

The Cost of Living Index for November 1928

A RISE OF ONE POINT

(All articles) 47 per cent.
(Food only) 48 per cent.

In November 1928, the average level of retail prices for all the commodities taken into account in the statistics of a cost of living index for the working classes in Bombay City was one point higher than in the preceding month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the general index number was 146 in October and 147 in November 1928. The general index is thus 32 points below the highwater mark (1923) reached in October 1920 and 7 points lower than the twelve-monthly average for the year 1927.

As compared with October 1928, the index number for all food articles recorded a rise of 2 points. The index number for Cereals advanced by one point mainly due to a rise in the price of rice and wheat. Pulses recorded an increase of 2 points owing to a rise in gram. Among other food articles, there was a rise of 7 points in raw sugar (gul) but refined sugar was steady at 70. Ghee was cheaper by 3 points and ghee by 1 point while tea registered a fall of 2 points. The price of the remaining articles was practically stationary during the month under review. The index number for the "other food" group remained stationary at 174.

The index number for "clothing" advanced by 2 points to 158 owing to a rise in the price of chudders and shirtings.

All items Percentage increase over July 1914

	1921	1922	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
..	69	73	56	59	57	55	56
..	62	65	55	54	57	54	55
..	60	65	54	54	59	55	55
..	60	62	56	50	58	53	53
..	67	63	53	50	56	53	52
..	73	63	52	53	54	55	54
..	77	65	53	57	57	57	56
..	80	64	54	61	52	55	57
..	85	65	54	61	51	55	54
..	83	62	52	61	53	55	51
..	82	60	53	61	53	54	50
..	79	61	57	60	55	56	51
..	73	64	54	57	55	55	54

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

and November 15

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX—NOVEMBER

Articles	Unit of quantity	Annual consumption (Mass Units) (in crores)	Price per Unit of Quantity			Price x Mass Unit		
			July 1914	October 1928	Nov. 1928	July 1914	October 1928	Nov. 1928
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
..	Maud	70	5.594	6.781	6.865	391.58	474.67	480.55
..	"	21	5.594	6.917	7.000	117.47	145.26	147.00
..	"	11	4.354	..	4.750	47.89	52.25	52.25
..	"	6	4.313	5.313	5.229	25.88	31.88	31.37
..	..	..	..	..	..	582.82	704.06	711.17
..	..	..	..	..	..	100	121	122
..	Maud	10	4.302	6.859	7.031	43.02	68.59	70.31
..	"	3	5.844	8.417	8.172	17.53	25.25	24.52
..	..	..	..	..	..	60.55	93.84	94.83
..	..	..	..	..	..	100	155	..
..	Maud	2	..	11.906	11.906	15.24	23.81	23.81
..	"	7	8.557	13.693	14.287	59.90	95.85	100.01
..	"	5	40.000	75.641	76.495	200.00	381.82	381.82
..	"	28	2.130	3.219	3.219	10.65	16.10	16.10
..	"	33	0.323	0.510	0.510	9.04	14.28	14.28
..	"	33	0.417	0.740	0.724	13.76	24.42	23.89
..	Maud	14	9.198	17.583	17.583	246.16	246.16	246.16
..	"	14	50.792	90.474	89.880	76.19	135.71	134.82
..	"	11	4.479	7.141	7.141	49.27	78.55	78.55
..	"	3	1.552	3.573	3.573	4.66	10.72	10.72
..	"	3	25.396	27.974	27.974	12.70	13.99	13.99
..	..	..	..	..	..	381.18	661.48	664.24
..	..	..	..	..	..	100	174	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1,024.55	1,470.24	1,470.24
..	..	..	..	..	..	100	142	144
..	Case	5	4.375	6.688	6.594	21.88	33.44	32.97
..	Maud	48	0.792	1.099	1.099	38.02	52.75	52.75
..	"	1	0.542	0.760	0.760	0.54	0.76	0.76
..	..	..	..	..	..	60.44	86.95	86.48
..	..	..	..	..	..	100	144	143
..	Lb.	27	0.594	0.906	0.938	16.04	24.46	25.33
..	"	25	0.641	1.026	1.037	16.03	25.65	25.93
..	"	36	0.583	0.906	0.906	20.99	32.62	32.62
..	..	..	..	..	..	53.06	82.73	83.88
..	..	..	..	..	..	100	156	158
Home rent	Per month	10	11.302	19.440	19.440	113.02	194.40	194.40
Index Number	..	..	..	..	..	172	172	172
Grand Total	..	..	..	..	..	1,251.07	1,822.08	1,826.00
Cost of Living Index Number	..	..	..	..	..	100	148	147

NOV., 1928

The following table shows the price levels of articles of food in October and November 1928 as compared with the price level for July 1914, which is taken as 100. The levels are calculated from the prices of articles per standard (or railway) maund or seer.—

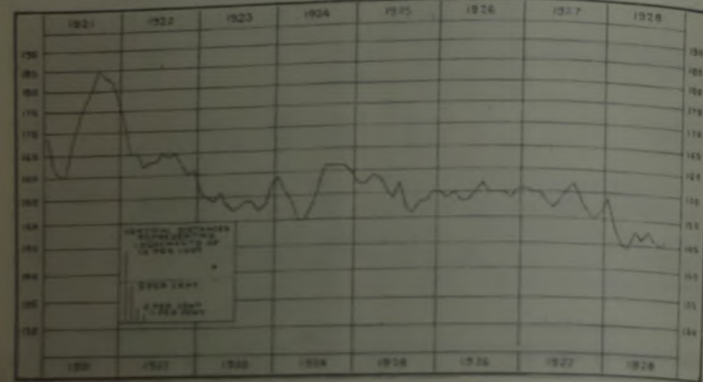
Articles	July 1914	Oct. 1928	Nov. 1928	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in Nov. 1928 over or below Oct. 1928
Rice	100	121	123	+ 2
Wheat	100	124	125	+ 1
Jowari	100	109	109	..
Bajri	100	123	121	- 2
Gram	100	159	163	+ 4
Turdal	100	144	140	- 4
Sugar (refined) ..	100	156	156	..
Raw sugar (gul) ..	100	160	167	+ 7
Tea	100	189	191	+ 2
Salt	100	151	151	..
Beef	100	158	158	..
Mutton	100	177	174	- 3
Milk	100	191	191	..
Ghee	100	178	177	- 1
Potatoes	100	159	159	..
Onions	100	230	230	..
Cocconut oil	100	110	110	..
All food articles (weighted average) ..	100	142	144	+ 2

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

Rice 19, Wheat 20, Jowari 8, Bajri 17, Gram 39, Turdal 29, Sugar (refined) 36, Raw Sugar (gul) 40, Tea 46, Salt 34, Beef 37, Mutton 43, Milk 48, Ghee 44, Potatoes 37, Onions 57 and Cocconut Oil 9.

The purchasing power of the rupee being taken as 16 annas in July 1914, its purchasing power in the month under review was 10 annas and 11 pies for all items and 11 annas 1 pie for food articles only.

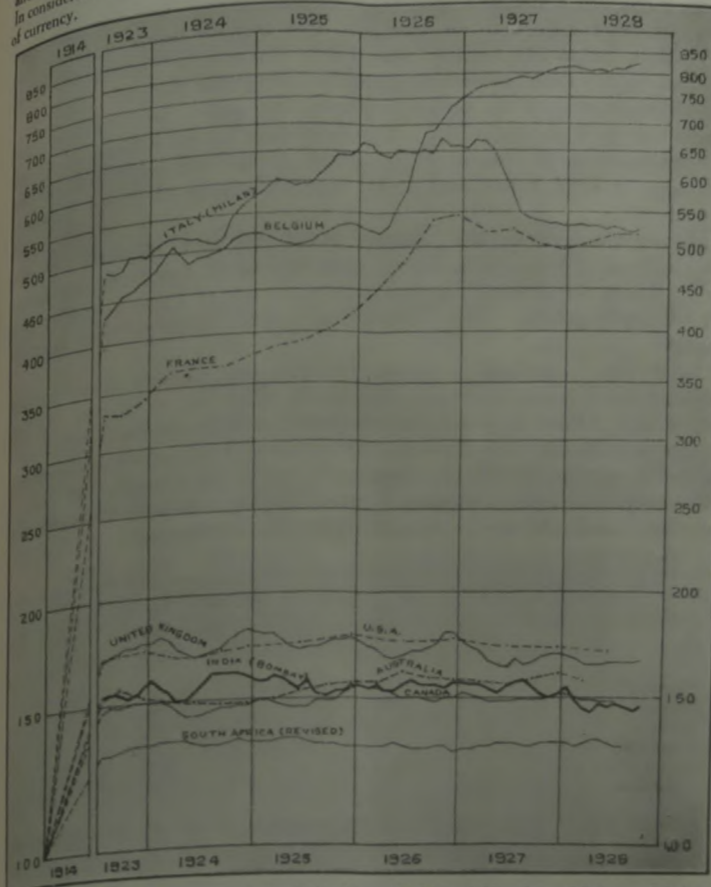
Logarithmic Chart showing cost of living in Bombay (July 1914 = 100)



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Comparison with the Cost of Living in Other Countries

The diagram on this page shows the comparative levels of the cost of living Index Nos. in Bombay and certain other world centres from the middle of 1923. The diagram is on the logarithmic scale. In considering the position and movements of the curves allowance has to be made for depreciation of currency.



The following are the sources of the Index Nos.: (1) United Kingdom—Ministry of Labour Gazette, (2) New Zealand—Census and Statistics Office, Wellington (by cable), (3) South Africa—Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics, (4) U. S. A.—Monthly Circular issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, (5) Canada—The Labour Gazette, published by the Department of Labour, Canada, (6) Australia—Monthly Bulletin of Statistics published by the League of Nations, (7) All other countries—from the Ministry of Labour Gazette, United Kingdom. In the case of Italy the Index No. is for Milan. The India figure is for Bombay only. The actual Index Numbers for twelve figures are to be found among the tables at the end of the volume. The centres for which figures are published are (Bombay), the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Belgium, Norway, Switzerland, South Africa, France (Paris) and the United States of America. The Labour Office also maintains a register wherein the Index Numbers for all countries for which figures are available are recorded.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

1. WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY

NOV. 1928

Increase over July 1914

In October 1928, the index number of wholesale prices in Bombay was 150 as against 148 in the previous month. As compared with September 1928, there was a rise of 7 points in the food group but the non-food index number recorded no change. The general index number was 113 points below the highest peak (263) reached in August 1918 and 3 points higher than the twelve-monthly average for the year 1927. As compared with the previous month, the index number for food grains rose by 8 points to 147. The index number for Cereals advanced by 8 points owing to a rise in all the cereals except barley which remained stationary at 135. Gram and turdal recorded a rise of 8 and 9 points respectively.

The index number for the "Sugar" group rose by 11 points to 147 due to an increase of 5 points in refined sugar and of 17 points in raw sugar (gul). There was a rise of 5 points in turmeric and of 7 points in ghee but salt fell by 9 points. The "other food" index number thus rose by 1 point.

Under the "non-food" group, Oilseeds and Cotton manufactures advanced by 2 points each and Hides and skins by 4 points. Other textiles and Other raw and manufactured articles declined by 1 and 5 points respectively while the index number for Metals remained the same. The index number for the non-food group remained stationary at 147.

The subjoined table compares October 1928 prices with those of the preceding month and the corresponding month last year:—

Groups	No. of items	or - % compared with Sept. 1928	or - % compared with Oct. 1927	Groups	Oct 1927	Jan 1928	Apr 1928	July 1928	Sept 1928	Oct 1928
1. Cereals ..	7	+ 6	+ 9	1. Cereals ..	96	92	92	92	99	104
2. Pulses ..	2	+ 7	+ 6	2. Pulses ..	102	106	102	94	102	108
3. Sugar ..	3	+ 8	+11	3. Sugar ..	98	91	94	96	101	109
4. Other food ..	3	+ 1	+20	4. Other food ..	104	98	104	126	124	125
All food ..	15	+ 5	+11	All food ..	99	95	96	100	105	110
5. Oilseeds ..	4	+ 2	- 1	5. Oilseeds ..	97	92	91	94	94	96
6. Raw cotton ..	5	+ 1	-16	6. Raw cotton ..	119	111	105	113	100	101
7. Cotton manufactures ..	6	+ 1	- 4	7. Cotton manufactures ..	102	100	99	105	102	104
8. Other textiles ..	2	- 1	- 4	8. Other textiles ..	96	91	92	90	88	87
9. Hides and skins ..	3	+ 3	+10	9. Hides & skins ..	105	103	112	107	113	116
10. Metals ..	5	....	- 4	10. Metals ..	93	92	93	96	97	97
11. Other raw and manufactured articles ..	4	- 3	- 2	11. Other raw and manufactured articles ..	92	86	86	92	93	90
All non-food ..	29	....	- 1	All non-food ..	100	97	97	101	99	99
General Index No.	44	+ 1	+ 3	General Index No.	99	96	97	100	101	102

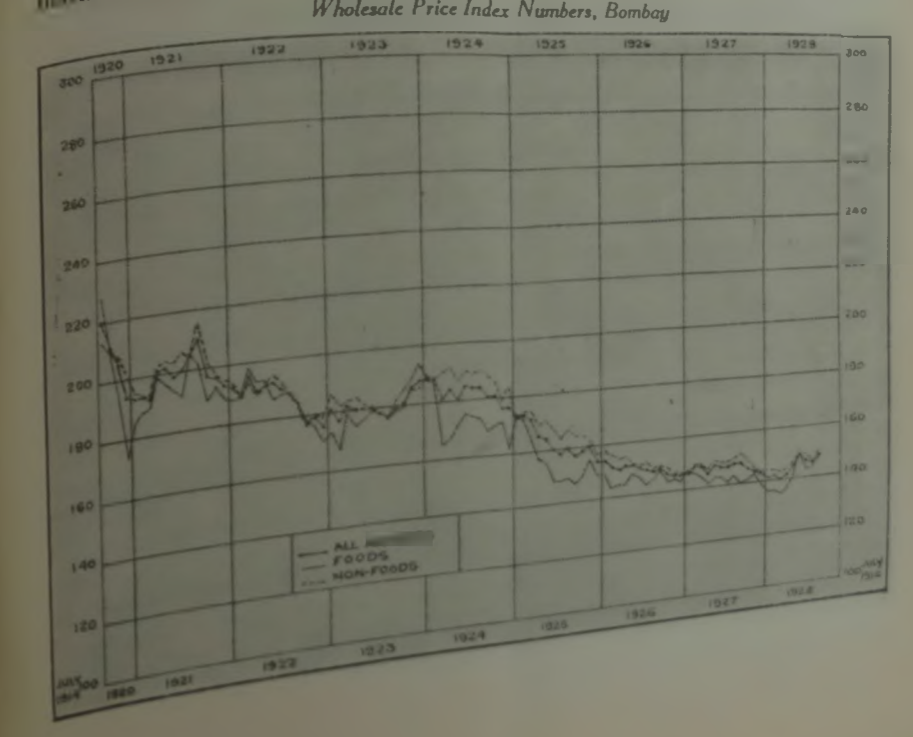
* Actual prices will be found on pages 302-303. † Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on pages 304-305.

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

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

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

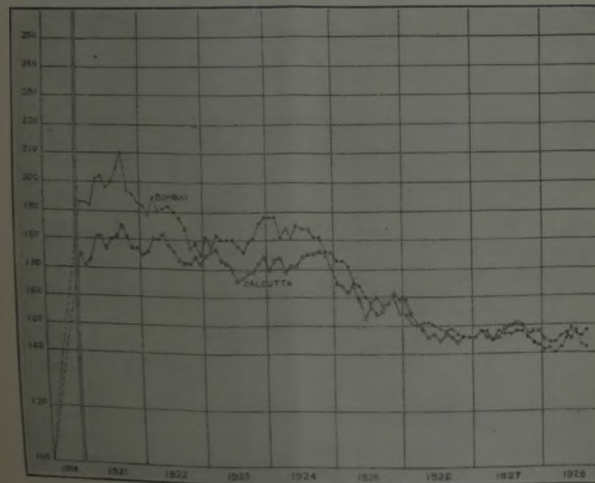


COMPARISON BETWEEN THE INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE
PRICES IN BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA

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

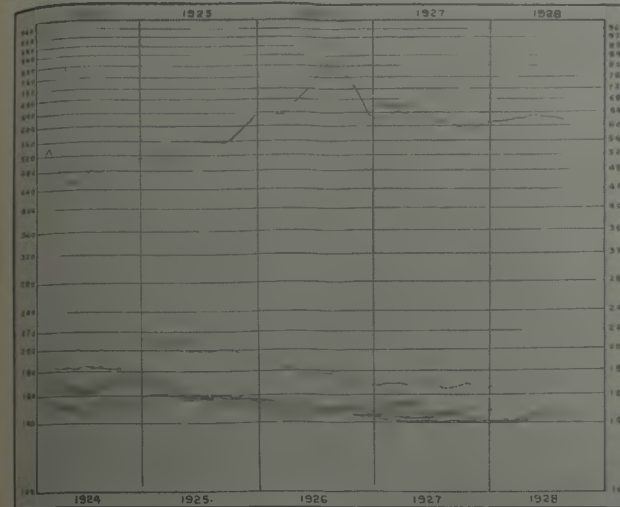
The items included in the indices are 44 for Bombay and 71 for Calcutta. The groups included in the Calcutta index but excluded from that for Bombay are tea (3 items), oil (2 items), jute-raw (3 items), jute manufactures (4 items) and building materials (1 item). There are no groups included in the Bombay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

The diagram is on an arithmetic and not a logarithmic scale



COMPARISON WITH WHOLESALE PRICES INDEX NUMBERS IN
OTHER COUNTRIES

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



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

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

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

2. RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN BOMBAY

Article	Grade	Unit	Sept. 1928		Oct. 1928		July 1914		
			As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	
Rice	Rangoon Small Mill*	Paylee	204	5 10	6 11	6 11	+1 1	..	
	"	"	200	5 10	6 8	6 11	+1 1	+0 3	
	"	"	200	4 3	4 8	4 9	+0 6	+0 1	
	"	"	204	4 7	5 3	5 5	+0 10	+0 2	
Wheat	"	"	192	4 4	6 0	6 7	+2 3	+0 7	
Jowari	Ghati	"	204	5 11	8 2	8 7	+2 8	+0 5	
Bajri	Delhi*	"	28	1 1	1 9	1 8	+0 7	-0 1	
Gram	Cawnpore	"	28	1 2	1 10	1 11	+0 9	+0 1	
Turdal	Java, white	"	39	7 10	14 8	14 9	+6 11	+0 1	
Sugar (refined)	"	middle quality	Lb.	176	1 9	2 11	2 10	+1 1	-0 1
Raw Sugar (Gul)	"	"	Paylee	39	2 6	4 0	4 0	+1 6	..
Tea	"	"	Lb.	39	3 0	6 0	5 9	+2 9	-0 3
Salt	"	"	"	56	2 9	4 11	4 11	+2 2	..
Beef	"	"	"	28	7 1	12 6	12 8	+5 7	+0 2
Mutton	Medium	"	"	28	0 8	1 1	1 0	+0 4	-0 1
Milk	Belgaum, S.	"	"	28	0 3	0 6	0 6	+0 3	..
Ghee	Ordinary	"	"	28	3 7	3 11	3 11	+0 4	..
Potatoes	Navik	"	"	..	..	..	..	..	..
Onions	Middle quality	"	"	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cocconut	"	"	"	..	..	..	..	..	..

The following are the areas and towns in which price quotations are obtained for articles other than those in column 1:
 1. Elphinstone—Cross Street and North Street.
 2. Fort—Cross Street and North Street.
 3. Fort—Cross Street and North Street.
 4. Elphinstone—Cross Street and North Street.
 5. Fort—Cross Street and North Street.
 6. Fort—Cross Street and North Street.
 7. Fergusson Road.
 8. DeLisle Road.
 9. Suparibag—Suparibag Road.
 10. Chinchpokli—Parel Road.
 11. Cross Street and North Street.
 12. Cross Street and North Street.

The variations in prices during October 1928 as compared with the preceding month were within narrow limits. Except in the case of rice, which remained stationary, all the other food grains advanced in price, viz., jowari, bajri and wheat by 1, 2 and 3 pies respectively per paylee and turdal and gram by 3 and 2 pies respectively per paylee. Among other food articles sugar (refined) declined by 1 pie per seer but raw sugar (gul) advanced by 1 pie per seer. Tea rose by 1 pie per lb. and ghee by 2 pies per seer. Salt fell by 1 pie per paylee, potatoes by 1 pie per seer and mutton by 3 pies per lb. The price of the remaining articles was practically stationary during the month under review.

As compared with July 1914 all articles show a rise in prices. Onions are double the prewar price. Tea, mutton, milk and ghee have risen by more than 75 per cent.; raw sugar (gul) and salt by more than 60 per cent., and beef and mutton by 60 and 50 per cent. respectively. The price of cocconut oil is only 9 per cent. above its prewar level.

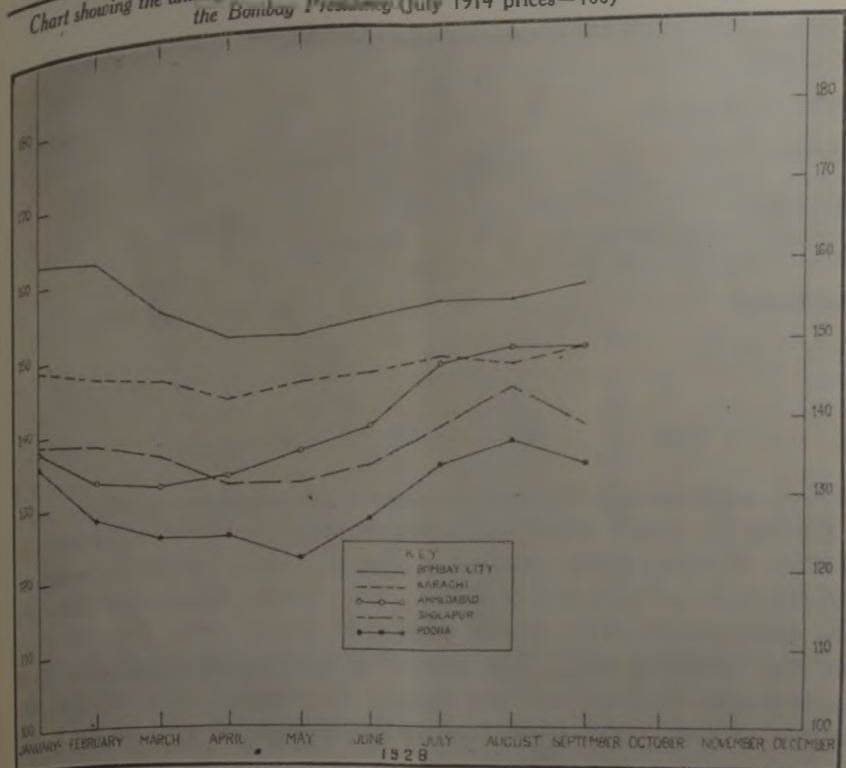
* In the case of rice, wheat and gram, the equivalents in tolas shown in column 4 relate to "Mandla," "Pissi Sarabatti" and "Punjab" variety respectively.

LABOUR GAZETTE

RETAIL PRICES INDEX NUMBERS OF FOOD ARTICLES IN FIVE CENTRES OF THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY (July 1914=100)
 September 1928

Articles	September 1928					Articles	October 1928				
	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona		Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
Rice (1)	150	120	130	145	151	Rice (1)	150	120	130	152	151
Wheat (1)	141	130	135	121	132	Wheat (1)	140	146	145	123	140
Jowari	118	130	105	108	103	Jowari	118	131	114	110	107
Bajri	132	138	128	90	111	Bajri	132	142	131	93	106
Gram	165	147	116	128	115	Gram	172	162	121	136	132
Turdal	153	141	144	138	140	Turdal	153	125	144	138	140
Sugar (refined)	167	118	138	110	113	Sugar (refined)	167	138	138	114	116
Jagri (Gul)	148	125	130	129	150	Jagri (Gul)	162	135	138	144	171
Tea	190	145	151	152	159	Tea	190	225	200	171	200
Salt	131	145	151	201	141	Salt	131	145	151	152	159
Beef	179	180	167	133	150	Beef	179	180	100	201	141
Mutton	169	167	167	133	133	Mutton	169	167	167	133	158
Milk	191	164	200	157	145	Milk	191	172	200	147	133
Ghee	170	180	160	163	129	Ghee	170	156	157	163	129
Potatoes	167	141	263	200	145	Potatoes	159	134	210	125	88
Onions	184	183	100	114	114	Onions	184	169	94	128	120
Cocconut oil	112	108	160	109	100	Cocconut oil	112	108	160	109	100
Average—All food articles	157	149	149	139	134	Average—All food articles	158	150	147	138	135

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



(1) The Bombay index numbers for rice and wheat since June 1928 are for "Mandla" and "Pissi Sarabatti" varieties instead of for "Rangoon Small Mill" and "Pissi Seoni" respectively.

Labour Intelligence—Indian and Foreign

Industrial Disputes in the Presidency

Disputes in October .. 14 Workpeople involved .. 175,965

At the end of this issue will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during October 1928, with the number of workpeople involved, the date when the dispute began and ended, the cause and the result. The word "dispute," in the official sense, means an interruption of work and it is here used in that sense as virtually synonymous with "strike." A dispute, as counted by the Labour Office, is an interruption of work involving ten or more persons and of not less than twenty-four hours' duration. Detailed statistics have been collected since 1st April 1921, the date on which the Labour Office was instituted.

Summary tables have been constructed in order to show the position at a glance. Table I shows the number and magnitude of strikes in October 1928, and the number of working days lost.

I.—Industrial Disputes Classified by Trades

Trade	Number of disputes in progress in October 1928			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in Oct. 1928	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in Oct. 1928
	Started before October	Started in October	Total		
Textile	4	8	12	175,197	1,250,939
Transport					
Engineering ..					
Metal					
Miscellaneous ..	....	2	2	768	7,642
Total ..	4	10	14	175,965	1,258,581

During the month under review the number of industrial disputes was fourteen of which seven occurred in Bombay City, five in Ahmedabad, and one each in Poona and Sholapur. One of the disputes in Bombay City was a general strike which affected 68 cotton mills, two silk mills and one bleaching mill. The number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 175,965 and the number of working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days, less workers replaced) was 1,258,581.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

II—Industrial Disputes—Causes and Results, June 1928 to October 1928

	June 1928	July 1928	August 1928	September 1928	October 1928
Number of strikes and lock-outs ..	7	6	6	5	14
Disputes in progress at beginning ..	4	4	3	3	4
Fresh disputes begun ..	3	2	3	2	10
Disputes ended ..	3	3	3	1	11
Disputes in progress at end ..	4	3	3	4	3
Number of workpeople involved ..	166,156	170,780	170,982	171,269	175,965
Aggregate duration in working days ..	4,211,847	4,141,454	4,151,788	4,088,637	1,258,581
Demands—					
Pay ..	3	2	3	4	6
Bonus ..	....		....	....	..
Personal ..	1		1	....	4
Leave and hours ..		2	2	....	....
Others ..				1	4
Results—					
In favour of employees ..	....	1	1		1
Compromised ..	....	2	....	....	4
In favour of employers ..	3		2	1	6

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

III—Industrial Disputes—Progress for last 12 months †

Month	Disputes in progress	Disputes which began during the month	Disputes ended during the month	Aggregate number of working days lost	Disputes Settled		
					In favour of employers (Per cent.)	In favour of employees (Per cent.)	Compromised (Per cent.)
November 1927 ..	5	3	5	2,103	100		
December ..							
January 1928 ..	3	3	1	377,121			100
February ..	10	8	8	249,083	87	13	
March ..	14	12	12	72,239	92	8	
April ..	10	8	5	1,314,041	100		
May ..	8	6	4	4,243,194	50		50
June ..	7*	3	3	4,211,847	100		
July ..	6	2	3	4,141,454		33	67
August ..	6	3	3	4,151,788	67	33	
September ..	5	2	1	4,088,637	100		
October ..	14	10	11	1,258,581	55	9	36

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

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

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

GENERAL REVIEW OF DISPUTES

The number of industrial disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported as beginning in the month of October 1928 was 10 as compared with 2 in the previous month. The number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 5788 and the time-loss amounted to 21,869 man-days. Three of these disputes arose over wages questions, four over questions relating to the employment of individuals and three were due to "miscellaneous causes." In addition, 4 disputes, including the General Strike in the textile mills in Bombay City, involving 170,177 workpeople had been in progress at the beginning of the month under review and resulted in a time-loss which amounted to 1,236,712 man-days. Out of the 14 old and new disputes, settlements were arrived at in 11 cases. Compromises were effected in 4 cases, while the results were favourable to the employers in 6 cases and to the workers in one case.

