

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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THE MONTH IN BRIEF

Employment

DURING the month ended February the 15th, the supply of labour in the Presidency was generally plentiful. In representative cotton mills in Bombay, the attendance of labour was not so good as in the previous month, the average absenteeism being 10·75 per cent. as compared with 8·18 per cent. in the previous month and 8·35 per cent. two months ago. The increase in absenteeism in the month under review is stated to be due to workers proceeding to their villages after the receipt of the annual bonus which was paid out on 27th January 1923. The daily absenteeism greatly increased after the payment of the bonus.

In Ahmedabad, the situation in regard to employment, according to the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association, has remained unchanged during the month. The average absenteeism was the same as that for the previous month, *viz.*, 5 per cent. In Sholapur, the supply of labour was also adequate and the percentage absenteeism, which for three months had remained unchanged, increased from 12 to 14 per cent. This increase was stated to be due to a religious holiday in the month under review. Considerable anxiety has been felt in Sholapur as to the adequacy of water supply. If the early rains fail next monsoon, there is every probability of a very serious shortage of water in Sholapur itself, and this may affect the mills and their workers. Government in the Public Works Department (Irrigation), the Commissioner, Central Division, and the Collector, Sholapur, have, however, the question under close consideration. In the engineering industry in Bombay the supply of labour was adequate except for boiler makers,

blacksmiths, coppersmiths and moulders. The attendance during the month of January showed a considerable improvement as compared with the previous month, the average absenteeism in two representative workshops being 14·63 per cent. as compared with 20·5 per cent. in the previous month and 19·34 two months ago. On the Marine Lines and Colaba Reclamation Schemes of the Development Directorate the average absenteeism fell from 8·75 per cent. in the previous month to 6·5 per cent. in the month under review. This was the approximate level reached in the month of September 1922. On the construction of *chawls* (tenements) at Naigam and DeLisle Road, absenteeism remained at the level of the previous month, *viz.*, 3 per cent. At Worki, absenteeism showed an improvement from 10 per cent. in the month of December to 6 per cent. in the month under review. The supply of ordinary coolie labour employed under the Bombay Port Trust for landing, removing, storing and loading cargo was equal to the demand. The average absenteeism among monthly paid workers was 15·6 per cent. during January as compared with 19·3 per cent. in December 1922 and 25 per cent. in November 1922. Absenteeism among the monthly paid labour employed by the Chief Engineer of the Bombay Port Trust showed a slight increase as compared with the previous month, the average absenteeism being 10 per cent. as compared with 9·43 per cent. in December 1922. This increase was stated to be due to sickness. In Karachi, the supply of skilled labour employed in the engineering workshop of the Karachi Port Trust was plentiful, while unskilled labour continued to be in excess. The average absenteeism, for which data is available, remained at the level of the previous months, *viz.*, 5 per cent.

The Cost of Living

In January 1923 the cost of living, as described elsewhere in the *Labour Gazette*, was approximately 5 points below the level of the preceding month. The average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the cost of living index for the City and Island of Bombay (100 represents the level of July 1914) was 156 for all articles and 151 for food articles only. There is a fall of 10 per cent, as compared with this time last year and a fall of 19 per cent below the high-water mark (October 1920).

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

The Wholesale Index Number

The index number of wholesale prices for January 1923 showed a rise of over 2 per cent, or 4 points in the general level as compared with December 1922. This was due mainly to a rise in the price of imported as well as exported articles. The fall in the price of food-grains which has been noticeable since July of last year continued in January. The fluctuations in the price of foods, non-foods, and all articles will be seen in the following table:—

	Increase per cent. over July 1914.				
	September 1922.	October 1922.	November 1922.	December 1922.	January 1923.
Foods ..	85	78	76	70	73
Non-foods ..	79	72	77	74	79
All articles ..	81	74	76	73	77

Industrial Disputes

There were comparatively few industrial disputes in the Bombay Presidency during January 1923. The number of disputes involving stoppages of work as beginning in January was 5. In addition to this, there

was one dispute which began in December still in progress during the month. The number of disputes settled in January was 4. During January 3,288 workpeople as compared with 5,016 in the previous month and 15,863 in January 1922 were involved. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during January was nearly 14,908 working days as compared with 22,806 working days in December 1922 and 33,389 days in January 1922. A general review of industrial disputes during January 1923 will be found on page 20 of this issue.

Labour Legislation

The outstanding feature of the month has been the passing of legislation by the Legislature "to provide for the payment by certain classes of employers to their workmen of compensation for injury by accident".

The Bill applies to certain employees such as those in a Factory as defined in the Factories Act, a mine, the building trade (in the case of major injuries only), transport workers, workers in public utility services such as those connected with sewage, fire-brigades, electric cables and wires and those engaged in hazardous occupations which are subject to the risk of anthrax, lead and phosphorous poisoning. Railway servants not permanently employed in any administrative district or sub-divisional office are included. The Bill comes into force on July 1, 1924. Compensation for injuries is fixed at 42 months' wages in the case of permanent total disablement or Rs. 3,500 whichever is less and *pro rata* compensation in the case of partial disablement, ranging from 70 per cent. for the loss of the right arm above or at the elbow down to 5 per cent. in the case of loss of any finger other than the index finger. For temporary disablement, whether total or partial, a half-monthly payment, payable on the 16th day after the expiry of a waiting period of 10 days from the date of the disablement, of Rs. 15 (i.e., Rs. 30 per mensem) or one-fourth of the monthly wages, whichever is less, is provided for. In the case of minors a half-monthly payment, similarly payable on the 16th day after the expiry of a waiting period of 10 days, equal to one-third of his monthly wages or, after he has attained the age of 15 years, one-half of

his monthly wages (per fortnight) but not exceeding in any case Rs. 15 (per fortnight). In the case of death the workman's dependants will be able to obtain 30 months' wages or Rs. 2,500 whichever is less. In the case of a minor the compensation payable is Rs. 200 for death and 84 months' pay or Rs. 3,500 whichever is less, in the case of permanent total disablement. If agreement between the employer and employee fails a reference to a Commissioner is provided for.

The Bill will be found on page 23. The Member in charge of the Bill at the third reading referred to the able draftsmanship of Mr. A. G. Clow, Controller of the Labour Bureau, Delhi, whose labours in this connexion have been much appreciated. Mr. Innes also paid tribute to the goodwill, the tolerance and the reasonable spirit of give and take in which employers and the representatives of labour approached the many intricate problems connected with this. The Act will, as in other countries, in the long run lead to a curtailment in the number of accidents to employees.

The bill came up for discussion in the Council of State on 20th February and several amendments were moved. Among the amendments passed the most important related to (1) the substitution of "unmarried daughter" or "married daughter" instead of a "minor daughter" in clause 2 (d) and (2) the addition of a new sub-section providing that if a workman, whose right of compensation had been suspended by reason of his having left the vicinity of his work without medical examination, died before such examination, the Commissioner might use his discretion to pay compensation to the dependants.

Another Act which has passed both Houses of the Legislature, the Assembly and the Council of State, refers to mines. An article on this will be found on page 33. The question of the employment of women in all forms of underground labour will be considered by the Legislature in the next two or three years.

Cotton Mill Production

The main features of the two following tables are an increase in yarn production and a considerable decrease in the production of woven goods in the cotton mills in this Presi-

dency during the nine months ended December 1922 as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year. There was a slight increase in the production of yarn in December 1922 as compared with the corresponding month of the previous year.

	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced		
	December			December		
	1920	1921	1922	1920	1921	1922
Bombay Island ..	32	34	33	19	17	17
Ahmedabad ..	8	6	8	5	7	7
Other centres ..	4	5	5	2	3	3
Total, Presidency ..	44	45	46	26	27	27

	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced		
	Nine months ended December			Nine months ended December		
	1920	1921	1922	1920	1921	1922
Bombay Island ..	257	263	265	149	159	152
Ahmedabad ..	56	63	68	55	63	60
Other centres ..	38	45	43	23	26	24
Total, Presidency ..	351	371	376	227	248	236

The prices of local made piece-goods and yarn had an upward movement in January 1923. The Bombay Millowners' Association quotations in January, July and December 1922 and in January 1923 show a fall in longcloth of 2½ annas per pound in January 1923 as compared with January 1922, in T cloth 2½ annas per pound and in chudders 3½ annas per pound. The figures are as follows:—

	Net rate per lb. in annas.			
	January 1922	July 1922	December 1922	January 1923
Longcloth ..	26	27½	21½	23½
T. Cloth ..	24	24	20½	21½
Chudders ..	24	25	20½	20½



The Balance of Trade

The trade figures for January 1923 like those of its immediate predecessor show a favourable balance of trade. During the 10 months of the present financial year there has been a favourable balance in all months with the exception of June and October and the net favourable balance of trade amounts to 1,855 lakhs.

India

	In lakhs of rupees					
	August 1922	September 1922	October 1922	November 1922	December 1922	January 1923
Exports (primary products)	25.21	21.01	21.67	23.85	27.30	25.45
Imports (all)	21.20	18.25	22.91	21.54	19.21	21.26
Balance of Trade in merchandise	+ 4.01	+ 2.77	- 1.24	+ 2.31	+ 8.09	- 5.81
Balance of transactions in current account	- 1.76	- 2.91	- 3.32	- 2.97	- 3.40	- 4.42
Visible balance of trade including securities	+ 2.25	+ 0.86	- 4.56	+ 5.28	+ 4.69	- 10.23

* Plus (+) indicates favourable and minus (-) adverse balance.

Bombay

Exports (primary products)	7.50	4.80	4.28	7.24	8.21	11.05
Imports (all)	7.05	7.20	8.17	8.25	7.28	7.92
Balance of Trade in merchandise	+ 0.45	- 2.40	- 3.89	- 1.01	+ 0.93	+ 3.13
Balance of transactions in current account	- 2.27	- 4.20	- 3.47	- 2.02	- 3.15	- 5.36
Visible balance of trade including securities	- 1.82	- 3.60	- 7.75	- 3.06	- 2.22	- 8.23

Karachi

Exports (primary products)	1.25	1.21	56	2.44	2.86	3.31
Imports (all)	1.05	1.40	2.25	1.65	2.02	1.70
Balance of Trade in merchandise	+ 0.20	- 0.19	+ 31	+ 0.79	+ 0.84	+ 1.61
Balance of transactions in current account	0	0	0	0	0	0
Visible balance of trade including securities	+ 0.20	- 0.19	+ 31	+ 0.79	+ 0.84	+ 1.61

Note.—(+) indicates favourable and minus (-) adverse report.

Business Conditions

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

	s.	d.		s.	d.		
March 1922	1	3	7/32	September 1922	1	3	1/2
April	1	3	5/32	October	1	3	17/32
May	1	3	5/32	November	1	3	3/32
June	1	3	11/16	December	1	3	15/16
July	1	3	5/8	January 1923	1	4	1/16
August	1	3	21/32	February	1	4	15/32

These rates are supplied by the Deputy Controller of the Currency, Bombay.

Bank clearings during January 1923 in Bombay, Karachi and Rangoon remained at approximately the same level as in December 1922, but in Calcutta on the other hand these were slightly lower. The figures for the last three months are as follows:—

In crores of rupees†

	November 1922	December 1922	January 1923	Increase (+) or decrease (-) in January 1923 as compared with the previous month.
Bombay	67	59	59	0
Karachi	3	3	3	0
Calcutta	74	71	69	-2
Rangoon	10	8	8	0

† 1 Crore = 10 millions or 100 lakhs.

The latest report shows the rupee portion of the reserve in Bombay at 18.09 crores. In addition there is in Bombay Rs. 14 crores in the form of gold and the percentage of gold and silver in the Paper Currency Reserve for the whole of India is 63 as against 64 in December and November 1922.

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

	Rs.	1922	August 1922	Rs.	1923
January	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650
February	1,585	1,585	1,585	1,585	1,585
March	1,614	1,614	1,614	1,614	1,614
April	1,613	1,613	1,613	1,613	1,613
May	1,619	1,619	1,619	1,619	1,619
June	1,659	1,659	1,659	1,659	1,659
July	1,688	1,688	1,688	1,688	1,688

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



THE COST OF LIVING INDEX FOR JANUARY 1923
A fall of five points

All articles ... 56 per cent.

Food only ... 51 per cent.

In January 1923 the average level of retail prices for all the commodities taken into account in the statistics of a cost of living index for the working classes in Bombay, was five points below the level of the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the index was about 161 in December 1922 and 156 in January 1923.

The general index is 19 per cent. below the high-water mark reached in October 1920, nearly 5 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1922 and 10 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1921. The cost of living index has fallen nearly to the level of August 1918.

A continuous fall in food-grains.

In comparison with the previous month, there was an appreciable fall in the retail prices of food articles. There was a fall of 6 points as against a similar fall of 7 points in the corresponding month of 1922 and 15 points in 1921. With the exception of gram which remained stationary, all food-grains declined, bajri falling by 15 points, jowar by 8 points, wheat and turdal by 7 points, and rice by 5 points. There was also a fall in the prices of sugar and salt. A decrease of 13 per cent. in the price of potatoes and 4 per cent. in that of onions was recorded during the month.

All items: Average Percentage increase over July 1914

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
January	34	42	45	66	75	56
February	34	76	81	42	65	56
March	36	72	77	66	65	56
April	44	67	72	66	62	56
May	47	68	73	67	63	56
June	48	74	81	75	63	56
July	48	86	94	77	65	56
August	50	79	91	80	64	56
September	45	72	82	85	65	56
October	75	74	95	85	42	56
November	75	70	86	82	64	56
December	85	74	81	79	61	56
Yearly average	54	75	82	73	64	56

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

The following table shows the price levels of articles of food in December 1922 and January 1923 as compared with that for July 1914, which is taken as 100. The levels are calculated from the prices of articles per standard (or railway) raud or seer on page 8.

Articles	July 1914	December 1922	January 1923	Increase (+) or decrease (-) in January 1923 as compared with December 1922
Rice	100	130	125	-5
Wheat	100	142	135	-7
Jowar	100	116	98	-18
Bajri	100	129	114	-15
Gram	100	168	168	0
Turdal	100	141	134	-7
Sugar (raw)	100	205	241	+36
Sugar (refined)	100	231	225	-6
Tea	100	131	140	+9
Salt	100	152	159	+7
Beef	100	198	198	0
Mutton	100	231	231	0
Milk	100	191	191	0
Ghee	100	170	170	0
Potatoes	100	232	206	-26
Onions	100	395	321	-74
Concent of All food articles (weighted average)	100	172	151	-21

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

BOMBAY COST OF LIVING INDEX

A

Articles.	Unit of quantity.	Annual consumption (Mass Units) (in crores.)	Price.			Total Expenditure.		
			July 1914.	December 1922.	January 1923.	July 1914.	December 1922.	January 1923.
Cereals—	Maund	70	Rs. 5·594	Rs. 7·292	Rs. 6·974	Rs. 391·58	Rs. 510·44	Rs. 488·18
Rice	..	21	5·594	7·292	6·974	117·47	166·36	158·49
Wheat	..	11	4·354	4·604	4·245	47·89	50·64	46·70
Jowari	..	6	4·313	5·568	4·922	25·88	33·41	29·53
Bajri
Total and Average—Cereals	..	—	100	131	124	582·82	760·85	722·90
Pulses—	Maund	10	4·302	7·240	7·240	43·02	72·40	72·40
Gram	..	3	5·844	8·224	7·844	17·53	24·67	23·53
Turdal
Total and Average—Pulses	..	—	100	160	158	60·55	97·07	95·93
Other food articles	Maund	7	8·557	17·583	17·115	59·90	123·08	119·81
Sugar (raw)	..	2	7·620	17·583	17·115	15·24	35·17	34·23
Sugar (refined)	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tea	..	40	40·000	52·458	56·741	1·00	1·31	1·40
Salt	..	5	2·130	3·240	2·958	10·65	16·20	14·79
Beef	..	28	0·323	0·641	0·641	9·04	17·95	17·95
Mutton	..	33	0·417	0·964	0·964	13·76	31·81	31·81
Milk	..	14	9·198	17·583	17·583	128·77	246·16	246·16
Ghee	..	1½	50·792	86·484	86·484	76·19	129·23	129·23
Potatoes	..	11	4·479	10·391	8·964	49·27	114·30	98·60
Onions	..	3	1·552	5·193	4·969	4·66	15·58	14·91
Cocoanut Oil	..	½	25·396	28·568	28·568	12·70	14·28	14·28
Total and Average—Other food articles	..	—	100	196	190	381·18	745·57	723·67
Total and Average—All food articles	..	—	100	157	151	1,024·55	1,603·49	1,542·50
Fuel and lighting—	Case	5	4·375	7·656	7·656	21·88	38·28	38·28
Kerosene oil	..	48	0·792	1·281	1·281	38·02	61·49	61·49
Firewood	..	1	0·542	0·973	0·367	0·54	0·97	0·37
Coal
Total and Average—Fuel and lighting	..	—	100	167	166	60·44	100·74	100·14
Clothing—	Lb.	27	0·594	1·313	1·297	16·04	35·45	35·02
Chudders	..	25	0·641	1·432	1·464	16·03	35·80	36·60
Shirtings	..	36	0·583	1·281	1·328	20·99	46·12	47·81
T. Cloth
Total and Average—Clothing	..	—	100	222	225	53·06	117·37	119·43
House rent	Per month	10	11·302	18·7	18·70	113·02	187·00	187·00
Grand Total and General Average	..	—	100	161	156	1,251·07	2,008·60	1,949·07

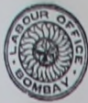
NOTE.—If the aggregate expenditure in July 1914 at the prices ruling in that month was Rs. 1,251·07 crores, the aggregate expenditure in January 1923 at January price levels was Rs. 1,949·07, i.e., an increase of 56 per cent. (Rs. 1,251·07 = 100; Rs. 1,949·07 = 156).

BOMBAY COST OF LIVING INDEX

B

Alternative method of presentation.

Articles.	Approximate percentage weight assigned to each article based on proportion to aggregate expenditure in July 1914.	Index Number.		Weight × Index Number.	
		December 1922.	January 1923.	December 1922.	January 1923.
Cereals—	31·4	130	125	4,082·0	3,915·6
Rice	9·4	142	135	1,334·8	1,268·1
Wheat	3·8	106	98	402·8	370·5
Jowari	..	..	..	..	..
Bajri	2·1	129	114	270·9	239·6
Total and Average Index No.	46·7	130	124	6,090·5	5,793·7
Pulses—	3·1	168	168	520·8	521·7
Gram	1·3	141	134	183·3	174·5
Turdal	..	..	..	..	..
Total and Average Index No.	4·4	160	158	704·1	696·2
Other food articles—	4·8	205	200	984·0	960·0
Sugar (raw)	1·2	231	225	277·2	269·4
Sugar (refined)	..	..	..	..	..
Tea	0·1	131	140	13·1	14·0
Salt	0·9	152	139	136·8	125·0
Beef	0·7	198	199	138·6	139·0
Mutton	1·1	231	231	254·1	254·3
Milk	10·3	191	191	1,967·3	1,969·4
Ghee	6·1	170	170	1,037·0	1,038·2
Potatoes	4·0	232	200	928·0	800·4
Onions	0·4	335	320	134·0	128·1
Cocoanut oil	1·0	112	113	112·0	112·5
Total and Average Index No.	30·6	195	190	5,982·1	5,810·3
Fuel and lighting—	1·8	175	175	315·0	315·0
Kerosene oil	3·0	162	162	486·0	485·1
Firewood	0·1	180	68	18·0	6·8
Coal	..	..	..	..	..
Total and Average Index No.	4·9	167	165	819·0	806·9
Clothing—	1·3	221	218	287·3	283·9
Dhoties	1·3	223	228	289·9	296·9
Shirtings	1·7	220	228	374·0	387·3
T. Cloth	..	..	..	..	..
Total and Average Index No.	4·3	221	225	951·2	968·1
House rent	9·1	165	166	1,501·5	1,506·1
Grand total of weights	100	..	..	..	..
General Average or Cost of Living Index (July 1914 = 100)	..	160	156	16,048·4	15,581·2



COST OF LIVING INDEX

CRITICISMS OF THE ENGLISH INDEX

Criticisms of the English cost of living index were given in the issues of the *Labour Gazette* for October and November 1921. Further criticisms have recently been made on the application of the index. In view of the discussion by the Association of British Chambers of Commerce of the question of the applicability of the official cost of living index to regulate wages in industries, some of the important points of the question were brought out by Professor A. L. Bowley and Sir Josiah Stamp. In an interesting article which appeared in the *London Times* of the 17th January, Professor Bowley wrote as follows:

"It is alleged that the number (1944) of family budgets collected in the year 1904, on which the results are based, was too small to give sufficiently general and adequate information, and that changes occurred before 1914 which had already destroyed what validity they possessed before the war. The latter contention was examined carefully by the Cost of Living Committee in 1918 (Cd. 8980) in the light of general estimates of food consumption and of the movement of prices, and it was found that the method employed by the Labour Department of allotting the same proportion of expenditure (but not the same quantities) to each commodity at both dates was valid, so far as food was concerned. So far as the measurement of the change in the cost of an average standard ration of food, unchanged in every detail, is concerned, there is little doubt that the official estimate is as nearly correct as the circumstances of computation allow.

MODIFICATION OF DIET

The important criticism has been made that in the eight years since 1914 changes in dietary may have, or should have, taken place, by which, without altering the nutriment or the satisfaction obtained, part of the increase in price is evaded. Every house keeper, in making the best use of her money, avoids those commodities which have risen much in price, and substitutes others which have risen less, and this process can obviously be followed out without any reduction of standard within rather narrow limits. The labour Committee's investigation, unbiased at least in this respect, showed that at a time when prices were nearly at a maximum very few changes had taken place, but these few were in the direction to be expected—the consumption of sugar and of eggs, whose prices were specially high, had decreased, that of margarine had increased. This question of modification of diet is of much less weight now, when the increases in price

of the more important commodities do not differ very much from the general average, than when all prices were much higher and the increases less uniform. A study of the details suggests that if margarine were extensively substituted for butter and foreign meat for British meat, and if purchases of sugar and eggs were reduced and compensated for by other food, the resulting food index would still be above 170, whereas it stands at 178.

WAGE MOVEMENTS

To summarize: it is possible, but by no means certain, that the index number at 180 is too high, but we cannot place it as lower than 170 with any plausibility.

That wages can be standardized at the weekly rates of 1914, neither below nor above, and that at the same time the supply of labour should fit the demand for it, is, of course, impossible. On the other hand, this method of wage regulation has made the automatic general reduction during 1921 and 1922 possible without much serious disturbance or discontent. In times of rapidly moving prices the method tends to eliminate one factor of change in real wages, that of the changing purchasing power of money, and to avoid the continual disputes about the proper rates of wages that would otherwise occur. If this part of the movement is automatic, then attention can be concentrated from time to time on the basic rate to which the formula applies, and the discussion of the standard of living possible be separated from the change in the cost of preserving that standard. The wage contract, like many other contracts, is then subject to the change of prices. Neither employers or workmen can afford to neglect any aid to the peaceful settlement of wages."

THE COST OF LIVING AND PRODUCTION

In a letter to the *London Times* Sir Josiah Stamp points out how "any adjustment of wages by prices, without reference to the total national production (per head), is an attempt to share out what may never have been produced, and must lead straight to disaster and unemployment. It must be realized by all that the price adjustment of wages must be further modified by the change in the aggregate production. We have been down by 20 to 25 per cent. at least upon our pre-war aggregate of units produced, and yet have been behaving as though we had as much as ever.

Unqualified adjustment of wages by prices, moreover, negatives the intention of indirect taxation. If the tax on tea is doubled, with the intention that the tea consumer should pay,



WHOLESALE PRICES IN JANUARY

BOMBAY

The Index number of wholesale prices for January 1923 registered a rise of more than two per cent. in the general level of prices as compared with the previous month. This was due mainly to a rise in the price of both imported as well as exported articles. In comparison with the corresponding month of last year prices have fallen by 7 per cent., the fall from the twelve-monthly average of 1922 being 4 per cent.

