

Monthly Summaries of the League of Nations for May to November 1921.

Books and other Unofficial Publications.

Labour—Shaw Desmond.

Trade Unionism in Germany—by W. S. Sanders with a preface by Sidney Webb (Fabian Research Department).

The Payment of Wages—A study in payment by results under the wage-system by G. D. H. Cole.

Industrial Law—Frank Tillyard.

What We Want and Where We Are—W. A. Appleton (Secretary of the General Federation of Trade Unions).

The Economic Transition in India—Theodore Morrison.

The Tendency Towards Industrial Combination—Carter.

Humanizing Industry—Feld.

Industrial Democracy—Webb.

Labour and Capital After the War—Chapman.

The Revolt of Labour against Civilization—Reade.

Labour's Magna Charta—A. Chisholm.

Measurement of Price Changes—Flux.

Housing of Unskilled Wage-earners—Wood.

The Economic Journal (Quarterly Journal of the Royal Economic Society (for September and December 1921).

The Social Service League Quarterly for October 1921.

Bombay Co-operative Quarterly for December 1921, (published by the Bombay Central Co-operative Institute).

UNIVERSITY OF ALLAHABAD.

Indian Journal of Economics for November 1919, July 1920, January 1921, and Conference Number.

Economics in India—H. Stanley Jevons.

Economics of Tenancy Law and Estate Management—H. Stanley Jevons.

Consolidation of Agricultural Holdings in the United Provinces—H. Stanley Jevons.



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

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THE MONTH IN BRIEF

IN February employment in the Bombay cotton mill industry was generally good. Many wage-earners after the payment of the annual bonus on 12th January last, returned to their homes upcountry. Cases of workers from Madras offering themselves for work in this Presidency have recently been noticed. Absenteeism was normal, except after pay day on the 15th February, when it increased for some days. In the engineering trades the state of employment in February was the same as in its immediate predecessor. The demand for skilled labour was good, as also for ordinary unskilled labour. For semi-skilled hands it was not so good.

COTTON MILL PRODUCTION

In the last few weeks the price of yarn and cloth has fallen, and the demand has considerably slackened off. The yarn spun and the goods woven are a valuable index, not merely of the state of the trade, but also of the demand in the long run for labour in this important industry. The details are expressed within the modest space of three pages elsewhere in the "Labour Gazette." The yarn spun in December 1921, as also in the nine months ended December, was more than in the corresponding periods of 1919 and 1920 in the Presidency as a whole. Woven goods, however, showed an advance, both in December and in the nine months ended December, as compared with the corresponding

periods of 1920, but were, it is interesting to note, below the level of 1919. The following tables summarise the results, so that he who runs may read and reading understand:—

(1) Month of December

	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun.			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced.		
	December.			December.		
	1919	1920	1921	1919	1920	1921
Bombay Island	30	32	34	21	18	17
Ahmedabad	6	8	6	6	5	7
Other centres	5	4	5	2	3	3
Total, Presidency	41	44	45	29	26	27

(2) Nine months ending December

	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun.			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced.		
	Nine months ended December.			Nine months ended December.		
	1919	1920	1921	1919	1920	1921
Bombay Island	265	257	263	166	149	159
Ahmedabad	54	56	63	61	55	63
Other centres	40	38	45	25	23	26
Total, Presidency	359	351	371	252	227	248



THE OUTLOOK

The conditions referred to in the preceding month obtained in the main during January. Europe at the moment is going through a repetition of what ensued after the Napoleonic wars. The historic parallel is indeed close. In the United Kingdom the universal depression may be gauged from the check to coal and iron production and to the rise of wholesale prices. The output of coal in 1921 was the lowest since 1887, and the output of iron the lowest since 1850. Wholesale prices which had risen to as high as 253 per cent in the spring of 1920 above the 1913 level, had at the end of December 1921 fallen to 62 per cent. Depression and readjustment are seen in the trade figures of France, Italy and the United States. Three years have passed since the armistice was signed and our markets abroad are, to speak perfectly frankly, still far from normal. The most serious feature, however, is that referred to in the "Labour Gazette" last month—exchange and the state of the currencies. As the Chancellor of the British Exchequer said the other day: "We are suffering because there are so many derelict countries in Europe at the present time. Austria and Russia, which used to be our customers are no longer able to purchase our goods and to that cause you can attribute a certain amount of the unemployment and depression which exist among us at the present time. But suppose you added to those countries a broken Germany. The catastrophe to Europe would be unspeakable. It would be a disaster not only from the economic point of view, but no man could foretell what its reverberations would be in the political sphere."

A report from the International Labour Office shows that at the Ninth All-Russian Congress of Soviets which met at Moscow on December 24th, 1921, the revenues for the year 1921—indirect taxes, customs duties, transport duties, postal taxes and taxes in kind—are estimated to yield 575 million gold roubles. Expenses are estimated at 1,877 million gold roubles. The conclusions presented by the *rapporteurs* are of special interest. On the

first results of the new economic policy it is pointed out how "the tendency which must be fought against at all costs, is the habit which the peasants have contracted of only producing sufficient for their own needs. The peasant class must be awakened to the fact that their interest lies in work. The delivery of the various taxes in kind must, above all, be simplified."

Lenin in reviewing the internal and external situation frankly says "The world revolution has not broken out... We are ready to make the greatest concessions in order to obtain a lasting peace." The welter that exists in Russia, formerly one of India's best markets, especially for tea, may be seen from these extracts. A leading Bombay merchant summarised the position a few days ago by pointing out that while in normal times his firm exported many thousands of tons, to-day the orders are only in hundreds and even these cannot be put through owing to the lack of credit on the part of the buyers abroad to whom it would not be sound business to sell. India, in short, is intimately bound up with world economic conditions. Our customers overseas are unable to buy on the terms at which India could sell and India is unable to sell on the terms at which they could buy as our customers do not possess the means with which to buy.

THE BALANCE OF TRADE

The foreign trade tables given on the next page show the latest figures for (1) India, (2) Bombay and (3) Karachi. There is, it will be seen, a large adverse balance of trade, although slightly below the astonishingly high figure of November 1921.

India, therefore, like Bombay is again faced with an adverse balance of trade in January.

Good harvest prospects for March and April are already lowering wheat prices. For other classes of crops which have already been harvested, rice, bajri, and jowari have fallen.



India

	In lakhs of rupees.				
	September 1921.	October 1921.	November 1921.	December 1921.	January 1922.
Exports (private merchandise) ..	20.00	18.22	19.92	21.74	22.99
Imports do. ..	19.71	23.54	26.40	23.16	27.62
Net exports do. (a) ..	29	-5.32	-6.48	-1.42	-4.63
Imports of treasure ..	1.53	4.14	3.36	1.55	2.71
Exports of treasure ..	2.17	82	59	27	73
Net exports of treasure (a) ..	64	-3.32	-2.67	-1.08	-2.40
Exchanged Rupee paper (net exports) (a) ..	..	4	-5	1	..
Interest on encashed rupee paper ..	..	1	2	6	1
Visible balance of trade (a) ..	93	..	..	..	..
of which (a) ..	..	8.61	9.22	2.55	7.12

Bombay

	In lakhs of rupees.				
	September 1921.	October 1921.	November 1921.	December 1921.	January 1922.
Exports (private merchandise) ..	5.93	5.04	6.27	7.65	8.98
Imports do. ..	7.16	8.13	8.62	9.09	9.86
Net exports do. (a) ..	-1.23	-3.09	-2.35	-1.44	-0.88
Imports of treasure ..	1.49	3.93	3.28	1.33	2.65
Exports of treasure ..	2.04	79	52	21	23
Net exports of treasure (a) ..	55	-3.14	-2.76	-1.12	-2.42

Karachi

	In lakhs of rupees.				
	September 1921.	October 1921.	November 1921.	December 1921.	January 1922.
Exports (private merchandise) ..	1.31	75	1.17	68	1.29
Imports do. ..	1.02	2.39	3.18	2.57	3.02
Net exports do. (a) ..	29	-1.64	-2.01	-1.89	-1.73
Imports of treasure ..	..	2	3	2	2
Exports of treasure ..	3	1	..	..	..
Net exports of treasure (a) ..	3	-1	-3	-2	-2

(a) A minus indicates an excess of imports over exports.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

While exchange was at 1s. 5¹³/₃₂ d. for telegraphic transfers in Bombay on London in the first week of October 1921, 1s. 4⁹/₁₆ d. in the first week of November and 1s. 3⁷/₈ d. in the corresponding week of December, it rose slightly to 1s. 3¹³/₁₆ d. on the 3rd January 1922. On the

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1st of February it stood at 1s. 3¹/₂ d. Bank clearings during January in Bombay and Karachi and in Rangoon were below the December level. But in Calcutta these were somewhat higher. For the financing of cotton and other crops the movement of currency from Bombay upcountry is taking place. The satisfactory Christmas rains in Northern India will intensify the present current. The rupee portion of the Paper Currency Reserve in Bombay has fallen from Rs. 26 crores on the 31st October 1921 to Rs. 24 crores at the end of November. On the 31st December the figure was Rs. 20 crores. On the 31st January 1922 the figure was the same (Rs. 20 crores) as on the 31st December 1921. The latest figures (15th February) show the rupee portion of the Reserve in Bombay as Rs. 21 crores. In addition there is in Bombay Rs. 14 crores in the form of gold. The average market quotations of 65 cotton mill companies at the end of January 1922 was Rs. 1,723 as against Rs. 1,839 at the end of December and Rs. 1,867 at the end of November. The average amount paid up has remained at Rs. 383 per share since August.

THE LEVEL OF RETAIL PRICES

In January 1922 the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the cost of living index for Bombay was six points or more than 3 per cent below that in December 1921. The level, taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, was 173 for all articles and 169 for food only. The articles have been given the relative importance which each bears to the aggregate expenditure.

WHOLESALE PRICES

The wholesale index number for 43 articles was 190 in January 1922, taking July 1914 as 100. This was the same as in the preceding month. Food articles stood at 188 or less than one per cent below the level of the previous month and non-food articles at 190 or less than 1 per cent below the previous month's figure. As compared with the corresponding month of last year, prices have fallen by less than 1 per cent. The fall from the high-water mark was 18 per cent in January. The twelve monthly average (ended January 1922) is about 15 per cent below this level.



INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

The total number of industrial disputes in progress involving a stoppage of work was 17 in January 1922 and the number of workpeople involved in all disputes was approximately 16,000, as compared with 7,000 in December 1921. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during January 1922 was approximately 33,000 working days as compared with 26,000 in December 1921, an increase of 27 per cent. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes from 1st April 1921 to the end of January 1922 was 1,305,751 days. Detailed information will be found on pages 54 and 55.

BUDGET ANTICIPATIONS

The Budget of this Presidency was presented in the Legislative Council on 20th February. In view of the interest taken in business circles in provincial finance the following data, in tabular form, are of interest :—

Budget Estimates*

	Budget Estimate, 1921-22.	Revised Budget, 1921-22.	Budget Estimate, 1922-23.
	R. (lakhs).	R. (lakhs).	R. (lakhs).
Receipts :—			
Ordinary revenue ..	13.97	12.76	14.40
Debt, deposits and advances ..	4.72	12.90†	2.87
Capital account not charged to revenue ..			
Opening balance on 1st April (1921) ..	3.15	3.01	87
Total Receipts ..	21.84	28.67	18.14
Expenditure :—			
Ordinary Expenditure ..	15.26	15.34	14.68
Capital Account not charged to revenue ..	14	16	1.71
Debt, deposits and advances ..	4.08	12.30†	1.06
Total Expenditure ..	19.48	27.80	17.45
Closing balance on 1st April (1922) ..	2.36	87	69
Draft on the provincial balance ..	79	2.14	18‡

* Exclude budget estimates of Bombay Development Directorate.

† The increase is explained as follows :—With the advent of the Reforms the bal. assets of the provincial loan accounts and the productive and protective irrigation works in Government's provinces have become the assets of Provincial Governments. Under rules 23 and 24 of the Devolution Rules such of the moneys relating to the Provincial loan accounts as are not repaid out of provincial balances before 1st April 1921 and the capital expenditure incurred by the Central Government on the construction of the irrigation works referred to are treated as advances made to Provincial Governments on which interest is payable to the Central Government. These advances are to be represented by actual entries in the accounts.

‡ ii taxation of 1 crore proposed is sanctioned by the Legislative Council.

The budget is intended to be an economy plus a retrenchment budget. By 'economy' is meant careful management of resources, not merely saving money but avoiding waste, spending wisely and getting good value out of all resources, whether men, money, or materials, and by 'retrenchment', the curtailment or reduction in expenditure. The 'Big axe' as it is called has not proved to be a diminutive and rusty knife. Increased taxation on stamps and amusements is estimated to yield one crore (ten millions) of rupees. The receipts above are provincial receipts. These do not, therefore, include purely 'Central' heads of revenue credited entirely to the Central Government, viz., (for 1922-23) Rs. 1,274 lakhs from customs, Rs. 660 lakhs from income, Rs. 153 lakhs from salt, Rs. 12 lakhs from opium, Rs. 13 lakhs from tributes, or a total of a shade over Rs. 21 crores.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

RECENT DEPUTATION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The Labour Office is informed by the General Secretary of the All-India Trade Union Congress that a cable has been received from London to the effect that an influential deputation, representing the British Trades Union Congress and the Workers' Welfare League of India* waited upon Mr. Montagu, in connexion with the proposed legislation by the Government of India on Trade Unions and Workmen's Compensation. The Secretary discussed with Mr. Montagu the proposals of the Government of India and emphasised that the new Act would lose all real value if improvements were not made as provided in the British Acts. In regard to Trade Unions the deputation laid particular stress upon securing for them the right of picketing, and immunity from civil liabilities. As regards the Workmen's Compensation Bill, it urged that building trades should be included and that the compensation should be equal to the full average earnings. Mr. Montagu promised to refer the matter to the Viceroy.

* The "Workers' Welfare League of India" is an organisation formed in 1918 to represent in Great Britain the interests of Indian workers.



THE COST OF LIVING INDEX FOR JANUARY 1922

A fall of six points

All articles .. 73 per cent

Food only .. 69 per cent

In January 1922 the average level of retail prices for all the commodities taken into account in the statistics of a cost of living index for the working classes in Bombay was 6 points below that in the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the levels in the last two months were 179 in December 1921 and 173 in January 1922. The general index is still 10 per cent below the high-water mark reached in October 1920 and is the same as the twelve monthly average of 1921.

Except for gram and turdal there was a fall in the prices of food grains varying from 5 to 20 points, as compared with prices in December 1921. The price of bajri fell 20 points, jowari 16 points, rice 8 points, and wheat 5 points. The price of gram and turdal on the other hand moved upwards while the prices of tea, beef, milk and ghee remained at the level of the previous month. The prices of raw sugar and coconut oil have fallen 3 and 4 points respectively. The price of refined sugar has fallen by 15 points. A fall of 17 and 25 per cent was recorded in the prices of potatoes and onions respectively.

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

July 1914 = 100			
October 1920 ..	133	July 1921 ..	177
January 1921 ..	169	August ..	180
February ..	162	September ..	185
March ..	160	October ..	183
April ..	160	November ..	182
May ..	167	December ..	179
June ..	173	January 1922 ..	173

The following table shows the price levels of articles of food in December 1921 and January 1922 as compared with that for July 1914 which is taken as 100. The levels are calculated from the prices of articles per standard (or railway) maund or seer on page 8.