PROGRESS OF INDIVIDUAL DISPUTES

BOMBAY

There were seven industrial disputes in progress in Bombay City during the month under review. One of these was a continuation of the General Strike in the Bombay textile mills. At the beginning of the month both the Joint Strike Committee and the Bombay Millowners' Association approached the Government of Bombay with a request to intervene and bring about a settlement of the dispute. Accordingly, the Honourable Sir Ghulam Hussein Hidayatullah, General Member of the Government of Bombay, convened a Joint Conference of the representatives of the two parties on the 4th October. In the meantime, two representatives of the Joint Strike Committee conferred with two representatives of the Bombay Millowners' Association with a view to endeavouring to come to a settlement on the question on which their previous negotiations broke down, but to no effect. On the 4th, a Conference of the representatives of the Millowners and the Joint Strike Committee was held, presided over by the Honourable the General Member of the Government of Bombay, at which satisfactory terms of settlement were reached. The terms of the settlement arrived at at the Joint Conference were published on pages 164 and 165 of the October 1928 issue of the "Labour Gazette" in the special article on "General Strike in the Textile Mills in Bombay City." On the 5th, the Joint Strike Committee held meetings of the strikers and issued leaflets with a view to acquainting the strikers with the terms of settlement arrived at on the previous day and advising them to resume work on the 6th. Sixty-nine mills were opened on the 6th in accordance with the terms of the settlement and 14,639 hands resumed work. On the 8th, the total attendance at the affected mills rose to above 50,000. The employees of the mills where the "rational system" had been in force, refused to work

the new system and consequently such mills could not be reopened. In order to ascertain the opinion of those strikers who were affected by the introduction of the new systems of work, the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union convened a meeting on the 10th at which a resolution was passed to the effect that all the strikers should resume work for the time being. As a result of this resolution, all the affected mills restarted working on the 11th and most of the strikers who were in Bombay resumed work. This strike thus ended in a temporary compromise.

The second dispute was a continuation of the strike which affected the Kurla Spinning and Weaving Mill and the Swadeshi Mill at Kurla. There was no change in the situation till the 6th, on which date the strike virtually ended by the workers returning on the terms of the settlement of the General Strike.

The third dispute occurred in the Drainage Department of the Bombay Municipality. The Chief Inspector of that Department retrenched 15 hands on the 16th August 1928 as he had not sufficient work for them. The workers approached him on the 20th August and requested him to provide work for all of them by turns instead of retrenching some of them. To this, the Chief Inspector agreed and the new system was introduced with effect from the 24th August. On the 1st October, 200 coolies alleged that they had not had equal turns for work during the month of September and they therefore struck work demanding the discontinuance of the new system of giving work by turns. Their request was, however, refused by the authorities and the strikers induced 200 hands in the Miscellaneous Section of the Drainage Department also to join them on the 2nd October. The Executive Engineer of the Municipality met the strikers and told them that they should accept either a reduction in hands or work by turns. The strikers refused to accept either but demanded permanent employment for all of them on Rs. 35 per head per month. On the 3rd, 50 more hands joined the strikers in sympathy. A deputation of the strikers headed by Mr. S. H. Jhabvala waited on the Municipal Commissioner with a view to arriving at a settlement of the dispute and the following terms of settlement were agreed upon—

- (1) That the 40 men proposed to be reduced shall not be reduced;
- (2) That the number of turns of unemployment shall be reduced from 8 days to 6 days per month;
- (3) That the above condition shall be in force up to the 10th November 1928;
- (4) That thereafter not more than 25 to 40 junior men shall be reduced;
- (5) That the number of days of unemployment thereafter shall be entirely stopped.

These terms were communicated to the strikers, who, however, refused to accept them and insisted on having no reduction, full time work and Rs. 35 pay. On the 4th, 60 additional workers struck work in sympathy. A meeting of the strikers was held on the same date when it was pointed out to the men that they had got some concessions from the Municipal Commissioner and they should therefore resume work. The strikers

were not, however, willing to do so. On the 5th, the Chief Inspector of the Drainage Department instituted legal proceedings against 25 strikers under section 3 of the Bombay Municipal Servants Act for leaving work without previous notice. This had the desired effect and all the strikers resumed work on the 7th. The strike ended in a compromise.

The fourth dispute took place in the Bombay Burma Dyeing Company, where 40 workers struck work on the 8th October demanding an increase of four annas in their daily wages. They contended that their daily rate of pay was only Re. 1 whereas the millhands doing similar work were getting Re. 1-4 a day. The management however refused their request and engaged 7 new hands on the 10th and 12 on the 11th. Thirty strikers were paid off and discharged on the 13th. The remaining strikers resumed work unconditionally on the 15th and new hands were engaged in place of the other strikers. This strike ended in favour of the employers.

The fifth dispute occurred in the Kastoorchand Mill. The operatives of the Blankets Department used to work only one loom. Owing to shortage of demand, the management stopped producing blankets and asked the operatives to work two looms like the other weavers and turn out ordinary cloth. Seventy operatives of the Spinning Department struck work on the 17th October as a protest against the new system of work. There was no change in the situation during the following three days but on the 21st, the management agreed to continue the blanket weaving in the mill as a result of which all the strikers resumed work in the morning. This strike ended in favour of the workers.

The sixth dispute took place in the Spring Mill. Sixty Doffer Boys complained that they could not carry on work without the assistance of additional hands and struck work on the 19th October demanding that 29 additional hands should be appointed as before the General Strike. An official of the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union met the strikers on the 20th and told them that he would interview the management on their behalf. This satisfied the strikers, who therefore resumed work forthwith, but as no additional hands were employed by the management, 97 Doffer Boys again struck work on the 24th and brought out the other operatives of the Spinning Department by throwing bobbins and stones. They also began to disturb the Weaving Department and as a consequence the management stopped working in the Weaving Department. The entire mill remained closed till the 26th. A deputation of the strikers interviewed the management and as a result, the latter agreed to increase the number of Doffer Boys by 5 and also to restore free passes to those operatives who were staying at Dharavi. The strikers were satisfied with the results of the deputation and resumed work on the 27th. The strike thus ended in a compromise.

The seventh dispute occurred in the Ruby Mill where 150 weavers struck work on the 24th October alleging that they did not get payment at the rate of Rs. 1-8-0 per day as stipulated in the agreement of the 4th October. The management paid off 51 strikers in the evening and discharged them. On the morning of the 25th, the strikers who collected at the mill were met by two of the labour leaders and were advised to

resume work. Accordingly, the strikers resumed work unconditionally and the strike ended in favour of the employers.

AHMEDABAD

Five industrial disputes were in progress in Ahmedabad during the month under review. The first, which was a continuation of the dispute in the Patel Mills, came to an end on the 2nd October by the management engaging 53 additional new hands in place of the strikers. The result of the dispute was in favour of the employers.

The second dispute took place in the Gujarat Cotton Mills. A Head Jobber of the Weaving Department was dismissed on the morning of the 15th for unsatisfactory work and a new Jobber was employed in his place.

At 7 a.m., 200 weavers struck work in sympathy with the dismissed Jobber and demanded his reinstatement. The management did not accede to the request of the strikers and engaged 100 new hands. On the next day, 100 additional new hands were employed by the management and the strikers were informed that their services had been dispensed with and that their outstanding wages would be paid on the next pay day. The strike thus terminated in favour of the employers.

The third dispute was in progress in the Bharat Laxmi Cotton Mills. The management dispensed with the services of a Head Jobber and 3 operatives on the 17th October for misbehaviour. One hundred spinners struck work on the 18th in sympathy with the dismissed men. As the strikers became members of the Labour Union, the officials of the Union took up their cause and started picketing the mills. The management engaged 82 new hands on the 20th and informed the strikers that as they had struck work without any just cause they would be paid off on the next pay day. On the 22nd, 23 strikers resumed work unconditionally. A deputation of the strikers who waited on the management was told that the strikers should either resume work unconditionally or accept payment of their outstanding wages. The men however refused to resume work and about 67 of them received payment of their due wages. Seven additional strikers resumed work on the 24th and the management engaged 40 additional new hands. Picketing was carried on by the Labour Union and in order to avoid molestation the management arranged to bring the men to the mill in a motor car. On the advice of the Labour Union, nearly all the remaining strikers received payment of their wages on the 25th and the strike was therefore considered as having ended on that day, although strenuous picketing was still carried on by the Labour Union. The result of the strike was in favour of the employers.

The fourth dispute, which occurred in the Bechardas Spinning and Weaving Mills, also arose over a question regarding the employment of individuals. The management dismissed 17 labourers for unsatisfactory work. On the 24th, 28 workers struck work in sympathy and demanded the reinstatement of the dismissed men, but their request was refused by the management. The Labour Union, Ahmedabad, believing that the action of the management in dismissing certain workers was an indirect attack on the members of the Union, supported the cause of the strikers. Picketing was started from the 25th and 22 additional workers struck work

in sympathy. The management engaged 15 new hands on the 25th and 30 more on the 26th, on which date 5 strikers resumed work unconditionally. On the 27th, the mills worked with a full complement, although the picketing was continued. The management proposed to pay the outstanding wages of the strikers on the 29th but the men did not accept them. The payment of wages was therefore postponed till the 31st. There was no change in the situation during the rest of the month and the mills continued working with a full complement. This strike continued into the next month.

The fifth dispute occurred in the Ahmedabad Fine Spinning and Weaving Mills. The management dismissed a Jobber of the Weaving Department on the morning of the 31st October for unsatisfactory work. Ten weavers struck work in sympathy and demanded his reinstatement. The strike continued into the next month.

POONA

There was one industrial dispute in progress in the General Workshops of the Kirkee Arsenal during the month under review. The Chief Ordnance Officer at Kirkee was regrading the pay of the workshop staff. A deputation of the workers waited on the Officer and represented that their pay should not be reduced in any way but the deputationists were told that it could not be guaranteed that there would be no reduction, and that every worker would be paid according to his merits. The men were not satisfied with this and 458 skilled workers out of a total of 500, struck work on the 11th October. On the 12th, 75 skilled men were working in the Arsenal workshops. Meetings of the strikers were held almost every day at which the officials of the Labour Union advised the men to remain firm and united. The attendance of the skilled workers at the workshops improved steadily from day to day and reached 257 on the 31st October. On the same date, some 40 strikers met and decided to resume work from the 1st November. This strike continued into the next month.

SHOLAPUR

The dispute in the Sholapur Textile Mills, which had begun in April last was in progress at the beginning of the month under review. Out of the five mills affected by the disputes, only the Vishnu and the Laxmi Mills had not resumed normal working by the beginning of the month. The mill authorities and the Labour Union were making renewed efforts, the former to induce the strikers to resume work and the latter to try to continue the strike. One of the Secretaries of the Labour Union was prosecuted under section 341, I. P. C., and was convicted and sentenced to seven days' simple imprisonment. As a result of the arrest of the activities of the Labour Union, several strikers offered themselves for work at the affected mills but the latter refused admission except to old and expert hands. The Vishnu Mill restarted regular work from the 3rd October and the Laxmi Mill from the 4th. Normal working was resumed from the 6th October in these two mills also, with the aid of substitute hands, although several old mill-hands were still out. This dispute thus ended in favour of the employers.

Labour News from Ahmedabad

THE LABOUR UNION

The Union proposed to the Millowners' Association the appointment of a Joint Committee to go into disputes with different mills and endeavour to bring about an amicable settlement. The Association has turned down the proposal on the grounds that such a Joint Committee, with labour and capital equally represented, will not work smoothly and that the present arrangement of referring disputed points to Mahatma Gandhi and Seth Mangaldas G. Parekh for arbitration needs no supplementing by such a superfluous committee.

The campaign of union development undertaken recently has met with open hostility in some mills and with indirect obstruction in others. The collection of subscription in the mill premises has been taken objection to and the Association has lent its support to this objection. The Union has protested against this step and claims to collect subscription in the mill premises through its own men as a matter of right. The Association contends that this practice has been allowed merely as a matter of courtesy and can no longer be countenanced owing to the objection raised by mills. The Association is however willing to allow mills to collect subscription on behalf of the Union. This question of collecting subscription in the mill premises through Union men has been referred to arbitration. Pending the award of the arbitrators the *status quo* is to continue.

The Union invited the attention of the Association to the practice of beating labourers prevalent in some mills. The Association has issued a circular advising mills to discontinue that practice.

THE GUJARAT POSTMEN'S UNION

This Union has passed a resolution demanding a revised scale of pay and house-rent for postal workers in Ahmedabad.

Employment Situation in October

THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The sources of the statistics regarding absenteeism in the Textile Industry in the Bombay Presidency are the returns prepared and sent in by the various mills in the different centres of the Presidency every month. Returns were received from 100 or 67·11 per cent. of the mills reported as working at the various centres of the Presidency. Although the General Strike in the cotton mills in Bombay City virtually ended on the 4th October 1928, normal working was not, however, resumed in the affected mills during the month owing to the fact that many mill hands had left Bombay during the strike. On account of this, the Presidency average of percentage absenteeism in the Textile Industry, as a whole, has not been worked out for the month of October.

In Bombay City out of 78 mills which were working during the month 55 or 70·51 per cent. furnished returns. The usual monthly absenteeism statistics for this centre have not been worked out, as abnormal conditions

continued to prevail during the month under review. It may, however, be of interest to note that, taking the weekly average from those mills that sent in returns, the absenteeism in the Bombay Textile Mills from the 8th to the 12th October was 44·55 per cent., from the 13th to the 22nd October 31·75 per cent, and 19·85 per cent. from the 23rd to the 31st October. Taking the period 8th to the 31st October, the average absenteeism amounted to 29·72 per cent.

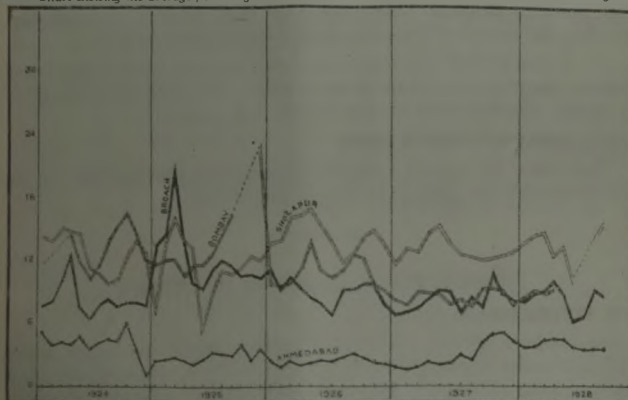
In Ahmedabad 61 mills were working during the month and 38 or 62·30 per cent. furnished information. Absenteeism amounted to 3·86 per cent, as against 3·68 per cent. in September 1928. The supply of labour was equal to the demand.

Returns were submitted by four mills in Sholapur. None of these reported any shortage in the supply of labour and the average percentage absenteeism amounted to 15·80.

Information was supplied by only one mill in Viramgaum which was working during the month. The percentage absenteeism amounted to 3·67 as against 2·74 in September 1928.

One of the two mills in Broach which furnished information reported that the supply of labour was inadequate. The absenteeism amounted to 7·76 per cent. as against 8·75 per cent. in the preceding month.

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



THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

In the engineering industry in Bombay City the supply of labour was adequate. The average absenteeism in representative workshops was 12·24 per cent. as against 11·71 per cent. in the previous month. In the Marine Lines Reclamation Scheme absenteeism was 5·00 per cent. and in the Bombay Port Trust Docks it amounted to 16·52 per cent. The average absenteeism in the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust was 9·10 per cent.

The Karachi Port Trust found both skilled and ordinary labour available in plenty. On an average 9·80 per cent. of the labourers absented themselves from work during the month.

Prosecutions under the Indian Factories Act in October

There were no prosecutions instituted in the Bombay Presidency under the Indian Factories Act during the month of October 1928.

Agricultural Outlook in the Presidency

The following summary of conditions in the Presidency during the period ending 20th November 1928 has been supplied by the Director of Agriculture:—

The weather and crop reports, received so far, go to show that the agricultural outlook is generally satisfactory almost throughout the Presidency due to the good rains received between the 22nd and 26th October. These rains were especially good in almost the whole of the Karnatak and in many places in the south Konkan. Elsewhere they were generally light. These rains proved very beneficial in the Karnatak for both the *kharif* and *rabi* crops but were slightly injurious to the ripe rice in the Konkan. The outlook as it appears at the present moment in the different divisions of the Bombay Presidency may be briefly summarized as follows:—

Gujarat.—Some light scattered showers were received between 24th and 26th October in many places during the period under review. The standing crops are progressing quite satisfactorily in the division. The harvesting of *kharif* crops is proceeding briskly.

Konkan.—Since the submission of the last report, fairly heavy rain was received in many places in the South of the Division between 22nd and 25th, although it was generally light elsewhere. This heavy rain was unwelcome and unseasonable to the matured rice crop as also to the crop already harvested in many places. It also delayed the harvesting operation for some time. Except for this, however, the crops are in good condition. The garden crops are also in excellent condition generally. The early crops are being reaped and in some places their harvesting is nearly finished.

Deccan.—Rainfall varying from light scattered showers to fairly heavy rain was received between 23rd and 25th October almost throughout the division, though it was fairly heavy in the south. This rain, though useful to *rabi* crops, has proved somewhat harmful in places to the harvested *kharif* crops. The standing crops are in good condition generally. The harvesting of *kharif* crops is in progress. *Rabi* sowings are nearing completion and germination of these (*rabi*) crops is generally satisfactory. More rain, however, is required in the near future in the east for further development of the young *rabi* plants. Cotton picking is continued in places.

Karnatak.—The situation in this division has been very much improved especially in the whole of the Dharwar district owing to the excellent and beneficial rains received between the 22nd and 26th October. These rains though unwelcome in places in the Mallad for the ripe *kharif* crops,

were on the whole timely and improved the condition of the *kharif* crops almost everywhere. *Rabi* sowings are completed and the young seedlings are in a promising state. Harvesting of early crops is in progress.

The Working of the Assam Labour Board

ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report on the working of the Assam Labour Board during the year ending the 30th June 1928 has been published in the Supplement to the *Gazette of India* of 27th October 1928.

The total number of persons recruited during the year was 39,549 as against 40,818 in the previous year. The average number of recruits per Sirdar was 0.99 as against 1.02 in the previous year.

The average cost per adult recruit of the advances made at each local Agency to Garden Sirdars fell in 18 and rose in 18 Agencies. No case occurred in which the local Agents were found to be extravagant or indiscreet in this matter.

The total number of Garden Sirdars prosecuted for offences in connection with recruitment was 85 as compared with 40 in the previous year. Three illegal recruiters were also prosecuted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

The rate of cess during the year was Rs. 4 per emigrant. The actual receipts from the cess were Rs. 1,27,345.

Workmen's Compensation Act

Details of Proceedings

Information furnished by all the Commissioners in the Presidency for the month of October 1928 shows that out of 36 cases disposed of during the month 30 were reported by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner in Bombay. The cases which were transferred from one Commissioner to another have not been included in the statistics. The gross amount of compensation awarded in lump sums was Rs. 20,945-2-0 as against Rs. 27,152-15-0 in the previous month and Rs. 17,292-11-11 in October 1927. Out of the 36 cases in which compensation was claimed, 13 were in respect of fatal accidents, one of permanent total disablement and 22 of permanent partial disablement. No case of occupational disease has been reported since January 1925. The number of compensation cases in the textile industry amounted to 10 and in other industries to 26. The corresponding figures for October 1927 were 26 and 32.

The total number of claimants for compensation in all the cases disposed of during the month was 39 of whom 33 were adult males, 3 adult females and one male and two females below 15 years of age.

Out of the cases disposed of during the month under review, 19 were original claims, 15 registrations of agreements and 2 miscellaneous applications. Compensation was awarded in 19 cases, agreements were registered in 15 cases and two cases were dismissed.

Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 : Cases

APPEAL AGAINST CONSENT ORDER

Jurisdiction of Commissioner

Chhipa Allarakha Isakji (original Opponent) .. Appellant

versus

Bai Sona, widow of Chhotalal Motilal (original Applicant) .. Respondent.

Appeal against the order of N. M. Patwardhan, Esquire, Commissioner of Workmen's Compensation, Bombay, in application No. 351/B. 25 of 1927. Appeal No. 8 of 1928 from Original Decree.

Counsel Mr. Thakor with Mr. H. V. Divatia, for the appellant.
Mr. R. J. Thakor, for the respondent.

(Coram : Marten, C. J., and Murphy, J.)

Judgment (Per MARTEN, C. J.) — This is an appeal under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. It is of rather a curious nature. Both parties were represented by pleaders before the Commissioner, and the order appealed from is quite simple, *viz.*, "By consent Rs. 2250 to be deposited with Commissioner on or before 3rd January 1928. No order as to costs." The expression "deposited" there clearly refers to section 8 of the Act, which provides "that compensation payable in respect of a workman whose injury has resulted in death shall be deposited with the Commissioner," and then the sum so deposited is to be dealt with in certain ways. So, too, in the diary which was kept by the Commissioner under the Rules after recording that certain issues had been raised, and two witnesses heard, the entry runs as follows:—"At this stage parties agree that the opposite party should deposit Rs. 2250 on or before the 3rd January 1928. Ordered accordingly. No order as to costs."

Now the first point that arises is what jurisdiction have we to interfere with what purports to be a consent order. The appeal is based on section 30 of the Act, but there are two *provisoes* to that section, *viz.*, (a) "No appeal shall lie against any order unless a substantial question of law is involved in the appeal" and (b) "no appeal shall lie in any case in which the parties have agreed to abide by the decision of the Commissioner or in which the order of the Commissioner gives effect to an agreement come to by the parties."

The first question, therefore, is whether there is here a substantial question of law involved in the appeal. Now a dispute as to whether two parties have agreed or not to a certain decree is not in general a question of law. Still less is it a substantial question of law. It is in general a pure question of fact. But it is argued that under this Act the Commissioner has no power in contested proceedings before him to pass any order or decree by consent of the parties. He must either give his decision, or else the parties must comply with the provisions of section 28 which deals with the registration of agreements. That section, however, seems to me to refer primarily to cases where the parties have arrived at an agreement

prior to any hearing before the Court. In that case section 28 provides *inter alia* that the agreement shall be registered after notice. Further the rules which have been framed by the Governor General in Council under section 32 (c) of the Act provide in Rule 44 for this agreement being in a particular form, and for the Commissioner issuing notices with reference to it and so on. Those Rules, I think, clearly contemplate an agreement prior to any hearing by the Commissioner. I should here like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Court of thanking Mr. Coyajee (Junior) as *amicus curiæ* for his industry in obtaining for us these rules which have been published in the Gazette of Government of India on the 28th June 1924 at page 586, and which were unknown not only to the Sheristidar of the Court, but also to counsel appearing in the case. Nor apparently were they included in, at any rate, one of the text books which counsel had in Court.

Proceeding with the argument of counsel for the appellant, it is contended that we have here a substantial question of law, because the Commissioner had no jurisdiction to pass a consent decree in the way that he did. Moreover, although Rule 38 of the Workmen's Compensation Rules applies certain provisions of the Civil Procedure Code including rules 1 and 2 of Order XXIII, they do not include rule 3 of Order XXIII, *viz.*,

Where it is proved to the satisfaction of the Court that a suit has been adjusted wholly or in part by any lawful agreement or compromise,the Court shall order such agreement, compromise,to be recorded, and shall pass a decree in accordance therewith, so far as it relates to the suit." But that Rule also contemplates, I think, in general a case where the parties have come to an agreement outside the Court, and ask the Court to settle the suit in accordance therewith.

In the present case the parties were actually before the Court on a contested matter in which issues had been raised, and some evidence led and then the parties agreed to terms. Thereupon the Court passed an order in accordance with their consent. I confess it is rather startling to be told that in an ordinary case the Court has no power to pass an order by consent of the parties, except under Order XXIII, rule 3, assuming of course the matter is one within its general jurisdiction. That proposition is certainly quite erroneous as regards the Original Side. And as regards the Commissioner's Tribunal, I should have thought that the answer was one of common sense and that no objection could be taken to the present order as being in any way illegal. The workman, or rather his representatives, were getting the full amount of their claims, *minus* costs. If the employer was willing to pay that amount, what more was to be said. Surely no judgment was required. It was sufficient to record the matter by consent, and direct the money to be paid. The only concession which the employer obtained was that he had not got to pay the costs, and as to this, the Commissioner had already heard enough of the case to know if it was a fair concession for the workman's representatives to make. It seems to me, therefore, that it cannot be successfully argued here that there is any substantial question of law raised in this appeal. Consequently I think the first *proviso* bars this appeal.

Under these circumstances it is necessary for us to consider whether the second *proviso* to section 30 applies also. I do not think this is a case where the parties have agreed to abide by the decision of the Commissioner, but the other part of this *proviso* as to whether the order of the Commissioner gave effect to an agreement come to by the parties, is another matter. *Prima facie* these words are wide enough to cover the present order. But it is argued that the *proviso* only refers to a registered agreement within section 28, and I leave it at that.

As to consent orders generally, if one was dealing with a matter not before the special tribunal constituted by this Act, but before an ordinary Law Court under the Civil Procedure Code, then it would, I think, be clear that in general no appeal would lie from a consent decree. Thus section 96 (3) of the Procedure Code says: "No appeal shall lie from a decree passed by the Court with the consent of parties." Accordingly in general, it would be necessary to bring a fresh suit, if it was sought to set aside a consent decree on such grounds as misrepresentation, fraud or mistake. (See Mulla's Civil Procedure Code, 8th Ed., p. 265.)

It has been urged that unless we can interfere here, then litigants are without a remedy, supposing there is a case where the Commissioner has made a mistake in recording an order as being by consent. I appreciate that having regard to section 19 (2) of the Workmen's Compensation Act which largely ousts the jurisdiction of the Courts, there may be a difficulty in the way of the appellant bringing a fresh suit before the ordinary Civil Courts to set aside this alleged consent decree. Nor is there any provision in the Workmen's Compensation Act itself for any such suit being brought before the Commissioner. But after all this is a matter for the Legislature to amend, if at all, and not for ourselves. The Legislature has created a special tribunal ousting the jurisdiction of the ordinary civil Courts of the land, and if this results in any hardship to individuals, then the hardship must be rectified by the Legislative authority which created the special tribunal.

So far as the facts of the present case go, I confess on the materials before us that the appellant hardly excites one's sympathy. In the first place, as he was represented by a pleader, there should certainly have been an affidavit by his pleader, stating that in fact no consent decree was arrived at, or explaining the circumstances under which what purports to be a consent decree was obtained. There should at least have been a reference in the appellant's affidavit as to why he could not get his pleader to make any affidavit if that be the fact. In the result, however, the present application comes before us without even a reference to the pleader; and as to what actually happened before the Commissioner the affidavits on either side are at total variance. Clearly one side or the other is committing perjury. They cannot even agree as to who was present at the hearing before the Commissioner.

There is also another point. This consent order was passed on the 12th November 1927, but it was not till the 5th January 1928 that any appeal was filed in this High Court. This delay is hardly consistent with the appellant's story that the Commissioner purported to pass by consent an order which in fact the appellant did not consent to. Moreover, it does

not appear that any application whatever was made to the Commissioner to review his order, or to ask him for any explanation or statement with reference to the allegations which the applicant now makes. I do not say one way or the other whether legally the Commissioner has power to review any decision he has once given. But, I, at any rate, would strongly discourage an application of the present type which is made behind the back of the Commissioner from what purports to be a consent order and makes allegations against him which are totally denied by the other side.

In my judgment this appeal ought to be dismissed with costs.

Per MURPHY, J.—I agree.

Claims by Railway Servants

DOCTRINE OF "ADDED PERIL"

Passing between Wagons

Pandoo Deoji Mahar, residing at Bhoiwada, near Bandra, against
The Agent, B.B. & C.I. Railway, Bombay.

Claim—Rs. 525.

In this case the applicant, a hamal, claims compensation for personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment with the opposite party at the Goods Yard at Bandra. His original story was that while he was proceeding, in accordance with instructions, from one platform to another he passed behind some wagons which moved and injured his leg. At a local inspection held at the site of the accident, however, he retracted this story and said that he was going to the other platform to get some water, and in order to do so, passed between the trucks of a goods train that was standing on the centre track. The goods train moved owing to some wagons being shunted on to it and his leg was injured. The suggestion made by the opposite party is that the work was finished and that the man was going home. But it is not necessary to arrive at a decision on these points because if he was going to get water it was a reasonable act on his part to cross the railway line, while Mr. Kennedy for the opposite party states it is a usual thing for the workman to cross the railway lines when going home and that no serious objection is taken to the practice.

The issues in this case, therefore, are whether the accident arose out of and in the course of the applicant's employment.

It is clear that the accident arose in the course of the applicant's employment, and in crossing the railway line he was doing something which was covered by his employment. Mr. Bhende, for the applicant, has argued that once that is established it does not matter whether the accident was due to the man's carelessness or negligence or stupidity. Ordinarily that would be so, but it must be remembered that it is not, to quote Mr. Willis, part of the employment of a workman to do an act during the period of his employment which adds to his ordinary employment a peril which the employment does not normally possess, unless he can justify

it as necessary or reasonable or recognised by practice or due to emergency. If he does add that peril to his employment he cannot recover compensation, because the accident does not arise out of the employment. In this case there is no evidence that passing under a truck is a practice recognised by the employers. It has been suggested, on the contrary, that there exists a direct prohibition to this effect. This order or prohibition has never been proved before me in any case although the representatives of the railway companies appear to assume that it is so well-known that the Court should take judicial knowledge of it. That I cannot do, and if any such order exists, its existence should be proved. Until it is proved, I cannot take it into account. On the other hand, no evidence has been given for the applicant that the highly dangerous practice of passing under wagons is a well recognised one. Obviously it would never be officially permitted.