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

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

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay

Groups.	No. of items.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) per cent. in January 1923 as compared with	
		the preceding month (December 1922).	the corresponding month of last year (January 1922).
1. Cereals	7	- 3	- 31
2. Pulses	2	- 3	- 42
3. Sugar	3	- 6	- 4
4. Other food	3	+ 15	+ 61
Total food	15	+ 2	- 8
5. Oilseeds	4	- 4	- 2
6. Raw cotton	5	+ 8	+ 20
7. Cotton manufactures	6	+ 3	- 12
8. Other textiles	2	- 1	- 1
9. Hides and skins	3	+ 35	- 1
10. Metals	5	+ 4	- 3
11. Other raw and manufactured articles	3	- 19	- 24
Total non-food	28	+ 3	- 6
General average	43	+ 2	- 7

and the increased price of tea helps to put up the price index, and then the consumer's wage is put up to correspond, the tea consumer is not taxed; the tax is shifted, 'worked out' once more on to the receivers of fixed money incomes, and into unemployment and distress.

Any inquiry into cost of living index numbers should, therefore, carry with it the construction and publication of an index of national production. As an exact measure, this may be difficult to construct, but, as a rough measure, it is not beyond the wit of business and statistical minds to devise, and it is essential, if the nation is to realise the basic facts governing the payment of wages."

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE RESOLUTION

The following resolution on the cost of living index passed recently by the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, is of interest in this connection:—

"That this Association, having considered the question of the regulation of wages by the application of the cost of living index numbers, is of opinion that the effect of such regulation of wages by the index numbers alone, without reference to production, is incomplete.

The Association considers that His Majesty's Government should appoint a committee at an early date to investigate the present system of compiling index numbers, and to consider what modifications are desirable, both in the system and in its application to the question of the rates of wages."

Cost of living in India and the United Kingdom

Groups.	Percentage increase over July 1914.	
	Bombay, December 1922.	United Kingdom, December 1922.
Food	57	78
Fuel and lighting	67	87
Clothing	122	125
Rent	65	50
Average increase, allowing for the relative weights of the items	61	80



In comparison with the previous month there was a rise of nearly two per cent. in food articles, a fall in both food-grains and sugar being over-balanced by a rise in "other foods". The unbroken fall in food-grains since July of last year continued further in January, the price of cereals and pulses decreasing by 3 per cent. each. A fall of 6 per cent. in the price of sugar was recorded during the month.

The average for non-food articles showed a rise of nearly 3 per cent. as compared with the previous month. The most considerable changes in group averages were shown in "hides and skins" and raw cotton, the former rising by 35 per cent. and the latter by 8 per cent. Metals and cotton manufactures also showed an appreciable rise, while oil seeds and "other raw and manufactured articles" registered a decrease.

The subjoined table compares January 1923 prices with those of the preceding months and of the corresponding month of last year. The table expresses the price levels as percentages of the twelve-monthly average of 1922 :-

100 = average of 1922

Group.	January 1922.	April 1922.	July 1922.	Oct. 1922.	Dec. 1922.	January 1923.
I. Cereals ..	111	109	103	88	73	75
II. Pulses ..	125	114	95	85	75	73
III. Sugar ..	97	105	101	97	100	95
IV. Other food ..	82	91	94	107	115	131
Total food ..	101	104	101	96	91	93
V. Oilseeds ..	94	103	103	98	96	93
VI. Raw cotton ..	92	99	138	91	102	110
VII. Cotton manufactures ..	106	103	105	93	91	93
VIII. Other textiles ..	100	100	100	100	100	99
IX. Hides and skins ..	118	97	100	79	86	117
X. Metals ..	107	100	95	57	100	104
XI. Other raw and manufactured articles ..	103	100	99	96	96	78
Total non-food ..	104	101	103	94	95	97
General average—all articles ..	103	102	102	94	94	96

The main fact which emerges from this table is that the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay is now below the average of 1922. The following table is intended to

show the annual movements in food and non-food wholesale prices :-

Annual wholesale prices
July 1914 = 100

	Food.	Non-food.	All articles.
Twelve-monthly average 1918 ..	170	279	233
" " 1919 ..	202	233	222
" " 1920 ..	206	221	215
" " 1921 ..	193	198	196
" " 1922 ..	186	183	184
January 1923 ..	173	179	177

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

The Construction of the Index

No.	Articles.	July 1914.	Total No. of articles.	January 1923.
1	Cereals (Rice, wheat, jowari, barley, and bajri).	795	436	175
2	Pulses (Green and tinned).	200	284	102
3	Sugar (Refined and raw).	300	666	201
4	Other articles of food (Ghee, salt, etc.).	300	915	305
5	Total all food ..	1,595	2,800	173
6	Oil seeds (Lined, rapeseed, poppyseed, and castor).	400	521	136
7	Raw cotton ..	200	456	20
8	Cotton manufactures (Long cloth, shirting, chaddars, etc.).	600	1,359	222
9	Other textiles (Silk).	200	277	139
10	Hides and skins ..	300	495	165
11	Metals (Copper bronzes, steel bars, tinplates, etc.).	500	972	194
12	Other raw and manufactured articles (Kerosene and coal).	300	446	148
13	Total non-food ..	2,500	4,489	179
14	General Average ..	4,095	7,289	177

COMPARATIVE RETAIL PRICES

BOMBAY, KARACHI, AHMEDABAD AND SHOLAPUR

The following table compares the retail food prices in Karachi, Ahmedabad and Sholapur with those in Bombay in December 1922 and January 1923 (Bombay prices = 100). It will



be seen that the retail price levels in all the three centres are below the level in Bombay.

Bombay prices in December 1922 = 100

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

Bombay prices in January 1923 = 100

Articles	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur
Cereals—				
Rice ..	100	96	115	101
Wheat ..	100	76	76	98
Jowari ..	100	84	74	79
Bajri ..	100	82	102	83
Average—Cereals ..	100	85	92	90
Pulses—				
Green ..	100	67	85	78
Tinned ..	100	92	102	102
Average—Pulses ..	100	80	94	90
Other articles of food—				
Sugar (refined) ..	100	94	104	107
Jagri (Gul) ..	100	76	78	78
Tea ..	100	114	142	95
Salt ..	100	64	85	128
Beef ..	100	88	59	59
Mutton ..	100	65	78	65
Milk ..	100	48	57	76
Ghee ..	100	88	87	82
Potatoes ..	100	50	64	132
Onions ..	100	86	76	67
Coconut oil ..	100	90	124	93
Average—Other articles of food ..	100	78	87	89
Average—All food articles ..	100	80	89	90

On page 47 will be found statistics of food prices in December 1922 and January 1923 for Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad and Sholapur. These are official prices supplied through the Director of Agriculture to the Labour Office, and are averages of prices taken eight times a month from retail shopkeepers patronised by

the labouring classes. These towns are selected because they are the main centres of industrial activity in the Presidency. The articles selected, seventeen in number, are those customarily consumed by the working classes.

On the same page, the prices are expressed as percentages of prices in July 1914, thus showing in each individual case the increase since the beginning of the War. The general index number for each place is the simple arithmetic average of the percentages of prices, and shows the average increase in food prices since July 1914. The index numbers for January 1923 show that in comparison with the previous month, there was a fall in prices in all the centres except Sholapur. The price of food-grains showed a general fall, while that of "Other foods" showed a rise only in Sholapur.

Statistics of Retail Prices of Food in Principal Countries

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

Country.	Comparison between July 1914 and	increase per cent.
South Africa ..	November 1922 ..	30
New Zealand ..	November 1922 ..	39
Canada ..	November 1922 ..	39
United States ..	November 1922 ..	42
Holland (Amsterdam) ..	September 1922 ..	45
Australia ..	December 1922 ..	46
India (Bombay) ..	January 1923 ..	51
Sweden ..	November 1922 ..	70
United Kingdom ..	December 1922 ..	78
Denmark ..	August 1922 ..	84
Norway ..	November 1922 ..	116
France (Paris) ..	November 1922 ..	197
Belgium ..	December 1922 ..	329
Italy (Rome) ..	November 1922 ..	377
Germany ..	November 1922 ..	54,882
Austria (Vienna) ..	November 1922 ..	11,14,500



THE COLLECTION OF WAGE STATISTICS

The Government of India have been in communication, for some time past, with the Government of Bombay on the subject of the publication of wage statistics. This question, on account of the increasing development of agriculture and industry in India, has now assumed considerable importance. The Government of India suggested that for the purposes of the returns, statistics of wages should be divided into three classes as under :—

- (a) Wages in Rural areas.
- (b) Wages in Urban areas.
- (c) Wages in selected industries.

The Government of India specially invited the views of the Government of Bombay on (1) the intervals at which the census of wages should be taken; (2) the classification of labour; and (3) the agency through which the census should be undertaken. The Government of Bombay has now replied to the Government of India on the points raised.

In regard to (1) after consulting local bodies including the Chambers of Commerce, Bombay and Karachi, the Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau, the Millowners' Associations, Bombay and Ahmedabad, and selected officials, including the Commissioner in Sind, the Commissioners, Northern Division, Southern Division and Central Division, the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Land Records, the consensus of opinion was in favour of an annual census. Regarding (2), the classification of labour, the Government of Bombay were tentatively of opinion that agricultural labour should be classified into the following :—

- I. Artizans—
 1. Village blacksmiths.
 2. Village carpenters.
 3. Village *mochis*.
- II. Farm Labour—
 - Ordinary field labourers.
 1. Men.
 2. Women.
 3. Children.

It would be unnecessary to include herdsmen as agriculturists usually herd cattle by turn without wages, while in some places a herdsman is paid a monthly wage per head of cattle.

Statistics of rural wages may be collected from sample districts at the outset and the scope of these statistics extended as far as possible when statistics of industrial workers in selected industries have been collected. In the collection of urban wage statistics the addition of coachmen, chauffeurs, cooks, butlers, ayahs and peons should also be considered. It is desirable for this Presidency to collect statistics of wages paid in industries in greater detail than was contemplated by the Government of India in their circular. A Report, for example, on wages covering 293 occupations in the Cotton Mill Industry has recently been published.*

In regard to (3), the agency through which the data should be collected, the Government of Bombay was of opinion that the statistics of wages in the Presidency should continue to be collected, tabulated and published by the Labour Office. The Labour Office already has a competent staff to deal with this work, and as soon as finances permit its operations will be extended to Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Karachi, where it is proposed to appoint whole-time Investigators. All information that may be required would be forwarded regularly to the Government of India.

WAGES AND THE COST OF LIVING

COMPARISON OF INDIA WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

In comparing one country's wages with those of another, several factors have to be taken into consideration. There are differences in the relative efficiency of workers in different countries. There are often changes in efficiency in the organisation of the trade and as between pre-war and post-war years. No account is taken of the need in some countries for a higher standard of living and of the fact that many groups of workers were underpaid before the war.

The following table compares the level of money and real wages in the cotton mill industry of various countries of the world. The data are based on information carefully collected by the International Labour Office, Geneva.†

* Copies of the Report are obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Poona, and the Labour Office, at Rs. 3 per copy.
† Wage changes in various countries—No. 2—International Labour Office.



Index numbers of Nominal and Real wages (in the currency of each country) in the Cotton Industry of various countries, 1921 (Pre-war = 100).

		Nominal Wages, 1921.	Real Wages, 1921.
India	Bombay (City and Island) ..	187	112
	Bombay Presidency ..	196	117
United Kingdom	..	211	110
France	(Roubaix) Spinners ..	519	116
	(Whole country) Weavers—		
	Textiles—General average ..	432	119
	(Roubaix) Weavers—Textiles—		
	General average ..	589	131
Germany	Textiles—Weavers (average		
	24 Towns) ..	1,590	100
	Spinners (average 17 Towns) ..	1,116	105
Austria	(Vienna) Weavers—Textiles ..	40,464	68
Italy	Textiles—General average ..	622	162
Denmark	(Copenhagen)—Textiles—		
	General average ..	332	140
Sweden	Textiles—General average ..	259	112
United States of America	(Whole country) Spinners ..	237	134
	(Whole country) Weavers ..	240	136
	General ..	243	134
	(New York State) ..	217	121

INDIAN FACTORY STATISTICS

FACTORIES AND OPERATIVES

A report containing statistics of factories subject to the Indian Factories Act for the year ended December 1921 has just been published. A review of the report for 1920 containing comparative statistics for the factories in Bombay Presidency and other industrial provinces was published in the May 1922 issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The most recent figures for the year 1921 with those of 1920 are published below :—

Factories in India

Province.	Number of Factories.		Increase per cent.
	1920	1921	
Bombay ..	894	926	4
Bengal ..	690	720	6
Burma ..	617	729	18
Madras ..	511	545	7
Total (All Provinces) ..	3,804	4,080	7

The total number of factories during 1921 was 4,080 as against 3,804 in 1920 or an increase of 7 per cent. The most notable increases in the number of factories were in engineering workshops (from 160 to 208), in rice mills

(from 599 to 687), and in iron, steel and brass foundries (from 35 to 44).

The average number of workers employed daily, for all India, rose from 1,238,725 to 1,263,658, an increase of 2 per cent. Except in the United Provinces and in the Punjab where there were small decreases, due to diminished activities of cotton ginning factories, every province records an increase in the number of workers employed. The largest increase during the year was in Bombay where an increase of 18,000 in the number employed in cotton mills was recorded. The total number employed in the Bombay Presidency was 353,280 in 1921 as against 338,758 in 1920. The total of 353,280 was made up as follows :—

1. Government and Local Fund Factories ..	17,918
2. All other Factories :—	
(a) Textiles ..	243,459
(b) Minerals ..	4,883
(c) Transport ..	29,927
(d) Food, drink and tobacco ..	1,328
(e) Chemicals, dyes, etc. ..	4,908
(f) Paper and printing ..	5,493
(g) Processes relating to wood, stone and glass ..	1,362
(h) Processes connected with skins and hides ..	75
(i) Miscellaneous ..	43,927

Total .. 353,280

The number employed in Bengal was 464,713 in 1920 and 465,412 in 1921. Bombay and Bengal together employed nearly two-thirds of all the factory labour in India. Of the total number of persons employed in the Bombay Presidency (353,280) 271,288 or 77 per cent. were males, 66,226 or 19 per cent. were females and 15,766 or 4 per cent. were children. Of the total number of factories, 1,798 allowed a holiday invariably on a Sunday, or 47 per cent. of the total number working and furnishing holiday returns in each year.

ACCIDENTS

The total number of accidents rose from 5,767 in 1920 to 7,006 in 1921, an increase of 21 per cent. Fatal accidents rose from 199 to 202 and non-fatal from 5,568 to 6,804. The total number of accidents in the Bombay Presidency was 1,084 of which 34 were fatal,

101 serious and 949 minor accidents. This total was considerably below the total for Bengal (1,418) and Bihar and Orissa (1,456). The totals for other provinces were, Madras 991, the United Provinces 820, and Burma 610. The following table showing the frequency of accidents in certain provinces per 100,000 persons employed will be of special interest in view of the Workmen's Compensation Bill recently passed by the Central Legislature:—

Ratio of Accidents in Factories in India

Province.	Ratio of persons injured per 100,000 persons employed.		Percentage of fatal to total number of accidents.
	Fatal	Non-fatal	
Bombay	10	297	3
Bengal	13	292	4
Madras	8	960	1
United Provinces	16	1,169	1
Bihar and Orissa	71	2,440	3
Punjab	31	738	4
Burma	27	652	4
Total (all provinces) 1921	16	538	3

CONVICTIONS

The number of persons convicted for offences under the Act fell to 55 as against 468 in the previous year. Of these 10 were in Bombay, 11 in Madras and 5 in Bengal. In Bombay, 9 of the convictions were under Section 41 (a) (employment of persons in contravention of the Act). The other conviction was under Section 41 (f) (neglect to fence machinery). The reason for the large decrease in convictions is stated to be the fact that in some provinces a policy was adopted of giving owners a reasonable time to make up deficiencies revealed by inspection. The number of convictions for 1921 is lower than has been recorded in any year since 1912.

INSPECTIONS

Of the 4,080 factories, 118 remained closed throughout the year and of the remainder (3,962), 1,195 factories or 30 per cent. were not inspected during the year. In Bombay 88 per cent., in Bengal 40 per cent., in Madras 95 per cent. and in the Punjab 93 per cent. of the factories were inspected during the year. Of all provinces Bengal shows the lowest percentage of inspections.

ACCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS
STATISTICS FOR JANUARY 1923

As stated on page 34 of the January issue of the *Labour Gazette*, arrangements have been made to publish a monthly summary of the accidents in factories and workshops in the Presidency. The first summary which is published below, contains details of the accidents reported during January in Bombay City and Island. It has not been possible to secure details of the accidents reported in other industrial centres of the Presidency, as at present these accidents are not reported direct to the Chief Inspector of Factories in Bombay. During January there were in all 133 factory accidents of which 1 was fatal, 10 serious and the remainder 122 were minor accidents.

Accidents in Factories during January 1923

Bombay City and Island

Class of Factory.	Number of accidents due to		Nature of accident.			Total number of accidents.	Remarks.
	Machinery in motion.	Other causes.	Fatal.	Serious.	Minor.		
I—Textile Mills—							
Cotton Mills	34	11	..	3	42	45	
Woolen Mills	..	1	..	..	1	1	
Silk Mills	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	34	12	..	3	43	46	
II—Workshops—							
Engineering	1	17	..	2	16	18	
Railway	9	54	1	4	58	63	
Dockyard	..	..	..	..	..	..
Motor	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mint	..	1	..	..	1	1	
Others	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	10	72	1	6	75	82	
III—Miscellaneous—							
Printing Presses	1	..	..	1	..	1	
Chemical Works	..	2	..	..	2	2	
Flour Mills	..	1	..	..	1	1	
Paint Works	1	..	..	..	1	1	
Others	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	2	3	..	1	4	5	
Total All Factories	46	87	1	10	122	133	

* Mainly burns, scalds, falls, flying pieces of metal, falling of heavy-weights, etc.
† Two persons were injured by this accident. In the case of one the accident was a minor one and in another it was a serious one.

Of the total accidents 46 or 35 per cent. were due to machinery in motion and 87 or 65 per cent. were due to other causes. By far the largest number of accidents occurred in Workshops, the percentages classified according to the class of factory being 35 per cent. in Textile Mills, 61 per cent. in Workshops and 4 per cent. in Miscellaneous concerns. In one flour mill one accident caused injury to two persons.

PROSECUTIONS

(1) The manager of a Bombay Mill was recently prosecuted under the Factories Act for failing to guard satisfactorily a ring frame which resulted in a young person receiving serious injuries.

Pending the passing of the Workmen's Compensation Bill, the Indian Legislature has, in section 43A of the Indian Factories Act, provided for compensation in cases where an offence has been committed under the Factories Act.

In this case the manager was successful in escaping responsibility but a subordinate jobber was convicted and fined Rs. 100 and the Court directed that the whole of this sum should be paid as compensation to the injured person.

This case is the first of its kind in the Bombay Presidency.

It should be added that the manager has agreed to employ the injured person on equivalent pay on a light job.

(2) A second case against a manager in Bombay for failing to guard securely eight ring frames resulted in two line jobbers being fined Rs. 30 each.

LABOUR IN INDIAN COAL MINES

THE OUTPUT PER MINER

Coal mining in India employs more labour than any other mining industry. 205,879 persons were employed in 1921 as against 190,342 in 1920, or an increase of 15,537 or 8 per cent. Of the 205,879 persons, 117,590* were men, 71,466* women and 4,321* children. Bihar and Orissa employed the largest number, viz., 61.4 per cent. of the total—73,916 men, 49,582 women and 2,933 children. Bengal comes next, employing 22.3 per cent. of the total—28,697 men, 16,605 women and 511

* Excluding figures for Hyderabad.

children. There was an acute scarcity of labour at the coal mines in Bengal and Bihar and Orissa, and the high cost of food and clothing resulted in sporadic strikes and general discontent. This state of things synchronised with the holding of the second session of the All-India Trade Union Congress at Jherria and work was stopped for a week or longer. The mine owners were willing to increase the wages on condition that the miners worked with greater regularity and produced more coal.

The following table shows the average number of persons employed daily in the coal mines in India:—

Average number of persons employed daily in the Coal Mining Industry in India

Year.	British Provinces. (a)				Total (b).
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total (b).	
1914	Below ground	55,307	32,292	605	88,204
	Above ..	31,857	15,972	2,015	49,844
1915	Below ..	59,118	35,596	806	95,520
	Above ..	32,315	15,881	2,023	50,219
1916	Below ..	55,963	35,348	583	91,894
	Above ..	34,349	15,399	1,990	51,738
1917	Below ..	56,784	37,706	665	95,155
	Above ..	38,507	18,418	2,275	59,200
1918	Below ..	65,443	43,449	681	109,573
	Above ..	42,985	21,624	2,316	66,925
1919	Below ..	69,786	47,089	707	117,582
	Above ..	46,169	24,278	2,348	72,795
1920	Below ..	61,243	41,064	713	103,020
	Above ..	45,634	24,755	2,755	73,144
1921	Below ..	66,208	42,165	1,189	109,562
	Above ..	49,974	28,666	3,081	81,721

(a) The average number of persons employed in the coal mines in Indian States during the last eight years was 13,811.
(b) Includes figures of the Kalat State in Baluchistan.

OUTPUT PER CAPITA

The following table shows the output per person employed (1) above and below ground and (2) below ground only, in certain specified countries. The figures, however, cannot be taken as giving a strictly accurate idea of the relative efficiency of the labour in the countries named. Conditions of work and the proportion of persons employed below and above ground are different in different countries. Thus, in 1920 while in the United Kingdom the workers below ground were 79 per cent. of the total number employed, in India, where



mining operations are much nearer the surface, they were 60 per cent. :-

Output of coal per capita—India and foreign countries

	Above and below ground.		Below ground only.	
	Per head.		Per head.	
	Tons.	Tons.	(a) in 1920	(a) in 1919
United States	743	232	1920	1919
United Kingdom	184	201	1913	1918
Germany	155	123	1918	1920
France	201	84	1920	1920
Belgium	123	94	1920	1920
Japan	84	94	1920	1921
India	94	162	1921	

(a) Not available.

The introduction of electric power in mines in India has lessened the cost of production, and in the not distant future electricity will be used in all mines. Further, coal-cutting by machinery, which is being done successfully in some mines, will also become general and thus increase production. But the situation will not be relieved until there are improved means of railway communication.

The output of coal per capita in India in 1921 and in the preceding four years is shown below :-

Output of coal per capita in India

	Above and below ground.		Below ground only.	
	Tons.		Tons.	
1917	108.9	173.5		
1918	108.3	171.8		
1919	111.1	177.2		
1920	94.4	157.7		
1921	93.8	161.6		

It need hardly be mentioned that the Indian miner combines agriculture with mining, and in the latter he works in a way that suits him best. Consequently, in a period of agricultural prosperity, mining labour is scarce. Other factors which cause a shortage of labour are the frequent epidemics such as cholera. The demand for labour, especially of labour that has specialised in mining, will be great when the workings in the mines get deeper.

ASSOCIATIONS OF EMPLOYEES

THE MEANING OF RECOGNITION

In the *Labour Gazette* of March and August 1922 there were articles on the recognition of associations of employees who were Government servants. The question has been frequently asked as to the meaning of recognition of an association of employees by the employer, whether that employer is (1) Government, (2) a public utility concern, such as a municipality, or (3) a private employer. The effect of recognition is to permit a joint representation by the employees in place of individual representation. It means the formal acknowledgment of the existence of an association and it means a recognised status and position in the eyes of the employer.

The effect of recognition of an association of its employees, at any rate, by Government is to permit of joint representations by the Association on matters affecting employment or service in place of the previous rule requiring all memorials and representations to be submitted individually. This is a valuable and important privilege. Resolutions passed by Associations of Government servants other than those that are recognised are not considered by the Government of Bombay. In the interests of administrative convenience such representations have of course to be submitted through the Heads of the Departments concerned. It is, moreover, always open to send a copy of any representation they wish to make direct to Government as this sometimes ensures early consideration. The recognition of an association by this Government does not, however, operate to prevent individual employees, whether members of the association or not, from presenting individual memorials.

Second Clerks' Conference

The Second Clerks' Conference was held in Bombay on the 20th January 1923, with Mr. Joseph Baptista as President. In the course of his speech Mr. Baptista pleaded for unity and for a stronger organisation among clerks. He said that there were 50,000 persons in Bombay who were eligible for membership of the Clerks' Union. The questions of the hours of work, the cost of living, the housing of clerks and a minimum salary of Rs. 60 were discussed.



INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN THE PRESIDENCY

Disputes in January .. 6

On page 50 will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during January 1923, with the number of workpeople involved, the date when the dispute began and ended, the cause and the result. The word "dispute" in the official sense means an interruption of work and it is here used in that sense as virtually synonymous with "strike". A dispute, as counted by the Labour Office, is an interruption of work involving ten or more persons and of not less than twenty-four hours' duration. Detailed statistics have been collected since 1st April 1921, the date on which the Labour Office was instituted.

Summary tables have been constructed in order to show the position at a glance. Table I shows the number, magnitude and duration of strikes in January 1923.

I.—Industrial Disputes classified by Trades

Trade.	Number of disputes in progress in January 1923.			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in January 1923.	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in January 1923.*
	Started before 1st January.	Started in January.	Total.		
Textile	1	4	5	3,148	14,628
Engineering .. .. .	..	1	1	140	280
Total, January 1923	1	5	6	3,288	14,908
Total, December 1922	2	8	10	5,016	22,806

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

There were 6 industrial disputes in January 1923, 5 of which were in cotton mills. The number of workpeople affected was about 3,000, and the working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days less workers replaced) 14,908,

Workpeople involved .. 3,288

a considerable decrease on the December 1922 statistics.

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

II.—Industrial Disputes—Results September 1922 to January 1923

	September 1922	October 1922	November 1922	December 1922	January 1923
Number of strikes and lock-outs	7	24	21	10	6
Disputes in progress at beginning	2	2	8	2	1
Fresh disputes begun	5	22	13	8	5
Disputes ended	5	16	19	9	4
Disputes in progress at end	2	8	2	1	2
Number of workpeople involved	2,578	9,817	15,206	5,016	3,288
Aggregate duration in working days	20,709	62,372	60,287	22,806	14,908
Demands—					
Pay	4	5	7	6	3
Bonus .. .. .	..	14	8	3	1
Personal	1	4	3	1	..
Leave and hours .. .. .	..	..	2	..	..
Others	2	1	1	..	2
Results—					
In favour of Employees .. .. .	..	6	3	..	1
Compromised .. .. .	..	3	2	1	..
In favour of Employers	5	7	14	8	3

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

III.—Industrial Disputes

Month.	Number of strikes and lock-outs.	Aggregate duration in working days.	Proportion settled.			
			In favour of employ-ers. (Per cent.)	In favour of employ-ees. (Per cent.)	Com-pon-ent. (Per cent.)	In pro-gress. (Per cent.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
April 1921 ..	6	184,450	33	17	17	33
May 1921 ..	11	220,115	27	9	18	46
June 1921 ..	10	79,894	70	10	..	20
July 1921 ..	10	12,268	60	10	10	20
August 1921 ..	14	192,001	36	36	7	21
September 1921.	21	256,498	80	10	..	10
October 1921 ..	15	231,896	27	13	27	33
November 1921.	31	62,189	25	42	19	10
December 1921.	9	26,321	78	11	11	..
January 1922 ..	17	33,389	65	18	..	17
February 1922.	12	32,087	67	8	17	8
March 1922 ..	8	306,823	75	..	25	..
April 1922 ..	15	18,352	54	13	20	13
May 1922 ..	15	54,930	80	..	7	13
June 1922 ..	10	4,250	70	20	10	..
July 1922 ..	14	58,809	93	..	..	7
August 1922 ..	13	87,929	62	15	8	15
September 1922.	7	20,709	71	..	..	29
October 1922 ..	24	62,372	29	25	13	33
November 1922.	21	60,287	67	14	10	9
December 1922.	10	22,806	80	..	10	10
January 1923 ..	6	14,908	50	17	..	33
Total or (cols. 4 to 7) Average	299	2,044,017	59	13	11	17

A General Review of Disputes

During January there were six disputes in the Presidency, of which five were in the cotton mill industry. Three of these disputes were on account of the question of pay and one on account of the question of payment of the yearly bonus. The majority of disputes during the month were settled in favour of the

employers. The situation in regard to industrial disputes was distinctly quieter than in previous months as will be seen from Table III on this page.

BOMBAY

The strike in the Madhowji Dhatrasai Mill, Bombay, which began on the 18th December 1922 on account of the spinners' demand for an increase in wages, ended on the 9th January 1923. It occasioned a lock-out in the whole mill for about 15 days. The strikers ultimately resumed work unconditionally. In the Gold Mohur Mill the weavers struck work as they were against the introduction of payment by piece work instead of fixed monthly wages, since the machinery was alleged to be too new to give a good outturn. The strikers were paid off, and new hands engaged instead. There was a similar strike last month in the same mill for the same reason with no better result. The workers in the Mathradas Engineering Works, DeLisle Road, went on strike for payment of a yearly bonus, but resumed work peacefully after a couple of days.

AHMEDABAD

There were two strikes in Ahmedabad, both in the Asarwa Mills Company. The first strike lasted from 25th to 27th January 1923 in the Winding Department. The men complained about the supply of bad yarn, and resumed work on the management promising good yarn. As good yarn was, however, not supplied, the weavers again went on strike on the 30th January 1923. The latter strike was in progress at the end of January 1923.

REST OF THE PRESIDENCY

The workers in the Raja Bahadur Motilal Mills, Poona, went on strike at the end of the last month over the question of reduction of the high prices' allowance from 70 and 80 per cent. to 20 and 30 per cent. respectively, and refusal to pay the annual bonus on 27th January 1923.

Disputes in Other Provinces

In Madras there were two disputes during December 1922 and January 1923. The first strike broke out in the Chittivalsa (Vizagapatam District) jute mills on 6th December 1922 and ended on 14th December 1922. The management dismissed some workers who were in the

habit of arriving late and leaving early. The dismissed men intimidated the rest of the workers who struck work. The strike, however, ended on the 14th December 1922 as the men returned to work unconditionally. The number of work people affected was 632 (directly) and 176 (indirectly). The second strike was in the Army Clothing Factory, Madras. The men working on contract wages used to start work at any time between 7 and 9 a.m. But on the 9th January 1923, the assistant officer is reported to have ill-treated a tailor who came to work after 8 a.m. with the result that all the 300 tailors struck work. The strike lasted only for 2 hours and the men returned to work on the Superintendent giving them the usual concession.

In the Punjab there was a strike in an Oriental Rug Manufactory at Amritsar. About 240 workmen (out of a total of 300) struck work on 21st January 1923 as they wanted certain concessions in regard to their pay. About 40 men returned to work unconditionally on the 25th January and the remainder are expected to return shortly.

THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

DISCUSSION IN THE CENTRAL LEGISLATURE

Among the Conventions and Recommendations of the Third International Labour Conference which came up for discussion before both the Houses of the Central Legislature were (1) the draft Convention relating to Workmen's Compensation in agriculture, (2) the Recommendation concerning social insurance in agriculture and (3) the Recommendations concerning the protection before and after childbirth of women wage-earners in agriculture, the night work of women, children and young persons and the living in conditions of agricultural workers. Identical resolutions were moved in both the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State.

Workmen's Compensation in Agriculture

In regard to the Draft Convention relating to Workmen's Compensation in agriculture and the Recommendation concerning social insurance, Mr. D. T. Chadwick moved in the Council of State that no action be taken. He said that agricultural labourers in India are

not exposed to such dangers as they are in foreign countries and it was considered advisable to hold up the ratification till the Government was satisfied that Workmen's Compensation could be extended to agricultural labourers. Mr. A. H. Ley moved an identical resolution in the Legislative Assembly.

The Case of Plantations

The Rt. Hon. V. S. Sastri in the Council of State and Mr. N. M. Joshi in the Assembly moved amendments recommending an Enquiry as to what action was practicable and necessary in these matters in the case of organised plantations like those of rubber, tea and sugar. Mr. Sastri laid stress on the fact that India should ratify promptly the conventions of the International Labour Conferences on the ground that India, being admitted to the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, should try to meet with the wishes of the International Labour Organisation. Mr. Joshi pointed out that this convention was only an extension of the provision in the Assam Labour and Emigration Act by which employers on plantations were required to make provision against sickness of the workmen. Mr. Chadwick in the Council of State in opposing Mr. Sastri's amendment pointed out the impracticability of ratification, as the acceptance of the amendment would prejudice the Bill on Workmen's Compensation that was under discussion. The amendments were lost and the original motion was carried.

Protection of Women and Child workers in Agriculture

Similarly, in regard to the protection of women and child workers, a resolution was moved in both the Houses to the effect that no action be taken on the Recommendations. Mr. Chadwick moved the following resolution in the Council of State: "This Council having considered the recommendations concerning the protection before and after childbirth of women wage-earners in agriculture, the night work of women, children and young persons employed in agriculture, and the living in conditions of agricultural workers adopted by the Third Session of the International Labour Conference at Geneva in 1921, recommends to the Governor-General that legislation to secure their enforcement should not be introduced at the present time."



Mr. Chadwick pointed out how these Recommendations were applicable to countries where agricultural organisations were different from those in India. Mr. Sastri brought in an amendment recommending an Enquiry. Speaking on the same Resolution in the Assembly, Mr. Joshi moved an addition to the resolution providing that so far as organised plantations were concerned the Government should consider the introduction of legislation. The Hon'ble Mr. A. C. Chatterjee showed how Government had not been idle in ameliorating the conditions of labour and said that many planters had already adopted some of the proposals of the International Conferences. The enforcement of the law advocated by Mr. Joshi was impracticable. The amendments were lost in both the Houses and the original resolution was carried.

RECRUITMENT OF INDIAN SEAMEN

VIEWS OF THE BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In connection with the Draft Convention for providing facilities for finding employment for seamen adopted by the International Labour Conference held in Genoa in 1920, the Indian Legislature recommended an immediate examination into the methods of recruitment of seamen at the different ports in India. The main recommendations of the Committee appointed by the Government of India, in March last, were published on page 31 of the *Labour Gazette* for June 1922. Since then, the matter has been discussed by both the Bombay and Bengal Chambers of Commerce in order to secure uniformity in the procedure at all Indian ports where crews were engaged.

The Bombay Chamber of Commerce has informed the Government of Bombay that in the event of the recommendations of the Recruitment Committee eventually being adopted, they are prepared to express their agreement with certain of the Committee's recommendations to the extent indicated below:—

- (1) They concur in the suggestion that the Broker system should be abolished.
- (2) They consider that a Central Bureau should be established in each port.

(3) They support the proposal that the employment of crews should be on the roster system, and that separate rosters should be maintained for each shipping company if so desired.

(4) They concur in the suggestion that advances to the men should be paid, and risk through desertion should be undertaken by licensed shroffs.

(5) They are strongly in favour of the institution of Homes for Indian Seamen in the principal ports.

(6) They are emphatically opposed to the formation of Advisory Committees either at the moment or in the future.

(7) They desire, however, to place on record their opinion that in no circumstances should any revision of the existing system in Bombay be of such a nature as to involve the shipping companies concerned in any additional expense.

The views stated above were communicated to the Government of Bombay while the Chamber was still in communication with certain shipping companies whose interests were not confined to this port; and since they were still in correspondence with their principals on the subject, the Chamber's views are subject to modification.

Committee on Indian Mercantile Marine

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The following are the terms of reference of the Committee appointed by the Government of India on the Indian Mercantile Marine.

They are to consider what measures can usefully be taken (1) for the liberal recruitment of Indians as Deck or Executive Officers and Engineers in the Royal Indian Marine; (2) for the establishment of a Nautical College in Indian waters for the purpose of training Executive Officers and Engineers of ships; (3) for ensuring the entertainment of Indian apprentices for training as such Officers and Engineers in the ships owned by shipping firms that enjoy any subsidy or other benefits from Government on any account, and for the creation of an adequate number of state scholarships for providing instruction in Nautical Colleges and training ships in England, pending the formation of a Nautical College in India; (4) for the encouragement of ship-building and of the growth of an Indian Mercantile Marine by a system of bounties, subsidies and such other measures as have been adopted in Japan; (5) for the acquisition of training ships by gift from the Imperial Government or otherwise and (6) for the construction of the necessary dockyards and engineering workshops in one or more ports.



WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION LEGISLATION

Bill as passed by the Legislative Assembly

The following is the text of the Bill on Workmen's Compensation as passed by the Legislative Assembly:—

A Bill to provide for the payment by certain classes of employers to their workmen of compensation for injury by accident.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the payment by certain classes of employers to their workmen of compensation for injury by accident; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. *Short title, extent and commencement.*—(1) This Act may be called the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1924.

(2) It extends to the whole of British India, including British Baluchistan and the Sonthal Parganas.

(3) It shall come into force on the first day of July, 1924.

2. *Definitions.*—(1) In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(a) "adult" and "minor" mean respectively a person who is not and a person who is under the age of fifteen years;

(b) "Commissioner" means a Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation appointed under section 20;

(c) "compensation" means compensation as provided for by this Act;

(d) "dependant" means any of the following relatives of a deceased workman, namely, a wife, husband, parent, minor son, minor daughter, minor brother or unmarried sister, and includes the minor children of a deceased son of the workman and, where no parent of the workman is alive, a paternal grand-parent;

(e) "employer" includes any body of persons whether incorporated or not and any managing agent of an employer and the legal representative of a deceased employer, and, when the services of a workman are temporarily lent or let on hire to another person by the person with whom the workman has entered into a contract of service or apprenticeship, means such other person while the workman is working for him;

(f) "managing agent" means any person appointed or acting as the representative of another person or body of persons whether incorporated or not for the purpose of carrying on such other person's trade or business, but does not include an individual manager subordinate to an employer;

(g) "partial disablement" means, where the disablement is of a temporary nature, such disablement as reduces the earning capacity of a workman in any employment in which he was engaged at the time of the accident resulting in the disablement, and, where the disablement is of a permanent nature, such disablement as reduces his earning capacity in every employment which he was capable of undertaking at that time; provided that every injury specified in Schedule I shall be deemed to result in permanent partial disablement;

(h) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(i) "qualified medical practitioner" means any person registered under the Medical Act, 1858 (21 and 22 Vict. c. 90) or any Act amending the same, or under any Act of any Legislature in British India providing for the maintenance of a register of medical practitioners, or, in any area where no such last-mentioned Act is in force, any person declared by the Local Government, by notification in the local official Gazette, to be a qualified medical practitioner for the purposes of this Act;

(j) "registered ship" means any sea-going ship registered under the Bombay Coasting Vessels Act, 1838 (XIX of 1838), or the Indian Registration of Ships Act, 1841 (X of 1841), or the Indian Registration of Ships Act (1841) Amendment Act, 1850 (XI of 1850), or any home-trade ship so registered of a registered tonnage of not less than three hundred tons, or any inland steam-vessel as defined in section 2 of the Inland Steam Vessels Act, 1917 (I of 1917), of a registered tonnage of not less than one hundred tons;

(k) "seaman" means any person forming part of the crew of any registered ship, but does not include the master of any such ship;

(l) "total disablement" means such disablement, whether of a temporary or permanent nature, as incapacitates a workman for all work which he was capable of performing at the time of the accident resulting in such disablement; provided that permanent total disablement shall be deemed to result from the permanent total loss of the sight of both eyes or from any combination of injuries specified in Schedule I where the aggregate percentage of the loss of earning capacity, as specified in that Schedule against those injuries, amounts to one hundred per cent.



CHAPTER II

WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION

(a) "wages" includes any privilege or benefit which is capable of being estimated in money, other than a travelling allowance or the value of any travelling concession or a contribution paid by the employer of a workman towards any pension or provident fund or a sum paid to a workman to cover any special expenses entailed on him by the nature of his employment;

(b) "workman" means any person (other than a person whose employment is of a casual nature and who is employed otherwise than for the purposes of the employer's trade or business) who—

(i) a railway servant as defined in section 3 of the Indian Railways Act, 1859 (IX of 1859), not permanently employed in any administrative, district or sub-divisional office of a railway and not employed in any such capacity as is specified in Schedule III, or

(ii) employed, either by way of manual labour or on monthly wages not exceeding three hundred rupees, in any such capacity as is specified in Schedule III,

whether the contract of employment was made before or after the passing of this Act and whether such contract is expressed or implied, oral or in writing; but does not include any person working in the capacity of a member of the Madras Army, military or air forces or of the Royal Indian Marine Services; and any reference to a workman who has been injured shall, where the workman is dead, include a reference to his dependants or any of them.

(2) The service and performance of the powers and duties of a local authority or of any department of the Government shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to be a trade or business of such authority or department.

(3) The *Commissioner-General* in Council after giving due notice in the *Gazette of India*, not less than a like notice of his intention so to do, may, by Act shall apply in the case of any person (other than a person whose employment is of a casual nature and who is employed otherwise than for the purposes of the employer's trade or business) who is employed by way of manual labour or on monthly wages not exceeding three hundred rupees in any occupation declared by such notification to be a hazardous occupation, or that the said provisions shall apply in the case of any specified class of such persons or in the case of any such person or class to whom any specified injury is caused; and any person in whose case the said provisions are so made applicable shall be deemed to be a workman within the meaning of this Act.

2. Employer's liability for compensation.

(1) If personal injury is caused to a workman by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, his employer shall be liable to pay compensation, according to the provisions of this Chapter. Provided that the employer shall not be so liable—

(a) in respect of any injury which does not result in the total or partial disablement of the workman for a period exceeding ten days;

(b) in respect of any injury to a workman resulting from an accident which is directly attributable to the workman having been at the time thereof under the influence of drink or drugs; or

(c) the willful disobedience of the workman to an order expressly given, or to a rule expressly framed, for the purpose of securing the safety of workmen, or

(d) the willful removal or disregard by the workman of any safety guard or other device which he knew to have been provided for the purpose of securing the safety of workmen; or

(e) except in the case of death or permanent total disablement, in respect of any workman employed in the construction, repair or demolition of a building or bridge.

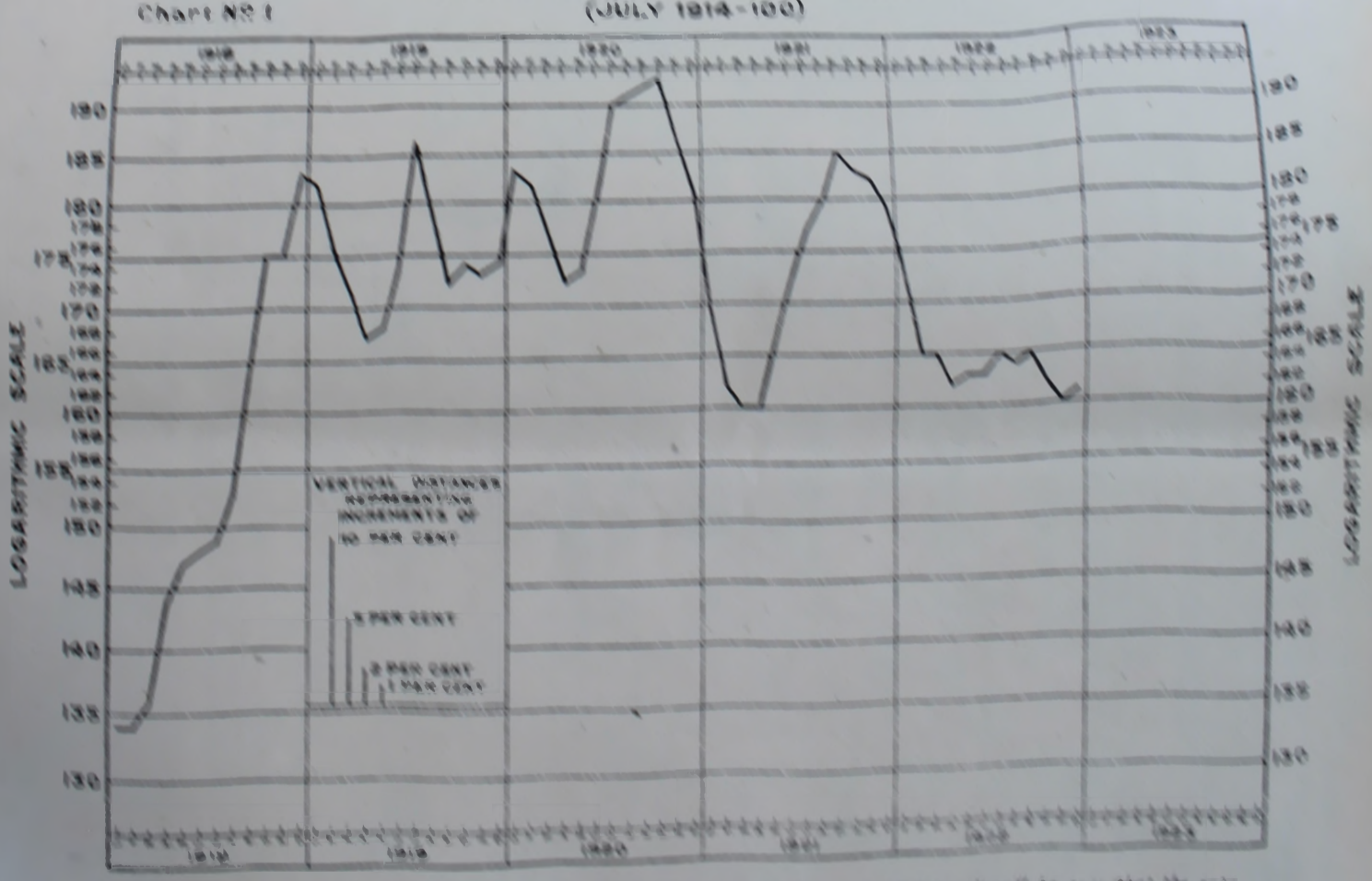
(2) If a workman employed in any employment involving the handling of wool, hair, cotton, jute, or other man-made fibres, or in any other employment in which he has been employed for a continuous period of not less than six months in any employment specified in Schedule III, contracts any disease specified therein as an occupational disease peculiar to that employment, the contracting of the disease shall be deemed to be an injury by accident within the meaning of this section and, unless the employer proves the contrary, the accident shall be deemed to have arisen out of and in the course of the employment.

Explanation.—If for the purposes of this sub-section a period of service shall be deemed to be continuous which has not included a period of service under any other employer.

(3) The *Commissioner-General* in Council after giving due notice in the *Gazette of India*, not less than a like notice, may, by Act shall apply in the case of any person (other than a person whose employment is of a casual nature and who is employed otherwise than for the purposes of the employer's trade or business) who is employed by way of manual labour or on monthly wages not exceeding three hundred rupees in any occupation declared by such notification to be a hazardous occupation, or that the said provisions shall apply in the case of any specified class of such persons or in the case of any such person or class to whom any specified injury is caused; and any person in whose case the said provisions are so made applicable shall be deemed to be a workman within the meaning of this Act.

(4) The *Commissioner-General* in Council after giving due notice in the *Gazette of India*, not less than a like notice, may, by Act shall apply in the case of any person (other than a person whose employment is of a casual nature and who is employed otherwise than for the purposes of the employer's trade or business) who is employed by way of manual labour or on monthly wages not exceeding three hundred rupees in any occupation declared by such notification to be a hazardous occupation, or that the said provisions shall apply in the case of any specified class of such persons or in the case of any such person or class to whom any specified injury is caused; and any person in whose case the said provisions are so made applicable shall be deemed to be a workman within the meaning of this Act.

COST OF LIVING IN BOMBAY RATIO OR LOGARITHMIC CHART (JULY 1914=100)



Note: This chart is intended to show the proportional increase in the cost of living in Bombay since July 1914. The vertical axis is logarithmic and the horizontal axis is linear. The index is set at 100 in July 1914. The chart shows a general upward trend with some fluctuations, reaching approximately 155 by July 1925.

PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON 1922.

CHART No. 2.

F Fair. N Normal. EX Excess.

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

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

NOTES.

1. Within the wet season, the whiter the chart, the better the season. Red areas indicate deficient, and black areas - excessive rain.
2. Excess - More than 120 per cent of the normal.
Normal - 80-120 per cent of the normal.
Fair - 40-79 per cent of the normal.
Scanty - Less than 40 per cent of the normal.
3. The zigzag lines give the approximate dates of the normal annual setting in and withdrawal of the Monsoon, and are based on information supplied by the Director-General of Observatories. Lettering outside the green lines is omitted as rainfall in these places is less important. Within the green lines (i.e. the Monsoon) the third successive and following "EX" squares and the second successive and following "S" squares are hatched.
4. As the Monsoon is of little or no importance in Sind, both the rise in the Indus above the fair irrigating level and the rainfall are shown. The date of the normal rise is in the First week of June and of the normal fall the last week of September.

PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON 1921

CHART No. 3

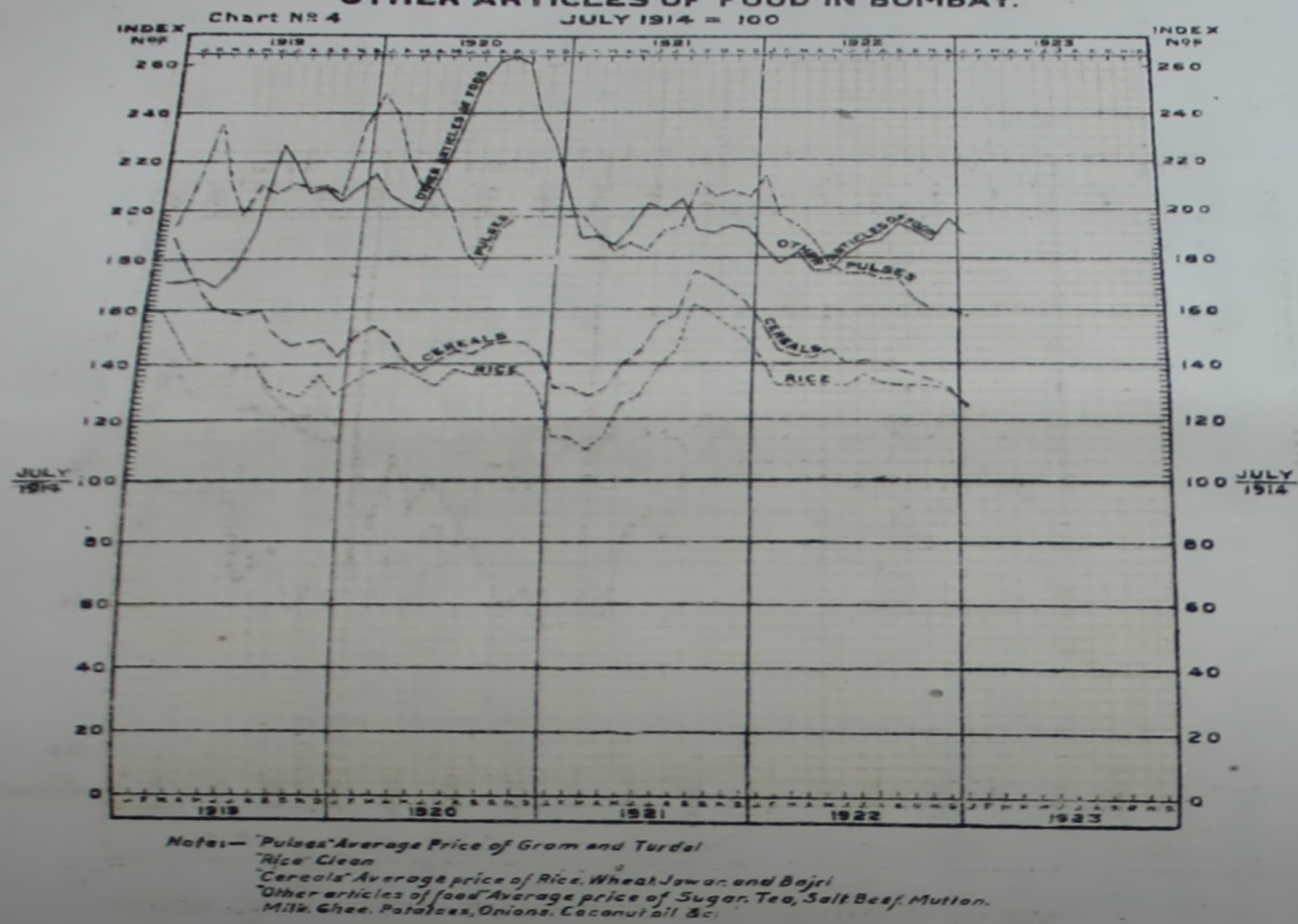
Abbreviations:- S Scanty F Fair N Normal EX Excess.

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

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

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

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



COST OF LIVING INDEXES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

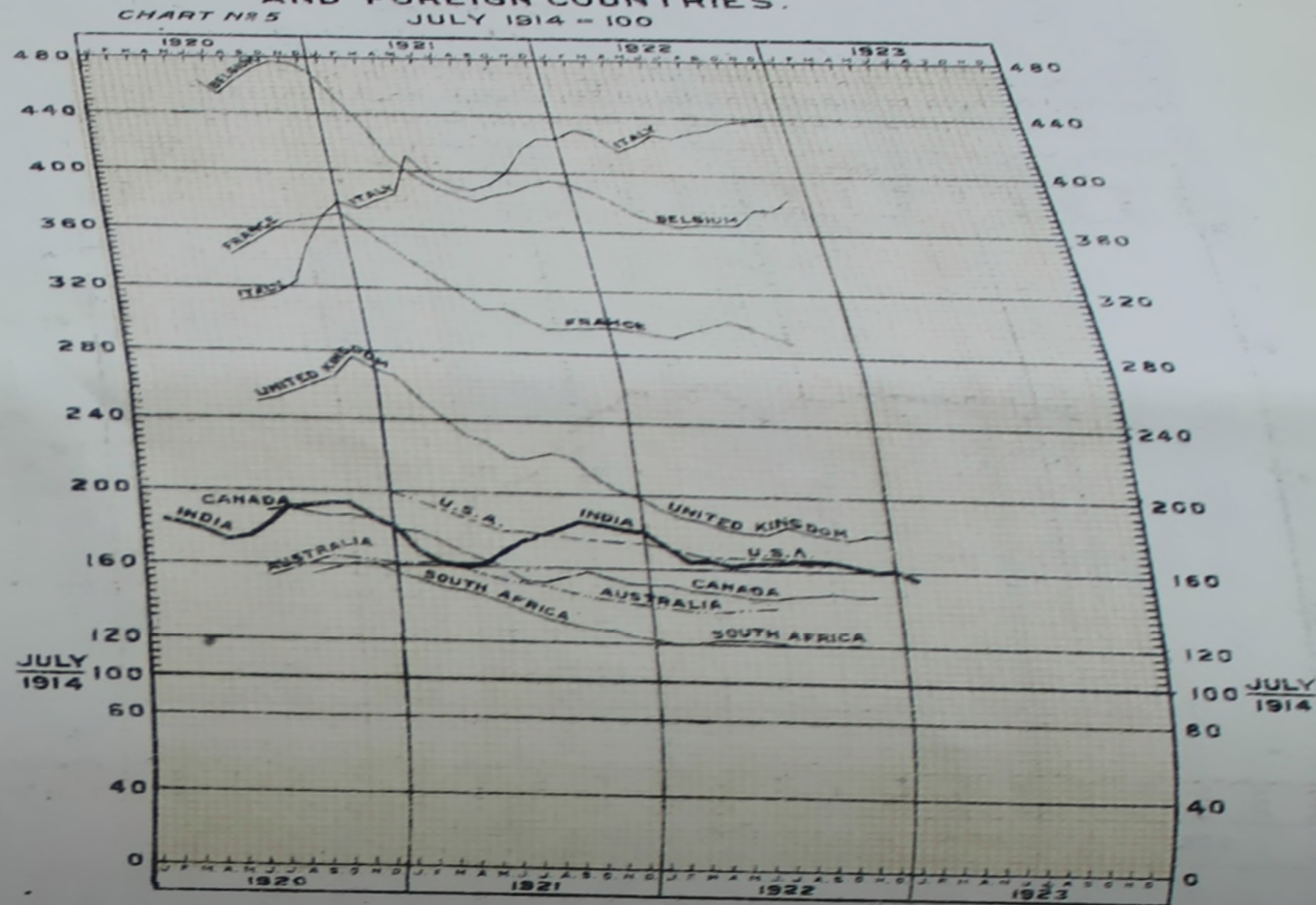


CHART No. 6.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—INDIA.

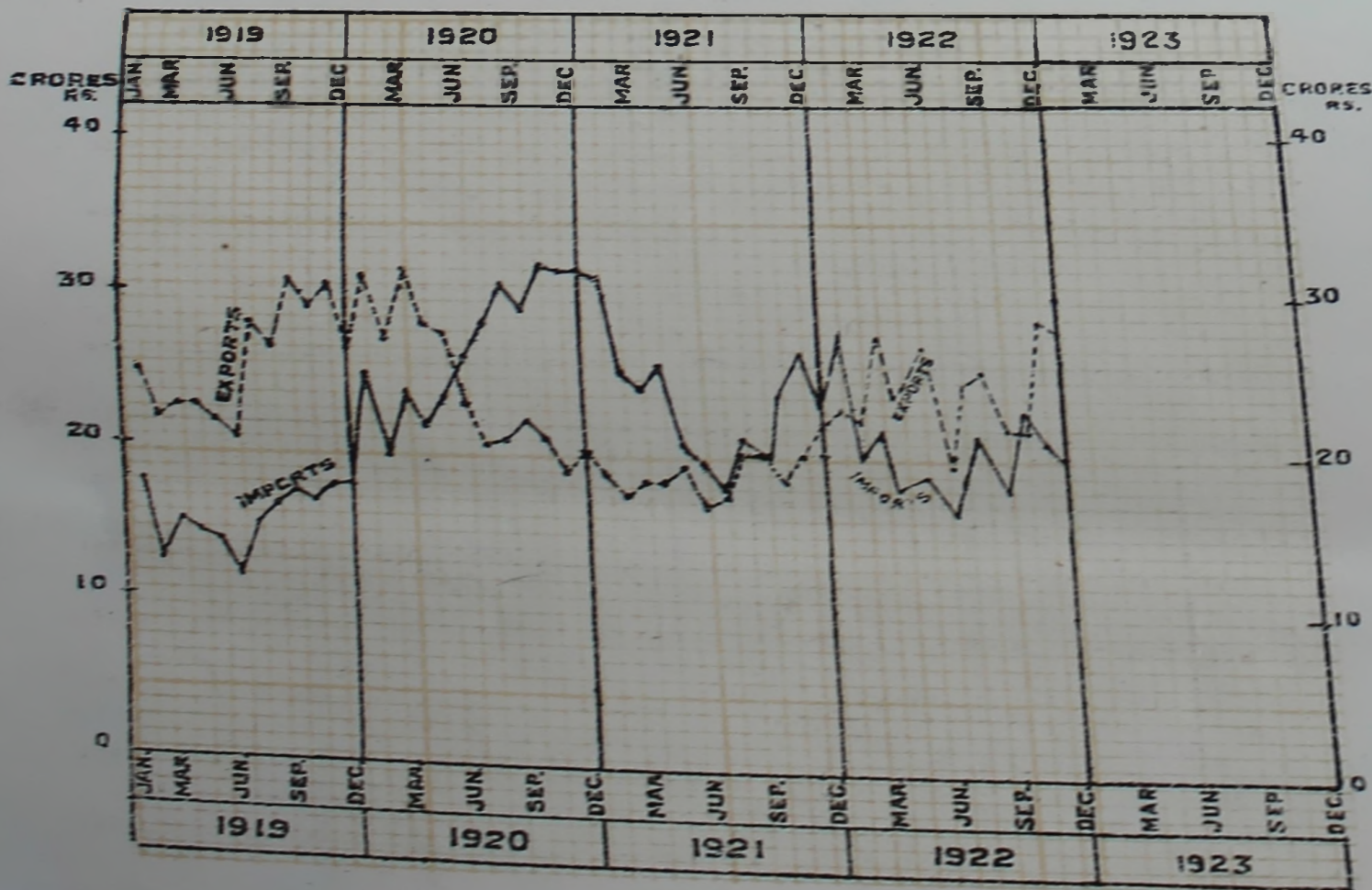
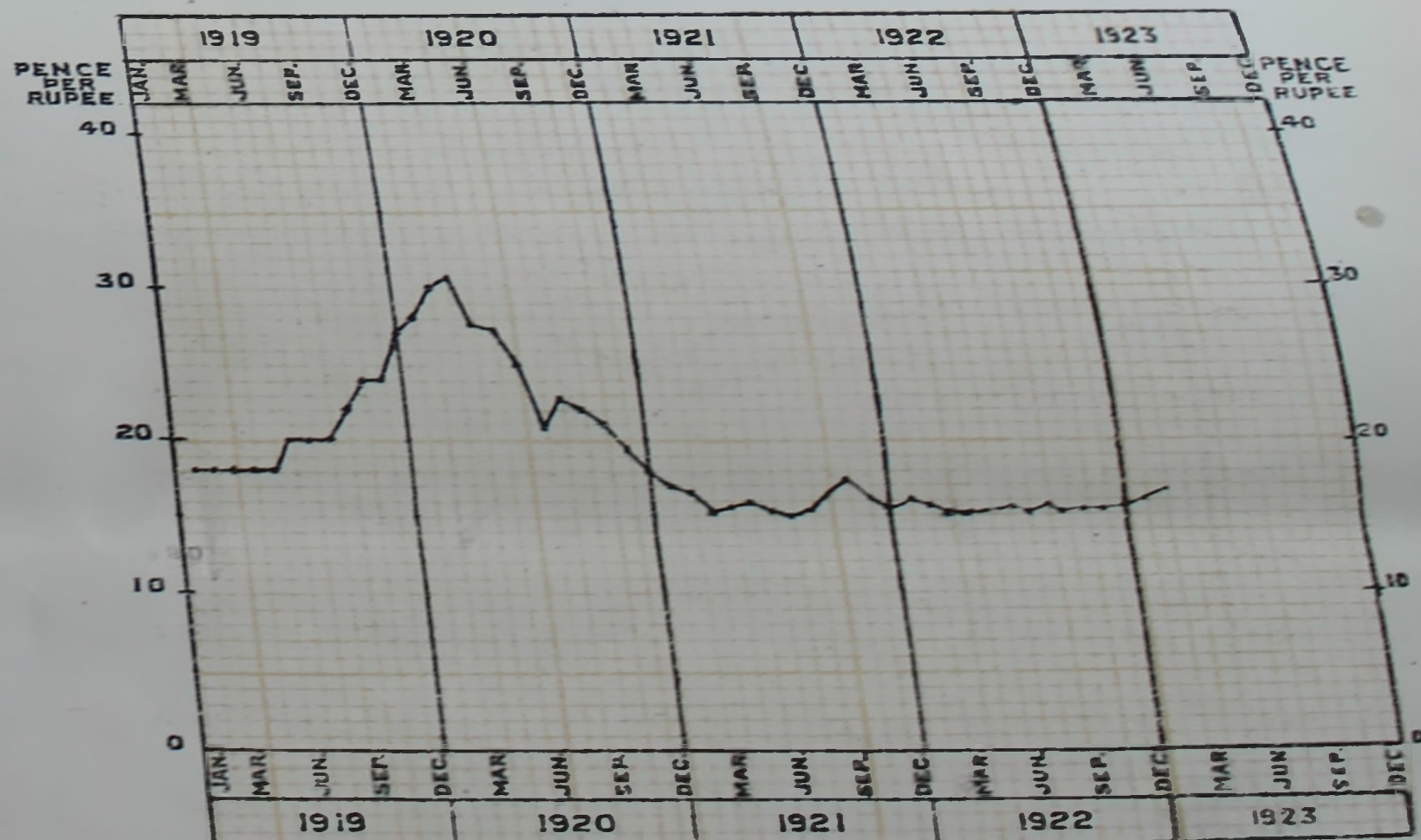


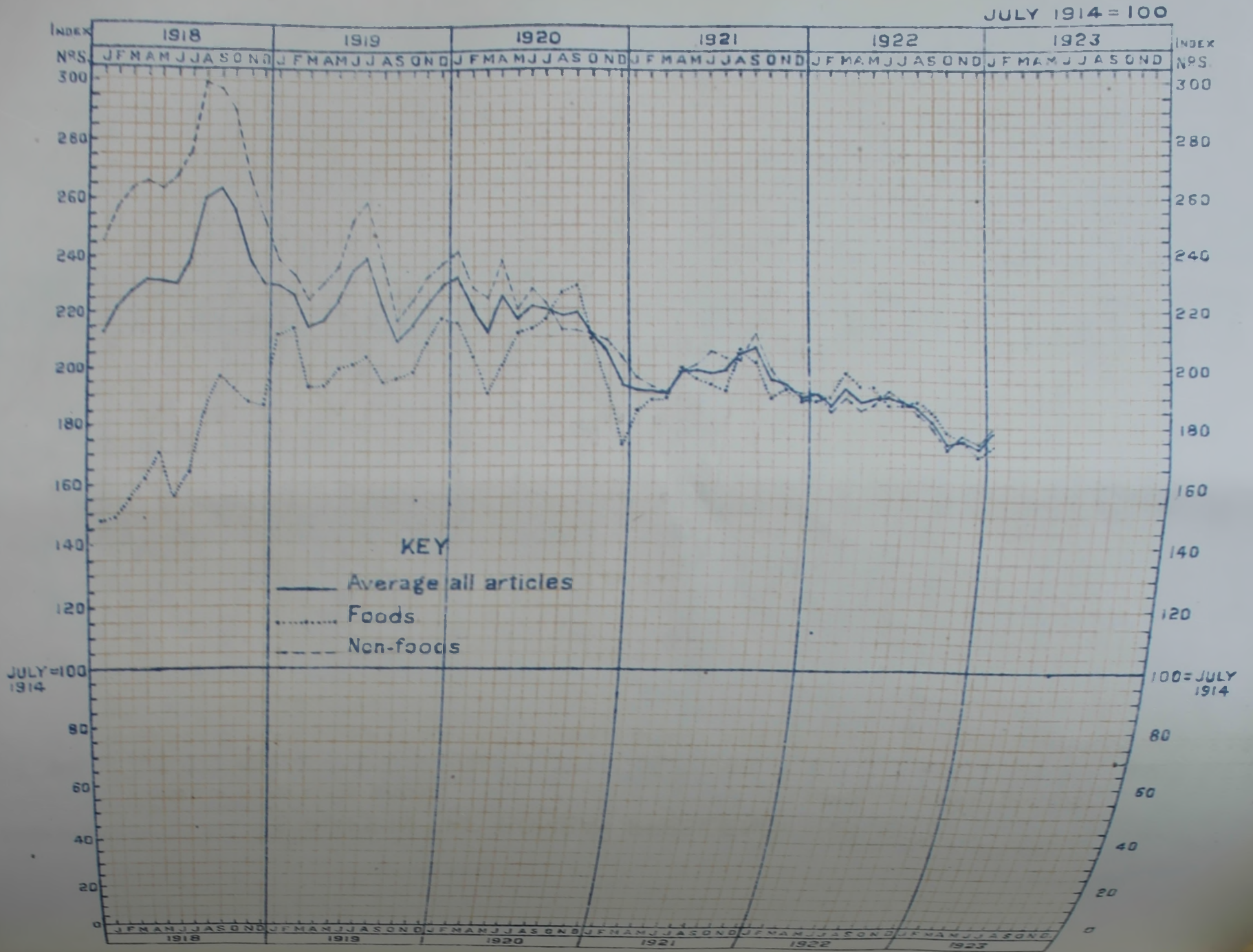
CHART No. 7.

RATE OF EXCHANGE IN BOMBAY.

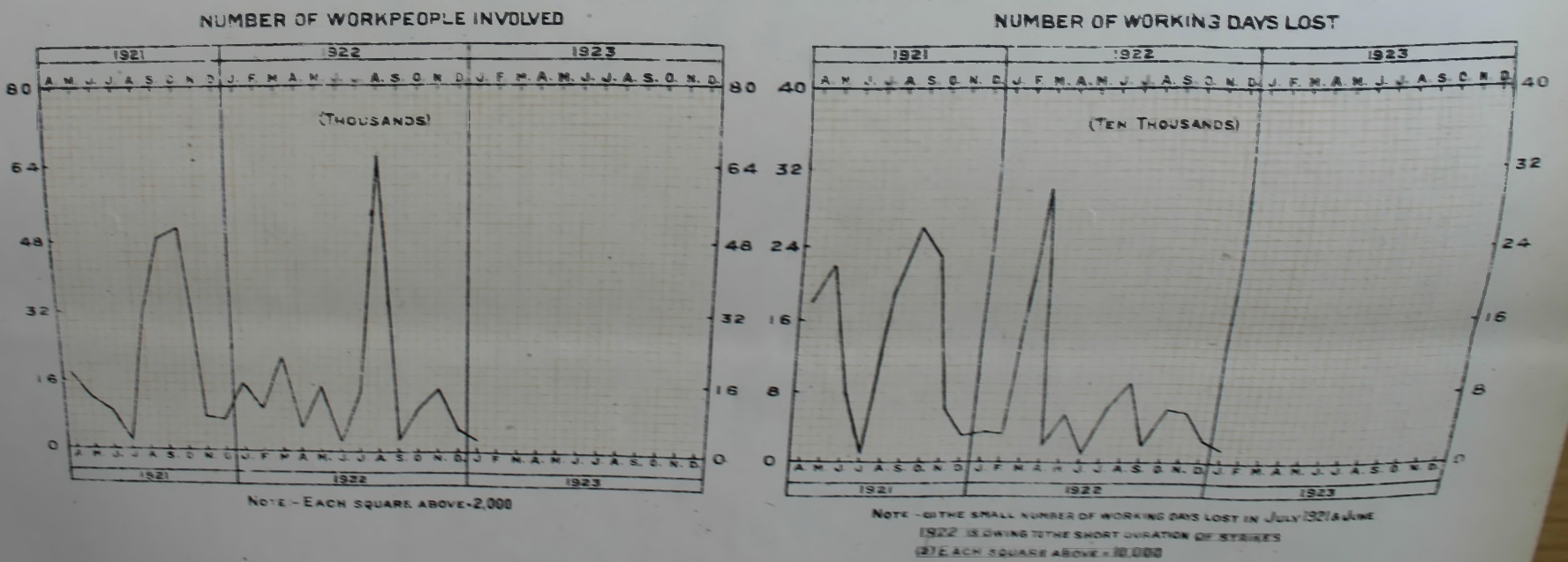


NOTE. (1) The reason for the fall of Exchange will be evident from the preceding chart. When the balance of trade is adverse (imports greater than exports) Exchange also tends to be adverse from India's point of view. This is the Telegraphic Transfer rate on London.
(2) Each square equals 1 penny.

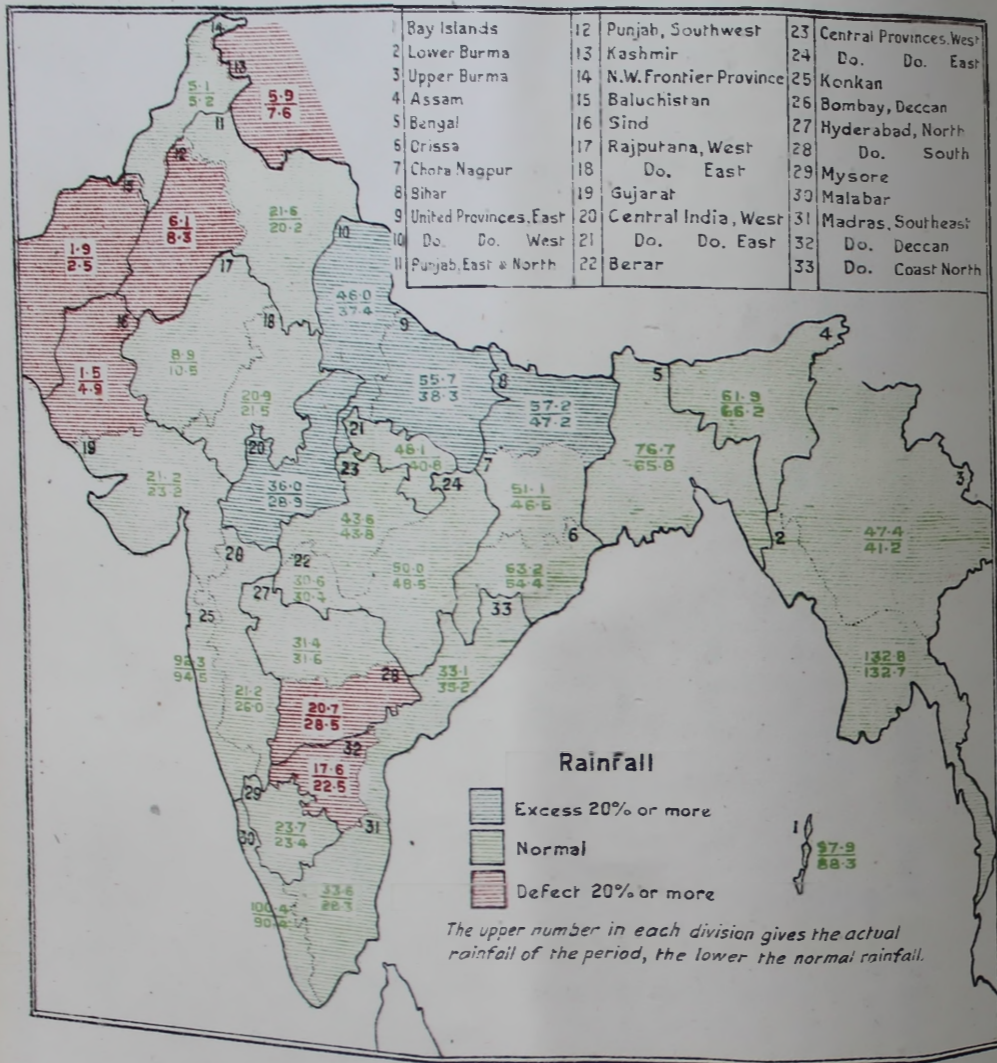
WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY FOODS & NONFOODS



STRIKES IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY 1921-1923.