Articles.	July 1914	December 1921	January 1922	Increase (+) or decrease (—) of points in January 1922 over or below December 1921
Rice ..	100	150	142	— 8
Wheat ..	100	197	192	— 5
Jowari ..	100	169	153	— 16
Bajri ..	100	200	180	— 20
Gram ..	100	214	220	+ 6
Turdal ..	100	183	196	+ 13
Sugar (raw) ..	100	205	202	— 3
Sugar (refined) ..	100	200	185	— 15
Tea ..	100	127	127	..
Salt ..	100	120	114	— 6
Beef ..	100	200	200	..
Mutton ..	100	229	230	+ 1
Milk ..	100	191	191	..
Ghee ..	100	150	150	..
Potatoes ..	100	255	211	— 44
Onions ..	100	340	254	— 86
Coconut oil ..	100	110	106	— 4
All food articles (weighted average) ..	100	176	170	— 6

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

BOMBAY COST OF LIVING INDEX

A

Articles.	Unit of quantity.	Annual consumption (Mass Units). (In crores.)	Price.			Total Expenditure.		
			July 1914.	December 1921.	January 1922.	July 1914.	December 1921.	January 1922.
<i>Cereals—</i>			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Rice	Maund	70	5.59	8.40	7.958	391.30	588.00	557.06
Wheat	"	21	5.59	10.99	10.740	117.39	230.79	225.54
Jowari	"	11	4.35	7.35	6.651	47.85	80.85	73.16
Bajri	"	6	4.31	8.60	7.766	25.86	51.60	46.60
Total and Average—Cereals ..	—	—	100	163	155	582.40	951.24	902.36
<i>Pulses—</i>								
Gram	Maund	10	4.30	9.20	9.469	43.00	92.00	94.69
Turdal	"	3	5.84	10.67	11.427	17.52	32.01	34.28
Total and Average—Pulses ..	—	—	100	205	213	60.52	124.01	128.97
<i>Other food articles—</i>								
Sugar (raw) ..	Maund	7	8.56	17.58	17.297	59.92	123.06	121.08
Sugar (refined) ..	"	2	7.62	15.24	14.099	15.24	30.48	28.20
Tea	"	1	40.00	50.79	50.792	1.00	1.27	1.27
Salt	"	40	2.13	2.55	2.432	10.65	12.75	12.16
Beef	Seer	28	0.32	0.64	0.641	8.96	17.92	17.95
Mutton	"	33	0.42	0.96	0.964	13.86	31.68	31.81
Milk	Maund	14	9.20	17.58	17.583	128.80	246.12	246.16
Ghee	"	14	50.79	76.19	76.193	76.18	114.28	114.29
Potatoes	"	11	4.48	11.43	9.438	49.28	125.73	103.82
Onions	"	3	1.55	5.27	3.943	4.65	15.81	11.83
Cocoanut Oil ..	"	4	25.40	27.83	26.891	12.70	13.91	13.45
Total and Average—Other food articles ..	—	—	100	192	184	381.24	733.01	702.02
Total and Average—All food articles ..	—	—	100	176	169	1,024.16	1,808.26	1,733.35
<i>Fuel and lighting—</i>								
Kerosene oil ..	Case	5	4.37	8.44	8.188	21.85	42.20	40.94
Firewood	Maund	48	0.79	1.28	1.281	37.92	61.44	61.49
Coal	"	1	0.54	1.15	1.028	0.54	1.15	1.03
Total and Average—Fuel and lighting ..	—	—	100	174	172	60.31	104.79	103.46
<i>Clothing—</i>								
Chudders	Lb.	27	0.59	1.50	1.500	15.93	40.50	40.50
Shirtings	"	25	0.64	1.72	1.670	16.00	43.00	41.75
T. Cloth	"	36	0.58	1.50	1.500	20.88	54.00	54.00
Total and Average—Clothing ..	—	—	100	260	258	52.81	137.50	136.25
House rent	Per month	10	11.30	18.70	18.70	113.00	187.00	187.00
Grand Total and General Average ..	—	—	100	179	173	1,250.28	2,237.55	2,160.00

Note.—If the aggregate expenditure in July 1914 at the prices ruling in that month was Rs. 1,250.28 crores the aggregate expenditure in January 1922, at January price levels was Rs. 2,160.06 crores, i.e., an increase of 73 per cent. (Rs. 1,250.28 = 100; Rs. 2,160.06 = 173).

BOMBAY COST OF LIVING INDEX

B

Alternative method of presentation.

Articles.	Approximate percentage weight assigned to each article based on proportion to aggregate expenditure in July 1914.	Index Number.		Weight × Index Number.	
		Dec. 1921.	Jan. 1922.	Dec. 1921.	Jan. 1922.
<i>Cereals—</i>					
Rice	31.4	150	142	4,710.0	4,458.8
Wheat	9.4	197	192	1,851.8	1,804.8
Jowari	3.8	169	153	642.2	581.4
Bajri	2.1	200	180	420.0	378.0
Total and Average Index No. ..	46.7	163	155	7,624.0	7,223.0
<i>Pulses—</i>					
Gram	3.1	214	220	663.4	682.0
Turdal	1.3	183	196	237.9	254.8
Total and Average Index No. ..	4.4	205	213	901.3	936.8
<i>Other food articles—</i>					
Sugar (raw) ..	4.8	205	202	984.0	969.6
Sugar (refined) ..	1.2	200	185	240.0	222.0
Tea	0.1	127	127	12.7	12.7
Salt	0.9	120	114	108.0	102.6
Beef	0.7	200	200	140.0	140.0
Mutton	1.1	229	230	251.9	253.0
Milk	10.3	191	191	1,967.3	1,967.3
Ghee	6.1	150	150	915.0	915.0
Potatoes	4.0	255	211	1,020.0	844.0
Onions	0.4	340	254	136.0	101.6
Cocoanut oil ..	1.0	110	106	110.0	106.0
Total and Average Index No. ..	30.6	192	184	5,884.9	5,633.8
<i>Fuel and lighting—</i>					
Kerosene oil ..	1.8	193	187	347.4	336.6
Firewood	3.0	162	162	486.0	486.0
Coal	0.1	213	190	21.3	19.0
Total and Average Index No. ..	4.9	174	172	854.7	841.6
<i>Clothing—</i>					
Dhoties	1.3	254	254	330.2	330.2
Shirtings	1.3	269	261	349.7	339.3
T. Cloth	1.7	259	259	440.3	440.3
Total and Average Index No. ..	4.3	260	258	1,120.2	1,109.8
House rent	9.1	165	165	1,501.5	1,501.5
Grand total of weights ..	100				
General Average or Cost of Living Index (July 1914 = 100) ..	....	179	173	17,886.6	17,246.5

WHOLESALE PRICES IN JANUARY

BOMBAY

The index number of wholesale prices for the City of Bombay shows that in January 1922, prices were in the same level as in the previous month. The prices fell by about 1 per cent as compared with January last year and 3 per cent as compared with the twelve-monthly average of 1921.

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

The net result of movements in the groups are set out below. Comparisons are made with (1) the immediately preceding month, and (2) the corresponding month of last year.

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay

Groups.	No. of items.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) per cent in January 1922 as compared with	
		the preceding month (Dec. 1921).	the corresponding month of last year (Jan. 1921).
I. Cereals	7	-6	+24
2. Pulses	2	-5	+15
3. Sugar	3	+10	-96
4. Other food	3	+5	+44
Total food	15	-1	+3
5. Oilseeds	4	-4	-6
6. Raw cotton	5	-32	+46
7. Cotton manufactures	6	-4	-16
8. Other textiles	2	+4	-24
9. Hides and skins	3	+31	+19
10. Metals	5	-1	-34
11. Other raw and manufactured articles	3	-2	-20
Total non-food	28	-1	-5
General average	43	-1	-1

There was a fall of 3 per cent in the price of each of cereals and pulses and a rise of

5 and 3 per cent in the price of sugar and other food respectively as compared with December 1921. The prices of rice and bajri fell by 19 and 6 per cent while those of wheat and salt rose by 2 and 7 per cent respectively. The price of sugar which was moving down until last month has risen by 5 per cent. The wholesale food index for January was 188 which is 1 point lower than that for December 1921 and 3 points higher than that for January 1921.

The average index for non-food articles was 1 per cent higher than the food index and less than one per cent below the level in the preceding month. There was an abnormal increase of 16 per cent in the group "Hides and Skins" and a most noticeable reduction of 16 per cent in "Raw Cotton". An increase of about 1 per cent in "Other textiles" and a decrease of 1 to 3 per cent in the other groups was observed.

The subjoined table compares January prices with those of the preceding months and of the corresponding month last year. The table expresses the price levels as percentages of the twelve-monthly average of 1921.

100 = average of 1921

Groups.	Jan. 1921.	April 1921.	July 1921.	October 1921.	Dec. 1921.	Jan. 1922.
I. Cereals	86	95	102	105	103	99
II. Pulses	101	94	95	103	113	110
III. Sugar	115	124	88	78	75	79
IV. Other food	86	96	109	106	109	112
Total food	96	103	99	98	98	97
V. Oilseeds	96	101	119	90	94	92
VI. Raw cotton	84	78	96	118	138	116
VII. Cotton manufactures	103	100	101	102	97	97
VIII. Other textiles	113	113	96	96	96	97
IX. Hides and skins	93	106	98	114	85	104
X. Metals	100	106	105	90	86	86
XI. Other raw and manufactured articles	102	102	97	95	95	92
Total non-food	98	100	105	101	96	96
General average—all articles	97	101	102	99	97	97

The main fact which emerges from this table is that the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay is now below the average of 1921. No item is so far below the average as is sugar. The level of "Raw Cotton" in January 1922 is 16 per cent above the twelve-monthly average of 1921.

The following two tables are intended to show (1) the wholesale price level now as compared with July 1914 and (2) the recent movements in food and non-food wholesale prices.

Annual wholesale prices

July 1914 = 100

		Food.	Non-food.	All articles.
Twelve-monthly average	1918	170	270	237
"	1919	202	233	222
"	1920	206	221	215
"	1921	193	198	196

II

Months.	Index number for all food.	Index number for all non-food.	Index number for all articles.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) per cent of index number for all articles.
January 1921	185	195	191	-1
February	188	193	191	..
March	189	190	190	-1
April	199	198	198	+4
May	196	200	199	..
June	194	205	197	-1
July	191	203	199	+1
August	205	202	203	+2
September	202	211	207	+2
October	189	199	195	-6
November	193	192	193	-1
December	189	191	190	-2
January 1922	188	190	190	..

An examination of the movement of wholesale prices during 1921 from the table on page 48 will show that the most violent fluctuations of all occurred in the "Raw Cotton" group. Its range was from 108 in March to 217 in September; and the fluctuation was most noticeable when it rose from 137 in August to 217 in September. It concluded with 198 showing a price level of 98 per cent above that of July 1914. Next to "Raw Cotton" a marked rise and fall was shown in the groups "Cereals" and sugar. "Cereals" began

with 158 in January, fell to 156 in March, reached its high-water mark of 216 in August, and concluded with 180 in December. From 306 in January sugar rose to 338 in March and ended with 200, its minimum, in December. With the exception of "Oil Seeds" and "Hides and Skins" all the other groups did not fluctuate much during the year.

The movement of wholesale prices in Bombay as compared with other countries will be found on page 50.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES IN BOMBAY

In the table below, movements in the index number of wholesale prices may be compared with those in the index numbers of retail prices in Bombay:—

		Index Numbers of Retail Prices.	Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices.
		Food.	All items.
July 1914	..	100	100
January 1920	..	215	182
February	..	206	180
March	..	202	176
April	..	199	171
May	..	213	173
June	..	232	180
July	..	253	189
August	..	262	191
September	..	263	192
October	..	261	193
November	..	238	186
December	..	227	181
January 1921	..	163	169
February	..	156	162
March	..	154	160
April	..	154	160
May	..	162	167
June	..	169	173
July	..	174	177
August	..	177	180
September	..	183	185
October	..	180	183
November	..	179	182
December	..	176	179
January 1922	..	169	173

In comparing these figures it will be noted that retail prices follow the movements of wholesale prices at an average interval of six or seven months, and that the average difference between the two indices during the past year has been 23 points.



WHOLESALE PRICES IN JANUARY

BOMBAY

The index number of wholesale prices for the City of Bombay shows that in January 1922, prices were in the same level as in the previous month. The prices fell by about 1 per cent as compared with January last year and 3 per cent as compared with the twelve-monthly average of 1921.

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

The net result of movements in the groups are set out below. Comparisons are made with (1) the immediately preceding month, and (2) the corresponding month of last year.

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay

Groups.	No. of items.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) per cent in January 1922 as compared with	
		the preceding month (Dec. 1921).	the corresponding month of last year (Jan. 1921).
1. Cereals	7	-6	+24
2. Pulses	2	-5	+15
3. Sugar	3	+10	-96
4. Other food	3	+5	+44
Total food	15	-1	+3
5. Oilseeds	4	-4	-6
6. Raw cotton	5	-32	+46
7. Cotton manufactures	6	-1	-16
8. Other textiles	2	+1	-24
9. Hides and skins	3	+31	+19
10. Metals	5	-1	-34
11. Other raw and manufactured articles	3	-2	-20
Total non-food	28	-1	-5
General average	45	..	-1

There was a fall of 3 per cent in the price of each of cereals and pulses and a rise of

5 and 3 per cent in the price of sugar and other food respectively as compared with December 1921. The prices of rice and bajri fell by 19 and 6 per cent while those of wheat and salt rose by 2 and 7 per cent respectively. The price of sugar which was moving down until last month has risen by 5 per cent. The wholesale food index for January was 188 which is 1 point lower than that for December 1921 and 3 points higher than that for January 1921.

The average index for non-food articles was 1 per cent higher than the food index and less than one per cent below the level in the preceding month. There was an abnormal increase of 16 per cent in the group "Hides and Skins" and a most noticeable reduction of 16 per cent in "Raw Cotton". An increase of about 1 per cent in "Other textiles" and a decrease of 1 to 3 per cent in the other groups was observed.

The subjoined table compares January prices with those of the preceding months and of the corresponding month last year. The table expresses the price levels as percentages of the twelve-monthly average of 1921.

100 = average of 1921

Groups.	Jan. 1921.	April 1921.	July 1921.	October 1921.	Dec. 1921.	Jan. 1922.
I. Cereals	86	95	102	105	103	99
II. Pulses	101	94	95	103	113	110
III. Sugar	115	124	88	78	75	79
IV. Other food	86	96	109	106	109	112
Total food	96	103	99	98	98	97
V. Oilseeds	96	101	119	90	94	92
VI. Raw cotton	84	78	96	118	138	116
VII. Cotton manufactures	103	100	101	102	97	97
VIII. Other textiles	113	113	96	96	96	97
IX. Hides and Skins	95	106	98	114	85	104
X. Metals	100	106	105	90	86	86
XI. Other raw and manufactured articles	102	102	97	95	93	92
Total non-food	98	100	103	101	96	96
General average—all articles	97	101	102	99	97	97



The main fact which emerges from this table is that the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay is now below the average of 1921. No item is so far below the average as is sugar. The level of "Raw Cotton" in January 1922 is 16 per cent above the twelve-monthly average of 1921.

The following two tables are intended to show (1) the wholesale price level now as compared with July 1914 and (2) the recent movements in food and non-food wholesale prices.

Annual wholesale prices

July 1914 = 100

		Food.	Non-food.	All articles.
Twelve-monthly average	1918	170	270	237
"	1919	202	233	222
"	1920	206	221	215
"	1921	193	198	196

II

Months.	Index number for all food.	Index number for all non-food.	Index number for all articles.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) per cent of index number for all articles.
January 1921	185	195	191	-1
February	188	193	191	..
March	189	190	190	-1
April	199	198	198	+4
May	196	200	199	..
June	194	205	197	-1
July	191	203	199	+1
August	205	202	203	+2
September	202	211	207	+2
October	189	199	195	-6
November	193	192	193	-1
December	189	191	190	-2
January 1922	188	190	190	..

An examination of the movement of wholesale prices during 1921 from the table on page 48 will show that the most violent fluctuations of all occurred in the "Raw Cotton" group. Its range was from 108 in March to 217 in September; and the fluctuation was most noticeable when it rose from 137 in August to 217 in September. It concluded with 198 showing a price level of 98 per cent above that of July 1914. Next to "Raw Cotton" a marked rise and fall was shown in the groups "Cereals" and sugar. "Cereals" began

with 158 in January, fell to 156 in March, reached its high-water mark of 216 in August, and concluded with 180 in December. From 306 in January sugar rose to 338 in March and ended with 200, its minimum, in December. With the exception of "Oil Seeds" and "Hides and Skins" all the other groups did not fluctuate much during the year.

The movement of wholesale prices in Bombay as compared with other countries will be found on page 50.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES IN BOMBAY

In the table below, movements in the index number of wholesale prices may be compared with those in the index numbers of retail prices in Bombay:

		Index Numbers of Retail Prices.	Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices.
		Food.	All items.
July 1914	100	100	100
January 1920	215	182	231
February	206	180	219
March	202	176	211
April	199	171	224
May	213	173	217
June	232	180	222
July	253	189	220
August	262	191	217
September	263	192	218
October	261	193	210
November	238	186	204
December	227	181	192
January 1921	163	169	191
February	156	162	191
March	154	160	190
April	154	160	198
May	162	167	199
June	169	173	197
July	174	177	199
August	177	180	203
September	183	185	207
October	180	183	195
November	179	182	193
December	176	179	190
January 1922	169	173	190

In comparing these figures it will be noted that retail prices follow the movements of wholesale prices at an average interval of six or seven months, and that the average difference between the two indices during the past year has been 23 points.



