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*Bombay Legislative Council Debates* from 5th to 15th March 1923.

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UNITED KINGDOM

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*The Board of Trade Journal*, Vol. CIX, Nos. 1382—1385.

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NEW ZEALAND

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BELGIUM

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HOLLAND

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GERMANY

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*Wirtschaft und Statistik*, Nos. 10 and 11, for May and June 1923.

SWITZERLAND

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EGYPT

*Monthly Agricultural Statistics* for April 1923.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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No. 318.—*Buildings Permits in the Principal Cities of the United States in* 1921.

GENEVA (INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE).

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*Industrial and Labour Information*, Vol. VI, Nos. 8—12.

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*Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, Vol. IV, No. 5, for May 1923.

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INDIA

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UNITED KINGDOM

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*The Statist*, Vol. C, Nos. 2361—2365.

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*The Labour Magazine* for June 1923.

*Industrial Welfare* for June 1923.

*Statistical Bulletin* for April 1923 (National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers.)

*International Cotton Bulletin* for June 1923.

*Monthly Review of the London Joint City and Midland Bank, Ltd.*, for May 1923.

*Journal of the Textile Institute* for June 1923.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*The American Economic Review* for June 1923.


# Labour Gazette

*Published monthly by the Labour Office, Secretariat, Bombay*

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

THE

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## THE MONTH IN BRIEF

### Employment

*The Cotton Industry—Bombay*

During the month ended 15th August 1923, the supply of labour in the Presidency was generally plentiful. In Bombay City and Island, only 9 mills out of a total of 48 reporting mills, reported a slight deficiency in the supply of labour. The average absenteeism in 48 representative mills in Bombay, for which reports have been received, showed a slight improvement over the figures of the previous month. The average absenteeism was 12·71 per cent. during the month ended 15th August, as compared with 13·93 per cent. in the previous month, and 18·38 per cent., two months ago. The general decrease in absenteeism was reported to be due to the return of workers from their villages, after sowing operations. Ten mills however, out of the total reporting mills, reported an increase of absenteeism, and this was stated to be due, in certain cases, to ill-health and in others to the stoppage of machinery due to the trade depression. Absenteeism was reported to be highest in the spinning department, and lowest in the weaving and the reeling departments, during the month under review. After the monthly pay day, which was on the 14th instant in most mills, absenteeism rose from 11·16 per cent. to 16·47 per cent., on the 16th instant. This records a further improvement, as compared with the figures of the preceding month when absenteeism rose from 12·34 per cent. to 17·08 per cent., for the same period.

Owing to the continued depression in the market, two textile mills in Bombay have already closed. Two other mills are also expected to close down on 1st September. This, as well as curtailed staffs in several other mills, has caused a surplus of mill labour in Bombay which at the moment, is reported to be clearly visible.

*Ahmedabad*

In Ahmedabad, the supply of labour was reported to be plentiful during the month under review. All the mills were working at full pressure. Detailed reports, however, have been received for 13 mills, four of which reported no absenteeism at all, while the remainder showed an average of 2·95 per cent. of absenteeism.

*Sholapur*

In Sholapur, the supply of labour was reported to be plentiful, and absenteeism in the mills decreased during the month under review. The average absenteeism showed a further marked improvement to 9·65 per cent. in the present month, as compared with 12·44 per cent. in the previous month, and 16·81 per cent., two months ago. As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, excellent rains fell in Sholapur in the third week of July. The question of the scarcity of the supply of water, reference to which has been made in the previous issues of the *Labour Gazette*, is now said to be no longer a matter of anxiety in this centre.

*Broach*

In Broach, the supply of labour was normal, but absenteeism increased to a considerable degree on account of strikes in two of the three mills in this centre. A reference to these strikes will be found on page 19 of this issue. The average absenteeism rose to 23·89 per cent. during the month under review, as compared with 8·69 per cent. in the previous month, and 10·31 per cent. two months ago.

*Surat*

In Surat, too, the supply of labour was adequate, but absenteeism rose to 10·80 per cent. during the present month, as compared with 3·69 per cent. last month, and 6·70 per cent. two months ago. No particular reason, however, is mentioned for this increase in absenteeism.

*The Engineering Industry—Bombay*

The Engineering industry in Bombay continues to experience a plentiful supply of all types of labour. The average absenteeism in engineering workshops (based on the returns from three large workshops) showed a further decrease, the figures being 13·38 per cent. in the present month, as compared with 14·52 per cent. last month, and 18·16 per cent., two months ago. On the Marine Lines and Colaba Reclamations of the Development Directorate, the average absenteeism remained unchanged, *viz.*, 4·5 per cent. Similarly, on the construction of chawls (tenements) at Naigaum and DeLisle Road, absenteeism remained at 3 per cent., the level of the previous month. At Worli, on the construction of chawls in connection with the Development Directorate, however, absenteeism showed an increase to 8 per cent., as compared with 5 per cent. last month and 6 per cent., two months ago. This increase was reported to be due to illness. The supply of unskilled labour, employed for loading and unloading cargo in the docks by the Bombay Port Trust, was equal to the demand. The percentage of absenteeism was 15·8 in the month under review, as compared with 20·2 last month and 17·54, two months ago. The decrease in absenteeism in the present month is due to return of labourers from their villages. In the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust, the supply of labour was plentiful, and a decrease in absenteeism was recorded. The percentage of absenteeism was 7·82, as compared with 9·50 last month, and 12, two months ago.

*Karachi*

In Karachi, the supply of all types of labour was plentiful. The average absenteeism, based on the attendance of monthly paid workers employed in the Engineering Workshop of the Karachi Port Trust, decreased to 6 per cent. during the month under review, as compared with 7 per cent. last month.

## The Cost of Living

In July 1923 the cost of living, as described elsewhere in the *Labour Gazette*, was approximately 2 points above the level of the preceding month. The average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the cost of living index for the City and Island of Bombay (100 represents the level of July 1914) was 153 for all articles and 148 for food articles only. There is a fall of 7 per cent. as compared with this time last year and a fall of 21 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 movements in consumption would present great difficulties in construction, interpretation and application. Moreover, such an index would not be materially different from a simple index of the general movement of prices in the case of the working classes. A further reference to the cost of living index will be found on page 9.

## The Wholesale Index Number

In July 1923, the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay, as shown by the index number, fell by one per cent. as compared with the previous month. There was a decrease in the average prices of both food and non-food articles. The general level is now 73 per cent. above the pre-war level. The movement by groups will be found on page 12 in the article on wholesale prices in July. 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. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | March 1923 | April 1923 | May 1923 | June 1923 | July 1923 |
| Foods .. | 79 | 74 | 76 | 79 | 78 |
| Non-foods .. | 76 | 76 | 75 | 73 | 70 |
| All articles .. | 77 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 73 |



## Industrial Disputes

The number of industrial disputes increased from 7 in June to 9 during July. The number of disputes involving stoppage of work as beginning in July was 8. During July 3,097 work-people were involved as compared with 49,111 in the previous month and 13,336 in July 1922. The aggregate duration of all disputes during July 1923 was about 35,363 working days, as compared with 160,000 in June 1923, and 58,800 in July 1922.

According to the Industries and Labour Department of the Government of India, there were in India, during the second quarter of 1923, altogether 60 disputes out of which 26 occurred in Bengal and 25 in Bombay. The shares of the other provinces were: Madras 4; the Central Provinces 2; and Bihar, Burma and the United Provinces 1 each. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was about 120,660, and the total number of working days lost about 3,653,540. In cotton mills 54,861 men were involved and 2,557,115 working days were lost, while in the jute industry 35,540 men were involved and 395,980 working days were lost. Classified by trades, there were 18 disputes in cotton mills; 13 in jute mills; 8 among stevedore coolies and boatmen; 6 in railways; 2 each, in engineering workshops and paper mills; 1 each, in oil fields, tanneries, printing works; and 7 in miscellaneous concerns. In the oil fields disputes of Burma, about 6,500 workpeople were involved, and about 252,600 working days were lost.

The causes of the disputes were pay in 27 cases; personal reasons in 18; bonus in 3; leave and hours in 4, and miscellaneous in 8. Of the 60 disputes, 46 were settled in favour of the employers; 7 in favour of the employees; and 5 disputes ended in a compromise. The result of one dispute was indefinite and one was in progress.

## Cotton Mill Production

The table below shows (1) that in all centres of the Presidency the production of yarn in June 1923 was less than the production of the corresponding months of the two previous years and (2) the production of woven goods in Bombay Island and in other centres was the same in June 1923 as in June 1922, while the production in Ahmedabad was, in June 1923, only 50 per cent. of the production in June 1922 :—

| — | Millions of lbs. of yarn spun. | | | Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | June | | | June | | |
| | 1921 | 1922 | 1923 | 1921 | 1922 | 1923 |
| Bombay Island .. | 30 | 29 | 27 | 18 | 16 | 16 |
| Ahmedabad .. | 7 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 3 |
| Other centres .. | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | | 3 |
| Total, Presidency .. | 43 | 42 | 36 | 28 | 25 | 22 |

The Bombay Millowners' Association quotations at the end of July 1922 and June and July 1923 are as follows :—

| — | Net rate per lb. in annas. | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | July 1922 | June 1923 | July 1923 |
| Longcloth .. .. | 27¼ | 20 | 20 |
| T. Cloths .. .. | 24 | 19 | 19 |
| Chudders .. .. | 25 | 19 | 19 |

## The Outlook

Generally speaking, the rains during the present month have been satisfactory and normal. During the week ending August 17th, excessive rain fell in parts of the Central Provinces, Berar, and Khandesh. On the other hand, good rains were needed in parts of Bombay Deccan, where a break in the monsoon occurred. In Sholapur, the situation in regard to the water shortage has now become much easier. Excellent rain fell in the third week of July, causing the water in Ekruk Tank to rise 11 feet above the level of the 6th of July. This has, for the present, removed the anxiety, which has been referred to in the two previous issues of the *Labour Gazette*, in regard to the possible closing of the mills in this centre. The progress of this year's monsoon, as compared with last year's monsoon, is shown in charts 2 and 3 of this issue. All things considered, the agricultural outlook in India gives no cause for alarm. An

analysis of the distribution of African gold sold in London shows that, during the first six months of the present year, India bought no less than £12¾ millions or 60 per cent. of the total amount of African gold sold in London and further shipments have recently been financed. This is significant of India's power to purchase gold at the present juncture.

The revival of trade in Europe still centres round the question of German Reparations. The recent headlong fall of the mark has necessitated a further expansion of note circulation in Germany. According to the German Statistical office, the cost of living index on 11th July was 21,510 as compared with 16,180 for the previous week—or an increase of 32 per cent. Until Germany is able to balance her budget and regain her trading equilibrium, it is almost impossible for her to make any effort to stabilise the mark.

In the United Kingdom trade continues to be very slack. The trade improvement which was evident towards the end of last year has now slackened as a result of unfavourable conditions on the Continent. In the cotton industry, the outlook is reported to be rather brighter than it was in May of this year, but a large amount of machinery continues to stand idle. It is stated that although a few enquiries have been made from India, few of these have led to any business. The cost of living index published by the Ministry of Labour was, at the beginning of July, approximately 69 per cent. above that of July 1914, the same figure as recorded in the previous month. The percentage of British unemployed among members of Trade Unions, for which returns are received by the Ministry of Labour, was 11·1 at the end of June as compared with 11·3 at the end of May 1923, and 15·7 at the end of June 1922.

In the United States, a distinct slackening in the trade boom is evident. According to cable information received by the acting American Trade Commissioner, Calcutta, conditions are much better than a year ago, although production and trade still show a slackening tendency. Money rates are high and there is an urgent demand for money. Prices, especially of cotton and steel, are declining. The fall outlook is uncertain.

## The Balance of Trade

During July 1923, the visible balance of trade including securities in *favour of India* amounted to 548 lakhs. The corresponding figure for 1922 was a favourable balance of 32 lakhs. The trade figures for the last six months for India, Bombay and Karachi are given below.

*India*

| — | In lakhs of rupees | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | February 1923 | March 1923 | April 1923 | May 1923 | June 1923 | July 1923 |
| Exports (private merchandise). | 31,60 | 32,63 | 30,68 | 30,00 | 29,89 | 26,12 |
| Imports do. .. | 19,37 | 18,54 | 21,10 | 19,28 | 17,98 | 16,38 |
| Balance of Trade in merchandise. | +12,23 | +14,09 | +9,58 | +10,72 | +11,91 | +9,74 |
| Balance of transactions in treasure (private). | −10,78 | −7,19 | −7,97 | −4,53 | −3,82 | −3,85 |
| **Visible balance of trade including securities.** | **−32** | **+7,06** | **+2,37** | **+7,27** | **+7,04** | +5,48 |

*Bombay*

| — | In lakhs of rupees | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | February 1923 | March 1923 | April 1923 | May 1923 | June 1923 | July 1923 |
| Exports (private merchandise). | 12,29 | 12,52 | 12,23 | 10,69 | 8,79 | 7,61 |
| Imports do. .. | 6,60 | 6,91 | 8,68 | 7,40 | 7,05 | 6,23 |
| Balance of Trade in merchandise. | +5,69 | + 6,01 | + 3,55 | + 3,29 | + 1,74 | +1,38 |
| Imports of treasure .. | 10,39 | 7,09 | 7,70 | 4,20 | 3,59 | 3,52 |
| Exports of treasure .. | 7 | 25 | 9 | 13 | 15 | 13 |
| Balance of transactions in treasure. | − 10,32 | − 6,86 | − 7,61 | − 4,07 | − 3,44 | −3,39 |

*Karachi*

| — | In lakhs of rupees | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | February 1923 | March 1923 | April 1923 | May 1923 | June 1923 | July 1923 |
| Exports (private merchandise). | 3,63 | 2,96 | 2,49 | 3,47 | 5,26 | 3,49 |
| Imports do. .. | 2,77 | 1,82 | 2,07 | 1,16 | 1,92 | 1,72 |
| Balance of Trade in merchandise. | + 86 | +1,14 | + 42 | + 2,31 | + 3,34 | + 1,77 |
| Imports of treasure .. | 6 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Exports of treasure .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. |
| Balance of transactions in treasure | − 6 | − 7 | − 6 | − 6 | + 1 | − 7 |

NOTE.—Plus (+) signifies net export and minus (−) signifies net import.



## Business conditions

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

| | | s. d. | | | s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| September 1922 | .. | 1 3 1/32 | March 1923 | .. | 1 4 1/8 |
| October „ | .. | 1 3 17/32 | April „ | .. | 1 4 1/16 |
| November „ | .. | 1 3 5/8 | May „ | .. | 1 4 5/32 |
| December „ | .. | 1 3 15/16 | June „ | .. | 1 4 1/16 |
| January 1923 | .. | 1 4 1/16 | July „ | .. | 1 4 3/32 |
| February „ | .. | 1 4 15/32 | August „ | .. | 1 4 1/32 |

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

There was a decrease of 9 crores of rupees in Bank clearings in Bombay in July as compared with the preceding month. Karachi clearings were the same, while the clearings in Calcutta and Rangoon decreased by 5 crores and 1 crore respectively. The figures for the last three months are as follows :—

*In crores of rupees* †

| | May 1923 | June 1923 | July 1923 | Total January to June 1923 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bombay .. | 53 | 55 | 46 | 283 |
| Karachi .. | 3 | 3 | 3 | 21 |
| Calcutta .. | 65 | 68 | 63 | 520 |
| Rangoon .. | 9 | 9 | 8 | 66 |
| Total (four ports). | 130 | 135 | 120 | 890 |

† 1 Crore = 10 millions or 100 lakhs.

The latest report shows the rupee portion of the reserve in Bombay at 19 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 65 as against 64 in June 1923 and 63 in May 1923.

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

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| August 1922 | .. | Rs. 1,578 | February 1923 | .. | Rs. 1,216 |
| September „ | .. | „ 1,517 | March „ | .. | „ 1,125 |
| October „ | .. | „ 1,433 | April „ | .. | „ 1,193 |
| November „ | .. | „ 1,266 | May „ | .. | „ 1,215 |
| December „ | .. | „ 1,222 | June „ | .. | „ 1,042 |
| January 1923 | .. | „ 1,255 | July „ | .. | „ 1,123 |



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

## INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

### APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES

Under Article 389 of the Treaty of Peace, the following Delegates have been selected by the Government of India for the forthcoming Conference :—

*Government Delegates*

Mr. D. M. Dalal, C.I.E., High Commissioner for India.

Sir Louis J. Kershaw, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary of the Industries and Overseas Department of the India Office, London.

*Adviser*

Mr. A. G. Clow, F.S.S., I.C.S., Under Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour.

*Employers' Delegate*

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

*Workers' Delegate*

Mr. K. C. Roy Choudhury, M.L.C. (Bengal).

The Delegate of the employers has been nominated on the recommendation of the Millowners' Association, Bombay. The Workers' Delegate has been nominated on the recommendations of a large number of Labour Unions and Associations.

The Conference is a very short one this year and will deal with only one item of importance—factory inspection. A reference to this is made on page 26 of this issue.

In view of the consideration that the Delegates nominated to represent the employers and workers are acquainted with conditions in Indian factories, the Government of India have decided that the appointment of technical Advisers to accompany them is not necessary. The Conference assembles in Geneva on the 22nd October 1923 and will last for a week. A reference to the Conference will be found in the *Labour Gazette* for March 1923 at page 8.

## 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, clothing and rent. | Food, clothing, heating and lighting, rent and miscellaneous items. |
| 1914 July | 100 | 100 | 100 | (a) 100 | 100 | (b) 100 | (d) 100 | (e) 100 | (f) 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | (h) 100 |
| 1915 " | .. | 125 | 97 | 112 | 107 | 99 | .. | 117 | 119 | 103 | .. | .. | 105 |
| 1916 " | .. | 148 | 102 | 115 | 113 | 116 | .. | 146 | 140 | 106 | .. | .. | 118 |
| 1917 " | .. | 180 | 130 | 118 | 119 | 146 | .. | 190 | 180 | 114 | .. | .. | 142 |
| 1918 " | .. | 203 | 146 | 119 | 126 | 197 | .. | 253 | 229 | 118 | .. | .. | 174 |
| 1919 " | .. | 208 | 155 | 132 | 133 | 205 | .. | 275 | 261 | 126 | 238 | .. | 177 |
| 1920 " | [illegible] | 252 | 190 | .. | 142 | 313 | 453 | .. | 253 | 166 | .. | 842 | 217 |
| 1921 " | 177 | 219 | 152 | .. | 157 | 387 | 379 | .. | 209 | 133 | .. | 11,124 | .. |
| 1922 February | 165 | 188 | 142 | .. | 150 | 426 | 380 | .. | 177 | 120 | .. | 2,410 | .. |
| " March | 163 | 186 | 140 | 137 | 148 | 415 | 371 | 257 | 167 | 120 | 291 | 2,979 | 167 |
| " April | 162 | 182 | 139 | .. | 146 | 420 | 357 | .. | 167 | 122 | .. | 3,436 | .. |
| " May | 163 | 181 | 142 | .. | 146 | 427 | 363 | .. | 157 | 122 | .. | 3,803 | .. |
| " June | 163 | 180 | 142 | 140 | 145 | 425 | 366 | 249 | 158 | 121 | 302 | 4,147 | 167 |
| " July | 165 | 184 | 140 | .. | 144 | 429 | 366 | .. | 158 | 120 | .. | 5,392 | .. |
| " August | 164 | 181 | 142 | .. | 144 | 431 | 366 | .. | 159 | 120 | .. | 7,705 | .. |
| " September | 165 | 179 | 140 | 143 | 144 | 437 | 375 | 249 | 157 | 120 | 289 | 13,319 | 166 |
| " October | 162 | 178 | 142 | .. | 143 | 444 | 376 | .. | 160 | 121 | .. | 22,066 | .. |
| " November | 160 | 180 | 142 | .. | 143 | 439 | 384 | .. | 160 | 122 | .. | 44,610 | .. |
| " December | 161 | 180 | 146 | 142 | 143 | 438 | 384 | 238 | 161 | 121 | 300 | 68,506 | 170 |
| 1923 January | 156 | 178 | 150 | .. | 142 | 412 | 383 | .. | 160 | 120 | .. | 112,027 | .. |
| " February | 155 | 177 | 150 | .. | 143 | 413 | 397 | .. | 158 | 120 | .. | 264,300 | .. |
| " March | 154 | 176 | 152 | 136 | 143 | 441 | 408 | 240 | 161 | 119 | 324 | 282,400 | 169 |
| " April | 156 | 174 | 149 | .. | .. | 441 | 402 | .. | 160 | 120 | .. | 295,400 | .. |
| " May | 153 | 170 | 147 | .. | .. | 449 | 413 | .. | 163 | 120 | .. | 381,600 | .. |
| " June | 151 | 169 | 146 | .. | .. | .. | 419 | 239 | .. | 120 | .. | 765,000 | .. |
| " July | 153 | 169 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

(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 = 100. (g) Expenditure of a family of four persons. (h) Average 1913 is the base.

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

## Retail food index for India and foreign countries

| Name of country. | India | United Kingdom | Canada. | South Africa. | Australia. | New Zealand. | United States of America. | France. (b) | Italy. (c) | Belgium. | Finland. | Germany. | Holland (g) | Norway. | Sweden (h) | Denmark. | Switzerland. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. of articles. | 17 | 20 | 29 | 18 | 46 | 59 | 43 | 11 | 9 | 22 | 37 | .. | 27 | .. | 51 | .. | .. |
| No. of stations. | Bombay. | 630 | 60 | 9 | 30 | 25 | 51 | Paris. | Rome. | 1,028 localities. | 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 | (a) 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 1915 " | .. | 132 | 105 | 107 | 131 | 112 | 98 | 120 | 95 | .. | .. | .. | 113 | .. | 124 | 128 | 119 |
| 1916 " | .. | 161 | 114 | 116 | 130 | 119 | 109 | 129 | 111 | .. | .. | .. | 117 | 160 | 142 | 146 | 141 |
| 1917 " | .. | 204 | 157 | 128 | 126 | 127 | 143 | 183 | 137 | .. | .. | .. | 146 | 214 | 181 | 166 | 179 |
| 1918 " | .. | 210 | 175 | 134 | 131 | 139 | 164 | 206 | 203 | .. | .. | .. | 176 | 279 | 268 | 187 | 222 |
| 1919 " | .. | 209 | 186 | 139 | 147 | 144 | 186 | 261 | 206 | .. | .. | .. | 204 | 289 | 310 | 212 | 250 |
| 1920 " | .. | 258 | 227 | 197 | 194 | 167 | 215 | 373 | 318 | 459 | 982 | 1,156 | 210 | 319 | 297 | 253 | 239 |
| 1921 " | 174 | 220 | 148 | 139 | 161 | 164 | 145 | 306 | 402 | 410 | 1,278 | 1,491 | 180 | 295 | 232 | 236 | 207 |
| 1922 February | 160 | 179 | 143 | 119 | 140 | 145 | 139 | 307 | 463 | 399 | 1,115 | 3,020 | 150 | 245 | 189 | .. | 173 |
| " March | 161 | 177 | 142 | 119 | 141 | 141 | 136 | 294 | 446 | 392 | 1,093 | 3,602 | 143 | 238 | 185 | .. | 162 |
| " April | 157 | 173 | 138 | 121 | 143 | 144 | 136 | 304 | 455 | 378 | 1,124 | 4,356 | 137 | 234 | 182 | .. | 153 |
| " May | 156 | 172 | 139 | 120 | 147 | 143 | 136 | 317 | 455 | 379 | 1,092 | 4,680 | 136 | 230 | 178 | .. | 152 |
| " June | 158 | 170 | 137 | 118 | 146 | 143 | 137 | 307 | 424 | 384 | .. | 5,119 | 137 | 227 | 179 | .. | 153 |
| " July | 160 | 180 | 138 | 116 | 148 | 144 | 139 | 297 | 459 | 381 | 1,105 | 6,836 | 144 | 233 | 179 | 184 | 153 |
| " August | 159 | 175 | 141 | 116 | 142 | 141 | 137 | 289 | 463 | 377 | 1,127 | 9,746 | 144 | 232 | 181 | .. | 152 |
| " September | 161 | 172 | 139 | 117 | 142 | 139 | 137 | 291 | 472 | 386 | 1,129 | 15,417 | 145 | 228 | 180 | .. | 151 |
| " October | 159 | 172 | 138 | 119 | 140 | 139 | 140 | 290 | 482 | 406 | 1,121 | 26,623 | 148 | 220 | 178 | .. | 153 |
| " November | 155 | 176 | 139 | 120 | 145 | 138 | 142 | 297 | 477 | 432 | 1,108 | 54,982 | 141 | 219 | 170 | .. | 155 |
| " December | 157 | 178 | 140 | 118 | 146 | 138 | 144 | 305 | 476 | 429 | 1,092 | 80,700 | 142 | 215 | 168 | 180 | 155 |
| 1923 January | 151 | 175 | 142 | 117 | 145 | 139 | 141 | 309 | 480 | 426 | 1,080 | 136,600 | 145 | 214 | 166 | 180 | 155 |
| " February | 150 | 173 | 142 | 117 | 144 | 140 | 139 | 316 | 478 | 439 | 1,070 | 318,300 | 145 | 214 | 166 | .. | 154 |
| " March | 147 | 171 | 145 | 117 | 142 | 141 | 139 | 321 | 480 | 432 | 1,066 | 331,500 | 145 | 213 | 165 | .. | 156 |
| " April | 150 | 168 | 142 | 117 | 152 | 142 | 140 | 323 | 481 | 417 | 1,012 | 300,000 | 143 | 212 | 164 | .. | 159 |
| " May | 148 | 162 | 140 | 118 | 155 | 143 | 140 | 325 | 491 | 414 | .. | 397,000 | .. | 214 | 161 | .. | 161 |
| " June | 146 | 160 | 138 | 118 | 162 | 143 | .. | 331 | .. | 426 | .. | 934,700 | .. | 213 | 161 | .. | .. |
| " July | 149 | 162 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

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

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



# THE COST OF LIVING INDEX FOR JULY 1923

## A rise of two points

**All articles .. 53 per cent.**

In July 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 two points above the level of the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the index was about 151 in June and 153 in July 1923. The general index is 21 per cent. below the high-water mark reached in October 1920, 12 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1921 and 7 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1922. The cost of living index has fallen to the level of August 1918.

In comparison with the previous month, there was a rise of two points (or more than one per cent.) in the general level of retail prices of food articles. The rise was mainly due to a rise in the prices of seasonal articles. The noticeable changes in the prices of food-grains were a rise of 16 points in bajri, 6 points in jowari, and a fall of one point in rice. The average for the miscellaneous food-group which consists of articles such as sugar, tea, salt, milk, ghee, potatoes, onions, etc., rose by nearly 3 per cent.

