 102	32 0 0 160	29 1 5 109	28 1 1 100
<i>Index No.—Other articles of food</i>		160	159	161	148	145	163	159	157	150	140
<i>Index No.—All food articles</i>		159	152	153	145	142	160	152	151	144	136

*The sources of the price-quotations used 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 'Pisi Sarbatti' varieties instead of for 'Rangoon small mill' and 'Pisi Seoni' respectively.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS IN BOMBAY
BY GROUPS

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Months	Cereals	Pulses	Other articles of food	All food	Fuel and lighting	Clothing	Houses	Cost of living
1926								
March	132	136	133	182	151	165	174	172
April ..	132	133	132	180	150	165	175	172
May ..	133	138	133	177	150	164	170	172
June ..	133	139	134	182	152	164	162	172
July ..	134	145	135	187	155	164	160	172
August	135	141	136	181	153	164	160	172
September	135	145	136	179	152	164	160	172
October	135	150	136	180	153	164	159	172
November	133	152	135	180	152	164	156	172
December	134	155	136	184	154	166	148	172
1927								
January	134	149	135	188	155	166	143	172
February	134	154	136	180	152	166	148	172
March	134	159	137	179	152	166	152	172
April ..	133	153	135	178	151	166	143	172
May ..	133	154	134	176	150	166	147	172
June ..	134	156	136	177	151	166	147	172
July ..	136	153	138	181	154	166	149	172
August	136	157	138	184	155	166	152	172
September	132	151	134	180	151	166	163	172
October	127	151	129	180	148	156	163	172
November	125	151	127	180	147	156	157	172
December	129	155	131	178	149	156	154	172
1928								
January	132	160	135	180	151	156	152	172
February	127	152	129	174	148	144	153	172
March ..	123	146	126	171	143	144	151	172
April ..	121	147	124	168	140	145	153	172
May ..	123	153	126	175	144	145	155	172
June ..	122	142	124	172	140	145	156	172
July ..	120	144	123	177	140	145	158	172
August ..	119	144	121	176	140	145	159	172
September ..	120	143	122	174	141	145	157	172
October ..	121	155	124	174	140	144	156	172
November ..	122	157	125	174	140	143	158	172
December ..	125	156	128	173	140	143	160	172
1929								
January ..	127	163	130	173	140	148	160	172
February ..	126	162	130	173	140	143	160	172
March ..	129	166	132	169	140	143	159	172

(a) Revised figures.

LABOUR GAZETTE

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

BOMBAY, APRIL, 1929

[No. 8

VOL. VIII]

The Month in Brief

ANOTHER STRIKE IN BOMBAY MILLS

At the time of going to Press a strike is in progress affecting most of the textile mills in Bombay City. It was called by the Girni Kamgar Union and arises out of the disputes in the Wadia group of mills, the demand of the Union being for the dismissal of the 6000 new hands which were engaged by these mills to take the place of strikers. Allegations of victimisation of its members by individual millowners are also made by the Union.

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 March 1929. The average absenteeism was 10·89 per cent. for Bombay City, 3·76 per cent. for Ahmedabad, 15·34 per cent. for Sholapur, 2·11 per cent. for Viramgaum and 7·66 per cent. for Broach.

In the engineering industry in Bombay City the supply of both skilled and unskilled labour was adequate. Absenteeism was 17·32 per cent. in the engineering workshops, 5 per cent. in the Marine Lines Reclamation and the Development Directorate, 14·52 per cent. in the Bombay Port Trust Docks and 11·30 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 8·90.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBER

In April 1929 the Bombay Working Class Cost of Living Index Number was 148, as against 149 in the preceding month. The Index Number for food articles only was 145.

WHOLESALE NUMBER OF WHOLESALE PRICES

The Wholesale Prices Index Number in Bombay for March 1929 was 147.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

There were ten industrial disputes in the month of March 1929. The number of workpeople involved was 29,728 and the number of working days lost 368,690.

BALANCE OF TRADE

During March 1929, the visible balance of trade, including securities, in favour of India amounted to Rs. 49 lakhs.

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