In the course of his argument Mr. Bhende laid great stress on the case of *Gane vs. Norton Hill Colliery Co.*, reported at 2 B.W.C.C., page 42, where the facts were very similar to those in this case. But it is abundantly clear from the judgments in that case that the decision which gave compensation to the workman proceeded entirely upon the finding that the passage across a line of railway by going under the trucks which were upon it was recognised and authorised by the railway company. In this case I expressly do not find that the applicant in going under the trucks was doing something which was recognised and authorized by the railway company. The facts are more in accordance with the case of *Baker vs. the Earl of Bradford* 9 B.W.C.C., 436 and almost identical with those in the *Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Co., vs. Highley* 10 B.W.C.C., page 241. In that case Highley and another man started to go to the messroom across the railway lines, although there were two other ways by which they could have got there, but they were longer. They crossed the lines and came to a goods train standing in a siding. They thought it was a dead train and they crept under one of the trucks. The train moved on and Highley was caught between the trucks and killed. The County Court Judge found that the accident was due to an unnecessary and added risk and held that it did not arise out of the employment. The House of Lords upheld this decision.

In the case before me, taking the man's last story as being correct, he was crossing the line to go to the water tap. On the middle line between the platforms there was a long train of wagons standing. He could have gone round either the front or the back of the train which would have meant a detour of two or three hundred feet, or he could have gone round by the road. He did not take either of these courses. Instead, believing that the wagons would remain stationary he crept under them, but by an unfortunate mischance, an engine which was engaged in shunting operation pushed some wagons on to the standing train and the man was injured. I hold, to use the words of Lord Haldane, in the case of *Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company vs. Highley*, that in crossing the line by going under the trucks the workman was arrogating to himself a title to do something which he was neither engaged nor entitled to perform and that he exposed himself to a peril to which he was neither

not appear that any application whatever was made to the Commissioner to review his order, or to ask him for any explanation or statement with reference to the allegations which the applicant now makes. I do not say one way or the other whether legally the Commissioner has power to review any decision he has once given. But, I, at any rate, would strongly discourage an application of the present type which is made behind the back of the Commissioner from what purports to be a consent order and makes allegations against him which are totally denied by the other side.

In my judgment this appeal ought to be dismissed with costs.

Per MURPHY, J.—I agree.

Claims by Railway Servants

DOCTRINE OF "ADDED PERIL"

Passing between Wagons

Pandoo Deoji Mahar, residing at Bhoiwada, near Bandra, *against*
The Agent, B.B. & C.I. Railway, Bombay.

Claim—Rs. 525.

In this case the applicant, a hamal, claims compensation for personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment with the opposite party at the Goods Yard at Bandra. His original story was that while he was proceeding, in accordance with instructions, from one platform to another he passed behind some wagons which moved and injured his leg. At a local inspection held at the site of the accident, however, he retracted this story and said that he was going to the other platform to get some water, and in order to do so, passed between the trucks of a goods train that was standing on the centre track. The goods train moved owing to some wagons being shunted on to it and his leg was injured. The suggestion made by the opposite party is that the work was finished and that the man was going home. But it is not necessary to arrive at a decision on these points because if he was going to get water it was a reasonable act on his part to cross the railway line, while Mr. Kennedy for the opposite party states it is a usual thing for the workman to cross the railway lines when going home and that no serious objection is taken to the practice.

The issues in this case, therefore, are whether the accident arose out of and in the course of the applicant's employment.

It is clear that the accident arose in the course of the applicant's employment, and in crossing the railway line he was doing something which was covered by his employment. Mr. Bhende, for the applicant, has argued that once that is established it does not matter whether the accident was due to the man's carelessness or negligence or stupidity. Ordinarily that would be so, but it must be remembered that it is not, to quote Mr. Willis, part of the employment of a workman to do an act during the period of his employment which adds to his ordinary employment a peril which the employment does not normally possess, unless he can justify

necessary or reasonable or recognised by practice or due to emergency. If he does add that peril to his employment he cannot recover compensation, because the accident does not arise out of the employment. In this case there is no evidence that passing under a truck is a practice recognised by the railway company. It has been suggested, on the contrary, that there exists a direct prohibition to this effect. This order or prohibition has never been proved before me in any case although the representatives of the railway companies appear to assume that it is so well-known that the Court should take judicial knowledge of it. That I cannot do, and if any such order exists, its existence should be proved. Until it is proved, I cannot take it into account. On the other hand, no evidence has been given for the applicant that the highly dangerous practice of passing under wagons is a well recognised one. Obviously it would never be officially permitted.

In the course of his argument Mr. Bhende laid great stress on the case *Gane vs. Norton Hill Colliery Co.*, reported at 2 B.W.C.C., page 42, where the facts were very similar to those in this case. But it is abundantly clear from the judgments in that case that the decision which gave compensation to the workman proceeded entirely upon the finding that the passage across a line of railway by going under the trucks which were upon it was recognised and authorised by the railway company. In this case I expressly do not find that the applicant in going under the trucks was doing something which was recognised and authorized by the railway company. The facts are more in accordance with the case of *Baker vs. the Earl of Bradford* 9 B.W.C.C., 436 and almost identical with those in the *Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Co., vs. Highley* 10 B.W.C.C., page 241. In that case Highley and another man started to go to the messroom across the railway lines, although there were two other ways by which they could have got there, but they were longer. They crossed the lines and came to a goods train standing in a siding. They thought it was a dead train and they crept under one of the trucks. The train moved on and Highley was caught between the trucks and killed. The County Court Judge found that the accident was due to an unnecessary and added risk and held that it did not arise out of the employment. The House of Lords upheld this decision.

In the case before me, taking the man's last story as being correct, he was crossing the line to go to the water tap. On the middle line between the platforms there was a long train of wagons standing. He could have gone round either the front or the back of the train which would have meant a detour of two or three hundred feet, or he could have gone round by the road. He did not take either of these courses. Instead, believing that the wagons would remain stationary he crept under them, but by an unfortunate mischance, an engine which was engaged in shunting operation pushed some wagons on to the standing train and the man was injured. I hold, to use the words of Lord Haldane, in the case of *Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company vs. Highley*, that in crossing the line by going under the trucks the workman was arrogating to himself a title to do something which he was neither engaged nor entitled to perform and that he exposed himself to a peril to which he was neither

required nor had authority to expose himself. That being so, the accident did not arise out of and in the course of his employment, and he is not entitled to compensation. The application must, therefore, be dismissed. There will be no order as to costs.

29th October 1928.

(Signed) J. F. GENNINGS

Sitting on Railway Track

Sawlaram Bapuji, residing at Shiwdi, Taluka Niphad, District Nasik, against The Agent, G. I. P. Railway, Bombay.

Claim—Rs. 420.

In this case the applicant claims compensation for personal injury received by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment under the following circumstances. On the 6th of April 1928 the applicant who was a gang mukadam employed in the Permanent Way Department of the G. I. P. Railway was supervising the stacking of sleepers in the Kherwadi Station Yard. In the yard there was a Goods Siding where two empty wagons were standing and the sleepers were being stacked between this siding and the up loop line. The applicant having got a thorn into his foot sat down on the track a few feet from where the two wagons were standing and endeavoured to remove the thorn from his foot. While he was doing this a high wind caught the wagons, the brakes of which were off, and sent them rolling on to the applicant's right foot. The contention of the opposite party is that sitting under railway wagons is a dangerous practice and is prohibited, and therefore the man was adding to his employment an added peril which he had no right to add to it, and therefore the accident did not arise out of his employment.

In my opinion that contention is incorrect. The facts in this case differ materially from those in the leading case of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway *vs.* Highley. The workman was not endeavouring to pass between two wagons on a siding or track where shunting operations were going on or were likely to be carried out. He sat down on a line of track on which admittedly two wagons were standing, but it is also admitted that these wagons were at a dead end, and that the only possible way in which normally any danger would arise would be for wagons to be shunted along the track in the direction the man was probably facing. It must be remembered that to a railway employee of 17 years' service a railway track is not the dangerous and unknown quantity that it is to a layman. His whole life is spent on or about railway lines and his experience would probably tell him that if there was one place reasonably free from danger it would be the dead end of a siding. In my opinion he was acting quite naturally and within the scope of his employment in sitting down to remove from his foot a thorn which incapacitated him from working, and sitting on the track in a dead end on which two wagons were standing was not a dangerous practice. The real cause of accident

the fact that these wagons had been left on a slight gradient with the brakes off were therefore liable to be set in motion by a high wind. I am unable to find that the man exposed himself to an added peril, and I find that the accident arose out of and in the course of his employment. An award of Rs. 320-4-0 was made with Rs. 20 as costs.

"Unloading" a Ship

Rakhmabai, widow of Namu Yamaji, deceased workman, residing at Ketkawle, taluka Purandhar, district Poona, against Mr. K. S. Rishi, carting contractor to Messrs. Richardson & Cruddas, Byculla, Bombay.

Claim—Rs. 1387-8-0.

In this case the applicant Rakhmabai, widow of Namu Yamaji, claims compensation for the death of her husband from Mr. K. S. Rishi, carting contractor to Messrs. Richardson & Cruddas, Byculla, Bombay. The agreed facts are that on the 26th of May of this year Namu Yamaji was sent by the opposite party to collect certain goods which had been deposited in shed No. 2, Alexandra Dock, some six days previously, on being unloaded from a ship. While the goods were being loaded on to a cart, a heavy case fell on Namu Yamaji and killed him. The applicant claims compensation on the ground that the deceased was a workman within the meaning of schedule 2 (v) in that he was employed for the purpose of unloading a ship at a dock, warehouse or shed where steam or other mechanical power is used. Counsel for the applicant has laid emphasis on the use of the word "for the purpose of" in this sub-section of the schedule, in contrast with the use of the word "in" in other sub-sections. He has suggested that the use of these words gives to the actual processes of loading and unloading a wider scope than it would ordinarily be possible to give to them, and that therefore workmen whose work is ancillary or incidental to the process of loading and unloading a ship are entitled to recover compensation. With this proposition I am prepared to agree. But there must be some limit placed upon the interpretation, and there must be some link connecting the work the workman is doing with the process of unloading. In the present case I can find no such connexion. The facts are that the goods in question had been unloaded from a ship six days previously and stored in a shed. The process of unloading, even giving to it the extended meaning that the use of the words "for the purpose of" seems to suggest should be given, had been completed days before, and it seems to me impossible to say that this workman was employed for the purpose of unloading a ship. What in fact he was employed for was to remove goods deposited in a shed and the fact that those goods had some days previously been taken from the hold of a ship and placed in the shed does not suffice to make the deceased a workman within the meaning of the Act. The application must therefore be dismissed. I make no order as to costs.

18th October 1928.

(Signed) J. F. GENNINGS.

An Unusual Case

QUESTION WHETHER WORKMAN WAS EMPLOYED

Hajrat Khan Ajam Khan, residing near Princes Dock, Bombay,
against Messrs. Hill, Son & Knox, Mercantile Building,
Ballard Estate, Bombay.

Claim—Rs. 1750.

The circumstances in this case are peculiar, and I have been unable to find any case which has been decided upon facts in any way similar to those that have been disclosed during the hearing of this application. The story told by the witnesses for the opposite party is as follows:

On the 15th of March Messrs. Hill, Son & Knox were unloading a steamer, the "Croxteth Hall," at the Princes Docks, and for this purpose wished to engage a night shift of workers. The head Sarang, Khan Saheb Sawat Khan, told off several gangs, consisting of one tindal and nine men. One of the tindals was a man called Shamsheer and about 7-30 p.m. that night he took his gang on board. There was a Sarang called Jahood in general supervision of the night workmen but after Shamsheer went on board Jahood went off to some other part of the docks where the opposite party also had ships working. Soon after Shamsheer had gone on board a Tindal named Katak came on board with his gang—of whom the applicant was one—and had an altercation with Shamsheer, apparently claiming that he (Katak) should have been engaged, and that he proposed to work whether Shamsheer liked it or not. Shamsheer was apparently over-awed by the aggressive tactics of Katak, and in order to avoid a fight cleared off and left Katak in possession. The latter and his gang then set to work, but after they had been working about three quarters of an hour the applicant Hajrat Khan Ajam Khan was injured. It is suggested that the injury was due to Katak giving an order to the crane-man which he had no right to give, but this fact of itself would not prevent the workman from recovering compensation. Next morning when the Khan Saheb found out what had happened he gave instructions to the Marwari to stop payment to Katak, but payment was in fact made to Katak and his gang some days later. Under these circumstances Messrs. Hill, Son & Knox have refused to pay compensation on the ground that the injured workman was never employed by them. The suggestion is made on behalf of the applicant that the story is in the nature of an after-thought, and is only put forward in order to avoid the payment of compensation. This contention I am quite unable to accept. Messrs. Hill, Son & Knox are a large and important firm well known in the port of Bombay, and they have paid large sums in compensation from time to time through this Court without showing any desire to do otherwise than treat their employees with fairness and justice. I also entirely accept the evidence of the head Sarang of the firm Khan Saheb Sawat Khan. In my view it was right and proper for Messrs. Hill, Son & Knox to bring the circumstances of the case before the Court in order that the Court should express its opinion as regards their liability.

In arriving at a decision as to whether or not the applicant was ever in the employ of the opposite party careful consideration has to be given to the evidence of Frank Clement DeSouza, the night foreman of Messrs. Hill, Son & Knox. This man was in charge of the work that was going on "Croxteth Hall," and he had full authority to employ the workmen in the manner best calculated to carry out the work. His evidence is to the effect that the night Sarang, Jahood, sent the gangs on board and then went away. After he had left, Katak came aboard and created trouble with Shamsheer and after some dispute Shamsheer went away with his men leaving Katak there. Shamsheer said he left the ship because he did not want to have any more fights with Katak. DeSouza spoke to Katak, but Katak went down the hold with his men and started the work. What then could DeSouza have done? He could have ordered Katak to leave the ship and if he refused he could have had him turned off. But as DeSouza says "If I had tried to put him off, I should have had my work stopped. So rather than have that happen, I decided to carry on with Katak and his gang although I told Katak that he would not get any money." Those are the facts and the question to be decided is whether on those facts I am justified in coming to the conclusion that Katak and his gang were employed by Messrs. Hill, Son & Knox. In my opinion I am. DeSouza was the representative of Messrs. Hill, Son & Knox on the spot and when this dispute occurred between two Tindals he had to decide what was best to be done in the interest of his employers. He therefore decided, I think quite rightly, that although Shamsheer had originally been engaged by the head Sarang, he, DeSouza was justified in accepting Katak and his men when Shamsheer left the ship. Katak was a man who had worked for Messrs. Hill, Son & Knox and, it may be added, has worked for them since, and DeSouza decided that it was better to have Katak and his gang rather than no gang at all in order that the work should not be stopped or impeded by lack of men. In other words, he, on behalf of the opposite party, accepted the services of Katak and his gang and in my opinion he had an implied authority to do so. The opposite party, although at first they stopped payment to the gang subsequently did so and thereby in my view they confirmed DeSouza's action. Therefore the applicant was employed by the opposite party at the time the accident happened.

The next question for consideration is what compensation the man is entitled to. It is clear from the evidence that the applicant's claim is grossly exaggerated. He states that his wages are over Rs. 83 a month whereas it is clear from the evidence that they are not more than a rupee a day. As regards the injury there is a conflict of evidence between Dr. Talati and Dr. Joglekar, but having regard to the very careful and detailed examination made by Dr. Joglekar and of his explicit evidence as to the man's condition, I feel that I must act upon it. Dr. Joglekar draws the inference that the man is totally incapacitated for heavy work for life, but I think that he is a little pessimistic in his ultimate conclusion. On the whole I think that the man's injury should be estimated on the basis of 40 per cent. I therefore award him Rs. 504 with Rs. 35 as costs.

5th November 1928.

(Signed) J. F. GENNINGS.

Unemployment in Amsterdam

REPORT OF COMMISSION

The results of the investigation conducted by a special commission appointed in 1926 have recently been published. The investigation was carried out through the municipal labour exchange and a questionnaire was issued, with certain exceptions, to "all wage-earners of 18 years of age and over and registered in the books of the municipal labour exchange and engaged in trade, industry, etc., of whom it was not known with certainty whether they were still at work and had merely registered because they desired to change their post."

The results of the enquiry showed that on September 15, 1926, about 11,373 industrial workers of 18 years of age and over were unemployed. Estimating the total wage-earning population 18 years of age and over as 184,205, it was found that 6.2 per cent (7.2 per cent. of the men and 1.2 per cent. of the women) were unemployed.

The occupations with the largest number of unemployed were the building trades, transport trades, and the groups of general workers, which together constituted about 59 per cent. of those out of work. An analysis by age showed that the number of young men among the unemployed was comparatively too large. Of the 11,373 unemployed, 7,249 (including 58 women) were married, 3,449 (including 264 women) were single without dependants and 675 (including 40 women) were supporting dependants. An analysis of the place of origin disclosed that 70.54 per cent. of the unemployed were born in Amsterdam.

In 608 of the families of the 7,249 unemployed married persons both the husband and wife worked. The average number of children living at home per married family was 2.2.

Of the unemployed persons given medical examination, 86.8 per cent. were found fit for the trade to which they reported themselves to belong, and all but 0.2 per cent. of the group were fitted for other work, although 5.4 per cent. were capable of doing only very light work other than in their reported trade. Of the 13.2 per cent. of the unemployed who were found unfit for their reported trade, there were some who were able to do light work, and others very light work.

Among the proposals made by the commission as a result of its study were:

A. Further investigation should be made as soon as practicable "into the special circumstances of trade and industry which are the causes of the unemployment."

B. All possible measures should be taken by the authorities towards the systematic and rational development of local industry in general, for example—

1. Giving technical and economic advice on the lines of the services provided by the industrial advisory experts and by the various national information offices.
2. Providing facilities or lightening the financial burdens of local trade and industry in specific cases.
3. Giving orders or financial assistance to enterprises which are in temporary difficulties, but not economically unsound.
4. Helping to form a reserve army of workers who shall be capable in every sense of the word. This can be done by prompting efficient vocational training and a practical apprentice system.

information obtained concerning the vocational training both of the unemployed and of their children point to a deficiency in this respect.

The following measures should be promoted by the municipality:

1. The ascertaining of the ordinary labour requirements of the different trade and industrial groups.
2. The extension of education and vocational perfecting in the crafts and trades where there is opportunity for more workers. The commission holds, however, that reeducation is not an ideal.
3. The transfer of the unemployed (especially persons without families) either to other parts of Holland or to foreign countries.
4. The improvement of a system of employing different unemployed persons on each occasion for work in any one trade, whenever this is practicable.
5. The regularizing of employment by having certain kinds of work done in the winter months.
6. The protection of the Amsterdam labour market against outside competition.
7. The prohibition of the unfair competition of workers in public services, of persons who receive wages or of other persons having two sources of income.

1. The commission suggests primarily to national authorities the advisability of—

1. Extending the unemployment insurance system to all the unemployed.
2. When unemployment insurance has been adequately extended, as suggested in 1, the benefit regulations designed to aid victims in industries particularly influenced by the depression could be eliminated.
3. Any assistance which the authorities give other than insurance benefit, should as far as possible be adjusted to the specific needs of the individual.
4. Opportunities of employment should be created, for which suitable individuals receiving insurance benefit could be trained.
5. Separate attention by the authorities in the matter of aid to workers whose capacity is not at the normal level.
6. Special attention by the authorities to the problem of training and recreation for unemployed persons.

2. The municipal activities in such an unemployment scheme as is outlined above should be concentrated in the hands of a single "wethouder" (an official elected by the town council). (Abstracted from "Monthly Labour Review," Washington, June 1928.)

Labour Conditions in France

HOLIDAYS WITH PAY

On 23rd June 1928, Messrs. Ennemond Payen and Louis Buyat introduced in the French Chamber of Deputies a Bill providing for an annual holiday of one week with pay for industrial workers and shop assistants.

The explanatory memorandum accompanying the Bill points out that State officials are granted annual holidays and that the principle is now universally recognised, and maintains that justice and humanity demand the extension of this practice to factories and shops. The proposed regulation, it is said, will not involve more than a minimum of State supervision, and requires no legislation beyond the affirmation of the right to an annual holiday of one week, leaving the persons concerned to arrange its application at their convenience.

The text of the Bill provides that a worker or employee who has been in attendance in the factory or shop for over three consecutive years, and has during that time not been absent for more than 48 hours except in case of illness or with permission, will be entitled to six days of leave with pay at the same rate as that which he receives when in attendance.

In the case of workers employed on piece rates or with production premiums, the wage will be based on the average for the four weeks preceding the holiday. Each worker shall receive a book containing information relating to his right to holidays. The application of these measures will be left to works regulations, to be drawn up by employers and workers jointly. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, October 1, 1928.)

Results of the Russian Census

SOCIAL COMPOSITION OF THE POPULATION

In a previous number of *Industrial and Labour Information* some details were given of the labour statistics derived from the provisional results of the census taken in Russia in December 1926. Further provisional data are now available relating to the social composition of the population.

The total population of the Soviet Union is about 147,000,000, of whom 120·7 millions (82 per cent.) constitute the rural population and 26·3 millions (18 per cent.) the urban population. There are about 76 million women and 71 million men. The following table shows the number of persons in each group who are self-supporting :

Group	Number of persons				Total
	Self-supporting		Dependent	Total	
	In millions	Percentage				In millions	Percentage
Whole population	86·2	58·6	60·8*	41·4	147
Males	46·2	65	24·8	35	71
Females	40	52·6	36	47·4	76
Urban population	12·1	46	14·2	54	26·3
Rural population	74·1	61·4	46·6	38·6	120·7

*Of this total, 37·5 millions are children under 10 years of age.

It will be noted that there is a considerable difference in the relative number of self-supporting persons in the urban and rural populations, respectively. According to the author of the article from which this information is taken, the difference is largely due to the method followed in taking the census.

Married women whose work is confined to housekeeping, as is constantly the case in towns, are classified by the census as dependants ; if, however, they assist the head of the family in his occupation, as is generally the case in agricultural undertakings, they are classified as self-supporting. Thus, only 3·8 millions (28·4 per cent.) of the total female urban population of 13·4 millions are self-supporting, while 36·2 millions (57·8 per cent.) of the total female rural population of 62·5 millions are self-supporting.

Of the 86·2 million persons regarded as self-supporting, 82·7 millions (95·9 per cent.) are engaged in some economic activity, one million

(1·2 per cent.) are unemployed, and 2·5 millions (2·9 per cent.) consist of soldiers, pensioners, etc.

The active population is distributed as follows :—

Occupation	Men	Women	Total	Percentage
			(in thous ands)	
Agriculture ..	36,151	35,551	71,702	86·6
Industry ..	2,074	718	2,792	3·4
Artisans ..	1,413	453	1,866	2·3
Building trades ..	356	8	364	0·4
Railways ..	817	73	890	1·1
Other forms of transport	377	26	403	0·5
Commerce and banking	899	257	1,156	1·4
Public services ..	1,155	737	1,892	2·3
Miscellaneous ..	724	888	1,612	2·0
Total ..	43,966	38,711	82,677	100·0

It will be seen that in agriculture, the principal occupation, there is a noticeable approximation between the numbers of men and women. The totals for all other occupations are 7,815,000 men and 3,160,000 women. It will also be observed that more women than men are included under the heading "Miscellaneous"; this is apparently due to the factor of domestic service. The proportion of female labour occupied in transport and the building trades is negligible.

The preponderance of agriculture is clearly shown by the fact that the rural population amounts to 82 per cent. of the total, while the proportion of agricultural labour to the active population is still higher (86·6 per cent.).

Industry, crafts and the building trades account for only 6·1 per cent. of the total.

Communications, public services, etc., make up 7·3 per cent.

The following table shows the distribution by occupation of the urban and rural populations respectively.

Occupation	Urban	Rural
		(in thous ands)
Agriculture ..	1,600	70,102
Industry ..	2,249	543
Artisans ..	996	870
Building trades ..	202	162
Railways ..	648	242
Other forms of transport	333	70
Commerce and banking	934	222
Public services ..	1,385	507
Miscellaneous ..	905	707
Total	9,252	73,425

The artisans are divided fairly equally between town and country. It will be noted that a considerable part of the urban population is employed in agricultural work.

In the case of workers employed on piece rates or with production premiums, the wage will be based on the average for the four preceding the holiday. Each worker shall receive a book containing information relating to his right to holidays. The application of these measures will be left to works regulations, to be drawn up by employers and workers jointly. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, October 1, 1928.)

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*Of this total, 37·5 millions are children under 10 years of age.

It will be noted that there is a considerable difference in the relative number of self-supporting persons in the urban and rural populations, respectively. According to the author of the article from which this information is taken, the difference is largely due to the method followed in taking the census.

Married women whose work is confined to housekeeping, as is constantly the case in towns, are classified by the census as dependants; if, however, they assist the head of the family in his occupation, as is generally the case in agricultural undertakings, they are classified as self-supporting. Thus, only 3·8 millions (28·4 per cent.) of the total female urban population of 13·4 millions are self-supporting, while 36·2 millions (57·8 per cent.) of the total female rural population of 62·5 millions are self-supporting.

Of the 86·2 million persons regarded as self-supporting, 82·7 millions (95·9 per cent.) are engaged in some economic activity, one million

(1·2 per cent.) are unemployed, and 2·5 millions (2·9 per cent.) consist of soldiers, pensioners, etc.

The active population is distributed as follows :—

Occupation	Men	Women	Total	Percentage
		(in thousands)		
Agriculture	36,151	35,551	71,702	86·6
Industry	2,074	718	2,792	3·4
Artisans	1,413	453	1,866	2·3
Building trades	356	8	364	0·4
Railways	817	73	890	1·1
Other forms of transport	377	26	403	0·5
Commerce and banking	899	257	1,156	1·4
Public services	1,155	737	1,892	2·3
Miscellaneous	724	888	1,612	2·0
Total	43,966	38,711	82,677	100·0

It will be seen that in agriculture, the principal occupation, there is a noticeable approximation between the numbers of men and women. The totals for all other occupations are 7,815,000 men and 3,160,000 women. It will also be observed that more women than men are included under the heading "Miscellaneous"; this is apparently due to the factor of domestic service. The proportion of female labour occupied in transport and the building trades is negligible.

The preponderance of agriculture is clearly shown by the fact that the rural population amounts to 82 per cent. of the total, while the proportion of agricultural labour to the active population is still higher (86·6 per cent.).

Industry, crafts and the building trades account for only 6·1 per cent. of the total.

Communications, public services, etc., make up 7·3 per cent.

The following table shows the distribution by occupation of the urban and rural populations respectively.

Occupation	Urban	Rural
		(in thousands)
Agriculture	1,600	70,102
Industry	2,249	543
Artisans	996	870
Building trades	202	162
Railways	648	242
Other forms of transport	333	70
Commerce and banking	934	222
Public services	1,385	507
Miscellaneous	707	707
Total	9,252	73,425

The artisans are divided fairly equally between town and country. It will be noted that a considerable part of the urban population is employed in agricultural work.

The social situation in agriculture is quite different from that which exists in other occupations. The distribution according to status is as follows:—

Social status	Agriculture		Other occupations	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Workers	1,102,700	1.54	4,498,569	40.99
Salaried employees	98,597	0.14	3,881,299	35.37
Liberal professions	....		136,525	1.24
Heads of undertakings employing hired workers	738,072	1.03	106,480	0.97
Heads of undertakings employing members of their families	19,937,301	27.80	436,033	3.97
Independent workers	1,732,890	2.42	1,566,972	14.28
Members of families employed by the head	48,092,003	67.07	349,045	3.18
Total	71,701,563	100	10,974,973	100

The proportion of the agricultural population which is regarded as strictly proletarian thus amounts to only 1.68 per cent. of the total, while in other occupations it accounts for 76.36 per cent.

Detailed statistics show that the distribution according to social status varies widely in occupations other than agriculture.

In the public services and railway transport, the whole staff consists of wage-earners. In manufacturing industry 99.94 per cent. are wage earners, in the miscellaneous occupations 90.07 per cent., in commerce and banking 58.64 per cent., and in transport, other than railways, 56.82 per cent.

The proportion of wage earners is lowest among artisans (40.53 per cent.). (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, October 1, 1928.)

Social Policy in Cuba

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE ON LABOUR QUESTIONS

By a Decree of 16th July 1928, the Cuban Government provided for the appointment of a sub-committee of the National Committee for Economic Defence set up in March 1928, to study and propose to the Committee, measures which it considers necessary for the improvement of the conditions of life and labour of the workers.