*All items : Average percentage increase over July 1914.*

| — | 1918 | 1919 | 1920 | 1921 | 1922 | 1923 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. |
| January .. | 34 | 82 | 83 | 69 | 73 | 56 |
| February .. | 34 | 76 | 81 | 62 | 65 | 55 |
| March .. | 36 | 72 | 77 | 60 | 65 | 54 |
| April .. | 44 | 67 | 72 | 60 | 62 | 55 |
| May .. | 47 | 68 | 73 | 67 | 63 | 53 |
| June .. | 48 | 74 | 81 | 73 | 63 | 51 |
| July .. | 49 | 86 | 90 | 77 | 65 | 53 |
| August .. | 53 | 79 | 91 | 80 | 64 | |
| September .. | 65 | 72 | 92 | 85 | 65 | |
| October .. | 75 | 74 | 93 | 83 | 62 | |
| November .. | 75 | 73 | 86 | 82 | 60 | |
| December .. | 83 | 74 | 81 | 79 | 61 | |
| Yearly average | 54 | 75 | 83 | 73 | 64 | |

**Food only .. 48 per cent.**

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 June and July 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) maund or seer on page 10.

| Articles. | July 1914. | June 1923. | July 1923. | Increase (+) or decrease (—) of points in July 1923 over or below June 1923. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rice .. | 100 | 126 | 125 | — 1 |
| Wheat .. | 100 | 126 | 126 | .. |
| Jowari .. | 100 | 107 | 113 | + 6 |
| Bajri .. | 100 | 119 | 135 | + 16 |
| Gram .. | 100 | 114 | 114 | .. |
| Turdal .. | 100 | 119 | 119 | .. |
| Sugar (refined) .. | 100 | 294 | 294 | .. |
| Sugar (raw) .. | 100 | 167 | 167 | .. |
| Tea .. | 100 | 178 | 178 | .. |
| Salt .. | 100 | 199 | 199 | .. |
| Beef .. | 100 | 148 | 158 | + 10 |
| Mutton .. | 100 | 222 | 215 | — 7 |
| Milk .. | 100 | 191 | 191 | .. |
| Ghee .. | 100 | 170 | 170 | .. |
| Potatoes .. | 100 | 167 | 208 | + 41 |
| Onions .. | 100 | 331 | 351 | + 20 |
| Coconut oil .. | 100 | 129 | 120 | — 9 |
| All food articles (weighted average) .. | 100 | 146 | 148 | + 2 |

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

## BOMBAY COST OF LIVING INDEX

### A

| Articles. | Unit of quantity. | Annual consumption (Mass Units) (in crores.) | Price. July 1914. | Price. June 1923. | Price. July 1923. | Total Expenditure. July 1914. | Total Expenditure. June 1923. | Total Expenditure. July 1923. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| *Cereals—* | | | | | | | | |
| Rice .. .. | Maund | 70 | 5·594 | 7·063 | 6·974 | 391·58 | 494·41 | 488·18 |
| Wheat .. .. | " | 21 | 5·594 | 7·047 | 7·047 | 117·47 | 147·99 | 147·99 |
| Jowari .. .. | " | 11 | 4·334 | 4·667 | 4·932 | 47·69 | 51·34 | 54·25 |
| Bajri .. .. | " | 6 | 4·313 | 5·120 | 5·818 | 25·88 | 30·72 | 34·91 |
| Total and Average—Cereals .. | — | — | 100 | 124 | 125 | 582·82 | 724·46 | 725·33 |
| *Pulses—* | | | | | | | | |
| Gram .. .. | Maund | 10 | 4·302 | 4·922 | 4·922 | 43·02 | 49·22 | 49·22 |
| Turdal .. .. | " | 3 | 5·844 | 6·974 | 6·974 | 17·53 | 20·92 | 20·92 |
| Total and Average—Pulses .. | — | — | 100 | 116 | 116 | 60·55 | 70·14 | 70·14 |
| *Other food articles—* | | | | | | | | |
| Sugar (refined) .. .. | Maund | 2 | 7·620 | 22·375 | 22·357 | 15·24 | 44·75 | 44·75 |
| Sugar (raw) .. .. | " | 7 | 8·557 | 14·287 | 14·287 | 59·90 | 100·01 | 100·01 |
| Tea .. .. | " | 1 | 40·000 | 71·109 | 71·109 | 1·00 | 1·78 | 1·78 |
| Salt .. .. | " | 46 | 2·130 | 4·234 | 4·234 | 10·65 | 21·17 | 21·17 |
| Beef .. .. | Seer | 5 | 0·323 | 0·479 | 0·510 | 9·04 | 13·41 | 14·28 |
| Mutton .. .. | " | 28 | 0·417 | 0·927 | 0·896 | 13·76 | 30·59 | 29·57 |
| Milk .. .. | Maund | 33 | 9·198 | 17·583 | 17·583 | 128·77 | 246·16 | 246·16 |
| Ghee .. .. | " | 14 | 50·792 | 86·484 | 86·484 | 76·19 | 129·73 | 129·73 |
| Potatoes .. .. | " | 1½ | 4·479 | 7·495 | 9·328 | 49·27 | 82·45 | 102·61 |
| Onions .. .. | " | 11 | 1·552 | 5·135 | 5·443 | 4·66 | 15·41 | 16·33 |
| Coconut Oil .. .. | " | 3 | 25·396 | 32·651 | 30·474 | 12·70 | 16·33 | 15·24 |
| Total and Average—Other food articles .. .. | — | — | 100 | 184 | 189 | 381·18 | 701·79 | 721·63 |
| Total and Average—All food articles .. .. | — | — | 100 | 146 | 148 | 1,024·55 | 1,496·97 | 1,517·10 |
| *Fuel and lighting—* | | | | | | | | |
| Kerosene oil .. .. | Case | 2 | 4·375 | 7·500 | 7·500 | 21·88 | 37·50 | 37·50 |
| Firewood .. .. | Maund | 48 | 0·792 | 1·281 | 1·281 | 38·02 | 61·49 | 61·49 |
| Coal .. .. | " | 1 | 0·542 | 0·333 | 0·294 | 0·54 | 0·33 | 0·29 |
| Total and Average—Fuel and lighting .. .. | — | — | 100 | 164 | 164 | 60·44 | 99·32 | 99·28 |
| *Clothing—* | | | | | | | | |
| Chaddars .. .. | Lb. | 27 | 0·594 | 1·188 | 1·188 | 16·04 | 32·08 | 32·08 |
| Shirtings .. .. | " | 25 | 0·641 | 1·354 | 1·354 | 16·03 | 33·85 | 33·85 |
| T. Cloth .. .. | " | 36 | 0·583 | 1·188 | 1·188 | 20·99 | 42·77 | 42·77 |
| Total and Average—Clothing .. | " | — | 100 | 205 | 205 | 53·06 | 108·70 | 108·70 |
| House rent .. .. | Per month | 10 | 11·302 | 18·700 | 18·700 | 113·02 | 187·00 | 187·00 |
| Grand Total and General Average .. | — | — | 100 | 151 | 153 | 1,251·97 | 1,891·41 | 1,912·08 |

NOTE.—If the aggregate expenditure in July 1914 at the prices ruling in that month was Rs. 1,251·97 crores, the aggregate expenditure in July 1923 at July price levels was Rs. 1,912·08, *i.e.*, an increase of 53 per cent. (Rs. 1,251·97 = 100; Rs. 1,912·08 = 153).



## BOMBAY COST OF LIVING INDEX

### B

*Alternative method of presentation.*

| Articles. | Approximate percentage weight assigned to each article based on proportion to aggregate expenditure in July 1914. | Index Number. June 1923. | Index Number. July 1923. | Weight × Index Number. June 1923. | Weight × Index Number. July 1923. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Cereals—* | | | | | |
| Rice .. .. .. .. | 31·4 | 126 | 125 | 3,956·4 | 3,925·0 |
| Wheat .. .. .. .. | 9·4 | 126 | 126 | 1,184·4 | 1,184·4 |
| Jowari .. .. .. .. | 3·8 | 107 | 113 | 406·6 | 429·4 |
| Bajri .. .. .. .. | 2·1 | 119 | 135 | 249·9 | 283·5 |
| Total and Average Index No. .. | 46·7 | 124 | 125 | 5,797·3 | 5,822·3 |
| *Pulses—* | | | | | |
| Gram .. .. .. .. | 3·1 | 114 | 114 | 353·4 | 353·4 |
| Turdal .. .. .. .. | 1·3 | 119 | 119 | 154·7 | 154·7 |
| Total and Average Index No. .. | 4·4 | 115 | 115 | 508·1 | 508·1 |
| *Other food articles—* | | | | | |
| Sugar (refined) .. .. .. .. | 1·2 | 294 | 294 | 352·8 | 352·8 |
| Sugar (raw) .. .. .. .. | 4·8 | 167 | 167 | 801·6 | 801·6 |
| Tea .. .. .. .. | 0·1 | 178 | 178 | 17·8 | 17·8 |
| Salt .. .. .. .. | 0·9 | 199 | 199 | 179·1 | 179·1 |
| Beef .. .. .. .. | 0·7 | 148 | 158 | 103·6 | 110·6 |
| Mutton .. .. .. .. | 1·1 | 222 | 215 | 244·2 | 236·5 |
| Milk .. .. .. .. | 10·3 | 191 | 191 | 1,967·3 | 1,967·3 |
| Ghee .. .. .. .. | 6·1 | 170 | 170 | 1,037·0 | 1,037·0 |
| Potatoes .. .. .. .. | 4·0 | 167 | 208 | 668·0 | 832·0 |
| Onions .. .. .. .. | 0·4 | 331 | 351 | 132·4 | 140·4 |
| Coconut oil .. .. .. .. | 1·0 | 129 | 120 | 129·0 | 120·0 |
| Total and Average Index No. .. | 30·6 | 184 | 189 | 5,632·8 | 5,795·1 |
| *Fuel and lighting—* | | | | | |
| Kerosene oil .. .. .. .. | 1·8 | 171 | 171 | 307·8 | 307·8 |
| Firewood .. .. .. .. | 3·0 | 162 | 162 | 486·0 | 486·0 |
| Coal .. .. .. .. | 0·1 | 61 | 54 | 6·1 | 5·4 |
| Total and Average Index No. .. | 4·9 | 163 | 163 | 799·9 | 799·2 |
| *Clothing—* | | | | | |
| Dhoties .. .. .. .. | 1·3 | 200 | 200 | 260·0 | 260·0 |
| Shirtings .. .. .. .. | 1·3 | 211 | 211 | 274·3 | 274·3 |
| T. Cloth .. .. .. .. | 1·7 | 204 | 204 | 346·8 | 346·8 |
| Total and Average Index No. .. | 4·3 | 205 | 205 | 881·1 | 881·1 |
| House rent .. .. .. .. | 9·1 | 165 | 165 | 1,501·5 | 1,501·5 |
| Grand total of weights .. | 100 | | | | |
| General Average or Cost of Living Index (July 1914 = 100) .. | .... | 151 | 153 | 15,120·7 | 15,307·3 |

## WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY

### PRICES FALLING

In July 1923, the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay, which remained stationary for the last three months, fell by one per cent. as compared with the previous month. There was a fall of 1 per cent. in the average for food articles and 2 per cent. in non-food articles. In comparison with the corresponding month of last year, prices have fallen by 8 per cent., the fall from the twelve-monthly average of 1922 being about 6 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 is set out below :—

*Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay**

| Groups. | No. of items. | Increase (+) or decrease (—) per cent. in July 1923 as compared with the preceding month (June 1923). | Increase (+) or decrease (—) per cent. in July 1923 as compared with the corresponding month of last year (July 1922). |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Cereals .. .. | 7 | — 1 | — 25 |
| 2. Pulses .. .. | 2 | — 1 | — 33 |
| 3. Sugar .. .. | 3 | — 8 | — 2 |
| 4. Other food .. .. | 3 | + 5 | + 39 |
| Total food .. | 15 | — 1 | — 5 |
| 5. Oilseeds .. | 4 | — 2 | — 13 |
| 6. Raw cotton .. | 5 | + 3 | + 11 |
| 7. Cotton manufactures .. | 6 | .... | — 17 |
| 8. Other textiles .. | 2 | .... | .... |
| 9. Hides and skins .. | 3 | — 3 | — 2 |
| 10. Metals .. | 5 | — 2 | + 3 |
| 11. Other raw and manufactured articles .. .. | 3 | — 1 | — 26 |
| Total non-food .. | 28 | — 2 | — 10 |
| General average .. | 43 | — 1 | — 8 |

* Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on pages 42-44.

The average level of food articles stood at 178 in July as against 179 in June, thus showing a fall of nearly one per cent. Cereals and pulses declined by nearly one per cent. each. There was a fall of 8 per cent. in the average price of sugar and a rise of 5 per cent. in the average for "other articles of food ".

In July 1923, the index number for non-food articles was 170, which shows a fall of nearly 2 per cent. as compared with the previous month. The level now reached, is the lowest since the beginning of 1918, from which period the index number has been calculated. The most noticeable change was in hides and skins which fell by more than 3 per cent. There was a fall of 2 per cent. in both oilseeds and metals. The only rise during the month was in raw cotton, which amounted to nearly 3 per cent.

The subjoined table compares July 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*

| Groups. | July 1922. | Oct. 1922. | Jan. 1923. | April 1923. | June 1923. | July 1923. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I. Cereals .. | 103 | 88 | 75 | 78 | 78 | 77 |
| II. Pulses .. | 95 | 85 | 73 | 65 | 65 | 64 |
| III. Sugar .. | 101 | 97 | 93 | 112 | 108 | 99 |
| IV. Other food .. | 98 | 107 | 131 | 116 | 130 | 137 |
| Total food .. | 101 | 96 | 93 | 94 | 96 | 96 |
| V. Oilseeds .. | 108 | 98 | 93 | 99 | 96 | 94 |
| VI. Raw cotton .. | 108 | 91 | 110 | 113 | 117 | 120 |
| VII. Cotton manufactures .. | 105 | 93 | 93 | 89 | 87 | 87 |
| VIII. Other textiles .. | 100 | 100 | 99 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| IX. Hides and Skins .. | 100 | 79 | 117 | 118 | 101 | 98 |
| X. Metals .. | 95 | 97 | 104 | 99 | 99 | 97 |
| XI. Other raw and manufactured articles .. | 99 | 96 | 78 | 76 | 75 | 74 |
| Total non-food .. | 103 | 94 | 97 | 96 | 95 | 93 |
| General average—all articles .. | 102 | 94 | 96 | 95 | 95 | 94 |

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 | 270 | 237 |
| " " 1919 .. | 202 | 233 | 222 |
| " " 1920 .. | 206 | 221 | 215 |
| " " 1921 .. | 193 | 198 | 196 |
| " " 1922 .. | 186 | 183 | 184 |
| Seven-monthly " 1923 .. | 175 | 175 | 175 |

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

*The Construction of the Index*

| No. | Articles. | | July 1914. Total Numbers. | July 1923. Total Numbers. | July 1923. Average. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Cereals (Rice, wheat, jowari, barley and bajri). | 7 Index Nos. | 700 | 889 | 127 |
| 2 | Pulses (Gram and turdal). | 2 " " | 200 | 179 | 90 |
| 3 | Sugar (Refined and raw). | 3 " " | 300 | 645 | 215 |
| 4 | Other articles of food (Ghee, salt, etc.) .. | 3 " " | 300 | 952 | 317 |
| 5 | **Total, all food** .. | **15 " "** | **1,500** | **2,665** | **178** |
| 6 | Oil seeds (Linseed, rapeseed, poppyseed and gingelly) .. | 4 " " | 400 | 526 | 132 |
| 7 | Raw cotton .. | 2 " " | 200 | 433 | 217 |
| 8 | Cotton manufactures (Long cloth, shirtings, chudders, etc.) .. | 6 " " | 600 | 1,266 | 211 |
| 9 | Other textiles (Silk) .. | 2 " " | 200 | 277 | 139 |
| 10 | Hides and skins .. | 3 " " | 300 | 418 | 139 |
| 11 | Metals (Copper braziers, steel bars, tinplates, etc.). | 5 " " | 500 | 911 | 182 |
| 12 | Other raw and manufactured articles (kerosene and coal) .. | 3 " " | 300 | 421 | 140 |
| 13 | **Total, non-food** .. | **25 " "** | **2,500** | **4,252** | **170** |
| 14 | **General Average** .. | **40 " "** | **4,000** | **6,917** | **173** |

## COMPARATIVE RETAIL PRICES

### BOMBAY, KARACHI, AHMEDABAD, SHOLAPUR AND POONA

The following table compares the retail food prices in Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona with those in Bombay in June and July 1923 (Bombay prices = 100). It will be seen that the retail price levels in all the four centres are below the level in Bombay.

*Bombay prices in June 1923 = 100*

| Articles. | Bombay. | Karachi. | Ahmedabad. | Sholapur. | Poona. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cereals— | | | | | |
| Rice .. | 100 | 94 | 113 | 105 | 141 |
| Wheat .. | 100 | 72 | 93 | 94 | 90 |
| Jowari .. | 100 | 78 | 82 | 81 | 87 |
| Bajri .. | 100 | 74 | 110 | 90 | 99 |
| Average—Cereals.. | 100 | 80 | 100 | 93 | 104 |
| Pulses— | | | | | |
| Gram .. | 100 | 83 | 116 | 88 | 83 |
| Turdal .. | 100 | 82 | 83 | 91 | 102 |
| Average—Pulses.. | 100 | 83 | 100 | 90 | 93 |
| Other articles of food— | | | | | |
| Sugar (refined) .. | 100 | 88 | 102 | 114 | 104 |
| Jagri (Gul) .. | 100 | 86 | 93 | 70 | 74 |
| Tea .. | 100 | 75 | 113 | 90 | 96 |
| Salt .. | 100 | 73 | 79 | 98 | 99 |
| Beef .. | 100 | 118 | 78 | 78 | 78 |
| Mutton .. | 100 | 67 | 81 | 54 | 74 |
| Milk .. | 100 | 43 | 57 | 76 | 83 |
| Ghee .. | 100 | 86 | 106 | 74 | 97 |
| Potatoes .. | 100 | 87 | 82 | 134 | 79 |
| Onions .. | 100 | 49 | 78 | 65 | 68 |
| Cocoanut oil .. | 100 | 82 | 98 | 82 | 94 |
| Average—Other articles of food .. | 100 | 78 | 88 | 85 | 86 |
| **Average—All food articles ..** | **100** | **79** | **92** | **87** | **91** |

*Bombay prices in July 1923 = 100*

| Articles. | Bombay. | Karachi. | Ahmedabad. | Sholapur. | Poona. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cereals— | | | | | |
| Rice .. | 100 | 99 | 115 | 111 | 127 |
| Wheat .. | 100 | 68 | 87 | 91 | 90 |
| Jowari .. | 100 | 74 | 77 | 78 | 83 |
| Bajri .. | 100 | 72 | 93 | 82 | 93 |
| Average—Cereals.. | 100 | 78 | 93 | 91 | 98 |
| Pulses— | | | | | |
| Gram .. | 100 | 81 | 116 | 86 | 83 |
| Turdal .. | 100 | 84 | 82 | 86 | 106 |
| Average—Pulses .. | 100 | 83 | 99 | 86 | 95 |
| Other articles of food— | | | | | |
| Sugar (refined) .. | 100 | 78 | 102 | 119 | 89 |
| Jagri (Gul) .. | 100 | 73 | 93 | 70 | 74 |
| Tea .. | 100 | 75 | 113 | 90 | 96 |
| Salt .. | 100 | 73 | 79 | 98 | 99 |
| Beef .. | 100 | 110 | 74 | 74 | 74 |
| Mutton .. | 100 | 70 | 84 | 70 | 77 |
| Milk .. | 100 | 43 | 57 | 76 | 83 |
| Ghee .. | 100 | 84 | 106 | 82 | 97 |
| Potatoes .. | 100 | 104 | 93 | 123 | 77 |
| Onions .. | 100 | 48 | 88 | 68 | 85 |
| Cocoanut oil .. | 100 | 86 | 105 | 88 | 96 |
| Average—Other articles of food .. | 100 | 77 | 90 | 87 | 86 |
| **Average—All food articles ..** | **100** | **78** | **92** | **88** | **90** |

On page 46 will be found statistics of food prices in June and July 1923 for Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona. These are official prices supplied through

the Director of Agriculture to the Labour Office, and are averages of prices taken eight times a month from retail shopkeepers patronised by the labouring classes. The articles selected, seventeen in number, are those commonly consumed by the working classes.

## INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES

### POINTS OF IMPORTANCE

In the May issue of the *Labour Gazette* a reference was made on page 36 to the forthcoming meeting in October 1923 on economic statistics of the International Statistical Institute. The Economic Committee of the League of Nations has conferred with the International Statistical Institute on increasing the comparability of methods adopted in various countries in the preparation of these statistics. A Memorandum on Index numbers by the Director of the Labour Office, Bombay has been circulated to members and correspondents of the Preparatory Committee. The Memorandum emphasises the very great importance of obtaining accurate price quotations in the construction of index numbers. When once the weights in a cost of living index have been reasonably estimated, provided the price ratios are not very unequal, the errors in weights can be frequently neglected. Great emphasis is laid on the importance of accuracing in the collection of price statistics. It is money extremely well spent.

In regard to the construction of an index number, Resolutions 79, 80, 81 and 82 adopted by the first Conference of Government Officers engaged in dealing with statistics in the British Empire may be considered. These are as follows :—

"79. That in all cases in which an Index-Number is first issued or is revised by a Government Department, it should be accompanied by a statement of the methods employed and the data used in the construction, giving sufficient detail to permit of its reconstruction by a reader; but that when subsequently issued a reference to this statement, together with a statement of fresh data employed would meet all essential requirements.

80. That in obtaining price-indexes for different countries of the British Empire the list of commodities whose prices serve as the basis should, for each country, be selected so as to give the most representative index for that country that can be secured for the particular purpose in view, and that it is not desirable that the list should be identical and co-extensive for all the countries and for all purposes.

81. That the index-number should be so constructed that their comparison for any two dates should express the proportion of the aggregate expenditure on the selected list of representative commodities, in the quantities selected as appropriate, at the one date, to the aggregate expenditure on the same list of commodities, in the same quantities, at the other date.

82. That in view of the changing character of the national consumption in many countries, it is desirable to revise, from time to time, say at decennial intervals, the list of commodities and appropriate quantities on which Index-Numbers are based, and that when such revision takes place the Index-Numbers should be calculated on the basis of both the old and the new list for the year in which the change occurs, and, if possible, for at least two years preceding and two years following the change."

The importance of collecting family budgets needs no emphasis in regard to the use which can be made of these with reference to the weighting of articles in index numbers. Hitherto it has been customary to select these family budgets from working classes and the weights given to the articles from these budgets are supposed to be representative of all classes, in the same way that army clothing which fits no one well is supposed to fit most men. In cases where it is desirable to compare the cost of living for different classes or for different peoples living in the same country or city, it may be necessary to compile more than one official index number. Thus in India the Labour Office of this Government publishes a cost of living index which is suitable for Indians of the working class. This index number, however, is not an accurate index for Europeans living in India who have a different



regimen or standard of living and also considerable expenses for the education of their families in England. In such circumstances it is desirable to have more than one official index for the country concerned, and it may be advisable to sub-divide the usual groups :— food, fuel and lighting, clothing, house-rent, and miscellaneous. A full description of the cost of living index of the Labour Office was published in the *Labour Gazette* for September 1921 and of the index for wholesale prices in the *Labour Gazette* for November 1921.

In regard to the criteria which have recently been laid down by Professor Irving Fisher in "*The Making of Index Numbers*", the time reversal test and the factor reversal test should not be regarded as very important for the construction of an index number. It is unnecessary here to explain in detail the reasons why these tests should not be regarded as the true tests of a good index number. They have been referred to in Professor Bowley's interesting review in the *Economic Journal*, London, dated March 1923 (page 90). In addition to criticisms of his tests in actual practice, there is the fact that weighting is not so important as the use of accurate price data or even the selection of a good base year.

It is to be hoped that it will be possible to lay down as a guide to statisticians whether the geometric average should be used in the construction of wholesale and retail index numbers rather than the arithmetic average. The advantages of the geometric mean are, of course, well known amongst statisticians. The geometric average has the advantage of not giving undue importance to exceptional changes in prices and at the same time it is especially convenient for the construction of "chain system" of index numbers.

## A NEW WHOLESALE INDEX NUMBER

### A CHANGE IN CANADA

Following the lead given by the Board of Trade in the United Kingdom in 1921 and the Bureau of Labour in the United States of America in 1922, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics of Canada has recently revised its wholesale index number. Several important changes in the record of prices and in the method of constructing the index number have been introduced. In a Report by Mr. R. H. Coats, the Dominion Statistician, entitled "Prices and Price Indexes, 1918—1922" the changes have been described, *viz.*, those (1) in the commodities included in the index number; (2) in the method of grouping the commodities; (3) in the choice of the base period; and (4) in the method of weighting.

### COMMODITIES AND GROUPING

There have been considerable changes in the nature of the commodities included, several of the items which ceased adequately to represent the field from which they were drawn, being replaced by new items which have taken prominent places in the respective markets. The number of price series was reduced from 272 to 238, 51 new series were added and 85 old series discarded. The number of commodities to be included in each of the main groups, was determined on the basis of the relative importance of the various groups in the general trade of the country. It is recognised that it is not necessary to have an unduly long list of price quotations in order to make an index number representative, and the inclusion of such a large number as 238 price series, seems justified only on the grounds of maintaining continuity with the old index. The larger list, drawn as it is from all classes of commodities and containing several representative items from each class, will increase the general usefulness of the index for purposes of reference. At the same time Marshall's remark in his recent book "Money, Credit, and Commerce" should be remembered that the larger the number of commodities "the less trustworthy will be the inferences drawn from the list as to changes in general prices; for the simpler a commodity is, the more likely is its name to represent nearly the same thing at distant times".

For the purpose of constructing group index numbers, the commodities have been grouped into eight classes according to the principle of "Chief Component Material" (vegetable, animal, wood, iron, etc.). As in the case of the Federal Reserve Bulletin, the commodities have been classified according to

"Use or Purpose" (food, clothing, producers' goods, consumers' goods, etc.) and according to "Origin" (farm, forest, mineral, marine, etc.). In this method of classification according to "Use or Purpose" and "Origin", a certain amount of overlapping of the commodities has been found to be unavoidable. For example in the sub-division into raw materials and finished products, it has not been found practicable to draw a clear cut line between the two, and some items have been included in both. On the whole, the new method of grouping has been arranged to bring it into conformity with the general plan adopted throughout by the Bureau in presenting statistics relating to commodities. Greater facility in comparing the statistics of prices with those of imports, production, transportation, etc., has also been ensured.