RAINFALL FOR THE PERIOD, JUNE TO NOVEMBER, 1922.



(4) Save as provided by sub-sections (2) and (3), no compensation shall be payable to a workman in respect of any disease unless the disease is solely and directly attributable to a specific injury by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment.

(5) Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to confer any right to compensation on a workman in respect of any injury, if he has instituted in a Civil Court a suit for damages in respect of the injury against the employer or any other person; and no suit for damages shall be maintainable by a workman in any Court of law in respect of any injury—

- (a) if he has instituted a claim to compensation in respect of the injury before a Commissioner; or
- (b) if an agreement has been come to between the workman and his employer providing for the payment of compensation in respect of the injury in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

4. Amount of compensation.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the amount of compensation shall be as follows, namely:—

A. Where death results from the injury—

- (i) in the case of an adult, a sum equal to thirty months' wages or two thousand five hundred rupees, whichever is less, and
- (ii) in the case of a minor, two hundred rupees;

B. Where permanent total disablement results from the injury—

- (i) in the case of an adult, a sum equal to forty-two months' wages or three thousand five hundred rupees, whichever is less, and
- (ii) in the case of a minor, a sum equal to eighty-four months' wages or three thousand five hundred rupees, whichever is less;

C. Where permanent partial disablement results from the injury—

- (i) in the case of an injury specified in Schedule I, such percentage of the compensation which would have been payable in the case of permanent total disablement as is specified therein as being the percentage of the loss of earning capacity caused by that injury, and
- (ii) in the case of an injury not specified in Schedule I, such percentage of the compensation payable in the case of permanent total disablement as is proportionate to the loss of earning capacity permanently caused by the injury;

Explanation.—Where more injuries than one are caused by the same accident, the amount of compensation payable under this head shall be aggregated but not so in any case as to exceed the amount which would have been payable if permanent total disablement had resulted from the injuries.

D. Where temporary disablement, whether total or partial, results from the injury, a half-monthly

payment payable on the sixteenth day after the expiry of a waiting period of ten days from the date of the disablement, and thereafter half-monthly during the disablement or during a period of five years, whichever period is shorter,—

(i) in the case of an adult, of fifteen rupees or a sum equal to one-fourth of his monthly wages, whichever is less, and

(ii) in the case of a minor, of a sum equal to one-third or, after he has attained the age of fifteen years, to one-half of his monthly wages, but not exceeding in any case fifteen rupees:

Provided that there shall be deducted from any lump sum or half-monthly payments to which the workman is entitled the amount of any payment or allowance which the workman has received from the employer by way of compensation during the period of disablement prior to the receipt of such lump sum or of the first half-monthly payment, as the case may be, and no half-monthly payment shall in any case exceed the amount, if any, by which half the amount of the monthly wages of the workman before the accident exceeds half the amount of such wages which he is earning after the accident.

(2) On the ceasing of the disablement before the date on which any half-monthly payment falls due, there shall be payable in respect of that half-month a sum proportionate to the duration of the disablement in that half-month.

5. Method of calculating wages.—For the purposes of section 4 the monthly wages of a workman shall be calculated as follows, namely:—

(a) where the workman has, during a continuous period of not less than twelve months immediately preceding the accident, been in the service of the employer who is liable to pay compensation, the monthly wages of the workman shall be one-twelfth of the total wages which have fallen due for payment to him by the employer in the last twelve months of that period;

(b) in other cases, the monthly wages shall be thirty times the total wages earned in respect of the last continuous period of service immediately preceding the accident from the employer who is liable to pay compensation, divided by the number of days comprising such period;

Provided that the sum arrived at by a calculation under clause (a) or clause (b) shall be increased or decreased, as the case may be, to the amount specified in the second column of Schedule IV against the head specified in the first column thereof within the limits of which such sum is included.

Explanation.—A period of service shall, for the purposes of this section, be deemed to be continuous which has not been interrupted by a period of absence from work exceeding fourteen days.



6. *Review.*—(1) Any half-monthly payment payable under this Act, either under an agreement between the parties or under the order of a Commissioner, may be reviewed by the Commissioner on the application either of the employer or of the workman accompanied by the certificate of a qualified medical practitioner that there has been a change in the condition of the workman or, subject to rules made under this Act, on application made without such certificate.

(2) Any half-monthly payment may, on review under this section, subject to the provisions of this Act, be continued, increased, decreased or ended, or, if the accident is found to have resulted in permanent disablement, be converted to the lump sum to which the workman is entitled less any amount which he has already received by way of half-monthly payments.

7. *Commutation of half-monthly payments.*—Any right to receive half-monthly payments may, by agreement between the parties, or, if the parties cannot agree and the payments have been continued for not less than six months, on the application of either party to the Commissioner, be redeemed by the payment of a lump sum of such amount as may be agreed to by the parties or determined by the Commissioner, as the case may be.

8. *Distribution of compensation.*—(1) Compensation payable in respect of a workman whose injury has resulted in death shall be deposited with the Commissioner, and any sum so deposited shall be apportioned among the dependants of the deceased workman or any of them in such proportion as the Commissioner thinks fit, or may, in the discretion of the Commissioner, be allotted to any one such dependant, and the sum so allotted to any dependant shall be paid to him, or, if he is a person under any legal disability, be invested, applied or otherwise dealt with for his benefit during such disability in such manner as the Commissioner thinks fit.

(2) Any other compensation payable under this Act may be deposited with the Commissioner and, when so deposited, shall be paid by the Commissioner to the person entitled thereto.

(3) The receipt of the Commissioner shall be a sufficient discharge in respect of any amount deposited with him under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2).

(4) On the deposit of any money under sub-section (1), the Commissioner may deduct therefrom the actual cost of the workman's funeral expenses, to an amount not exceeding fifty rupees, and pay the same to the person by whom such expenses were incurred, and shall, if he thinks necessary, cause notice to be published or to be served on each dependant in such manner as he thinks fit, calling upon the dependants to appear before him on such date as he may fix for determining the distribution of the compensation. If the Commissioner is satisfied, after any inquiry

which he may deem necessary, that no dependant exists, he shall repay the balance of the money to the employer by whom it was paid. The Commissioner shall, on application by the employer, furnish a statement showing in detail all disbursements made.

(5) Where a half-monthly payment is payable under this Act to a person under any legal disability, the Commissioner may, of his own motion or on application made to him in this behalf, order that the half-monthly payment be paid during the disability to any dependant of the workman or to any other person whom he thinks best fitted to provide for the welfare of the workman.

(6) Where, on application made to him in this behalf or otherwise, the Commissioner is satisfied that, on account of neglect of children on the part of a parent or on account of the variation of the circumstances of any dependant or for any other sufficient cause, an order of the Commissioner as to the distribution of any sum paid as compensation or as to the manner in which any sum payable to any such dependant is to be invested, applied or otherwise dealt with, ought to be varied, the Commissioner may make such orders for the variation of the former order as he thinks just in the circumstances of the case:

Provided that no such order prejudicial to any person shall be made unless such person has been given an opportunity of showing cause why the order should not be made, or shall be made in any case in which it would involve the repayment by a dependant of any sum already paid to him.

9. *Compensation not to be assigned, attached or charged.*—Save as provided by this Act, no lump sum or half-monthly payment payable under this Act shall in any way be capable of being assigned or charged or be liable to attachment or pass to any person other than the workman by operation of law, nor shall any claim be set off against the same.

10. *Notice and claim.*—(1) No proceedings for the recovery of compensation shall be maintainable before a Commissioner unless notice of the accident has been given, in the manner hereinafter provided, as soon as practicable after the happening thereof and before the workman has voluntarily left the employment in which he was injured, and unless the claim for compensation with respect to such accident has been instituted within six months of the occurrence of the accident or, in case of death, within six months from the date of death:

Provided that, where the accident is the contracting of a disease in respect of which the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 3 are applicable, the accident shall be deemed to have occurred on the first of the days during which the workman was continuously absent from work in consequence of the disablement caused by the disease:



Provided, further, that the Commissioner may admit and decide any claim to compensation in any case notwithstanding that the notice has not been given, or the claim has not been instituted, in due time as provided in this sub-section, if he is satisfied that the failure so to give the notice or institute the claim, as the case may be, was due to sufficient cause.

(2) Every such notice shall give the name and address of the person injured and shall state in ordinary language the cause of the injury, and the date on which the accident happened, and shall be served on the employer or upon any one or several employers, or upon any person directly responsible to the employer for the management of any branch of the trade or business in which the injured workman was employed.

(3) The notice may be served by delivering the same at, or sending it by registered post addressed to, the residence or any office or place of business of the person on whom it is to be served.

11. *Medical examination.*—(1) Where a workman has given notice of an accident, he shall, if the employer, before the expiry of three days from the time at which service of the notice has been effected, offers to have him examined free of charge by a qualified medical practitioner, submit himself for such examination, and any workman who is in receipt of a half-monthly payment under this Act shall, if so required, submit himself for such examination from time to time:

Provided that a workman shall not be required to submit himself for examination by a medical practitioner otherwise than in accordance with rules made under this Act, or at more frequent intervals than may be prescribed.

(2) If a workman, on being required to do so by the employer under sub-section (1) or by the Commissioner at any time, refuses to submit himself for examination by a qualified medical practitioner or in any way obstructs the same, his right to compensation shall be suspended during the continuance of such refusal or obstruction unless, in the case of refusal, he was prevented by any sufficient cause from so submitting himself.

(3) If a workman, before the expiry of the period within which he is liable under sub-section (1) to be required to submit himself for medical examination, voluntarily leaves the vicinity of the place in which he was employed, his right to compensation shall be suspended until he returns and offers himself for such examination.

(4) Where under sub-section (2) or sub-section (3) a right to compensation is suspended, no compensation shall be payable in respect of the period of suspension, and, if the period of suspension commences

before the expiry of the waiting period referred to in clause D of sub-section (1) of section 4, the waiting period shall be increased by the period during which the suspension continues.

(5) Where an injured workman has refused to be attended by a qualified medical practitioner whose services have been offered to him by the employer free of charge or having accepted such offer has deliberately disregarded the instructions of such medical practitioner, then, if it is thereafter proved that the workman has not been regularly attended by a qualified medical practitioner and that such refusal, failure or disregard was unreasonable in the circumstances of the case and that the injury has been aggravated thereby, the injury and resulting disablement shall be deemed to be of the same nature and duration as they might reasonably have been expected to be if the workman had been regularly attended by a qualified medical practitioner, and compensation, if any, shall be payable accordingly.

12. *Contracting.*—(1) Where any person (hereinafter in this section referred to as the principal) in the course of or for the purposes of his trade or business contracts with any other person (hereinafter in this section referred to as the contractor) for the execution by or under the contractor of the whole or any part of any work which is ordinarily part of the trade or business of the principal, the principal shall be liable to pay to any workman employed in the execution of the work any compensation which he would have been liable to pay if that workman had been immediately employed by him; and where compensation is claimed from the principal, this Act shall apply as if references to the principal were substituted for references to the employer except that the amount of compensation shall be calculated with reference to the wages of the workman under the employer by whom he is immediately employed.

(2) Where the principal is liable to pay compensation under this section, he shall be entitled to be indemnified by the contractor, and all questions as to the right to and the amount of any such indemnity shall, in default of agreement, be settled by the Commissioner.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing a workman from recovering compensation from the contractor instead of the principal.

(4) This section shall not apply in any case where the accident occurred elsewhere than on, in or about the premises on which the principal has undertaken or usually undertakes, as the case may be, to execute the work or which are otherwise under his control or management.

13. *Remedies of employer against stranger.*—Where a workman has recovered compensation in respect of any injury caused under circumstances creating a

legal liability of some person other than the person by whom the compensation was paid to pay damages in respect thereof, the person by whom the compensation was paid and any person who has been called on to pay an indemnity under section 12 shall be entitled to be indemnified by the person so liable to pay damages as aforesaid.

14. Insolvency of employer.—(1) Where any employer has entered into a contract with any insurers in respect of any liability under this Act to any workman, then in the event of the employer becoming insolvent or making a composition or scheme of arrangement with his creditors or, if the employer is a company, in the event of the company having commenced to be wound up, the rights of the employer against the insurers as respects that liability shall, notwithstanding anything in any law for the time being in force relating to insolvency or the winding up of companies, be transferred to and vest in the workman and upon any such transfer the insurers shall have the same rights and remedies and be subject to the same liabilities as if they were the employer, so, however, that the insurers shall not be under any greater liability to the workman than they would have been under to the employer.

(2) If the liability of the insurers to the workman is less than the liability of the employer to the workman, the workman may prove for the balance in the insolvency proceedings or liquidation.

(3) Where in any case such as is referred to in sub-section (1) the contract of the employer with the insurers is void or voidable by reason of non-compliance on the part of the employer with any terms or conditions of the contract (other than a stipulation for the payment of premia), the provisions of that sub-section shall apply as if the contract were not void or voidable, and the insurers shall be entitled to prove in the insolvency proceedings or liquidation for the amount paid to the workman :

Provided that the provisions of this sub-section shall not apply in any case in which the workman fails to give notice to the insurers of the happening of the accident and of any resulting disablement as soon as practicable after he becomes aware of the institution of the insolvency or liquidation proceedings.

(4) There shall be deemed to be included among the debts which under section 49 of the Presidency-towns Insolvency Act, 1909 (III of 1909), or under section 61 of the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920 (V of 1920), or under section 230 of the Indian Companies Act, 1913 (VII of 1913), are in the distribution of the property of an insolvent or in the distribution of the assets of a company being wound up to be paid in priority to all other debts, the amount due in respect of any compensation the liability whereof accrued before the date of the order of adjudication of the insolvent or the date

of the commencement of the winding up, as the case may be, and those Acts shall have effect accordingly.

(5) Where the compensation is a half-monthly payment, the amount due in respect thereof shall, for the purposes of this section, be taken to be the amount of the lump sum for which the half-monthly payment could, if redeemable, be redeemed if application were made for that purpose under section 7, and a certificate of the Commissioner as to the amount of such sum shall be conclusive proof thereof.

(6) The provisions of sub-section (4) shall apply in the case of any amount for which an insurer is entitled to prove under sub-section (3), but otherwise those provisions shall not apply where the insolvent or the company being wound up has entered into such a contract with insurers as is referred to in sub-section (1).

(7) This section shall not apply where a company is wound up voluntarily merely for the purposes of reconstruction or of amalgamation with another company.

15. Special provisions relating to masters and seamen.—This Act shall apply in the case of workmen who are masters of registered ships or seamen subject to the following modifications, namely :—

(1) The notice of the accident and the claim for compensation may, except where the person injured is the master of the ship, be served on the master of the ship as if he were the employer, but where the accident happened and the disablement commenced on board the ship, it shall not be necessary for any seaman to give any notice of the accident.

(2) In the case of the death of a master or seaman, the claim for compensation shall be made within six months after the news of the death has been received by the claimant or, where the ship has been or is deemed to have been lost with all hands, within eighteen months of the date on which the ship was, or is deemed to have been, so lost.

(3) Where an injured master or seaman is discharged or left behind in any part of His Majesty's dominions or in a foreign country, any depositions taken by any Judge or Magistrate in that part or by any Consular Officer in the foreign country and transmitted by the person by whom they are taken to the Governor-General in Council or any Local Government shall, in any proceedings for enforcing the claim, be admissible in evidence—

(a) if the deposition is authenticated by the signature of the Judge, Magistrate or Consular Officer before whom it is made ;

(b) if the defendant or the person accused, as the case may be, had an opportunity by himself or his agent to cross-examine the witness ; and

(c) if the deposition was made in the course of a criminal proceeding, on proof that the deposition was made in the presence of the person accused ;

and it shall not be necessary in any case to prove the signature or official character of the person appearing to have signed any such deposition and a certificate by such person that the defendant or the person accused had an opportunity of cross-examining the witness and that the deposition if made in a criminal proceeding was made in the presence of the person accused shall, unless the contrary is proved, be sufficient evidence that he had that opportunity and that it was so made.

(4) In the case of the death of a master or seaman leaving no dependants, the Commissioner shall, if the owner of the ship is under any law in force for the time being in British India relating to merchant shipping liable to pay the expenses of burial of the master or seaman, return to the employer the full amount of the compensation deposited under sub-section (1) of section 8 without making the deduction referred to in sub-section (4) of that section.

(5) No monthly payment shall be payable in respect of the period during which the owner of the ship is, under any law in force for the time being in British India relating to merchant shipping liable to defray the expenses of maintenance of the injured master or seaman.

16. Returns as to compensation.—The Governor-General in Council may, by notification in the *Gazette of India* direct that every person employing workmen, or that any specified class of such persons, shall send at such time and in such form and to such authority, as may be specified in the notification, a correct return specifying the number of injuries in respect of which compensation has been paid by the employer during the previous year and the amount of such compensation, together with such other particulars as to the compensation as the Governor-General in Council may direct.

17. Contracting out.—Any contract or agreement whether made before or after the commencement of this Act, whereby a workman relinquishes any right of compensation from the employer for personal injury arising out of or in the course of the employment, shall be null and void in so far as it purports to remove or reduce the liability of any person to pay compensation under this Act.

18. Proof of age.—Where any question arises as to the age of a person injured by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment in a factory, a certificate granted in respect of such person under section 7 or section 8 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911), before the occurrence of the injury shall be conclusive proof of the age of such person.

CHAPTER III COMMISSIONERS

19. Reference to Commissioners.—(1) If any question arises in any proceedings under this Act as to the

liability of any person to pay compensation (including any question as to whether a person injured is, or is not a workman) or as to the amount or duration of compensation (including any question as to the nature or extent of disablement), the question shall, in default of agreement, be settled by the Commissioner.

(2) No Civil Court shall have jurisdiction to settle, decide or deal with any question which is by or under this Act required to be settled, decided or dealt with by a Commissioner.

20. Appointment of Commissioners.—(1) The Local Government may, by notification in the local official Gazette, appoint any person to be a Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation for such local area as may be specified in the notification.

(2) Any Commissioner may, for the purpose of deciding any matter referred to him for decision under this Act, choose one or more persons possessing special knowledge of any matter relevant to the matter under inquiry to assist him in holding the inquiry.

(3) Every Commissioner shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of the Indian Penal Code (XLV of 1860).

21. Venue of proceedings and transfer.—(1) Where any matter is under this Act to be done by or before a Commissioner, the same shall, subject to the provisions of this Act and to any rules made hereunder, be done by or before the Commissioner for the local area in which the accident took place which resulted in the injury :

Provided that, where the workman is the master of a registered ship or a seaman, any such matter may be done by or before the Commissioner for the local area in which the owner or agent of the ship resides or carries on business.

(2) If a Commissioner is satisfied by any party to any proceedings under this Act pending before him that such matter can be more conveniently dealt with by any other Commissioner, whether in the same province or not, he may, subject to rules made under this Act, order such matter to be transferred to such other Commissioner either for report or for disposal, and, if he does so, shall forthwith transmit to such other Commissioner all documents relevant for the decision of such matter and, where the matter is transferred for disposal, shall also transmit in the prescribed manner any money remaining in his hands or invested by him for the benefit of any party to the proceedings :

Provided that no matter other than a matter relating to the actual payment to a workman or the distribution among dependants of a lump sum shall be transferred for disposal under this sub-section to a Commissioner in the same province save with the previous sanction of the Local Government or to a Commissioner in another province save with the previous sanction of the



Governor-General in Council, unless all the parties to the proceedings agree to the transfer.

(3) The Commissioner to whom any matter is so transferred shall, subject to rules made under this Act, inquire thereinto and, if the matter was transferred for report, return his report thereon or, if the matter was transferred for disposal, continue the proceedings as if they had originally commenced before him.

(4) On receipt of a report from a Commissioner to whom any matter has been transferred for report under sub-section (2), the Commissioner by whom it was referred shall decide the matter referred in conformity with such report.

22. Form of application.—(1) No application for the settlement of any matter by a Commissioner shall be made unless and until some question has arisen between the parties in connection therewith which they have been unable to settle by agreement.

(2) Where any such question has arisen, the application may be made in such form and shall be accompanied by such fee, if any, as may be prescribed, and shall contain, in addition to any particulars which may be prescribed, the following particulars, namely:—

- (a) a concise statement of the circumstances in which the application is made and the relief or order which the applicant claims;
- (b) in the case of a claim for compensation against an employer, the date of service of notice of the accident on the employer and, if such notice has not been served or has not been served in due time, the reason for such omission;
- (c) the names and addresses of the parties; and
- (d) a concise statement of the matters on which agreement has and on those on which agreement has not been come to.

(3) If the applicant is illiterate or for any other reason is unable to furnish the required information in writing, the application shall, if the applicant so desires, be prepared under the direction of the Commissioner.

23. Powers and procedure of Commissioners.—The Commissioner shall have all the powers of a Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (V of 1908), for the purpose of taking evidence on oath (which such Commissioner is hereby empowered to impose) and of enforcing the attendance of witnesses and compelling the production of documents and material objects.

24. Appearance of parties.—Any appearance, application or act required to be made or done by any person before or to a Commissioner (other than an appearance of a party which is required for the purpose of his examination as a witness) may be made or done on behalf of such person by a legal practitioner or other person authorised in writing by such person.

25. Method of recording evidence.—The Commissioner shall make a brief memorandum of the substance of the evidence of every witness as the examination of the witness proceeds, and such memorandum shall be written and signed by the Commissioner with his own hand and shall form part of the record:

Provided that, if the Commissioner is prevented from making such memorandum, he shall record the reason of his inability to do so and shall cause such memorandum to be made in writing from his dictation and shall sign the same, and such memorandum shall form part of the record:

Provided, further, that the evidence of any medical witness shall be taken down as nearly as may be word for word.

26. Costs.—All costs incidental to any proceedings before a Commissioner shall, subject to rules made under this Act, be in the discretion of the Commissioner.

27. Power to submit cases.—A Commissioner may, if he thinks fit, submit any question of law for the decision of the High Court and, if he does so, shall decide the question in conformity with such decision.

28. Registration of agreements.—Where the amount of any lump sum payable as compensation has been settled by agreement, whether by way of redemption of a half-monthly payment or otherwise, or where any compensation has been so settled as being payable to a person under a legal disability or to a dependant, a memorandum thereof shall be sent by the employer to the Commissioner, who shall, on being satisfied as to its genuineness, record the memorandum in a register in the prescribed manner:

Provided that—

- (a) no such memorandum shall be recorded before seven days after communication by the Commissioner of notice to the parties concerned;
- (b) where a workman seeks to record a memorandum of agreement between his employer and himself for the payment of compensation and the employer proves that the workman has, in fact, returned to work and is earning the same wages as he did before the accident and objects to the recording of such memorandum, the memorandum shall only be recorded, if at all, on such terms as the Commissioner thinks just in the circumstances;
- (c) the Commissioner may at any time rectify the register;
- (d) where it appears to the Commissioner that an agreement as to the payment of a lump sum whether by way of redemption of a half-monthly payment or otherwise, or an agreement as to the amount of compensation payable to a person under any legal disability or to any dependant, ought not to be registered by reason of the inadequacy of the sum or amount, or by reason of the agreement having been obtained by fraud or undue



influence or other improper means, he may refuse to record the memorandum of the agreement or may make such order, including an order as to any sum already paid under the agreement, as he thinks just in the circumstances.