The sub-committee will include Members of Parliament, a representative of the railwaymen's organisation and two representatives of tobacco workers. The secretary will be Mr. Loveira, Chief of the Immigration, Colonisation and Labour Section of the Department of Agriculture. The chairman will be the Secretary for Agriculture, Trade and Labour. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, September 3, 1928.)

Wages and Hours Movements Overseas

GERMANY

Textile Industry.—No agreement has been reached in the disputes in the Duren and Munchen-Gladbach and Rheydt areas of which accounts were given in the September 1928 issue of the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*. In the Duren dispute, conciliation proceedings broke down on 24th September, while in the Munchen-Gladbach district the employers met the demands of the workers by giving notice of a general lock-out for the whole area unless the workers agreed to the extension of the existing general and wage agreements until the end of 1929. Informal negotiations were initiated by the Conciliation Officer, during which the employers notified their intention to extend the lock-out to workers in the Viersen silk industry. The lock-out became effective at the end of September, and involved some 45,000 workers. The informal conciliation proceedings broke down on 9th October, and the latest reports state that the dispute is likely to extend to all the textile workers (about 190,000) in the Rhineland and Westphalia.

Demands affecting wages and hours have also been advanced by the workers in a number of other districts, of which the following are the more important: North Hanover (7000 workers); Saxony, where some 25,000 workers in the weaving mills have demanded a 25 per cent. increase in wages; Saxony-Thuringia, where an arbitration award affecting working hours has been rejected by the employers; Silesia; and Hamburg (2200 workers).

FRANCE

Textile and Metal Workers at Halluin.—Towards the end of July 1928, engineers in the metallurgical works at Halluin demanded a wage increase of 50 centimes an hour and obtained an increase of 30 centimes. Engineers in the textile industries then went on strike in support of a similar demand. Other classes of textile workers ceased work in support of the engineers' demand, and by 14th September practically all the textile workers in Halluin were on strike. On that date a demand was made for an all-round increase of 50 centimes an hour, and on 19th September, following the rejection of this demand, the *Syndicat Unitaire* (communist) declared a general strike for Halluin and the surrounding districts. The *Syndicat Libre* of Halluin supported the strike, in which about 7000 workers of all unions in Halluin participated. Efforts to extend the strike met with some success in certain of the small towns in the locality, but with small response in larger towns like Roubaix, Tourcoing, Lille and Armentieres. Official figures show that on 26th September about 50 per cent. (or 19,000) of the workers in and around Halluin were on strike. At a meeting with the unions on 4th October the employers announced that they were not prepared, at present, to consider the question of an increase in wages. On 5th October a general strike in Tourcoing was declared by the *Syndicat Unitaire*, but of 40,000 workers in the town only 3000 ceased work. Many strikers have returned to work in the district outside Halluin, and at Armentieres and Houplines, in particular, it is reported that the resumption of work will soon be general.

POLAND

Lodz Textile Workers.—On 20th September 1928, approximately 40,000 textile workers in Lodz came out on strike as a protest against the issue by the employers of new regulations imposing severe disciplinary penalties. The number of workers affected by the strike increased rapidly, and a general strike was threatened. The workers invoked the intervention of the Government, and negotiations were arranged between representatives of the employers and the trade union. On the advice of the Government, the regulations in question, which the employers claimed to be in conformity with a Presidential Decree, were withdrawn, and the strikers returned to work on 24th September.

UNITED STATES

The strike of textile workers at New Bedford, of which an account was given in the August number of the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*, page 285, was settled early in October by a compromise, which was brought about by the State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation, the employers having reduced their demand for a wage reduction of 10 per cent. to 5 per cent. Work was resumed on 8th October. (From "*Ministry of Labour Gazette*," London, October 1928.)

Labour Banks in the United States

According to a statement compiled by the Industrial Relations Section of Princeton University, there were, at the end of June 1928, a total of 28 labour banks in the United States.

As an indication of the national character of this development in the field of industrial relations, it is noted that the banks are located in fifteen different States, distributed from the Atlantic to the Pacific Coast, and in the District of Columbia.

Total resources are nearly 115,000,000 dollars, and total deposits exceed 98,000,000 dollars. Deposits in the individual banks vary from a minimum of 160,000 dollars to a maximum of more than 19,000,000 dollars. The Federation Bank and Trust Company of New York City, the Engineers' National Bank of Cleveland, and the Amalgamated Bank of New York are, in the order named, the largest institutions, their total deposits amounting to 46 per cent. of the grand total.

This form of activity on the part of organised labour was initiated about eight years ago when, under the leadership of Mr. Warren Stone, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers established a bank in Cleveland.

During this period of eight years a total of 40 banks have been organised, of which 28 remain as distinctly labour banks. Of the 12 which have disappeared, two failed, one was liquidated, and the balance were merged or absorbed by other trade union interests. Most of the banks have grown steadily, and many of them have been entirely successful. (From "*Industrial and Labour Information*," Geneva, October 15, 1928.)

Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency
Returns for Third Quarter

(Continued from page 171 of the October 1928 issue.)

Federations of Trade Unions

Table I on pages 175 to 177 of the October 1928 issue shows that there are six Federations of Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency—(1) The Central Labour Board in Bombay; (2) The Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Association with its head office in Bombay; (3) The Bombay Presidency Postmen's and Lower Grade Staff Union also with its head office in Bombay; (4) The G.I.P. Railway Staff Union with its head office in Bombay; (5) The Bombay Trades Council with its head office in Bombay; and (6) The Labour Union in Ahmedabad, which is not exactly a Federation in the accepted sense of the term but rather a Central Bureau which controls under one management all the various Unions of cotton mill operatives in Ahmedabad City. This Union, however, extended its sphere of activities during the quarter ended the 1st June 1928 by organising a new Union of Municipal Sweepers in Ahmedabad City. The constitution of the first three Federations and the terms of affiliation of each of their members was fully described in the issues of the *Labour Gazette* for December 1925 and March 1926. The Bombay Port Trust Employees' Central Union, which had functioned as a Federation of the three Unions of Port Trust workers during the first year of its creation in 1926, decided not to function as a Federation but as a Central Council of the Bombay Port Trust Employees. This Council is composed of representatives from each of the three Port Trust Unions and it functions only when the interests of all the workers of the different departments of the Bombay Port Trust are affected. The constitution of the G.I.P. Railway Staff Union, which is a Federation of the following 9 Unions, has now been settled and the Union was registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, on the 17th August 1928:—

1. The Wadi Bunder Staff Union (G.I.P. Rly.);
2. The Victoria Terminus Commercial Section Staff Union (G.I.P. Rly.);
3. The G.I.P. Railway Cabin Staff Union;
4. The G.I.P. Railway Poona Staff Union, Poona;
5. The G.I.P. Railway Audit Office Staff Union;
6. The G.I.P. Railway Dhond Staff Union, Dhond;
7. The G.I.P. Railway Sholapur Staff Union, Sholapur;
8. The G.I.P. Railway Administrative Offices Staff Union; and
9. The G.I.P. Railway Mechanical Department Office Staff Union.

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

Bombay Unions. The following Unions in the Bombay Presidency are affiliated to the All-India Trade Union Congress—

- (1) B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees' Union ;
- (2) Bombay Port Trust Docks Staff Union ;
- (3) Bombay Port Trust Employees' Union ;
- (4) Bombay Port Trust Railway Employees' Union ;
- (5) Bombay Textile Labour Union ;
- (6) Bombay Press Workers Union ;
- (7) Clerks' Union ;
- (8) G.I.P. Railway Staff Union ;
- (9) G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union ;
- (10) Girni Kamgar Mahamandal ;
- (11) Government Peons and Menials Union ;
- (12) Indian Seamen's Union ;
- (13) North-Western Railway Union, Karachi ;
- (14) Wadi Bunder Staff Union (G.I.P. Railway).

The Central Labour Board.—In view of the formation of the Bombay Trades Council, to which half the number of Union members of the Board are also affiliated, the activities of the Central Labour Board were mainly confined to Purity Mission work and to organising and delivering lectures on temperance, thrift and hygiene. The Board, however, continues to maintain its separate entity for purposes of submitting representations to Government in response to enquiries concerning questions dealing with new proposals for Labour Legislation and matters common to Labour in general.

The Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Association.—The eighth session of the Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Conference was held on the 3rd and the 4th June 1928 at Satara under the Presidency of Mr. R. P. Karandikar, Vakil, High Court. The President in his address referred to the many grievances of the subordinate staff and concluded with an exhortation to the delegates to "educate, organise and then agitate." About 30 resolutions were passed at the Conference. One of these advocated the grant of advance increments to the sorters at Ahmedabad and Poona to equalise their pay with those of the Postal clerks. Another was for the centralisation of sorting work at Poona in order to afford relief to the workers on the running sections. A third demanded exemption to Head Sorters from sorting work in all cases where the staff in the Sorting Section or Sorting Office consisted of three or more sorters. The remaining resolutions reiterated the other grievances of the members and asked for their early removal. The Conference decided that, in addition to the usual monthly organ, viz., "General Letter" in English, published by the Association, a vernacular "General Letter" in Marathi should be published at Ahmednagar for the information of mail-guards, van-peons, porters, etc. Another important activity of the Association during the quarter was the representation made to the Postmaster-General, Bombay, by a deputation consisting of the Assistant Secretary of the Association and the General Secretary of the Bombay Postal Union, regarding the number

of examinations from the Bombay General Post Office staff for the Selection Grade Examination and the hardships caused to signallers in Bombay on account of frequent transfers. The proposal made by the deputation to the effect that 170 officials from the Bombay General Post Office and 190 from the mofussil should be permitted to appear for the Selection Grade Examination was agreed to by the Postmaster-General, Bombay, with regard to the question affecting the Bombay signallers, the deputation were asked to submit a written representation on the subject.

The Bombay Presidency Postmen's and Lower Grade Staff Union.—The Temporary Secretary of the Union submitted a lengthy representation to the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, Simla, on the 10th August 1928, on behalf of the Postmen and Lower Grade Staff. He stated that the Union were grateful to Government for their new revision scheme regarding the salaries of Postmen and Lower Grade Staff and also for the creation of a Lower Clerkship Division in Post Offices. The following suggestions were made in order to remove the shortcomings in the measures proposed by Government and to enable the staff to derive the best possible advantage from those measures—

- (1) That admission to the Lower Clerkship Division must strictly be restricted to postmen and mail guards ;
- (2) That the preliminary examination in English dictation prescribed for admission to the Lower Clerkship Division should be dropped, admission being made on the ground of experience and competency ;
- (3) That the scales of pay for the postmen, readers, overseers and packers in Bombay City should be revised and improved ;
- (4) That the existing anomalies in the salaries of senior and junior men in the revised scales of pay should be removed by granting to the senior men some advance increments in proportion to the length of their services ;
- (5) That pension and leave rules for the lower grade staff should be brought into line with those for the other employees ; and
- (6) That Government should not accept the principle that the maximum salary of postmen should be fixed in reference to the minimum for clerks.

A matter of interest to the members of the Bombay Presidency Postmen's and Lower Grade Staff Union is the transference of the Head Office of the All-India Union from Delhi and Lahore to Bombay. The following are the office-bearers of the All-India Union for the year 1927-28 :—

President.—Maulana Mahomed Yakub, M.L.A.

Vice-Presidents.—All the Presidents of the Provincial Unions.

General Secretary.—Mr. V. G. Dalvi, Bar.-at-Law, Bombay.

Assistant Secretaries.—(1) Mr. Dhondo Keshav Tendulkar, Bombay,

(2) Mr. Munshi Wazir Ahmed, Meerut,

(3) Mr. Munshi Mahabir Prasad Lal, Calcutta.

Treasurer.—Mr. Mallick Gewan Lal, Bar.-at-Law, Lahore.

The G. I. P. Railway Staff Union.—This Union, which is a Federation of 9 Unions, was registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, on the 17th August 1928. Out of the nine Unions affiliated to this

Federation six have already been registered under the Act. Ever since the reorganisation of this Union as a Federation at the beginning of the year 1927, there has been steady progress in the organisation of the staff of the various Divisions on the G.I.P. Railway. During the quarter under review the G.I.P. Railway Mechanical Department Office Staff Union was formed and was affiliated to the Federation. Another Union was formed at Jubbulpore under the name of the G.I.P. Railway Jubbulpore Staff Union. The total income of the Federation during the quarter amounted to Rs. 710-2-0 and the total expenditure to Rs. 715-15-0. Mr. S. C. Joshi, M.A., LL.B., M.L.C., the Chairman of the Enquiry Committee appointed by the Union to enquire into and report upon the grievances of the Railway employees at different centres on the G.I.P. Railway system, issued an appeal to all members of the staff requesting them to co-operate with the Committee in their endeavour to procure true and correct information regarding the grievances of the staff, and asking them to send their replies to the questionnaire so as to reach the Committee before the 31st July 1928. The results of the Enquiry have not yet been published.

The Labour Union, Ahmedabad.—As compared with the previous quarter the membership of the Labour Union increased by 400. This is mainly due to an increase in the membership of the Throstle Union from 6655 in the previous quarter to 7055 during the quarter under review. The Labour Investigator at Ahmedabad reports that the system of enrolment of members by localities also partly accounts for the rise in the membership. The other Unions under the management of the Labour Union show no change in their membership figures for the previous quarter. The normal activities of the Union in regard to complaints, claim for compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, loans, savings bank, schools and medical relief continued as usual. The officials of the Union carried on negotiations with the management of the Saraspur and the Bharatkhand Cotton Mills regarding disputes which arose between the employees and the employers in these mills over the question of the dismissal of Unionist workers, and brought about a settlement in each case in favour of the workers. A change in the policy of the Labour Union was reflected in the recent resolutions passed by it regarding organising a volunteer corps, the promise of workers not to work in place of strikers involved in authorised strikes and the refusal of the Union members to work along with non-Unionists in mills where the former predominate. The Labour Union continued to publish the *Majur Sandesh* in which a series of articles on the Bombay Mill Strike were given, in addition to the usual Indian and Foreign News of interest to Labour. The Labour Union's Representative Board decided to start a Labour Exchange with a view to putting a stop to the practice of exacting bribes from labourers before engaging them.

PROGRESS OF INDIVIDUAL UNIONS

BOMBAY

The Bombay Textile Labour Union.—There was no change in the membership of this Union during the quarter. As the members of the

Union were involved in the General Strike which was in progress in the Bombay Cotton Mills during the quarter under review they were not able to pay their usual subscription fees. The average monthly income of the Union for the quarter was practically nil while the average monthly expenditure amounted to about Rs. 654. Mr. R. R. Bakhale, General Secretary of the Union, who had gone to Europe to attend the International Conference of Textile Workers at Ghent, also attended the Swansea Session of the British Trade Union Congress as a fraternal delegate from India and delivered a speech on the 5th September 1928, in the course of which he referred to the progress of Trade Unionism in India and the abysmal ignorance, illiteracy and poverty of the working classes. The second annual general meeting of the Bombay Textile Labour Union was held on the 16th and the 18th July at Kurla and Madanpura. The annual report, which was presented at and adopted by the meeting, showed that the membership during the year stood at 7256 as against 9000 in the previous year. Income from subscriptions amounted to Rs. 12,597-12-0 and expenditure to Rs. 9099-12-10. The total assets of the Union, including the amount brought forward from the previous year, amounted to Rs. 13,515-12-5. Nine meetings of the Managing Committee of the Union were held. The officials of the Union were busy during the quarter with the conduct of the General Strike in the Bombay Textile Mills, a settlement of which was arrived at on the 4th October 1928.

The National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma.—(Formerly the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants of India and Burma, Limited). The membership of this Union decreased from 1577 in the previous quarter to 1570 during the quarter under review. The following table shows the present effective membership over the various Railways in India:—

Railway Administration	Class of Members					Total number of members
	A	B	C	D	E	
G. I. P. Railway	754	34	37	10	10	845
B. B. & C. I. Railway	59	6	13	14	14	106
M. & S. M. Railway	37	16	25	102	48	228
S. I. Railway	12	15	6	11	3	47
N. W. Railway	35	2	7	8	3	55
N. G. S. Railway	63	3	3	5	1	75
E. I. Railway	185	2	9	15	1	212
A. B. Railway	2					2
Total	1,147	78	100	165	80	1,570

The numbers of members of the different classes shown against each Railway are those who definitely belong to one or other of the 52 branches of the Society, which are scattered over the whole of India and Burma. The number of members on the rolls of the Society's Voluntary Legal Defence Fund increased from 1031, as reported in the previous quarter, to 1113 during the quarter under review. The number of members subscribing to the Life Insurance Fund and the Sickness Insurance Fund

were 431 and 89 respectively. The average monthly income during the latest quarter for which information is available amounted to nearly Rs. 3400 and the average monthly expenditure to nearly Rs. 2800. This Union, formerly registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1913 with the name of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants of India and Burma Ltd., adopted a revised constitution in accordance with the requirements of the Indian Trade Unions Act, and was registered under the latter Act on the 22nd August 1928 with the present name.

The All-India and Burma Covenanted Non-Gazetted Railway Services Association.—The membership of this Union stood at 234 as compared with 239 in the previous quarter. There was an increase in the average monthly income from Rs. 199 in the previous quarter to Rs. 250 during the quarter under review, whereas the average monthly expenditure was only Rs. 75, as compared with Rs. 261 in the previous quarter. The Union reports that during the quarter under review there had been no activity of importance. The Agents of the Assam Bengal Railway and the Eastern Bengal Railway are reported to have signified their willingness to recognise the Association. It was proposed to hold an Annual Conference of the Association at Lahore in October 1928.

The Indian Seamen's Union.—During the quarter under report, 845* new members were enrolled in the three departments of the Union. The average monthly income amounted to Rs. 2125 while the average monthly expenditure amounted to Rs. 2237. During the quarter under report the Union arranged nine meetings, of which two were general meetings, two departmental meetings and five meetings of the Executive Council. The Annual General Meeting of the Union was held on the 21st July 1928 under the presidency of Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A. The annual report and the balance sheet for the year 1927 were adopted. The membership in the Saloon Department at the close of the year 1927 stood at 11,959 as against 11,543 at the beginning of the year. The Engine and Deck Departments were only added to the Union during the year 1927 and the membership for these departments stood at 3810 and 3233 respectively. The income from the Saloon Department amounted to Rs. 10,535 and the expenditure to Rs. 9116-15-9 leaving a balance of Rs. 1418-0-3. The income from the Engine and Deck Departments amounted to Rs. 7699-7-0 and the expenditure to Rs. 7143-12-6, leaving a balance of Rs. 555-10-6. The Union had incurred heavy expenditure on litigation in order to protect the rights and privileges of the members of the Union and the report states that this would be inevitable so long as the system of recruitment of seamen through the medium of Shipping Brokers continues. In response to a reference from Government asking for the views of the Union on Mr. A. M. Chowdhery's Bill to amend the Indian Merchants Shipping Act so as to set up employment bureaux for seamen at the ports of Calcutta and Bombay, the Union submitted a memorandum to the Government of India through the Government of Bombay, Marine Department, expressing full agreement with the provisions of the Bill. A deputation of the Union consisting of the following gentlemen waited on the Honourable Sir Ghulam Hussain

* This information was received subsequent to the preparation of the Tables published in the October issue.

Hidayatullah, General Member of the Government of Bombay, on the 14th July 1928: Messrs. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A., R. S. Asavle, M.L.C., L. G. Pradhan, B.A., I.L.B., Syed Munawar, M.L.C., Mahomed Ebrahim, Abdulkarim Hasan, and A. S. Silveira. The deputation represented in detail the grievances of seamen regarding recruitment and unfair treatment meted out by the Shipping Office and Shipping Brokers to the members of the Union and demanded a redress of these grievances. The Honourable the General Member assured the deputation that he would do his best in the matter as early as possible.

The Seamen's Union.—The membership of this Union decreased to 8555 in the last quarter to 8550 during the quarter under review. The average monthly income for the quarter under report amounted to Rs. 1157 and the average monthly expenditure during the same period Rs. 714. The Union has drafted its new constitution in accordance with the requirements of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, with a view to registration. These rules have been submitted to Mr. Gordon, Superintendent Purser of the P. & O. Co., for approval. The attitude of the Union towards the Indian Seamen's Union underwent no change during the quarter and consequently no attempts were made to bring about an amalgamation of the two Unions. The funds of the Union, as at 1st October 1928, showed a credit balance of about Rs. 15,000.

The Government Peons' and Menials' Union.—The membership of this Union stood at 1002. According to the latest information available, the distribution of the members of this Union over different Government offices in Bombay is as follows:—

New Custom House ..	..	248
Income Tax Office ..	..	110
High Court ..	..	108
Offices in the Old Custom House	..	107
Secretariat ..	..	76
Accountant General's Office ..	..	53
Small Causes Courts ..	..	36
Public Works Department ..	..	43
Excise and Tobacco Department ..	..	200
Miscellaneous Government Offices ..	..	21

Total .. 1,002

The average monthly income of the Union increased to Rs. 206 from Rs. 107 during the previous quarter and the expenditure correspondingly increased to Rs. 102 as against Rs. 87.

The Gimi Kamgar Mahamandal.—There was no change in the membership of the Union during the quarter under review. The chief activity of the Union during the quarter was in connection with arriving at a settlement of the General Strike which had been in progress in the textile mills in Bombay City. For this purpose the officials of the Union addressed meetings of the strikers and also issued printed leaflets.

The G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union.—This Union, which is an amalgamation of the G.I.P. Railway Workmen's Union and the G.I.P. Railway Employees' General Union, was registered under the Indian

Trade Unions Act on the 5th October 1928. It has a total membership of 21,554. The average monthly income amounted to Rs. 3663 and the average monthly expenditure to Rs. 1690. During the last three months, new branches were opened at the following centres: Amla, Katni, Satna, Jabulpore and Delhi. A deputation consisting of Messrs. B. F. Bradley, S. H. Jhabvala, V. P. Rele, K. N. Joglekar, V. P. Purandhare, S. DeSouza and D. L. Nandurbarkar waited on Mr. D. S. Burn, Acting Agent, G. I. P. Railway, on the 23rd August and acquainted him with the grievances of the railwaymen. The interview was of an informal nature and lasted for about an hour. The main grievances placed before the Agent were regarding security of service, uniform working hours, minimum wages, abolition of fines, debits and reductions, leave for all alike, abolition of medical examination and legitimate increase of wages to workers. It is reported that the Agent agreed to recognise the Union on its registration under the Indian Trade Unions Act and to give favourable consideration to the demands put forward.

The annual report of the G.I.P. Railway Workmen's Union for the year 1927-28 states that the general working of the Union had been highly satisfactory both on account of an unprecedented rise in membership and the extraordinary organising activities carried on over the line. The membership at the close of the year under report was 9473 as compared with 2961 at the end of the previous year. The income from subscriptions and other sources during the year amounted to Rs. 12,950-1-3 and the expenses to Rs. 4964-5-7. The total net assets at the credit of the Union were Rs. 34,303-5-1. In the course of the year 130 complaints were handled by the Union, the principal questions involved being those of fines, victimisation, free passes, leave, and removals from service. An amount of Rs. 752 was advanced as loans to the members and a sum of Rs. 878-3-0 was recovered by instalments, with interest. An Unemployment Fund was started and the total amount subscribed to it was Rs. 177-9-0. The Union made representations in six cases to the management for the purpose of giving compensation to those who lost their lives or who suffered bodily injury in the course of their employment. As both the workshopmen and other staff employed on the Railway had many grievances in common, the removal of which required joint and concerted action, the Union found it necessary and expedient to amalgamate with the G.I.P. Railway Employees' General Union.

On the 20th August, three meetings of the G. I. P. Railway employees were organised in order to demonstrate their unity and strength. One meeting was addressed by Mr. S. H. Jhabvala, the Honorary General Secretary of the Union, while the other two meetings were addressed by Messrs. V. P. Rele and Purandhare respectively.

The B. B. & C. I. Railway Employees' Union.—There was a rise in the membership of this Union from 3956 during the last quarter to 4562 during the quarter under review. The increase was due to an intensive propaganda carried on by its officials for submitting various grievances to the Railway administration. The average monthly income showed a considerable increase and stood at Rs. 1158 for the quarter and the average

monthly expenditure amounted to Rs. 1185 for the same period. A meeting of the Block Signal men and Assistant Block Signal men and Brakesmen of the B. B. & C. I. Railway was held on the 29th July under the presidency of Mr. S. H. Jhabvala. The following demands were formulated, to be placed before the Agent, B.B. & C.I. Railway

- (1) Minimum pay should be Rs. 30 ;
- (2) There should be security of work till death ;
- (3) The daily hours of work should be 8 and overtime wages should be paid for work done over 8 hours ;
- (4) Free quarters should be provided ;
- (5) Fifteen days' casual leave should be granted each year.

The workers were exhorted to join the Union in large numbers in order that the Union might be able to bring pressure on the Agent to redress their grievances. The eighth annual general meeting of the Union was held on the 22nd August with Mr. S. H. Jhabvala in the chair. The annual report showed that the membership rose to 3473 during the year under report from 1792 in the previous year. The income of the Union amounted to Rs. 10,459-7-0 and the expenditure to Rs. 6985-2-6, leaving a balance of Rs. 3474-4-6.

The Unions of the Port Trust Employees.—There was a rise in the membership figures of the Bombay Port Trust Employees' Union and the Bombay Port Trust Railwaymen's Union, while there was no change in the case of the Bombay Port Trust Docks Staff Union.

A deputation of the Bombay Port Trust Railwaymen's Union waited on the Chairman of the Bombay Port Trust to discuss the grievances of the members and it was reported that the result was satisfactory. The questions discussed by the deputation had reference to the revision of the present scales of pay and leave rules. Three meetings of the Managing Committee were held during the quarter at which resolutions regarding time-scales of pay and leave with pay were passed and copies of these resolutions were sent to the Port Trust authorities for consideration. Retirement benefits amounting to Rs. 66-2-0 were granted to the members during the quarter.

A meeting of the Managing Committee of the Bombay Port Trust Railwaymen's Union was held on the 17th August with Mr. A. Saunders in the chair. The correspondence that passed between the Chairman of the Bombay Port Trust and the Union in regard to the pay of the men employed in the Railway Department was placed before the Committee and the Chairman of the meeting pointed out that there was a great anomaly in the scale of pay of the employees of the Port Trust Railway and the men employed in other Departments of the Port Trust. He also said that the employees of other Departments had the benefit of a time-scale of pay and as a result got increases automatically in course of time whereas the Railwaymen got grade-scales and had to wait for promotion till somebody died or retired. To a representation made by the Union regarding the revision of pay of Railwaymen, the Chairman of the Bombay Port Trust replied that he would consider the representation provided the Railwaymen agreed to forego the privileges of free railway passes and house allowances.

He also stated that the demand for an increase in pay was untenable at present because of a considerable drop in the cost of living since 1920. This reply was received with dissatisfaction by the Union which deferred taking of further action in the matter until the representative conference of all railwaymen of India to be held at Simla was over. Messrs. Godfrey, Elliot, Parab, Saunders and Jhabvala were appointed to form a Sub-Committee to formulate all the grievances of the workmen and to place the same before the Chairman during the course of September 1928. The Sub-Committee prepared a revised statement of the grievances of Railwaymen regarding time-scale of pay and leave rules which was read out at an extraordinary general meeting of the Union held on the 14th September and was unanimously approved.

The annual general meeting of the Bombay Port Trust Dock Staff Union was held on the 30th July, when Mr. S. H. Jhabvala presided. The annual report and the balance sheet for the year ending the 31st March 1928 were adopted. The membership during the year under review stood at 1050 as against 1100 during the previous year. The income of the Union amounted to Rs. 3503-2-0 and the expenditure to Rs. 1733-10-0 leaving a balance of Rs. 1769-8-0. The President exhorted the audience to strengthen the Union, which was fighting with the Port Trust authorities for increases in pay, revision of provident fund rules, and reduction in working hours. At an extraordinary general meeting held on the 27th September a reference was made to the enthusiasm created amongst the Dock workers as a result of the publication of the Union's newly started paper "The Dockman." A resolution was passed requesting the Chairman of the Port Trust to introduce an 8-hours day and to fix the period for "overtime" from 7-30 p.m. to 1-30 a.m.

On the 23rd September a meeting of the Bombay Port Trust Employees' Union was held under the presidency of Mr. S. H. Jhabvala. The President referred to the increase in the number of members from 800 to 1800 during the last three months and said that it was a healthy sign of the progress made. Resolutions were passed protesting against the Public Safety Bill, supporting the amalgamation of the three Unions of the Port Trust workers in Bombay, and requesting the Chairman of the Port Trust to introduce a time-scale system for the workers.