### Base Period Selected

Hitherto, the index number of wholesale prices of the Department of Labour was based on the period 1890—1899. Considering the abnormal rise in prices since the outbreak of war, and the remoteness of that base, it was considered desirable to compare prices with those in the pre-war year 1913. The year 1913 has, therefore, been selected as the base period. As this is the year adopted by almost all countries as the base period, this selection will be convenient for international comparison. The figures from 1890 to 1912 have been worked backwards as percentages of the base year (1913) prices.

### Weighting

The original index number of the Department of labour was an unweighted one, *i.e.*, the commodities included were given equal importance in the trade of the country. The truth of the statement that a weighted index number, however approximate the weights may be, is more reliable than an unweighted one, has been recognised by the Department and the new index is weighted according to the relative importance which each series bears to the total trade of the country. "To call any series 'unweighted'", Mr. Coats remarks "is a misnomer. Weights are present even in a series where the prices of commodities have been equalized in the initial year by representing each by 100. For example, if one gives pepper equal importance with flour, the former is really being weighted at the expense of the latter, for in the trade of the community flour is relatively much more important."

The formula employed in computing the new weighted index is known as Laspeyres' which is the same as that employed for computing the Bombay cost of living index. This method of computing index numbers is called the 'Aggregative' method and is also used in Australia, the United States of America, and South Africa. The chief advantage of this method is that index numbers on a new base can be calculated directly without introducing any approximation. In arriving at the weights, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has taken care to see that if an article which has already appeared in one form, appears in another form, due allowance should be made for the quantity already taken in the first form. For example, if wheat, flour and bread are the articles for which the weights are calculated, the amount of wheat consumed as flour and bread is deducted from the total quantity of wheat marketed, in order to arrive at the weight of wheat.

The Report contains a number of tables on prices and index numbers since the year 1890 and is a companion volume to "Wholesale Prices in Canada" 1890—1909 published in 1910.

## INDIAN LABOUR IN BRITISH GUIANA

### Cost of Living and Wages

The Assistant Colonial Secretary, Georgetown, British Guiana, has sent the following information regarding Indian immigrant labour in the Colony for publication :—

"The cost of living at the end of 1922 appears to have been less than Rs.1-1-3 a day.

Average earnings per day were :—

Shovelmen Rs. 1-5-8, Male Weeders Rs. 1-3-2, Female Weeders Re. 0-15-9.

Average highest per day were :—

Shovelmen Rs. 1-14-6, Male Weeders Rs. 1-12-1, Female Weeders Rs.1-4-8.

House accommodation on sugar estates is usually rent free ; and pasturage, rice and provision land practically so."



# INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN THE PRESIDENCY

**Disputes in July .. 9**

On page 48 will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during July 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 July 1923.

### I.—Industrial Disputes classified by Trades

| Trade. | Number of disputes in progress in July 1923. | | | Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in July 1923. | Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in July 1923.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Started before 1st July. | Started in July. | Total. | | |
| Textile .. | 1 | 8 | 9 | 3,097 | 35,363 |
| Engineering .. | .. | .. | .. | .... | .... |
| Miscellaneous .. | .. | .. | .. | .... | .... |
| Total, July 1923 .. | 1 | 8 | 9 | 3,097 | 35,363 |
| Total, June 1923 .. | 1 | 6 | 7 | 49,111 | 159,857 |

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

There were 9 industrial disputes in July 1923, all of which were in cotton mills. The number of workpeople affected was about 3,100 and the working days lost (*i.e.*, the

**Workpeople involved .. 3,097**

number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days less workers replaced) 35,363, which is a large decrease on the June 1923 statistics.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

### II.—Industrial Disputes—Results March to July 1923

| | March 1923. | April 1923. | May 1923. | June 1923. | July 1923. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of strikes and lock-outs .. | 9 | 14 | 11 | 7 | 9 |
| Disputes in progress at beginning .. | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Fresh disputes begun. | 8 | 13 | 6 | 6 | 8 |
| Disputes ended .. | 9 | 9 | 10 | 6 | 6 |
| Disputes in progress at end .. | .. | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Number of workpeople involved .. | 3,167 | 51,807 | 44,894 | 49,111 | 3,097 |
| Aggregate duration in working days .. | 37,298 | 1,116,303 | 1,169,930 | 159,837 | 35,363 |
| Demands— | | | | | |
| Pay .. | 3 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Bonus .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. |
| Personal .. | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Leave and hours .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Others .. | 1 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Results— | | | | | |
| In favour of employees .. | 6 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. |
| Compromised .. | 1 | 2 | .. | 2 | .. |
| In favour of employers .. | 2 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 6 |

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 employers. (Per cent.) | In favour of employees. (Per cent.) | Compromised. (Per cent.) | In progress. (Per cent.) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| April 1921 .. | 6 | 184,450 | 33 | 17 | 17 | 33 |
| May 1921 .. | 11 | 227,115 | 27 | 9 | 18 | 46 |
| June 1921 .. | 10 | 79,804 | 70 | 10 | .. | 20 |
| July 1921 .. | 10 | 12,268 | 60 | 10 | 10 | 20 |
| August 1921 .. | 14 | 192,001 | 36 | 36 | 7 | 21 |
| September 1921 | 21 | 256,498 | 80 | 10 | .. | 10 |
| October 1921 .. | 15 | 231,896 | 27 | 13 | 27 | 33 |
| November 1921 | 31 | 62,009 | 29 | 42 | 19 | 10 |
| December 1921 | 9 | 26,321 | 78 | 11 | 11 | .. |
| January 1922 .. | 17 | 33,389 | 65 | 18 | .. | 17 |
| February 1922 | 12 | 32,087 | 67 | 8 | 17 | 8 |
| March 1922 .. | 8 | 300,829 | 75 | .. | 25 | .. |
| April 1922 .. | 15 | 18,352 | 54 | 13 | 20 | 13 |
| May 1922 .. | 15 | 54,930 | 80 | .. | 7 | 13 |
| June 1922 .. | 10 | 4,250 | 70 | 20 | 10 | .. |
| July 1922 .. | 14 | 58,809 | 93 | .. | .. | 7 |
| August 1922 .. | 13 | 87,927 | 62 | 15 | 8 | 15 |
| September 1922 | 7 | 20,709 | 71 | .. | .. | 29 |
| October 1922 .. | 24 | 62,372 | 29 | 25 | 13 | 33 |
| November 1922 | 21 | 60,287 | 67 | 14 | 10 | 9 |
| December 1922 | 10 | 22,806 | 80 | .. | 10 | 10 |
| January 1923 .. | 6 | 14,908 | 50 | 17 | .. | 33 |
| February 1923 .. | 22 | 68,590 | 64 | 32 | 4 | .. |
| March 1923 .. | 9 | 37,298 | 22 | 67 | 11 | .. |
| April 1923 .. | 14 | 1,111,103 | 40 | 7 | 13 | 40 |
| May 1923 .. | 11 | 1,169,930 | 82 | 9 | .. | 9 |
| June 1923 .. | 7 | 159,837 | 57 | .. | 29 | 14 |
| July 1923 .. | 9 | 35,363 | 67 | .. | .. | 33 |
| Totals or (cols. 4 to 7) Average | 371 | 4,626,138 | 58 | 14 | 10 | 18 |

### A General Review of Disputes

During July 1923, there were nine industrial disputes in the Presidency, as compared with seven in the preceding month, all of which occurred in the cotton mill industry. Six disputes were due to the question of pay, out of which four were settled in favour of the employers and the remainder were compromised. The remaining strikes were due to minor personal grievances.

BOMBAY

In Bombay City and Island, there were in July five disputes all of which were settled in favour of the employers. A small strike of 90 women winders in the Assur Virjee Mill, Bombay, was reported in the beginning of the month when the winders struck work demanding an increase in the rates of wages. The strikers, however, resumed work unconditionally on the next day, as the management commenced discharging the strikers. A fortnight later, another strike occurred in the same mill on a larger scale. In this strike, 284 weavers struck work demanding an increase, as before, in the rates of wages. The strikers were rowdy and assaulted the weaving head-clerk of the mill. The management then decided to discharge them and engage new hands, though the strikers offered to resume work unconditionally. In the Gold Mohur Mill, Dadar Road, 360 weavers struck work about the second week of July over the question of higher rates of wages. The management were not agreeable to accede to this demand. The strikers were, therefore, paid off and new hands engaged in their places. About 300 workers of the Hattersley Mill, Chatkopar, struck work on 17th July, against the introduction of a system of piece-work wages of a certain amount per ticket, *plus* 70 per cent., war bonus in place of daily wages. The management remained firm, but offered to give 80 per cent. war bonus in place of the proposed 70 per cent. The strikers were not satisfied with this concession, but they had to resume work unconditionally within a week, as the management did not offer better terms.

AHMEDABAD

In July there were only two small strikes in Ahmedabad. About 125 spinners of the Ahmedabad Silver Cotton Mill, struck work on the 3rd of July, in sympathy with a dismissed jobber. The strikers were also unwilling to serve under the new jobber. Shortly afterwards, however, some of the strikers resumed work unconditionally, the remainder being paid off and discharged. In the Hathising Manufacturing Co., Saraspur Road, about 75 workers struck work at the end of July against an order of the management not to collect in large numbers during working hours near a hotel. The management commenced to engage new hands. The strikers therefore yielded unconditionally and requested the authorities to allow them to resume work. The management granted the request after imposing some disciplinary conditions.

OTHER CENTRES

Following the precedent of the reduction in wages in the mills of Ahmedabad by 15% per cent., the Agents of the Broach Saraswati Mill put up a notice on 1st July to the effect that the wages of labourers would be reduced by 15½ per cent. with effect from the month of July. 708 workers out of 861, therefore, struck work. The management shortly afterwards put up a notice to the effect that the strikers would be paid off and discharged. The strikers did not present themselves for their pay, but submitted a new claim that they should get a bonus for the past half year in addition to their pay. Later, however, some of the strikers approached the management with a request that they should be allowed to discuss the rates in relation to local conditions as compared with the rates at Ahmedabad, but they were informed that such a discussion should follow a resumption of work unconditionally. As a result, the strikers determined to continue the strike. By about the 10th of July, the management of the Fine Counts Mill decided to follow the example of the Saraswati Mill, by announcing a similar reduction in wages. 620 out of 749 workers of this mill, therefore struck work in protest. The strikers in this case, recognising that a reduction was inevitable under the circumstances, requested the Agents of the mill to reduce the number of working days in the week instead of reducing wages. This was, however, not agreeable to the management. Both the strikes were in progress at the end of the month under review.





### Trade Disputes in Madras

According to the Labour Commissioner, Madras, 150 printers in the Diocesan Press, Vepery, Madras, struck work in sympathy with certain other workers whose services were dispensed with for want of sufficient work. In about 3 days, however, about 96 strikers resumed work unconditionally. The remaining 54 strikers were not reinstated by the management.

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES—QUESTIONS IN THE LEGISLATURE

BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

*Recommendation of Industrial Disputes Committee*

Mr. S. K. Bole asked: Will the Government be pleased to state when and how they are going to give effect to the recommendations of the Industrial Disputes Committee?

The Honourable Sir Maurice Hayward replied: Government have at present under consideration the draft of a bill empowering them to call for industrial statistics of various kinds as in other countries. They are advised that this is a necessary preliminary to any successful legislation of the kind proposed by the Industrial Disputes Committee.

*Legislation on Industrial Disputes*

Mr. Kanji Dwarkadas asked: Will Government be pleased to state if it is their intention not to introduce any legislation on Industrial Disputes?

The Honourable Sir Maurice Hayward replied: The attention of the Member is invited to the reply given to Question No. 7* put by Mr. S. K. Bole.

*Striker Talatis in Satara District*

Rao Bahadur R. R. Kale asked: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the talatis in the Satara District who went on strike in 1920 were treated by the local officers differently from others who had similarly gone on strike in other districts in the Central and other divisions of this Presidency?

* Published above.

(*b*) If the answer to the above question be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if they passed orders according to them the same treatment as was accorded to other striker talatis in the other districts in the Presidency?

(*c*) If not, will Government be pleased to state if they intend doing so in view of the answer given by the Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola, the then Revenue Member of Government, to a question* asked in 1922 by Mr. A. N. Surve in reference to the dismissed talatis in the Kanara District?

The Honourable Mr. C. V. Mehta replied: The treatment accorded by the local officers in the Satara District to the talatis who were re-employed after going on strike was generally the same as that accorded elsewhere and was in conformity with the orders of Government.

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Replying to Mr. K. C. Roy Chaudhuri, the Honourable Mr. Donald said the approximate number of strikes in Bengal from April 1921 to March 1923 was 86, involving roughly 182,000 employees and 1,822,000 working days. Eleven strikes were completely, 11 partly successful and 53 unsuccessful. The remainder were indefinite.

## WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS

Under Section 20 (1) of the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923 which will come into force from 1st July 1924, Local Governments are empowered to appoint Commissioners for the purposes of the Workmen's Compensation Act. The circular letter addressed by the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour to all local Governments and Administrations asking for their views on this subject, was published on page 21 of the *Labour Gazette* for July 1923. The Government of Bombay have under consideration the question of the appointment of Commissioners for this Presidency. Section 20 of Chapter III of the Workmen's Compensation Act (VIII of 1923), dealing with the appointment of Commissioners, reads as follows:—

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).

* Published at page 42 of the March 1923 issue of the *Labour Gazette*.

## SEAMEN'S WAR RISKS COMPENSATION

The following has been sent by the Director of Information for publication:—

"Under the Seamen's War Risks Compensation Scheme sanctioned by the Board of Trade in 1915 monthly pensions ranging from Rs. 6 to 12 are granted to widows of deceased lascars and an extra rupee per month is allowed for each child up to the age of 14 years. In the case of children without mothers the War Risks Insurance Associations grant a pension of Rs. 2 a month for each child.

It has been represented that the allowances are totally inadequate to maintain the children. The scale of these allowances was determined when the cost of living in India was very low, and since then there has been a large increase in prices. The Government of India have therefore, with the approval of the Board of Trade, sanctioned the following revised scale with effect from 30th April last:—

1. Motherless children—Rs. 4 a month in the case of each child, the aggregate allowance payable in the case of all the children of one single lascar not exceeding the amount of widow's pension *plus* the allowance which each child would have received if the widow had been alive;

2. Children with mothers living—Rs. 2 a month in the case of each child."

## WORKMEN'S BREACH OF CONTRACT ACT

The following question in the Legislative Assembly by Mr. N. M. Joshi regarding the Repeal of the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act, and the reply thereto are of interest:—



Mr. N. M. Joshi asked: Will Government be pleased to state the time when they propose to introduce legislation for the repeal of the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act of 1859?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey replied: The Government of India have decided to repeal the present Act with effect from the 1st April 1926. It is not proposed to introduce the Bill until sometime in the next Session.

## TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN HUNGARY

A Bill concerning the right to work, trade union rights and conciliation and arbitration was introduced by the Government of Hungary on 20th April 1923. The following is a short summary of the main provisions of the Bill:—

THE RIGHT TO WORK

It is unlawful to prevent any person by any means from exercising a lawful trade, from appointing and discharging workers or from fixing the conditions of labour. It is also unlawful to force any man to work in a prohibited industry or abstain from working in a lawful industry. Wilful restriction of production is considered a violation of the right of exercising a trade.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION

When the parties in an industrial dispute are unable to agree the matter must be submitted to conciliation. Three official conciliators with a year's tenure of office are appointed for every factory inspection district, and notice of any dispute must be given to the factory inspector within 48 hours of the commencement of the dispute. On receipt of this notice, a conciliator is to be appointed to take action. Where conciliation fails, the case is referred to a court of arbitration, but only if both parties submit to arbitration. If one party refuses to submit to arbitration, conciliation proceedings are to be reopened at the request of the other party. If arbitration is accepted, a board of arbitration representing employers and workers in equal numbers and with a chairman elected by the members of the board, is constituted. If the members fail to agree upon the selection of a chairman, the chief official of the workmen's insurance Court of the district or the President or Deputy President of the superior court of workmen's insurance, will be appointed. The decisions of the board will be according to the majority and are binding and non-appealable. Public utility Services are exempted from conciliation.

RIGHTS OF ASSOCIATION AND ASSEMBLY

The rules of any trade union must be approved by Government. Membership is restricted to persons over 18 years of age and following the same profession. Nobody can be compelled to become a member and no member may be required to make any payment or render any services except as stated in the rules. Municipal Officials and police authorities are entitled to inspect the accounts and proceedings of the unions and report irregularities to Government who can order the suspension of the activities of any of the unions. If any trade union violates any law or offends against public order or morals or is dangerous to public safety it may be dissolved. In the case of voluntary dissolution of a trade union, its property goes to the persons or bodies specified in the rules, and in the case of dissolution by the Government, its property lapses to the State.

## STRIKES AND GRATUITY PAYMENTS

INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES

On page 18 of the August 1922 issue of the *Labour Gazette* the rules regarding payment of gratuity to State Railway servants who participated in strikes was published. The Government of India had announced that the gratuities of Railway employees who were in active service on July 12th, 1922, should not be forfeited on account of participation in strikes which had not been declared illegal. A question was asked in the House of Commons on February 26th, 1923, by Mr. T. Griffiths, M.P., whether this ruling could be given retrospective effect for those employees who had left the Railway service before 12th July 1922, or for the widows of those employees who had died before that date. The Secretary of State for India has now decided, in consultation with the Government of India, that only those employees in service on the 12th July 1922 can benefit

from the change in the rules. This ruling signifies the refusal of gratuity to those employees who participated in strikes, and left the service before July 12th, 1922. But those employees who took part in strikes before this date and were still in service on and after 12th July 1922 will get the benefit of the new rule.

## AGRICULTURAL WAGES

The Report on Agricultural Wages in the Bombay Presidency, now in process of publication, deals with the rise of agricultural wages in each district including the districts of Sind from 1900. The remarkable changes that have taken place since the pre-war year are analysed in detail and compared with the rates of skilled and ordinary labour, district by district. The head-quarters of each district and another town (not the head-quarters) selected by the District Officer as representative have been taken. The averages for (*a*) political divisions and (*b*) homogeneous economic circles have been worked out. The rises in recent years are seen from the following table (100 = 1900 average):

*Index Numbers of wages of Field Labourers near District Head-quarters Towns.*

| Division. | 1900. | 1913. (pre-war year). | 1920. | 1922. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern Division .. | 100 | 173 | 336 | 373 |
| Central Division .. | 100 | 182 | 291 | 300 |
| Southern Division .. | 100 | 133 | 267 | 292 |
| Sind .. | 100 | 129 | 200 | 208 |
| Presidency including Sind .. | 100 | 158 | 283 | 300 |

## WAGE CUTS IN THE PRESIDENCY

### THE COTTON MILL INDUSTRY

The recent reduction of 15⅝ per cent. in the monthly wages of operatives in 56 cotton mills in Ahmedabad, references to which have already been made in the *Labour Gazette*, appears to have been the prelude to similar reductions in the other centres of this industry. On 1st July the management of the Saraswati Mill at Broach announced that wages would be reduced by 15½ per cent. with effect from the month of July. Similarly, the Broach Fine Counts Mill, Broach, announced on 10th July a reduction of 15½ per cent in wages. It was also reported that the Whittle Mill, Broach, intended to introduce a similar reduction, but this was not done.

### EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL

These announcements led to strikes in both the mills. In the Saraswati Mill, 708 out of 861 operatives struck work on the 2nd July, and in the Broach Fine Counts Mill 620 workers struck work on the 10th July. The progress of both these strikes is reviewed in detail, elsewhere in this issue. In both cases the managements remained firm.

### THE SETTLEMENT ARRIVED AT

In regard to the Saraswati Mill, Mr. S. G. Banker of Ahmedabad was appointed, by mutual consent of the parties, to settle the terms of agreement, and a compromise was arrived at on 8th August. The settlement was on the basis of a reduction in wages of 12½ per cent. instead of 15½ per cent., as proposed by the management. In the case of the Fine Counts Mill, the workers were willing to accept a reduction in the number of working days per week, but the management were not agreeable to this. The strike therefore continued. The latest report received, however, shows that the parties to the dispute were willing to accept the decision arrived at by the arbitrators of the dispute in the Saraswati Mill to which reference is made above.

## HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT

### BILL FOR GREAT BRITAIN

A Bill to limit the hours of employment was recently introduced in the House of Commons by the Labour Party. The object of the Bill is to limit the hours of work with modification in accordance with the recommendations of the Draft Convention adopted at Washington by the International Labour Conference, 1919, and of the National Industrial Conference of 1919. The main provisions of the Bill are (1) that the number of working hours in any week shall not exceed 48 and (2) that overtime shall only be worked in accordance with an agreement between the employers and their employees and subject to the Minister's approval, and that the payment for overtime shall not be less than 25 per cent. in excess of the normal time rate. The Bill empowers the Minister of Labour to make a special order prescribing a less number of hours than 48, in certain cases. The provisions are made applicable to all persons employed under any contract of service or apprenticeship, and also to persons employed in the service of the Crown or of any local or other public authority (except persons employed in the naval, military or air service or members of any Police Force) as if the employer were a private person.



## ACCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS

### STATISTICS FOR JULY 1923

The monthly statistics of the accidents in factories and workshops in the Bombay Presidency, published on pages 37 and 38 of this issue, contain details of the accidents reported during the month of July in Bombay City and Island, Ahmedabad, Karachi and other centres of the Presidency.

During July, in Bombay City and Island there were in all 166 factory accidents of which one was fatal, 8 were serious and the remainder 157 minor accidents. Of the total number of accidents 51 or 30·72 per cent. were due to machinery in motion and 115 or 69·28 per cent. to other causes. As in previous months, by far the largest number of accidents occurred in workshops, the percentages classified according to class of factory being 69·88 per cent. in workshops, 25·30 per cent. in textile mills, and 4·82 per cent. in miscellaneous concerns.

In Ahmedabad there were eleven accidents, all in cotton mills. Nine of these were due to machinery in motion and the other two to other causes. Of these eleven accidents, three were serious and eight minor accidents.

In Karachi, there were six accidents, all in workshops, one of which was due to machinery in motion and the remainder to other causes. Of these, two were serious and four minor accidents.



In the other centres of the Presidency, the total number of accidents was 32, of which 4 were in textile mills, 27 in workshops, and 1 in miscellaneous concerns. Ten accidents were due to machinery in motion and twenty-two to other causes. There were one fatal, one serious and thirty minor accidents.

### *Prosecutions*

One cotton mill in Ahmedabad was prosecuted in July 1923 under Section 41(*j*) for breach of Section 34 of the Factory Act, in not reporting a factory accident. The Manager of the Mill was convicted and fined Rs. 25 for the offence.

## FACTORY LEGISLATION IN JAPAN

### CRITICISMS ON THE NEW ACT

On pages 31—35 of the *Labour Gazette* for June 1923, the new amendments to the Japanese Factory Act of 1911 were published. The Bill embodying these amendments was, it will be remembered, passed at the last sitting of the Diet. The regulations for enforcing the amended law are not expected to be published before the autumn of this year.

### SPINNERS' PETITION

Master cotton spinners in Japan are, it is said, dissatisfied with the new Act and they have long been hoping the Government of Japan would reconsider the new provisions prior to the promulgation of the Rules. Some time ago, according to a correspondent, a few leading spinners discussed with the Department of Agriculture and Commerce in Tokyo, their objections to the new law.

### EMPLOYERS' VIEWS

Employers claim that the aim of the new law is the health of women labourers but that this will not be achieved by the new legislation. For example, the two-shift system of working hours, *viz.*, from 5-0 a.m. to 10-0 p.m., means the time of the termination of the first shift will be 2-0 p.m. The question whether the operatives will use their morning or afternoon leisure for healthy purposes is, it is considered, a question most likely to be answered in the negative. The more industrious workers

would probably take up some side-work in their leisure hours during which the idle would find some form of dissipation. In the case of the latter, efficiency would suffer. As the introduction of a single shift is impracticable, it was suggested that before the publication of the Rules, the dislocation as well as the likelihood of unrest as a result of the decreased earnings, owing to the reduced hours of work, should be considered. In the production of coarser counts of yarn, Japanese factories, it was also thought, would not be able to compete with Chinese factories, and for yarn of counts higher than 40's, the Japanese article could not be sold beyond India.

## LABOUR IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY

### FACTORY REPORT FOR 1922

The Labour Office has received a copy of the Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in the Madras Presidency for the year 1922. The total number of factories in the Madras Presidency at the beginning of the year under review was 545. At the end of the year this number had increased to 769, of which 24 were not actually working during the year. The increase in the number of registered factories was mainly due to the larger number of factories coming within the definition of a factory under the amended Factory Act (Act II of 1922) which came into effect from 1st July 1922.

### WORKERS EMPLOYED

The average daily number of workers, employed in the 745 factories working, was 110,193 as compared with 102,342 during 1921. This number is stated to be underestimated owing to numbers of factories not reporting the numbers of contract coolies employed. Of the total workers 5,483 were employed in Government and Local Fund factories, and the remainder in privately owned factories. The total number of workers employed in cotton spinning and weaving mills was 28,268 and in jute spinning and weaving mills 3,155.

### INSPECTION

Of the 745 factories, 359 were inspected once, 346 twice, and 25 three times. In addition, 67 visits were paid to close factories, making a total of 1,126 inspections as compared with 866 in 1921.