COMPARATIVE PRICES

From the table below it will be seen that taking the retail food prices in Bombay in December 1921 and January 1922 as equal to 100, Ahmedabad shows a level above Bombay, while Karachi and Sholapur show a level below it. As compared with Bombay, the levels in Ahmedabad and Sholapur were the same as in December.

Bombay prices in December 1921 = 100

Articles.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.
Cereals—				
Rice ..	100	136	119	95
Wheat ..	100	102	104	90
Jowari ..	100	88	96	123
Bajri ..	100	80	97	75
Average—Cereals..	100	101	104	96
Pulses—				
Gram ..	100	102	99	101
Turdal ..	100	94	107	89
Average—Pulses..	100	98	103	95
Other articles of food—				
Sugar (refined) ..	100	95	117	110
Jagri (Gul) ..	100	91	114	83
Tea ..	100	90	126	125
Salt ..	100	78	78	147
Beef ..	100	97	97	58
Mutton ..	100	78	104	65
Milk ..	100	65	76	76
Ghee ..	100	93	105	95
Potatoes ..	100	95	117	133
Onions ..	100	95	95	95
Cocoanut oil ..	100	107	128	121
Average—Other articles of food ..	100	89	105	101
Average—All food articles ..	100	93	105	99

Bombay prices in January 1922 = 100

Cereals—				
Rice ..	100	139	126	95
Wheat ..	100	100	99	101
Jowari ..	100	89	109	126
Bajri ..	100	89	94	80
Average—Cereals..	100	104	107	101
Pulses—				
Gram ..	100	96	89	101
Turdal ..	100	88	100	84
Average—Pulses..	100	92	95	93
Other articles of food—				
Sugar (refined) ..	100	96	126	119
Jagri (Gul) ..	100	93	93	77
Tea ..	100	90	126	105
Salt ..	100	82	82	143
Beef ..	100	98	98	59
Mutton ..	100	78	104	65
Milk ..	100	65	76	76
Ghee ..	100	97	99	89
Potatoes ..	100	65	89	141
Onions ..	100	127	140	116
Cocoanut oil ..	100	113	132	108
Average—Other articles of food ..	100	91	106	100
Average—All food articles ..	100	94	105	99

RETAIL PRICE STATISTICS

BOMBAY, KARACHI, AHMEDABAD AND, SHOLAPUR

On page 49 will be found statistics of food prices in December 1921 and January 1922 for Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad and Sholapur. These are official prices supplied through the Director of Agriculture to the Labour Office and are averages of prices taken eight times a month from retail shop-keepers patronized by the labouring classes. These towns are selected because they are the mainspring of industrial activity in the Presidency.

The articles selected are those commonly consumed by the working classes. The index number is based on the prices for seventeen commodities and is the simple arithmetic average of the percentages of prices of the several articles as compared with the prices for July 1914 which being the pre-war month is taken as the base.

In January 1922 the unweighted food indexes in all the centres, Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad, and Sholapur, show a fall from the previous month. The index numbers of "Cereals" and "Other articles of food" also register a fall in all these towns. The "Pulses" group shows a fall in Karachi and Ahmedabad, but a rise in Bombay and Sholapur.

COST OF LIVING ABROAD

Belgium.—The unweighted index number of retail prices of 56 articles for the Kingdom of Belgium was 394 on the 15th November 1921 against 391 on the 15th October (15th April 1914 = 100).

The weighted index numbers are constructed on 22 articles of food and the weights have been arrived at on the results of enquiries by the 'Institut de Sociologie Solvay'. The results are based on the hypothesis that consumption is the same as in 1910. One thousand and twenty-eight working class families were included to arrive at the weights and these have been divided into three classes—



(1) 602 families whose incomes are less than 5 francs *per diem* (1910); (2) 317 families whose incomes are between 5 and 8 francs *per diem* (1910); (3) 109 families who get an income of 8 francs and more *per diem* (1910).

another or with the Union average can only be effected in columns (2) and (3), not in column (4).

COST OF LIVING IN CANADA

ITS SCOPE AND METHOD

The Canadian Department of Labour publishes every month figures showing the cost of living in 62 cities which are important industrial centres all over the Dominion. The retail prices of more than a 100 staple foods, rent, laundry starch, soap, and fuel are recorded for each of these 62 centres and the provincial and Dominion average for each article calculated therefrom. The quotations for rent are the prevailing rates for six-roomed houses of two classes in districts exclusively occupied by working men. The exact quality is set forth in the case of each commodity and every effort made to ensure that the prices quoted refer to the same class of commodities in each case in order that the statistics may be available for purposes of comparison from month to month, and from city to city.

The weighting of these various prices for calculating the cost of living is based upon the consumption in a week of a family of five persons.

The average prices, in each city, of twenty-nine staple foods, starch, coal, wood, coal oil, and rent are considered. The quantities of each commodity included are not necessarily the exact quantities assumed to be required in such a family every week. For some articles comparatively large quantities are included owing to the absence in the price lists of other important items of the same class. For instance the only fruits considered are evaporated apples and prunes, and the only fresh vegetable is potatoes, presumably because these are the chief fruits and vegetables, which are in continual and not seasonal demand. As market conditions affecting these usually affect the prices of other fruits and vegetables somewhat similarly, the relative proportion of expenditure on the various classes of foods tends to be maintained, but users of the tables are warned to allow for any unusual fluctuations in the price of the articles thus heavily weighted. The

Year.	1st class.	2nd class.	3rd class.
1920			
January ..	382	381	382
February ..	399	399	405
March ..	449	449	455
April ..	456	457	460
May ..	451	445	445
June ..	454	446	446
July ..	459	451	451
August ..	496	487	488
September ..	501	499	500
October ..	523	513	514
November ..	513	502	499
December ..	511	503	504
1921			
January ..	493	491	496
February ..	482	481	488
March ..	434	435	440
April ..	417	417	421
May ..	407	404	405
June ..	419	414	416
July ..	410	405	409
August ..	427	422	427
September ..	423	419	422
October ..	434	428	430
November ..	442	434	434

South Africa.—Indexes of the cost of living (food, fuel and light, and rent) for November 1921, forwarded by the Census and Statistics Office, Pretoria, show the following results:—

Town.	November 1921 index 1000=Union average 1910.	Percentage increase, November 1921.	
		Over 1914 Union average (per cent).	Each town over the 1914 figure for the same town (per cent).
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Cape Town ..	1,281	17.3	30.9
Durban ..	1,447	32.5	40.8
Pretoria ..	1,545	41.5	24.2
Johannesburg ..	1,430	31.0	22.5
Average of nine towns ..	1,383	2.67	....

The average of nine towns shows a fall of 1.1 per cent on the corresponding figure for October 1921. Comparisons of one town with



Canadian Labour Department explains the use of these tables in estimating the working man's weekly budget thus: "It was estimated, when the budget was first published in 1912, that these calculations represented from sixty to eighty per cent. of the expenditure of an ordinary family, according to the total income. For the average family of five the expenditure on these items of food, fuel, light and rent would be perhaps two-thirds or about sixty-five per cent. of the total income. While the budget serves to show the increase or decrease from time to time in the cost of the items included, it does not purport to show the minimum cost of food and fuel supplies for an average family in the Dominion or in any one province."

The following are the most recent variations in the cost of living:—

July 1914	..	100
July 1921	..	152
August ..	..	155
September ..	..	158
October ..	..	155
November ..	..	153

RECRUITMENT OF INDIAN SEAMEN

It is observed that the scope of the preliminary investigation which is being conducted by Mr. A. G. Clow, I.C.S., in connexion with the Seamen's Recruitment Committee (see pages 6 and 26 of the January "Labour Gazette") is apparently misunderstood. It should be noted that the present enquiry in Bombay and Calcutta is purely preliminary. When Mr. Clow has completed his investigation, he will, after sifting and summarising the evidence, submit a preliminary statement which will be considered by the substantive Committee. This Committee, which will meet in Delhi, has yet to be appointed and its terms of reference defined. It will consist of the two Bombay and Calcutta representatives of the seamen and shipowners respectively and two members of the Legislature. After the receipt of Mr. Clow's report the personnel and the terms of reference of this Committee will be announced. The preliminary enquiry in Bombay and Calcutta has been completed and Mr. Clow has returned to Delhi to prepare his report.

INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL IMPORTANCE

LATEST FIGURES

On page 29 of the September "Labour Gazette" an article appeared on India's industrial position proving her claim to be one of the eight chief industrial countries, and therefore entitling her to a seat on the Governing Body of the International Labour Office. In that article comparative figures were given showing the industrial importance of India, Belgium, Japan and Switzerland; as the position of the United Kingdom, the United States, France, and Germany as the leading industrial countries remains unchallenged. The following are some of the latest figures in regard to these former countries.

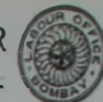
Mineral Production.—A comparison of the figures of the production of coal and iron ore, in the five countries, shows that India is not the least important of the five. The figures are as follows:—

	Coal and Lignite. Metric Tons.	Persons employed.	Iron ore. Metric Tons.	Persons employed.
India (1920)	.. 19,133,000	234,000	166,288	(a)
Italy (1920)	.. 1,834,000	25,000	423,000	3,000(c)
Belgium 1920	.. 22,414,000	161,000	82,000(d)	322(d)
Japan (1920)	.. 25,395,000	287,000	472,000(c)	(a)
Switzerland (1918)	.. 116,000	(a)	Insignificant.	

(a) Not available. (b) Estimated. (c) In 1919. (d) In 1918.

It will be seen from the table above that India, Belgium and Japan stand on much the same level in regard to the production of coal. India produced 573,000 metric tons of iron ore in 1919 while in 1920 the output was below normal. Practically the whole of the output of coal and iron is utilised locally. The Tata Iron and Steel Works, and the Bengal Iron and Steel Works—the two premier works in India—produced 355,413 metric tons of pig iron, 8,268 tons of ferro-manganese, 150,148 tons of steel, and 33,191 tons of castings.

Transport.—The latest figures below show that the Indian railways employ 711,690 workers which is more than in the United Kingdom and many more than in Italy, Belgium, Japan, and Switzerland combined.



	Kilometers	Workers	Weight of Goods carried in millions of tons.	Passengers carried in millions	Mean haul per ton in kilometers.
United States (1917)	.. 428,436	1,732,876	2,270	1,067	502
United Kingdom (1920)	.. 38,204	643,135	(a) 318	2,176	92
France (1913)	.. 40,933	359,308	208	548	128
Germany (1913)	.. 61,159	782,731	677	1,798	100
Belgium (1913)	.. 4,718	78,680	89	224	86(b)
Italy (1916)	.. 18,908	177,318	40	118	(c)
Switzerland (1919)	.. 5,258	44,703	19	114	72
Japan (1915-19)	.. 12,907	(c)	64	375	90
India (1919-20)	.. 59,117	711,690	95	520	372

(a) In 1913. (b) State lines only. (c) Not available.

Horse Power.—The most recent data for India are those contained in the Triennial Report of the Chief Engineer of the Hydro Electric Survey of India. An approximate, though incomplete, calculation of all kinds of power in use in India, shows a total of 1,248,336 horse power or 936,000 kilowatts. The continuous water power is estimated at 213,140 kilowatts, but the potential minimum capacities at 5,582,000 kilowatts or 7,400,000 electrical horse power. These figures are a sufficient indication of the immense potentialities of water power in India if developed on the right lines.

Export of Manufactured Goods.—The following table gives the value of wholly manufactured goods exported by each of the five countries. It may be mentioned that out of 1,581,000,000 yards of cotton piece-goods manufactured in India only less than one-tenth is exported:—

	£
India (1920-21)	.. 86,911,000
Italy (1920)	.. 42,847,000
Belgium (1920)	.. 63,137,000
Japan (1920)	.. 132,153,000
Switzerland (1919)	.. 123,508,000

Cotton.—The table below shows the latest figures for the cotton industries of the five countries.

	Number of spindles.	Number of looms.	Persons employed.
India	.. 6,714,000	117,558	306,000
Italy	.. 4,506,000	140,000	222,000
Belgium (a)	.. 1,591,000	26,000	17,000
Japan	.. 3,804,000	42,400	155,000
Switzerland	.. 1,531,000	25,569	21,000

(a) Estimated.

Wool.—The figures for wool are as follows:—

	Number of spindles.	Persons employed.
India	.. 46,700	6,780
Italy	.. 947,000	43,000
Belgium	.. 563,000	50,000(a)
Japan	.. 409,000	(b)
Switzerland	.. 210,000(a)	6,700

(a) Estimated. (b) Not available.

Jute.—In 1920, in addition to providing 534,000,000 bags for internal needs, 1,353,000,000 yards of jute cloth were exported. The number of spindles, looms, and operatives in the other four countries is not available, but the importance of the industry in those countries as compared with India, may be gauged from the amount of raw jute consumed by them. The latest statistics are as follows:—

	Number of spindles.	Number of looms.	Persons employed.	Consumption of Raw jute in Tons.
India	.. 856,300	41,000	280,400	1,172,000
Italy	..			27,000
Belgium	..	(a)		12,000
Japan	..			7,700
Switzerland	..			300

(a) Not available.

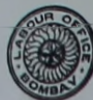
Silk.—The following table shows the latest available figures for the silk industry.

	Persons employed.	Estimated Annual Consumption of Raw silks, in Kilos.
India	.. 170,591	614,000
Italy	.. 196,000	1,150,000
Belgium	.. (a)	480,000
Japan	.. 512,000(b)	7,860,000
Switzerland	.. 30,000	1,137,000

(a) Not available. (b) Preparatory and spinning processes only.

EXECUTIVES OF LABOUR ORGANISATIONS

The following are the names of the members of the Executive Committees of the All-India Trade Union Congress and of the Bombay



Central Labour Federation, as furnished to the Labour Office by the General Secretary of the All-India Trade Union Congress.

Executive Committee of the All-India Trade Union Congress nominated at the second Session, held at Jharia in November 1921 :—

Mr. Joseph Baptista.
 .. M. A. Khan.
 .. M. Daud.
 .. M. D. Dalvi.
 .. I. D. Sawhney.
 .. Hajee Dawood Hussain.
 .. Bapu.
 .. S. N. Haldar.
 .. T. V. Kalyansundaram Mudaliar.
 .. Chottalal Jani.
 .. Daulat Ram.
 .. J. M. Sen Gupta.
 .. Jawahir Lal Nehru.
 .. G. K. Gadgil.
 .. Deep Narain Singh.
 Mrs. Deep Narain Singh.
 Mr. V. Chakkarai.
 .. C. Ramulu.
 .. Sirajuddin Ahmed.
 .. Nadkarni.
 .. Radha Charan Mitra.
 .. R. K. Prabhu.
 .. Darshanand.
 .. Kanji Dwarkadas, M.L.C.
 .. Sanyal.
 .. Madho Ram.
 .. J. B. Miller.
 .. Hussain Ali Malik.
 .. Murari Lal.
 .. D. Chaman Lall.
 .. K. R. Khosla.
 .. Sitaram Sawant.
 .. Samud Khan.
 .. J. B. Naik.
 .. L. R. Tairsee.
 .. Lala Lajpatrai.
 .. W. Moreno.
 .. Jalil Khan.
 .. E. L. Iyer.
 .. Tukaram Santaji.
 .. Swami Vishwanand.
 .. Ramjas Agarwalla.
 .. M. Singaravelu.
 .. I. B. Sen.
 .. R. K. L. Nandkeolyer.
 .. K. P. Sen Sinha.
 .. Devshwar.
 .. Ahmed Khan

Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A.
 .. S. A. Brelvi.
 .. C. R. Das.
 .. V. M. Pawar.

Executive Committee of the Bombay Central Labour Federation :—

Mr. Joseph Baptista.
 .. D. Chaman Lall
 .. I. D. Sawhney.
 .. L. R. Tairsee.
 .. M. D. Dalvi.
 .. G. K. Gadgil.
 .. K. S. Kanthi.
 .. Pandit Devshwar.
 .. Jagan Nath.
 .. Nimbker.
 .. Sita Ram.
 .. Benjamin Moore.
 .. Pradhan.
 .. Nadkarni.
 .. Allahuddin Tajuddin.
 .. Ramchandra Mahadev.
 .. Rasul Sayed.
 .. Atmaram.
 .. Ahmed Khan.
 .. Tukaram Santaji.
 .. Bapu.
 .. Ganpat.
 .. J. B. Naik.
 .. V. M. Pawar.
 .. Madho Ram.
 .. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A.
 .. Hazi Ahmed Hussain.