The Bombay Municipal Workmen's Union.—The membership of this Union decreased by nearly 900, mainly due, it is stated, to the facts that several grievances of the men remained unredressed. On the 3rd July, a meeting was held to discuss the steps to be taken to remove the inconvenience caused to the workmen of the Municipal workshop at Foras Road by the authorities, cutting off two of the water taps. Mr. Jhabvala, who addressed the men, stated that the workmen had many grievances regarding promotion, gratuity, etc. He pointed out that their grievances remained unredressed because they had not sufficiently strengthened their Union and he concluded his speech by exhorting the audience to make the Union a powerful organization. In the end, a resolution was passed requesting the Municipal Commissioner to redress all the grievances of the workers at an early date. Another meeting was held on the 4th August, when Mr. Pangarkar, a clerk of the Union,

pointed out that only a few men from the Road Department had so far become members and exhorted them to join the Union in larger numbers. He also stated that their demands regarding minimum pay of Rs. 30, gratuity and privilege leave for one month in a year had not yet been granted by the Municipal Commissioner but they would be immediately granted if about 10,000 workers became members of the Union. As a result of this exhortation 15 men enlisted themselves as members on the spot.

The first annual general meeting of the Union was held on the 21st August with Mr. S. H. Jhabvala in the chair. The annual report and the balance sheet for the year ending the 31st March 1928 were adopted. The annual report showed that the membership during the year stood at 2000. The income during the year amounted to Rs. 2583-15-0 and the expenditure to Rs. 1641-10-3 thus leaving a balance of Rs. 942-4-9. Resolutions were passed (1) requesting the Municipal Commissioner to redress the workers' grievances in regard to increase of wages, privilege leave, gratuity and confirmation of all men who had put in three years' temporary service; (2) requesting the Corporation to appoint a Sub-committee to investigate the grievances of Municipal Employees; (3) claiming representation of labour in the Corporation; and (4) protesting against the Trade Disputes Bill. At a meeting held on the 24th September, it was proposed to hold propaganda meetings in each Municipal Ward in order to increase the membership. At the same meeting resolutions were also passed requesting payment of monthly wages not later than the 10th of every month, demanding an increment in the pay of Mukadams and Bigaries and the grant of full pay for Sundays.

The Bombay Dock Workers' Union.—An extraordinary general meeting of the Union was held on the 24th July when Mr. S. H. Jhabvala informed those present that he had recently opened a new Centre at Reay Road for the convenience of the British India Steam Navigation Company's workers and requested them to join it in large numbers. He regretted that the Manager of the P. & O. Co's Docks at Mazgaon, had not redressed the men's grievances which had been represented to him. On the 31st July another meeting of the Union was held, presided over by Mr. S. S. Mirajkar. Resolutions were passed requesting the Manager of the Bombay Port Trust Docks (1) not to discharge workers without giving previous notice, (2) to give increases in wages, and (3) to introduce systems of gratuity and provident fund. The President of the meeting said that the Dock workers did not get wages proportionate to the amount of work they did and pointed out that the condition of European Dock workers had been worse many years ago but they improved it by organisation. He exhorted the audience to organise themselves into a strong Union if they wanted to have facilities for a comfortable living and better conditions of work. At a meeting of the R.I.M. Dock Staff held on the 4th August, a protest was recorded against the alleged arbitrary action of the Director, R. I. Marine, in dismissing eight workers on a charge of theft. It was stated that the dismissed men were innocent and the Director was requested to pay the dismissed men their dues.

During the quarter, the R.I.M. Branch of the Bombay Dock Workers' Union arranged five meetings of which two were general meetings and three managing committee meetings. Twelve complaints and applications were addressed to the R.I.M. Dockyard authorities regarding reinstatement of and gratuity to the Union members.

On the 25th September, a meeting attended by about 150 members was held under the auspices of the Mazagon Dock Employees' Union, at which Mr. S. H. Jhabvala presided. The President pointed out that, although he founded the R.I.M. Dock Workers' Union, some members appointed other office-bearers in his absence without consulting him. He therefore proposed to organise a separate Union under the name of the Mazagon Dock Employees' Union and exhorted the men to become members. The following new office-bearers were appointed for the current year: President: Mr. F. J. Ginwala, M.L.C., Vice-President: Mr. R. A. Gole, General Secretaries: Messrs. S. H. Jhabvala and S. B. Pulsoonge, Treasurer: Mr. DeSouza. The meeting also resolved that the new Union should be registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, and authorised the General Secretary Mr. S. H. Jhabvala to take the necessary steps in the matter. Another resolution requested the Managing Agent of the Mazagon Dock to recognise the Union at an early date. A fourth resolution requested the Managing Agent to redress the main grievances of the men under the following heads:

- (1) Yearly promotion;
- (2) Provident Fund;
- (3) Casual leave for one month in a year; and
- (4) Compulsory unemployment.

In a fifth resolution the meeting expressed its disapproval of the action of the R. I. M. Dock workers in not consulting Mr. Jhabvala, their Vice-President, before appointing other office-bearers in his place and in the place of Mr. Mirajkar.

The Wadi Bundar Staff Union (G. I. P. Railway).—The annual report for the year ended the 31st March 1928 shows that there were 421 members on the rolls. The total income amounted to Rs. 1123-4-10 and the expenditure to Rs. 805-2-6. The assets at the close of the year, including the balance carried forward from the previous year, amounted to Rs. 929-10-1. During the year under report, 12 meetings of the Managing Committee and 5 General Meetings were held.

Since the recognition of the Union, representations have been made to the Agent, G. I. P. Railway, regarding the following grievances of the Wadi Bundar staff:—(1) the infliction of heavy penalties for trifling reasons; (2) assaults on typists; (3) long hours of work; (4) discharge of certain Tally clerks; (5) inadequate number of raters in the "Outward Shed"; and (6) time-scale of pay. The Agent promised to grant an interview to the office-bearers as soon as his enquiries into the various matters put forward were completed.

The G.I.P. Railway Cabin Staff Union.—The annual general meeting was held on the 9th June 1928. The annual report for the year ended the 31st March 1928 states that the major portion of the Cabin Staff joined the

the total membership amounting to 484, consisting of 254 Cabin-men, 222 Levermen, and 8 Recorders. As a result of the efforts of the Managing Committee, the system of exacting extra work of signalling Levermen was discontinued. Twelve resolutions were passed regarding the main grievances of the members. The more important of them demanded time-scale of pay for Cabin-men and Recorders, a living allowance for Levermen, benefits of the Fundamental Leave Rules, the supply of at least 3 sets of uniforms to Levermen instead of one set as is given at present, allowance for overtime work, and abolition of the 12 hours shift in force in cabins beyond Kalyan in certain cases. The Union, which had been registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, on the 19th January 1928, accorded official recognition by the Agent, G.I.P. Railway, during the quarter.

The G. I. P. Railway Mechanical Department Office Staff Union.—The staff working under the Chief Mechanical Engineer in the offices at the Parel and Matunga Workshops held a meeting on the 28th July 1928 with Mr. P. S. Bakhale in the chair. The meeting decided to form a Union and named it "The G.I.P. Railway Mechanical Department Office Staff Union." It was also resolved to affiliate it to the G.I.P. Railway Staff Union and to get it registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act. The office-bearers for the ensuing year were elected, and a provisional committee of eight gentlemen was appointed to draft a constitution with a view to registering the Union under the Indian Trade Unions Act. The constitution prepared by the Provisional Committee was adopted at a special general meeting held on the 18th August 1928 and the Union was registered on the 13th October 1928. The chief grievance of the staff is reported to be about the inadequacy of pay. It is alleged that the staff on the G. I. P. Railway, doing precisely the same kind of work and with less responsibility, are being paid more than double the salary paid to the G. I. P. Railway staff, working at Parel and Matunga. The Union intends to make a representation to the authorities in the matter.

The Bombay Tramwaymen's Union.—A meeting attended by about 300 members was held on the 23rd July under the presidency of Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A. Speeches were made by Messrs. N. M. Joshi, S. A. Dange, S. H. Jhabvala, B. F. Bradley and Bapuji Savant, an ex-tramway worker, exhorting the audience to strengthen the Union. On the motion of Mr. Dange a sum of Rs. 50 was contributed towards the mill strikers' relief fund. Mr. Bradley emphasised the necessity of starting a Transport League in Bombay consisting of Taxi, Bus and Hackney Victoria drivers. At another meeting of the workmen of the Tramway Company's workshops at Dadar held on the 21st September, Messrs. B. F. Bradley, S. H. Jhabvala and S. A. Dange reiterated their advice to the men to strengthen the Union. A protest was entered against the Public Safety Bill. The Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Company laid down certain conditions to be complied with by the Union before it could be recognised. Two of the conditions were the elimination of outside advisers and the submission of the Union's rules and regulations to the Company's Board of Directors for approval. These conditions were criticised by the officials of the Union, who held that the Company had no right to say whom the workers should

engage as their advisers nor to demand that the Union's rules must be approved by the Company before granting recognition.

The Bank Peons Union.—The membership of this Union rose from 191 in the previous quarter to 271 during the quarter under review. The Union was registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act on the 16th August 1928. Three general meetings were held for discussing the various grievances of the members, and demands under the following heads were formulated for representation to the Banks' authorities :—

- (1) Minimum pay of Rs. 40 ;
- (2) Gratuity for long and faithful service in proportion to the length of service ;
- (3) Provident Fund ;
- (4) Pension after 25 years of service ;
- (5) One month's privilege leave in addition to sick leave ;
- (6) Eight and half hours duty per day and payment for overtime work ; and
- (7) Temporary peons should be made permanent after one year's service.

The Managing Committee met thrice during the quarter. It was proposed to start a journal to ventilate the grievances of the members and to collect funds for the purpose.

The Bombay Telephone Company Employees' Union.—This Union, which was started only on the 1st April 1928, framed its constitution and rules in accordance with the requirements of the Indian Trade Unions Act and was registered under the Act on the 21st August 1928. An increase of 36 members was recorded during the quarter. The average monthly income amounted to about Rs. 67, while the average monthly expenditure was Rs. 4.

The Press Workers' Union.—This Union, which had for some time remained almost defunct, was revived under the leadership of Mr. S. H. Jhabvala. A meeting of the members was convened on the 29th July when Mr. Jhabvala proposed to form a new constitution and to appoint new office-bearers. Three general meetings were held at different centres and the demands of the men under the following heads were formulated :—

- (1) A minimum living wage ;
- (2) Time-scale promotion ;
- (3) Medical leave ;
- (4) Fixed hours of duty ;
- (5) Public holidays with full pay.

A certain amount of propaganda was carried on to enlist more members. The revised constitution of the Union was framed in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Trade Unions Act and the Union was registered under the Act on the 20th September 1928. The average monthly income amounted to Rs. 40 and the average monthly expenditure to Rs. 15.

The Bombay Currency Association.—The membership as at 1st September 1928 consisted of 151 A Class members, contributing at the rate of Rs. 3 per annum and 68 B Class members subscribing annas eight per annum.

The average monthly income was only about Rs. 39 whereas the average monthly expenditure amounted to Rs. 63. The annual general meeting of the Association was held on the 11th July 1928 under the presidency of Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A. During the year under report a sum of Rs. 374-4-0 was collected by way of subscriptions. The total income amounted to Rs. 433-13-11 and the expenditure to Rs. 235-3-0. The total balance at the credit of the Union's funds, including the amount brought forward from the previous year, amounted to Rs. 1063-6-6. During the year two ordinary and two special general meetings were held and the managing committee met 15 times. The main activities were in connection with the question of general revision of pay and improved status of the Shroffs. To get an early solution of the question, individual memorials were submitted to His Excellency the Viceroy through the proper channels. Two representations were made to the Currency Officer regarding the difficulties experienced by the Listers, Sorters, Posters and Examiners by the introduction of the new pattern hundred rupee notes and regarding the difficulties of the Shroffs, but the answers received were reported to be not sympathetic. The Co-operative Credit Society under the auspices of the Association progressed satisfactorily. Rs. 21,288 were given on loan to the members and a dividend of 7½ per cent. was paid to the shareholders. The following resolutions were passed at the meeting :—

" 1. While expressing sincere thanks for the interview granted to the deputations from the Association by the Honourable the Finance Member in April last, this meeting earnestly requests an early solution of all questions placed before the Honourable Member, including among others those relating to the revision of pay of the supervising, clerical, shroffing and menial staff, improvement of the existing Provident Fund Scheme, the extension of the pension rules to the inferior servants, leave concession and seating accommodation in the Office.

2. (a) This meeting requests Government that they may be pleased to revise the scale of pay of the menials in the Bombay Currency Office in view of the nature of work and the responsibility involved therein without waiting for the orders of the Local Government in the matter.

(b) This meeting requests Government that full benefit of the pension rules should be granted to the inferior servants of the Currency Department on the lines on which it has been done by the Bombay Government.

" 3. This meeting requests Government that no extension of service should be granted to the staff in the Currency Office, as it retards the prospects of the juniors."

The Association prepared a printed statement of the men's grievances. Mr. S. C. Joshi, Honorary Secretary, went to Simla in order to see the Honourable Member in charge of the Department of Industries and Labour, as well as several members of the Legislative Assembly in connection with the grievances of the staff. The main grievances referred to in the statement are in connection with (1) the question of revision of pay of menials ; (2) bonus and provident fund system ; (3) revision of pay of shroffs and the supervising staff ; and (4) leave concessions. Detailed facts and figures were given to show how the scales of pay provided

for the staff of the Currency Office were not commensurate with the arduous and onerous duties which they have to perform. A complaint was made that in the matter of leave concession difficulty was always experienced in obtaining casual leave, even though it might be due. It was represented that some kind of definite rule which would enable the officials to get casual leave was absolutely necessary.

The Bombay Mill Clerks Union.—There was no addition to the membership during the quarter. The average monthly income was about Rs. 15 as against the average monthly expenditure of Rs. 5. Two propaganda meetings were arranged with a view to increasing the number of members.

The Bombay Branch of All-India Telegraphs Union.—In order to ventilate the grievances of the members of the Union a journal entitled "The Telegraph Messenger" was started under the auspices of the Union. The paper is a monthly organ and three issues have been published so far.

The Clerks' Union.—This Union was registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act on the 8th October 1928. There was a considerable fall in the membership from 1014 reported for the previous quarter to 250 during the quarter under review. The decline in the membership figure is due to the removal of defaulting members from the rolls as a result of the reorganisation of the Union. The income on an average amounted to Rs. 72 per month and the expenditure to Rs. 76. The usual activities in connection with the Co-operative Credit Society, Unemployment Bureau, Legal Aid and the Mutual (Death) Benefit Fund were carried on. At an extraordinary general meeting held on the 2nd September the following resolution was passed for communication to the authorities of the G.I.P. and the B.B. & C.I. Railways:—

"This extraordinary general meeting of the Clerks' Union, Bombay, hereby resolves that, in view of the prevalence of the appalling state of unemployment amongst the middle classes, the Agents of the G.I.P. and the B.B. & C.I. Railways be addressed to take immediate steps to reduce the suburban railway fares to the pre-war level."

At a general meeting held at the Servants of India Society's Home on the 2nd September Mr. Mavjee Govindjee, President of the Union, deplored the general indifference of clerks to organise themselves due to the belief that Trade Unions are only intended to organise strikes. He stated that work in the direction of political and economic agitation should be carried on and he suggested that clerks should nominate their own representatives for the Municipal bodies and the Legislative Council and carry on a strong agitation for standardised hours of work, minimum salary, provision for adequate leave, provident fund or gratuity, etc.

The Professional Motor Drivers' Union.—This Union was registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act on the 12th September 1928. The first general meeting was held in the month of August 1928 when a resolution to the effect that "This meeting of the Professional Motor Drivers of Bombay protests against the numerous acts of harassment imposed upon the taxi and other drivers of Bombay by the Police and requests the Police Commissioner to accept a deputation of the representatives of the Union to discuss the whole situation" was passed. Four other complaints were

also submitted to the Commissioner for redress. The membership at the time of registration was 335 but has since improved to 432. The average monthly income amounted to Rs. 1266-0-0 and the expenditure to Rs. 317.

The Bombay Municipal Officials' Association.—The membership of this Union increased from 521 to 609 during the quarter. As a result of the agitation carried on by the Union it was stated that the question of counting the officiating periods towards increment in the time-scale was favourably considered by the Municipal Commissioner. A detailed representation was submitted to the Sub-committee of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Corporation, which was looking into the matter. Mr. S. C. Joshi, the Secretary, was invited to discuss the whole question with the Municipal authorities. With a view to agitating for removal of grievances, and educating the members of the Association and acquainting them with its activities, a periodical styled the "Bombay Municipal Journal" was started and its first issue was published on the 15th August 1928.

The annual conference of the Association was held on the 15th July 1928 in the Corporation Hall, with Mr. P. J. Murzban, M.A., M.L.C., in the chair. All the speakers were unanimous in their congratulations to the Association on its foundation and wished it success in its endeavours to get the grievances of the staff redressed. At the same time emphasis was laid on the necessity to make the body a thoroughly representative institution, so that it could make its voice effective. The annual report submitted by the Honorary Secretary and the balance sheet for the year 1927-28 were adopted by the conference. The annual report showed that ten Managing Committee meetings were held during the year and propositions relating to (1) change in office hours, (2) commutation of pension, and (3) appointment of probationers, etc., were dealt with. There was only one application for Death Relief during the year and it was sanctioned. The Association endeavoured to provide means of social intercourse, to afford educational facilities by such methods as the maintenance of a reading room and library and to take all possible steps to raise the status of the Municipal employees. It was not, however, possible to achieve the object in view because of the slender means at the disposal of the Association. The Municipal Commissioner was therefore approached for funds and he granted a sum of Rs. 500 which was utilised in starting a library and reading room for the benefit of the members. The library had a collection of about 200 books. The financial position, though not very satisfactory, was not discouraging. During the year under report the total income from subscriptions and admission fees amounted to Rs. 1481, whereas the expenditure amounted to Rs. 1216-10-0. The total assets of the Association, as at 31st March 1928, amounted to Rs. 1337-6-6. Some of the resolutions passed at the meeting were as follows:—

"This General Meeting unanimously resolves that the present hours of office attendance be changed from 10 a.m. (B.T.) to 5 p.m. (B.T.) on week days and 10 a.m. (B.T.) to 2 p.m. (B.T.) on Saturdays to 10-30 a.m. (B.T.) to 5 p.m. (B.T.) on week days and 10-30 a.m. to

2 p.m. (B.T.) on Saturdays, so as to bring the office time in conformity with that of the sister Institutions, the Improvement Trust and Government Offices.

"That, while reiterating the resolution passed at the last year's general meeting regarding the equalization of the scale of pay of the Ward Office clerks with that of the Head Office clerks, this meeting respectfully draws the attention of the authorities to the facts, namely:—

- (a) That no distinction whatsoever is made while recruiting employees for Ward Office and Head Office work.
- (b) No distinction is shown for higher qualifications for the purpose of employment in the Ward and Head Office.
- (c) Nature of work in wards is in no way inferior to that of Head Office and *vice versa*.

This meeting therefore earnestly requests that the scale of pay of the Ward Office clerks be so revised as to bring it on the footing of the Head Office Staff.

"This meeting requests the Municipal Commissioner to revise the existing pension rules so as to admit of the benefits of commutation of pension on the lines as obtained in the Government service.

"This meeting conveys its grateful thanks to the Municipal Commissioner for the grant of Rs. 500 towards the establishment of the Library of the Association and earnestly requests him to be pleased to grant a further sum of Rs. 500 this year and thereby help the Association to place the Library on a decent footing."

The Remaining Unions in Bombay City.—There is nothing of particular interest to be reported regarding the activities of the rest of the Bombay Unions. The latest information in connection with membership, income and expenditure of all Unions not specifically dealt with in this review is given in Tables II and III printed on pages 178 to 200 in the October 1928 issue of the *Labour Gazette*.

AHMEDABAD

The activities of the Unions of cotton mills operatives in Ahmedabad which are under the control of the local Labour Union have been dealt with in the article under the heading "Federations of Trade Unions."

The B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees' Association.—The membership of this Union fell from 7835 to 5644 during the quarter due to the elimination from the rolls of all defaulters as well as retired employees. The activities of the Association during the quarter centred round organisation work. The Secretary, Mr. Manilal Kothari, held three meetings in Bombay and impressed upon the staff the necessity of joining the Association in large numbers and thereby increasing its strength. He addressed a meeting of railwaymen of all Departments of Sirsa on the 6th September and stated that after successfully facing several difficulties at different stages the Union had at last attained a position in which it was now possible to work methodically for the welfare of the members generally. He emphasised the fact that while their primary object was to help the members to secure a redress of their genuine and legitimate grievances, the Association nevertheless tried to inculcate in the minds of

the members the spirit of discipline and devotion to duty so essential in public service. Referring to the several grievances of the staff which had still remained unredressed, he proposed to place the whole case before the authorities at an early date. In conclusion he stated, "Organise yourselves properly. Formulate only such demands as are reasonable, so as to make your case strong and irrefutable. Think and talk of your grievances in terms of conciliation and settlement and not in a spirit of discontent and deadlock."

KARACHI

The Karachi Municipal Sweepers' Union.—The number of members increased to 870 from 670 in the previous quarter. Out of the total membership 700 were men and 170 women.

Three night schools and a library were started during the quarter. There are thus in all four night schools conducted at different quarters, *viz.*, Ranchhod Lines, Old Chukla, Soldier Bazar, and Bagdadi, and two libraries, one at Ranchhod Lines and the other in Old Chukla. It is reported that the attendance at the night schools was satisfactory, and that on an average 76, 40, 40, and 28 pupils respectively attended at the centres mentioned. The libraries were attended on an average by 25 members.

On a representation made by the Union, the Health Officer of the Karachi Municipality consented to erect a hut for creating cultural group life for sweepers residing in Bagdadi quarters. As a result of the agitation carried on by the Union, the Municipal authorities agreed to grant a half holiday to the sweepers once a week. A similar concession was also demanded for the employees of the Drainage Department. Representations were made to the authorities requesting that the wages and other working conditions of the employees of the Garden Department should be brought into line with those enjoyed by the other workers. As repeated complaints were made by the sweepers of ill-treatment by their superiors, a resolution was passed on the 1st July requesting the Municipal authorities to look into the matter. Consequently, the Municipality appointed a Sub-committee to enquire into certain specific complaints that had been made. Compensation for accident arising out of breathing poisonous gas was secured in one case. In order to cope with the growing work of the Union and in view of the proposed starting of Co-operative Societies for the benefit of the members a graduate of the Gujarat National University was appointed to manage the affairs of the Union.

POONA

The Military Accounts Association.—The effective membership was reduced to 1529 from 2154 reported for the previous quarter. The main activities consisted of representations made to the Military Accountant General, the Controller of Army Factory Accounts, Calcutta, the Controller of Military Accounts, Poona, and the Secretary of State for India, regarding the introduction of the system of compulsory retirement at 55 years of age for non-ministerial servants, the extension of the concession of premature retirement to holders of ministerial appointments,

the removal of the Accounts Section of the Gun Carriage Factory, Jubbulpore, to a well ventilated place, the amendment of the rule in article 325 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations so as to allow the minimum leave allowance of Rs. 300 to such of the members whose salary is Rs. 300 or more per mensem, and the appointment of additional staff for the Accounts Section of the Jubbulpore Gun-Carriage Factory in view of the increasing amount of work.

The (G. I. P. Railway) Poona Staff Union.—There was a rise of 238 in the membership which stood at 675 on the 1st September 1928. On the 7th August, an extraordinary general meeting was held under the presidency of Mr. S. C. Joshi, M.A., LL.B., M.L.C., Advocate, when the G. I. P. Railway Agent's letter recognising the Union and the conditions relating thereto, was read out. One of the resolutions passed, emphatically protested against the proposal requiring the staff of the Transportation Department to work for 12 hours a day for 2 days in the week instead of 8 hours as usual.

At another extraordinary general meeting held on the 1st October, the general demands formulated by the Sub-committee of the General Council of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation at Simla were fully supported and approved. It was also resolved to supplement the demands by facts and figures.

REST OF THE PRESIDENCY

Up to the end of the first quarter of the current year by far the greater majority of the remaining Unions in the Bombay Presidency outside the cities of Bombay and Ahmedabad were postal Unions affiliated either to the Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Association or to the Bombay Presidency Postmen's and Lower Grade Staff Union. The activities of these Unions are more or less confined to agitation for the removal of specific grievances and for improvements in conditions of service. The remarks made in connection with the activities of the two Federations of Postal Unions under the heading "Federations of Trade Unions" apply generally to the activities of the individual Trade Unions as well. During the last quarter there was considerable Trade Union activity in various districts of the Bombay Presidency. Five hundred workers of the Government Arsenal at Kirkee formed a Union at the beginning of July and there are now seven Trade Unions in Poona. Two thousand textile workers in Sholapur were organised into a Union in the month of May. This Union is now known as the "Sholapur Branch of the Bombay Textile Labour Union." The workers of the G. I. P. Railway at Sholapur also formed a Union and this was registered on the 13th June 1928. The Unions of the workers of the Match Factories at Kurla and Ambernath which were formed during the month of May 1928 now consist of 500 and 800 members respectively. In view of the fact that all these Unions are recent formations, and most of them have been mainly engaged in drawing up their constitutions and their rules, they have no interesting activities to report. Endeavours will be made, however, to collect as much information as possible regarding Unions in centres

outside Bombay and Ahmedabad cities for the next quarterly review, to be published in the issue of the *Labour Gazette* for January 1929.

In view of the fact that there are now nearly 90 Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency great difficulty is being experienced in collecting the necessary information for this review and for the tables which accompany

The main object in publishing quarterly reviews of Trade Unions in the *Labour Gazette* is to assist Trade Unionism in the Bombay Presidency by giving the latest and the most authentic information with regard to their membership, income and expenditure and interesting activities. If these reviews are to maintain the same standard that has now been reached it is absolutely necessary that the Secretaries and the Assistant Secretaries of the various Unions should do their utmost to co-operate with the Labour Office by supplying the information asked for as early as possible.

Women Workers in Japan

The Central Vocational Bureau of the Japanese Ministry of Home Affairs is planning to call a conference of the four sectional vocational bureaus of the Kingdom for the reform of the methods of employing industrial and professional women. This official decision, according to the *Trans-Pacific* (Tokyo) of March 31, 1928, has been reached because of the new and difficult problems confronting such bureaus through the increasing numbers of women entering industry and the professions.

Among the outstanding evils to be combated is the reckless employment agent who makes exorbitant charges for obtaining factory jobs for women. Such an agent ordinarily calls in person at homes in the rural sections and tries to induce the farmers' daughters to become factory operatives, "holding out many lucrative propositions." Sometimes he even offers money in advance to clinch the contract. The victims find that they must toil many months to get out of debt to him.

The number of women who applied to public employment offices for jobs in 1920 was 5600; in 1924, 82,000; in 1925, 100,000.

The statement below shows the number of women applicants in different lines of work registered at the public employment offices of Japan in 1927.—

Industrial and mining	..	..	16,208
Civil engineering	..	..	297
Commercial	..	..	6,807
Agricultural	..	..	137
Marine products	..	..	5
Transport and communications	..	..	1,188
Indoor employment	..	..	47,382
Miscellaneous	..	..	21,294
Others	..	..	738

Total . . . 94,056

(From "Monthly Labour Review," Washington, June 1928.)

Industrial Unrest in India

IV

I. Settlement at Jamshedpur

III. STRIKE ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY

In the September 1928 issue of the *Labour Gazette*, the Labour Office declared its intention of publishing in the October issue of this Journal the concluding portion of the article on the Jamshedpur strike and also a full account of the strike on the South Indian Railway. It was not however, possible to do this because the necessary information with regard to the latter dispute could not be secured in time. The present article, therefore, gives an account of the continuation of the dispute in the Tata Iron and Steel Works and also a detailed account of the labour troubles on the South Indian Railway.

I

LABOUR TROUBLES AT JAMSHEDPUR.

(Continued from page 77, September 1928 issue of the *Labour Gazette*.)

The total attendance at the Tata Iron and Steel Works on the 6th September amounted to 9292 out of about 26,000 employees of the Company. On the 7th it rose to 9411, but on the 8th it fell to 9282. The Plate Mill restarted working on the 6th September and the Company announced on the 11th September that a third Open Hearth Furnace had been restarted and was producing steel. As a result of the protracted negotiations carried on by Mr. Subash Chandra Bose, President of the Jamshedpur Labour Association with the Directors of the Tata Iron and Steel Company, a settlement of the dispute was arrived at on the 12th September. The following is a copy of the complete terms of an agreed settlement upon between Mr. Bose and the Management —

" Terms of Settlement

- " 1. There will be no victimisation.
- " 2. The men of the Boiler and Sheet Mills Departments will be restored to continuity of service.
- " 3. All men who have been reduced from the 13th April 1928 onwards, including any employees of the Traffic Department who may have been reduced before that date will be taken back in the employ of the Company and restored to continuity of service.
- " 4. The cases of those who have been discharged for insubordination or neglect of duty, etc., will be reviewed by the General Manager.
- " 5. (1) The Company will take all men back with the exception of:—
 - (a) those who have taken settlement;
 - (b) those who have gone away from Jamshedpur and will not return to work within three weeks from the date of resumption; and
 - (c) those who will leave voluntarily within three weeks by taking advantage of the following offer of the Company:—

" They will be given the amount of the railway fares to their homes and also the full amount of their Provident Fund including the whole of the Company's contribution. In addition, they will get one month's pay for each completed year of service."
- (2) Reduction by not filling up vacancies in the normal course of events will continue for 12 months from the date of resumption. If at the end of this period the necessary reduction is not effected, the Company will be free to resort to immediate retrenchment.
- (3) All surplus men will be kept in a spare gang, separate from the regular required staff and will be given, at the same or higher rates of pay in their own or other departments, an opportunity of filling up vacancies where the work is such that they are qualified for.