### WAGES

The average daily wages paid to the various classes of labourers employed in factories in the Presidency in 1922 as compared with the wages of 1921, and the wages paid in and outside factories in the Guntur district in 1922 are shown in the following table :—

| Main classes of labour. | Average daily rate of wages paid. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | In all factories in the Presidency. | | In factories in the Guntur District. | Outside the factories in the Guntur District. |
| | 1921. | 1922. | 1922. | 1922. |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| *Skilled labour.* | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. |
| Engine-driver .. | 1 5 5 | 1 7 0 | 1 8 8 | 1 6 0 |
| Fireman .. | 0 11 8 | 0 12 5 | 0 9 5 | 0 7 5 |
| Oilman .. | 0 8 7 | 0 10 1 | 0 7 9 | 0 6 4 |
| Fitter .. | 1 3 2 | 1 6 11 | 0 13 0 | 1 3 2 |
| Turner .. | 1 4 5 | 1 3 0 | 0 15 0 | 0 12 0 |
| Rivetter .. | 0 14 11 | 1 0 5 | 0 6 0 | 0 11 0 |
| Boiler-smith .. | 1 9 4 | 1 4 6 | 0 14 8 | 0 9 0 |
| Blacksmith .. | 1 1 10 | 1 2 1 | 1 0 3 | 0 15 0 |
| Moulder .. | 1 2 7 | 1 1 10 | 0 13 4 | 0 13 8 |
| Carpenter .. | 1 0 7 | 1 0 8 | 0 12 6 | 0 13 9 |
| Bricklayer .. | 1 0 1 | 0 15 3 | 0 10 0 | 0 11 7 |
| Compositor (printer) .. | 0 15 7 | 0 11 9 | .... | 0 10 11 |
| Machinist .. | 1 2 8 | 1 2 3 | .... | 0 11 8 |
| Weaver (Cotton) man .. | 0 13 2 | 0 15 8 | .... | 0 12 4 |
| Do. boy .. | 0 10 0 | 0 6 11 | .... | 0 5 1 |
| Spinner (Cotton) man .. | 0 10 0 | 0 10 8 | .... | 0 7 3 |
| Do. boy .. | 0 4 11 | 0 5 10 | .... | 0 3 10 |
| Weaver (Jute) man .. | 0 8 0 | 0 8 8 | 0 10 0 | 0 8 0 |
| Do. boy .. | 0 6 0 | 0 2 6 | 0 2 6 | 0 4 6 |
| Spinner (Jute) man .. | 0 6 11 | 0 7 8 | 0 10 0 | 0 7 10 |
| Do. boy .. | 0 2 4 | 0 3 9 | 0 2 6 | 0 3 5 |
| *Unskilled labour.* | | | | |
| Female coolies (gin) .. | 0 5 0 | 0 5 4 | 0 4 2 | .... |
| Male do. .. | 0 9 11 | 0 8 10 | 0 5 8 | .... |
| Female coolies (press) .. | 0 5 2 | 0 6 7 | 0 4 6 | .... |
| Male do. .. | 0 9 10 | 0 10 0 | 0 6 0 | .... |
| Female coolies (rice mill) .. | 0 4 1 | 0 4 9 | 0 4 0 | .... |
| Male do. .. | 0 6 9 | 0 5 7 | 0 5 1 | .... |
| Female coolies in fields .. | .... | .... | .... | 0 4 6 |
| Male do. .. | .... | .... | .... | 0 5 5 |



### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

In all, 17 strikes occurred in the Presidency during the year under review and of these nine occurred in factories in Madras City, and the remainder in the districts. In Madras City two strikes took place in printing presses, two in a textile mill, two in iron and brass foundries, one in an aluminium factory and one in an oil installation. The strikes affected a total of 8,211 workers, but of these only 4,835 actually went on strike. In eight strikes the workers were compelled to resume work unconditionally, in four strikes the workmen were dismissed, while in one strike an increase was promised and the strikers resumed work, and in four cases a compromise was effected.

### ACCIDENTS

The total number of accidents reported during the year was 881 as compared with 991 in 1921. There were 13 fatal, 6 serious, and 862 minor accidents. The large number of minor accidents is noticeable. By far the largest number of accidents were caused by machinery in motion (115), while 198 were caused by falling weights and 127 by flying splinters. The classification of accidents by occupation is shown in the following table :—

| Industry. | Fatal. | Serious. | Minor. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cotton Mills .. .. .. | 3 | 1 | 128 | 132 |
| Cotton Presses .. .. | .. | .. | 12 | 12 |
| Rice Mills .. .. .. | 3 | .. | 8 | 11 |
| Railway Works .. .. | 2 | .. | 576 | 578 |
| Others .. .. .. | 5 | 5 | 138 | 148 |
| Total .. | 13 | 6 | 862 | 881 |

The large number of accidents in Railway works is noticeable.

### PROSECUTIONS

There were eight prosecutions for contravention of sections of the Factories Act against occupiers or managers of factories involving nine persons, all of whom were convicted and fines varying from Rs. 45 to Rs. 135 were imposed. In some cases offences were committed under several sections by the same person. The largest number of convictions (7) were in respect of the contravention of section 41 (*a*) of the amended Factories Act which deals with penalties for employing a person or allowing him to work contrary to any of the provisions of the Act. There were also four convictions under section 41 (j) which deals with penalties for not furnishing notices or returns required by the Act or by rules made thereunder to be furnished.

## INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

### RESULTS OF A STUDY

An interesting article on the relation between labour turnover and industrial accidents by Harry D. Kitson and Claude Campbell appears in the July issue of the Journal of Industrial Hygiene (published by the Harvard University). The main causes of accidents are tabulated under various classifications, two of the most important of which are physical and personal. In recent years the physical causes of accidents have been greatly minimised by the introduction of safety devices, so that the accidents due to conditions within the worker himself are more numerous. It has been estimated that they constitute 90 per cent. of all accidents. Besides these, the writers draw attention to other factors which are minor and can be discovered only through correlating accidents with occurrences, apparently remote. Thus speed in production, fatigue and the inexperience of beginners are considered to be correlative factors. The latter of these has been the subject of a detailed investigation by the writers of this article who collected data concerning nearly 30,000 accidents in various kinds of industries. They came to the conclusion that new employees are powerful factors in raising the total number of accidents. It is alleged that with increased industrial activity and the consequent increase of the working force, accidents tend to increase as a result of the general condition of the workers. But the influence of new employees in producing accidents is considered to be greater than the influence of mere increasing industrial activity as measured at any rate, by total working force. New employees are of course not the sole cause of the increase in the number of accidents. Accidents happen to old workers also. But while accidents occur among old employees in the ratio of one accident to four employees, they occur among new employees

in the ratio of one accident to every one employee. As practical hints to reduce the number of accidents, a reduction of the turnover and a decrease in the proportion of new employees are suggested by the authors. In this connexion it is urged that in calculating the costs of turnover, the amounts paid in case of accidents should be added on to losses from spoiled work and damaged machinery. It is also suggested that if more time is spent in instructing new hands, there should be a material reduction in the number of accidents.

## FACTORY INSPECTION

### General Principles of Organisation

The International Labour Office News Service has recently published the following article on the organisation of Factory Inspection :—

"The Governing Body of the International Labour Office has decided to place only one question on the agenda of the next Conference, which will be held in Geneva in October 1923. This question is 'General Principles for the Organisation of Factory Inspection'. In deciding to place this question on the agenda, the Governing Body was guided by Article 427 of the Treaty of Versailles, which lays down the following principle as one of the questions of special and urgent importance for the regulation of conditions of labour :

> 'Each State should make provision for a system of inspection, in which women should take part, in order to ensure the enforcement of the laws and regulations for the protection of the employed.'

In the last paragraph of the Article the High Contracting Parties declare that in their opinion the principles mentioned in Article 427 are well fitted to guide the policy of the League of Nations, and that if adopted by the industrial communities who are Members of the League, and safeguarded in practice by an adequate system of such inspection, they will confer lasting benefits upon the wage earners of the world. It will thus be seen that the Treaty of Versailles does not merely propose the institution of a system of factory inspection in every country as one of the most important and urgent measures for the regulation of conditions of labour, but actually regards such a system as a necessary condition for the successful application of all the other principles laid down in Part XIII. As the Treaty itself proposed the question of factory inspection as one of those to be dealt with by the International Labour Organisation, it was inevitable, as the Director pointed out in his report to the Third Session of the Conference, that the Organisation should at some time or other discuss it.

The importance of instituting an organisation for enforcement and supervision which is approximately equal in effectiveness in all countries is increasingly felt as a larger number of the International Labour Conventions are ratified. Such an organisation would remove one of the most serious objections which have been made to the system of international legislation set up by the Peace Treaty, namely, that the international Conventions do not in practice have the same effect in the different countries which ratify them because they are not observed to an equal extent. If the Conference were to lay down definite principles as regards this question, the Conventions would be more completely and effectively enforced, and increased validity would be given to one of the most important arguments in favour of international legislation, namely, that it prevents unfair competition.

The International Labour Office has now sent to all the Governments a questionnaire dealing with the general principles for the organisation of factory inspection. The questionnaire is preceded by a detailed account of the purpose of factory inspection, the duties and powers of factory inspectors, and the system of organisation in the majority of countries. The report states that the Governing Body does not desire to ask the Conference to lay down strict regulations for the organisation and work of the factory inspection system in all countries. It is rather proposed to study the lines on which the system has been instituted and the actual daily work of the inspectors in each country, with a view to ascertaining the fundamental principles for the satisfactory organisation of a system for supervising the enforcement of labour legislation."



## INDUSTRIAL PEACE IN GREAT BRITAIN

Reviewing the causes of the present industrial unrest in Great Britain Mr. Frank Hodges, Secretary of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, asserts that any industrial co-operation between employers and employed is made impossible on account of the recent attitude of employers throughout the country. As means to a lasting settlement he suggests (1) recognition of trade unionism as a part of the British constitution, a consultative voice for the workers through their unions in industrial administration ; (2) the maintenance of reasonable hours of labour, a minimum wage, adequate unemployment insurance ; and (3) a concrete recognition of the workers' contribution to any added national prosperity which might result from the abandonment of the strike weapon.

## FACTORIES—QUESTION IN THE LEGISLATURE

### Bombay Legislative Council

*Certifying Surgeon at Ahmedabad*

Mr. Kanji Dwarkadas asked : (*a*) With reference to the grant for a full-time certifying surgeon at Ahmedabad made by the Legislative Council at its last session, will the Government be pleased to state if they have made the appointment of the certifying surgeon ?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) be in the affirmative, will they be pleased to give the qualifications and experience of the surgeon appointed ?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to give the reasons as to why the appointment is not made ?

The Honourable Mr. H. S. Lawrence replied : The appointment was recently sanctioned and the Director of Industries has been taking steps to fill the appointment in consultation with the Surgeon-General.

*Reorganisation and Indianisation of Factory Inspection Department*

Mr. Kanji Dwarkadas asked : With reference to the undertaking given by Government regarding the reorganisation and Indianisation of the Factory Inspection Department, will Government be pleased to state in what direction and to what extent they have given effect to their undertaking ?

The Honourable Mr. H. S. Lawrence replied : The reorganisation into two separate departments is being carried out. Indianisation can proceed only as vacancies occur ; these vacancies will be filled after advertisement by the selection of duly qualified candidates.

*Women Factory Inspectors*

Mr. Kanji Dwarkadas asked : In view of the desirability recognised in all industrial countries to have women factory inspectors, is it the intention of Government to appoint women factory inspectors in Bombay and Ahmedabad where more than 38,000 (Bombay 30,000 ; Ahmedabad 8,000) are working in factories throughout the year ?

The Honourable Mr. Cowasji Jehangir replied : Government are in sympathy with the object and will consider the matter when framing budget proposals for 1924-25. Such women factory inspectors must be in addition to, not in lieu of, the present sanctioned staff which is barely sufficient for the work which is necessary.

*Accidents in Mills at Sholapur*

Mr. R. G. Salgar asked : Will Government be pleased to state how many labourers in each mill at Sholapur have got grievous hurt or died therefrom while on duty during the last three years ?

The Honourable Mr. Cowasji Jehangir replied : Enquiries are being made.

## FAMILY BUDGETS—QUESTIONS IN THE LEGISLATURE

### Bombay Legislative Council

*Family Budgets Report*

Mr. Kanji Dwarkadas asked : Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken or intend to take to make known the results obtained in the Family Budgets Report to the working classes who do not know English ?

The Honourable Sir Maurice Hayward replied: The matter is under consideration.

*Translation of Workmen's Budgets*

Mr. S. K. Bole asked: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they intend to translate in Marathi the report on the Workmen's Budget issued by the Labour Office?

The Honourable Sir Maurice Hayward replied: The matter is under consideration.

## INDUSTRIAL HOUSING IN BOMBAY

REPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

A copy of the Report on the working of the Development Directorate for the year ending 31st March 1923 has been received in the Labour Office. The following paragraphs in the Report dealing with the industrial housing scheme for Bombay workers, published below, are of much interest:—

"11. The programme provides for the completion of 60 chawls by 31st March 1923, against which the equivalent of 56 had been finished on that date. There was thus a shortage of 4 chawls at the end of the year, but as there was a shortage of 6 chawls on 31st March 1922 the construction carried out during the year under review was equivalent to 47 chawls against the programme figure for the period of 45. It had been hoped to complete the full 60 chawls by 31st March 1923, but it was not possible to do this on account of the decision to change over to the contract system which change was effected during the year. Now that work on all contracts is in full swing, it is anticipated that there will be no difficulty in making good the deficiency during the current year. The total number of tenements let or ready to let on 31st March 1923 was 2,720.

12. As reported last year the land in possession of the Directorate is sufficient to accommodate 195 chawls or 15,600 tenements and since work is now vigorously in progress, it will soon be necessary to arrange for more land. It has been decided to lease land from the Bombay Port Trust in the vicinity of the New Cotton Depot at Sewri for the erection of 8 chawls or 640 tenements and work will probably be commenced next working season. In March 1924, the Improvement Trust hope to be able to have ready at Dharavi an area sufficient for 90 chawls, or 7,200 tenements; and by March 1925, land at Sewri-Wadala sufficient for 80 chawls, or 6,400 tenements. During the year a considerable area, about 200 acres, of the salt pans near Rowli, was investigated with a view to subsequent filling and use for industrial housing. But it is not intended to put work in hand in this area in the immediate future, and it will only be utilised if sufficient land is not forthcoming in other parts of the Island nearer the industrial centres.

13. In addition to the construction of the actual chawl buildings, a large amount of work was done during the year in connection with essential services such as roads, water-supply, sewage and storm-water drains. Owing to lack of pressure in the Municipal mains, and to the want of low level sewers of adequate capacity in the neighbourhood of the chawl areas, it has been found necessary to instal temporary arrangements for pumping water to chawl roofs, as well as those necessary for the drainage and disposal of the sewage of the areas under occupation. The conditions referred to are not likely to be rectified for some years, and must entail considerable additional work and expense to admit of the buildings being occupied.

14. During the year, the system of construction by Departmental agency was, as already mentioned, abandoned in favour of the contract system. The former method had much to commend it during the initial stages of the scheme, but, once the necessary experience had been gained, the latter became preferable as more economical. The three main contracts let were as follows:—

(a) 23 chawls at Naigaum plot B, to Messrs. Chotani & Co. at Rs. 88,379 per chawl.

(b) 80 chawls at Worli to Messrs. "The Bombay Concrete Construction and Engineering Co." at Rs. 88,466 per chawl.

(c) 21 chawls at Worli to Messrs. Gaya & Co. at Rs. 89,216 per chawl.

The result of the tenders is satisfactory and shows considerable reduction on previous costs. It is likely, however, that further reduction will be effected in future and that the average cost per tenement over the scheme will be

(Continued on page 29.)


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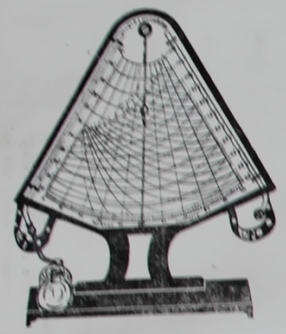

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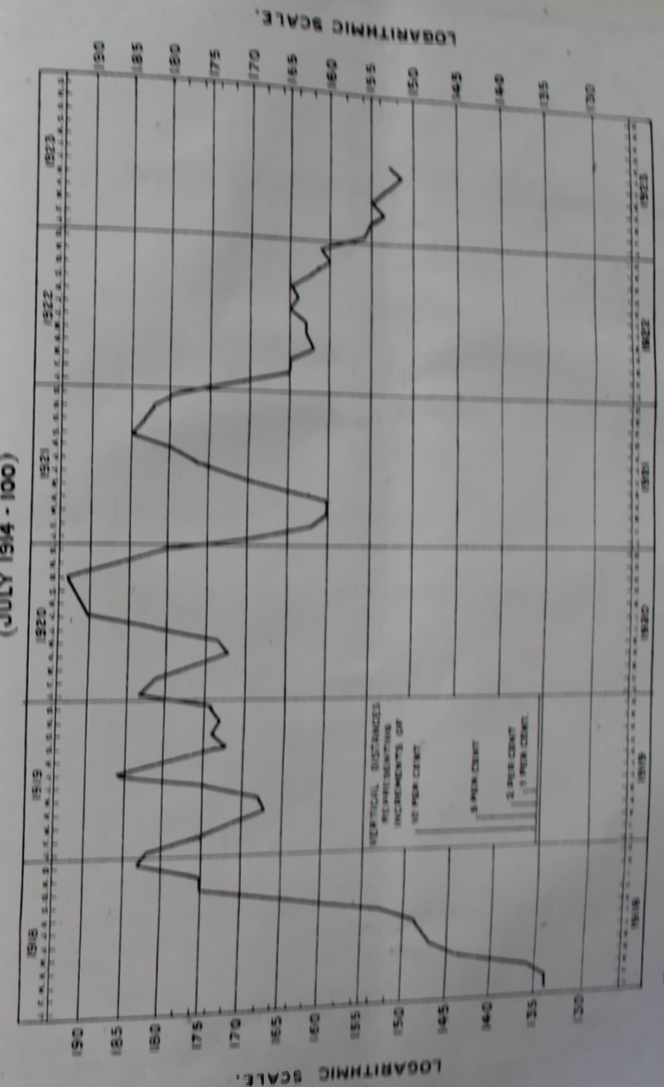
CHART No. I.

## 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. It will be seen that the rate of increase is inversely proportional to the index number. Thus an increase of 5 points over 200 is half the increase of the same 5 points over 100. Equal vertical distances in this chart represent equal ratios, from any point of the diagram to any other, instead of equal increments, as on a rectilinear scale chart. Note the anomalous of the curve in 1922.*

CHART No. 2.

# PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON 1923.

*Abbreviations:-* S__Scanty. F__Fair. N__Normal. EX__Excess.

| PROVINCE OR STATE | JUNE 6TH | JUNE 13TH | JUNE 20TH | JUNE 27TH | JULY 4TH | JULY 11TH | JULY 18TH | JULY 25TH | AUGUST 1ST | AUGUST 8TH | AUGUST 15TH | AUGUST 22ND | AUGUST 29TH | SEPTEMBER 5TH | SEPTEMBER 12TH | SEPTEMBER 19TH | SEPTEMBER 26TH | OCTOBER 3RD | OCTOBER 10TH | OCTOBER 17TH | OCTOBER 24TH | OCTOBER 31ST |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I. BOMBAY PRESIDENCY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. SIND RIVER | F | F | N | N | N | F | F | F | F | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. SIND RAINFALL | | | | | | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 GUJARAT | | S | S | S | S | F | F | N | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 DECCAN | S | S | S | S | EX | EX | N | EX | EX | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 KONKAN | S | F | F | S | EX | EX | EX | N | F | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| II. MADRAS PRESIDENCY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 MALABAR | S | N | N | EX | N | EX | F | EX | EX | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 DECCAN | S | S | N | S | F | F | N | F | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 COST NORTH | S | S | S | S | F | F | N | N | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 SOUTH EAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| III. MYSORE | EX | S | S | S | F | EX | EX | EX | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| IV. HYDERABAD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 NORTH | S | S | S | S | EX | N | N | EX | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 SOUTH | S | S | F | F | S | N | EX | N | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| V. CENTRAL PROVINCES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 BERAR | | S | S | S | F | N | S | EX | EX | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 WEST | | S | S | S | N | N | N | EX | EX | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 EAST | | S | S | F | S | EX | N | N | F | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| VI. CENTRAL INDIA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 WEST | | S | S | S | F | EX | N | EX | EX | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 EAST | | S | S | S | S | EX | F | N | EX | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| VII. BENGAL PRESIDENCY | S | N | N | N | F | N | N | F | EX | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| VIII. ASSAM | S | EX | EX | N | N | N | N | N | F | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| IX. BIHAR & ORISSA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 BIHAR | | F | S | N | N | S | EX | F | N | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 ORISSA | | S | S | F | S | N | N | EX | N | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| X. UNITED PROVINCES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 EAST | | | S | S | N | N | EX | N | N | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 WEST | | | | | S | F | N | EX | F | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| XI. PUNJAB | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 EAST & NORTH | | | | | | EX | EX | EX | N | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 SOUTH & WEST | | | | | | | | N | F | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| XII. RAJPUTANA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 WEST | | | | S | S | EX | S | EX | EX | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 EAST | | | | S | S | N | N | EX | EX | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| XIII. BURMA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 LOWER | EX | EX | N | EX | EX | N | F | EX | EX | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 UPPER | F | EX | N | EX | F | S | N | N | N | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

NOTES

1. Within the wet season, the whiter the chart, the better the season. Red areas indicate deficient, and Black areas excessive rains.
2. Excess More than 120 per cent of the normal.
   Normal 80-120 per cent of the normal.
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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.

CHART No. 3.

# PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON 1922.

*Abbreviations:-* S__Scanty F__Fair. N__Normal. EX__Excess.

| PROVINCE OR STATE | JUNE 8TH | JUNE 15TH | JUNE 22ND | JUNE 29TH | JULY 6TH | JULY 13TH | JULY 20TH | JULY 27TH | AUGUST 3RD | AUGUST 10TH | AUGUST 17TH | AUGUST 24TH | AUGUST 31ST | SEPTEMBER 7TH | SEPTEMBER 14TH | SEPTEMBER 21ST | SEPTEMBER 28TH | OCTOBER 5TH | OCTOBER 12TH | OCTOBER 19TH | OCTOBER 26TH |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I. BOMBAY PRESIDENCY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. SIND RIVER | EX | EX | EX | EX | EX | N | N | N | N | N | F | F | N | EX | EX | EX | EX | | | | |
| 1. SIND RAINFALL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 GUJARAT | | S | S | | | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 DECCAN | S | S | EX | EX | EX | S | F | F | EX | S | S | F | F | EX | EX | EX | | | | | |
| 4 KONKAN | N | F | N | EX | EX | F | S | EX | N | S | S | F | S | S | S | F | S | S | | | |
| II. MADRAS PRESIDENCY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 MALABAR | F | F | | EX | EX | EX | EX | N | F | F | F | EX | F | N | F | EX | F | F | F | F | F |
| 2 DECCAN | F | S | F | S | S | S | F | N | S | S | F | F | EX | F | S | S | S | S | N | EX | S |
| 3 COST NORTH | EX | S | F | F | S | F | S | EX | S | F | EX | S | EX | F | N | F | F | F | N | S | F |
| 4 SOUTH EAST | | | | | | | | | | EX | F | S | EX | F | F | S | F | F | F | N | N |
| 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 | F | F | S | S | S | S | F | F | N | EX | F | | | | |
| 2 SOUTH | F | | N | F | F | F | S | EX | S | S | S | S | EX | N | F | S | N | | | | |
| V. CENTRAL PROVINCES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 BERAR | | S | N | EX | N | F | F | EX | EX | F | S | S | S | S | EX | EX | S | S | S | | |
| 2 WEST | | S | S | EX | N | N | N | N | N | F | S | N | N | EX | EX | EX | S | S | S | | |
| 3 EAST | | S | EX | N | N | F | F | EX | EX | F | S | EX | EX | EX | EX | EX | F | F | S | | |
| VI. CENTRAL INDIA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 WEST | | S | EX | N | N | N | EX | N | EX | S | S | F | S | EX | EX | EX | | | | | |
| 2 EAST | | S | S | EX | N | EX | EX | EX | N | N | S | EX | EX | EX | S | N | N | | | | |
| VII. BENGAL PRESIDENCY | EX | F | EX | EX | N | F | EX | N | N | EX | F | F | EX | F | F | F | 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 | S | EX | EX | N | | |
| 2 ORISSA | | N | F | N | EX | EX | F | N | EX | | N | EX | N | 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. PUNJAB | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 EAST & NORTH | | | | | S | S | EX | N | EX | F | S | N | F | N | | | | | | | |
| 2 SOUTH & WEST | | | | | | | | N | N | S | S | | | | | | | | | | |
| XII. RAJPUTANA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 WEST | | | | S | F | S | F | F | EX | S | 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 | N | EX | N | N | N | N | EX | N | N | N | N | N | S | |
| 2 UPPER | F | F | EX | N | F | EX | EX | F | F | EX | N | F | EX | N | N | EX | N | N | EX | EX | N |

NOTES

1. Within the wet season, the whiter the chart, the better the season. Red areas indicate deficient, and Black areas excessive rains.
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CHART No. 4.