REPORT OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, JAMAICA.

The Labour Office has received a copy of the Annual Report of the Immigration Department, Jamaica, for the year ended 31st December 1920. During the year under report, no immigrants were introduced and neither were any repatriated. No new legislation was enacted during the year. The number of free Indians in the Colony was 18,821, most of whom were employed as agricultural labourers, planters, shop-keepers, goldsmiths or domestic servants. No strikes occurred during the year. The total immigration population of East Indians on 31st December 1920, was 19,396.



INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN THE PRESIDENCY

On pages 54 and 55 will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during January 1922, 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". Detailed statistics have been collected since 1st April 1921, the date on which the Labour Office was instituted.

Summary tables have been constructed in order to show the position at a glance. Table I shows the number, magnitude and duration of strikes in January 1922.

I.—Industrial Disputes classified by Trades

Trade.	Number of disputes in progress in January 1922.			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in January 1922.	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in January 1922.*
	Started before 1st January.	Started in January.	Total.		
Textile ..	..	16	16	15,705	32,441
Miscellaneous ..	..	1	1	158	948
Total, January 1922 ..	..	17	17	15,863	33,389
Total, December 1921 ..	3	6	9	6,943	26,321

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

There were 17 industrial disputes in January 1922, 15 of which were in cotton mills. The number of people affected was about 16,000 and the working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days less workers

replaced) 33,389, an increase on the December statistics.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes. The number due to the question of pay is noticeable.

II.—Industrial Disputes—Results, September 1921 to January 1922

	September 1921.	October 1921.	November 1921.	December 1921.	January 1922.
Number of strikes and lock-outs ..	21	15	31	9	17
Disputes in progress at beginning ..	3	2	5	3	..
Fresh disputes begun ..	18	13	26	6	17
Disputes ended ..	19	10	28	9	14
Disputes in progress at end ..	2	5	3	..	3
Number of workpeople involved ..	49,068	50,608	8,291	6,943	15,863
Aggregate duration in working days ..	256,498	231,896	62,009	26,321	33,389
Demands—					
Pay ..	2	1	5	2	8
Bonus ..	1	5	14	3	3
Personal ..	..	3	7	4	..
Leave and hours ..	1	3	2	..	2
Others ..	17	3	3	..	4
Results—					
Successful ..	2	2	13	1	3
Partially successful ..	..	4	6	1	..
Unsuccessful ..	17	4	9	7	11

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



III.—Industrial Disputes—Analysis of Table II

Month.	Number of strikes and lock-outs.	Aggregate duration in working days.	Proportion settled.			
			In favour of employ-ers. (Per cent.)	In favour of employ-ees. (Per cent.)	Com-promised. (Per cent.)	In pro-gress. (Per cent.)
April 1921 ..	6	184,450	33	17	17	33
May 1921 ..	11	227,115	27	9	18	46
June 1921 ..	10	79,804	70	10	..	20
July 1921 ..	10	12,268	60	10	10	20
August 1921 ..	14	192,001	36	36	7	21
September 1921	21	256,498	80	10	..	10
October 1921 ..	15	231,896	27	13	27	33
November 1921	31	62,009	29	42	19	10
December 1921	9	26,321	78	11	11	..
January 1922..	17	33,389	65	18	..	17

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES COMMITTEE

Since our January issue the Committee has concluded its examination of witnesses. The fresh witnesses have been:—

- Mr. Ambalal Sarabhai of Ahmedabad.
- Mr. F. J. Ginwalla, honorary organiser of several Bombay unions.
- Mr. P. G. Kanekar of Tata Sons Workmen's Institute.
- Mr. N. D. Kadem of the Currimbhoy Ebrahim Institute.
- Mr. N. G. Majmudar, Mill Manager, Sholapur.
- Mr. G. Findlay Shirras, Director, Labour Office.

Mr. Ambalal was particularly interesting on welfare work which he claimed to be efficiency work and economically justifiable before the shareholders of his mills. His crèche is always overflowing with infants and by retaining the women produced so stable a

labour force that he could almost rely on the children of his operatives coming to his mill, a rare state of affairs which justified expenditure on education. In order to avoid the sense of obligation the whole of the officers and employees of the mills contribute to welfare work proportionately to their pay, their contribution amounting to a fifth of the cost of the work.

The textile industry at Ahmedabad has kept fairly free of strikes, except for the 'bonus' strike of October 1921, by the loyalty of both parties to the joint awards of the duumvirate consisting of the President of the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association and Mr. Gandhi, and, in the single instance of their disagreement, to the award of Pandit M. M. Malaviya.

Mr. Ambalal says of the Ahmedabad unions that they are an extremely useful and healthy growth. He also welcomed their organisation by outside sympathisers. All the members pay their subscriptions regularly and the Unions are accumulating large bank balances. He has found that leaders from inside the mills are subjected to victimisation, and regards this as inevitable under present conditions. He is against any legislative recognition of unions as he fears that the men may regard the intentions of Government with suspicion and may desert the unions. The unions in Ahmedabad are organised on the basis of employment as in England while those in Bombay are based upon the individual factory, like soviets.

In spite of the comparatively smooth working of the Ahmedabad industry, Mr. Ambalal regards the institution of Boards of Enquiry and Conciliation after the parties have failed to reach an agreement, as very desirable as they would enlist public opinion. He thinks however that they should be set up only if Government servants including postmen are entitled to apply for them.

Mr. Ginwalla gave very valuable evidence on Trade Unions. He is honorary sponsor in one way or another of four unions, all comprising skilled or literate men—the workshop unions of the two railways and the docks and the postmen's union. In some cases he has established amicable relations with the authorities and secures consideration of the



cases he brings forward. The workshop unions see that any increase given in another workshop is conceded in their own case and some standardization of wages is thus reached. Mr. Ginwalla pleaded for generous treatment from employers. His great difficulty is to secure the loyalty of the men, but he hopes to be able to enforce rules giving the union officers power to make agreements binding on the men and another forbidding strikes without a three-quarter majority ascertained by ballot. This is ambitious, but it must be remembered that Mr. Ginwalla is dealing with the pick of Bombay operatives. He admits however that his two railway unions are at present at a very low ebb.

Mr. Ginwalla favours the registration of trade unions and the institution of a Board of Enquiry and Conciliation as do Messrs. Kanekar and Kadam.

The Sholapur Spinning and Manufacturing Company have educated their mill children for 23 years and boast a literacy rate of 15 per cent for their mill as against a District rate of about 5 per cent. They also run a most successful restaurant with sales of Rs. 2,000 a month, the charges covering the bare cost of materials. In order to interest the operatives in the mill and prevent thoughtless strikes, Mr. Majmudar advocated works committees and employees copartnership. A permanent employee of a mill, he points out, risks almost all he has in that mill, while a shareholder's risks are limited to the cost of the shares he buys. Mr. Majmudar therefore thinks that all operatives of five years' service and over should be entitled to buy shares to an amount fixed according to their rank and length of service entitling them to a fixed dividend over and above the dividend declared by the company on its ordinary shares. The amount of capital allocated to this scheme should be limited and further subdivided among the various departments and become the property of the employees' copartnership association, the profit from any unallotted shares being retained by the committee for departmental welfare purposes.

Mr. Majmudar is a strong advocate of welfare work on grounds of efficiency as well as of humanitarianism, and proposes that a

considerable proportion of profits should be definitely allocated to welfare.

He also agrees with Mr. Ambalal that Enquiry and Conciliation Boards should only be established if the system is to apply equally to employees in all Government and quasi-Government departments. At present he thinks a simple Conciliation machinery within the factory with an independent chairman with technical knowledge of the industry might be enough.

Mr. Findlay Shirras explained the functions of the Labour Office. At present he concerns himself with labour statistics, with the accuracy of which he feels fairly satisfied, labour intelligence, and labour legislation. He summarised the conciliation machinery in other countries and strongly favoured a system of voluntary Enquiry and Conciliation Boards for this Presidency, the most advanced industrially of all provinces in India.

The Committee have since then been considering their report which will probably be in the hands of the Government early in March.

BOMBAY MUNICIPAL SWEEPERS

MEN ON STRIKE

On the 6th February the sweepers of the Bombay Municipality in the "C," "D," "E" and "F" wards, numbering 1,500, struck work. The cause of the strike was that the men demanded the annual bonus and a grain compensation allowance of Rs. 2. The Municipal Commissioner put up a notice to the effect that the men had no legitimate grievance. They had received an increase only 18 months ago, and further the Municipality had provided a number of new chawls at a nominal rent. A provident fund was also opened for their benefit. The Municipal Commissioner warned the strikers that if they did not return to work immediately, they would be dismissed from service, turned out of the rooms occupied by them, and the pay now due to them would be forfeited under the Municipal Servants' Act. On the 7th instant 112 sweepers were charged before the Third Presidency Magistrate for having left their work without notice.



Several men were convicted and fined. The strike continued on the two following days and 2,000 more sweepers joined the strikers.

THE SETTLEMENT

The timely intervention of the Bombay Central Labour Federation on behalf of the strikers, brought the strike to an end. As a result of the negotiations between the Secretary of the Central Labour Federation and the Municipal Commissioner an agreement was arrived at to the effect that the men should return to work immediately. The cases against the men were to be withdrawn and the wages of the workers for January which were according to the Commissioner's notice forfeited, should be restored. A Committee of the Corporation is to be appointed to enquire whether the present pay of the sweepers is or is not less than (1) the current market wage or (2) a reasonable living wage. This Committee is to consist of two members nominated by the President of the Bombay Central Labour Federation and two by the Municipal Commissioner, with an independent chairman. On the 10th February the strike ended and the men returned to work.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN OTHER PROVINCES

MADRAS PRESIDENCY

Two strikes in the Madras Presidency were reported during the month of January 1922. 37 men and 19 apprentices struck for higher wages on 29th November 1921 at the Commonwealth Engineering Works, Mangalore, South Kanara. 31 men and 8 apprentices were indirectly involved in this strike. Work was resumed unconditionally on 2nd December 1921. The other strike involving 1,200 workpeople occurred at the Chittivalsah Jute Mills in the Vizagapatam District on the 27th October 1921 and lasted for about 20 days. The cause of the strike was the refusal of the Manager to reinstate certain weavers who left work on the 25th October 1921 demanding higher wages.

OTHER PROVINCES—THIRD QUARTER OF 1921

The table below shows the number of strikes, the workpeople involved and the working days lost during the third quarter of 1921 in different provinces as published in the *Journal of Indian Industries and Labour*. Madras, Bombay and Bengal present a striking contrast to other provinces as regards the number of working days lost. The strikes in Madras appear to be of long duration.

Industrial disputes during the third quarter of 1921.

Province.	Number of disputes.	Number of workpeople involved.	Number of working days lost.
Bengal ..	30	25,185	173,776
Bihar and Orissa ..	2	460	460
Bombay ..	40	56,439	422,976
Burma ..	7	561	2,046
Madras ..	5	12,500	526,946
Punjab ..	1	1,800	5,400
United Provinces ..	3	880	2,080
Total ..	88*	97,825	1,133,684

* Information has been received by the Government of India of 7 other disputes (including the Assam-Bengal Railway strike) but the information is not yet sufficiently complete to allow of their inclusion in the table.

LITERACY AMONG MILL-WORKERS IN BOMBAY

COMPARISON BY RELIGION

The Provincial Superintendent of Census has furnished the Labour Office with advance copies of the literacy tables of the census taken in 1921. They will be of special interest to those who are considering the question of compulsory education among the working classes of Bombay. For the purpose of comparison between better class, low class and mill areas, three sections of the municipal wards of the city of Bombay, *viz.*, Chaupati, Umerkhadi and Parel, have been chosen. Chaupati has been taken to represent the section containing a large number of better class residents. Umerkhadi is a typical slum area occupied by the poorer classes. Parel is a section



in which a considerable number of mill-hands live. The percentages among Hindus and Musalmans alone are given, as most mill-hands are of one of these two religions.

Percentage of literate persons.	Chaupati.	Umerkhadi.	Parel.
Hindu ..	51	15	13
Musalman ..	35	20	14

The following table shows the percentage of literacy in all the principal mill areas of Bombay :—

	Percentage of literate persons.	
	Hindu.	Musalman.
Tardeo ..	14	10
Kamatipura ..	7	8
Second Nagpada ..	6	13
Byculla ..	9	7
Tadwadi ..	9	14
Mazagaon ..	6	5
Parel ..	13	14
Sewri ..	3	7
Worli ..	7	10

All of these figures fall very much below the figures for Chaupati.

An additional table showing the percentage of literacy for all religions in Bombay is also given.

Religion.	Percentage of literate persons.
All religions ..	24
Hindu ..	18
Musalman ..	18
Jain ..	60
Zoroastrian ..	77
Christian ..	53
Jew ..	45
Other religions ..	56

It will be noted that in this table the Zoroastrians head the list and Jains and Christians come next. This order has remained unchanged since the last census of 1911. Hindus and Musalmans tie for the lowest place in respect of literacy.

N H 981—6

WORKMAN'S BREACH OF CONTRACT ACT

PROPOSAL FOR REPEAL

The Government of India in the Home Department in a letter dated 1st October 1921, have asked the views of the Government of Bombay, on the desirability of repealing the Workman's Breach of Contract Act, 1859, as amended by the Act of 1920, and of Sections 490 and 492 of the Indian Penal Code; and in addition to furnish a report as to how the Workman's Breach of Contract Act has worked and whether any instances of abuse or misuse of its provisions have come to its notice.

ARGUMENTS FOR REPEAL

On the 10th September 1921, Mr. N. M. Joshi moved the following resolution in the Legislative Assembly: "This Assembly recommends to the Governor-General in Council that he should take steps to introduce, at an early date, in the Indian Legislature, legislation for the repeal of: (a) the Workman's Breach of Contract Act, No. 13 of 1859, and (b) Sections 490 and 492 of the Indian Penal Code." In the course of his speech, Mr. Joshi said that his object in introducing the resolution was "to remove criminal liability for breach of contract of service in a large number of cases accompanied by advances of money." He then traced the history of the legislation. The Workman's Breach of Contract Act was introduced in 1859, in compliance with the request of the Calcutta Trades Association who petitioned the Government of India that such legislation was necessary in view of the loss suffered by them, because the labourers whom they brought from outside by paying them money in advance, often left before fulfilling their contract of service. On receiving such a complaint of non-fulfilment, the Act of 1859 empowered the Magistrate to order the man to return the money, or fulfil the contract of service, or in default to impose rigorous or simple imprisonment upon him. Women and children were not excluded from the provision of the Act. An amendment was introduced in 1920 making the Act inapplicable to contracts involving Rs. 300 or more. Mr. Joshi characterised the legislation as a kind of indentured



labour system, and said that his chief objection to it was that it made a civil offence a criminal offence, and that too only in the case of the working classes. He then cited the opinions of various people in favour of repealing the Act. In requesting the repeal of Sections 490 and 492 of the Indian Penal Code, Mr. Joshi said that the former Section was intended for punishing a poor man with imprisonment for breach of contract, but admitted that a man may be punished criminally where by his breach of contract of service he causes danger to human life. In his opinion Section 492 was nothing but a repetition of the Workman's Breach of Contract Act.

PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES

The Hon'ble Sir William Vincent declared the attitude of the Government towards the Resolution. The opinions that were invited in 1918 or 1919 as to the necessity of amending or repealing the Act were not unanimous. The majority including the local Governments, were opposed to repealing the Act. The arguments in favour of repeal were mostly theoretical and were based on principle. But in practice, in the interests of the public, and in the carrying out of large engineering and industrial concerns, such an Act was essential to prevent fraudulent breaches of contract; and especially in the case of large engineering works to prevent the enticement of labourers by one employer from another. Further, the system of paying advances was inevitable in this country, and as the labourers have nothing from which the dues could be collected, nothing but the summary procedure as provided in the Act, could secure the recovery of the advance. It is solely a question between the employer and the employee, and affected both Indian and European employers. The Hon'ble Member then cited certain Indian opinion against repealing the Act, and pointed out that the amendments made in 1920, were made to safeguard the interests of labourers. Thus, while the application of the Act was restricted, the Magistrate was given discretion, to refuse to issue process where he thought it was unnecessary, and to refuse to enforce any contract which he thought was unfair, and further he was authorised to award compensation if

the complaint was frivolous. The Magistrate was also given discretion to decide whether the advance should be refunded or whether the contract should be fulfilled or to order the repayment of the advance by instalments. Government had received no complaint of the Act being applied unfairly. The preamble to the Act clearly shows that it was not to punish ordinary breaches of contract, but to prevent fraudulent breaches of contract, and it did not result in slavery.

GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS LABOUR

In reply to Mr. Joshi's suggestion that Government was already on the side of the capitalist employer, and that it had no sympathy with labour, the Hon'ble Sir William Vincent mentioned the various legislative proposals under its consideration—the Factories Amendment Bill, the Mines Amendment Bill, Trade-Union and Workmen's Compensation legislation, housing of labour in Bombay—to show that Government were taking every possible step to ameliorate the conditions of labour. He further stated that all the Local Governments contemplated the formation of Conciliation Boards. In regard to the Workman's Breach of Contract Act, the Hon'ble Member said that while the arguments in favour of its repeal were mainly theoretical and were based on principle, there were certain practical objections which had to be taken into account and further, opinions had to be gathered from those employers and all other bodies whom it would affect. Therefore the Government were prepared to adopt the view that the repeal of the Act was desirable on grounds of principle, if after consulting Local Governments and other public bodies, there was a general consensus of opinion in favour of repeal. If the enquiry showed that the repeal would not affect the industrial progress of the country, and the replies favoured the repeal, a Bill would then be introduced within a reasonable time, to give effect to it. In regard to the repeal of Sections 490 and 492 of the Indian Penal Code, no definite undertaking was given, as they were part of the general criminal law of the land, and as such, stood on a different footing. Government however agreed to consult public opinion as to the repeal of these sections. After this decision Mr. Joshi withdrew his resolution.



BODIES CONSULTED

The Government of Bombay have consulted the Bombay and Karachi Chambers of Commerce, the Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau, the Bombay and Ahmedabad Mill-owners' Associations, the Bombay European Textile Association, the Chairmen of the Bombay and Karachi Port Trusts, the Bombay Engineering Employers' Federation, the Bombay Presidency Trades Association, the Agent, B. B. & C. I. Railway, the Agent, G. I. P. Railway, the Social Service League, the Kamgar Hitwardhaka Sabha, the All-India Trade Union Congress, the Registrar, High Court Appellate Side, the Commissioner in Sind, the Commissioners of the Northern, Central and Southern Divisions, the Judicial Commissioner of Sind, the Director of Industries, the Remembrancer of Legal Affairs, the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Bombay, all Sessions Judges and all District Magistrates. The bodies have been requested to send their replies at an early date as the Government of Bombay have to reply to the Government of India before the end of February.

IMMIGRANT LABOUR IN ASSAM

WAGES IN THE TEA INDUSTRY

The Government of Assam have published a Report on Immigrant Labour in Assam for the year 1920-21. Prefixed to the Report is a Government Resolution in which it is stated as follows:—

“The outstanding feature of the year was the depression in the tea industry, which in the case of several concerns all but amounted to a financial crisis. Notwithstanding this the area under tea increased, but every possible economy in working was practised. Agents and Managers alike were alive to the importance of protecting their labour force from the effects of the depression, and in spite of curtailed expenditure budgets the level of wages on the whole was well maintained, while during the year increased rates were given and other concessions allowed on a large number of gardens. The effect of the prevailing conditions on recruitment was most marked. The number of

immigrants dropped from 102,000 to 25,400. It must of course not be forgotten that the numbers recruited in 1919-20, and still more in 1918-19, were exceptionally high. Owing to short recruitment, to the free permission given to labourers who wished to do so to leave the gardens and settle outside, and to the exodus from the Karimganj Sub-division, the total labour force at the end of the year was reduced by 8·9 per cent. The year was a healthy one as is shown by the higher birth-rate and the lower death-rate.”

VITAL STATISTICS

The deaths among adult labourers according to nationality were as follows:—

Nationality.	Mean annual strength.	Deaths.	Ratio per mille of the deaths to strength.
United Provinces, Bengal and Bihar	220,105	7,212	32·76
Coastal Nagpur and the Santal Parganas	228,825	7,138	31·19
Central Provinces	76,252	2,263	29·67
Madras	44,203	1,599	36·17
Assam	27,686	959	29·22
Others	3,713	170	45·79
Total	600,784	19,391	31·9

The nationality and sex of the adult labour force is as follows:—

Nationality.	Men.	Women.	Total.
	(000)	(000)	(000)
United Provinces, Bengal and Bihar	104	104	208
Coastal Nagpur and the Santal Parganas	109	109	218
Central Provinces	37	36	73
Madras	21	20	41
Assam	15	13	28
Others	3	1	4
Total of 1920-21	299	283	572
Total of 1919-20	304	306	610

WAGES

“The table on the next page shows the average monthly wages paid to labourers.



Average monthly wages during 1911-12 to 1920-21

	Act Labourers.		Non-Act Labourers.		
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Children.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1911-12 ..	5 8 4	4 15 11	5 15 11	4 7 9	2 11 0
1912-13 ..	5 11 2	5 1 6	5 15 0	4 9 5	2 13 1
1913-14 ..	5 11 5	5 5 9	6 1 3	4 11 5	2 13 7
1914-15 ..	6 0 8	5 12 9	6 0 5	4 10 3	2 13 3
1915-16 ..	5 12 1	5 9 11	6 0 4	5 2 6	2 14 5
1916-17 ..	6 2 11	6 6 5	6 1 0	5 3 8	3 0 7
1917-18 ..	8 1 6	7 9 5	6 4 3	5 1 2	2 13 5
1918-19 ..	8 10 11	8 13 2	6 5 9	5 1 5	3 1 5
1919-20 ..	(a)	(a)	6 12 10	5 14 3	3 7 7
1920-21 ..	(a)	(a)	7 0 9	5 12 7	3 7 10

Note.—Average calculated on the figures for September 1920 and March 1921 of monthly cash wages including *ticca*, diet, rations, subsistence allowance and bonus per head.

(a) There were practically no "Act labourers" during the year.

"The events of the year have impressed very forcibly on the Governor in Council the shortcomings of this Statement as an indication of what the earnings of tea garden labourers actually are. In the Statement the earnings are expressed as if they were a monthly wage because that is the only form which enables a statistical comparison to be made with the earnings of other labour; but any comparison with the wage of labour which is really paid a monthly wage will be misleading unless certain peculiar conditions of labour on tea gardens are taken into account. For each completed daily task the labourer receives a sum varying from four to six or seven annas. This task can be completed in from three to six hours, and in normal times the labourer can then, if he wishes to do so, proceed to do a second task for which he receives additional pay known as *ticca*. The second task is generally lighter than the standard task or *hazira*. The figures in the Statement have been compiled from the wages returns for the months of March and September, the former being a comparatively slack month and the latter one of the busiest in the year when manufacture is in full swing. They are supposed to include cash wages of the standard task, amounts earned as *ticca* or overtime, diet and subsistence allowance whether given in cash or in

rice, and a portion of the bonus which is given annually to most adult labourers. This bonus represents the advance which is an essential feature of an agreement to labour under Act XIII of 1859, but although for the purposes of the Act the advance must be recovered this in practice is hardly ever done. It cannot be said with certainty that the average wage figure includes all that it is supposed to include. Again it does not show the pecuniary benefit derived by the coolie from the sale of rice, and in some cases cloth, at concession rates, which in itself is so important to him as to vitiate conclusions based on the wage figure alone. Lastly no account is taken of the other concessions which the coolie enjoys in the shape of free housing, free medical attendance, and a good water-supply, or of the benefit of being allowed to cultivate garden land at privileged rates, a practice which may be said to prevail wherever there are garden lands available.

In the course of the year careful enquiries were made about the adequacy of the wages earned on tea gardens, and the provisional conclusions of the Governor in Council were that there has been an increase of wages which was much more marked in the Assam Valley than in the Surma Valley, and that, while wages have not risen to a degree commensurate with the general rise in the cost of living, the earnings of the tea garden labourer and his family are sufficient to support them in a standard of comfort superior to that prevailing in their home districts." A Committee of Enquiry has been appointed (see page 19, December "Labour Gazette") to report on labour conditions in the tea gardens with special reference to the adequacy of the wage.

"In the course of the year an attempt was made to collect statistics to show the addition to the earnings of labourers which the supply of rice at figures far below the prevailing market rates really represented. The instructions given were somewhat complicated and were occasionally misunderstood, with the result that the complete accuracy of the figures in the Statement appended cannot be guaranteed. It would, however, appear that grain for which the labourer would have had to pay Rs. 74,79,934 in the market was sold to him for Rs. 52,19,248."



WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION LEGISLATION

The Provision of Compensation to Workmen

The Government of Bombay have received the following replies from the Honorary Secretary, the Bombay Engineering Employers' Federation, and the Secretary, the Karachi Chamber of Commerce, representing their views on the proposed legislation by the Government of India regarding the provision of compensation to workmen for injuries received in the course of their employment:—

BOMBAY ENGINEERING EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 264-D, dated 3rd October 1921, and its accompaniments, in connection with a proposal to introduce legislation for the provision of compensation to workmen for injuries received by them in the course of their employment.

2. Before replying in detail to the various points summarised in paragraph 22 of the Government of India's letter No. L.—859, I am desired to say that my Federation approve generally of the principles to which the proposed legislation is intended to give effect. The majority of the members of my Federation have for some time past provided for those of their employees who have been injured in the course of their employment.

3. With reference to the questions set forth in paragraph 22 of the Government of India's letter, I am desired to submit the following replies:—

(1) *Should employers' liability be affirmed?*—Yes.

(2) *Whether the English Employers' Liability Act of 1880 and the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1906 should be followed?*—The reply is in the affirmative with certain modifications to suit the peculiarities of this country and the people.

(3) *Provision for compensatory benefits and its limitation to industrial workers?*—The reply is in the affirmative. The word "industrial" should be altered to "manual".

(4) *Should the provisions include workers in factories, mines, railways, ships and docks?*—The reply is in the affirmative so long as they are covered by question (3).

(5) *Is limitation to manual workers approved?*—Yes.

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(6) *Should compensatory provisions cover (a) Building trades and (b) Telegraph and Telephone services?*—Yes, as far as they are covered by manual labour excluding operatives.

(7) *Other dangerous trades requiring special provisions.*—Provision should be made for dangerous and unhealthy trades.

(8) *Circumstances antecedent to injury.*—So long as the injury has been incurred while the employee is doing work strictly within the scope of his legitimate duties.

(9) *Exceptions.*—Exceptions should be cut down to a minimum for the sake of simplicity and my Federation think that "intentional injuries and serious and wilful misconduct, such as being under the influence of liquor or drugs" would be the only two necessary.

(10) *What injuries should be compensated?*—All injuries involving medical attention and involving permanent injury or absence from work whilst undergoing medical treatment for more than 7 days.

(11) *Cost of Compensation.*—The cost must fall on the employer, subject to his right of insuring the risk.

(12) *Scales for Compensation.*—

For total disablement.. Half pay.

.. partial .. Quarter pay.

.. temporary .. Half pay.

(13) *Award of lump sums?*—By mutual agreement between the employer and the employee.

(14) *Are the scales suggested suitable?*—Yes, except in the case of minor injuries which are too high.

(15) *Is the principle of special scales for minors approved?*—The introduction of a scale based upon full wages in the case of minors might encourage malingering and on that account should be opposed. It is presumed that by "minors" is meant children under 15.

(16) *Should refusal of medical attention debar compensation?*—Yes.

(17) *Administration of the Act.*—The appointment of a special tribunal in districts should meet the case and would be infinitely preferable, from all sides, to the civil courts, where the cost of litigation in India is out of all proportion to the issues involved.



(18) Should special penalties be provided for deliberate evasion of the Act?—Yes, but only in very clear cases and the Act on this subject should be so worded as to avoid litigation as far as possible.

KARACHI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In forwarding its report on the above subject the Karachi Chamber of Commerce desires to point out that its report is based on the general principle of granting benefits to employees whose work carries with it a danger to their lives and livelihood, and that it cannot define with any degree of accuracy all those employees who shall benefit under the proposed legislation owing to the Chamber's being unacquainted with the procedure of certain Industrial concerns.

1. Is it desirable to affirm in general terms the principle of employers' liability?—Yes.

2. If so, should the necessary legislation follow the Employers' Liability Act of 1880 and Workmen's Compensation Act of 1906?—Generally speaking, it should follow that of England, but the framing of an Act of this description must be guided by the peculiar conditions of labour in India, whilst helping the employees to get the full benefit of any compensatory benefits due, must afford ample protection to the employer from fraud, etc., and must therefore be drawn up and drafted in as simple a manner as possible. The Chamber is also of opinion that the clauses as defined in Appendix I should also be included in the Act, but in a more modified form.

3. Should there be provision for compensatory benefits; and should this be limited to industrial workers?—The answer is in the affirmative to the first part of this question. Industrial workers should include all such persons (i.e., Timekeepers, Overseers, etc., etc.) who in the execution of their legitimate occupation are exposed to similar risks as the manual worker and, as the Chamber considers a monetary limit essential, the limit of pay to all concerned who would be entitled to compensatory benefits should be Rs. 150 per month and under.

4. What provisions should regulate the inclusion of workers in (a) Factories, (b) Mines, (c) Railways (d) Ships and (e) Docks?—The Chamber considers that this question is ambiguous but take it to mean that a definition is required as to whom the benefits should be granted.

(a) Factories, (b) Mines, (c) Railways, (e) Docks. { Those employees as defined in the Chamber's reply to question 3.
(d) Ships The workers as defined in answer 3 on all vessels over a specified tonnage

coming under the operation of the Indian Steam Vessels Act and Ocean going steamers registered in India.

5. Is the principle of limitation to manual workers as a general rule approved?—Yes, but the compensatory benefits should include those employees as defined in the Chamber's reply to question 3.

6. Should the compensatory provisions cover:—

(a) Building Trades, (b) Telegraph Services?—(a) Yes. (b) The mechanical part only, such as linesmen, instrument repairers, etc.

7. What further classes should be included; are there any dangerous or unhealthy trades for which provision should be especially made?—The Chamber recommends that provision should be made for Tanners, Curers, Skinners and Cutters in the Hides and Skins Trades, and certain employees in Salt and Chemical works.

8. What should be the necessary circumstances antecedent to the injury to bring it within the scope of the Act?—The Chamber recommends that this should be when an employee, who must be employed in a factory or such place as may come within the meaning of the proposed Act, whilst in the execution of his or her duty shall receive personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of his or her employment.

9. What exceptions should be made in this connection?—The Chamber recommends that the exceptions should be those laid down in section 2 of the Employers Liability Act 1880, and special protection given to the Employer against intentional injury, wilful misconduct and injuries resulting from the use of drugs and intoxicants.

10. For what injuries should compensation be provided?—The Chamber is of opinion that compensatory benefits should be provided for death and total and partial disablement as defined in Schedule 2 from injuries received, arising out of and in the course of employment.

11. How should the cost of compensation be met?—As the Government of India state in clause 11 of their inability to bear a moiety of the cost, the same must naturally fall on the employer. The Chamber, however, considers that, as the rates charged for this kind of Insurance with recognised Insurance Institutions would be prohibitive and fall with undue severity on the employer (the premia being more than double that charged for similar risks for the Western labour) unless the Government of India participate in an Insurance scheme whereby the premia for these risks is based on the same



rates as those in force in England, the annual amount in premia involved would be prohibitive and seriously affect the expansion of Industrial concerns in India now. The Chamber further considers that a scheme could be evolved whereby the Government of India received the annual premia (based on the Home rates) and with their pension organisation in this country could carry out a scheme much more economically to the employer than if the help of an Insurance Company was called in, besides being able to guarantee constant and regular payments of an employee's compensatory benefits which would prevent undue advantage being taken by an unscrupulous employer at the expense of his employee.

12. What type of scales should be adopted for compensation?—The Chamber considers that as rigid a scale of compensation as can be drawn up is advisable for India.

13. Should the award of lump sums be avoided?—The Chamber, although agreeing that periodical payments would be more beneficial to the employee and bear less heavily on uninsured employers, considers that the employer should not be burdened with the distribution of payments ranging over periods of years and that unless Government will provide an organisation to distribute such periodical payments and safeguard employers against fraud, lump sum awards is in the Chamber's opinion the only possible method.

14. Are the scales suggested suitable?—The Chamber is of opinion that the scale propounded for compensatory benefits is ridiculously extravagant and far too high.

It considers that to grant compensatory benefits on the same scale as that laid down in England savours strongly of complete lack of knowledge of the conditions and the amount of work capable of being done by Indian labour in comparison with Western labour.