" 6. Three weeks time will be given to the men who have gone home to enable them to return to work. All men who do not join within a period of three weeks from the date of resumption will have no lien on their jobs.

" 7. (1) The Company will, in order to relieve the hardship of the men, pay a loan of one month's wages to each man after he returns to work. After the end of the first month a further half month's wages will be given as a loan to those who need it and apply for it. No repayment will be collected until January. From January onwards repayment will be collected in twenty monthly instalments of 5 per cent. of the amount of the loan.

(2) The Company also agree to allow the men to pay up their arrears in house-rent in equal monthly instalments during the months of October, November and December 1928.

(3) The men agree to waive the claim for ^{strike pay} ~~back pay~~ according as the Company agree to grant the above concession instead and to sanction a further sum of two lakhs of rupees for increment to the staff making the total amount available for immediate increment 7 lakhs instead of 5, as previously announced.

" 8. Alteration in the Works Service Rules will not be put in force.

" 9. In the equitable distribution of the bonus of 10 lakhs of rupees per annum the Management will give consideration to any representation that may be made by the Labour Association.

" 10. In the distribution of the increment sanctioned, the Management will give consideration to any representation that may be made by the Labour Association.

" 11. Those whom the Company can do without and who intend to resign voluntarily within three weeks from the date of resumption will be offered the following terms:—

See 5 (1), (c).

" 12. In the case of vacancies which cannot remain unfilled, preference will be given to the men of the Agricultural Implements Department in filling up those vacancies before any outsiders are taken in.

(Signed) C. A. ALEXANDER.

12th September 1928.

(Signed) SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE."

A mass meeting of the strikers was held in the evening of the 12th September in order to explain to the men the terms of the settlement arrived at between Mr. Bose and the Management. Mr. Homi was not present at the meeting. Mr. Bose, who explained the terms to the men, stated at the outset that he had come to terms with the Management only after consultation with his colleagues including Mr. Burman and Swami Viswananda. He advised the strikers to resume work on the 13th September. Mr. Homi and his followers were not, however, agreeable to the terms proposed and wanted the men to resume, if at all, on the 14th September. On the morning of the 13th September, nearly 70 per cent. of the strikers resumed work and thus the dispute which had dragged on for nearly 4½ months practically came to an end.

At a mass meeting of the workers held in the evening of the 14th September, Mr. Homi and his associates denounced the settlement brought about through the initiative of Mr. S. C. Bose. As a result, some men postponed resumption of work and it was apprehended that there would be a breach of the peace. Mr. Bose also came to the meeting and addressed the men explaining the circumstances under which the terms of settlement were arrived at and assured them that he would stay on at Jamshedpur, if necessary, till the situation became satisfactory. This appeased the strikers and a steady improvement in the situation was expected. During the succeeding days Mr. Maneck Homi, however, continued his propaganda against the activities of Mr. S. C. Bose and this resulted in the workers becoming rowdy and violent. Four workmen were reported to have been fatally assaulted by the strikers. As the situation became threatening Mr. Bose who had gone to Calcutta returned to Jamshedpur and exerted himself in bringing the situation under control.

As a result of his endeavours there was considerable improvement in the situation.

At a mass meeting of the workers held on the 27th September Mr. Bose's action in connection with the settlement of the strike was severely criticised. The principal charges against Mr. Bose were that he had arranged the terms of the settlement in such a way as to leave the men no better than they were before; that he promised to circulate the terms of the settlement in all vernaculars but that he had failed to do so; and that he had announced that the account of whosoever resigned voluntarily would be settled and would be given certain privileges but that in practice the Company had ruled that this would apply only to those who were on the original reduction list and those whom the Company could do without. There was a great uproar at the meeting and the Police had to be requisitioned in order to avoid a breach of the peace. Mr. P. Spratt who also addressed the meeting deplored the existence of disunity amongst the steel workers at Jamshedpur and strongly advised the men to merge the two rival Unions into one strong and well-organised Labour Union in order to improve their lot. Due to some misunderstanding of the terms offered by the Company several workers offered to resign voluntarily thinking that they would get the Company's full contribution to the Provident Fund besides railway fare home and one month's pay for each completed year of service. In order to make their position quite clear the Company issued a circular stating that (1) the above concessions were only for those men whom the Company could do without and those who resigned voluntarily within three weeks of resumption, (2) the period for this purpose had been extended to October 31st, and (3) those who took a settlement would not be re-employed.

EFFECT OF STRIKE ON PRODUCTION

The following figures of production at the Tata Iron and Steel Works at Jamshedpur indicate the effect of the strike on the Steel Industry

Statement showing figures of Production from January 1928 to October 1928

	Pig Iron	Ferro Manganese	Steel Ingots	Finished Steel
1928	Tons	Tons.	Tons	Tons
January	60,035	154	57,144	39,005
February	58,986	1,380	50,058	35,522
March	60,462	1,038	54,731	33,080
April	56,360	661	48,894	25,791
May	43,810		43,033	19,058
June	13,962			
July	16,304		507	2,712
August	23,112		5,746	8,538
September	28,526		18,191	13,573
October	49,235		40,710	33,751

III

LABOUR TROUBLES ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY

In the December 1927 issue of the *Labour Gazette* we published an account of the labour troubles on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway which culminated in a lock-out for nearly three months at the B.-N. Railway Workshops at Kharagpur, where over ten thousand men are employed, in consequence of a policy of retrenchment introduced by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. This policy followed on the recommendations made by Sir Vincent Raven's State Railways Workshops Committee which was appointed in the year 1926 to enquire into matters connected with the Mechanical Departments of the State Railways of India. In the last paragraph of that article we stated that the next phase in connection with the policy of retrenchment was the proposal of the South Indian Railway Company, Ltd., to dispense with the services of three thousand employees in their workshops. In response to a notice issued by Mr. W. James, Vice-President of the Central Board of the South Indian Railway Labour Union, and Mr. U. Gopala Menon, B.A., B.L., President of the Calicut Railway Labour Union, a meeting of railway employees and the general public was held at the Town Hall at Calicut on the 8th December 1927 under the presidency of Mr. P. Ramunni Menon, Editor of the "Mathru Bhumi," to consider what action should be adopted in case the proposals of the South Indian Railway Company matured into actual retrenchment. It was stated at the meeting that the Agent of the South Indian Railway had agreed to receive a deputation of representatives of the Central Board of the South Indian Railway Labour Union and it had been decided to call a General Strike in the event of negotiations with the Agent failing to produce the desired effect. On the 15th December 1927, a public meeting was held at Madras under the auspices of the newly formed S. I. Railway Labour Union to protest against the proposals for retrenchment made by the administration of the South Indian Railway in consequence of the construction of the new workshops at Golden Rock and the transfer of several hundreds of men from the Railway workshops at Negapatam, Podanur and Trichinopoly. A similar protest meeting was also held at Madura. On the 16th December 1927, the Agent, South Indian Railway issued the following communique:—

"I understand that the workshop staff are contemplating a strike as a protest against the orders which have been issued in connection with the transfer of men from three centres to new workshops at Golden Rock which are now nearing completion. Before these orders were issued, I met representatives of all the staff concerned and explained to them as clearly as possible what it was proposed to do and what steps were to be taken to mitigate the hardship which must occur to those for whom work could not be found at Golden Rock. While one sympathises with such cases the fact remains that the reductions are inevitable, as in the new workshops, which are equipped with all modern methods for expediting work and with devices for saving labour, it is literally impossible to find work for the same number of men as are at present employed in the three centres which have none of these conveniences.

"The position to date, with regard to the reductions that have already taken place, is that 89 temporary men belonging to the Wagon Shop were not transferred to Golden Rock early in 1927. In addition to these, there are about 70 men on the permanent staff who elected to remain at Negapatam. These men were allowed to remain at work until the Wagon and Body shops were closed when their services then terminated and they were given all the concessions such as gratuity etc., to which they were entitled under the rules. Since the date on which I made the announcement of the reductions referred to above to the men, which was on September 9, 1927, not a single man on permanent staff has been dispensed with under the scheme of retrenchment. It has also been

notified that in view of the recent troubles which have occurred at Kharagpur over the same question the Railway Board have appointed a Committee of two Officers to enquire into the reasonableness both of the reductions proposed and of the methods of carrying them out and until this inquiry is held, I shall endeavour to arrange that no reductions will be made. A strike therefore at the present moment, merely as a protest against proposals which have not yet been given effect to and which will be carried out on terms yet to be decided by the Committee referred to would appear to be entirely unwarranted and unjustified.

"I further understand that the workshop staff are endeavouring to organise a general strike throughout the Railway in sympathy with their protest and with this end in view are carrying out propaganda work at all stations on the Railway and I am gratified to find that so far as I can ascertain, their efforts to date are not meeting with any very great measure of support. I feel it must be clear to the majority of the staff that to inconvenience the general public in this way at a time when they particularly desire to travel, merely in sympathy with a retrenchment which, while inevitable, has not yet been given effect to and is still to be enquired into, cannot be justified, and such a course of action, if taken, is not likely to receive any measure of support or sympathy from either myself or from the public.

"So far as the public is concerned, I can only say that should such a situation arise, every endeavour will be made to maintain the normal train service and that I shall not hesitate to engage special staff in order to keep the fullest service possible running during the strike. That I shall be able to find such staff there is little doubt and the permanent men are therefore warned that if they do agree to co-operate in a strike, which in my opinion is at the present moment neither warranted nor justified, they run a grave risk of losing their employment as consideration will have to be given to those men who are specially engaged in order to maintain the train service.

At a Conference of the employees of the S. I. Railway, held at Negapatam on the 21st and 22nd January 1928, resolutions were passed declaring the proposed scheme of retrenchment to be unnecessary and unjust.

On the 17th April, the Agent, S. I. Railway issued a circular regarding the Golden Rock Workshop retrenchment scheme. He offered a bonus of 1/12 of a month's pay for each month's service put in, provided voluntary resignations were submitted. Should the offer of voluntary resignations not effect the necessary retrenchment of 3171 hands, which it was proposed to make, it was announced that retrenchment by selection would be adopted. In view of the fact that the retrenchment scheme launched by the S. I. Railway might be causing some anxiety in the minds of the public, the Agent again issued a communique on the 18th June giving a history of the scheme so that the position of the administration might be made clear. Certain methods of retrenchment had been proposed but as the men were not satisfied, Government appointed a Committee to enquire into the question generally. The Committee agreed with the proposal which had been made with regard to the number of men to be employed at Golden Rock and recommended most liberal terms for those whose services would be no longer required. The main offer was that double the gratuity which a man was entitled to under ordinary circumstances would be given to those who resigned their appointments voluntarily within the specified time. The offer and the benefit of taking advantage of it, had been explained to the workmen who, however, had not taken advantage of it to the extent anticipated. The men were informed that if this offer, which was a most liberal and generous one, failed to obtain the required reduction in numbers, the following methods of selection would be resorted to:—

(a) The records for the past two years of all men who would not resign voluntarily would be examined by the officers under whom they were working and those whose records showed them to be bad time-keepers or bad workmen would not be selected for transfer to Golden Rock;

(b) Such men whose past records were found to be satisfactory in the above respect would be subjected to a Trade Test which would be framed by the Works Manager, suited to the average capacity of ordinary workmen; and

(c) Those who satisfactorily passed the above two tests would be examined for medical fitness.

In conclusion, the Agent stated that he understood from Press reports that the men proposed organising methods of resisting selection in the manner proposed and that they intended to refuse to undergo any test. While sympathising with the men over those reductions, the Agent stated that he was afraid that there was no getting round the fact that the reductions must be made. At the same time he assured the men that everything possible would be done to mitigate hardships and to deal with the men in an absolutely fair and impartial manner in carrying out the proposals and that there was no intention of forcing the men to submit to the proposed test if they did not wish to do so. But the only alternative would then be to treat any man who did not agree to be tested as not selected and his services would be dispensed with when the time came for his particular workshop to be closed down.

On the 21st June a representation was made to the Government of Madras on behalf of the S. I. Railway workers at the Golden Rock and Negapatam workshops against the administration imposing certain tests for the new retrenchment scheme. The Government replied to say that Railways being a Central subject they could not take any action in connection with the matter but that the necessary precautions for preserving law and order had been taken. With a view to avoiding any possible breach of the peace the District Magistrate, Trichinopoly, banned the holding of labour meetings after 9 p.m. On the 27th June, the Agent published an open letter to the employees of the Railway drawing their attention to the fact that he had liberalised the scale of bonus on representations made to him and that nearly 755 men had already come under the revision. He promised an enquiry into the grievances of the menial staff. "I am sure," said the Agent, "that the staff knows that I am always ready to examine and deal sympathetically with grievances. I wish to remind you of the friendly relations in which we have hitherto worked. Do not be led away by promises made by strike promoters who have nothing to lose. I feel every confidence that you will do your duty now as you have always done in the past."

During the week ended the 28th June 1928, the workshop labourers definitely declined to undergo the proposed tests as a basis of selection for transfer to the Golden Rock workshops. About 1,400 workers entered the workshops at Podanur as usual on the 29th June but observed *Satyagraha*. They left the shops for the mid-day meal but the Railway authorities did not allow the daily-paid men to re-enter the shops after the recess. On the same day 1,485 workmen at the Golden Rock workshops also resorted to *Satyagraha* and the labourers of the Negapatam workshops observed the same tactics. As a consequence, the Agent, South Indian Railway, declared a lock-out in these workshops until further notice.

On the 30th June the S. I. Railway Engineering Workshopmen at Trichinopoly went in a huge procession through the streets and held a mass meeting at which Mr. Mukundlal Sircar declared that unless the Agent withdrew the retrenchment order there would be a General Strike on the 14th July. The Central Committee of the S. I. R. Labour Union allotted a sum of Rs. 16,000 for propaganda at important centres for organising a General Strike. Messrs. Singaravelu Chetty and Mukundlal Sircar left for Bombay on the 1st July, after addressing a public meeting of the South Indian Railway labourers, in order to consult the leaders of the other Railway workers and to get their assurance for a sympathetic strike if necessary. On the 2nd July a notice was issued by the Agent stating that the workshops at Podanur, Negapatam and Trichinopoly would be reopened as soon as it was definitely assured that the daily-paid men at any individual centre were prepared to work properly and undertook not to offer *Satyagraha*. Some monthly paid chargemen of the Mechanical Engineering workshops at Negapatam resumed work on the 5th July, in spite of the resolution passed previously by the monthly paid labourers not to resume work until their grievances were redressed. In view of the impending General Strike the President, Central Committee, S. I. R. Labour Union, issued a notice of warning to the public asking them to postpone their journeys and to stop booking of goods. On the 9th July the President, S. I. Railway Strike Committee, at a meeting held at Trichinopoly, replied to the Agent agreeing to secure the necessary number of resignations on the receipt of information on the extent of the proposed retrenchment and if the Agent extended facilities for two Labour Representatives throughout the line in order to secure the necessary number of such resignations. The Agent published a second open letter to the workers in which he stated that he fully realised the value of a contented staff. He recalled to the memory of the strikers his compliance with the Labour Union's demands for an extension of time for voluntary resignations and their proposals in respect of other grievances. He denied the allegation made to the effect that the present wages of drivers, foremen, guards and brakemen, station staff and menials were low, and gave figures to show that their salaries were at least 50 per cent. higher than what they were in the pre-war period. He warned the men against going out on strike and observed that in case they resorted to direct action he would be compelled, in the interests of discipline, to refuse to grant any pay during the period of the strike. On the 13th July Mr. Krishnaswamy Pillay, President of the Central Committee of the S. I. R. Labour Union, sent a letter to the Agent stating that if he did not accede to the demands of the men there would be a General Strike on the Railway from the 20th July. The Central Committee of the Union also issued a notice to the workers stating that since every effort for redressing their grievances had failed, all Railway workers should down tools on the night of the 19th July. It was stated that while the Strike Committee commanded partial support from the men on the line south of Trichinopoly, those in the north between Trichinopoly and Madras were unwilling to support the proposal for a General Strike.

In a statement issued to the Press by the Agent on the 17th July he stated that the Railway administration had done everything in its power to alleviate the hardships likely to be caused to the workers by the inevitable reduction in the workshop staff and that the Labour Union's threat of a General Strike was a complete negation of all constitutional methods of composing differences. He also assured the public that arrangements would be made for the running of the trains with the minimum possible inconvenience to the public. On the 19th July, the Agent informed the President, Strike Committee, that he was prepared to submit the case of menials and the outstanding grievances of the running staff to arbitration by the Labour Commissioner, Madras, on condition that the General Strike was called off. In spite of the Agent's offer the General Strike commenced on the 19th July, and practically all menials and line staff throughout the metre-gauge, amounting to about 17,500 men in all, including the workshopmen, went out at mid-night 19/20. Workshopmen lay across the rails preventing the passage of trains. Several mail and passenger trains from various directions were held up. Batches of strikers who were responsible for the holding up of trains at various points were arrested by the Police. Owing to the strike of menials and pointsmen, station staffs had to attend to points and signals while drivers and guards had to open the level crossing gates themselves. The Anglo-Indian members of the Railway staff however remained loyal and performed various duties of the menial staff. The strike propagandists were busy addressing meetings of the strikers in various parts of the City of Madras. The strikers placed boulders on the railway lines to obstruct the passage of trains, disconnected couplings between carriages and in more than one case held up trains, mounted engines and disabled them by removing the fire. The Tuticorin and Tutimelur stations were looted by the strikers, furniture was broken and many tickets were carried away. As a result of the activities of the strikers in removing the rails, cutting telegraph wires and smashing level crossing gates, etc., the Police had to resort to opening fire on the strikers in one case in order to prevent further damage to persons and property. The trains that were run were accompanied by Police escorts. About 2,000 strikers practised *Satyagraha* in front of trains at Mayavaram. The Police, who tried to disperse the men, were compelled to open fire on the strikers in self-defence. There were no deaths or casualties due to the firing at Mayavaram.

Mr. Shivrao, Chairman of the Trade Union Congress, addressing a mass meeting of the labourers said that all possibilities of settlement had not been exhausted before the General Strike was declared and added that India must get rid of communist influence, because it was responsible for the disruption of real Trade Unionism.

As a result of the hooliganism of the strikers, the Railway administration suspended all trains except through trains to and from Madras and two suburban trains with effect from the 21st July. On the same date, at about mid-night, No. 3 Boat Mail to Madras capsized and two bogey third class carriages telescoped as a result of the strikers removing fish-plates from the lines. About 11 passengers were injured, one of whom subsequently died. At several stations batches of strikers set fire to station

premises and destroyed engines and rakes besides violently assaulting Railway officials and police-men. A batch of 500 strikers in Madras City went round in procession and stood on the public road in front of the Railway Police offices and demanded the release of the arrested strikers. The Police, however, dispersed them. The strike spread to Calicut where almost all the employees of the Engineering Department joined the strike. Porters, sweepers, gatemen, pointsmen and other menials also struck work in sympathy. The Police patrolled the lines and guarded the stations at various points. Some strikers who tried to obstruct the running of Trivandrum Express at a station near Villupuram were charged by the Police with bayonets and 25 men were injured.

The Agent issued a circular informing the strikers that such of them as were convicted would be dismissed from service and would forfeit all amounts such as gratuity, etc. In order to minimise the risk of accidents the Railway authorities suspended night running of trains on the metre-gauge and also booking of goods until further notice. Loyal workers were intimidated by the strikers. On the 23rd July the Madura Passenger was also wrecked by the strikers between Kodaikanal Road and Ambaturai stations by the removal of rail joints and fish-plates. As a matter of safeguard, therefore, all trains were preceded by pilot engines and escorted by armed Police.

Owing to the serious situation created by the General Strike, all District Magistrates were empowered by Government to use Emergency Powers in case of any serious disturbances. The Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras proceeded to Trichinopoly to study the strike situation and to confer with the Agent, if necessary. The Chief Secretary, in consultation with the Inspector-General of Police and the Agent, S. I. Railway, decided upon a programme of elaborate precautions to safeguard Railway property and human life from the activities of the strikers.

Some of the strikers returned to duty at certain stations on the 23rd July and the Railway management began to employ new hands at all important stations in place of those who had struck work. Messrs. Mukundlal Sircar and Singaravelu Chetty, two communist leaders connected with the strike, were arrested and the premises of the labour paper "Tholilali" of the Railway Labour Union, the offices of the Central Committee, and also the residences of certain members of the Committee were searched by the Police. The Chief Presidency Magistrate, Madras, issued an order under Section 144, I. P. C., prohibiting meetings and processions of strikers in Madras City held to support and express sympathy with the S. I. Railway strikers, for a period of two months.

On the 24th July all pointsmen, porters and menials, who had been on strike at the Tiruppur station resumed work. Mr. V. V. Giri, Secretary of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, in a statement to the Press regarding the S. I. Railway strike situation, appealed to the Government of India and Sir George Rainey to summon a representative conference of the labour leaders and the Railway authorities in order to arrive at a lasting compromise between the two parties. He also exhorted the S. I. Railway strikers to maintain a spirit of absolute non-violence lest they should lose public support.

There was a slight improvement in the situation on the 25th July. Menials and gangmen at various points throughout the system were reported to have resumed work. The Central Labour Union, Trichinopoly, wired to the Labour Commissioner, Madras, and Sir George Rainey, Simla, requesting arbitration regarding the increase of menials' wages, redress of running staff's grievances, payment of lock-out wages and absorption of surplus men after voluntary resignations and also asking Government to issue definite instructions to the Agent immediately. Mr. D. Krishnaswamy Pillai, President of the S. I. Railway Labour Union's Central Committee, who had been directing the strike, was arrested on the 25th July. The situation on the broad-gauge section of the S. I. Railway was normal. The position with regard to the metre-gauge became quieter from the 26th July, when the men began to drift back to work. As a result, the full train service was resumed in the Madras Suburban areas and urgent goods traffic was being cleared by goods and mixed trains. Several strike leaders including Mr. Ismail Khan, President of the Strike Propaganda Committee, Podanur, were arrested. On the 27th July, the strikers at several more stations resumed work and the situation became practically normal. Besides the passenger train service, goods trains were also running on all sections of the main line and on the more important branch lines. Night running of trains was resumed except between Mayavaram and Arantangi, Tanjore and Negapatam and Trichinopoly Junction, where interference was still considered possible through the workshopmen of Negapatam and Golden Rock. The precautionary measures of the police were still maintained. At Podanur almost all the strikers, excepting the workshopmen, resumed work. Mr. Narayanaswamy, Secretary of the Strike Committee, left for Trichinopoly to consider the advisability of launching *Satyagraha* at Podanur and other places but he was arrested at Trichinopoly. The Agent notified the workshops' staff that the works would be reopened at any time when the men undertook to be of good behaviour and that under no circumstances would pay be given for the period the men were off duty. Except for the Indian drivers and foremen at Trichinopoly Junction and Madura, the General Strike was practically at an end on the 27th July.

In a communication to the Press on the 29th July, the Agent stated that the situation was rapidly returning to normal and that night running of all trains would be resumed as soon as signals were restored to order. He however regretted that owing to the considerable dislocation of the working caused by the strike, it would not be possible for the Railway to run special trains for festivals this year. The S. I. Railway Strike Committee called off the General Strike with effect from 6 a.m. on the 30th July. The Agent, S. I. Railway, notified the recommencement of work at Golden Rock and Podanur workshops from the 31st July. The men who would not return to duty or who resigned voluntarily on or before the 4th August would be considered to have left service and would be paid off while the men performing *Satyagraha* would be dismissed. It was also stated that the men at Podanur who had resumed work would have the option to retire voluntarily before those shops were transferred to Golden Rock.

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In an interview with a Press representative, the Agent said that he received no communication from the Strike Committee on the calling off of the strike; but that with the exception of a few drivers, foremen and workshop staff, practically all men were back on duty.

The notice calling off the General Strike was issued by the Secretary and Treasurer of the Local Labour Union, Trichinopoly. But Messrs. E. Kirk and N. S. Ramaswamy Iyengar, two labour leaders, expressed the opinion that the notice issued by the Secretary and Treasurer of the Local Labour Union was premature and unauthorised and they proposed to carry on negotiations with the Agent.

Mr. Ismail Khan, President of the Strike Propaganda Committee, who had been arrested, was bound over to be of good behaviour for a period of six months on two sureties of Rs. 100 each. Mr. V. V. Giri, General Secretary of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, informed the press that in view of the critical situation on the S. I. Railway and the threatened strike of the G. I. P. Railwaymen, a meeting of the Council of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation would be convened at Madras on the 5th August in order to consider the grievances of all railwaymen and to concert measures for redressing them.

The Agent, S. I. Railway, withdrew the official recognition of the Railway Labour Union owing to non-fulfilment, on the part of the Union, of the conditions under which recognition was ordinarily granted. He declined to enter into correspondence with that body in future until it was reconstituted and reorganised under the Indian Trade Unions Act. The Agent, however, promised to meet deputations of employees in various departments early in September in order to get into direct touch with the staff and talk over questions on which misunderstandings might still exist.

On the 1st August, the restrictions placed on the booking of goods were removed, normal booking conditions were resumed, and through trains were running to scheduled timings. The strike situation was, however, considered by the Labour Union as still serious and it was stated that the men were unwilling to resume work until the arrested leaders were released. The ban imposed on public meetings convened for the purpose of expressing sympathy with the strikers, was removed. On the 3rd August, over 1500 labourers of the Negapatam workshops and 60 men at Podanur tendered their resignations in accordance with the decision of the S. I. Railway Labour Union. The employees at the Golden Rock and Trichinopoly workshops also proposed to tender their resignations.

About 354 strikers resumed work at the Podanur workshops on the 4th August. This being the last day for resumption of work according to the Agent's previous notification, the management proposed to dismiss those strikers who were still out, and to engage new hands. It was reported that over 5000 workers, in all, tendered their resignations up to the 4th August.

In reply to a reference from the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, the Agent stated that there remained no point for reference to arbitration in view of the fact that the line staff and menials had resumed

work. The Agent stated that he, however, proposed to meet the representatives of the men shortly and if, after discussion, there remained any specific points which had not proved susceptible of agreement, he would consider the advisability of submitting them to arbitration by the Labour Commissioner, Madras, or any authority that might be appointed. He also pointed out that his previous circular, dealing with the proposed retrenchment of the workshop staff and the question of pay for the strike period, had the full approval of the Government of India.

Over 40 strikers who had been arrested for offences cognizable under the Indian Railways Act, were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. One Railway employee with two others (not traced) attempted to remove the rails on the Trichinopoly-Erode line but was detected and arrested. He was convicted and sentenced to ten years' rigorous imprisonment.

Through booking of goods and coaching traffic was resumed without restriction on and from the 10th August. On the same date, the Agent, S. I. Railway, issued a notice stating that he was willing to re-employ the men who resigned voluntarily if they were willing to abide by the conditions regarding the Trade Test and the Medical Test, and the withdrawal of certain leave privileges. These and other new hands on re-joining would be admitted to the S. I. Railway Provident Fund. The Agent also issued an order to the effect that vacancies at the Golden Rock Workshop should be filled, in the first instance, from men who had been previously in service and who were prepared to comply with the Company's conditions.

On the 22nd August, a deputation consisting of Messrs. P. T. Rajan Ratnasabhpathy Mudaliar, and A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar waited on His Excellency the Governor of Madras to discuss questions relating to the strike. The deputation emphasised the need for better relations between the Railway Company and their employees and suggested that an Arbitration Board should be appointed by Government to settle differences. They also represented that prosecutions and orders under Section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, executed in connection with the strike, should be withdrawn.

On the 23rd August, the Agent issued a notification stating that deputations from drivers, foremen, station masters, traffic outdoor staff and others would be received by him from the 1st to the 11th September. The S. I. Railway Union officials issued an appeal on the 31st August to the members of the Legislatures, Provincial and Central, asking them to move Government for granting a redress of the grievances of the S. I. Railwaymen which, they stated, were genuine and deep-rooted. The Government of Madras issued a *Communique* on the 31st August setting forth the facts regarding the strike and pointing out that in view of the fact that the strike had ended there was no point left over for consideration and that there was no necessity for the appointment of an Arbitration Board. It was also stated that while Government sympathised with the strikers they could not withdraw cases instituted against peace-breakers and offenders against law because the maintenance of public peace and safety was the foremost duty of Government. Eighteen leaders, including Mukundlal Sircar and Singaravelu Chetty, were charged with offences

under Sections 120 and 121 of the Indian Railways Act and under Section 120 (b) and 109, I. P. C.