29. Effect of failure to register agreement.—Where a memorandum of any agreement, the registration of which is required by section 28, is not sent to the Commissioner as required by that section, the employer shall be liable to pay the full amount of compensation which he is liable to pay under the provisions of this Act, and, notwithstanding anything contained in the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 4, shall not, unless the Commissioner otherwise directs, be entitled to deduct more than half of any amount paid to the workman by way of compensation whether under the agreement or otherwise.

30. Appeals.—(1) An appeal shall lie to the High Court from the following orders of a Commissioner, namely:—

- (a) an order awarding as compensation a lump sum whether by way of redemption of a half-monthly payment or otherwise or disallowing a claim in full or in part for a lump sum;
- (b) an order refusing to allow redemption of a half-monthly payment;
- (c) an order providing for the distribution of compensation among the dependants of a deceased workman, or disallowing any claim of a person alleging himself to be such dependant;
- (d) an order allowing or disallowing any claim for the amount of an indemnity under the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 12; or
- (e) an order refusing to register a memorandum of agreement or registering the same or providing for the registration of the same subject to conditions:

Provided that no appeal shall lie against any order unless a substantial question of law is involved in the appeal and, in the case of an order other than an order such as is referred to in clause (b), unless the amount in dispute in the appeal is not less than three hundred rupees:

Provided, further, that no appeal shall lie in any case in which the parties have agreed to abide by the decision of the Commissioner, or in which the order of the Commissioner gives effect to an agreement come to by the parties.

(2) The period of limitation for an appeal under this section shall be sixty days.

(3) The provisions of section 5 of the Indian Limitation Act, 1908, shall be applicable to appeals under this section.

31. Recovery.—The Commissioner may recover as an arrear of land-revenue any amount payable by

any person under this Act, and the Commissioner shall be deemed to be a public officer within the meaning of section 5 of the Revenue Recovery Act, 1890 (1 of 1890).

CHAPTER IV RULES

32. Power of the Governor-General in Council to make rules.—(1) The Governor-General in Council may make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

- (a) for prescribing the intervals at which and the conditions subject to which an application for review may be made under section 6 when not accompanied by a medical certificate;
- (b) for prescribing the intervals at which and the conditions subject to which a workman may be required to submit himself for medical examination under sub-section (1) of section 11;
- (c) for prescribing the procedure to be followed by Commissioners in the disposal of cases under this Act and by the parties in such cases;
- (d) for regulating the transfer of matters and cases from one Commissioner to another and the transfer of money in such cases;
- (e) for prescribing the manner in which money in the hands of a Commissioner may be invested for the benefit of dependants of a deceased workman and for the transfer of money so invested from one Commissioner to another;
- (f) for the representation in proceedings before Commissioners of parties who are minors or are unable to make an appearance;
- (g) for prescribing the form and manner in which memoranda of agreements shall be presented and registered;
- (h) for the withholding by Commissioners, whether in whole or in part, of half-monthly payments pending decision on applications for review of the same; and
- (i) for any other matter which is not, in the opinion of the Governor-General in Council, a matter of merely local or provincial importance.

33. Power of Local Government to make rules.—The Local Government may, subject to the control of the Governor-General in Council, make rules to provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

- (a) for regulating the scales of costs which may be allowed in proceedings under this Act;
- (b) for prescribing and determining the amount of the fees payable in respect of any proceedings before a Commissioner under this Act;

(c) for the maintenance by Commissioners of registers and records of proceedings before them; and

(d) generally for carrying out the provisions of this Act in respect of any matter which is, in the opinion of the Local Government, a matter of merely local importance in the province.

34. *Publication of rules.*—(1) The power to make rules conferred by sections 32 and 33 shall be subject to the condition of the rules being made after previous publication.

(2) The date to be specified in accordance with clause (3) of section 23 of the General Clauses Act, 1897 (X of 1897), as that after which a draft of rules proposed to be made under section 32 or section 33 will be taken into consideration, shall not be less than three months from the date on which the draft of the proposed rules was published for general information.

(3) Rules so made shall be published in the *Gazette of India* or the local official *Gazette*, as the case may be, and on such publication, shall have effect as if enacted in this Act.

SCHEDULE I

[See sections 2 (1) and 4]

List of injuries deemed to result in permanent partial disablement

Injury.	Percentage of loss of earning capacity.
Loss of right arm above or at the elbow	70
Loss of left arm above or at the elbow	60
Loss of right arm below the elbow	60
Loss of leg at or above the knee	60
Loss of left arm below the elbow	50
Loss of leg below the knee	50
Permanent total loss of hearing	50
Loss of one eye	30
Loss of thumb	25
Loss of all toes of one foot	20
Loss of one phalanx of thumb	10
Loss of index finger	10
Loss of great toe	10
Loss of any finger other than index finger	5

Note.—Complete and permanent loss of the use of any limb or member referred to in this Schedule shall be deemed to be the equivalent of the loss of that limb or member.

SCHEDULE II

[See section 2 (1) (n)]

List of persons who, subject to the provisions of section 2 (1) (n), are included in the definition of Workman.

The following persons are workmen within the meaning of section 2 (1) (n) and subject to the provisions of that section, that is to say, any person who is—

(i) employed in connection with the service of a tramway as defined in section 3 of the Indian Tramways Act, 1886 (XI of 1886); or

(ii) employed within the meaning of clause (2) of section 2 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911), in any place which is a factory within the meaning of sub-clause (a) of clause (3) of that section; or

(iii) employed within the meaning of clause (c) of section 3 of the Indian Mines Act, 1901 (VIII of 1901), in any mine as defined in clause (d) of that section; or

(iv) employed as the master of a registered ship or as a seaman; or

(v) employed for the purpose of loading, unloading or coaling any ship at any pier, jetty, landing place, wharf, quay, dock, warehouse or shed, on, in or at which steam, water or other mechanical power or electrical power is used; or

(vi) employed in the construction, repair or demolition of—

(a) a building which is designed to be, is, or has been more than one storey in height above ground level, or

(b) a building which is used, has been used, or is designed to be used, for industrial or commercial purposes and is, or is designed to be, not less than twenty feet in height measured from ground level to apex of the roof, or

(c) a bridge exceeding or intended to exceed fifty feet in length; or

(vii) employed in setting up, repairing, maintaining, or taking down any telegraph or telephone line or post or any overhead electric cable; or

(viii) employed in the construction, inspection or upkeep of any underground sewer; or

(ix) employed in the service of any fire brigade.

SCHEDULE III

[See section 3]

List of occupational diseases

Occupational disease.	Employment.
Lead poisoning or its sequelæ	Any process involving the use of lead or its preparations or compounds.
Phosphorus poisoning or its sequelæ	Any process involving the use of phosphorus or its preparations or compounds.

SCHEDULE IV

(See section 5.)

Table of assumed wages

Limits.	Assumed wages.		
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Where the sum arrived at by a calculation under clause (a) or clause (b) of section 5—			
less than 9 0 0	9 0 0	11 0 0	8 0 0
not less than 9 0 0	11 0 0	13 0 0	10 0 0
" 11 0 0	13 0 0	15 0 0	12 0 0
" 13 0 0	15 0 0	17 0 0	14 0 0
" 15 0 0	17 0 0	19 0 0	16 0 0
" 17 0 0	19 0 0	21 0 0	18 0 0
" 19 0 0	21 0 0	23 0 0	20 0 0
" 21 0 0	23 0 0	25 0 0	22 0 0
" 23 0 0	25 0 0	27 0 0	24 0 0
" 25 0 0	27 0 0	29 0 0	26 0 0
" 27 0 0	29 0 0	31 0 0	28 0 0
" 29 0 0	31 0 0	33 0 0	30 0 0
" 31 0 0	33 0 0	35 0 0	32 0 0
" 33 0 0	35 0 0	37 0 0	34 0 0
" 35 0 0	37 0 0	39 0 0	36 0 0
" 37 0 0	39 0 0	41 0 0	38 0 0
" 39 0 0	41 0 0	43 0 0	40 0 0
" 41 0 0	43 0 0	45 0 0	42 0 0
" 43 0 0	45 0 0	47 0 0	44 0 0
" 45 0 0	47 0 0	49 0 0	46 0 0
" 47 0 0	49 0 0	51 0 0	48 0 0
" 49 0 0	51 0 0	53 0 0	50 0 0
" 51 0 0	53 0 0	55 0 0	52 0 0
" 53 0 0	55 0 0	57 0 0	54 0 0
" 55 0 0	57 0 0	59 0 0	56 0 0
" 57 0 0	59 0 0	61 0 0	58 0 0
" 59 0 0	61 0 0	63 0 0	60 0 0
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" 63 0 0	65 0 0	67 0 0	64 0 0
" 65 0 0	67 0 0	69 0 0	66 0 0
" 67 0 0	69 0 0	71 0 0	68 0 0
" 69 0 0	71 0 0	73 0 0	70 0 0
" 71 0 0	73 0 0	75 0 0	72 0 0
" 73 0 0	75 0 0	77 0 0	74 0 0
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" 79 0 0	81 0 0	83 0 0	80 0 0
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" 317 0 0	319 0 0	321 0 0	318 0 0
" 319 0 0	321 0 0	323 0 0	320 0 0
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" 323 0 0	325 0 0	327 0 0	324 0 0
" 325 0 0	327 0 0	329	



Chief Inspector to lodge objections against the decision of a Mines Committee; (4) duties and responsibilities of owners, agents and managers; (5) Powers of Inspectors under dangerous circumstances; (6) Notice to be given of accidents; (7) Disputes as to age; (8) Powers of the Governor-General in Council and Local Government to make regulations and rules; (9) Bye-laws; (10) Obstruction; (11) Prosecutions; and (12) Cognisance of offences.

The Bill as amended by the Select Committee came up for discussion in the Legislative Assembly on the 29th January 1923. Many important amendments were moved regarding the employment of women and children, the representation of employers, hours of work and limit of day's work. All the amendments, however, were negatived and the Bill finally passed the Assembly without any further modification beyond those introduced by the Joint Committee. The Council of State ratified the Bill as it came up before them. It marks a great step in advance of the present conditions and is the first revision of the law relating to Mines during the past 22 years. The question of the employment of women underground will be further considered, as recommended by the Select Committee, by the Government of India in consultation with Local Governments.

THE FACTORIES ACT

A BILL FURTHER TO AMEND THE INDIAN FACTORIES ACT, 1911

The Indian Factories Act of 1911 as amended by Act II of 1922 was published on pages 21-32 of the July 1922 issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The new Bill further to amend the Act, as it stands, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly, is published below. As will be seen from the statement of objects and reasons, a difficulty arose in connexion with the substitution of the weekly holiday in factories on account of the introduction of a sixty hours' week. This difficulty was referred to on page 25 of the *Labour Gazette* for August 1922. The important clause of the new Bill, section 2, which is designed to meet this difficulty, provides a sub-section to section 22 of the Act to the effect that where any person

is employed on a Sunday in consequence of his having had a holiday in one of the three days preceding that Sunday then that Sunday shall for the purpose of calculating the weekly hours of work of such person be deemed to be included in the preceding week. Mr. N. M. Joshi moved an amendment to this clause which was opposed by Mr. Innes and Messrs. Manmohandas Ramji and Chaudari. The amendment, however, was lost and the Bill was passed without any amendments. The amendment on section 37 of the Act was advisable in view of the objections in the original Act pointed out by the Labour Office.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

A difficulty has arisen in connection with the weekly holiday in factories in consequence of the introduction of the sixty hours' week. The intention of section 22 of the Factories Act is that Sunday should normally be a holiday, but that the management of any factory should be able to substitute for any particular Sunday the Thursday, Friday or Saturday preceding that Sunday, or the Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday following. In actual fact, however, it is not possible for factories working a nine or ten hours' day to avail themselves of the privilege of substituting for any Sunday a weekday preceding it. For if, in such a factory, one of the preceding days were substituted for Sunday, there would be seven working days in the week beginning with that Sunday, and consequently the hours of work for that week would exceed sixty, although no extra work would have been done. This effect was not intended or foreseen when Act II of 1922 was passed, and clause 2 of the Bill, which has been drafted after consulting Local Governments, is designed to surmount the difficulty.

The remaining clauses are purely formal. Section 22 (b) of Act II of 1922 inserted the words "and electrical fittings" after the word "machinery" in section 37 (j) of the Factories Act; the word "machinery" occurs twice in that section and the effect of the alteration was thus the introduction of an ambiguity which clause 3 of this Bill will remove. Clause 4 corrects a wrong reference, and clause 5 repeals an obsolete sub-section which refers to an appeal against orders that can no longer be made.

The following Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on the 1st February 1923:—

No. 2 of 1923.

A Bill further to amend the Indian Factories Act, 1911

Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911); It is hereby enacted as follows:—



LABOUR CONDITIONS IN CEYLON

Emigration to Ceylon is mainly from Southern India. It is explained partly by the proximity of that island to the mainland of India and partly by the demand for labour stimulated by the economic development of that colony. During the latter part of the last century the coffee plantations absorbed the majority of emigrants. Since then tea and rubber have offered the main field of employment. In 1921 there were in Ceylon about 603,000 Indian Tamils of whom 494,000 were on the estates. The recruitment of labour is controlled by the Ceylon Labour Commission which has its headquarters at Trichinopoly. Before the Commission was established by the planters in 1904, recruitment was carried on directly by planters' agents. The Commission (1) advertises the advantages of employment in Ceylon, (2) makes advances to the *Kangany*—the recruiting agent, usually an Indian immigrant headman, (3) scrutinises the recruits and (4) despatches the recruits. Nearly 80 to 90 per cent. of the recruits to Ceylon pass through the depots of the Commission. In 1921, 22,079 coolies were despatched to Ceylon. The Indian emigrant labourer is employed invariably on a monthly contract of service renewable from month to month, unless one month's notice is given by either party of their intention to determine the contract. Formerly, under the *tundu* system, the labourer started with an incubus of indebted visa. This system was abolished by Ordinance 43 of 1921. The same ordinance abolished the penal provisions regarding the labourer.

The main kinds of work for male labourers are pruning (in tea), tapping (in rubber), work in the factory (tea and rubber), weeding, clearing of drains, digging pits and maintaining estate roads; and for women plucking (in tea), tapping (in rubber), sorting leaf in the factory and light earth work. Children above the age of 7 are employed and generally work for a full day. An advantage of estate employment is that the whole family can secure employment on one estate. Actual monthly wages in 1917 varied from Rs. 10-2-11 to Rs. 8-6-6 for men; from Rs. 6-3-11 to Rs. 4-5-6 for women and Rs. 5-11-1 to Rs. 3-15-5 for children. Wages have risen since this time.

1. *Short title.*—This Act may be called the Indian Factories (Amendment) Act, 1923.

2. *Addition of new sub-section to section 22, Act XII of 1911.*—To section 22 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the following sub-section shall be added, namely:—

"(2) where, in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1), any person is employed on a Sunday in consequence of his having had a holiday on one of the three days preceding that Sunday, that Sunday shall, for the purpose of calculating the weekly hours of work of such person, be deemed to be included in the preceding week."

3. *Amendment of section 37, Act XII of 1911.*—In section 37 of the said Act, for clause (j) of sub-section (2) the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

"(j) the parts of the machinery and electrical fittings to be kept fenced in accordance with section 18, sub-section (1), clause (c), and the provisions to be made for the protection from danger of persons employed in attending to the machinery, electrical fittings or boilers."

4. *Amendment of section 41, Act XII of 1911.*—In clause (g) of section 41 of the said Act, for the figures and letter "19B" the figures and letter "19A" shall be substituted.

5. *Amendment of section 50, Act XII of 1911.*—Sub-section (2) of section 50 of the said Act shall be omitted.

INDIAN EMIGRATION

UNSKILLED LABOUR FOR CEYLON AND THE MALAY PENINSULA

The Government of India have been in communication with the Governments of Ceylon and of the Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements on the subject of the emigration of Indian unskilled workers. The subject came up for discussion in the Legislative Assembly when Mr. Hullah moved the following resolution:—

"This Assembly approves the draft notification which has been laid in the draft before the Chambers specifying the terms and conditions on which emigration for the purpose of unskilled work shall be lawful to Ceylon and that the notification be published in the *Gazette of India*."

A similar resolution in regard to emigration to the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States, Perak, etc., was also moved. Papers connected with the question were supplied to the members of the Legislature. The following is a brief account of the labour conditions in Ceylon and in the Malay Peninsula, as given in the papers referred to.



The average number of working days in the month are from 23 to 19 days for a man, 19 to 15 days for a woman and 21 to 17 for a child. The average monthly earnings in 1922, including piece work and overtime, were approximately as follows :—

	Rubber. Rs.	Tea. Rs.
Man	.. 16 to 20	12 to 16
Woman	.. 10 to 12	10 to 12
Working child	.. 6 to 8	6 to 8

In addition, estate labourers are given free fuel, housing, gardens, medicines, medical attention, education, while they are exempt from poll tax and are allowed reduced railway fares. The cost of living of a family, consisting of a man, wife and two children, is approximately Rs. 17 a month. This excludes the cost of cloth and expenditure on festivals. Clothes cost Rs. 3½ extra. Rice is supplied at considerably below cost price. During sickness and pregnancy patients are maintained and given medical attendance. In many cases women receive a donation in cash and free rice for 4 weeks at confinement.

WELFARE AND EDUCATION

The emigrants are housed in lines which are provided by the employer and inspected by the sanitary authorities. A family of 4 persons usually occupy a room 10 feet by 12 feet, with a verandah 10 feet by 6 feet. In future cooly lines are to be built on the lines prescribed by the Medical Department. Garden plots are also provided free of charge by the estates for the use of labourers. The housing accommodation is said to be quite satisfactory. Sanitary and medical care is provided for by law. There are 54 Government district hospitals with qualified staffs in the planting areas capable of accommodating 4,500 persons, and 81 out-door dispensaries. There are other 63 hospitals and 471 dispensaries maintained by estate proprietors. The labourer is not charged for medicines or for medical attendance. A body of medical officers visit all the estates on the island to inspect the housing, sanitary and hospital facilities.

Special provision is made by law for the education of children of the estate labourers. Children of estate labourers are educated free

of charge and are generally allowed a considerable amount of free food. In 1917 there were 596 schools on estates. Since then the number has increased.

PROPOSALS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

The Government of India suggested among other things that—

- (1) All recruiters shall be licensed by an Emigration Commissioner appointed by the Government of Ceylon and no emigrant shall proceed unless recruited through an official agency.
- (2) Contracts for a period exceeding one month shall be void.
- (3) The cost of recruitment, subsistence and transport to the estate of destination shall be borne out of a common fund managed by a Colonial Government and no part of such cost shall be recoverable from the emigrants.
- (4) When a cooly falls ill or is ill-treated or finds the work unsuitable, he should be repatriated within one year of his arrival in the island.
- (5) Payments made by recruiters to emigrants recruited in India to enable them to pay off their debts shall not be recoverable.
- (6) The Government of Ceylon should furnish periodical reports to the Government of India regarding the recruitment and the welfare of Indian emigrants in the Colony.
- (7) The employment of children under 10 years of age should be prohibited.

Further, in the interests of securing additional guarantees that Indian labourers would be protected against exploitation by employers after arrival in Ceylon, the Government of India asked the Government of Ceylon to institute at an early date an enquiry into (1) the question of fixing a basic wage subject to a minimum for Indian labour employed on estates, and (2) the cost of living in relation to the rate of wages now paid and that in the meanwhile to endeavour to secure an improvement in the present rate of wage. Lastly, the Government of India proposed that the Colonial Government should make provision to meet the cost of returning emigrants to India in the cases of (a) sick men, and (b) men thrown out of employment during industrial depression. The Government of Ceylon agreed to the above suggestions. They further agreed to accept an Emigration Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon.



LABOUR CONDITIONS IN THE MALAY PENINSULA

Indian emigration to the Malay Peninsula, which began early in the last century, was a voluntary growth stimulated by the demand for labour. It grew unimpeded until 1857 when the regulation of labour by legislation commenced. Indian labourers are now employed on monthly parole agreements under Section 68 of the Federated Malay States Labour Code and Section 9 of the Straits Settlements Labour Ordinance. They can leave their employers after a month's notice or on the payment of a month's pay in lieu of notice, or they may enter into written contracts for a term not exceeding 300 days. Until recently, according to the Labour Code in Malaya, labour offences were punishable either by fine or imprisonment. These penal provisions were abolished by enactments of 1921 and 1922. The total population of British Malaya* according to the Census of 1921, was 3,358,054 and the Indians numbered 471,666 or 14 per cent. The total number of Indians on 1,350 estates was 372,709. The total number of estates in Malaya is approximately 1,493. In 1920 78,852 persons were recruited from India. The greater portion of Indian labourers in the Peninsula are employed on rubber estates, where the work consists chiefly of tapping and weeding and factory work. No labourer is bound to work for more than 6 days in a week or more than six consecutive hours or more than nine hours a day. The average rates of wages in August 1921, though varying in different districts, approximated to 10 to 12 annas for men and 8 to 10 annas for women. Some employers pay a bonus to labourers who work 25 or 26 days in a month. According to the High Commissioner the average cost of living per head is Rs. 10-15-0 while the wages are Rs. 17-3-0 for men and Rs. 14-1-0 for women. That the average Indian labourer saves money during his employment in Malay is indicated by his deposits in the savings bank and his remittances home.

* British Malaya comprises three political groups:—

- (1) The Crown Colony of the Straits Settlements.
- (2) The Federated Malay States of Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Pahang federated in 1895.
- (3) The Unfederated States of Johore, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu and Prunei in Borneo.

WELFARE AND EDUCATION

Ordinance 7 of 1911 lays down that

"It shall be the duty of every employer to provide for every labourer employed by him on his estate and who resides on such estate :—

- (a) sufficient and proper housing accommodation;
- (b) a sufficient supply of wholesome water;
- (c) sufficient and proper sanitary arrangements;
- (d) hospital accommodation and equipment;
- (e) medical attendance and treatment including diets in hospital;

(f) a sufficient supply of medicines of good quality."

Standard designs prepared by Government are usually adopted by the employers in building houses for their workmen. These cooly lines are testified to be commodious and comfortable. Indian immigrants have equal facilities with others of obtaining land both for colonisation and residence. Some employers readily give garden plots to their labourers for planting foodstuffs. There are 95 Government hospitals, and 222 other hospitals are maintained by employers capable of accommodating about 12,000 patients. A month's holiday is allowed to a pregnant woman before and after child birth, and during this period she is given food and hospital attendance but no pay. A Government Labour Department looks after the welfare of the immigrant labourer in the Colony and the estates are systematically inspected by the Controller of Labour and his assistants. The labour officers stationed at Penang, and other places, receive petitions and complaints and enquire into them. Their most useful work lies in the settling of disputes and the promotion of harmonious relations between the employers and the employed.

Education is voluntary, except for Malay children in vernacular schools. There are altogether 105 Tamil schools in the Federated Malay States and many more in the Straits Settlements and the Unfederated Malay States. A large number of estates have schools on the estate providing free vernacular education. The Labour Department inspects these schools periodically. Schools on the estates have of late increased in number. There were 15 estate schools in the Straits in 1921.

In consultation with the Standing Emigration Committee, the Government of India made proposals to the Governments of the Straits



Settlements and the Federated Malay States, similar to those made to the Government of Ceylon. In addition, the Government of India asked for certain changes in the Labour Codes and Ordinances, especially, to abolish fines as well as imprisonment for certain labour offences, to empower the Controller of Labour to order employers to provide schools for estate children and to provide maternity benefits. These were agreed to by the Governments of the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States, who also agreed to the fixation of a basic wage and to the extension of the repatriation condition beyond the one year already stipulated in cases of persons incapacitated by sickness, or thrown out of employment on account of trade conditions.