The Chamber considers that the undermentioned lump sum benefits are fair and reasonable and from the data it has received border on the generous side:—

Death and total disablement

Pay. Rs.		Lump sum benefit.	
		Rs.	per cent.
150	..	2,000	13·33
100	..	1,500	15·00
75	..	1,200	16·00
50	..	900	18·00
30	..	600	20·00
15	..	400	26·66

Partial disablement

The Chamber considers that the maximum lump sum benefits for partial disablement should be 50% (fifty per cent) of the benefits it has proposed for Death and Total Disablement for the maximum amount of injury received as specified under Schedule II (i.e., Loss of one arm above elbow) and the benefits to be granted to the employee should decrease in the ratio laid down in this Schedule II for other injuries received.

Examples:—

Pay. Rs.	Injury.	Lump sum benefit Rs.	Rs.
150	.. Loss of arm above elbow.	1,000	50 per cent. of 2,000
150	.. Loss of sight of one eye.	500	25 .. 2,000
15	.. Loss of arm below elbow.	175	43½ .. 400
15	.. Loss of index finger 37/8	9½	.. 400

Minor injuries

Free medical attendance and pay whilst incapacitated from duty. In this connection the Chamber is of opinion that the Act should definitely limit the period during which the incapacitated employee shall be in receipt of (a) full pay, (b) half pay.

The Chamber wishes it to be distinctly understood that the payment of lump sum benefits are calculated to allow for compound interest and that when taking into consideration the amount of the lump sum this should not be overlooked.

For example Rs. 2,000 paid as compensation to an employee drawing Rs. 150 would if treated as a simple divisional sum amount to Rs. 33-5-4 per month for five years whereas if compound interest was taken into consideration over the period named, the amount of Rs. 2,000 could be spread over five years and 6 months at the rate of Rs. 33-5-4 per mensem.

15. Is the principle of special scales for minors approved?—Minors are included in the above scheme which automatically provides for a proportionately higher compensation for lower-salaried labour.

16. Should refusal to receive medical attention debar an employee from claiming compensation?—Yes, provided the medical assistance offered is by a qualified person.

17. How should the Act be administered?—The Chamber recommends that the suggestion contained in clause 19 of the Government of India's letter No. 859 in which Civil Courts be entrusted with decision of cases under a simplified



form of procedure, appears to be the most suitable for India, but in large centres they recommend a tribunal consisting of three members (one Magistrate and two responsible citizens) should be formed to hear and decide cases, but at which no pleadings would be permitted. If a settlement could not be arrived at or the applicant was dissatisfied with the tribunal's decision recourse could then be had to the Civil Courts. The Chamber considers that owing to the nature of the tribunal's work the unofficial members should receive their fees from Government.

18. Should special penalties be provided for deliberate evasion of the Act?—Yes.

In concluding the report the Chamber is of opinion that the Act should, prior to its being placed before the Legislative Assembly, be sent to the various Chambers and other Commercial Companies throughout India for scrutinization and criticism.

Note.—Taking lump sum awards for death and total disablement divided over the years laid down by Government the following results are shown:—

Per	Benefit	Period
Ra. 150	..Ra. 2,000	5 years

To absorb the amount of Rs. 2,000 if divided into five parts with compound interest at 5 per cent would give Rs. 33-5-4 per mensem for 5½ years or 22-22 per cent of the employee's monthly pay.

To absorb the amount of Rs. 2,000 with accumulated interest over a period of five years would give Rs. 36-10-8 per month pension or 24-44 per cent of the employee's pay.

Per	Benefit	Period
Ra. 150	..Ra. 2,000	8 years

To absorb the amount of Rs. 2,000 if divided into 8 parts with compound interest at 5 per cent would give Rs. 21-10-8 per month for 9½ years or 13-33 per cent of the employee's pay.

To absorb the amount of Rs. 2,000 with accumulated interest over a period of 8 years would give Rs. 24-2-8 per month or 16-11 per cent of the employee's pay.

Per	Benefit	Period
Ra. 15	..Ra. 400	5 years

To absorb the amount of Rs. 400 if divided into 5 parts with compound interest at 5 per cent would give Rs. 6-10-8 per mensem for 5½ years or 44-44 per cent of the employee's pay.

To absorb the amount of Rs. 400 with accumulated interest over a period of 5 years would give Rs. 7-5-4 per mensem or 48-88 per cent of the employee's pay.

Per	Benefit	Period
Ra. 15	..Ra. 400	8 years

To absorb the amount of Rs. 400 if divided into 8 parts with compound interest at 5 per cent would give Rs. 4-2-8 per mensem or 27-77 per cent of the employee's pay for 9½ years.

To absorb the amount of Rs. 400 with accumulated interest over a period of 8 years would give Rs. 4-14-8 per month or 32-77 per cent of the employee's pay.

THE AHMEDABAD UNIONS

An account of trade unions in the cotton industry in Ahmedabad appeared in the "Labour Gazette" for September 1921. In that article the reports of the unions were translated from the vernacular. The report of the Card, Blow and Frame Departments Labour Union is given below:—

CARD, BLOW AND FRAME DEPARTMENTS LABOUR UNION ANNUAL REPORT

Formation of the Union.—This Union was formed on 20th August 1920. A meeting of the operatives of these departments was held on that day. Rules for the Union were passed at it.

Representative Committee.—Besides the office-bearers of the Union, a representative committee of four men per each mill (one from the operatives of the Card Department, one from the operatives of Blow Department, and 2 from the operatives of the Frame Department) were elected.

Members.—Membership stood at 3,900.

Subscription.—Subscription for membership was 4 annas for machine men, 2 annas for those working for the whole day and 1 anna for those working for half-day.

Movement in connection with wages.—At the termination of the struggle of the Throstle Department the working hours were reduced to 10 from 1st June 1920 and an increase of 25 per cent for workers in the Card and Blow rooms and of 40 per cent for workers in the Frame room was announced. This increase being insufficient in comparison with that given to other departments, and especially to the Throstle Department, an application was made to the

Millowners' Association on 2nd December 1920 in that connection. The matter was discussed before the Millowners' Association in the meeting of the Millowners' Association on 16th January 1921 and it was suggested that rates and wages prevailing in the Bombay mills should be obtained for the settlement of the question.

Telia Mill strike.—The operatives of the Telia Mill had struck work as they got less work during the year on account of the night shift. They were induced to resume work by giving right advice in regard thereto.

As the Gujarat Cottoning Mill and the Rajnagar Mill No. 1 worked for more hours than those specified during the year under report they were fined Rs. 15 and Rs. 10 respectively.

During the year under report proper advice was given to the members in connection with the disputes with mills and the necessary correspondence was made.

As the principal activity of the Union was directed in the collection of funds during the year under report which is the first year of its inauguration, the question of education and other matters for the benefit of the members were not taken in hand. But it is hoped that they will be taken up during this year.

(Sd.) ANUSUYA SARABHAI.

Receipts and Expenditure—Aug. to Dec. 1920

Credit		Debit	
Ra. s. p.		Ra. s. p.	
7,721	2 0	305	0 0
		519	4 6
		73	0 0
14	15 0	100	0 0
10	0 0		
		40	12 1
		6,899	7 5
7,746	1 0	7,746	1 0

Balance Sheet

Ra. s. p.		Ra. s. p.	
6,899	7 5	65	0 0
		5,000	0 0
		1,501	13 5
		332	10 0
6,899	7 5	6,899	7 5

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WEAVING DEPARTMENT UNION

The following resolutions were unanimously passed at the meeting of the representatives of the Weaving Department:—

(1) That every member of the Union should contribute 5 per cent of his bonus towards the fund of the Union.

(2) That every member should subscribe annas 8 to the President Fund from the 1st of November 1921.

(3) That no member of the Union should drink liquor or intoxicating spirits, and if any member does, the Union will be compelled to dismiss him.

(4) That it is the opinion of the Union that every member should use Swadeshi clothes especially those which are made from handspun yarn; and this Union recommends that members should utilize their bonus in buying such clothes.

(Sd.) ANUSUYA SARABHAI.

Similar resolutions were passed at a meeting of the Throstle, Card, Blow and Frame Workers' Union.

BRITISH TRADES UNIONISM

REPORT OF THE FIFTY-THIRD CONGRESS

The Labour Office has received a copy of the Report of the Fifty-third Annual Trades Union Congress held at Cardiff from 5th to 10th September 1921. The Report contains a full account of the proceedings of the Congress held at Cardiff, and of the various Committees of enquiry, besides a complete list of the officers of the General Council and other office-bearers and of the delegates to the Congress. A summary of the replies to the various deputations to the Ministers, is also published. An account of the deputation to the Secretary of State for India will be found on page 40. The objects of the Trades Union Congress are (1) to watch all legislation affecting labour, (2) to initiate such legislation as the Congress may direct, (3) to arrange a programme for the Congress from the resolutions sent from the different trades, (4) to verify all delegates' credentials, (5) to arrange for the meeting of

the Congress, (6) to ballot for position and order of the resolutions, and (7) to transact the business between each Congress. The table below shows (a) the number of unions in each industry, (b) the class of workers

covered by the union, and (c) the total number of unions affiliated to the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee, which is the central and co-ordinating body for the organised unions throughout Great Britain.

Analysis of Trades Unions in the United Kingdom

Type of Trade Union.	Occupation covered.	Number of Unions.	Total membership.
Building Trades	Builders' Labourers, Bricklayers, Carpenters, Cabinet-makers, French Polishers, Masons, Painters, Decorators, Plumbers, Domestic Engineers, Slaters, Street Pavers	13	355,962
Clothing Trades	Boot and Shoe Operatives, Cloggers, Felt Hatters, Hosiery Workers, Knitters, Tailors, Garment Workers	14	284,654
Cotton Operatives	Card and Blowing Room Operatives, Packers, Spinners, Tape Sizers, etc.	22	101,537
Dock Labourers, Sailors and Firemen, etc.	Coal Trimmers, Coal Workers, Colliery Enginemn, Colliery Under-managers, Dock Labourers, Riverside and General Workers, Sailors and Firemen, Ships' Stewards, Cooks, Butchers and Bakers	17	342,994
Engineering and Shipbuilding	Barge Builders, Blacksmiths, and Ironworkers, Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders, Engineers, Instrument makers, Wheel-wrights..	16	627,585
General Labourers	Agricultural Workers, General Workers, Gas Workers, Municipal Employeas, Warehouse Workers, etc.	12	1,485,815
Metal Workers	Anvil and Vice Makers, Brass Workers, Coppersmiths, Edge Toolmakers, Electrical Workers, Farriers, Foundry Workers, Iron Moulders, Bedstead Makers, Chain Makers, Goldsmiths, Silversmiths, Harness Makers, Locksmiths, Stove Grate Makers, Tin and Sheet Millmen, Scale Makers, Toolmakers, General	42	441,531
Miners	Coal Quarry Iron Miners	5	934,300
Printing and Paper Trades	Bookbinders, Compositors, Correctors, Electrotipers, Stereotypers, Journalists, Lithographic Printers and Artists, Paper Makers, Printing Machine Managers, Typographical Workers generally	14	182,482
Railwaymen	Locomotive Enginemn and Firemen, Railway Clerks, all other grades	3	625,000
Weavers	Beamers, Twisters, Drawers, Bleachers, Dyers, Finishers, Factory Workers generally, Lark Makers, Loom Overlookers, Carpet Weavers, Wool Combers, etc.	19	465,523
Miscellaneous Trades	Actors' Association Assurance and Insurance Workers Bakers Clerks Musicians Post Office Workers Pottery Workers Police and Prison Officers Shop Assistants School Teachers Theatrical Employees Vehicle Workers Variety Artists Butchers, Carters, Cigar-Makers, Dairymen's Assistants, Glass Blowers, Leather-Workers, Saddlers, Wall Paper Workers, Watermen and Lightermen, etc., etc. Women Workers and Secretaries	1 2 8 1 1 4 1 1 1 1 1 3 1 33 2	6,000 23,300 22,934 36,000 17,000 103,958 39,000 5,000 60,000 10,000 18,000 139,000 5,000 139,907 35,000
		238	6,505,482

PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON 1921

CHART No 1

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

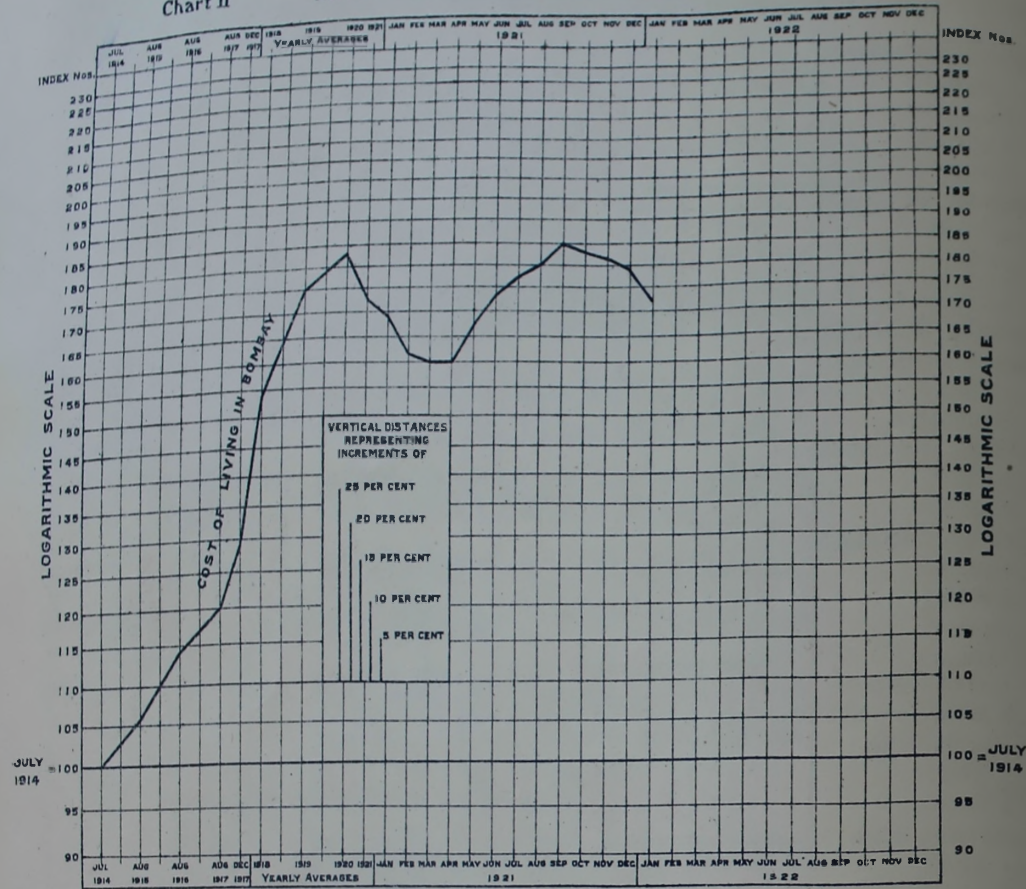
PROVINCE OR STATE.	JUNE				JULY				AUGUST					SEPTEMBER				OCTOBER				
	6 TH	15 TH	22 TH	29 TH	6 TH	13 TH	20 TH	27 TH	3 RD	10 TH	17 TH	24 TH	31 ST	7 TH	14 TH	21 ST	28 TH	5 TH	12 TH	19 TH	26 TH	
I BOMBAY PRESIDENCY																						
1 KONKAN	F	EX	EX	S	F	F	EX	EX	N	EX	F	EX	S	N	F	EX	F	S	EX	S	S	
2 GUJARAT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

NOTES

- The whiter the chart the better the season. Red areas indicate deficient, and black areas excessive rains.
- Excess More than 120 per cent of the normal.
Normal 80-120 per cent of the normal.
Fair 40-79 per cent of the normal.
Scanty Less than 40 per cent of the normal.
Normals for Divisions are means of Normals of reporting stations excluding hill stations. The Daily Weather Report gives the complete list of stations.
- The zigzag lines give the approximate dates of the normal annual setting in and withdrawal of the Monsoon, and are based on information supplied by the Director-General of Observatories. The lettering outside the green lines is smaller than the lettering within, as rainfall outside the lines is less important. Within the green lines (i.e. the Monsoon) the third successive and following "EX" squares and the second successive and following "S" squares are hatched.
- As the Monsoon is of little or no importance in Sind, both the rise in the Indus above the fair irrigating level and the rainfall are shown. The date of the normal rise is in the first week of June and of the normal fall the last week of September.