Thus the General Strike on the S. I. Railway which lasted for about 10 days, was brought to an end by the unconditional resumption of work by the strikers. None of the demands of the men on which they based their decision to strike, was conceded by the Railway administration. No pay was given to the men for the strike period. Many who resigned voluntarily in order to get the benefits of the double gratuity offered, were re-engaged on new terms and many others were expected to rejoin shortly. Seven hundred new hands were engaged in place of old hands.

The International Labour Office

MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY

In response to a cordial invitation from the Polish Government, the Governing Body of the International Labour Office held its 42nd Session from 5th to 8th October in Warsaw and on 10th October in Cracow.

It was decided that the 12th Ordinary Session of the International Labour Conference should open on 30th May 1929, and the special Maritime Session on 10th October 1929. It was also decided to add to the agenda of the special Maritime Session the question of the establishment by maritime countries of a minimum of professional competency to be required from captains and navigating and engineer officers in charge of watches on board merchant ships.

A large part of the Session was taken up by the discussion of the steps to be taken to give effect to the resolutions adopted by the Conference at its 11th Session. As regards the request for an enquiry into the conditions of work in the textile industry in the different countries, it was decided after an interesting debate, to appoint a committee to make proposals as to the scope of such an enquiry.

In execution of other resolutions adopted by the Conference, it was decided to continue the study of industrial relations and of the causes of decreased production; as regards industrial relations, a special effort will be made to define the methods of developing the spirit of collaboration between employers and workers, while in the investigation of the causes of decreased production special attention will be given to the means of preventing waste in industry.

The Governing Body also decided to maintain the Committee on Article 408, appointed as an experiment two years ago, and reappointed the existing Committee with the addition of two new members.

In order to give satisfaction to a desire repeatedly expressed at sessions of the Conference by Far-Eastern delegates, and as a mark of the universal nature of the Organisation, the Governing Body unanimously approved a proposal that the Director should visit the Far East, and so establish for the first time direct contact with those distant peoples, who have never ceased to show their devotion to the work of the International Labour Office. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, October 15, 1928.)

Working Class Family Budget Enquiry in Ahmedabad

Report of the Labour Office*

The Labour Office conducted an enquiry into family budgets of the working classes in Ahmedabad in 1926. A report based on the results of the enquiry has now been published together with photographs, charts and statistical tables.

The enquiry was conducted through the Lady Investigators of the Labour Office who filled in the schedule specially drawn up for the purpose. Three in every hundred families in Ahmedabad were visited and in all 985 family budgets were collected out of which 872 were accepted for final tabulation.

An analysis of the families according to income classes shows that the majority of them or 80·85 per cent. of the total have an income of between Rs. 20 and Rs. 60 per month. The income class in which the largest number of families is to be found is Rs. 40 and below Rs. 50.

Of the families considered, 78·67 per cent. were Hindu, 20·18 per cent. Muhammadan and 1·15 per cent. Christian. Nearly 80 per cent. of the families come from the city itself or the surrounding districts of Gujerat, while nearly 11 per cent. come from Rajputana and only 4 per cent. from the Deccan and Konkan.

THE FAMILY

The average number of persons per family in Ahmedabad is 4·00, 3·87 of whom live in the family and 0·13 away from the family. Of the 3·87 persons living in the family 1·36 are adult males, 1·21 adult females and 1·30 children under 14 years of age. It is noticeable that the average number of persons living in the Ahmedabad family is appreciably lower than at Sholapur and Bombay where it is 4·57 and 4·2 respectively.

WORKERS AND DEPENDANTS IN THE FAMILY

Of the 3·87 persons in the family 1·66 are earners and 2·21 dependants. Of the earners 1·25 are men, 0·37 women and 0·04 children. Comparing the number of earners and dependants per 100 working class families in Bombay, Ahmedabad and Sholapur, the figures for earners are, for Bombay City 154, Ahmedabad 166 and Sholapur 196. As regards the number of wage-earners in families, it is seen that in nearly half the number of cases there was only one wage-earner and in nearly 40 per cent. of the families there were two. The highest number of earners recorded in one family was 5.

CONSTITUTION OF THE FAMILY

As in the case of the Sholapur enquiry information was collected regarding relationship of the various members of the family to its head

* Copies of the Report can be obtained from the Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, or from the Labour Office, Secretariat, Bombay: Price Annas 4 or 5d.

with a view to ascertaining the prevailing type of the family and to determine, if possible, the relation between income and the type of the family. As, however, all the budgets collected did not furnish the necessary data, only 812 could be utilised for the purpose of this analysis. It is seen from the tabulation of these budgets that 64 per cent. of the families were natural and 36 per cent. were joint. In the case of the Sholapur cotton mill workers the corresponding percentages were 44 and 56 respectively.

COMPOSITION OF FAMILIES

The data collected in the course of the enquiry regarding the composition of families shows that among natural families, 35 per cent. contain only the husband and the wife, 21 per cent. contain a child under 14 in addition and 15 per cent. contain two children under 14 years of age. A comparison with the Sholapur family budget investigation shows that there only 24 per cent. of the natural families contain husband and wife only. As regards joint households, the composition differs greatly and it is difficult to single out any prevailing type of composition.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

An attempt was made during the course of the enquiry to ascertain the ages of the earners in families. Of the 1394 wage-earners for whom data could be collected 1108 were males and 286 females. It is seen that the bulk or 85 per cent. of the males are above 15 and below 45, while the bulk or 86 per cent. of the women workers are above 15 and below 40.

WORKERS AND THEIR MONTHLY EARNINGS

In the 872 families considered there were 1443 workers, 1090 of whom were men, 320 women and 33 children. It is seen that though in many cases the monthly earnings of individual workers are as low as less than Rs. 6, in the majority or 61 per cent. of the cases the earnings vary from Rs. 15 to Rs. 33 per month. No woman wage-earner gets more than Rs. 33 per month, and no child worker gets Rs. 15 per month.

The monthly earnings of cotton mill workers were separately tabulated. Out of the total of 1443 wage-earners, 1049 were employed in cotton mills. The results of this separate tabulation show that of the 1049 workers, 814 or 77.60 per cent. were men, 217 or 20.69 per cent. women and 18 or 1.71 per cent. were children. The earnings of cotton mill workers appear to be higher than of other workers in Ahmedabad. They are also higher than those of the Sholapur cotton mill workers.

INCOME OF THE FAMILY

The income of the family is made up not only of the regular monthly earnings of the workers in the family but it also includes income from certain supplementary sources. Roughly speaking, the Ahmedabad working class family has a monthly income of about Rs. 44-8-0.

EXPENDITURE OF THE FAMILY

The following table shows the percentage distribution of expenditure on the various groups of articles included in the family budget :—

Food	..	..	..	57.90
Fuel and lighting	..	..	..	7.04
Clothing	..	..	..	9.45
Bedding and household necessaries	..	..	..	1.16
House-rent	..	..	..	11.74
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	12.71

It is of interest to compare the percentage distribution of expenditure of the working class in Ahmedabad with a similar class of persons in Bombay and Sholapur. The following table gives the comparison :—

	Bombay working class budgets (1921-22)	Sholapur cotton mill workers' budgets (1925)	Ahmedabad working class budgets (1926)
Food	56.32	52.76	57.90
Fuel and lighting ..	7.29	10.28	7.04
Clothing	8.40	12.70	9.45
Bedding and household necessaries	2.26	1.08	1.16
House-rent	7.67	6.72	11.74
Miscellaneous	18.06	16.46	12.71
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

More than half the expenditure of the family is on food. It is difficult to say what is the staple food of working class families in Ahmedabad because it appears that there both wheat and rice have equal importance from the point of view of the consumption of the family. It is of interest to observe here that the Labour Office is informed that the Hindu working class families in Ahmedabad change their staple according to the seasons. Bajri is generally used during the monsoon and wheat during summer.

HOUSING

As in Bombay City, so also in Ahmedabad, the bulk (97 per cent. in the case of Bombay and 73 per cent. in the case of Ahmedabad) of the working class families live in one-room tenements. In the majority of cases, the number of occupants per tenement is 2, 3 or 4. Cases of overcrowding are, however, not rare. The monthly rent paid by the majority of the families varies from Rs. 3 to Rs. 6. The average rent paid by a family comes to Rs. 4-9-11. The average floor space available for each person in the family is 47.36 square feet.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The Ahmedabad worker is heavily indebted. The amount of debt varies from a few rupees to many times the monthly income. The money is borrowed at heavy rates of interest which in the majority of cases vary from 12 to 24 per cent. But higher rates of interest are not uncommon, and in fact in one case the rate of interest reported was as high as 225 per cent.

Immigrant Labour in Ceylon

Administration Report for 1927

There were probably 885,000 Indians in Ceylon in 1927 out of a total population which now slightly exceeds 5,280,000. The number of Indians resident on estates, i.e., on plantations exceeding ten acres in extent, was 719,552. Out of these 241,200 were men, 234,131 women and 244,221 children. There are probably over 10,000 estates in Ceylon and Indians were employed on 1852 tea, rubber, cacao and cardamom estates.

POLITICAL AND LEGAL RIGHTS OF INDIANS IN CEYLON

By Ordinance No. 13 of 1889 no kangany, subordinate kangany or labourer shall be liable to arrest under the provisions of the Civil Procedure Code, 1889, in execution of a decree for money. This protection of Indian debtors and their employers is not granted to other debtors in Ceylon. A Government department has been specially created *inter alia* to protect Indian immigrant labourers as regards recruitment, transport, treatment, etc., and a special Agent has been appointed "for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of Indian immigrant labour in Ceylon." The rights of association and combination are also conceded and there is no legal or other obstacle to the exercise of such rights but there are no Indian labour unions in Ceylon.

EDUCATION OF INDIANS ON ESTATES

Considerable progress was made during the year as regards the starting of estate schools and no less than 192 new school buildings were provided. The total number of registered estate schools was 304 as compared with 294 in 1926. The total number of children of school-going age at the end of September 1927 was 87,023 of whom 32,299 were attending school.

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN ON ESTATES

The Medical Wants Ordinance of 1912 places on planters the legal duty of providing medical aid for labourers in need of such and of providing free maternity benefit, namely, sufficient food and lodging for one month, absence from work for one month and of seeing that all children under the age of one year receive proper care and nourishment. In fact on nearly all estates a money grant is given at times of child birth in addition to the above. Most of the up-country estates supply a free meal of curry and rice daily to non-working children, while the free issues of rice to children are common on the estates. Night work is practically unknown except at very busy times in tea factories. Work is then done in relays and wages at higher than the usual rates are paid. The Ceylon Government at the request of the Government of India has made it illegal for children under ten years of age to work. Clauses of the Washington Convention of 1919 and of the general conference of the International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations held at Genoa in 1920 relating to the employment of women and children in industrial undertakings and night work were legalised in Ceylon by Ordinance No. 6 of 1903. Children under 14 years of age cannot lawfully be employed in mines, quarries or

factories or at engineering or transport work while persons under 18 years of age cannot lawfully be employed as a rule on night work in the above-mentioned occupations. Women cannot lawfully be employed on night work in similar undertakings.

HOUSING

By Ordinance Nos. 9 and 10 of 1912 the Government has power to compel planters who employ Indian labour to house their estate employees properly. Legal regulations subsidiary to the Ordinance enact that a living room shall not be less than 12 feet by 10 feet in floor area and that there shall be a clear space of at least 40 feet around (lines of group of labourers' dwellings). Statistics collected from 1906 estates show that from January 1922 to the end of 1927 about 134,047 rooms were constructed or reconstructed on 1906 estates employing 659,482 Indian labourers at a cost of Rs. 48,847,836 while some 30,521 more rooms will probably be erected in 1928.

It is pointed out that the number of persons per room comes to 3·8 and that speaking generally overcrowding does not exist on the estates.

HEALTH OF INDIANS EMPLOYED ON ESTATES

According to the statistics of births and deaths it is seen that the birth-rate per 1000 of the mean population on estates was 34·8 while the death-rate was 28·2. The rate of infant mortality was 228 per 1000 births.

INSURANCE OF LABOURERS

There are no public schemes in Ceylon for the insurance of sickness, unemployment, old-age or accident nor is there national health insurance of the type generally adopted in Western countries. Free treatment of sick labourers is however provided for by the Government hospitals, dispensaries, homes, etc., with which the island is liberally covered. Indian estate labourers are legally entitled to free medical aid but labourers are also bound by law to be offered six days' work a week or wages in lieu thereof if work is not available. No Indian estate labourer need be out of employment and he is seldom discharged though he frequently quits service with impunity without giving a month's notice. Indians too old to work are repatriated at public expense, if they so desire. Frequently, however, they are given light work on estates. The Government levies no contributions from employers or employees to meet the cost of the comprehensive public curative and public health schemes in force except in the case of proprietors of tea, rubber and cacao estates in whose case to meet the cost of the medical care of Indian estate labourers, an export duty of 15 cents for 100 lb. is levied in the case of tea and cacao and of 75 cents for 100 lb. in the case of rubber.

On 4th July 1928 an Agreement was concluded between Belgium and France providing for the modification, as regards certain Belgian workers, of the administrative formalities adopted in France for the protection of the labour market against foreign workers. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, October 22, 1928.)

Current Periodicals

Summary of titles and contents of special articles

THE LABOUR MAGAZINE—VOL. VII, NO. 6, OCTOBER 1928. (The Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party, London.)

- Special Articles: (1) *A Practical Idealist*, by Gerald Gould. pp. 243 and 244.
 (2) *All Aboard for Birmingham*, by George Lansbury, M. P. (Chairman of the Labour Party Annual Conference, October 1928). pp. 245-249.
 (3) *Impressions of the Swansea Congress*, by Alderman Ben Turner, J. P. (President of the S. Congress). pp. 250-252.
 (4) *Literature and the Worker*, by R. M. Fox. pp. 253-255.
 (5) *The Eleven University Seats*, by Professor J. J. Findlay. pp. 256-258.
 (6) *An Industrial Esperanto*, by L. Urwick (Honorary Secretary, Management Research Groups). pp. 259-261.
 (7) *The Mother of Parliaments*, by Edward Hunter. pp. 262 and 263.
 (8) *New Tasks for Trade Unionists*, by Ben Tillet. pp. 268-271.
 (9) *The Givings of Mr. Gallacher*, by Edgar T. Whitehead. pp. 272-275.
 (10) *Truth about the Turner-Mond Talks*, by Walter M. Citrine (General Secretary, Trades Union Congress). pp. 279-282.
 Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

INDUSTRIAL WELFARE—VOL. X, NO. 118, OCTOBER 1928. (The Industrial Welfare Society, London.)

- Special Articles: (1) *Juvenile Workers Criticise Industry*, by A. P. Le Quesne.—Suitability for employment; changes in employment; question of careful selection; how to reduce labour turnover; length of working week; problem of fatigue; causes of accidents; safety first the best remedy; opinions on apprenticeship; its disadvantages; "anti-domestic" instinct. pp. 313-316.
 (2) *Apprenticeship and Training*.—Decline of indentured apprentices; apprenticeship in a wider sense; proportion of apprentices to journeymen; no lack of suitable boys; objection to binding agreement; financial difficulties; dirty and heavy work; is seven years too long? Modern methods of training; learning with a journeyman; technical instruction; workshop training; a special scheme; local committees; boy learners for skilled trades. pp. 320-324.
 (3) *Fire in the Factory*.—Outside protection; fire drills and practices; the fire occurrence book. pp. 325-328.
 (4) *The Rivalry of Office and Works*, by W. J. Hiscox.—Why some schemes fail; mutual antipathy; the vanity of distinctions; a uniform for all; office workers' advantage; how to lessen the contrast; the question of attire. pp. 329-331.
 (5) *Progressive Accident Prevention*. pp. 333-335.
 Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

MONTHLY LABOUR REVIEW—VOL. XXVI, NO. 6, JUNE 1928. (U. S. Department of Labour, Washington.)

- Special Articles: (1) *Old Age at Fifty*, by James J. Davis (Secretary of Labour of the United States). pp. 1-6.
 (2) *Settlements for Accidents to American Seamen*.—Scope of study; hypothetical application of compensation law; comparative summary; legal fees. pp. 6-15.
 (3) *Apprenticeship in Building Construction*.—Organized systems in operation; supply of trainers; apprentice quotas; attitude of contractors; attitude of unions; training on the job; national programmes—tile setting, marble setting, plumbing, bricklaying, electrical work, sheet-metal work; trades having no apprenticeship policy—plastering, carpentry, painting and decorating; other crafts. pp. 15-28.
 (4) *Blast-furnace Productivity in the United States*, by Ethelbert Stewart (United States Commissioner of Labour Statistics). pp. 29-32.
 (5) *Coal-mining Conditions in Colorado: Report of State Industrial Commission*.—Report of Industrial Commission. pp. 37-42.
 (6) *A New Test for Industrial Lead Poisoning*. pp. 49 and 50.
 (7) *Sickness Insurance in Various Countries*.—Compulsory insurance—scope of present laws, benefits, division of insurance costs, insurance institutions; voluntary influence—types of insurance institutions, conditions of admission, membership, financial resources, benefits. pp. 77-84.
 (8) *Report of Commission concerning Unemployment in Amsterdam*.—Methods of inquiry; results of survey; findings of the medical examination; recommendations. pp. 88-92.
 (9) *Need for Old Age Pensions*. pp. 93-95.
 (10) *Wages and Hours of Labour in Cotton Compresses, 1927*. pp. 109-122.
 (11) *Wages and Hours of Labour in German Metal Works*.—Wages; arbitration; distribution of employees; hours of labour. pp. 126-128.
 Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

THE JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE—VOL. X, NO. 8, OCTOBER 1928. (Harvard School of Public Health, Baltimore.)

- Special Articles: (1) *Development of Industrial Hygiene in Canada*, by R. M. Hutton (Special Investigator, Division of Industrial Hygiene, Ontario Department of Health, Toronto, Canada).—Committee on industrial fatigue; division of industrial hygiene; industrial hygiene division, McGill university; legislation. pp. 225-260.
 (2) *Inhalation Experiments with Certain Lacquer Solvents*, by Henry Field Smyth, M.D., P.H., and Henry F. Smyth, Jr. B.S. in Ch.E.—Methods employed; tests with individual solvents—toluol, xylol, gasoline, ethyl acetate, butyl acetate, amyl acetate, ethyl alcohol, formula 2b, butyl alcohol, steam distilled turpentine, spraying lacquer distillate, brushing distillate, controls; discussion and summary. pp. 261-271.
 (3) *The Method of Action of Silica Dust in the Lungs*, by Patrick Heffernan, M. D. (Tuberculosis Officer, Derbyshire County Council) and A. T. Green, F. Inst. P.—Summary. pp. 272-278.
 (4) *The Gravimetric Determination of Dust Inhaled by Workmen*, by Dr. A. I. Burstein.—Summary. pp. 279-291.
 Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE—VOL. XXVIII, NO. 8, AUGUST 1928. (The Department of Labour, Canada.)

- Special Articles: (1) *Canadian Government Activities*.—Commissions to postmasters; meeting problem of old age; deferred annuities; immediate annuities; advantages of system. pp. 848-850.
 (2) *Minimum Wages for Female Employees in Saskatchewan*.—Shops and stores; laundries and factories; mail order houses; hotels, restaurants and refreshment rooms; beauty parlours and barber shops. pp. 851-853.
 (3) *Minimum Wages for Women in Alberta*.—Personal service occupation; fruit and vegetable industry. p. 854.
 (4) *The Mining Industry in Nova Scotia in 1927*.—Fatal accidents. pp. 855 and 856.
 (5) *The Mining Industry in Quebec in 1927: Annual Report of the Bureau of Mines*.—Employment and wages; accidents. pp. 856-858.
 (6) *Wages, Hours of Work, and Production in European Coal Mines: Results of Inquiry by International Labour Office*.—Results. pp. 858 and 859.
 (7) *Labour in Great Britain in 1927: Annual Report of Ministry of Labour*. p. 867.
 (8) *Provision for Family Allowances in Public Contracts in Belgium*. p. 868.
 (9) *Employees' Pension Fund of Canada Steamship Lines, Ltd.* pp. 868 and 869.
 (10) *Specialized Training for an Industrial Life*.—Developing the boy; specialization; co-operation of industry and school; school programme; reaching the boy; general knowledge needed. pp. 873-875.
 Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR REVIEW—VOL. XVIII, NO. 3, SEPTEMBER 1928 (International Labour Office, Geneva.)

- Special Articles: (1) *Agricultural Workers and Agrarian Reform in Central Europe*, by Dr. Adam Rose (Lecturer in Agrarian Policy at the Free University of Warsaw).—The general situation after the war; legislation; difficulties in the way of application—the formation of workers co-operative societies, establishment of workers as settlers, compensation of the workers, other employment and emigration; some results; conclusion. pp. 307-338.
 (2) *Recent International Developments of Social Work in Industry*, by G. A. Johnston (Chief of Section, Intelligence and Liaison Division, International Labour Office). pp. 339-359.
 (3) *The Financing of House Building in Countries with Rent Restriction Legislation; I*, by Dr. Karl Pribram (Chief of the Statistical Section, International Labour Office). pp. 360-374.
 (4) *The Regulation of Hours of Work in European Industry III*.—Exemptions—general survey, regulations on the length of overtime. pp. 375-405.
 (5) *Labour in Tanganyika in 1927*.—Organisation of the Labour Department; labour statistics; contract labour; labour agents; portorage; government labour; child labour; native organisations; health; wages; sociological aspects. pp. 406-411.
 (6) *The Work of the British Ministry of Labour in 1927*.—Industrial relations; employment and unemployment—unemployment insurance, juveniles, training centres for the unemployed; trade unions. pp. 412-418.
 (7) *The Effects of Collective Agreements in Silesian Agriculture*.—Wages in kind ("deputat"); cash wages; total wages. pp. 418-423.
 (8) *The Conditions of Employment of Finnish Dockers*. pp. 423-426.
 (9) *Recent Wage Changes in Various Countries*.—Netherlands; Switzerland. pp. 427-433.
 Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

Current Notes from Abroad

UNITED KINGDOM

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Ministry of Labour, the changes in rates of wages reported to have taken place during September resulted in an increase of about £2,500 in the weekly full-time wages of 79,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of £1,900 in those of over 20,000 workpeople.

The principal group of workpeople whose wages were increased were adult part-time workers employed in federated shipbuilding yards in England and Scotland. With the restoration of their bonus to 10s per week most classes of skilled men received an increase of 1s. 6d. per week. Other adult time-workers not in receipt of the full bonus of 10s received the sum required to make up that amount, varying up to a maximum of 1s. 6d. per week. Time workers employed in the shipyards at Belfast had their wages similarly increased.

Among workpeople whose wages were reduced were those employed in the light castings industry in England and Scotland, and coal miners in Warwickshire. There was a small reduction in the wages of electrical workers in Cumberland. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, October 1928.)

At 1st October the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the index compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was 100 per cent. above that of July 1914, as compared with 95 per cent. above that of July 1914, as compared with 85 per cent. above that of July 1914, as compared with 75 per cent. above that of July 1914, as compared with 65 per cent. above that of July 1914, as compared with 55 per cent. above that of July 1914, as compared with 45 per cent. above that of July 1914, as compared with 35 per cent. above that of July 1914, as compared with 25 per cent. above that of July 1914, as compared with 15 per cent. above that of July 1914, as compared with 5 per cent. above that of July 1914. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, October 1928.)

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Ministry of Labour as beginning in September, was 20. In addition 11 disputes which began before September were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in September (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 56,000. The aggregate duration of all disputes during September was about 56,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of 54,000 workpeople involved and 23,000 working days lost in the previous month and with 15,200 workpeople involved and 84,000 days lost in September 1927. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, October 1928.)

COMPALED STATEMENT OF THE QUANTITY (IN POUNDS) AND THE COUNTS (IN NUMBERS) OF YARN SPUN BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

Count or Number	Month of September			Six months ended September		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nov. 1 to 10	6,761	6,775	776	41,824	39,171	6,772
Nov. 11 to 20	18,313	18,060	5,703	111,355	108,111	40,484
Nov. 21 to 30	12,890	14,643	5,789	88,453	92,668	42,570
Nov. 31 to 40	1,715	2,280	1,470	10,195	12,841	9,201
Above 40	903	902	496	5,026	5,673	3,204
Waste, etc.	93	81		658	656	92
Total	40,675	42,741	14,234	257,511	259,120	102,323

BOMBAY CITY

Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
..	6,036	5,894	10,408	34,310	2,970	
..	12,894	11,791	2,110	72,713	7,670	
..	821	1,110	..	4,744	6,069	997
..	404	438	..	1,958	2,699	417
..	84	80	..	598	655	92
Total	28,068	27,828	408	175,173	173,893	18,658

AHMEDABAD

Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
10	184	213	211	1,237	1,110	1,171
20	3,323	3,303	3,236	20,005	18,750	19,265
30	3,776	4,722	4,441	24,738	27,490	28,100
40	708	905	1,099	4,301	4,908	6,335
10	405	412	381	2,389	2,109	2,026
Waste, etc.						
Total	8,396	9,455	9,368	52,670	54,367	56,897

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

Description	Month of September			Six months ended September		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000) 2,265	(000) 2,899	(000) 482	(000) 8,186	(000) 13,316	(000) 2,477
Khadi	1,665	1,794	926	9,626	10,324	4,547
Chudders	7,589	8,464	4,746	46,349	49,474	33,193
Dhotis	968	1,318	222	5,629	7,589	2,502
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	37	92	35	153	333	260
Tent cloth	142	153	101	994	843	963
Other sorts	8,557	9,615	3,367	60,863	59,623	23,025
Total	23,289	26,407	10,516	142,232	188,446	72,654
Coloured piecegoods	10,009	11,227	2,695	56,421	67,046	21,057
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	161	211	15	1,546	1,827	378
Hosiery	17	26	20	136	129	245
Miscellaneous	214	302	131	1,396	1,271	574
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	141	223	83	954	1,086	844
Grand Total	33,831	38,396	13,460	202,685	220,434	95,752

BOMBAY CITY

Description	Month of September			Six months ended September		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
Grey & bleached piecegoods	(000) 2,302	(000) 2,302	(000) 114	(000) 7,282	(000) 10,601	(000) 947
Khadi	1,242	1,242	26	6,883	7,345	849
Chudders	2,964	2,964	31	14,410	17,591	2,840
Dhotis	1,223	1,223	105	5,160	7,078	1,804
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	59	59	1	26	169	40
Tent cloth	6,520	6,520	263	47,147	43,786	6,304
Other sorts	1,157	1,064	45	5,213	6,207	1,176
Total	14,388	15,710	643	87,944	94,672	14,536
Coloured piecegoods	7,348	8,292	373	40,080	44,013	6,373
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	114	208	12	1,496	1,315	270
Hosiery	5	11	3	29	57	19
Miscellaneous	117	238	..	1,137	1,398	131
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	2	163	14	605	1,310	220
Grand Total	22,174	24,622	1,045	131,291	142,765	21,549

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

Description	Month of September			Six months ended September		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000) 64	(000) 263	(000) 218	(000) 195	(000) 543	(000) 590
Khadi	392	382	678	2,072	2,120	2,781
Chudders	4,291	4,540	4,023	26,123	25,222	25,197
Dhotis	25	19	45	165	168	179
Drills and jeans	34	33	32	124	160	204
Cambrics and lawns	75	53	69	528	366	504
Shirtings and long T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	1,452	2,375	2,596	10,305	11,920	13,754
Tent cloth	302	367	251	1,682	1,716	1,820
Other sorts	1	..	10	15	3	..
Total	6,723	8,129	8,043	41,828	42,966	45,873
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	1,578	1,657	1,218	10,456	10,800	9,126
Hosiery	2	1	..	8	7	5
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	12	16	17	107	123	226
Total	30	50	109	241	288	410
Grand Total	8,382	9,912	9,456	52,980	54,845	56,255