## RAINFALL FOR THE PERIOD, JUNE TO NOVEMBER 1922.

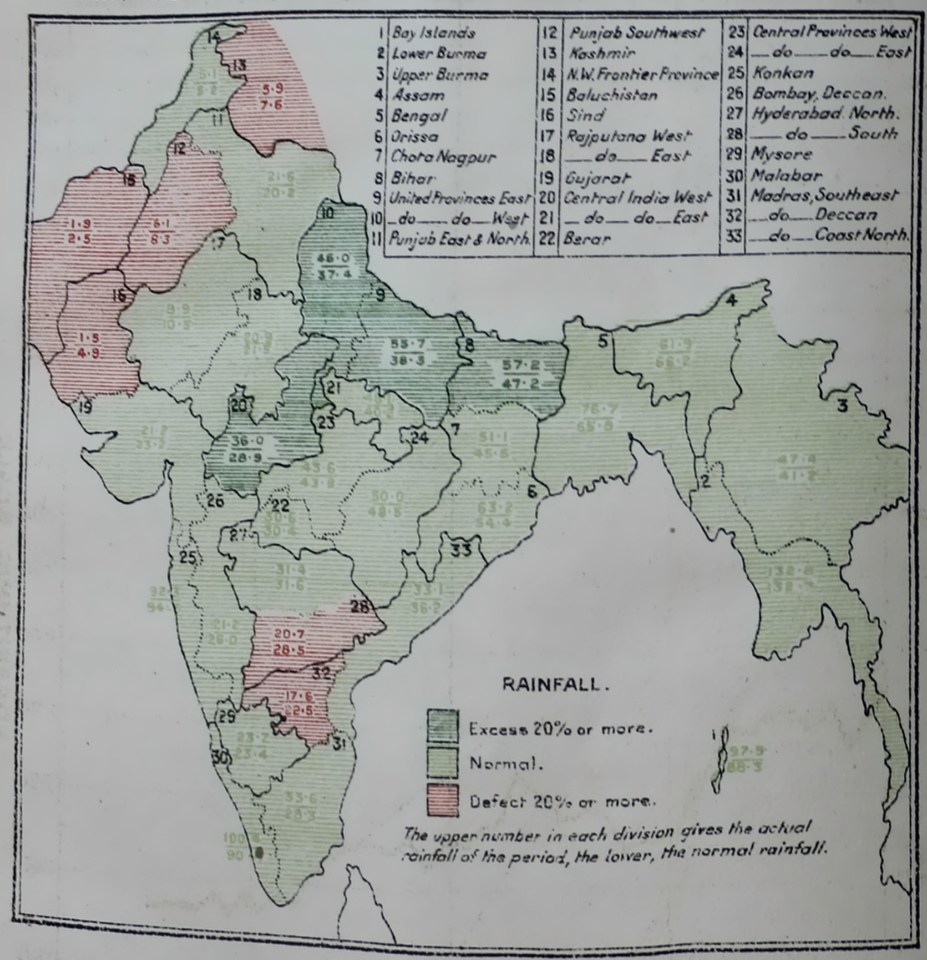
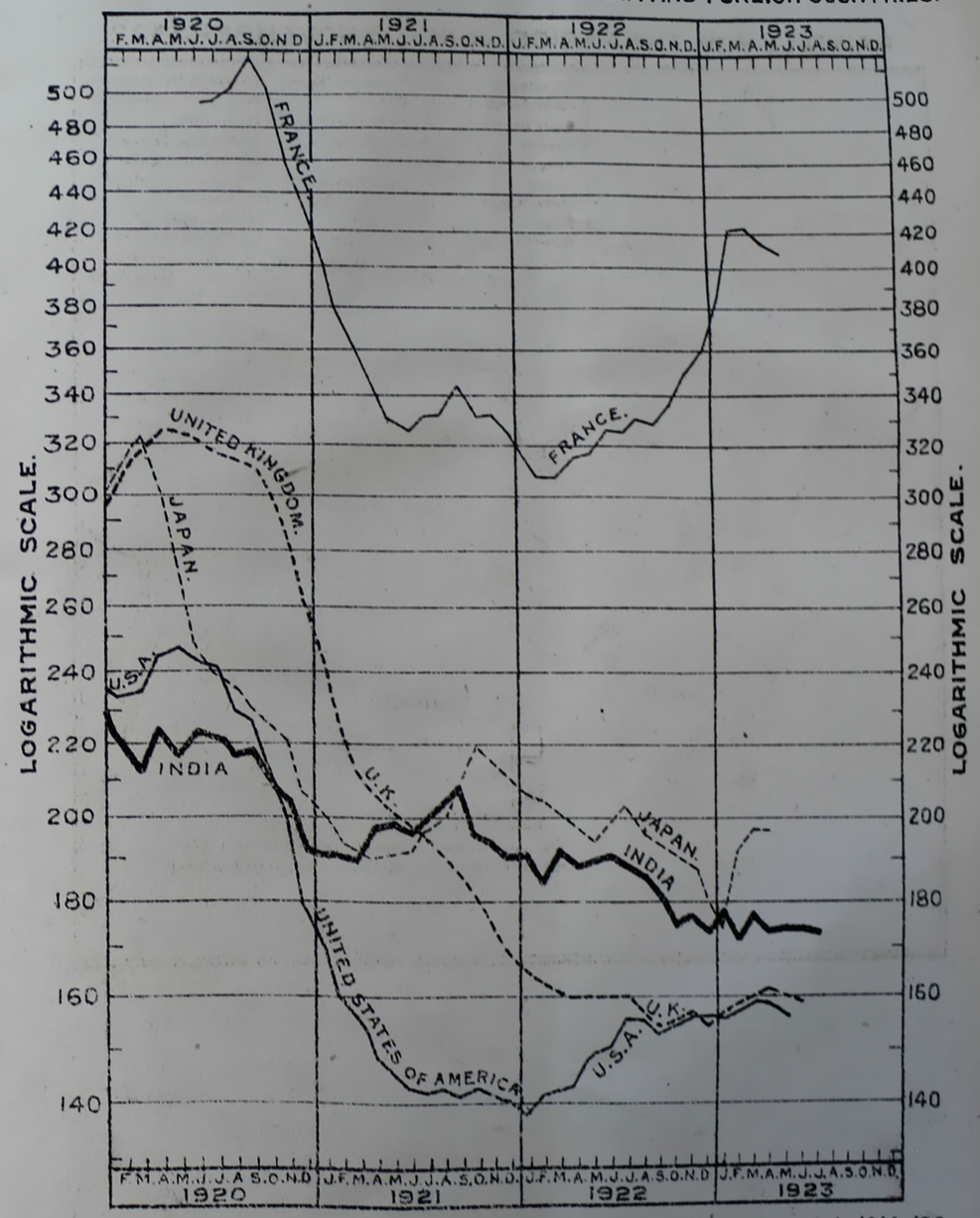



CHART No. 5.

## INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

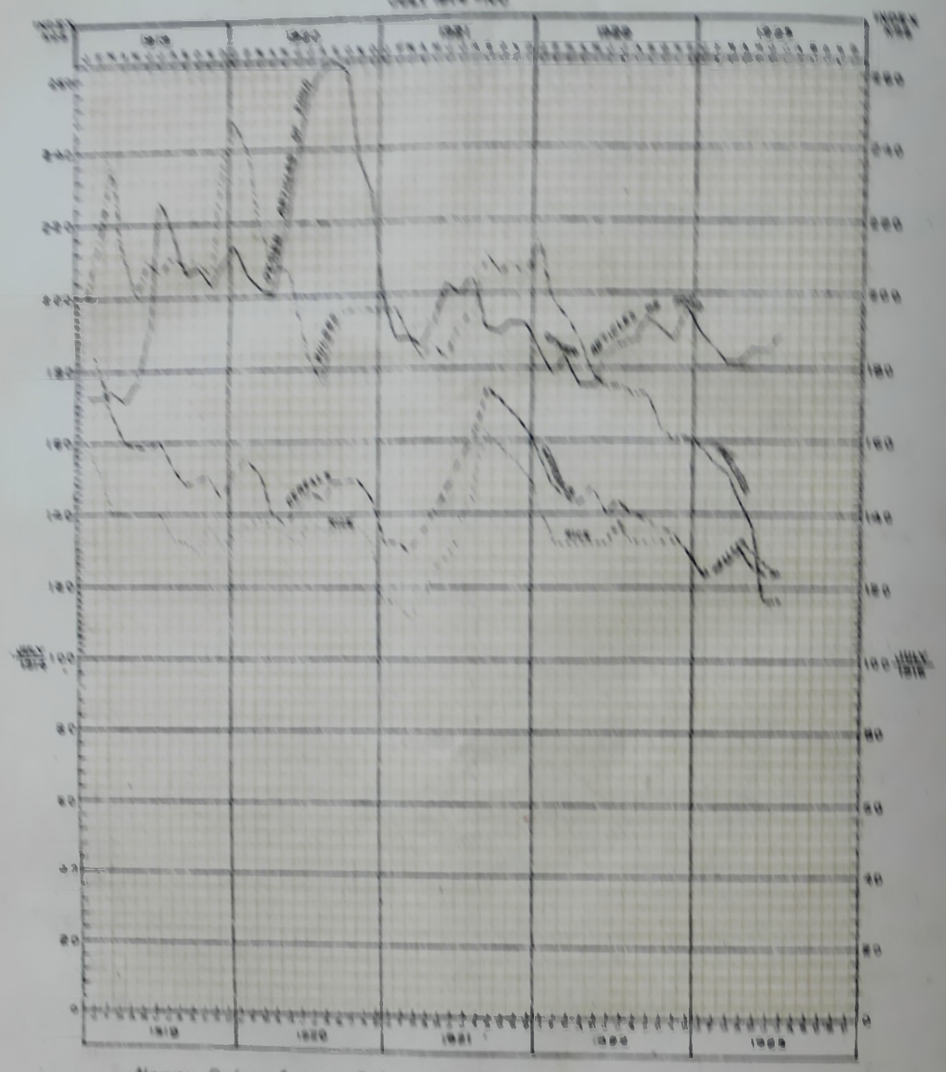



Note:- *Average of the year 1913=100 except in the case of India where July 1914=100.*

Chart No. 6

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

JULY 1914 = 100




Note:- Pulses Average Price of Gram & Tur dal
Rice "Clean
"Cereals" Average Price of Rice, Wheat, Jowar & Bajri
"Other articles of Food" Average Price of Sugar, Tea, Salt
Beef, Mutton, Ghee, Potatoes, Onions, Cocanut oil &c.

Chart No. 7

## COST OF LIVING INDEXES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

JULY 1914 = 100

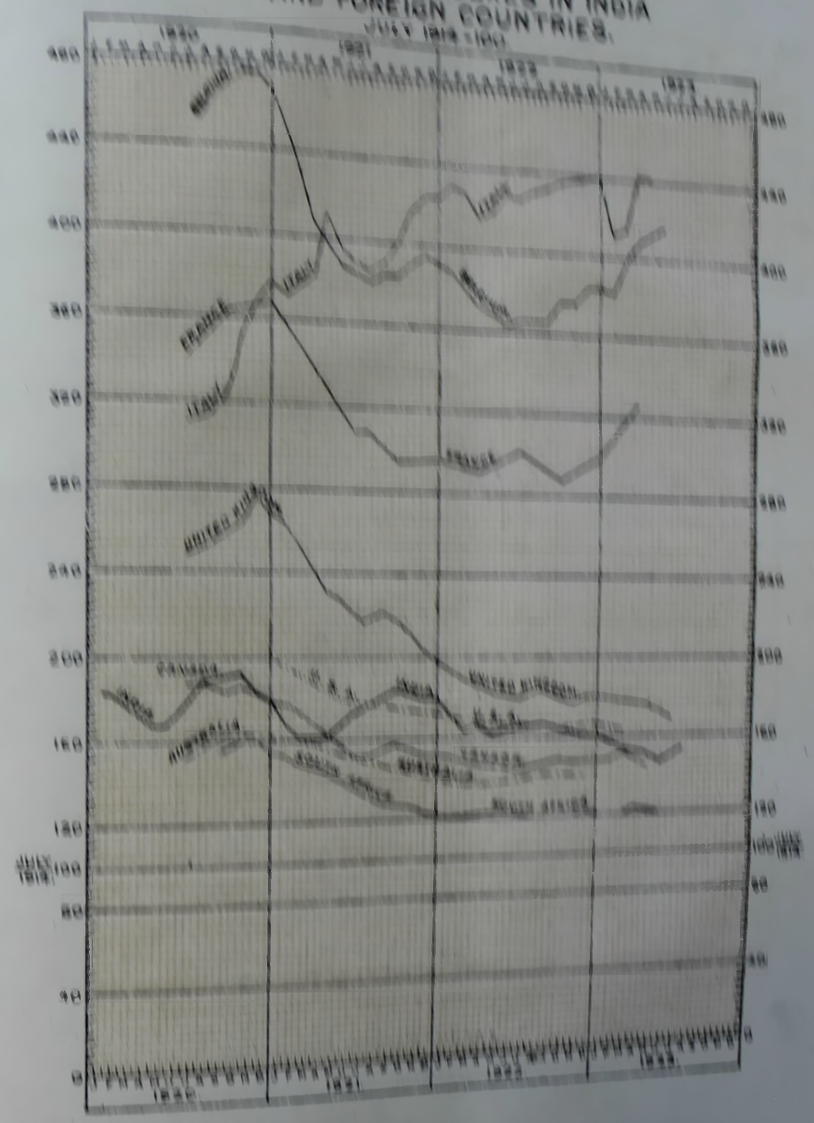
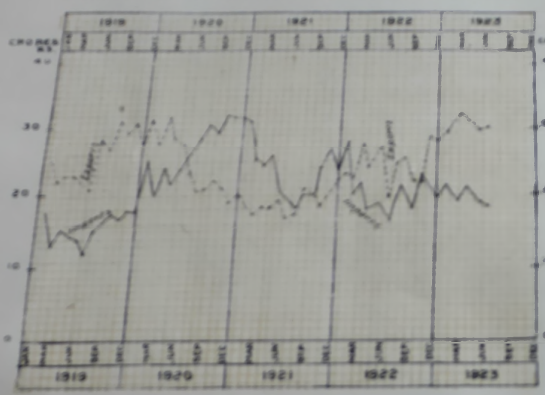


CHART No 8

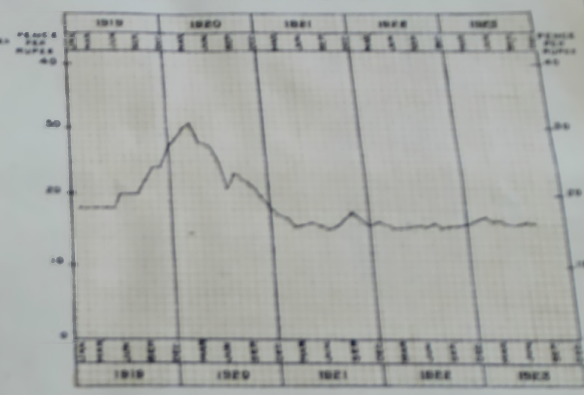
IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE — INDIA




Note:- Each Square = 1 crore (10 millions) of Rupees.

CHART No 9

RATE OF EXCHANGE IN BOMBAY

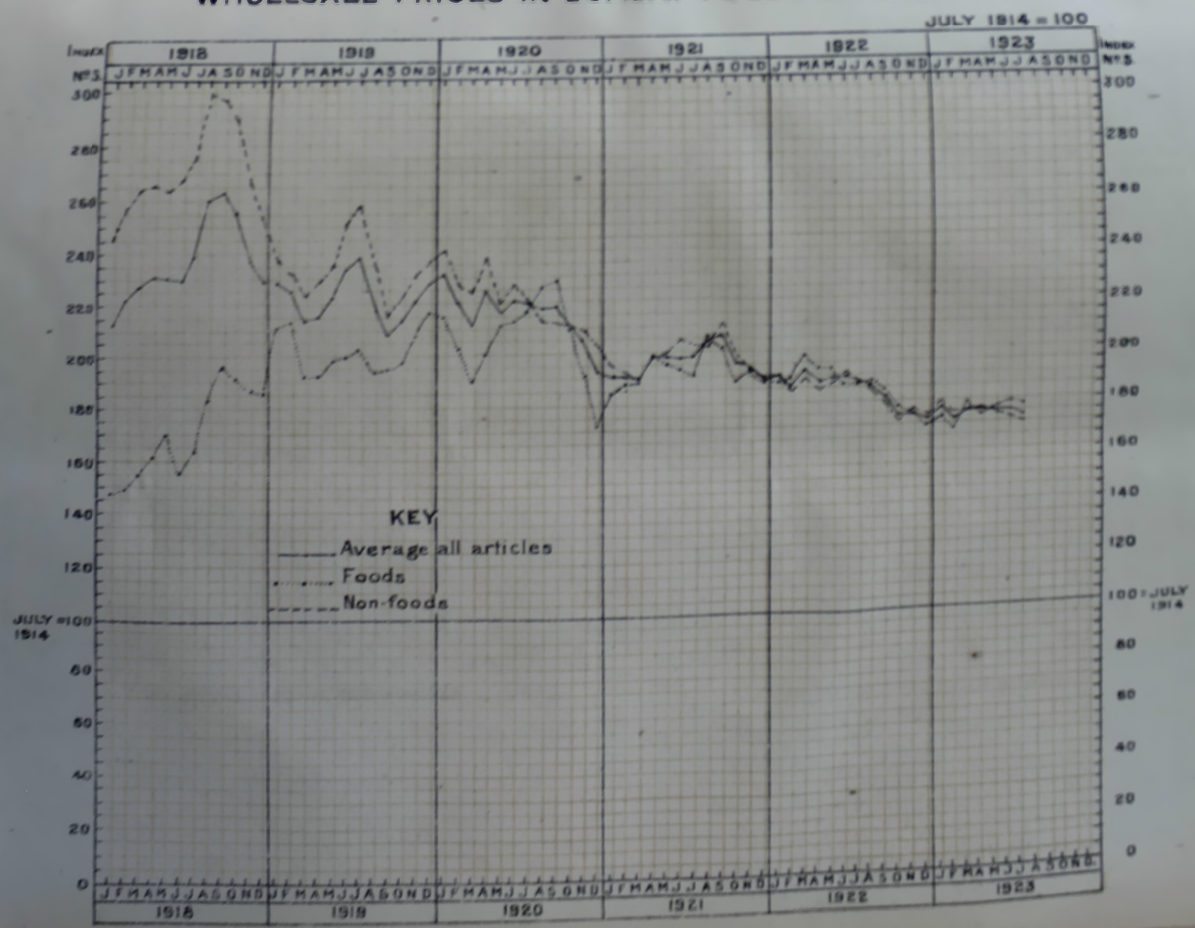


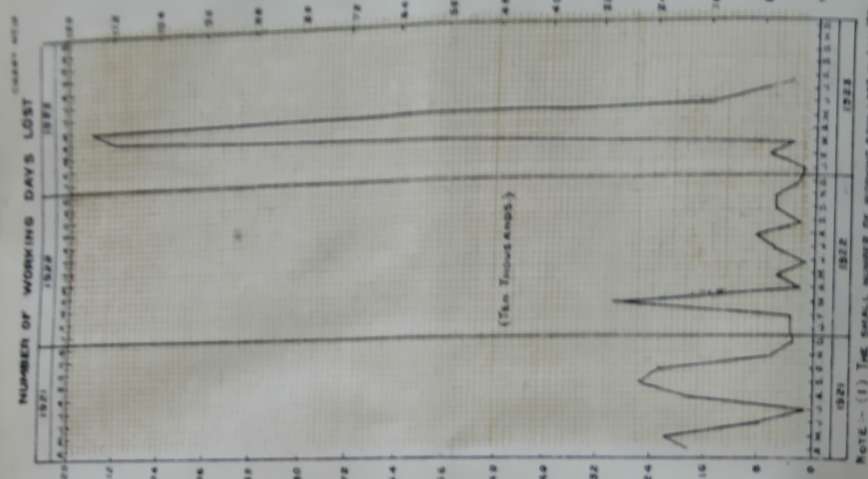

Note (1) The reason for the fall of Exchange will be evident from the preceding chart When the balance of trade is adverse (imports greater than exports) Exchange also tends to be adverse from India's point of view. This is the Telegraphic Transfer rate on London

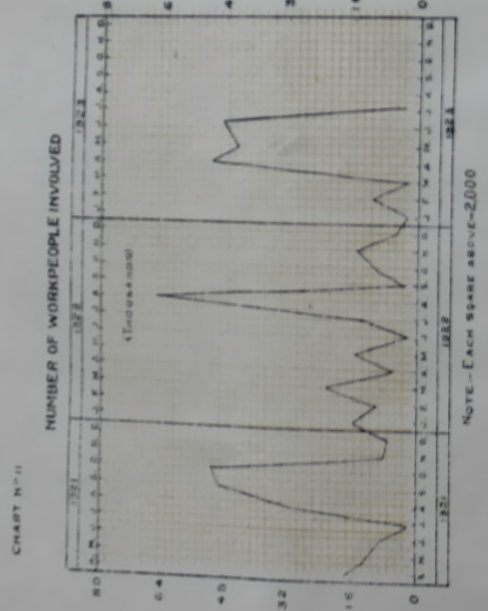
(2) Each square equals 1 penny

CHART No 10

WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY FOODS & NONFOODS







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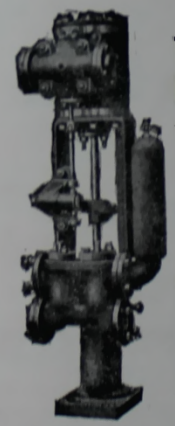
# WORTHINGTON



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H.M. THE KING OF SPAIN

H.M. THE KING OF NORWAY

H.I.M. THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT

AND

MANY OF THE LEADING PRINCES OF INDIA

1710—1923

GEORGE II

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BARKER & HOOPER

(COACHBUILDERS INDIA,) LIMITED

FRENCH BRIDGE BOMBAY

KASHMIR GATE DELHI

G. & Co.

Telegrams: "COACHWORK"

x




reasonable. The rates quoted are for the building, containing 80 tenements, complete with sanitary fittings. The tender of the Bombay Concrete Construction and Engineering Company was based on a new design providing for the precasting of floor slabs in addition to walling and partition blocks, a system which has the advantage of speedy erection, better workmanship, and lower cost. It is anticipated that, in all future chawl work, this or some similar system of construction will be adopted. The framework, consisting of the columns and beams, is now the only part of the building which is cast *in situ*.

15. *Criticism of Design.*—It is not unnatural that the design of the chawls should have evoked criticism, both from tenants and from others. So far as the tenants are concerned the main cause of complaint has been the absence of *nahanis* in the rooms at DeLisle Road and Worli, a group of *nahanis* having been provided in the centre of each floor instead. The *nahani*, it may be explained, is merely a small washing place, with sink and waste pipe connected to the drainage system. There are objections, on sanitary grounds, to the provision of separate *nahanis* in each room, for it is common knowledge that they are used as urinals. The Health Officer of the Municipality is opposed to them and *nahanis* are not fitted in the rooms of chawls built by the Municipal Corporation for their employees. The Improvement Trust, on the other hand, have always provided them, and there is something to be said for the view that, whatever the sanitary objections may be, experience demands a recognition of the customs and prejudices of the people, and that it is better to make some sacrifice of principle rather than promote dissatisfaction among the tenants.

16. Another complaint of the tenants relates to the nuisance caused by the smoke from the fireplaces or *chulas*. This is a defect common to all single room tenements in Bombay, and one which it is not easy to deal with. Chimneys are not provided in such tenements as a rule, but the Directorate design of chawl has a chimney to each tenement. Unfortunately, however, in many of the rooms the tenants insist on building two, three, or even more *chulas*, and the question is how to direct the smoke from all of them up the one chimney, a problem which is rendered more difficult by the custom of the tenants of building the *chulas* anywhere on the floor, with little or no reference to the position of the chimney.

17. These questions were fully considered by the officers of the Directorate and by the Advisory Committee and the latter decided, by a majority, to recommend to Government that *nahanis* should, in future, be provided in each room. They also recommended the adoption of a small loft for storing firewood, which the Engineers found it possible to combine with a sort of canopy, connecting with the chimney below which there would be room for three *chulas* the smoke from which would be directed by the canopy up the chimney. These additions are estimated to cost an additional Rs. 121 per room, mainly on account of piping, etc., connected with the *nahanis*, and the proposals were under consideration by Government at the close of the year.

* * * * *

21. *The Question of Rent.*—The rent charged for the rooms has also been the subject of criticism, and it has been pointed out that many of the labouring classes now live in rooms for which they pay Rs. 4 to 5 per month, and it is asked how they can be expected to pay the much higher rent for the rooms in the Directorate chawls. The reply is that at the last census in 1921 there were 175,000 single room tenements in Bombay, the majority in old insanitary buildings in crowded localities separated from each other in many cases by a sweeper's gully only 2' 6" wide. It is not possible to construct, at present prices of land, materials and labour, modern sanitary buildings with large open spaces, such as those at Worli, at the same economic rent as the older types, and the additional accommodation now being provided will naturally be occupied by those who can best afford it, which will set free a number of the older, cheaper, rooms for the poorest classes.

22. An interesting sidelight is thrown on this question in a pamphlet on "The Housing Problem in 1922," published in October 1922 by Mr. Mancherjee E. Joshi, L.C.E., Honorary Secretary, Parsi Co-operative Housing Society.

a well known authority on the housing question. The following is a quotation from the pamphlet in question :—

"Even the one-room tenement which the poor are occupying cannot be had to-day for less than Rs. 20 to 25. I have seen some newly built chawls on Soparibagh Road, which I and my worthy colleague Khan Bahadur Dr. J. K. Daji tried to secure for giving immediate relief to such of our poor and lower middle classes who were out in the streets for want of house accommodation, and what was the result? We had to give up all idea about it because of the rents being not less than Rs. 25 to 45 for one and two-room tenements, respectively, which was quite out of the question for the poor or lower middle to pay, with their income almost that amount. In one of the buildings, the rent of each room 12×12 only in the rear part of the building with no kitchen at all was Rs. 30, and that too if the whole building was rented on contract."

It has been ascertained that the buildings referred to are new buildings constructed by private agency since the passing of the Rent Act and, if the rents demanded represent the true economic rent, a comparison with the Directorate chawls is much in favour of the latter so far as economical construction is concerned.

23. There has been considerable confusion in regard to "economic rent", and it has been seriously contended that if a tenement costs Rs.1,000 to build, and the money to build it is borrowed at 7 per cent., the rent should not exceed Rs. 70 per annum, or say Rs. 6 per mensem. The actual capital cost includes, besides the cost of the building, the cost of land, roads, drainage and water supply, together with provision for establishment charges, *plus* interest on the expenditure during the period of construction. To the annual interest on the capital sum thus arrived at, must be added sinking fund to replace the buildings at the end of their assumed life, which gives the nett rent, or the nett income required to cover expenses. In the case of the Directorate chawls, the average nett rent is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 10 per mensem. There is then the question of "outgoings", *viz.*, repairs and management, Municipal taxes, vacancies, bad debts and insurance, and it is customary in Bombay to take outgoings as 33⅓ per cent. of gross rent. In other words the ordinary landlord must charge Rs. 15 per mensem to secure a nett rent of Rs. 10. In the case of the Directorate chawls the gross or economic rent is taken on the average at Rs. 14-8-0 per month, due to the fact that Government buildings are allowed a small concession in the matter of Municipal taxes. The detailed calculation of the economic rent of 1,520 tenements at Naigaum, plot A, is printed as Appendix A* to this report.

24. Government, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, have decided, for the present, to charge an average minimum rent of Rs. 10, which corresponds to a loss per tenement of Rs. 54 per annum. The portion of the cotton cess available for meeting the loss on the scheme may be taken at Rs. 14½ lakhs per annum, which sum would cover the loss on something under 27,000 rooms, assuming the rents charged to remain as at present. The programme provides for the completion of 26,000 tenements by 31st March 1926, by which date, if not before, it will be necessary to consider three alternatives, an increase in the rents, an increase in the cotton cess, or a curtailment of the programme. The total expenditure on the Bombay Industrial Housing Scheme up to 31st March 1923 amounted to Rs. 1,25,66,252.

## HOUSING QUESTIONS IN THE LEGISLATURE

### BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

*Development Department Chawls*

Mr. G. B. Trivedi asked: Will Government be pleased to place on the table a statement with regard to the occupation of their Development Department chawls giving the following information :—

(*a*) Rooms rented to—
(1) Mill and factory workers.
(2) Clerks.
(3) Petty Traders.
(4) Societies.
(5) Companies.
(6) Government.
(7) Public bodies.

(*b*) The present approximate monthly income of occupants.

(*c*) Their castes or communities.

* Not published.



(*d*) Monthly loss due to differences in the reduced rents and economic rents.

The Honourable Mr. Cowasji Jehangir replied :

(*a*) *Statement giving the information asked for in clause (a) of the question*

| Rooms rented to | Number of tenants. |
|---|---|
| 1. Mill and Factory Workers | 680 |
| 2. Clerks | 77 |
| 3. Petty Traders | 17 |
| 4. Societies | 10 |
| 5. Companies | None |
| 6. Government | 120 |
| 7. Public bodies | None |

(*b*) The information is not available with Government.