**COST OF LIVING IN BOMBAY
RATIO OR LOGARITHMIC CHART.**

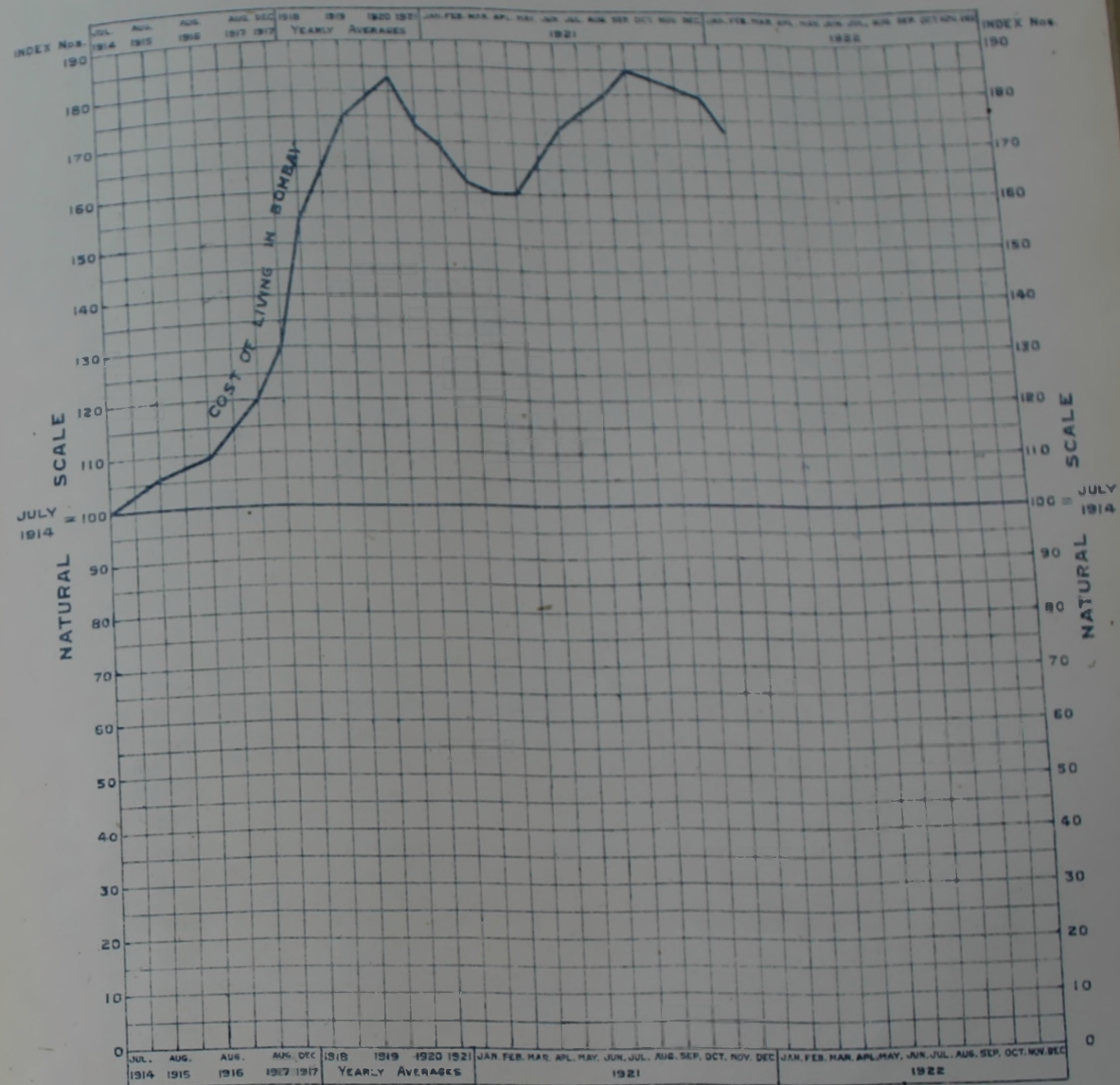
Chart II



Note:- This chart is intended to show the ratio of increase in the cost of living, which is not shown by chart 3. It is also shown by this chart that the rate of increase is inversely proportional to the index number. Thus an increase of 5 points over 200 is half the increase of the same 5 points over 100. Equal vertical distances in this chart represent equal ratios from any part of the diagram to any other, instead of equal increments, as on the natural scale (Chart 3). The steepness of the curve before January 1921 is exaggerated on account of the considerably small intervals adopted for years, as compared with those for months.

**COST OF LIVING IN BOMBAY
DIFFERENCE OR NATURAL CHART.**

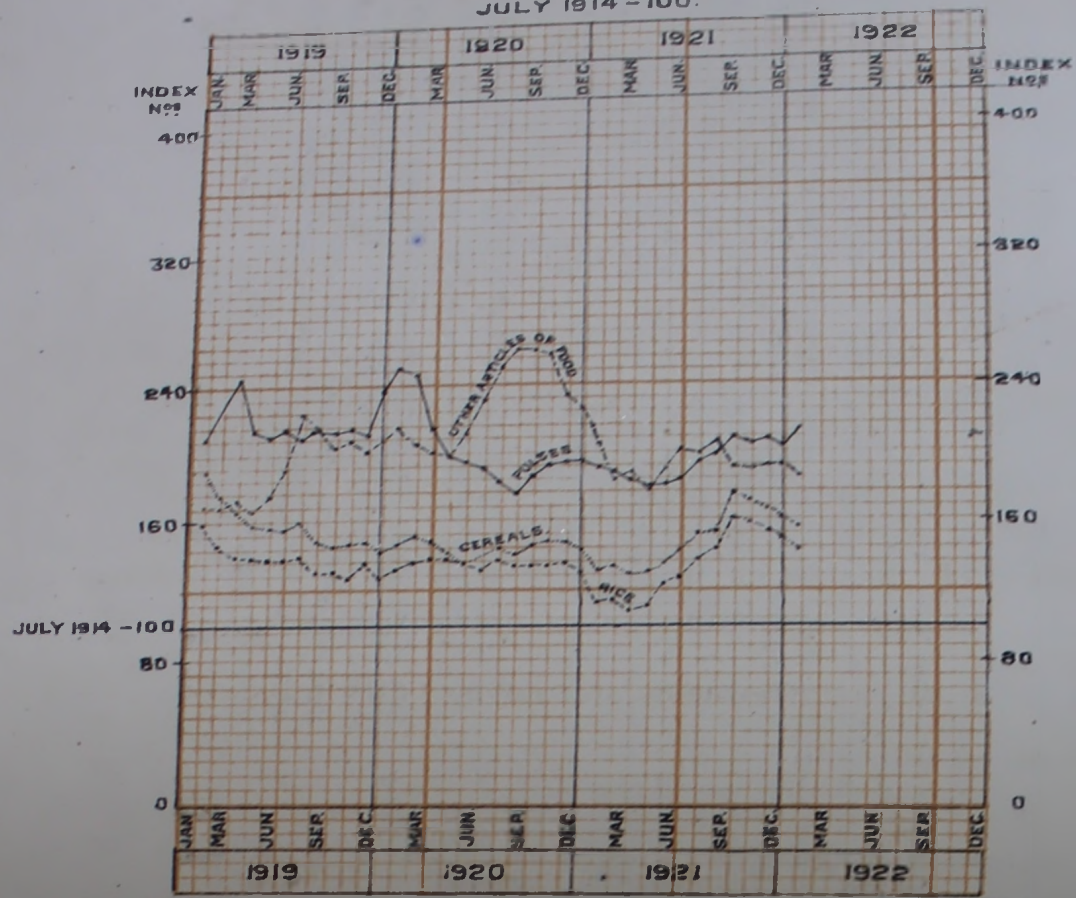
Chart III



Note:- This chart shows the actual changes in the cost of living. Equal vertical distances in this chart represent equal differences, and not equal ratios as on the logarithmic scale (Chart 2). The steepness of the curve before January 1921 is exaggerated on account of the considerably small intervals adopted for years as compared with those for months.

CHART NO. 4.

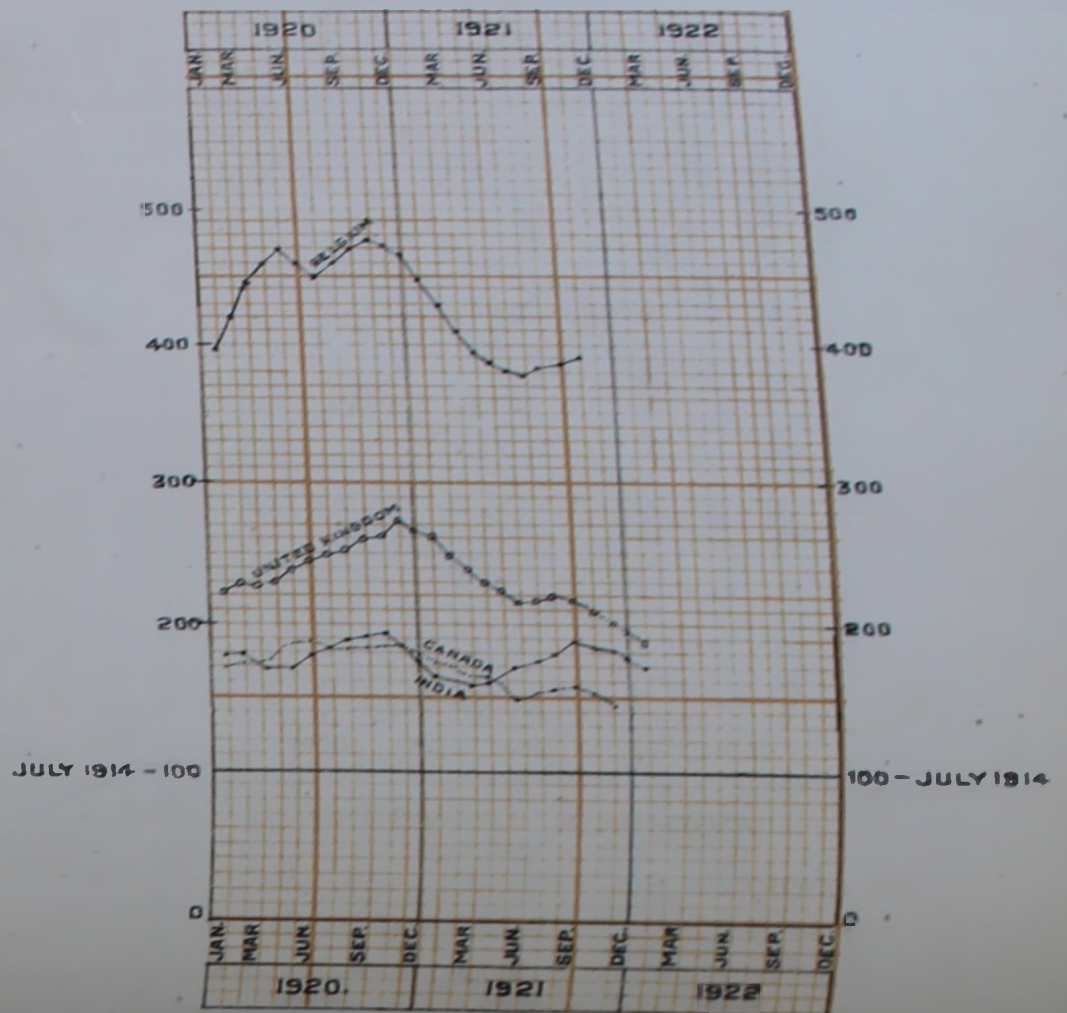
RETAIL PRICES OF RICE, PULSES, CEREALS AND OTHER ARTICLES OF FOOD IN BOMBAY. JULY 1914 - 100.



NOTE:- (1) Pulses - Average price of Gram and Kulthi.
 (2) Rice - Clean.
 (3) Cereals - Average price of rice, wheat, Jawar and Bajri.
 (4) Other articles of food - Average price of sugar, tea, salt, beef, mutton, milk, ghi, potatoes, onions, coconut oil &c.

CHART NO. 5.

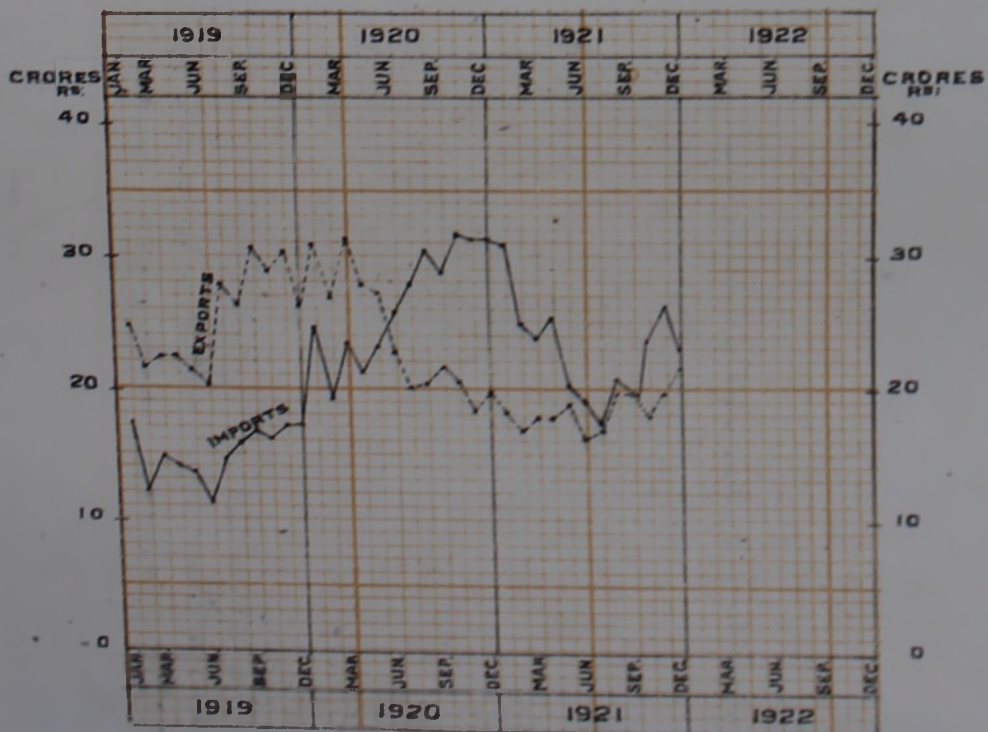
COST OF LIVING IN INDIA, AND UNITED KINGDOM, CANADA AND BELGIUM JULY 1914 - 100.



NOTE:- (1) In the case of Belgium April 1914 - 100.
 (2) For India the figures for Bombay (port) are given.
 (3) The comparative rise of India and Canada as against Belgium and the United Kingdom.
 (4) One square equals 10 points.

CHART NO. 6.

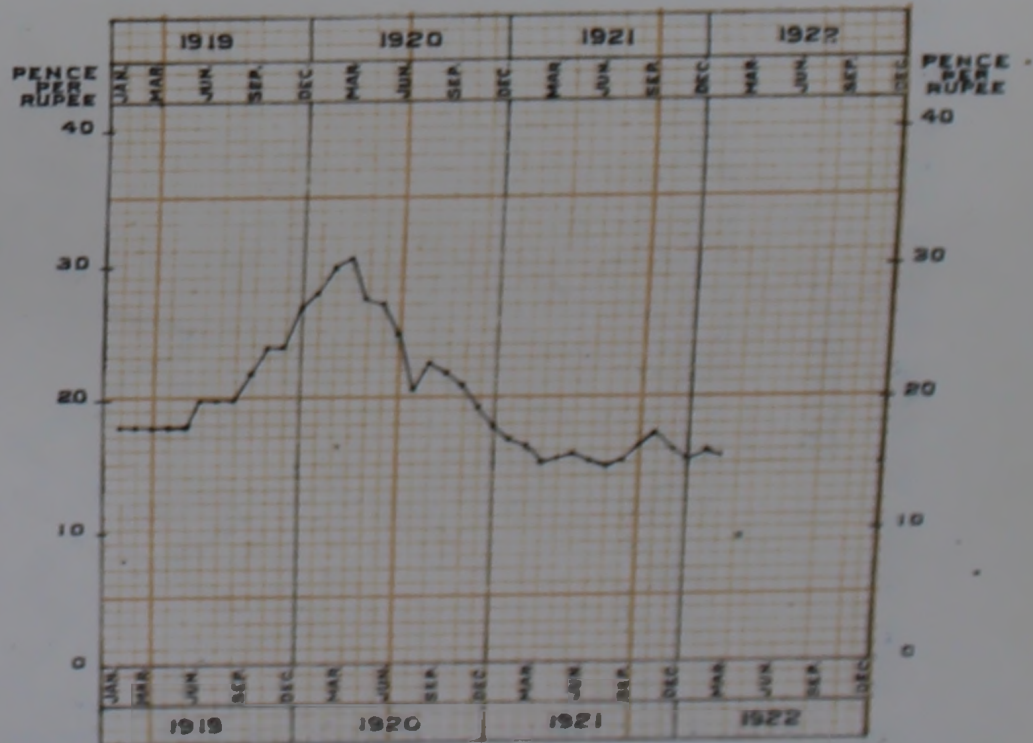
IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE - INDIA.