DEBATE IN THE CENTRAL LEGISLATURE

In the course of the debate in the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Hullah emphasized the importance of approving the draft notification, as otherwise emigration to Ceylon after the 5th March 1923 would be unlawful. He pointed out that the Government of Ceylon had agreed to the suggestions of the Government of India and the Emigration Standing Committee. The Ceylon Government had agreed to repatriate labour in the event of slump, and also if the agent of the Government of India was satisfied that the labourers' return home was desirable. He then gave an account of the conditions in the plantations and said they were satisfactory. The Honourable Mr. B. N. Sarma said that the Government of Ceylon had seriously pressed the view that there should be no obstacle for the interchange of population between Southern India and Ceylon. In accordance with the wishes of the Government of India the Government of Ceylon had agreed to undertake an enquiry with a view to fixing the minimum wage. Certain members required that the question of wages should be immediately settled, and amendments to that effect were moved. The Honourable Mr. Sarma said that the deputation that went to Ceylon in 1917 found that the wages paid to labourers were sufficient to keep them in reasonable comfort and health. This was shown by their large remittances to India. The amendments were lost and the original resolution was passed.

The second resolution in regard to emigration to the Malay Peninsula was also passed. Identical resolutions were subsequently passed by the Council of State. The draft notifications approved read as follows:—

EMIGRATION TO CEYLON

Notification

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 10 of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922 (VII of 1922), hereinafter referred to as "the Act", the Governor General in Council is pleased to issue the following Notification in the form in which it has been approved by both Chambers of the Indian Legislature:—

"Emigration to Ceylon for the purpose of unskilled work shall be lawful on the following terms and conditions, namely:—

- (1) The emigrant shall—
 - (a) have been recruited by a person licensed for that purpose by and responsible to an officer (hereinafter called the Emigration Commissioner) appointed by the Government of Ceylon, or
 - (b) have applied direct to the Emigration Commissioner for an assisted passage and have been accepted by him.
- (2) The emigrant shall not, before leaving British India, have entered into a contract of service for a period exceeding one month.
- (3) Within six months from the issue of this Notification or within such further period as the Governor General in Council may by notification appoint, the Legislature of Ceylon shall have enacted that any contract of service for a period exceeding one month entered into by an emigrant shall be void.
- (4) No part of the cost of his recruitment, subsistence during transport, or transport shall be recoverable from any emigrant and all expenses in this connection shall be defrayed from a common fund to be raised in such manner and managed by such agency as may appear suitable to the Colonial Government.
- (5) The Government of Ceylon shall at any time when so desired by the Governor General in Council admit and give all facilities to an Agent appointed under section 7 of the Act.
- (6) Within one year of his arrival in Ceylon any emigrant who has been assisted to emigrate at the cost of the common fund referred to in clause (4) shall, on satisfying the Agent appointed under section 7 of the Act that his return to his home is desirable either on the ground of the state of his health or on the ground that the work which he is required to do is unsuitable to his capacity, or that he has been unjustly treated by his employer, or for any other sufficient reason, be repatriated free of cost to the place of recruitment, and the costs of such repatriation shall be defrayed by the Government of Ceylon or the Ceylon Planters' Association.
- (7) If at any time there is no Agent appointed under section 7 of the Act, the Government of Ceylon shall appoint a person to perform the duties of the Agent as set forth in clause (6).
- (8) Within six months from the issue of this Notification or within such further period as the Governor General in Council may by notification appoint, the Legislature of Ceylon shall have enacted that no payment made in India by a recruiter to an emigrant to enable him to pay off debts before emigrating shall be recoverable.
- (9) The Government of Ceylon shall furnish such periodical report and returns as may be required from time to time by the Government of India in respect of the welfare of persons emigrating to Ceylon in accordance with this Notification.

EMIGRATION TO MALAYA

Notification

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 10 of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922 (VII of 1922), hereinafter referred to as "the Act", the Governor General in Council is pleased to issue the following Notification in the form in which it has been approved by both Chambers of the Indian Legislature:—

Emigration to the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States of Parak Selangor, Negri-Sembilan and Pahang and to the Unfederated Malay States of Kedah, Perlis, Johore, Kalantan, Trengganu and Brunei for the purpose of unskilled work shall be lawful on the following terms and conditions, namely:—

- (1) The emigrant shall—
 - (a) have been recruited by a person licensed for that purpose by and responsible to an officer (hereinafter called the Emigration



Commissioner) appointed by the Government of the Straits Settlements and by the Governments of the Federated and Unfederated Malay States, or

(b) have applied direct to the Emigration Commissioner for an assisted passage and have been accepted by him.

(2) The emigrant shall not before leaving British India, have entered into any engagement to labour for a period exceeding one month.

(3) Engagements to labour entered into by an emigrant in Malaya for a period exceeding one month shall be void.

(4) The Government of the Straits Settlements and the Governments of the Federated and Unfederated Malay States shall at any time when so desired by the Governor General in Council admit and give all facilities to an Agent appointed under section 7 of the Act.

(5) Within one year of his arrival in the Colony any emigrant who has been assisted to emigrate at the cost of the Indian Emigration Fund, shall, on satisfying the Agent appointed under section 7 of the Act that his return to his home is desirable either on the ground of the state of his health or on the ground that the work which he is required to do is unsuitable to his capacity, or that he has been unjustly treated by his employer or for any other sufficient reason, be repatriated free of cost to the place of recruitment and the costs of such repatriation shall be defrayed by the Government of the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States and Unfederated Malay States.

(6) If at any time there is no Agent appointed under section 7 of the Act, the Government of the Straits Settlements and the Governments of the Federated and Unfederated Malay States shall appoint a person to perform the duties of the Agent as set forth in Clause 5.

(7) There shall be no evasion of the provisions of the Act by the conveyance through foreign ports in the Peninsula of India of persons who would be emigrants for the purpose of unskilled work if they departed from British ports.

(8) The Government of the Straits Settlements and the Governments of the Federated and Unfederated Malay States shall furnish such periodical reports and returns as may be required from time to time by the Government of India in respect of the welfare of the persons emigrating to the colony in accordance with this Notification.

QUESTIONS IN THE LEGISLATURE

COUNCIL OF STATE

The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das asked: Will Government be pleased to state if the Insurance expert, who helped at the deliberations of the Committee in connection with the Workmen's Compensation Bill, was sent out by any Insurance Association or he came on the invitation of the Government of India? If the latter, will Government please state the amount paid in connection with his visit?

The Honourable Mr. D. T. Chadwick replied: The expert was sent out by the Accident Offices Association. He received no payment from Government for the assistance which he rendered.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Mr. N. M. Joshi asked: Will Government be pleased to state (a) the cause of the accident in a coal mine that recently took place at Parbelia, (b) the total number of persons killed and

injured in the accident, (c) what steps Government propose to take to prevent such accidents hereafter, and (d) whether compensation will be paid to the families of those who were killed and to those who will be permanently disabled?

Mr. A. H. Ley replied: (a) Government have not yet received information as to the cause of the accident beyond the bare statement that it was the result of an explosion of gas.

(b) So far as known, seventeen persons were killed outright and 58 injured. Of the latter all save one have succumbed to their injuries.

(c) An official enquiry under section 18 of the Mines Act has been ordered by the Government of Bihar and Orissa and, until a report of that enquiry is received, it is impossible to decide on the steps to be taken to prevent the occurrence of such accidents hereafter. Government will give the question their most careful consideration.

(d) There is at present no statutory obligation on employers to compensate the families of the killed or the injured. But Government are confident that a Company of the high standing of the Bengal Coal Company will do all in their power to relieve the hardship and suffering caused by this most lamentable accident.

Rai Bahadur G. C. Nag asked: Are the Government of India aware that the majority of the Labour Enquiry Committee recommend that Act XIII should cease to apply to the tea gardens in Assam, and that the Governor of Assam in Council accepts the recommendation? Do Government propose to bring in a Bill during the present session either to repeal Act XIII of 1859, or at least to give effect to the above recommendation by amending it?

The Hon'ble Sir Malcolm Hailey replied: Yes. Government are at present considering the replies of local Governments to the reference made to them as a result of the discussion in the Assembly on the 10th September 1921 on the resolution moved by Mr. Joshi.* The final replies have only recently been received. It is possible, however, for the Government of Assam by action under section 5 of the Act as amended in 1920, to secure that the Act shall not apply to some or all or all of the tea-gardens in Assam.

* The Resolution asked for the repeal of the Workman's Breach of Contract Act, 13 of 1859 and sections 490 and 492 of the Indian Penal Code.

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	January 1922.	December 1922.	January 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cereals—						
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	Md.	4 11 3	6 3 1	5 9 6	
Wheat	Delhi No. 1	Cwt.	5 9 6	9 4 6	7 8 0	5 13 4
Do.	Khandwa Seoni	Candy	45 0 0	107 8 0	75 0 0	7 8 0
Do.	Jubbulpore		40 0 0	87 8 0	70 0 0	67 8 0
Jowari	Rangoon	Md.	3 2 6	5 9 9	3 2 10	50 0 0
Barley			3 4 6	4 13 11	3 6 2	3 11 3
Bajri	Ghati		3 4 6	6 5 7	3 6 2	3 11 3
Pulses—						
Gram	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)		4 3 9	7 9 11	4 8 10	
Turdal	Cawnpore		5 10 5	9 9 10	5 11 5	4 10 6
Sugar—						
Sugar	Mauritius No. 1	Cwt.	9 3 0	21 14 0	22 0 0	21 6 0
Do.	Java white		10 3 0	21 8 0	23 4 0	21 5 0
Raw (Gul)	Sangli	Md.	7 14 3	14 4 7	14 4 7	12 14 10
Other food—						
Turmeric	Rajapuri		5 9 3	14 0 3	25 2 9	31 4 8
Chee	Deshi		45 11 5	80 0 0	82 13 9	85 11 5
Salt	Bombay (black)		1 7 6	2 2 0	2 7 0	2 7 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Cereals—						
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill		100	132	119	124
Wheat	Delhi No. 1		100	166	134	134
Do.	Khandwa Seoni		100	239	167	150
Do.	Jubbulpore		100	219	175	125
Jowari	Rangoon		100	178	101	117
Barley			100	148	103	113
Bajri	Ghati		100	194	103	113
Average—Cereals			100	182	129	125
Pulses—						
Gram	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)		100	180	108	110
Turdal	Cawnpore		100	170	101	94
Average—Pulses			100	175	105	102
Sugar—						
Sugar	Mauritius No. 1		100	238	239	233
Do.	Java white		100	211	228	209
Raw (Gul)	Sangli		100	181	181	164
Average—Sugar			100	210	216	202
Other food—						
Turmeric	Rajapuri		100	251	451	561
Chee	Deshi		100	175	181	188
Salt	Bombay (black)		100	145	166	166
Average—Other food			100	190	266	305
Average—All food			100	188	170	173

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	January 1922.	December 1922.	January 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Oilseeds—						
Linseed	Bold	Cwt.	8 14 6	12 8 0	13 4 0	12 14 0
Rapeseed	Cawnpore (brown)		8 0 0	10 8 0	11 0 0	10 0 0
Poppyseed	Do.		10 14 0	14 8 0	14 2 0	13 4 0
Gingely	White		11 4 0	13 12 0	13 14 0	14 10 0
Textiles—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton—raw—						
Broach	Good	Candy	251 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Oomra	Fully good		222 0 0	360 0 0	428 0 0	460 0 0
Dharwar	Saw-ginned		230 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Khandesh	Machine ginned		205 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Bengal	Do.		198 0 0	335 0 0	350 0 0	382 0 0
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Twist	40S	Lb.	0 12 9	1 13 0	1 7 6	1 8 0
Grey shirtings	Fari 2,000	Piece	5 15 0	15 0 0	13 0 0	13 2 0
White mulls	6,600		4 3 0	11 4 0	9 6 0	10 0 0
Shirtings	Liepman's 1,500		10 6 0	28 0 0	25 12 0	25 12 0
Long cloth	Local made 36" x 37½ yds...	Lb.	0 9 6	1 10 0	1 5 9	1 7 3
Chudders	54" x 6 yds.		0 9 6	1 8 0	1 4 9	1 4 9

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Oilseeds—						
Linseed	Bold		100	140	149	145
Rapeseed	Cawnpore (brown)		100	131	138	125
Poppyseed	Do.		100	133	130	122
Gingely	White		100	122	123	130
Average—Oilseeds			100	132	135	130
Textiles—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton—raw						
Broach	Good		100	.....	.....	.....
Oomra	Fully good		100	162	193	207
Dharwar	Saw-ginned		100	.....	.....	.....
Khandesh	Machine ginned		100	169	177	193
Bengal	Do.		100	.....	.....	.....
Average—Cotton—raw			100	166	185	200
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Twist	40S		100	227	184	188
Grey shirtings	Fari 2,000		100	253	219	221
White mulls	6,600		100	269	224	239
Shirtings	Liepman's 1,500		100	270	248	248
Long cloth	Local made 36" x 37½ yds...		100	274	229	245
Chudders	54" x 6 yds.		100	253	218	218
Average—Cotton manufactures			100	258	220	227
Average—Textiles—Cotton			100	235	212	220

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

Article	Grade	Rate per	July 1914.	January 1922.	December 1922.	January 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Other textiles— Silk Do.	Canton No. 5 Hankin	Pacca over	5 4 0 17 12 0	5 8 0 39 8 0	5 8 0 30 8 0	5 8 0 30 8 0
Hides and Skins— Hides, Cow Do. Buffalo Skins, Goat	Tanned Do.	Lb.	1 2 6 1 1 2 1 4 0	2 1 5 0 14 6 2 15 1	1 9 9 0 11 2 1 15 9	1 16 6 1 0 7 2 14 0
Metals— Copper bearings Iron bars Steel hoops Galvanized sheets Tin plates	— — — — —	Cwt. — — — —	60 8 0 4 0 0 7 12 0 9 0 0 8 12 0	83 0 0 11 0 0 19 0 0 17 0 0 13 0 0	77 0 0 8 0 0 14 4 0 18 0 0 19 0 0	75 8 0 8 12 0 15 8 0 15 0 0 19 0 0
Other raw and manufactured articles— Coal Kerosene Do.	Bengal Elephant brand Chatter brand	Ton 2 Tons Case	14 12 0 4 6 0 5 2 0	28 0 0 3 3 0 10 12 0	25 8 0 7 10 6 10 3 0	10 8 0 7 10 6 10 3 0

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

Article	Grade	July 1914	January 1922	December 1922	January 1923
Other textiles— Silk Do.	Canton No. 5 Hankin	100 100	105 172	105 172	105 172
Average—Other textiles	—	100	139	139	139
Hides and Skins— Hides, Cow Do. Buffalo Skins, Goat	Tanned Do.	100 100 100	181 84 235	139 68 159	145 96 234
Average—Hides and Skins	—	100	167	122	165
Metals— Copper bearings Iron bars Steel hoops Galvanized sheets Tin plates	— — — — —	100 100 100 100 100	137 275 269 269 149	127 200 200 211 217	125 219 209 211 217
Average—Metals	—	100	199	186	194
Other raw and manufactured articles— Coal Kerosene Do.	Bengal Elephant brand Chatter brand	100 100 100	190 187 210	173 175 199	71 175 199
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles	—	100	196	182	148
Total—Food	—	100	188	170	173
Total—Non-food	—	100	190	174	179
General Average	—	100	190	173	177

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

	Wheat	Cereals	Pulses	Sugar	Other food	Total food	Oil-seeds	Raw cotton	Cotton manufactures	Other textiles	Hides and skins	Metals	Other raw and manufactured articles	Total non-food	General average
1920															
January	184	178	325	202	215	210	202	312	153	196	207	206	201	201	201
September	164	156	406	184	222	189	139	295	106	119	257	219	212	212	212
December	154	169	255	141	173	148	122	234	88	175	239	314	215	215	192
1921															
January	158	166	376	146	185	138	120	274	143	148	235	216	195	191	191
February	159	145	324	149	188	133	110	265	142	172	234	216	195	191	191
March	156	139	338	150	189	129	108	256	143	152	246	216	195	190	190
April	173	149	329	154	199	146	112	267	143	169	247	216	196	196	196
May	173	151	314	162	196	150	115	272	142	156	248	222	206	196	196
June	184	158	267	169	194	161	126	270	149	141	259	222	205	196	196
July	186	151	234	185	191	171	137	269	149	156	244	216	205	199	199
August	214	166	229	181	205	160	137	267	138	166	242	210	212	202	202
September	212	169	230	174	212	150	127	265	138	180	240	216	211	207	207
October	192	164	207	180	189	130	169	273	138	182	216	212	199	195	195
November	195	175	203	193	192	129	170	263	138	163	214	198	192	195	195
December	188	160	200	185	189	136	136	259	138	136	210	198	191	191	191
1922															
January	182	175	210	190	188	132	166	258	139	167	199	196	199	199	199
February	179	162	202	211	189	136	156	244	139	148	192	198	196	196	196
March	177	166	224	241	198	140	174	251	139	168	192	196	196	196	196
April	179	160	228	232	193	144	179	254	139	157	187	196	195	195	195
May	180	160	212	220	193	149	186	259	139	159	196	192	197	197	197
June	169	129	230	231	187	152	202	259	139	156	191	192	191	191	191
July	170	134	220	228	188	151	196	255	139	142	177	198	198	198	198
August	166	132	227	238	188	138	197	248	139	139	183	196	194	194	194
September	163	127	212	241	185	135	191	229	139	142	182	181	179	181	181
October	145	119	210	249	178	138	165	226	139	112	182	182	172	174	174
November	137	111	213	260	176	133	173	224	139	146	185	188	177	176	176
December	129	105	216	256	170	135	195	220	139	122	186	182	174	173	173
1923															
January	125	102	202	265	173	130	200	227	139	165	194	140	179	177	177

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

Retail prices of articles of food in Bombay in July 1914, December 1922 and January 1923
The prices quoted are for local weights and measures

Articles	Grade	Rate per	Equivalent in total	July 1914.			Increase (+) or decrease (-) in January 1923 over or below		
				July 1914.	December 1922.	January 1923.	July 1914.	December 1922.	
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	Paylee	215	5 10	7 11	7 6	+ 1 8	- 0 5	
Wheat	Punjab Prasi	—	212	5 10	8 5	8 0	+ 2 2	- 0 5	
Loweri	Madras	—	208	4 3	4 9	4 5	+ 0 2	- 0 4	
Bajri	Ghati	—	200	4 7	5 7	4 11	+ 0 4	- 0 8	
Gram	Punjab red	—	208	4 4	7 6	7 6	+ 3 2	—	
Turdal	Canary	—	204	5 11	8 5	8 0	+ 2 1	- 0 5	
Sugar (raw)	Banoli, middle quality	Seer by weight	28	1 2	2 6	2 5	+ 1 3	- 0 1	
Sugar (refined)	Java, white	—	28	1 1	2 6	2 5	+ 1 4	- 0 1	
Tea	Ceylon, middle quality	Lb.	39	7 10	10 3	10 11	+ 3 1	+ 0 8	
Salt	Bombay, black	Paylee	188	1 9	3 1	2 9	+ 1 0	- 0 4	
Beef	Crawford Market	Lb.	39	2 6	5 0	5 0	+ 2 4	—	
Mutton	Average for sheep and goat	—	39	3 0	7 6	7 6	+ 4 6	—	
Milk	Medium	Seer by measure	56	2 9	4 11	4 11	+ 2 2	—	
Ghee	Bilgram, Deshi	—	28	7 1	12 1	12 1	+ 5 0	—	
Potatoes	Mettupalayam	—	28	0 8	1 5	1 3	+ 0 7	- 0 2	
Onions	Nasik	—	28	0 3	0 9	0 8	+ 0 5	- 0 1	
Coconut oil	Middle quality	—	28	3 7	4 0	4 0	+ 0 3	—	

Retail prices of Articles of food in December 1922 and January 1923

Articles.	Price per	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.
		December 1922.	December 1922.	December 1922.	December 1922.	January 1923.	January 1923.	January 1923.	January 1923.
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cereals—									
Rice	Mauud ..	7 4 8	6 11 9	8 14 3	7 7 8	6 15 7	6 10 8	8 0 0	7 0 3
Wheat	" ..	7 14 9	5 11 10	6 2 6	7 7 4	7 8 9	5 11 5	5 11 5	7 6 6
Jowari	" ..	4 9 8	3 13 8	3 7 8	3 2 11	4 3 11	3 9 2	3 2 2	3 5 7
Bajri	" ..	5 9 1	4 0 10	5 0 0	4 0 10	4 14 9	4 0 10	5 0 0	4 1 6
Pulses—									
Gram	" ..	7 3 10	5 5 0	6 14 1	5 11 9	7 3 10	4 13 3	6 2 6	5 10 9
Turdal	" ..	8 3 7	7 14 5	9 11 2	8 0 4	7 13 6	7 3 1	8 0 0	7 15 8
Other articles of food—									
Sugar (refined)	" ..	17 9 4	16 6 7	17 12 5	18 4 7	17 1 10	16 1 3	17 12 5	18 4 7
Jagri (gul)	" ..	17 9 4	13 5 4	16 0 0	14 14 2	17 1 10	12 14 10	13 5 4	13 5 4
Tea	Lb. ..	0 10 2	0 12 5	0 12 5	0 10 5	0 10 11	0 12 5	0 15 7	0 10 5
Salt	Maund ..	3 3 10	1 14 6	2 8 0	3 15 1	2 15 4	1 14 6	2 8 0	3 12 6
Beet	Seer ..	0 10 3	0 9 0	0 6 9	0 6 0	0 10 3	0 9 0	0 6 0	0 6 0
Mutton	" ..	0 15 5	0 10 0	0 13 0	0 10 0	0 15 5	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 10 0
Milk	Maund ..	17 9 4	8 14 3	10 0 0	13 5 4	17 9 4	8 6 9	10 0 0	13 5 4
Ghee	" ..	86 7 9	75 4 11	80 0 0	76 3 1	86 7 9	76 3 1	75 4 8	71 1 9
Potatoes	" ..	10 6 3	7 4 4	10 0 0	8 6 9	8 15 5	4 8 1	5 11 5	11 13 8
Onions	" ..	5 3 1	4 8 1	2 9 3	3 5 4	4 15 6	4 4 3	3 12 4	3 5 4
Cocoanut oil	" ..	28 9 1	25 9 7	40 0 0	26 10 8	28 9 1	25 9 7	35 8 11	26 10 8

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

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

Articles.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.
Cereals—								
Rice	130	101	144	141	125	100	130	133
Wheat	142	136	131	144	135	136	121	144
Jowari	106	106	91	111	98	98	82	117
Bajri	129	96	106	115	114	96	106	116
Average—cereals	127	110	118	128	118	108	110	127
Pulses—								
Gram	168	140	172	133	168	127	154	132
Turdal	141	119	158	137	134	108	130	137
Average—pulses	155	130	165	135	151	118	142	134
Other articles of food—								
Sugar (refined)	205	226	198	183	225	221	198	183
Jagri (gul)	231	192	180	192	200	186	150	172
Tea	131	180	160	100	139	180	200	100
Salt	152	145	166	177	140	180	200	170
Beef	198	180	113	240	199	180	100	240
Mutton	231	167	217	167	231	167	200	167
Milk	191	200	200	183	191	190	200	183
Ghee	170	176	180	136	170	179	169	127
Potatoes	232	134	263	211	200	83	150	246
Onions	335	248	129	133	320	235	189	133
Cocoanut oil	112	104	200	100	113	104	178	100
Average—other articles of food	199	177	182	165	193	170	173	170
Average—all food articles (unweighted)	177	156	165	153	171	149	154	156

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in India and Foreign Countries.