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS IN OCTOBER 1928

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Name of concern and locality	Approximate number of workpeople involved		Date when dispute		Cause	Result	Number of working days lost during the month	Total number of working days lost in the dispute on termination
	Directly	Indirectly	Began	Ended				
<i>Textile Industry</i>								
1. General Strike, Bombay—			1928	1928				
(a) 10 cotton mills			11 Sept.		Introduction of new systems of work in accordance with the recommendations of the Textile Tariff Board, and alleged reductions in rates of wages and increases in hours of work.	The strike virtually ended in a temporary compromise.	1,207,618	21,691,503
(b) 8 cotton mills and Indian Bleaching Mill.			11 Sept.					
(c) 1 cotton mill	5,774		14 Sept.					
(d) 2 cotton mills	5,750		14 Sept.					
(e) 3 cotton mills	5,525		21 Sept.					
(f) 23 cotton mills	47,199		21 Sept.	11 Oct.				
(g) 14 cotton mills and Choi Silk Mill.	26,631		24 Sept.					
(h) 6 cotton mills and Alliance Silk Mill.	17,713		25 Apr.					
(i) 1 cotton mill	956		26 Apr.					
2. Strike in Sholapur Mills—								
(a) The Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Mills.	2,500	5,500	21 Apr.	6 July				
(b) The Vishnu Mill		3,914	21 June	6 Oct.				
(c) The Laxmi Mill	606	2,830	16 July					
(d) The Jam Mill	578		18 July		Alleged reduction in wages.			
(e) The Narsingirji Mill.	1,000		18 July	25th Sept.				
3. Strike in Kurla Mills—					Demand for an increase in wages.	The strike virtually ended in a temporary compromise by the workers returning on the terms of the settlement of the General Strike.	23,848	656,117
(a) The Swadeshi Mill	3,337	375	14 May	6 Oct.				
The Kurla Spinning and Weaving Mill.	....	1,800	17 May					
4. The Patel Mills, Gomtipur Road, Ahmedabad.	93	....	28 Sept.	2 Oct.	Demand for pay for strike ended in favour of the employers.		58	262
5. The Bombay Burma Dyeing Co., Parel Tank Road, Bombay.	40	....	8 Oct.	15 Oct.	Demand for better wages.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	176	176
6. The Gujarat Cotton Mills, Naroda Road, Ahmedabad.	200	....	15 Oct.	16 Oct.	Demand for reinstatement of a dismissed jobber.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	100	100
7. The Kastoorchand Mill, Dadar, Bombay.	70	....	17 Oct.	21 Oct.	Discontinuance of blankets making.	The strike ended in favour of the workers.	245	245
8. The Bharat Laxmi Cotton Mills, Amraivadi, North Daskroi Taluka.	100	....	18 Oct.	25 Oct.	Dismissal of a Head operative and three operatives.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	223	223
9. The Spring Mill Naigaum, Bombay.	97	4,303	19 Oct.	27 Oct.	Demand for continuance of the same number of hands as before the General Strike.	The strike ended in a compromise.	13,260	13,260
10. The Ruby Mill, Jamshedji Road, Dadar, Bombay.	150	....	24 Oct.	25 Oct.	Demand for better wages.	The strike ended in favour of the employers.	150	150
11. The Becharadas Spinning and Weaving Mills, Raikhad, Ahmedabad.	50	....	24 Oct.	....	Demand for reinstatement of dismissed men.	No settlement reported	63	
12. The Ahmedabad Fine Spinning and Weaving Mills, Gomtipur Road, Ahmedabad.	10	....	31 Oct.	....	Demand for reinstatement of a dismissed Jobber.	No settlement reported	10	
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>								
13. The Department of the Bombay Municipality, Babool Tank, Bombay.	310	....	1 Oct.	7 Oct.	Introduction of the system of giving work by turns.	The strike ended in a compromise.	1,580	1,580
The General Workshop of the Kirkee Arsenal, Kirkee, Poona.	458	11 Oct.	Alleged reduction in wages.	No settlement reported	6,062	

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WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN BOMBAY

Article	Grade	Unit	Prices in the month of				Index numbers			
			Rs. a. p.				Index numbers			
			Oct. 1927	Sept. 1928	Oct. 1928	July 1914	Oct. 1927	Sept. 1928	Oct. 1928	
Cereals—										
Rice	.. Rangoon Small-mill	Maund	4 11 3	5 15 3	5 7 6	5 8 7	100	127	116	118
Wheat	.. Delhi No. 1	Cwt.	5 9 6	7 8 0	7 13 6	7 13 6(5)	100	134	140	140
Do.	.. Khandwa Seoni	Candy	45 0 0	82 8 0	87 8 0	107 8 0	100	183	194	239
Do.	.. Jubbulpore	Maund	40 0 0	53 8 0	56 8 0	54 8 0	100	134	141	136
Do.	.. Cawnpore	"	3 2 6	4 3 9	3 9 7	3 14 8	100	134	114	124
Do.	.. Cawnpore	"	3 4 6	4 0 4	4 7 1	4 7 1	100	123	135	135
Do.	.. Cawnpore	"	3 4 6	3 14 8	4 10 6	4 12 2	100	119	142	145
Index No.—Cereals							100	136	140	148
	.. Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	Maund	4 3 9	5 8 1	5 13 1	6 2 2	100	130	137	145
	.. Cawnpore	"	5 10 5	7 15 0	7 6 6	7 15 0	100	140	131	140
Index No.—Pulses							100	135	134	143
Index No.—Food grains							100	136	139	147
Sugar (refined)	Mauritius	Cwt.	9 3 0	.....	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	.....
Do. (do.)	Java, white	Maund	10 3 0	15 0 0	13 9 0	14 1 0	100	147	133	138
Do. Raw (Gul)	Sangli or Poona	Maund	7 14 3	9 1 10	10 14	12 3 11	100	116	138	155
Index No.—Sugar							100	132	136	147
Other Food—										
Turmeric	.. Rajapuri	Maund	5 9 3	8 15 8	15 10 4	15 14 8	100	161	280	285
Ghee	.. Deshi	"	45 11 5	85 11 5	71 6 10	74 4 7	100	188	156	163
Salt	.. Bombay (black)	"	1 7 6	2 0 0	2 2 0	2 0 0	100	136	145	136
Index No.—Other food							100	162	194	195
Index No.—All Food							100	141	150	157
Oilseeds—										
Mustard	.. Bold	Cwt.	8 14 6	10 1 0	10 11 0	10 9 0	100	113	120	119
Rapeseed	.. Cawnpore (brown)	"	8 0 0	10 8 0	10 14 0	10 10 0	100	131	136	133
Poppy seed		"	10 14 0	17 0 0	17 3 0	18 12 0	100	156	158	172
Gingelly seed	.. White	"	11 4 0	16 4 0	12 12 0	12 8 0	100	144	113	111
Index No.—Oilseeds							100	136	132	134

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Textiles—Cotton—										
(a) Cotton, raw	Good	Candy	251 0 0	435 0 0	331 0 0	331 0 0(5)	173	132	132	132
	Fully good	"	222 0 0	442 0 0	331 0 0(7)	331 0 0(7)	192	149	149	149
	Omara	"	230 0 0	442 0 0	349 0 0(7)	349 0 0(7)	192	152	152	152
	Dharwar	"	205 0 0	442 0 0	357 0 0(6)	357 0 0(6)	100	174	174	174
	Khandesh	"	198 0 0	341 0 0	280 0 0(7)	292 0 0	100	172	141	147
	Bengal	"	198 0 0	341 0 0	280 0 0(7)	292 0 0	100	172	141	147
Index No.—Cotton, raw							100	179	150	151
(b) Cotton manufactures—										
40 s	..	Lb.	0 12 9	1 1 6	1 2 6	1 2 6	100	137	145	145
Twist	..	Piece	5 15 0	9 10 0	9 10 0	9 10 0	100	162	162	162
Grey shirtinas	..	"	4 3 0	8 8 0	8 12 0	8 12 0	100	203	209	209
White mulls*	..	"	10 6 0	18 3 0	18 10 0	18 10 0	100	175	180	180
Shirtings	..	"	10 6 0	18 3 0	18 10 0	18 10 0	100	166	163	166
Long Cloth (3)	..	Lb.	0 9 6	0 15 9	0 15 6	0 15 9	100	158	150	158
Chudders (4)	..	"	0 9 6	0 15 9	0 14 3	0 15 0	100	158	150	158
Index No.—Cotton manufactures							100	167	168	170
Index No.—Cotton manufactures							100	171	160	161
Other Textiles—										
Silks	.. Manchow	Lb.	5 2 6	6 14 9	6 0 3	5 15 2	100	134	117	115
Do.	.. Mathow Lari	"	2 15 1	3 12 3	3 10 1	3 10 1	100	128	123	123
Index No.—Other Textiles								120	119	119
Hides and Skins—										
Hides, Cow	.. Tanned	Lb.	1 2 6	1 11 8	1 12 0	1 12 5	100	150	158	154
Do, Buffalo	.. Do.	"	1 1 3	0 13 2	0 12 11	0 14 11	100	76	75	86
Skins, Goat	.. Do.	"	1 4 0	2 9 1	2 15 7	2 15 3	100	205	238	236
Index No.—Hides and Skins							100	144	155	159
Metals—										
Copper braziers	..	Cwt.	60 8 0	56 0 0	61 8 0	62 0 0	100	93	102	102
Iron bars	..	"	4 0 0	6 3 6	7 4 0	7 4 0	100	156	181	181
Steel hoops	..	"	7 12 0	9 2 0	8 12 0	8 10 0	100	118	113	111
Galvanized sheets	..	"	9 0 0	12 0 0	11 10 0	11 10 0	100	133	129	129
Tin plates	..	Box	8 12 0	14 8 0	14 8 0	14 8 0	100	166	166	166
Index No.—Metals							100	133	138	138
Other raw and manufactured articles—										
Coal (2)	.. Bengal	Ton	14 12 0	21 0 0	20 12 0	20 12 0	100	142	141	141
Do.	.. Imported	"	19 11 6	21 14 7	20 13 6	17 11 4	100	111	106	90
Kerosene	.. Elephant Brand	2 Tins	4 6 0	6 6 6	6 11 0	6 9 6	100	146	153	151
Do.	.. Chester Brand	Case	5 2 0	8 8 6	8 12 0	8 11 6	100	166	171	170
Index No.—Other raw and manfd. articles							100	141	143	138
Index No.—Food							100	141	150	157
Index No.—Non-food							100	148	147	147
General Index No.							100	146	148	150

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(1) Quota March 1926. (2) Since June 1925, the quotation is for Bengal, 1st Class Jheria. (3) Quotation for 37" x 37 1/2 yds. since March 1926. (4) Quotation for 50" x 6 yds. since March 1926. (5) Quotation for September 1928. (6) Quotation for July 1928. (7) Quotation for August 1928.
 * In the absence of price-quotations for the grade 6/60 the price quoted for white mulls is for the grade 6,000/56 since June 1925 and for 6,000/54 x 19 since October 1927.
 † Since October 1925, the price-quotations for raw cotton are for the following five varieties: — Frisch, Fully good; Omara, Fine; Dharwar, F. G.; Khandesh, Fully good; Bengal, Fully good.

WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN KARACHI*

Article	Grade	Rate per	Prices in the month of				Index numbers			
			July 1914	Oct. 1927	Sept. 1928	Oct. 1928	July 1914	Oct. 1927	Sept. 1928	Oct. 1928
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.				
Rice (1)	Larkana No. 3	Candy	39 0 0	66 4 0	56 4 0	57 4 0	100	120	144	147
Wheat, white	2% barley, 3% dirt, 30% red	"	31 8 0	38 8 0	41 4 0	43 12 0	100	122	131	139
" white	2% barley, 3% dirt, 92% red	"	31 4 0	39 12 0	42 8 0	45 1 0	100	122	131	139
" red	2% barley, 3% dirt, 92% red	"	32 8 0	37 12 0	39 4 0	34 4 0	100	148	154	134
" red	2% barley, 3% dirt, 92% red	"	32 4 0	37 12 0	39 4 0	34 4 0	100	126	113	121
" red	2% barley, 3% dirt, 92% red	"	25 8 0	33 8 0	30 0 0	32 0 0	100	148	154	134
" red	2% barley, 3% dirt, 92% red	"	26 8 0	33 8 0	30 0 0	32 0 0	100	126	113	121
Index No.—Cereals			....	....	....	....	100	138	135	136
"	1% dirt	Candy	29 8 0	38 0 0	43 8 0	47 0 0	100	129	147	159
"		Cwt.	9 2 0	13 15 6	12 15 6	13 1 6	100	153	142	143
"		"	8 1 6	13 2 0	12 2 0	11 14 0	100	162	150	147
Index No.—Sugar			....	....	....	....	100	158	146	145
Other food—Sak		Pengal Maund	2 2 0	1 11 0	1 8 6	1 8 6	100	79	72	72
"		Maund	2 11 3	3 6 0	3 6 0(3)	3 6 0(3)	100	125	125	125
"	3% admixture	Candy	51 0 0	68 0 0	66 10 0(4)	66 10 0(4)	100	133	131	131
"	Black 9% admixture	"	62 0 0	80 0 0	77 0 0	74 0 0	100	129	124	119
Index No.—Oilseeds			....	....	....	....	100	129	127	125
"	B. Twills	100 bags	38 4 0	50 12 0	50 0 0	46 12 0	100	133	131	122
Textile—Cotton—Cotton, raw	Sind	Maund	20 4 0	26 2 0	29 0 0(5)	29 0 0(5)	100	178	143	143
(b) Cotton manufactures—Shirtings	Repprell	Piece	10 3 6	15 12 0	17 8 0(5)	17 8 0(5)	100	154	171	171
"	Leppmann's	"	10 2 0	18 0 0	18 0 0	18 0 0	100	178	178	178
"			....	....	....	....	100	166	175	175
Index No.—Textiles Cotton			....	....	....	....	100	170	164	164
Other Textile—Wool	Kandahar	Maund	28 0 0	36 0 0	36 0 0	37 0 0	100	129	129	132
Hides—Hides, dry	Sind	Maund	21 4 0	16 8 0	20 8 0	18 8 0	100	78	96	87
"	Punjab	"	21 4 0	16 8 0	20 8 0	18 8 0	100	78	96	87
Index No.—Hides			....	....	....	....	100	78	96	87
Metals—Copper Braziers		Cwt.	60 8 0	58 0 0	61 8 0	61 8 0	100	96	102	102
" Steel Bars		"	3 14 0	6 4 0	6 10 0	6 12 0	100	161	171	174
" Plates		"	4 6 0	7 2 0	7 6 0	7 8 0	100	163	169	171
Index No.—Metals			....	....	....	....	100	140	147	149
Other raw and manufactured articles—Coal	1st class Bengal	Ton	16 0 0	20 8 0	19 4 0	19 4 0	100	128	120	120
" Kerosene	Chester Brand	Case	5 2 0	8 6 0	8 9 0	8 9 0	100	163	167	167
"	Elephant	2 Tins	4 7 0	6 4 0	6 7 0	6 7 0	100	141	145	145
Index No.—Other raw and manufactured articles			....	....	....	....	100	144	144	144
Index No.—Food			....	....	....	....	100	135	132	133
"			....	....	....	....	100	135	137	136
"			....	....	....	....	100	135	135	135

* Rates 1st July, 1914, should have been omitted from the index for want of quotation. (1) Quotation for July 1926. (2) Quotation for 3 per cent. mutual since April 1924. (3) Quotation for September 1927. (4) Quotation for May 1928. (5) Quotation for August 1928.

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WHOLESALE PRICES INDEX NUMBERS IN BOMBAY BY GROUPS

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Month	Cereals	Pulses	Sugar	Other food	India Non-food	Orizands	Raw cotton	Cotton manufactures	Other textiles	Hides and skins	Metals	Other raw and manufactured articles	India Non-food	General Index No.
1925														
October ..	147	111	151	178	149	130	191	203	153	151	154	159	164	158
1926														
October ..	145	129	144	146	143	132	149	165	134	147	148	152	149	147
November ..	144	133	152	146	144	131	116	157	131	144	150	160	147	146
December ..	143	131	156	144	143	133	109	156	132	150	161	158	147	146
1927														
January ..	153	133	149	140	147	136	113	154	135	142	158	160	146	146
February ..	149	137	139	150	146	143	125	163	135	135	156	159	149	148
March ..	148	153	135	149	144	144	132	163	134	137	156	161	149	146
April ..	144	125	154	150	141	143	128	161	136	142	149	156	147	145
May ..	145	127	132	155	143	145	142	162	142	148	147	159	150	148
June ..	143	130	129	164	143	145	149	161	149	137	142	156	140	147
July ..	139	129	130	162	141	143	154	163	142	139	136	159	149	147
August ..	142	131	132	161	143	143	159	167	138	142	135	156	150	148
September ..	135	125	133	165	140	141	163	172	141	140	133	153	152	148
October ..	136	135	132	162	141	136	179	167	131	144	133	141	148	146
November ..	140	139	138	152	143	131	172	166	131	115	134	140	145	144
December ..	134	138	131	157	139	130	166	164	130	121	132	139	144	143
1928														
January ..	130	140	123	153	136	129	166	164	124	141	132	132	144	141
February ..	133	136	121	155	136	124	163	162	122	133	133	131	144	142
March ..	128	129	122	161	135	124	162	162	124	140	132	132	143	140
April ..	129	135	127	162	137	128	158	162	126	153	133	131	144	142
May ..	130	131	129	180	141	132	165	164	130	140	133	140	147	143
June ..	136	126	152	197	150	130	167	169	129	147	138	140	149	149
July ..	130	124	129	196	143	131	169	172	125	146	137	140	149	149
August ..	131	127	132	191	143	128	151	169	124	155	137	146	147	146
September ..	140	134	136	194	150	132	150	168	120	135	138	143	147	148
October ..	148	143	147	193	157	134	151	170	119	159	138	138	147	148

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COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS FOR INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Name of country	India (Bombay)	United Kingdom	Canada	Australia	New Zealand	Italy (Rome)	Belgium	Norway	Switzerland	South Africa	France (Paris)	U.S. of America
Items included in the index	Food, fuel, light, clothing and rent	Food, rent, fuel, light, clothing and miscellaneous	Food, fuel, light and rent	Food and rent	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous	Food, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, heating and lighting, rent and miscellaneous
1914 July	100	100	100	(a) 100(f)	(b) 100	(d) 100	(e) 100	100	(a) 100(k)	100(f)	100(f)	(x) 100
1915 "	104	125	97	119	(i) 108	99	....	(d) 117	....	....	103	105(m)
1916 "	108	148	102	115	117	....	....	....	....	....	106	....
1917 "	118	180	130	116	128	116	....	190	....	....	114	....
1918 "	149	203	146	118	144	197	....	190	....	....	118	....
1919 "	186	208	155	132	157	205	....	....	234(a)	....	118	134
1920 "	190	252	190	154	182	313	....	(d) 275	222	....	126	199
1921 "	177	219	152	152	178	387	....	....	294	....	155	(p) 341
1922 "	165	184	147	140	159	429	....	....	280	....	153	(q) 307
1923 "	153	169	146	151	158	(h) 467	....	....	251	(r) 135	(b) 302	170
1924 "	157	170	144	149	160	512	....	....	249	....	(c) 310	174
1925 "	157	173	146	153	163	598	....	....	259	....	133	(c) 300
1926 "	157	170	150	(a) 161	(f) 163	649	....	....	220	(e) 162(a)	130	(d) 483
1927 "	154	163	148	155	155	586	....	....	201	160	132	222
July	156	166	149	....	....	548	....	....	203	160	132	....
August	157	164	149	....	161	545	....	....	203	160	131	....
September	154	165	149	....	157	537	....	....	197	161	131	307
October	151	167	149	....	....	536	....	....	196	161	132	....
November	150	169	150	....	161	536	....	....	195	162	132	....
December	151	169	151	....	159	531	....	....	193	162	132	468
1928	154	168	151	....	....	532	....	....	194	161	132	....
January	148	166	150	....	162	533	....	....	193	160	132	....
February	145	164	149	....	157	531	....	....	193	160	132	507
March	145	164	149	....	....	531	....	....	193	160	133	....
April	144	164	149	....	....	531	....	....	193	160	133	....
May	147	164	148	....	....	526	....	....	193	160	133	....
June	146	165	148	....	....	530	....	....	193	161	132	519
July	147	165	148	....	....	526	....	....	193	161	131	....
August	146	165	....	....	....	522	....	....	192	161	131	....
September	145	165	....	....	....	526	....	....	185	....	....	519
October	146	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
November	147	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....

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

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RETAIL PRICES OF ARTICLES OF FOOD IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 1928*

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

Articles	Price per	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Bombay	Bombay	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
		September 1928	September 1928	September 1928	September 1928	September 1928	October 1928	October 1928	October 1928	October 1928	October 1928
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cereals—											
Rice (1)	Maund	8 6 0 <i>150</i>	8 0 0 <i>120</i>	8 0 0 <i>130</i>	7 10 6 <i>145</i>	8 11 2 <i>151</i>	8 6 0 <i>150</i>	8 0 0 <i>120</i>	8 0 0 <i>130</i>	8 0 4 <i>152</i>	8 11 2 <i>151</i>
Wheat (1)	"	7 14 1 <i>141</i>	5 7 6 <i>130</i>	6 5 5 <i>122</i>	6 4 0 <i>121</i>	7 1 9 <i>132</i>	7 13 2 <i>140</i>	6 2 6 <i>111</i>	6 12 11 <i>145</i>	6 5 9 <i>123</i>	7 8 6 <i>140</i>
Jowari	"	5 1 11 <i>118</i>	4 11 10 <i>130</i>	4 0 0 <i>105</i>	3 1 7 <i>108</i>	3 8 4 <i>103</i>	5 1 11 <i>118</i>	4 12 5 <i>131</i>	4 5 2 <i>114</i>	3 2 5 <i>110</i>	3 10 9 <i>107</i>
Bejn	"	5 11 3 <i>112</i>	5 13 1 <i>138</i>	6 0 7 <i>128</i>	3 2 8 <i>90</i>	4 8 9 <i>111</i>	5 11 3 <i>132</i>	5 15 8 <i>142</i>	6 2 6 <i>31</i>	3 4 1 <i>93</i>	4 5 8 <i>106</i>
Index No.—Cereals		<i>135</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>116</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>126</i>
Pulses—											
Gram	Maund	7 1 9 <i>165</i>	5 9 10 <i>147</i>	4 10 2 <i>116</i>	5 8 0 <i>128</i>	5 9 10 <i>115</i>	7 6 6 <i>172</i>	6 2 6 <i>162</i>	4 13 7 <i>121</i>	5 13 9 <i>136</i>	6 6 7 <i>132</i>
Turdal	"	8 15 5 <i>153</i>	8 0 0 <i>120</i>	8 14 3 <i>144</i>	8 1 4 <i>138</i>	9 3 7 <i>140</i>	8 15 5 <i>153</i>	8 5 0 <i>125</i>	8 14 3 <i>144</i>	8 1 4 <i>138</i>	9 3 7 <i>140</i>
Index No.—Pulses		<i>159</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>163</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>136</i>

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Other articles of food—											
Sugar (refined)	Maund	12 11 2 <i>167</i>	10 0 0 <i>138</i>	11 0 7 <i>138</i>	11 0 7 <i>110</i>	10 8 5 <i>113</i>	12 11 2 <i>167</i>	10 0 0 <i>138</i>	11 0 7 <i>138</i>	11 6 10 <i>114</i>	13 7 <i>116</i>
Jagri (gul)	"	12 11 2 <i>148</i>	9 6 7 <i>135</i>	12 4 11 <i>138</i>	10 0 0 <i>129</i>	10 8 5 <i>150</i>	13 13 8 <i>162</i>	9 6 7 <i>135</i>	12 4 11 <i>138</i>	11 2 5 <i>144</i>	12 0 6 <i>171</i>
Tea	Lb	0 14 10 <i>190</i>	0 15 7 <i>225</i>	0 15 7 <i>200</i>	1 1 10 <i>171</i>	1 0 5 <i>200</i>	0 14 10 <i>190</i>	0 15 7 <i>200</i>	0 15 7 <i>200</i>	1 1 10 <i>171</i>	1 0 5 <i>200</i>
Salt	Maund	2 12 9 <i>131</i>	1 14 6 <i>145</i>	2 4 7 <i>151</i>	3 6 1 <i>152</i>	2 15 11 <i>159</i>	2 12 9 <i>131</i>	1 14 6 <i>145</i>	2 1 7 <i>151</i>	3 6 1 <i>151</i>	2 15 11 <i>159</i>
Beef	Seer	0 9 3 <i>179</i>	0 9 0 <i>180</i>	0 6 0 <i>100</i>	0 5 0 <i>201</i>	0 6 0 <i>141</i>	0 9 3 <i>179</i>	0 9 0 <i>180</i>	0 6 0 <i>100</i>	0 5 0 <i>201</i>	0 6 0 <i>141</i>
Mutton	"	0 11 3 <i>169</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 8 0 <i>133</i>	0 9 0 <i>150</i>	0 11 3 <i>169</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 8 0 <i>133</i>	0 9 6 <i>158</i>
Milk	Maund	17 9 4 <i>191</i>	7 4 4 <i>164</i>	10 0 0 <i>200</i>	11 6 10 <i>157</i>	13 5 4 <i>133</i>	17 9 4 <i>191</i>	7 9 11 <i>172</i>	10 0 0 <i>200</i>	10 10 8 <i>147</i>	13 5 4 <i>133</i>
Ghee	"	86 7 9 <i>170</i>	67 6 0 <i>158</i>	71 1 9 <i>160</i>	91 6 10 <i>163</i>	66 10 8 <i>129</i>	86 7 9 <i>170</i>	66 10 8 <i>156</i>	69 9 0 <i>157</i>	91 6 10 <i>163</i>	66 10 8 <i>129</i>
Potatoes	"	7 7 11 <i>167</i>	7 9 11 <i>141</i>	10 0 0 <i>263</i>	8 0 0 <i>200</i>	4 14 1 <i>145</i>	7 2 3 <i>159</i>	7 4 4 <i>134</i>	8 0 0 <i>210</i>	5 0 0 <i>125</i>	2 15 8 <i>88</i>
Onions	"	2 13 9 <i>184</i>	3 5 4 <i>183</i>	2 0 0 <i>100</i>	2 13 7 <i>114</i>	2 4 5 <i>114</i>	2 13 9 <i>184</i>	3 1 3 <i>169</i>	1 14 1 <i>94</i>	3 3 2 <i>128</i>	2 6 6 <i>120</i>
Cocconut oil	"	28 9 1 <i>112</i>	26 10 8 <i>108</i>	32 0 0 <i>160</i>	29 1 5 <i>109</i>	28 1 1 <i>100</i>	28 9 1 <i>112</i>	26 10 8 <i>108</i>	32 0 0 <i>160</i>	29 1 5 <i>109</i>	28 1 1 <i>100</i>
Index No.—Other articles of food		<i>164</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>157</i>	<i>156</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>138</i>
Index No.—All food articles (unweighted)		<i>157</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>138</i>

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

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WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS IN BOMBAY
BY GROUPS

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Months	Cereals and pulses	Other articles of food	All food	Fuel and lighting	Clothing	House-rent	Total
1925	132	129	182	149	165	185	172
November	137	133	183	151	165	176	153
December	140	133	183	151	165	173	155
1926	136	132	181	150	165	172	154
January	136	133	182	151	165	174	155
February	133	132	180	150	165	175	153
April ..	138	133	177	150	164	170	153
May ..	139	134	182	152	164	162	155
June ..	145	135	187	155	164	160	157
July ..	141	136	181	153	164	160	155
August	145	136	179	152	164	160	155
September	150	136	180	153	164	159	155
October	152	135	180	152	164	156	154
November	155	136	184	154	166	148	156
December	149	135	188	155	166	143	156
1927	154	136	180	152	166	148	155
January	159	137	179	152	166	152	155
February	153	135	178	151	166	143	153
March ..	154	134	176	150	166	147	152
April ..	156	136	177	151	166	147	154
May ..	153	138	181	154	166	149	156
June ..	157	138	184	155	166	152	157
July ..	151	134	180	155	166	163	154
August	151	129	180	148	156	163	151
September	151	127	180	147	156	157	150
October	155	131	178	149	156	154	151
November	160	135	180	151	156	152	154
December	152	129	174	146	144	153	148
1928	146	126	171	142	144	151	145
January	147	124	168	140	145	153	144
February	153	126	175	144	145	155	147
March ..	142	124	172	142	158	156	146
April ..	144	123	177	143	158	158	147
May ..	144	121	176	142	158	159	146
June ..	143	122	174	141	151	157	145
July ..	155	124	174	142	144	156	146
August	157	125	174	144	143	158	147
September							
October							
November							

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

BOMBAY, DECEMBER, 1928

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The Month in Brief

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Our readers in India will be interested to hear that the International Labour Office is to be directly represented in this country. A correspondent has been appointed who will devote his whole time to the work of his office which will be at Delhi. The office will facilitate relations between Geneva and the public services and industrial associations in India. It will also serve as a permanent centre for the distribution of information.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE TEXTILE AND ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES

In the textile industry, as a whole the supply of labour was equal to the demand during the month of November 1928. The average absenteeism was 3.17 per cent. for Bombay City, 3.88 per cent. for Ahmedabad, 3.16 per cent. for Viramgaum, 14.63 per cent. for Sholapur and 6.66 per cent. for Broach.

In the engineering industry in Bombay City the supply of both skilled and unskilled labour was adequate. Absenteeism was 13.20 per cent. in the engineering workshops, 5 per cent. in the Marine Lines Reclamation the engineering Directorate, 11.57 per cent. in the Bombay Port Trust of the Development Directorate, 11.57 per cent. in the Chief Engineer's Department of the Docks and 8.90 per cent. in the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust. In the engineering workshops of the Karachi Bombay Port Trust the percentage absenteeism was 9.00.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBER

In December 1928, the Bombay Working Class Cost of Living Index Number was 148 as against 147 in the preceding month. The Index Number for food articles only was 145.

INDEX NUMBER OF WHOLESALE PRICES

The Wholesale Prices Index Number in Bombay for November 1928 was 149.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

There were twenty-three industrial disputes in the month of November 1928. The number of workpeople involved was 37,414 and the number of working days lost 156,855.

BALANCE OF TRADE

During November 1928, the visible balance of trade, including securities, against India amounted to Rs. 145 lakhs.