(*c*) *Statement giving the information asked for in clause (c) of the question*

| Names of castes or communities. | Number. |
|---|---|
| Hindus | 1,097 |
| Mohamedans | 129 |
| Christians | 180 |

(*d*) Rs. 6,145.

*Welfare Centre at Development Chawls*

Mr. Kanji Dwarkadas asked : (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that a Welfare Centre under the Lady Lloyd scheme has been opened and is working at the Worli Development chawls?

(*b*) With a view to bring medical relief right into the homes of the working classes, will the Government be pleased to state if it is their intention to consider favourably any application to start a free maternity home in the Development chawls?

The Honourable Mr. Cowasji Jehangir replied : (*a*) Ten rooms in the Directorate chawls (five rooms at DeLisle Road and an equal number at Worli) are occupied by the Infant Welfare Society, and two infant welfare centres have been established at these places.

(*b*) No such application has been made to Government. If made, it will receive due consideration.

*New Development Chawls*

Mr. Kanji Dwarkadas asked : Will Government be pleased to state if they have now made arrangements to have *nahanis* (small bathrooms) in each room in the new Development chawls?

The Honourable Mr. Cowasji Jehangir replied : Arrangements are being made as an experimental measure for the provision of *nahanis* in each room in half the number of the new chawls under construction.

*New Development Chawls*

Mr. Kanji Dwarkadas asked : (*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the scarcity of water for drinking, bathing and cleaning purposes felt by the tenants in the Development chawls?

(*b*) If so, will they be pleased to state what action they have taken or intend to take to remove the great hardships to the tenants caused by this scarcity of water?

The Honourable Mr. Cowasji Jehangir replied : (*a*) and (*b*) Complaints have been received in the matter and have been duly attended to.

The lack of pressure in the municipal mains and the draw-off by tenants in the lower storeys of an undue share of the supply available have been the principal reasons for these complaints.

Service reservoirs and pumping plants have been installed at the three chawl centres of Worli, Naigaum and DeLisle Road to remedy the lack of pressure pending the introduction of the increased municipal supply and an improved system of distribution has been put in force.

*Cost of Construction of Development Chawls*

Mr. Kanji Dwarkadas asked : In view of the fact that the economic rent of the new Development chawls is about Rs. 14, almost three times as much as the average monthly rent paid at present by the working classes, for whom these chawls are primarily built, will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken or intend to take to bring down the cost of construction of these chawls?

The Honourable Mr. Cowasji Jehangir replied : It is not possible to build, under present conditions as regards cost of land, material and labour, modern sanitary chawls which can compete in price with crowded insanitary structures erected by private enterprise in pre-war days.

The cost of the Directorate chawls is being constantly watched with a view to the adoption

of every possible economy. The quantity of material employed has been sensibly reduced, transport and labour charges have been cut down, and all contracts are awarded by competitive tender.

For accommodation inferior to that provided in the Directorate chawls, it is understood that Rs. 20 per mensem and over is being demanded in privately owned buildings erected since the passing of the Rent Act.

*New Development Chawls*

Mr. Kanji Dwarkadas asked : (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the maximum number of persons permitted to live in a room in the Development chawls ?

(*b*) Will they be pleased to state if it is a fact that rooms are being rented to more persons than one, and, if so, will they be pleased to give the number of rooms thus rented ? And will they be further pleased to state what is the maximum number of persons who have rented a room jointly ?

The Honourable Mr. Cowasji Jehangir replied : A room is let to one person only, who is required to sign a tenancy agreement in which he undertakes that the room will be occupied by himself and not more than four other adults (two children being taken as one adult).

*Housing Experts with Advisory Board of the Development Directorate*

Mr. G. B. Trivedi asked : (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state what members of the advisory board of the Development Directorate are housing experts ?

(*b*) Was the board consulted as to the designs of the workmen's chawls before their construction was undertaken : if so, on what date ?

The Honourable Mr. Cowasji Jehangir replied : (*a*) The constitution of the advisory committees is given below :—

*For Bombay City*

2 members elected by the Municipal Corporation, Bombay.

1 member elected by the City of Bombay Improvement Trust.

1 member elected by the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

1 member elected by the Millowners' Association, Bombay.

1 member elected by the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay.

1 member elected by the Bombay Presidency Trades Association.

1 member nominated by Government to represent the working classes in Bombay.

*For the Bombay Suburban Revenue Division*

1 member elected by Bandra municipality.

1 member elected by Kurla municipality.

1 member elected by Ghatkopar-Kirol municipality.

1 member elected by notified area committees in the Bombay Suburban district.

The members of the Committees are elected by the bodies referred to above and are not nominated as experts.

(*b*) Before the appointment of the advisory committees, it had been decided to adopt as a basis the type of chawl built by the Public Works Department for the police in Bombay.

As soon as the first few chawls had been built, they were inspected by the advisory committee for Bombay city at Naigaum on the 29th November 1921, when the design was generally approved.

Certain changes in the design subsequently made have been placed before the advisory committee, who have inspected the chawls from time to time, the last occasion being on 16th February 1923.

*Housing of Mill-hands in Sholapur*

Mr. R. G. Salgar asked : Will Government be pleased to state

(*a*) If it is a fact that the rate of house-rent is too much increased nowadays in the Sholapur city ?

(*b*) What is the number of working persons employed by each mill at Sholapur ?

(*c*) Have the mill-owners built any chawls for the working persons to live in and how many persons are accommodated in each chawl ?

(*d*) Are the mill-owners taking any steps to accommodate every working person in the mill at Sholapur by building its own chawl or by giving them rent till new chawls are built ?

The Honourable Mr. Cowasji Jehangir replied : Enquiries are being made.



## WOMEN AND THE GERMAN TRADE UNIONS

The International Labour Review for July 1923 contains an interesting article on Women in the German Trade Union Movement. A summary of the article appearing in the International Labour Office News Service is published below :—

"Trade unionism among women in Germany has undergone a very marked development since the war. Whereas in 1914 the number of women organised in the German 'free' trade unions was only 210,314, or 10 per cent. of the total membership, in 1922 it had grown to 1,753,576, or over 21 per cent. of the total membership of the 'free' trade unions. Women form a similar proportion of the other trade union organisations.

Women workers in Germany generally receive lower wages than men—in most cases, about two-thirds of the men's wages. A few collective agreements lay down that women's wages must not be less than 80 per cent. of the men's. It is only in the small minority of cases that men and women receive equal pay. These cases are to be found almost exclusively in the textile and tailoring trades.

In theory, according to an article by Madame Gertrud Hannar, member of the Women's Secretariat of the General Federation of Trade Unions, and member of the Prussian Parliament, in the International Labour Review, the trade unions are opposed to differentiation between men and women as regards wages, but there are many difficulties in the way of the practical application of this principle. As a general rule, women do not do the same work as men. Tradition, custom, their lack of the physical qualities required for certain kinds of work, and the highly developed system of protective measures for women workers which exists in Germany, prevent them from doing this.

Within the trade unions at the present time a comparatively small proportion of trade union officials are women, and the most responsible posts are almost entirely filled by men. There are no women delegates, or very few, to Congresses and similar meetings. This fact has led some people to regard the mixed form of trade union which is usual in Germany as unfavourable to the representation of women's interests. Madame Gertrud Hannar, however, considers that this view is erroneous."

## BOMBAY TELEGRAPH WORKMEN'S UNION

An annual general meeting of the Bombay Telegraph Workmen's Union was held on the 22nd July 1923 for adopting the First Annual Report of the Union for the year 1922-23. At the beginning of the year under report there were 380 members on the roll of the Union but only 335 at the close of the year, the loss being due to death in some cases and loss of service in others. In all, four meetings of the Managing Committee were held during the year. Questions regarding the welfare of the telegraph workmen were discussed and suggestions were forwarded to the authorities for consideration. The total receipts of the Union during the year were Rs. 726-10-0 and the disbursements were Rs. 339-2-0 leaving a balance of Rs. 387-8-0 at the end of the year.

This Union, as stated on page 29 of the *Labour Gazette* for June 1923, has been officially recognised by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs.

## TRADE UNIONS—QUESTIONS IN THE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Mr. J. N. Basu asked : (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they intend to introduce a Bill for Registration of Trade Unions in India ? If so, when ?

(*b*) Whether any steps have been taken since March 1921 to collect opinions of Local Governments and Commercial Bodies? If so, whether the Government will be pleased to publish them on their receipt ?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee replied : (*a*) The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the reply given to a similar unstarred question* by Mr. N. M. Joshi on the 2nd July 1923.

(*b*) The Government of India addressed the local Governments and Administrations on this subject in September 1921. The

* Published at page 34 of the *Labour Gazette* for July 1923.

replies have now been received and are being examined, and the suggestion of the Honourable Member to publish them will be considered in due course.

## LABOUR AND INDUSTRY IN CHINA

### THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The July issue of the International Labour Review contains an interesting and authoritative article on "Labour and Industry in China" by Mr. J. B. Taylor, the acting President of the Peking University, and Miss W. T. Zung, a Y. W. C. A. Worker in China. Miss Zung attended the Third International Labour Conference at Geneva in 1922. The following is a summary of this article:—

*The Coming of Modern Industry*

China is still in the early stages of her industrial Revolution, but the changes associated with the introduction of modern methods of industry are taking place rapidly and some of the social problems connected with the transition are appearing in an acute form. Should her progressive industrialisation continue, the number and character of her people and the extent and variety and her resources appear to make it inevitable that China will become one of the dominant factors in the world's industry.

The industrial development of China has been much slower than that of Japan and has run on different lines. In Japan, the Government has encouraged, and even initiated new enterprises, freely using foreign experts until their Japanese assistants have learned sufficient to carry on the business themselves. In China, the Government has been reluctant to give the foreign expert a free hand and has consequently hampered the technical progress of the workers.

The premier Chinese industry—cotton spinning—has undergone a remarkable expansion in the last few years. Rapid progress is also being made in various branches of engineering, in electric installations, in flour mills, in the preparation of egg products, in printing works, oil-pressing mills, cement works, match factories and other industrial enterprises.

*Chinese Industrial Capacity*

The Chinese are rapidly acquiring the technique of modern industry. On the business side there was at first some difficulty in conducting joint-stock companies, owing to a lack of conscience in administering funds belonging to others. But a new standard of morality has gradually been created, and there are now a number of instances of successful Chinese joint-stock companies. Chinese manufacturers are showing themselves capable of managing large businesses, though they still need to pay more attention to the upkeep of machinery and to providing for depreciation. Chinese engineers have successfully undertaken large construction work and are steadily gaining in experience.

*Labour Conditions*

It may be said, on the whole, that in the older forms of industry there is less drive, but the general surroundings are better in the larger factories. On the other hand the factory compares favourably in cleanliness, ventilation, lighting and sanitation with the old workshop. But the conditions of modern industry which, though in many respects better than the old, would be deemed intolerable. With few exceptions they are characterised by long hours, low wages, night work, the work of women, employment of children, the lack of any recognised rest-day, and the general absence of protection of the workers.

*Employment of Women and Children*

In the textile industry a very large proportion of the operatives are women and children. The moist heat in the silk filatures in Shanghai is very trying for the women and fainting is a matter of almost daily occurrence. In the absence of any legislative regulation or recognised custom the women rush back after childbirth in order not to run the risk of losing their employment. Small children are employed in the textile mills and work equal hours with the adults, usually twelve hours shifts. They get very tired, and accidents frequently happen because little is done in most factories to guard the machinery.

*Hours of Labour*

In machine industries the hours are still frequently as much as 14 to 17 per day, though it is becoming usual in the large factories to work twelve hours shifts, generally with no fixed or regular break. Where, however, only one is worked per day it is frequently more than 12 hours. Thus in the silk filatures in Shanghai a working day of 14½ hours is quite common; and knitting machinery is often run 14, 16 and even 17 hours a day.

In the old fashioned small scale mines the tendency has been to work long hours because of the difficulty of entering and leaving the mines. Steel workers are employed for from 12 to 18 hours, and other engineering work runs from 10 to 14 hours a day. But overtime may bring this up to 15 or 16. The evils of long hours are intensified by the practice of working night shifts.

In considering hours it must be borne in mind that there is usually no Sunday observance and that work goes on day in and day out all the year round, with few exceptions. The chief break is a few days' holiday at the Chinese New Year. There is a clear need for a regular period or periods of rest in the long shifts, and for the progressive reduction of the latter at least to a normal ten hour day as rapidly as the efficiency of the worker can be raised.

*Wages and the Standard of Living*

It is difficult to make concrete in China the subject of wages and the standard of living. Where customs and standards differ widely, comparison is almost impossible and figures have little meaning. This difficulty is aggravated by the scarcity of reliable data secured by experienced workers; the facts are not sufficiently known.

In Shanghai, foremen receive $20 to $25 (Rs. 62 to 77) a month, skilled workmen $12 to $36 (Rs. 37 to 111), averaging $20 (Rs. 62), while unskilled workers receive $6 to $12 (Rs. 19 to 37), averaging $9 (Rs. 28). Women are paid $6 to $10 (Rs. 19 to 31) averaging $8 (Rs. 25) a month, and the older children 18 to 30 cents. (9 to 15 annas) per day, or on the average about $6 (Rs. 19) a month. In the silk filatures the women's wages are said to be 28 cents to 35 cents (Re. 0-14-0 to 1-1-0) a day for the more highly skilled.

In Central China, the wages in an up-to-date cotton mill are $14 to $15 (Rs. 43 to 46) a month for skilled men and $25 (Rs. 77) for foremen and chief operators, but $4·50 to $6 (Rs. 14 to 19) a month for unskilled labour. In one of the oldest mills in the same centre skilled men are receiving $7 (Rs. 29) a month and women $5·25 (Rs. 16). In both Central and North China the unskilled workman gets 15 to 18 or 20 cents (7 to 9 or 10 annas) a day. On the Railways the lower grades of workers are somewhat better paid. They receive from 24 to 30 cents (12 to 15 annas) a day.

*Housing and Welfare Work*

The housing of the factory workers and miners presents a problem which is very far from being completely solved. The larger pioneer enterprises have frequently provided houses for their skilled workers, who have often come from another province; but little has been done for the common labourer, though a few mining companies, particularly, have made a beginning.

Welfare work of the ordinary kind is hardly understood at all. The situation in this respect is, however, slowly improving. A thoroughly competent woman of wide experience formerly connected with the London School of Economics is now in China initiating such work in this country.

*Labour Organisation*

The Socialist movement among the intellectuals has not yet affected the labour movement much, but trade unionism has begun to spread rapidly in the industrial districts. A rapidly rising cost of living in the industrial centres, a growing body of workers the upper sections of which have been increasingly influenced by world movements through seamen and others, the knowledge of huge profits amassed by leading industrial enterprises and the Socialist propaganda have provided all the factors necessary for bringing the workers together on the lines of modern trade unionism.

In the last three or four years, some 200 unions have been formed in Hongkong and three hundred in Canton. The activities of these unions have been varied; they observe Labour Day, support strikers, contribute to Russian Famine Relief, support free schools and evening classes and publish various periodicals. In Shanghai there are more than 50 labour unions.

*Government Relations*

There is no labour legislation in China except in the South, where the Government has altered its code in order to legalise labour unions and strikes. The formation of unions has been encouraged. Elsewhere, however, the subject of labour legislation is being brought before various provincial Assemblies, Parliament, and the Peking Government. A conference of eight private organisations held in Shanghai, including the Chamber of Commerce, educational and labour associations in different parts of the country, has prepared a draft constitution which includes seven articles of interest in this connection. Freedom of contract, freedom of association, freedom of private enterprise, recognition of the rights of property, coupled at the same time with the right of the state to place limitations thereon, enactment of laws for the protection of labour, are among the principles enunciated in this draft constitution.

*Conclusion*

Though there are disquieting features in the labour situation in China, there are also factors which give grounds for hope. China's intellectual heritage is a body of social ethics which, while itself inadequate to present needs, expresses the fundamental genius of the Chinese race for dealing with social problems. There is in China still an almost complete absence of class distinctions, a real solidarity of outlook and true social democracy. There is a hope therefore that, granted wise and disinterested leadership, there will be such a response to a constructive policy as will lead to a better industrial order.

## INDIAN FACTORIES ACT

### EXEMPTIONS UNDER THE ACT

Under section 30 of the Indian Factories Act XII of 1911 as amended by Act II of 1922 (published on page 21 of the *Labour Gazette* for July 1922), the Government of Bombay have recently notified the following

exemptions in part I of *Bombay Government Gazette* dated the 12th July 1923.

No. 3224 (*a*).—Under sub-section (3) of Section 30 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911), as amended by Act II of 1922, the Governor in Council is pleased to exempt the work on urgent repairs performed by engine or power-house drivers in cotton spinning and weaving mills and by drivers on the lighting, ventilating or humidifying apparatus in such mills from the provisions of sections 21, 22, 27 and 28 of the said Act, subject to the following conditions, namely :—

(*a*) that the prescribed intervals for food and rest shall be given to all persons employed on such work ;

(*b*) that no person shall be employed for more than six hours on the weekly holiday ;

(*c*) that no person shall be employed for more than 78 hours in any one week ;

(*d*) that no person shall be employed for more than twelve hours in any one day.

No. 3224 (*b*).—Under clause (*a*) of sub-section (1) of Section 30 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911), as amended by Act II of 1922, the Governor in Council is pleased to exempt—

(*a*) the work performed by oilers, firemen and their attendants in cotton spinning and weaving mills ;

(*b*) the work in the mechanic shops, smithies or foundries of cotton spinning and weaving mills ;

from the provisions of sections of 27 and 28 of the said Act, subject to the condition that no person shall be employed for more than seventy-two hours in any one week or for more than twelve hours in any one day.

No. 3224 (*c*).—Under clause (*b*) of sub-section (1) of Section 30 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911), as amended by Act II of 1922, the Governor in Council is pleased to exempt—

(*a*) the work performed by fire pumpmen in cotton spinning and weaving mills from the provisions of sections 22, 27 and 28 of the said Act subject to the condition that no fire pumpmen shall be employed for more than seventy-two hours in any one week :

(*b*) the work involved in cleaning the blow room flues in cotton spinning mills from the provisions of sections 27 and 28 of the said Act, subject to a limit of three hours overtime ; and the work involved in cleaning the blow room flues in cotton spinning mills where, owing to difficulties in plant or to prevent danger to the operatives, it is either impossible or inadvisable to perform such work during the week, from the provisions of sections 22 and 27 of the said Act subject to the following conditions, namely—

(*a*) that not more than one-half the blow room staff shall be employed ;

(*b*) that no person shall be employed for more than six hours on the weekly holiday ; and

(*c*) that no person shall be employed on consecutive holidays.

No. 3224 (*d*).—Under clauses (*a*) and (*c*) of sub-section (1) of Section 30 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911), as amended by Act II of 1922, the Governor in Council is pleased to exempt—

(1) the work performed by the kiermen in dyeing and bleaching works from the provisions of sections 21, 27 and 28 of the said Act, subject to the following conditions, namely :—

(*a*) that no person shall be employed for more than seventy-two hours in any one week ;

(*b*) that no person shall be employed for more than twelve hours in any one day ;

(*c*) that the prescribed intervals for food and rest shall be given ;

(2) the work performed by night firemen in cotton spinning and weaving mills from the provisions of sections 21, 27 and 28 subject to the condition that no fireman shall be employed for more than seventy-two hours in any one week.

No. 3224 (*e*).—Under clause (*e*) of sub-section (1) of Section 30 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911), as amended by Act II of 1922, the Governor in Council is pleased to exempt the continuous process work in cloth printing, bleaching and dyeing works from the provisions of Section 21 of the said Act.



## Accidents in Factories during July 1923

### 1. Bombay City and Island

| Class of Factory. | No. of accidents due to | | | | Nature of accident. | | | | | | Total No. of accidents. | | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Machinery in motion. | | Other causes.* | | Fatal. | | Serious. | | Minor. | | | | |
| | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | |
| I. Textile Mills— | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cotton Mills .. | 235 | 28 | 83 | 11 | 3 | 1 | 28 | 3 | 287 | 35 | 318 | 39 | |
| Woollen Mills .. | 6 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7 | 1 | 7 | 1 | |
| Others .. | 5 | .. | 4 | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 8 | 2 | 9 | 2 | |
| Total .. | 246 | 29 | 88 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 29 | 3 | 302 | 38 | 334 | 42 | |
| II. Workshops— | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Engineering | 14 | 2 | 87 | 8 | 1 | .. | 3 | .. | 97 | 10 | 101 | 10 | |
| Railway .. | 80 | 17 | 454 | 86 | 2 | .. | 19 | 3 | 513 | 100 | 534 | 103 | |
| Mint .. | .. | .. | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | .. | 4 | .. | |
| Others .. | 13 | .. | 13 | 3 | .. | .. | 7 | 1 | 19 | 2 | 26 | 3 | |
| Total .. | 107 | 19 | 558 | 97 | 3 | .. | 29 | 4 | 633 | 112 | 665 | 116 | |
| III. Miscellaneous— | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chemical Works .. | .. | .. | 6 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 5 | .. | 6 | .. | |
| Flour Mills .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | 3 | .. | |
| Printing Presses .. | 5 | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 5 | 2 | 6 | 2 | |
| Others .. | 7 | 1 | 16 | 5 | .. | .. | 5 | 1 | 18 | 5 | 23 | 6 | |
| Total .. | 14 | 3 | 24 | 5 | .. | .. | 7 | 1 | 31 | 7 | 38 | 8 | |
| Total, All Factories .. | 367 | 51 | 670 | 115 | 6 | 1 | 65 | 8 | 966 | 157 | 1,037 | 166 | |

### 2. Ahmedabad

| Class of Factory. | No. of accidents due to | | | | Nature of accident. | | | | | | Total No. of accidents. | | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Machinery in motion. | | Other causes. | | Fatal. | | Serious. | | Minor. | | | | |
| | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | |
| Textile Mills— | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cotton .. | 29 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | .. | 17 | 3 | 17 | 8 | 35 | 11 | |
| Total .. | 29 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | .. | 17 | 3 | 17 | 8 | 35 | 11 | |

* Mainly burns, scalds, falls, cuts, shocks, flying pieces of metal, falling of heavy weights, etc.

## Accidents in Factories during July 1923—*contd.*

### 3. Karachi

| Class of Factory. | No. of accidents due to | | | | Nature of accident. | | | | | | Total No. of accidents. | | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Machinery in motion. | | Other causes. | | Fatal. | | Serious. | | Minor. | | | | |
| | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | |
| Workshop— | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Railway and Port Trust .. | 5 | 1 | 26 | 5 | .. | .. | 7 | 2 | 24 | 4 | 31 | 6 | |
| Total .. | 5 | 1 | 26 | 5 | .. | .. | 7 | 2 | 24 | 4 | 31 | 6 | |

### 4. Other Centres

| Class of Factory. | No. of accidents due to | | | | Nature of accident. | | | | | | Total No. of accidents. | | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Machinery in motion. | | Other causes. | | Fatal. | | Serious. | | Minor | | | | |
| | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | January to July 1923. | July 1923. | |
| I. Textile Mills— | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cotton Mills .. | 21 | 4 | 15 | .. | 2 | .. | 11 | 1 | 23 | 3 | 36 | 4 | |
| Cotton Press .. | 3 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | 4 | .. | |
| Others .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Total .. | 24 | 4 | 16 | .. | 3 | .. | 11 | 1 | 26 | 3 | 40 | 4 | |
| II. Workshops— | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Railway .. | 18 | 2 | 94 | 16 | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 110 | 18 | 112 | 18 | |
| Ammunition Works .. | 1 | 1 | 3 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | |
| Others .. | 3 | 2 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | .. | 12 | 7 | 15 | 8 | |
| Total .. | 22 | 5 | 109 | 22 | 3 | 1 | 3 | .. | 125 | 26 | 131 | 27 | |
| III. Miscellaneous— | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gin Factory .. | 3 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | 2 | .. | 5 | .. | |
| Paint Works .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | |
| Others .. | 2 | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | |
| Total .. | 6 | 1 | 3 | .. | 2 | .. | 3 | .. | 4 | 1 | 9 | 1 | |
| Total, All Factories .. | 52 | 10 | 128 | 22 | 8 | 1 | 17 | 1 | 155 | 30 | 180 | 32 | |



## Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Foods)

| Article. | Grade. | Rate per | July 1914. | July 1922. | June 1923. | July 1923. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. |
| *Cereals—* | | | | | | |
| Rice .. .. | Rangoon Small-mill .. | Md. | 4 11 3 | 6 6 10 | 5 11 5 | 5 7 7 |
| Wheat .. .. | Delhi No. 1 .. | Cwt. | 5 9 6 | .... | 6 15 0 | 7 0 0 |
| Do. .. .. | Khandwa Seoni .. | Candy | 45 0 0 | 105 0 0 | 62 8 0 | 67 8 0 |
| Do. .. .. | Jubbulpore .. | " | 40 0 0 | 76 0 0 | 47 8 0 | 46 8 0 |
| Jowari .. .. | Rangoon .. | Md. | 3 2 6 | 4 3 9 | 4 3 9 | 4 3 9 |
| Barley .. .. | — | " | 3 4 6 | 5 14 10 | 3 6 2 | 3 4 6 |
| Bajri .. .. | Ghati .. | " | 3 4 6 | 4 10 6 | 5 1 3 | 4 13 11 |
| *Pulses—* | | | | | | |
| Gram .. .. | Punjab yellow (2nd sort) | " | 4 3 9 | 5 11 5 | 3 11 3 | 3 9 7 |
| Turdal .. .. | Cawnpore .. | " | 5 10 5 | 7 7 3 | 5 4 8 | 5 4 8 |
| *Sugar—* | | | | | | |
| Sugar .. .. | Mauritius No. 1 .. | Cwt. | 9 3 0 | 21 12 0 | 27 12 0 | 25 0 0 |
| Do. .. .. | Java white .. | " | 10 3 0 | 22 13 0 | 25 12 0 | 23 0 0 |
| Raw (Gul) .. .. | Sangli .. | Md. | 7 14 3 | 15 10 4 | 11 9 0 | 11 9 0 |
| *Other food—* | | | | | | |
| Turmeric .. .. | Rajapuri .. | " | 5 9 3 | 17 6 8 | 28 0 5 | 29 14 11 |
| Ghee .. .. | Deshi .. | " | 45 11 5 | 85 11 5 | 84 4 7 | 88 9 2 |
| Salt .. .. | Bombay (black) .. | " | 1 7 6 | 2 11 0 | 3 4 0 | 3 4 0 |