Country.	India (Bombay)	Japan.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Egypt (Cairo).	South Africa.	United Kingdom.				France.	Italy. (a)
							(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		
No. of articles.	43	56	92	140	24	188	45	44	150	60	45	..
1913 Average	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914	100	95	106	104	100	97	100	99	100	100	102	95
1915	..	97	147	123	102	107	127	123	..	..	140	133
1916	..	117	138	134	124	123	160	160	..	..	188	201
1917	..	148	153	151	169	141	206	204	..	..	262	299
1918	..	237	196	178	175	207	226	225	..	..	339	409
1919	..	222	239	189	178	226	242	235	..	..	356	366
1920	..	215	260	228	212	299	223	295	307	..	510	624
1921 April	198	190	179	205	181	166	200	184	205	198	345	584
May	199	191	174	201	179	..	191	182	202	193	330	547
June	197	192	170	200	166	..	183	179	198	187	326	509
July	199	196	167	200	166	150	186	178	194	186	331	520
August	203	199	168	197	166	..	183	179	190	184	332	542
September	207	207	168	197	176	..	176	183	187	181	344	580
October	195	219	164	195	186	138	163	170	181	171	331	599
November	193	214	159	190	181	..	161	166	173	168	332	595
December	190	210	155	189	170	..	157	162	168	162	326	595
1922 January	190	206	154	186	169	131	156	159	164	159	314	577
February	186	204	154	181	169	..	156	158	162	156	307	563
March	192	201	153	180	153	..	157	160	160	156	307	533
April	188	198	155	180	148	128	159	159	160	158	314	527
May	189	195	162	177	141	..	159	162	160	158	317	524
June	190	198	163	175	139	..	160	163	160	159	326	537
July	188	202	164	177	138	127	158	163	160	159	325	558
August	186	196	163	177	139	..	153	158	156	156	331	571
September	181	193	164	175	138	..	151	156	154	156	329	582
October	174	190	167	174	140	129	153	158	155	159	337	601
November	176	188	..	..	144	..	154	159	157	161	353	596
December	173	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	155	159	..	..
1923 January	177	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Country.	Switzer-land.	Belgium.	Germany. (d)	Nether-lands (d)	Norway.	Sweden.	Denmark.	Canada.	United States of America.		
									(5)	(6)	(7)
No. of articles.	71	209	77	..	93	47	33	272	96	325	88
1913 Average	100	100	100	100	(e) 100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914	100	100	105	105	100	116	100	100	..	98	..
1915	..	..	142	145	(f) 159	145	138	109	..	101	..
1916	..	..	153	222	(f) 233	185	164	134	..	127	..
1917	..	..	179	286	341	244	228	175	..	177	..
1918	..	..	217	392	345	339	293	205	..	194	..
1919	..	..	415	297	322	330	294	216	..	206	211
1920	..	..	1,486	281	377	347	246	216	216	226	239
1921 April	186	..	1,526	176	297	229	189	117	..	..	146
May	185	..	1,308	182	294	218	182	115	..	..	145
June	179	..	1,368	182	294	218	179	117	..	..	..
July	177	..	1,428	176	300	211	176	120	..	..	145
August	181	347	1,917	180	297	198	224	174	120	142	146
September	184	368	2,067	180	287	182	202	172	130	141	146
October	182	372	2,460	169	286	175	186	169	122	142	145
November	178	374	3,416	165	276	174	186	168	123	141	145
December	176	369	3,487	165	269	172	188	170	123	140	142
1922 January	171	366	3,665	161	260	170	178	168	123	138	142
February	171	356	4,103	162	253	166	177	169	124	141	146
March	163	350	5,433	161	240	164	182	166	126	142	147
April	161	344	6,355	162	236	165	178	166	125	143	149
May	160	348	6,458	165	231	164	177	167	127	148	158
June	161	356	7,030	167	230	164	179	165	129	150	162
July	163	360	10,059	162	232	165	180	166	131	155	165
August	163	360	17,985	155	227	163	180	164	131	155	165
September	163	364	27,419	153	225	158	178	163	131	153</	



Cost of living index numbers for India and foreign countries

Name of country.	India (Bombay)	United Kingdom	Canada	Australia	New Zealand	Italy (Rome) (c)	Belgium	Norway	Switzerland	South Africa	France (Paris)	Germany	U. S. of America
Items included in the index.	Food, fuel, light, clothing and rent.	Food, rent, fuel, light, clothing, etc.	Food, fuel, light, rent, household utensils and furnishing.	Food and Rent.	Food, fuel, light and rent.	Food, clothing, heat, light, rent and miscellaneous.	Food, clothing, light, fuel, and household utensils.	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent, tax, etc.	Food, heating and lighting.	Food, fuel, light and rent.	(g)	Food, heating and lighting and rent.	Food, clothing, heating and lighting, rent and miscellaneous items.
1914 July	100	100	100	(d) 100	100	(b) 100	(d) 100	100	(f) 100	100	100	100	(h) 100
1915 "	125	125	125	119	107	99	116	146	140	106	117	119	105
1916 "	148	148	148	115	113	116	116	146	140	106	117	119	105
1917 "	180	180	180	116	119	116	116	190	140	114	118	120	106
1918 "	203	203	203	118	128	197	116	253	229	118	120	120	106
1919 "	208	208	208	132	133	205	116	275	261	126	238	126	106
1920 "	189	252	190	149	149	313	453	253	253	155	295	126	106
1921 May	167	228	161	159	159	396	297	210	210	141	307	141	842
" June	173	219	153	152	158	390	384	214	214	136	307	141	880
" July	177	219	152	157	157	387	379	209	209	133	307	141	896
" August	180	222	155	156	156	391	384	206	206	130	291	141	1,124
" September	185	220	158	145	155	400	386	296	200	130	295	141	1,124
" October	183	210	155	145	155	415	391	296	198	128	295	141	1,308
" November	182	203	153	140	154	423	394	296	192	127	297	141	1,594
" December	179	199	152	140	152	423	393	283	189	124	297	141	1,746
1922 January	173	192	152	140	151	430	387	283	179	122	297	141	1,825
" February	165	188	149	137	150	426	380	277	177	120	291	141	2,209
" March	165	186	148	146	146	420	367	249	167	122	291	141	2,630
" April	162	182	146	146	146	427	365	249	157	122	291	141	3,462
" May	163	181	145	146	145	425	366	249	158	121	302	141	3,779
" June	163	180	145	140	145	429	366	249	158	120	302	141	4,990
" July	165	184	146	146	144	429	366	249	158	120	302	141	7,029
" August	164	181	147	144	144	431	366	249	156	120	289	141	11,376
" September	165	179	148	144	144	437	376	249	154	121	289	141	19,504
" October	162	178	147	143	143	444	376	249	155	121	289	141	40,947
" November	160	180	147	143	143	459	384	249	155	122	289	141	40,947
" December	161	180	147	143	143	459	384	249	155	122	289	141	40,947
1923 January	156	178	146	143	143	459	384	249	155	122	289	141	40,947

(a) From 1914 to 1919 figures relate to second quarter. (b) First half of 1914. (c) Unofficial. (d) April 1914. (e) From 1915 to 1919 June figures are given. (f) June 1914. (g) Expenditure of a family of four persons. (h) Average 1913 is the base.

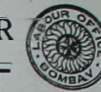
NOTE.—The maxima for the different countries are indicated in heavier type.

Retail food index for India and foreign countries

Name of country.	India	United Kingdom	Canada	South Africa	Australia	New Zealand	United States of America	France (Paris)	Italy (c)	Belgium	Finland	Germany	Holland (d)	Norway	Sweden (e)	Denmark	Switzerland	
No. of articles.	17	20	29	18	46	59	43	13	9	22	37	..	27	..	51	..	..
No. of stations.	Bombay	630	60	9	30	25	51	Paris	Rome	1,028 budgets.	20	47	Amsterdam	30	44	100	23	
1914 July	100	100	100	(a) 100	100	100	100	100	(d) 100	(e) 100	100	100	100	(d) 100	100	100	100	
1915 "	132	105	107	131	112	98	120	111	..	..	..	114	117	160	142	146	141
1916 "	161	114	116	130	119	109	129	137	..	..	..	146	214	181	166	179	141
1917 "	204	157	128	126	127	143	183	137	..	..	..	176	279	268	187	222	141
1918 "	210	175	134	131	139	164	206	203	..	..	..	204	289	310	212	250	141
1919 "	209	186	139	147	144	186	261	206	..	..	..	210	319	297	253	239	141
1920 "	258	227	197	194	167	215	373	318	459	982	1,156	210	319	297	253	239	141	
1921 May	162	232	165	152	168	142	317	421	407	1,119	1,152	184	292	237	..	208	141	
" June	169	218	150	144	165	141	312	409	419	1,147	1,175	180	290	234	..	213	141	
" July	174	220	148	139	161	164	306	402	410	1,278	1,491	180	295	232	..	204	141	
" August	177	226	154	134	154	163	306	402	410	1,278	1,491	180	295	232	..	204	141	
" September	183	225	159	133	154	161	329	430	427	1,324	..	179	297	234	..	196	141	
" October	180	210	155	131	150	156	331	461	434	1,357	1,757	168	288	218	..	196	141	
" November	179	200	149	129	147	152	329	459	442	1,286	2,189	154	281	211	..	189	141	
" December	176	195	148	125	143	150	323	458	438	1,198	2,357	150	268	202	..	187	141	
1922 January	169	185	149	121	142	147	319	469	417	1,123	2,463	148	257	190	197	..	176	141
" February	161	179	143	119	140	145	307	463	399	1,115	3,020	150	245	189	..	173	141	
" March	161	177	142	119	141	141	307	463	399	1,115	3,020	150	245	189	..	173	141	
" April	157	173	138	121	143	144	304	446	382	1,093	3,602	143	238	185	..	153	141	
" May	158	172	138	120	147	145	317	455	378	1,124	4,356	137	234	182	..	152	141	
" June	158	170	137	118	146	143	307	454	384	1,092	4,680	136	230	178	..	153	141	
" July	160	180	138	116	148	144	307	459	381	1,105	6,836	144	233	179	184	..	153	141
" August	159	175	141	116	149	141	307	463	377	1,127	9,746	144	232	181	..	152	141	
" September	161	172	139	117	149	139	291	472	386	1,129	15,417	145	228	180	..	151	141	
" October	158	172	138	119	146	139	290	482	406	..	26,623	..	220	178	..	153	141	
" November	155	176	139	120	145	139	297	477	452	..	54,982	..	216	170	..	153	141	
" December	157	178	140	146	141
1923 January	151	141

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

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



Principal Trade Disputes in progress in January 1923

Name of concern and locality.	Approximate number of workpeople involved		Date when dispute		Cause.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.	Began.	Ended.		
<i>Textile Trades.</i>						
1. The Madhewji Dharmsi Mill, Foras Road, Bombay.	550 (Spinning Department).	1,175 (Other Departments).	18 December ..	9 January ..	Demand for an increase of Rs. 1-12-0 in monthly wages for spinning heavy counts (of khadi cloth).	Work resumed unconditionally.
2. The Gold Mohur Mill, Dadar, Bombay.	175 (Weavers).	....	3 January ..	10 January ..	Against introduction of payment by piece work instead of fixed monthly wages, because the machinery was alleged to be too new to give a good outturn.	New hands engaged and strikers paid off.
3. The Asarwa Mills Co. Ltd., Asarwa Road, Ahmedabad.	45 (Winding Department).	....	25 January ..	27 January ..	Supply of bad yarn	Good yarn promised.
4. The Raja Bahadur Motilal Mills, Poona.	1,000	....	29 January ..	....	1. Notice to reduce the high prices' allowance from 70 per cent. and 80 per cent. to 20 per cent. and 30 per cent. respectively from 1st February 1923. 2. Refusal to pay the annual bonus on 27th January 1923 as paid in Bombay Mills.	....
5. The Asarwa Mills Co. Ltd., Asarwa Road, Ahmedabad.	203 (Weavers).	....	30 January ..	....	Supply of bad yarn.	....
<i>Engineering.</i>						
6. The Mathuradas Engineering Works, DeLisle Road, Bombay.	140	....	25 January ..	27 January ..	Demand for the payment of a yearly bonus.	Work resumed unconditionally.

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

Count or Number	Month of December			Nine months ended December		
	1920	1921	1922	1920	1921	1922
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds	6,101	7,205	9,000	45,944	58,652	61,618
Nos. 11 to 20	22,439	23,179	22,603	177,617	182,760	181,541
Nos. 21 to 30	14,363	13,828	13,026	116,278	118,789	123,227
Nos. 31 to 40	1,205	1,026	822	9,773	9,432	9,664
Above 40	138	158	141	992	1,497	1,487
Waste, etc.	5	9	8	180	234	81
Total ..	44,251	45,405	45,600	350,784	371,364	377,618

Bombay Island

Count or Number	Month of December			Nine months ended December		
	1920	1921	1922	1920	1921	1922
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds	5,565	6,449	8,269	42,436	52,855	56,566
Nos. 11 to 20	17,449	17,676	16,413	138,331	132,987	128,527
Nos. 21 to 30	8,389	8,966	7,762	71,559	71,890	74,469
Nos. 31 to 40	445	605	385	3,955	4,590	4,422
Above 40	75	85	76	726	756	836
Waste, etc. .. ..	....	1	2	138	168	18
Total ..	31,923	33,782	32,907	257,145	263,246	264,838

Ahmedabad

Count or Number	Month of December			Nine months ended December		
	1920	1921	1922	1920	1921	1922
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds	267	247	276	1,311	1,917	1,406
Nos. 11 to 20	2,532	2,292	2,834	16,628	23,432	25,575
Nos. 21 to 30	4,677	3,290	3,953	33,296	33,634	36,235
Nos. 31 to 40	648	341	385	4,680	3,865	4,366
Above 40	52	47	34	168	519	449
Waste, etc. .. ..	....	....	....	3	3	....
Total ..	8,176	6,217	7,482	56,086	63,370	68,031

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

Description.	Month of December.			Nine months ended December.		
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—						
Pounds	1,236	1,130	1,395	12,804	13,146	12,292
Chudders	4,496	6,415	5,972	41,647	58,360	53,164
Dhosis	981	693	597	9,910	7,172	5,681
Drills and jeans	58	44	31	476	670	511
Cambrics and lawns	224	615	385	2,439	3,270	3,779
Printers	7,549	7,710	6,795	69,230	73,885	70,642
Shirtings and long cloth	1,697	1,128	1,120	13,179	11,359	9,243
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	305	91	81	1,194	1,027	773
Tent cloth	720	1,636	3,187	5,410	10,089	15,579
Other sorts						
Total ..	17,266	19,462	19,563	156,289	178,978	171,664
Coloured piece-goods	8,215	7,084	7,686	67,362	66,676	61,667
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods	192	175	202	1,903	1,497	1,775
Hosiery	108	23	18	230	160	139
Miscellaneous	97	109	129	768	854	971
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	26	22	20	115	61	80
Grand Total ..	25,904	26,875	27,618	226,667	248,226	236,296

Bombay Island

Description.	Month of December.			Nine months ended December.		
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—						
Pounds	723	603	792	7,389	8,347	6,684
Chudders	1,551	2,293	1,955	10,614	17,906	16,081
Dhosis	931	682	569	9,265	6,797	5,354
Drills and jeans	49	28	14	303	505	267
Cambrics and lawns	5	132	1	42	50,835	49,781
Printers	5,454	4,929	4,365	45,684	9,182	7,606
Shirtings and long cloth	1,550	900	952	11,189	9,182	662
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	248	72	67	1,015	860	662
Tent cloth	372	923	2,119	2,491	5,521	10,660
Other sorts						
Total ..	10,883	10,562	10,834	87,992	100,184	97,401



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

Description.	Month of December.			Nine months ended December.		
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Coloured piece-goods Pounds ..	7,224	5,998	6,469	58,166	56,552	52,033
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods	189	160	195	1,884	1,429	1,713
Hosiery	20	16	10	96	97	80
Miscellaneous	96	107	126	767	851	961
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	22	18	18	106	53	69
Grand Total	18,434	16,861	17,652	149,011	159,166	152,257

Ahmedabad

Description.	Month of December.			Nine months ended December.		
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—						
Chudders Pounds ..	424	381	429	4,648	3,617	4,493
Dhotis	2,029	3,113	2,907	24,115	31,599	28,375
Drills and jeans	11	3	7	277	210	180
Cambrics and lavens	2	5	15	89	85	186
Printers	176	299	279	1,486	2,151	2,340
Shirtings and long cloth	1,312	1,905	1,809	16,947	16,732	15,931
T. cloth, domestic, and sheetings	135	186	144	1,788	1,947	1,430
Tent cloth .. ..	....	....	2	31	22	13
Other sorts	196	331	756	1,581	2,410	2,933
Total	4,285	6,223	6,348	50,962	58,773	55,881
Coloured piece-goods	320	287	525	3,938	3,730	3,932
Grey and coloured goods other than piece-goods .. ..	....	....	2	2	18	8
Hosiery	89	7	7	134	63	10
Miscellaneous .. ..	....	....	4	....	....	....
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	4	4	1	8	7	10
Grand Total	4,698	6,522	6,887	55,044	62,591	59,900



CURRENT NOTES FROM ABROAD

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

United Kingdom.—In the United Kingdom the year 1922 in regard to labour was one of the most difficult ever experienced. Wages fell throughout the year until November and December, the reduction being in these months less than in any month since March 1921. The total reductions in the English cotton industry during the year represent approximately 20 per cent. This general fall was only partly compensated by changes in the cost of living, being in the neighbourhood of 7·3 per cent. as against a fall in the wage rates of men in full employment of 20 per cent. In December 1922 the percentage of unemployment in insured trades was 12·2 per cent. as against 16·1 per cent. in December 1921. The percentage unemployed in trade unions making returns was 14 in December 1921 as against 16·5 in December of the previous year. In the Lancashire cotton trade wages are now 95 per cent. above the list rates and 90 per cent. higher than in 1914. Generally speaking, the turnover of trade in the United Kingdom at the present time is somewhere round about 10 per cent. below the pre-war level. The number of men in employment is now about the same as before the war, which is something to set against the fact that the employable population since 1913 has greatly increased. Those who are employed are probably, it is said, producing on an average about 10 per cent. less for approximately the same real wage.

The General Council of the Trades Union Congress recently met in London to consider measures to be adopted to meet the proposals in various industries to reduce wages and to increase the hours of work. The question is agitating the minds especially of the building trade operatives. The extension of the hours of work in other industries is also being considered. At the present time forty-eight trade unions affiliated to the Trades Union Congress work 48 hours a

week and thirty-two others work 47 hours a week, the number represented being 2,500,000. The Trades Union Congress at its annual meeting last September passed a resolution that it was in the national interest for the working hours of "manual labour" not to exceed forty-four per week, and the Congress pledged itself to support any affiliated union in its legitimate industrial efforts to put the resolution into practice.

The importance of the canteen in industrial welfare was discussed recently at a conference of a large number of representatives of industrial organisations in connection with the Industrial Welfare Society. Mr. Geoffrey Hope Morley, the president, said that industrial welfare of the workers was as important as the costing of a department and one of the most important branches of the welfare movement was the canteen. The canteen ought not to be regarded as a profit-making concern. The usefulness of a canteen lies in not only that it gives good food at a low cost, but provides the place for rest, recreation and education. Other speakers at the meeting testified to the increasing usefulness of canteens and gave instances where they were an admirable success. Thus, in one case a canteen was managed on the basis of a trust by a Committee of workers. Food was provided at cost price and lectures were held frequently. The canteen was housed in a building supplied by the firm, which also bore the expenses of maintaining and equipping it. The canteen was conducted on business lines and the profit made on it was reserved for the benefit of the workers.

Australia.—According to the Annual Report of the Commissioner for Prices for the State of Queensland, the cost of living in September 1922 was lower than in any other State in the Commonwealth, whereas in 1920, before the Profiteering Prevention Act came into force, it was higher than anywhere else in the country. Since this Act came into force in Queensland, the decrease in the cost of living in each state was, 21·9 per cent. in Queensland, 18·9 per cent. in New South Wales, 11·3 per cent. in Victoria, 11·0 per cent. in South Australia, 9·7 per cent. in Tasmania and 8·5 per cent. in Western Australia. Besides fixing and reducing the price of meat in 175



towns, state meat shops were established. The substantial reduction in Queensland is attributed to the low price of meat, the reduced cost of distribution between the retailer and the consumer and the protection afforded to the consumer against profiteering in other commodities.

France.—Reconstruction in France is proceeding rapidly.

She has already rebuilt 8,000 houses plus 160,000 temporary buildings, out of 290,000 destroyed in the devastated area. 420,000 houses have been restored out of 500,000 damaged. 3,000,000 acres of land out of 5,500,000 devastated have been cultivated. Fifty per cent. of the livestock has been replaced. 60,900 kilometres of roads, railways and canals have been rebuilt out of 64,600 kilometres, and 8,200 out of 9,700 bridges destroyed have been rebuilt. 19,920 out of 22,160 factories destroyed or damaged have been rebuilt of which 85 to 90 per cent. are working. These facts speak for themselves.

Russia.—The new Russian Code of Labour Laws which has been approved by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee came into force on the 16th November 1922. The provisions of the Code are applicable to all wage-earners including home workers, and are applicable to all undertakings—State, military, public or private, as well as employers of labour. The relation between employers and employees shall be regulated by collective agreements and by individual agreements. The Penal Code prescribes terms of imprisonment of at least one year and fines not exceeding 1,000 gold roubles for every breach of the provisions of the collective agreements. For every infringement by the employer of the Labour Code or of the general statute of wages scales, the Code prescribes imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or a fine at least 100 gold roubles or at least three months' hard labour.

The rights and duties of trade unions are defined as follows:—

Trade unions, formed of wage-earners working in State, public or private enterprises, institutions or undertakings have the right, as contracting parties to collective agreements, to enter into agreements with competent bodies in the name of the wage-earners and

to defend the rights of workers in relation to labour conditions and general living conditions.

Trade unions have the right to acquire and to hold property, to conclude contracts and make undertakings in conformity with the legislation in force.

The representative body of the trade unions in an enterprise is the Factory Committee or a delegate of a union replacing such committee.

The Committee represents the workers and employees and safeguards their interests: it must supervise the observance of the labour laws and the regular payment of wages by the administration of the enterprise concerned.

Factory Committees are furthermore charged with the improvement, whether material or moral, of the living conditions of the workers and employees.

Meetings of workers to elect Factory Committees and sittings of these Committees must in principle be held out of working hours. All expenses in connection with the working of these Committees are borne by the administrations of the enterprises concerned and must not exceed 25 per cent. of the total wages bill.

The administration of an enterprise, institution or undertaking shall not have the right to oppose the activity of Factory Committees. In this connection the Penal Code states that "any action against the lawful activities of Factory Committees, of the trade unions or their delegates, is punishable by from one to six months' imprisonment and a fine or confiscation of property."

United States of America.—In regard to the liability of trade unions, an Act was passed recently by the Massachusetts State Legislature. It was submitted to a referendum vote. 298,461 voted in favour and 297,999 against the Act. It reads:

"Any voluntary association composed of five or more persons may sue or be sued in its common name, but the separate, real or personal estate of any individual member of such an association shall not be subject to attachment or execution in any suit under this section against such association. In an action against a voluntary association service may be made upon its present secretary, treasurer, manager or other officer in charge of its business in this Commonwealth."

Japan.—In the interests of protecting women teachers before and after childbirth the Minister of Education issued an instruction to the prefectural governors that the following minimum periods of rest shall be granted to teachers at childbirth:—

1. Six weeks' rest after childbirth.



2. Two weeks' rest from the time specified in a medical certificate before childbirth and continuing until the birth actually takes place.

These rules also apply to teachers in kindergarten schools. It will be remembered that similar benefits are provided in India to the women teachers (see page 21 of the *Labour Gazette* for August 1922).

The question of the abolition of night work in the cotton mills in order to restrict output was considered in October last at a meeting of 25 smaller companies belonging to the Cotton Spinners' Association. A resolution was passed that in view of the trade depression the Association should restrict the output by 30 per cent. Some of the members urged the partial if not complete abolition of night work. This proposal has also found favour among certain larger companies. The proposal of the smaller companies was not agreed to by the Committee of the Association on the ground that the profits of the industry were now larger than those in every other industry. At a subsequent meeting the smaller companies decided to ask the Committee of the Association to convene a meeting of the whole industry to consider the former's proposals.

Hong Kong.—In accordance with the principles adopted by the Washington Conference in regard to regulating child labour, the British administration in Hong Kong has provided that no children should be employed in dangerous occupations of boiler chipping, fireworks, or glass manufacturing. The employment of children under 10 years is prohibited in all factories, and children under 12 are not permitted to carry coal and building materials, nor can children be employed between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. Employers are required to keep a complete record of all child labour engaged by them. One holiday for every seven working days is made compulsory.

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