### *Expressed as percentages of July 1914*

### Prices in July 1914 = 100

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Cereals—* | | | | | | |
| Rice .. .. | Rangoon Small-mill .. .. | 100 | 1 | 121 | 116 |
| Wheat .. .. | Delhi No. 1 .. .. | 100 | .... | 124 | 125 |
| Do. .. .. | Khandwa Seoni .. .. | 100 | 233 | 139 | 150 |
| Do. .. .. | Jubbulpore .. .. | 100 | 190 | 119 | 116 |
| Jowari .. .. | Rangoon .. .. | 100 | 134 | 134 | 134 |
| Barley .. .. | — .. .. | 100 | 181 | 103 | 100 |
| Bajri .. .. | Ghati .. .. | 100 | 142 | 155 | 148 |
| Average—Cereals .. | .. .. | 100 | 170 | 128 | 127 |
| *Pulses—* | | | | | | |
| Gram .. .. | Punjab yellow (2nd sort) .. .. | 100 | 135 | 87 | 85 |
| Turdal .. .. | Cawnpore .. .. | 100 | 132 | 94 | 94 |
| Average Pulses .. | .. .. | 100 | 134 | 91 | 90 |
| *Sugar—* | | | | | | |
| Sugar .. .. | Mauritius No. 1 .. .. | 100 | 237 | 302 | 272 |
| Do. .. .. | Java white .. .. | 100 | 224 | 253 | 226 |
| Raw (Gul) .. .. | Sangli .. .. | 100 | 198 | 147 | 147 |
| Average—Sugar .. | .. .. | 100 | 220 | 234 | 215 |
| *Other food—* | | | | | | |
| Turmeric .. .. | Rajapuri .. .. | 100 | 312 | 502 | 537 |
| Ghee .. .. | Deshi .. .. | 100 | 188 | 184 | 194 |
| Salt .. .. | Bombay (black) .. .. | 100 | 183 | 221 | 221 |
| Average—Other food .. | .. .. | 100 | 228 | 302 | 317 |
| Average—All food .. | .. .. | 100 | 188 | 179 | 178 |

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

| Article. | Grade. | Rate per | July 1914. | July 1922. | June 1923. | July 1923. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. |
| *Oilseeds*— | | | | | | |
| Linseed .. | Bold .. | Cwt. | 8 14 6 | 15 3 0 | 13 10 0 | 13 7 0 |
| Rapeseed .. | Cawnpore (brown) .. | " | 8 0 0 | 11 4 0 | 9 9 0 | 9 7 0 |
| Poppyseed .. | Do. .. | " | 10 14 0 | 15 0 0 | 13 6 0 | 13 1 0 |
| Gingelly .. | White .. | " | 11 4 0 | 17 4 0 | 15 10 0 | 15 6 0 |
| *Textiles—Cotton*— | | | | | | |
| (a) *Cotton—raw*— | | | | | | |
| Broach .. | Good .. | Candy | 251 0 0 | 520 0 0 | 530 0 0 | 510 0 0 |
| Oomra .. | Fully good .. | " | 222 0 0 | 425 0 0 | 440 0 0 | .... |
| Dharwar .. | Saw-ginned .. | " | 230 0 0 | .... | .... | .... |
| Khandesh .. | Machine ginned .. | " | 205 0 0 | .... | .... | .... |
| Bengal .. | Do. .. | " | 198 0 0 | 375 0 0 | 445 0 0 | 455 0 0 |
| (b) *Cotton manufactures*— | | | | | | |
| Twist .. | 40s .. | Lb. | 0 12 9 | 1 9 6 | 1 10 6 | 1 10 6 |
| Grey shirtings .. | Fair 2,000 .. | Piece | 5 15 0 | 13 12 0 | 12 12 0 | 12 12 0 |
| White mulls .. | 6,600 .. | " | 4 3 0 | 12 0 0 | 8 4 0 | 8 4 0 |
| Shirtings .. | Liepman's 1,500 .. | " | 10 6 0 | 27 0 0 | 25 0 0 | 24 8 0 |
| Long cloth .. | Local made 36"×37½ yds. .. | Lb. | 0 9 6 | 1 11 6 | 1 4 0 | 1 4 0 |
| Chadders .. | 54"×6 yds. .. | " | 0 9 6 | 1 9 0 | 1 3 0 | 1 3 0 |

*Expressed as percentages of July 1914*

Prices in July 1914 = 100

| Article. | Grade. | Rate per | July 1914. | July 1922. | June 1923. | July 1923. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Oilseeds*— | | | | | | |
| Linseed .. | Bold .. | .... | 100 | 171 | 153 | 151 |
| Rapeseed .. | Cawnpore (brown) .. | .... | 100 | 141 | 120 | 118 |
| Poppyseed .. | Do. .. | .... | 100 | 138 | 123 | 120 |
| Gingelly .. | White .. | .... | 100 | 153 | 139 | 137 |
| Average—Oilseeds .. | .... | | 100 | 154 | 134 | 132 |
| *Textiles—Cotton*— | | | | | | |
| (a) *Cotton—raw*— | | | | | | |
| Broach .. | Good .. | .... | 100 | 207 | 211 | 203 |
| Oomra .. | Fully good .. | .... | 100 | 191 | 198 | .... |
| Dharwar .. | Saw-ginned .. | .... | 100 | .... | .... | .... |
| Khandesh .. | Machine ginned .. | .... | 100 | .... | .... | .... |
| Bengal .. | Do. .. | .... | 100 | 189 | 225 | 230 |
| Average—Cotton—raw .. | .... | | 100 | 196 | 211 | 217 |
| (b) *Cotton manufactures*— | | | | | | |
| Twist .. | 40s .. | .... | 100 | 290 | 208 | 208 |
| Grey shirtings .. | Fair 2,000 .. | .... | 100 | 232 | 215 | 215 |
| White mulls .. | 6,600 .. | .... | 100 | 287 | 197 | 197 |
| Shirtings .. | Liepman's 1,500 .. | .... | 100 | 260 | 241 | 236 |
| Long cloth .. | Local made 36"×37½ yds. .. | .... | 100 | 289 | 210 | 210 |
| Chadders .. | 54"×6 yds. .. | .... | 100 | 263 | 200 | 200 |
| Average—Cotton manufactures .. | .... | | 100 | 255 | 210 | 211 |
| Average—Textiles—Cotton .. | .... | | 100 | 235 | 212 | 212 |



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

| Article. | Grade. | Rate per | July 1914. | July 1922. | June 1923. | July 1923. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. |
| *Other textiles*— | | | | | | |
| Silk .. | Canton No. 5 .. | Pucca seer | 5 4 0 | 5 8 0 | 5 8 0 | 5 8 0 |
| Do. .. | Nankin .. | " | 17 12 0 | 30 8 0 | 30 8 0 | 30 8 0 |
| *Hides and Skins*— | | | | | | |
| Hides, Cow .. | Tanned | Lb. | 1 2 6 | 1 12 7 | 1 13 8 | 1 12 11 |
| Do. Buffalo .. | Do. .. | " | 1 1 3 | 1 2 7 | 0 12 5 | 0 15 8 |
| Skins, Goat .. | Do. .. | " | 1 4 0 | 2 0 11 | 2 7 10 | 2 2 2 |
| *Metals*— | | | | | | |
| Copper braziers .. | — .. | Cwt. | 60 8 0 | 79 0 0 | 79 0 0 | 78 0 0 |
| Iron bars .. | — .. | " | 4 0 0 | 8 0 0 | 8 0 0 | 8 0 0 |
| Steel hoops .. | — .. | " | 7 12 0 | 15 0 0 | 14 0 0 | 14 0 0 |
| Galvanized sheets .. | — .. | " | 9 0 0 | 15 0 0 | 18 0 0 | 18 0 0 |
| Tin plates .. | — .. | Box | 8 12 0 | 17 0 0 | 19 0 0 | 17 12 0 |
| *Other raw and manufactured articles*— | | | | | | |
| Coal .. | Bengal .. | Ton | 14 12 0 | 28 0 0 | 8 12 0 | 8 0 0 |
| Kerosene .. | Elephant brand .. | 2 Tins | 4 6 0 | 7 10 6 | 7 8 0 | 7 8 0 |
| Do. .. | Chester brand .. | Case | 5 2 0 | 10 3 0 | 10 0 0 | 10 0 0 |

*Expressed as percentages of July 1914*

Prices in July 1914 = 100

| Article. | Grade. | Rate per | July 1914. | July 1922. | June 1923. | July 1923. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Other textiles*— | | | | | | |
| Silk .. | Canton No. 5 .. | .. | 100 | 165 | 165 | 165 |
| Do. .. | Nankin .. | .. | 100 | 172 | 172 | 172 |
| Average—Other textiles .. | — | | 100 | 139 | 139 | 139 |
| *Hides and Skins*— | | | | | | |
| Hides, Cow .. | Tanned .. | .. | 100 | 155 | 160 | 156 |
| Do. Buffalo .. | Do. .. | .. | 100 | 108 | 77 | 94 |
| Skins, Goat .. | Do. .. | .. | 100 | 164 | 199 | 171 |
| Average—Hides and Skins .. | | | 100 | 142 | 144 | 139 |
| *Metals*— | | | | | | |
| Copper braziers .. | — .. | .. | 100 | 131 | 131 | 177 |
| Iron bars .. | — .. | .. | 100 | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| Steel hoops .. | — .. | .. | 100 | 194 | 183 | 183 |
| Galvanized sheets .. | — .. | .. | 100 | 167 | 200 | 200 |
| Tin plates .. | — .. | .. | 100 | 194 | 217 | 203 |
| Average—Metals .. | | | 100 | 177 | 186 | 182 |
| *Other raw and manufactured articles*— | | | | | | |
| Coal .. | Bengal .. | .. | 100 | 190 | 59 | 54 |
| Kerosene .. | Elephant brand .. | .. | 100 | 175 | 171 | 171 |
| Do. .. | Chester brand .. | .. | 100 | 199 | 196 | 196 |
| Average—Other raw and manufactured articles .. | — | | 100 | 188 | 142 | 140 |
| Total—Food .. | — | .. | 100 | 188 | 179 | 178 |
| Total—Non-food .. | — | .. | 100 | 188 | 173 | 170 |
| General Average .. | | .. | 100 | 188 | 175 | 173 |

## Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Foods)

| Article. | Grade. | Rate per | July 1914. | July 1922. | June 1923. | July 1923. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. |
| Cereals— | | | | | | |
| Rice .. | Larkana No. 3 .. | Candy .. | 39 0 0 | 61 0 0 | 47 0 0 | 49 0 0 |
| Wheat, white .. | 5 % barley 3 % dirt. .. | ,, .. | 31 8 0 | 47 0 0 | 37 8 0 | 33 4 0 |
| ,, red .. | 30 % red. 5 % barley 3 % dirt. .. | ,, .. | 31 4 0 | 46 8 0 | 36 12 0 | 32 8 0 |
| ,, white .. | 92 % red. 2 % barley 1½ % dirt. .. | ,, .. | 32 8 0 | 48 8 0 | 38 10 0 | 34 4 0 |
| ,, red .. | 2 % barley 1½ % dirt. .. | ,, .. | 32 4 0 | 48 0 0 | 37 14 0 | 33 8 0 |
| Jowari .. | Export Quality .. | ,, .. | 25 8 0 | 34 0 0 | 26 0 0 | 22 0 0 |
| Barley .. | 3 % dirt .. | ,, .. | 26 8 0 | 36 0 0 | 27 0 0 | 25 0 0 |
| Pulses— Gram .. | 1 % dirt .. | ,, .. | 29 8 0 | 42 8 0 | 28 0 0 | 24 12 0 |
| Sugar— Sugar .. | Java, white .. | Cwt. | 9 2 0 | 21 12 0 | 24 4 0 | 21 4 0 |
| Do. .. | ,, brown .. | ,, .. | 8 1 6 | 20 4 0 | .... | .... |
| Other food— Salt .. | .. | Bengal Maund. .. | 2 2 0 | 1 11 0 | 2 14 3 | 2 14 6 |

*Expressed as percentages of July 1914*

Prices in July 1914 = 100

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cereals— | | | | | |
| Rice .. | Larkana No. 3 .. | 100 | 156 | 121 | 126 |
| Wheat, white .. | 5 % barley, 3 % dirt .. | 100 | 149 | 119 | 106 |
| ,, red .. | 30 % red. 5 % barley, 3 % dirt .. | 100 | 149 | 118 | 104 |
| ,, white .. | 92 % red. 2 % barley, 1½ % dirt .. | 100 | 149 | 119 | 105 |
| ,, red .. | 2 % barley, 1½ % dirt .. | 100 | 149 | 117 | 104 |
| Jowari .. | Export Quality .. | 100 | 133 | 102 | 86 |
| Barley .. | 3 % dirt .. | 100 | 136 | 102 | 94 |
| Averages—Cereals .. | .. | 100 | 146 | 114 | 104 |
| Pulses— Gram .. | 1 % dirt .. | 100 | 144 | 95 | 84 |
| Sugar— Sugar .. | Java white .. | 100 | 238 | 266 | 233 |
| ,, .. | ,, brown .. | 100 | 250 | .... | .... |
| Average—Sugar .. | .. | 100 | 244 | 266 | 233 |
| Other food—Salt .. | .. | 100 | 79 | 136 | 137 |



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

| Article. | Grade. | Rate per | July 1914. | July 1922. | June 1923. | July 1923. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. |
| Oilseeds— | | | | | | |
| Cotton seed .. | .... | Maund .. | 2 11 3 | 4 2 0 | 4 4 0 | 3 8 0 |
| Rapeseed .. | 3 % admixture .. | Candy .. | 51 0 0 | 69 0 0 | 56 0 0 | 55 8 0 |
| Gingelly .. | Black, 9 % admixture .. | ,, .. | 62 0 0 | 92 0 0 | 84 0 0 | 84 0 0 |
| Textiles— Jute bags— .. | B. Twills .. | 100 bags .. | 38 4 0 | 49 0 0 | 54 0 0 | 47 8 0 |
| Textile—Cotton— (a) Cotton, raw .. | Sind .. | Maund .. | 20 4 0 | 41 8 0 | 51 8 0 | 51 2 0 |
| (b) Cotton manufactures— Drills .. | Pepperill .. | Piece .. | 10 3 6 | 22 4 0 | 24 0 0 | 24 0 0 |
| Shirting .. | Liepmann's .. | ,, .. | 10 2 0 | 26 0 0 | 24 8 0 | 25 0 0 |
| Yarns .. | 40s. Grey (Plough) .. | Lb. .. | 0 12 2 | .... | .... | .... |
| Other Textiles— Wool .. | Kandahar .. | Maund .. | 28 0 0 | 24 0 0 | 37 0 0 | 37 0 0 |

*Expressed as percentage of July 1914*

Price in July 1914 = 100

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oilseeds— | | | | | |
| Cotton seed .. | .... | 100 | 153 | 157 | 129 |
| Rapeseed .. | 3 % admixture .. | 100 | 135 | 110 | 109 |
| Gingelly .. | Black, 9 % admixture .. | 100 | 148 | 136 | 135 |
| Average—Oilseeds .. | .... | 100 | 145 | 134 | 124 |
| Textiles— Jute bags .. | Twills .. | 100 | 128 | 141 | 124 |
| Textiles—Cotton— (a) Cotton, raw .. | Sind .. | 100 | 205 | 254 | 252 |
| (b) Cotton manufactures— Drills .. | Pepperill .. | 100 | 218 | 235 | 235 |
| Shirtings .. | Liepmann's .. | 100 | 257 | 242 | 247 |
| Yarns .. | 40s. Grey (Plough) .. | 100 | .... | .... | .... |
| Average—Cotton manufactures .. | .... | 100 | 238 | 239 | 241 |
| Average—Textiles—Cotton .. | .... | 100 | 227 | 244 | 245 |
| Other Textiles—Wool .. | .... | 100 | 86 | 132 | 132 |

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

| Article. | Grade. | Rate per | July 1914. | July 1922. | June 1923. | July 1923. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. |
| Hides— | | | | | | |
| Hides dry .. .. | Sind .. | Maund .. | 21 4 0 | 10 8 0 | 12 0 0 | 11 0 0 |
| " " .. .. | Punjab .. | " .. | 21 4 0 | 10 8 0 | 12 0 0 | 11 0 0 |
| Metals— | | | | | | |
| Copper Braziers .. .. | .... | Cwt. .. | 60 8 0 | 80 8 0 | 76 0 0 | 78 8 0 |
| Steel Bars .. .. | .... | " .. | 3 14 0 | 7 12 0 | 7 0 0 | 7 0 0 |
| " Plates .. .. | .... | " .. | 4 6 0 | 9 0 0 | 7 4 0 | 7 6 0 |
| Other raw and manufactured articles— | | | | | | |
| Coal .. .. | 1st Class Bengal .. | Ton .. | 16 0 0 | 35 0 0 | 35 0 0 | 35 0 0 |
| Kerosene .. .. | Chester brand .. | Case .. | 5 2 0 | 10 0 0 | 9 14 6 | 9 14 6 |
| " .. .. | Elephant " .. | 2 Tins .. | 4 7 0 | 7 8 6 | 7 6 0 | 7 6 0 |

*Expressed as percentages of July 1914*

Prices in July 1914 = 100

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hides— | | | | | |
| Hides dry .. .. | Sind .. .. | 100 | 49 | 56 | 52 |
| " " .. .. | Punjab .. .. | 100 | 49 | 56 | 52 |
| Average—Hides .. .. | .... | 100 | 49 | 56 | 52 |
| Metals— | | | | | |
| Copper Braziers .. .. | .... | 100 | 133 | 126 | 130 |
| Steel Bars .. .. | .... | 100 | 200 | 181 | 181 |
| " Plates .. .. | .... | 100 | 206 | 166 | 169 |
| Average—Metals .. .. | .... | 100 | 180 | 158 | 160 |
| Other raw and manufactured articles— | | | | | |
| Coal .. .. | 1st Class Bengal .. .. | 100 | 219 | 219 | 219 |
| Kerosene .. .. | Chester Brand .. .. | 100 | 195 | 193 | 193 |
| " .. .. | Elephant " .. .. | 100 | 170 | 166 | 166 |
| Average—Other raw and manufactured articles .. .. | .... | 100 | 195 | 193 | 193 |
| Total—Food .. .. | .... | 100 | 157 | 130 | 118 |
| Total—Non-food .. .. | .... | 100 | 159 | 161 | 158 |
| General Average .. .. | .... | 100 | 159 | 149 | 142 |



## Wholesale prices index numbers in Bombay by groups

Prices in July 1914 = 100

| Months. | Cereals. | Pulses. | Sugar. | Other food. | Total food. | Oil-seeds. | Raw cotton. | Cotton manufactures. | Other textiles. | Hides and skins. | Metals. | Other raw and manufactured articles. | Total non-food. | General average. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1920** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| July .. | **151** | 145 | 452 | **181** | 216 | **171** | **144** | 318 | 179 | 164 | **288** | 208 | **222** | **220** |
| **1921** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| July .. | 186 | 151 | 234 | 185 | 191 | 171 | 137 | 269 | 138 | 156 | 244 | 206 | 203 | 199 |
| August .. | **216** | 166 | 229 | 181 | 205 | 160 | 137 | 267 | 138 | 160 | 242 | 210 | 202 | 203 |
| September .. | 212 | 169 | 230 | 174 | 202 | 150 | **217** | 265 | 138 | 180 | 240 | 206 | 211 | 207 |
| October .. | 192 | 164 | 207 | 180 | 189 | 130 | 169 | 273 | 138 | 182 | 209 | 202 | 199 | 195 |
| November .. | 196 | 175 | 203 | 190 | 193 | 129 | 170 | 263 | 138 | 163 | 204 | 198 | 192 | 193 |
| December .. | 188 | 180 | 200 | 185 | 189 | 136 | 198 | 259 | 138 | 136 | 200 | 198 | 191 | 190 |
| **1922** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January .. | 182 | 175 | 210 | 190 | 188 | 132 | 166 | 258 | 139 | 162 | 199 | 196 | 190 | 190 |
| February .. | 179 | 168 | 203 | 211 | 189 | 136 | 156 | 244 | 139 | 148 | 192 | 208 | 185 | 186 |
| March .. | 177 | 166 | 224 | 241 | 198 | 140 | 174 | 251 | 139 | 168 | 192 | 196 | 189 | 192 |
| April .. | 179 | 160 | 228 | 212 | 193 | 144 | 179 | 254 | 139 | 137 | 187 | 190 | 185 | 188 |
| May .. | 180 | 160 | 218 | 220 | 193 | 149 | 190 | 250 | 139 | 139 | 186 | 192 | 187 | 189 |
| June .. | 169 | 129 | 220 | 231 | 187 | 152 | 202 | 256 | 139 | 136 | 191 | 192 | 191 | 190 |
| July .. | 170 | 134 | 220 | 228 | 188 | 151 | 196 | 255 | 139 | 142 | 177 | 188 | 188 | 188 |
| August .. | 166 | 132 | 227 | 238 | 188 | 138 | 197 | 248 | 139 | 139 | 183 | 186 | 184 | 186 |
| September .. | 163 | 127 | 212 | 241 | 185 | 135 | 191 | 229 | 139 | 142 | 182 | 181 | 179 | 181 |
| October .. | 145 | 119 | 210 | 249 | 178 | 138 | 165 | 226 | 139 | 112 | 182 | 182 | 172 | 174 |
| November .. | 137 | 111 | 213 | 260 | 176 | 133 | 173 | 224 | 139 | 146 | 185 | 188 | 177 | 176 |
| December .. | 129 | 105 | 216 | 266 | 170 | 135 | 185 | 220 | 139 | 122 | 186 | 182 | 174 | 173 |
| **1923** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January .. | 125 | 102 | 202 | 305 | 173 | 130 | 200 | 227 | 139 | 165 | 194 | 148 | 179 | 177 |
| February .. | 125 | 95 | 210 | 268 | 167 | 132 | 210 | 225 | 139 | 132 | 195 | 146 | 175 | 172 |
| March .. | 127 | 93 | 242 | 296 | 179 | 139 | 213 | 227 | 139 | 134 | 187 | 145 | 176 | 177 |
| April .. | 128 | 92 | 242 | 269 | 174 | 134 | 204 | 217 | 139 | 167 | 185 | 144 | 176 | 175 |
| May .. | 124 | 88 | 248 | 284 | 176 | 131 | 205 | 217 | 139 | 161 | 185 | 145 | 175 | 175 |
| June .. | 128 | 91 | 234 | 302 | 179 | 134 | 211 | 212 | 139 | 144 | 186 | 142 | 173 | 175 |
| July .. | 127 | 90 | 215 | **317** | 178 | 132 | 217 | 211 | 139 | 139 | 182 | 140 | 170 | 173 |

NOTE.—The figures of 1921, 1922 and 1923 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, June and July 1923

*The prices quoted are for local weights and measures*

| Articles. | Grade. | Rate per | Equivalent in tolas. | July 1914. | June 1923. | July 1923. | Increase (+) or decrease (−) in July 1923 over or below July 1914. | Increase (+) or decrease (−) in July 1923 over or below June 1923. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | As. p. | As. p. | As. p. | As. p. | As. p. |
| Rice .. | Rangoon Small-mill .. | Paylee .. | 216 | 5 10 | 7 8 | 7 6 | +1 8 | −0 2 |
| Wheat .. | Punjab Pissi .. | " .. | 212 | 5 10 | 7 6 | 7 6 | +1 8 | .. |
| Jowari .. | Madrasi .. | " .. | 208 | 4 3 | 4 10 | 5 2 | +0 11 | +0 4 |
| Bajri .. | Ghati .. | " .. | 200 | 4 7 | 5 2 | 5 10 | +1 3 | +0 8 |
| Gram .. | Punjab red .. | " .. | 208 | 4 4 | 5 2 | 5 2 | +0 10 | .. |
| Turdal .. | Cawnpore .. | " .. | 204 | 5 11 | 7 0 | 7 0 | +1 1 | .. |
| Sugar (raw) .. | Sangli, middle quality .. | Seer by weight .. | 28 | 1 2 | 2 0 | 2 0 | +0 10 | .. |
| Sugar (refined) .. | Java, white .. | " " .. | 28 | 1 1 | 3 2 | 3 2 | +2 1 | .. |
| Tea .. | Ceylon, middle quality .. | Lb. .. | 39 | 7 10 | 13 10 | 13 10 | +6 0 | .. |
| Salt .. | Bombay, black .. | Paylee .. | 188 | 1 9 | 4 0 | 4 0 | +2 3 | .. |
| Beef .. | Crawford Market .. | Lb. .. | 39 | 2 6 | 3 9 | 4 0 | +1 6 | +0 1 |
| Mutton .. | " Average for sheep and goat | " .. | 39 | 3 0 | 7 3 | 7 0 | +4 0 | −0 3 |
| Milk .. | Medium .. | Seer by measure .. | 56 | 2 9 | 4 11 | 4 11 | +2 2 | .. |
| Ghee .. | Belgaum, Deshi .. | " by weight .. | 28 | 7 1 | 12 1 | 12 1 | +5 0 | .. |
| Potatoes .. | Mettupalayam .. | " " .. | 28 | 0 8 | 1 1 | 1 4 | +0 8 | +0 3 |
| Onions .. | Nasik .. | " " .. | 28 | 0 3 | 0 9 | 0 9 | +0 6 | .. |
| Cocoanut oil .. | Middle quality .. | " " .. | 28 | 3 7 | 4 7 | 4 3 | +0 8 | −0 4 |

## Retail prices of Articles of food in June and July 1923

| Articles. | Price per | Bombay. June 1923. | Karachi. June 1923. | Ahmedabad. June 1923. | Sholapur. June 1923. | Poona. June 1923. | Bombay. July 1923. | Karachi. July 1923. | Ahmedabad. July 1923. | Sholapur. July 1923. | Poona. July 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. | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. |
| *Cereals—* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rice .. .. | Maund .. | 7 1 0 | 6 10 8 | 8 0 0 | 7 6 10 | 9 15 6 | 6 15 7 | 6 14 1 | 8 0 0 | 7 12 3 | 8 14 3 |
| Wheat .. .. | „ .. | 7 0 9 | 5 0 8 | 6 8 6 | 6 10 0 | 6 5 5 | 7 0 9 | 4 12 5 | 6 2 6 | 6 6 5 | 6 5 5 |
| Jowari .. .. | „ .. | 4 10 8 | 3 10 2 | 3 12 11 | 3 12 2 | 4 1 4 | 4 14 11 | 3 10 2 | 3 12 11 | 3 13 5 | 4 1 4 |
| Bajri .. .. | „ .. | 5 1 11 | 3 12 11 | 5 9 10 | 4 10 0 | 5 1 3 | 5 13 1 | 4 3 4 | 5 6 9 | 4 12 0 | 5 6 2 |
| *Pulses—* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gram .. .. | „ .. | 4 14 9 | 4 1 3 | 5 11 5 | 4 5 0 | 4 1 4 | 4 14 9 | 3 15 7 | 5 11 5 | 4 3 5 | 4 1 4 |
| Turdal .. .. | „ .. | 6 15 7 | 5 11 0 | 5 13 1 | 6 6 0 | 7 1 9 | 6 15 7 | 5 13 11 | 5 11 5 | 5 15 6 | 7 6 3 |
| *Other articles of food—* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sugar (refined) .. | „ .. | 22 6 0 | 19 12 0 | 22 13 9 | 25 9 7 | 23 3 0 | 22 6 0 | 17 6 3 | 22 13 9 | 26 10 8 | 19 14 0 |
| Jagri (gul) .. .. | „ .. | 14 4 7 | 12 4 11 | 13 5 4 | 10 0 0 | 10 8 5 | 14 4 7 | 10 7 10 | 13 5 4 | 10 0 0 | 10 8 5 |
| Tea .. .. | Lb. .. | 0 13 10 | 0 10 5 | 0 15 7 | 0 12 5 | 0 13 3 | 0 13 10 | 0 10 4 | 0 15 7 | 0 12 4 | 0 13 3 |
| Salt .. .. | Maund .. | 4 3 9 | 3 1 3 | 3 5 4 | 4 2 8 | 4 3 4 | 4 5 9 | 3 1 3 | 3 5 4 | 4 2 8 | 4 3 4 |
| Beef .. .. | Seer .. | 0 7 8 | 0 9 0 | 0 6 0 | 0 6 0 | 0 6 0 | 0 8 2 | 0 9 0 | 0 6 0 | 0 6 0 | 0 6 0 |
| Mutton .. .. | „ .. | 0 14 10 | 0 10 0 | 0 12 0 | 0 8 0 | 0 11 0 | 0 14 4 | 0 10 0 | 0 12 0 | 0 10 0 | 0 11 0 |
| Milk .. .. | Maund .. | 17 9 4 | 7 9 11 | 10 0 0 | 13 5 4 | 14 8 9 | 17 9 4 | 7 9 11 | 10 0 0 | 13 5 4 | 14 8 9 |
| Ghee .. .. | „ .. | 86 7 9 | 74 6 8 | 91 6 10 | 64 0 0 | 84 3 4 | 86 7 9 | 72 11 8 | 91 6 10 | 71 1 9 | 84 3 4 |
| Potatoes .. .. | „ .. | 7 7 11 | 6 8 6 | 6 2 6 | 10 0 0 | 5 15 4 | 9 5 3 | 9 11 2 | 8 10 5 | 11 6 10 | 7 2 10 |
| Onions .. .. | „ .. | 5 2 2 | 2 6 6 | 4 0 0 | 3 5 4 | 3 7 7 | 5 7 1 | 2 10 0 | 4 12 5 | 3 10 2 | 4 10 4 |
| Cocoanut oil .. | „ .. | 32 10 5 | 26 10 8 | 32 0 0 | 26 10 8 | 30 12 4 | 30 7 7 | 26 3 8 | 32 0 0 | 26 10 8 | 29 5 8 |

NOTE.—1 lb. = 39 tolas ; 1 maund = 82⅔ lbs. ; 1 seer = 2 $\frac{5}{35}$ lbs. ; 80 tolas = 1 seer ; 40 seers = 1 Indian maund.

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Cereals—* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rice .. .. | .. | 126 | 100 | 130 | 141 | 173 | 125 | 103 | 130 | 147 | 154 |
| Wheat .. .. | .. | 126 | 120 | 139 | 128 | 118 | 126 | 114 | 131 | 124 | 118 |
| Jowari .. .. | .. | 107 | 100 | 100 | 131 | 119 | 113 | 100 | 100 | 134 | 119 |
| Bajri .. .. | .. | 119 | 90 | 119 | 132 | 124 | 135 | 100 | 115 | 135 | 131 |
| Average—cereals .. | .. | 120 | 103 | 122 | 133 | 134 | 125 | 104 | 119 | 135 | 131 |
| *Pulses—* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gram .. .. | .. | 114 | 107 | 143 | 100 | 84 | 114 | 104 | 143 | 98 | 84 |
| Turdal .. .. | .. | 119 | 85 | 95 | 109 | 108 | 119 | 88 | 93 | 102 | 112 |
| Average—pulses .. | .. | 117 | 96 | 119 | 105 | 96 | 117 | 96 | 118 | 100 | 98 |
| *Other articles of food—* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sugar (refined) .. | .. | 294 | 272 | 254 | 256 | 248 | 294 | 239 | 254 | 267 | 212 |
| Jagri (gul) .. .. | .. | 167 | 177 | 150 | 129 | 150 | 167 | 151 | 150 | 129 | 150 |
| Tea .. .. | .. | 178 | 150 | 200 | 120 | 162 | 178 | 150 | 200 | 120 | 162 |
| Salt .. .. | .. | 199 | 234 | 221 | 187 | 224 | 199 | 234 | 221 | 187 | 224 |
| Beef .. .. | .. | 148 | 180 | 100 | 240 | 141 | 158 | 180 | 100 | 240 | 141 |
| Mutton .. .. | .. | 222 | 167 | 200 | 133 | 183 | 215 | 167 | 200 | 167 | 183 |
| Milk .. .. | .. | 191 | 172 | 200 | 183 | 145 | 191 | 172 | 200 | 183 | 145 |
| Ghee .. .. | .. | 170 | 174 | 206 | 114 | 163 | 170 | 170 | 206 | 127 | 163 |
| Potatoes .. .. | .. | 167 | 120 | 162 | 250 | 177 | 208 | 179 | 227 | 286 | 213 |
| Onions .. .. | .. | 331 | 132 | 200 | 133 | 173 | 351 | 144 | 239 | 145 | 232 |
| Cocoanut oil .. | .. | 129 | 108 | 160 | 100 | 110 | 120 | 107 | 160 | 100 | 105 |
| Average—other articles of food .. | .. | 200 | 171 | 187 | 168 | 171 | 205 | 172 | 196 | 177 | 175 |
| Average—all food articles (unweighted) .. | .. | 171 | 146 | 163 | 152 | 153 | 175 | 147 | 169 | 158 | 156 |



## Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in India and Foreign Countries

| Country. | Asia and Oceania | | | | Africa | | Europe | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | India (Bombay) | Japan. | Australia. | New Zealand. | Egypt (Cairo). | South Africa. | United Kingdom. (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | France. | Italy. (a) |
| 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 |
| 1914 „ .. | 100 | 95 | 106 | 104 | 100 | 97 | 100 | 99 | .. | .. | 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 | 153 | 226 | 225 | .. | .. | 339 | 409 |
| 1919 „ .. | 222 | 239 | 189 | 178 | 226 | 165 | 242 | 235 | .. | .. | 356 | 366 |
| 1920 „ .. | 215 | 260 | 228 | 212 | 299 | 223 | 295 | 283 | **307** | .. | 510 | 624 |
| 1921 December .. | 190 | 210 | 155 | 189 | 170 | .. | 157 | 162 | 168 | 162 | 326 | 595 |
| 1922 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 | 165 | 175 | 138 | .. | 151 | 156 | 154 | 156 | 329 | 582 |
| „ October .. | 174 | 190 | 167 | 174 | 140 | 129 | 153 | 158 | 155 | 159 | 337 | 601 |
| „ November .. | 176 | 188 | 170 | 175 | 144 | .. | 154 | 159 | 157 | 161 | 353 | 596 |
| „ December .. | 173 | 183 | 168 | 172 | 147 | .. | 152 | 158 | 156 | 159 | 362 | 580 |
| 1923 January .. | 177 | 184 | 171 | 171 | 141 | 130 | 153 | 161 | 157 | 160 | 387 | 575 |
| „ February .. | 172 | 192 | 169 | 173 | 137 | .. | 155 | 163 | 158 | 162 | 422 | 582 |
| „ March .. | 177 | 196 | 171 | 174 | 136 | .. | 156 | 163 | 160 | 164 | 424 | 587 |
| „ April .. | 175 | 196 | 174 | .. | 133 | 126 | 158 | 165 | 161 | 165 | 415 | 588 |
| „ May .. | 175 | 199 | .. | .. | 134 | .. | 156 | 164 | 160 | 163 | 407 | 580 |
| „ June .. | 175 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 160 | 159 | 159 | 409 | .. |
| „ July .. | 173 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

| Country. | Europe—continued. | | | | | | | North America. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Switzerland. | Belgium. | Germany. (d) | Netherlands (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 | (e) | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 1914 „ .. | 100 | 100 | 105 | 105 | 100 | 116 | .. | 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 | **226** | 239 |
| 1921 December .. | 176 | 369 | 3,487 | 165 | 269 | 172 | 188 | 170 | 123 | 140 | 142 |
| 1922 March .. | 163 | 350 | 5,433 | 161 | 240 | 164 | 178 | 166 | 126 | 142 | 147 |
| „ April .. | 161 | 344 | 6,355 | 162 | 236 | 165 | 177 | 166 | 125 | 143 | 149 |
| „ May .. | 160 | 348 | 6,458 | 165 | 231 | 164 | 179 | 167 | 127 | 148 | 158 |
| „ June .. | 161 | 356 | 7,030 | 167 | 230 | 164 | 180 | 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 | 178 | 164 | 131 | 155 | 165 |
| „ September .. | 163 | 364 | 27,419 | 153 | 225 | 158 | 176 | 163 | 131 | 153 | 164 |
| „ October .. | 169 | 385 | 56,600 | 156 | 221 | 155 | 180 | 162 | 136 | 154 | 165 |
| „ November .. | 170 | 408 | 115,100 | 158 | 221 | 154 | 182 | 164 | 145 | 156 | 164 |
| „ December .. | 175 | 407 | 147,480 | 158 | 220 | 155 | 181 | 165 | 150 | 156 | 164 |
| 1923 January .. | 178 | 434 | 278,500 | 159 | 220 | 156 | 192 | 165 | 149 | 156 | 166 |
| „ February .. | 181 | 474 | **558,470** | 158 | 224 | 158 | 199 | 166 | 149 | 157 | 166 |
| „ March .. | 186 | 482 | 488,800 | 164 | 229 | 162 | 200 | 167 | 151 | 159 | 169 |
| „ April .. | 187 | 480 | 521,200 | 163 | 231 | 159 | 204 | 168 | 151 | 159 | .. |
| „ May .. | 181 | 474 | 817,000 | .. | 233 | 158 | 202 | 169 | .. | 156 | .. |
| „ June .. | .. | .. | 1,938,500 | .. | 230 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

* July 1914=100. (a) New index numbers. (b) 1914=100. (c) 1920=100. (d) Revised figures. (e) Average Dec. 1913 to June 1914=100. (f) The figures from 1915-19 are for December. NOTE.—The absolute and secondary maxima are indicated in heavier type.
(1) Statist. (2) Economist. (3) Board of Trade. (4) Times. (5) Bradstreet. (6) Bureau of Labour. (7) Federal Reserve Board.

## Principal Trade Disputes in progress in July 1923

| Name of employers and trades. | Approximate number of workpeople involved: Directly. | Indirectly. | Date when dispute: Began. | Ended. | Cause. | Result. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Fresh Fruit.* | | | | | | |
| 1. The Mulherjee Jute Mill Dalhousie Road Bombay. | 347 | ..... | 26 June | 3 July | Against the dismissal of a weaver. | Strikers paid off and new hands engaged in their places. |
| 2. The Swastik Spinning and Weaving Co. Ltd. Kurla. | 700 | ..... | 2 July | ..... | Against a general reduction in wages by 12½ per cent. from the 1st of July 1923. | |
| 3. The Silver Cotton Mills Co. Ltd. Ahmedabad. | 120 | ..... | 3 July | 3 July | Against the dismissal of a tickler. | Work resumed unconditionally by some strikers and new hands engaged in the place of others. |
| 4. The Apna Vatan Mill Kurla Bombay. | 90 | ..... | 4 July | 9 July | Demand for (1) an increase in the rates of wages to (2) the payment of a fixed monthly rate of Rs. 20 including allowances. | Work resumed unconditionally. |
| 5. The Broach Fine Counts Spinning and Weaving Co. Ltd. Broach. | 650 | ..... | 10 July | ..... | Against a general reduction in wages by 12½ per cent. | |
| 6. The Gold Mohur Mill Delhi Road Bombay. | 500 | ..... | 11 July | 13 July | Demand for increased rates of wages. | Some strikers discharged and new hands engaged in their places. |
| 7. The Hirondar Mill Ghatkopar. | 400 | ..... | 17 July | 23 July | Against the introduction of a system of piece work in the place of daily wages. | Some strikers resumed work unconditionally and the remainder were paid off and discharged. |
| 8. The Apna Vatan Mill Parel Bombay. | 204 | ..... | 21 July | 26 July | Demand for increased rates of wages. | Strikers discharged and new hands engaged in their places. |
| 9. The Helping Manufacturing Co. Ltd. Ahmedabad. | 75 | ..... | 30 July | ..... | Against the Manager's order to stop gathering unmovements in large numbers near a hotel. | |



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

### Bombay Presidency

| Count or Number. | Month of June: 1921. | 1922. | 1923. | Three months ended June: 1921. | 1922. | 1923. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) |
| Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Nos. 11 to 20 " | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Nos. 21 to 30 " | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Nos. 31 to 40 " | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Nos. 41 to 50 " | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Above 50 " | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Waste, etc. " | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Total " | 43,701 | 43,139 | 36,424 | 131,701 | 124,139 | 101,939 |

### Bombay Island

| Count or Number. | Month of June: 1921. | 1922. | 1923. | Three months ended June: 1921. | 1922. | 1923. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) |
| Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Nos. 11 to 20 " | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Nos. 21 to 30 " | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Nos. 31 to 40 " | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Nos. 41 to 50 " | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Above 50 " | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Waste, etc. " | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Total " | 30,030 | 26,140 | 26,890 | 86,040 | 85,061 | 81,218 |

### Ahmedabad

| Count or Number. | Month of June: 1921. | 1922. | 1923. | Three months ended June: 1921. | 1922. | 1923. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) |
| Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Nos. 11 to 20 " | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Nos. 21 to 30 " | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Nos. 31 to 40 " | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Above 40 " | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Waste, etc. " | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Total " | 5,217 | 5,222 | 4,983 | 20,050 | 23,132 | 9,853 |

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

### Bombay Presidency

| Description. | | Month of June. | | | Three months ended June. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1921. | 1922. | 1923. | 1921. | 1922. | 1923. |
| | | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) |
| Grey and bleached piece-goods— | | | | | | | |
| Chudders | Pounds .. | 1,492 | 1,155 | 1,154 | 3,981 | 3,141 | 2,630 |
| Dhotis | " .. | 6,984 | 5,926 | 4,056 | 21,818 | 20,370 | 11,805 |
| Drills and jeans | " .. | 798 | 555 | 797 | 2,563 | 2,005 | 2,425 |
| Cambrics and lawns | " .. | 95 | 60 | 18 | 266 | 264 | 72 |
| Printers | " .. | 328 | 413 | 266 | 1,025 | 1,394 | 815 |
| Shirtings and long cloth | " .. | 8,413 | 7,875 | 6,413 | 27,870 | 25,238 | 19,041 |
| T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings | " .. | 1,595 | 910 | 753 | 4,637 | 2,944 | 2,864 |
| Tent cloth | " .. | 80 | 62 | 48 | 267 | 241 | 185 |
| Other sorts | " .. | 957 | 1,357 | 1,606 | 2,829 | 3,962 | 4,651 |
| Total | " .. | 20,738 | 18,313 | 15,091 | 65,256 | 59,559 | 44,488 |
| Coloured piece-goods | " .. | 7,396 | 6,076 | 6,569 | 21,109 | 17,333 | 19,042 |
| Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods | " .. | 137 | 107 | 66 | 488 | 347 | 349 |
| Hosiery | " .. | 16 | 12 | 19 | 44 | 35 | 35 |
| Miscellaneous | " .. | 74 | 84 | 116 | 239 | 258 | 219 |
| Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool | " .. | 8 | 9 | 13 | 19 | 27 | 59 |
| Grand Total | " .. | 28,369 | 24,601 | 21,885 | 87,155 | 77,559 | 64,192 |

### Bombay Island

| Description. | | Month of June. | | | Three months ended June. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1921. | 1922. | 1923. | 1921. | 1922. | 1923. |
| | | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) |
| Grey and bleached piece-goods— | | | | | | | |
| Chudders | Pounds .. | 882 | 595 | 830 | 2,321 | 1,694 | 1,877 |
| Dhotis | " .. | 2,299 | 1,839 | 1,743 | 6,511 | 6,111 | 4,832 |
| Drills and jeans | " .. | 764 | 549 | 745 | 2,367 | 1,899 | 2,276 |
| Cambrics and lawns | " .. | 73 | 41 | 10 | 210 | 153 | 46 |
| Printers | " .. | 15 | 47 | 4 | 25 | 108 | 34 |
| Shirtings and long cloth | " .. | 6,071 | 5,627 | 5,220 | 19,870 | 18,500 | 15,209 |
| T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings | " .. | 1,576 | 714 | 676 | 3,811 | 2,424 | 2,547 |
| Tent cloth | " .. | 60 | 53 | 42 | 212 | 216 | 156 |
| Other sorts | " .. | 484 | 861 | 1,177 | 1,457 | 2,761 | 3,449 |
| Total | " .. | 12,024 | 10,326 | 10,447 | 36,784 | 33,866 | 30,426 |



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

### Bombay Island—*continued*

| Description. | | Month of June. | | | Three months ended June. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1921. | 1922. | 1923. | 1921. | 1922. | 1923. |
| | | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) |
| Coloured piece-goods | Pounds .. | 6,391 | 5,148 | 5,503 | 17,762 | 14,125 | 15,786 |
| Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods | " .. | 127 | 98 | 72 | 465 | 328 | 323 |
| Hosiery | " .. | 11 | 10 | 5 | 25 | 26 | 18 |
| Miscellaneous | " .. | 74 | 83 | 114 | 239 | 250 | 215 |
| Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool | " .. | 9 | 9 | 13 | 19 | 26 | 57 |
| Grand Total | " .. | 18,636 | 15,674 | 16,154 | 55,284 | 48,625 | 46,525 |

### Ahmedabad

| Description. | | Month of June. | | | Three months ended June. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1921. | 1922. | 1923. | 1921. | 1922. | 1923. |
| | | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) | (000) |
| Grey and bleached piece-goods— | | | | | | | |
| Chudders | Pounds .. | 485 | 449 | 261 | 1,360 | 1,221 | 627 |
| Dhotis | " .. | 3,577 | 3,079 | 1,331 | 12,010 | 11,162 | 4,954 |
| Drills and jeans | " .. | 13 | 3 | 26 | 139 | 68 | 49 |
| Cambrics and lawns | " .. | 12 | 11 | 1 | 38 | 52 | 11 |
| Printers | " .. | 225 | 229 | 120 | 785 | 866 | 365 |
| Shirtings and long cloth | " .. | 1,693 | 1,730 | 723 | 5,976 | 5,135 | 2,363 |
| T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings | " .. | 201 | 170 | 65 | 772 | 449 | 252 |
| Tent cloth | " .. | 10 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 13 |
| Other sorts | " .. | 251 | 255 | 169 | 785 | 561 | 546 |
| Total | " .. | 6,467 | 5,907 | 2,698 | 21,845 | 19,546 | 8,270 |
| Coloured piece-goods | " .. | 421 | 398 | 459 | 1,418 | 1,361 | 1,440 |
| Grey and coloured goods other than piece-goods | " .. | 1 | 1 | .... | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| Hosiery | " .. | 5 | 1 | 5 | 19 | 9 | 15 |
| Miscellaneous | " .. | .... | 1 | 3 | .... | 2 | 7 |
| Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool | " .. | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Grand Total | " .. | 6,894 | 6,308 | 3,165 | 23,284 | 20,920 | 9,733 |

## CURRENT NOTES FROM ABROAD

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

**United Kingdom.**—Employment during June in the majority of industries in Great Britain was reported to be slack and very little general change is registered as compared with previous months. The percentage unemployed among members of the Trade Unions from which returns were received by the Ministry of Labour was 11·1 per cent. for June 1923 as compared with 11·3 per cent. for May and 13·7 per cent. for the corresponding period of the previous year.

The following table shows the Trade Union Unemployment percentages for the year 1913 and the last seven years.

| | 1913 | 1917 | 1918 | 1919 | 1920 | 1921 | 1922 | 1923 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| End of— | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. |
| January | 2·2 | 0·4 | 1·0 | 2·4 | 2·8 | 8·8 | 16·8 | 11·7 |
| February | 2·0 | 0·4 | 0·8 | 2·8 | 1·8 | 8·3 | 16·3 | 11·4 |
| March | 1·8 | 0·4 | 1·2 | 2·8 | 1·4 | 10·0 | 16·3 | 12·3 |
| April | 1·7 | 0·4 | 0·8 | 2·8 | 0·8 | 12·8[1] | 17·0 | 11·3 |
| May | 1·6 | 0·4 | 0·8 | 2·1 | 1·1 | 22·2[1] | 16·4 | 11·3 |
| June | 1·6 | 0·4 | 0·7 | 1·7 | 1·3 | 23·1[1] | 15·2 | 11·1 |
| July | 1·6 | 0·4 | 0·6 | 2·0 | 1·4 | 16·7 | 14·6 | .. |
| August | 2·0 | 0·5 | 0·5 | 2·2 | 1·6 | 16·3 | 14·4 | .. |
| September | 2·3 | 1·3 | 0·5 | 1·6 | 2·2 | 14·8 | 14·6 | .. |
| October | 2·2 | 1·1 | 0·4 | 2·6 | 3·0[1] | 15·6 | 14·0 | .. |
| November | 2·0 | 1·1 | 0·5 | 2·8 | 3·2 | 15·9 | 14·3 | .. |
| December | 2·6 | 1·4 | 1·2 | 3·2 | 8·0 | 16·3 | 14·0 | .. |

[1] Excluding coal miners.

The percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 11·0 per cent. on 25th June 1923, the same percentage as on 21st May. The total number of workpeople registered at the Unemployment exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 25th June was reported to be 12,226,000 of whom 935,000 were men and 223,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. On 25th May the total was 1,261,000 of whom 959,000 were men and 239,000 were women. The changes in rates of wages during June are reported to have resulted in an aggregate reduction of over £42,000 in the weekly full time wages of nearly 320,000 workpeople and an increase of over £8,000 in the wages of 75,000 workpeople. The increases in wages occurred mainly in the iron and steel trades.

The cost of living of a working class family as estimated by the Ministry of Labour was the same in June as in the preceding month, the average percentage increase, as compared with July 1914, being for both months 69 per cent. for all items. The average increase for food was 62 per cent. in June as against 60 per cent. at the end of May.

**Germany.**—The average weekly wage rates in Germany, as calculated from the wages paid in various districts to workers in different trades, were, in April 1923, higher than in March 1923 by 2·6 per cent. for skilled workers and 2·4 per cent. for unskilled workers. These increases were small as compared with the percentage increases at the end of 1922 or the beginning of 1923; this was due to the fact that the depreciation of the mark and the consequent increase in prices were relatively small in April 1923. Towards the end of the month, however, a rapid increase in the cost of living led to a corresponding increase in the rates of wages. The average weekly rate of wages in April 1923 was 2,127 for skilled and 2,826 times the pre-war level of wages for unskilled workers. The cost of living was 2,954 times the pre-war level.

The greatest percentage increase in wages was recorded in the building trade, wages being 4·8 per cent. higher in April than in March 1923 and the lowest percentage (1·16 to 1·19 per cent.) recorded was in the chemical trades. The wage rates in the State railways remained stationary. The average increases in wage rates are calculated by considering the number of workers and the period during which the various wage rates were in force. No allowance is made for the lower earnings of workers on short time or those unemployed. Thus out of 3,991,345 members of various unions there were 253,911 or 6·4 per cent. totally unemployed and 1,135,600 or 28·4 per cent. on short time at the end of April 1923. Of the latter over half (51·62 per cent.) had lost more than two full working days in the week.

**France.**—On 18th May 1923 the Government introduced a Bill concerning minimum wages of women home workers in Alsace and Lorraine. The German legislation on the subject, hitherto in force, provided for the institution of trade committees in certain districts for certain industries, to report on industrial conditions and wage rates and to promote a spirit of better feeling between the employers and the employed. The German Committees had no power to fix wage rates but only to make recommendations under conditions laid down by the law. They were not able to influence wage rates effectively and it was not found possible to set up such committees in Alsace-Lorraine. The new French law on the subject aims at guaranteeing home workers a minimum legal wage, fixed by joint committees and based on the average paid for the same work done in a workshop.

**China.**—Miss Mildred Hand, Secretary to the National Y. W. C. A. Committee of China, writing in the April issue of the *Welfare Work*, says that in China there were no factories or mills in the modern sense of the word thirty years ago. In 1919 there were 49 cotton factories and in 1922 there were 102 cotton factories and 101 silk filatures of the modern type. Fifty per cent. of the employees are women and twenty per cent. children under 14 years of age. The hours of labour are 12 to 14 per day, 7 days in the week. The mothers who work on the machines earn 36 to 40 cents a day or 28 to 35 cents for sorting. There is no provision for maternity benefits and the sanitary conditions at the factories are very bad.

**Poland.**—A decree passed on 8th February 1919 regarding trade unions authorised the foundation of trade union organisations with local branches. It was not, however, possible freely to open branches within the Polish territory formerly belonging to Austria and the eastern frontier, because, under the Austrian Act of 1867 and the orders of the Polish General Commissioner, special permission was necessary for trade unions to open local branches. To remedy this, the Socialist party has recently introduced a bill in the Chamber providing that trade unions authorised to carry on their activities under the decree of 8th February 1919 shall not require special permission to open local branches. The unions shall merely notify the local authorities concerned and submit to them their rules and the names of the officials of the proposed branch.

**Canada.**—At the end of 1922 the total membership of trade unions in Canada was 276,621 distributed among 2,312 local branches. This represents a decrease of 36,699 from the strength at the end of 1921. The number of international trade unions decreased from 98 in 1921 to 92, with a fall of 16,746 members. The international organisations, however, contain 74 per cent. of the total number of the trade union members in Canada. The "non-international" or purely Canadian organisations increased from 13 in 1921 to 18, but there was a decrease in membership from 24,430 to 22,923. The number of independent unions decreased from 27 to 23 and the membership fell to 9,063, a loss of 6,381. The so-called "National" and "Catholic" unions numbered 106 with a membership of 38,335, recording a fall of 6,633. There were 63 associations of intellectual wage earners with a reported membership of 81,373.

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