NOTE:- (1) The adverse balance since June 1920.
 (2) Each square equals 1 crore.

CHART NO. 7.

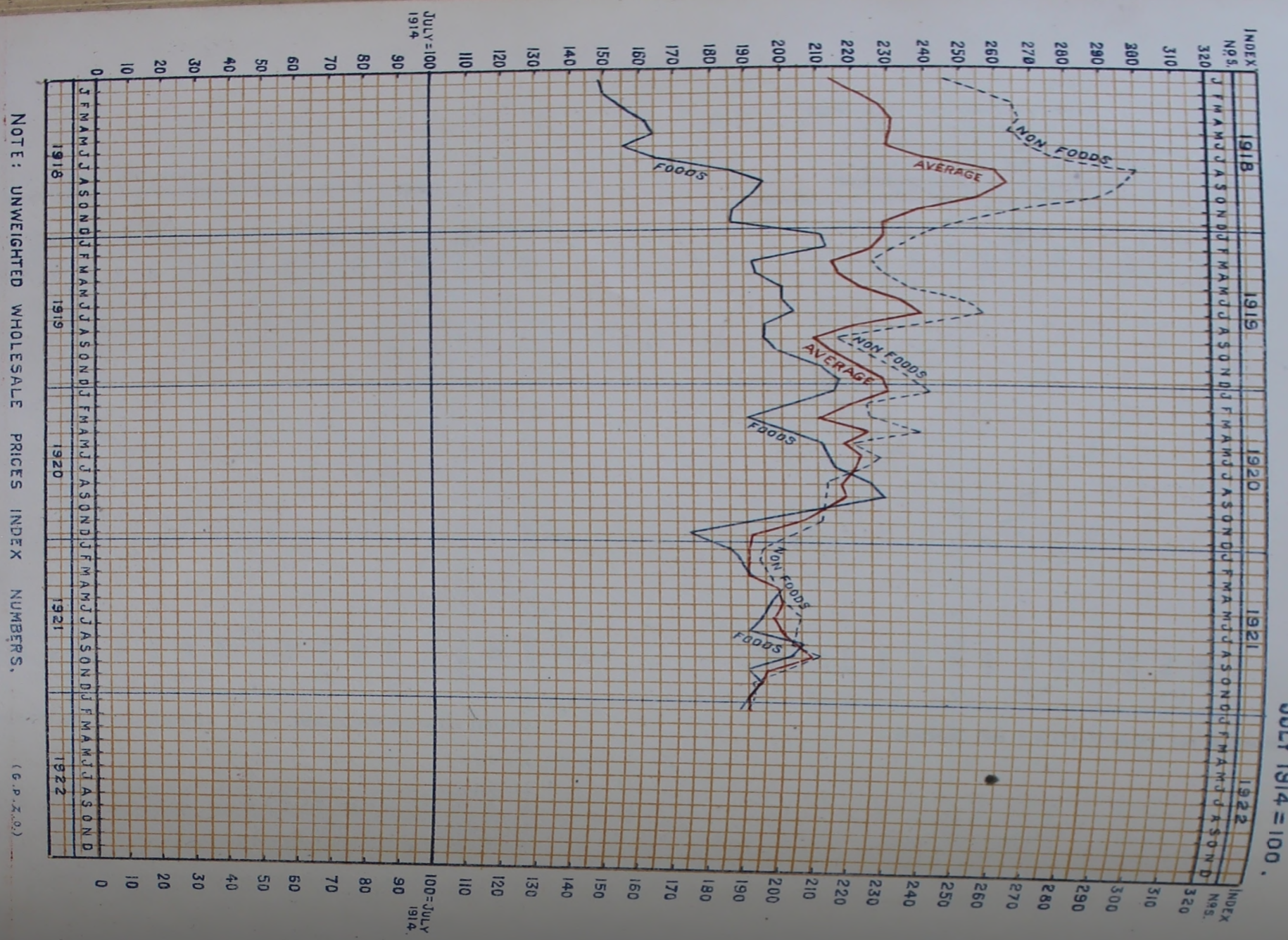
RATE OF EXCHANGE IN BOMBAY.



NOTE:- (1) The reason for the fall of Exchange will be evident from the preceding chart. When the balance of trade is adverse (imports as from June 1920 greater than exports) Exchange also tends to be adverse from India's point of view. This is the Telegraphic Transfer rate on London.
 (2) Each square equals 1 penny.

FOODS AND NON FOODS WHOLESALE PRICES BOMBAY.

CHART No. 8



NOTE: UNWEIGHTED WHOLESALE PRICES INDEX NUMBERS.

(G.P.S. 2.0)

CHART No. 9

STRIKES IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY 1921-1922.

NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED

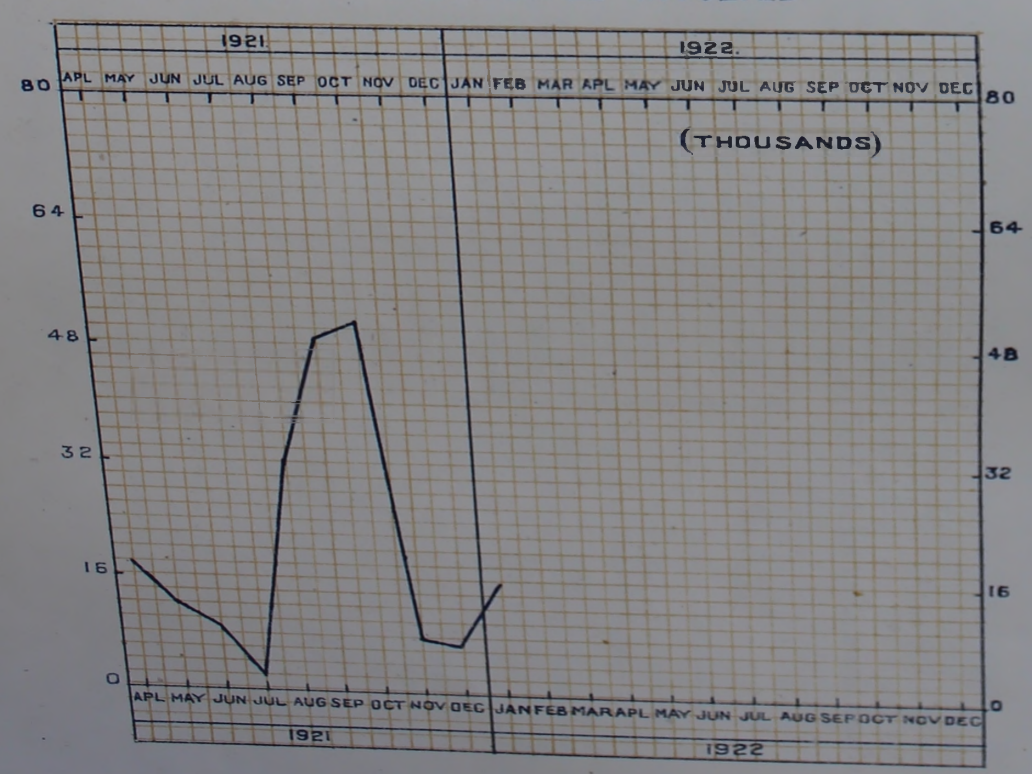
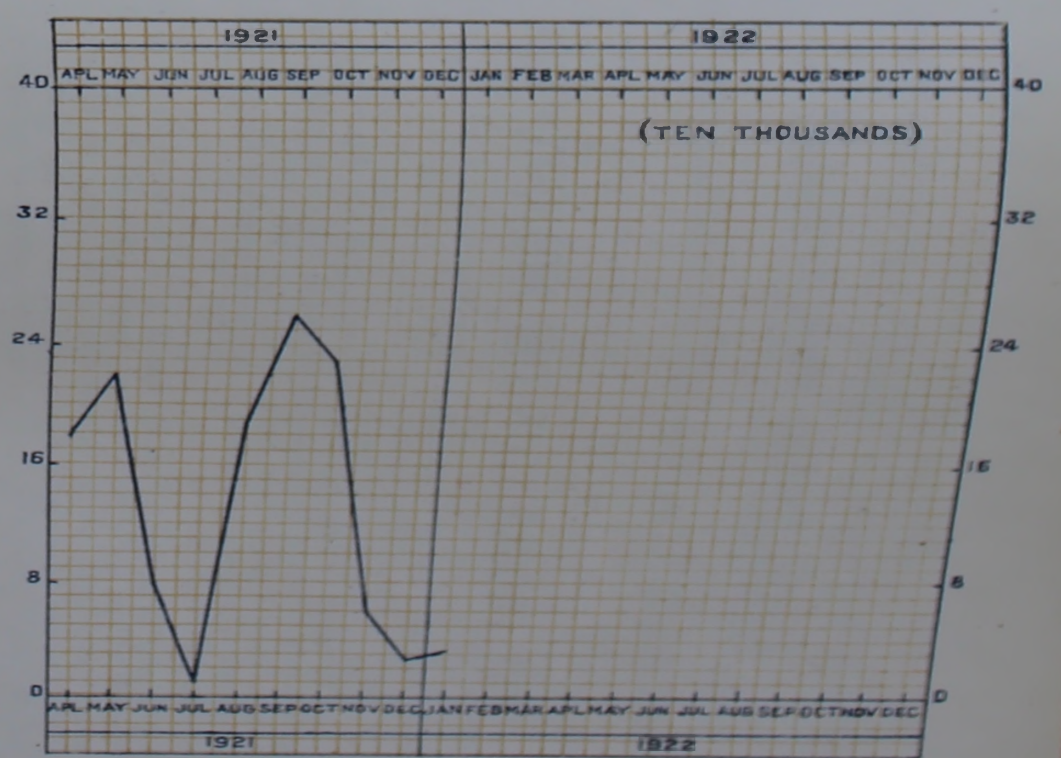


CHART No. 10

NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST



NOTE:— THE SMALL NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST IN JULY AND DECEMBER 1921 IS OWING TO THE SHORT DURATION OF STRIKES.

THE PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON, 1921

(See Chart No. 1.)

In the monsoon chart the green lines give the approximate dates of the normal annual setting in and withdrawal of the monsoon and are based on information supplied by the Director General of Observatories, Simla. Excess means more than 120 per cent. of the normal. The normal for divisions is the mean of normals of reporting stations excluding hill stations.

'Normal' in the chart is a variation from 80 to 120 per cent. of the true normal, 'fair' 40 to 79 per cent. of this normal, and 'scanty' is less than 40 per cent. The whiter the statement, the more the satisfactory nature of the monsoon; the redder it is, the worse the monsoon. The rainfall in other provinces also has been shown, as these (e.g., the United Provinces which exports to us bairi and jowari for our millworkers) have an influence in the long run on future price levels of food.

In Sind the monsoon scarcely counts; it is the level of the Indus that does. The rise of the river up till the end of September is shown in the chart; after this date the rise is of little material importance. The table below shows the rainfall up to 31st October 1921, in Bombay, the Deccan (Ahmednagar, Sholapur, Bijapur and Poona), Guzerat (Surat and Ahmedabad) and in Kathiawar (Rajkot and Bhavnagar).

Station.	Rainfall in inches.	Departure from normal.	Station.	Rainfall in inches.	Departure from normal.
	(1st June to 31st October.)			(1st June to 31st October.)	
Bombay ..	86.02	+16.22	Surat ..	53.51	+13.07
Ahmednagar ..	17.11	-2.56	Ahmedabad ..	40.75	+12.12
Sholapur ..	21.08	-4.27	Rajkot ..	27.43	+2.14
Bijapur ..	14.82	-2.15	Bhavnagar ..	29.45	+7.77
Poona ..	18.64	-5.72			

TRADE UNION LEGISLATION

The Registration and Protection of Trade Unions

The Government of Bombay have received the following reply from the Executive of the Trade Union Congress, representing their views on the proposed legislation by the Government of India, regarding the registration and protection of Trade Unions:—

TRADE UNION CONGRESS

We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1267—Poll., dated the 1st of October 1921, together with the Government of India Circular Letter No. L.—925 regarding the subject of Registration and Protection of Trade Unions.

We welcome the declaration that "every facility should be offered" for the development of Labour organizations "along healthy lines" and "the steady betterment of the conditions of labour by efforts from within." We trust this signifies, not mere protection, but also promotion of Trade Unions. We are convinced that the indifference of Government and the antagonism of employers are imperilling the cause of constitutionalism. It must be remembered that workers in India have discovered the weapon of strike and have used it successfully without organizing Unions. What is more unfortunate is that strikes with violence have fared better than strikes without violence. It is therefore necessary to encourage Unions in order to discourage violence.

Loyalty to the League of Nations makes protection of Trade Unions obligatory on Government under Article 427 of the Treaty of Peace which promulgates the principle of the "Right of Association" for all lawful purposes. Government are now urged by the Legislative Assembly to incorporate this principle in the Law of the land in so far as it is not fully incorporated already. For this purpose an exhaustive statement of existing legal disabilities would have proved invaluable in making recommendations. Unfortunately this is not forthcoming in the Circular Letter. On the contrary we have quotations from British laws as models for British India, which make us apprehend that the remedy will be worse than the disease.

The problem in India is quite different from the problem in England. In England the problem was the Herculean task of cleansing the Augean Stable by emancipating Labour from the Laws of England,

which reminds one of the Communist Manifesto:—"You have nothing to lose but your chains." The most burdensome of these laws were the Common Laws against combinations in restraint of trade, the Laws of Conspiracy from Edward I to George IV, the Laws regulating contracts of service from the Statute of Labourers to Employers and Workmen Act of 1871, and other minor laws. These laws have no counterpart in India. It cannot be contended that these peculiar and exceptional laws were introduced into India by the Charters or the theory of *Lex Loci*. Definitions and provisions of the British Acts appropriate for these exceptional laws would prove embarrassing in India. What is wanted is an Act which will embody the principles contained in the Employers and Workmen Act of 1871, Trade Union Acts of 1871-6, the Conspiracy and Protection Act of 1871, the Trade Disputes Act of 1906 and the Trade Union Act of 1913. In the Annexure* we have briefly sketched the history of British Legislation to elucidate the principles. We would suggest that a Bill be drafted on these lines and circulated for criticism before it is introduced into the Legislative Assembly.

We proceed to make a few suggestions for the consideration of Government and offer some criticisms in reply to the invitation extended to the Trade Union Congress.

DEFINITION

"A Trade Union is a continuous association of wage-earners for the purpose of maintaining or improving the conditions of their working lives" ("The History of Trade Unionism," p. 1, by S. & B. Webb). But definitions are dangerous. The Trade Union Act of 1871 defined Trade Union in order to facilitate registration. In practice it proved an obstacle. To remove the obstacle the definition was enlarged by enumerating the various kinds of Societies. This enlargement was construed by Courts against the intentions of Parliament as a "Clause of limitation or exhaustive definition" so as to bring Trade Unions under the doctrine of *ultra vires* in the famous Osborne Judgment. Under this judgment Trade Unions could not include in their constitution objects which were not enumerated in the definition of the Act or incidental to them till they were authorized to do

* Not published in this issue.

so by the Trade Union Act of 1913. Before the Acts of 1871-6 the definition in 1871 and 1876 was probably imperative, but it ceased to be so after these Acts and was practically abrogated by the Act of 1913. We agree that mere registration should suffice. We suggest these clauses:—(1) "Any Association registered under this Act shall be deemed to be a Trade Union for the purposes of this Act." (2) "Every Association shall be entitled to be registered; but registration will not legalise objects which are forbidden by the Criminal Law of India." We are opposed to the enumeration of aims or objects for reasons stated above which led to the miscarriage of justice in the Osborne Case.

REGISTRATION

Registration should be optional. To encourage registration, rights and privileges should be offered. Registration should not aim at recognition by employers. Mere registration will not engender recognition. Trade Unions will find little difficulty in enforcing recognition once victimisation is eliminated. We, therefore, suggest the following among the privileges:—(1) "Any employer or his agent or servant, who dismisses an employee or threatens to dismiss or punish him or lock him out for being a member of a registered Trade Union or for striking or interfering by letter or otherwise in dissuading other employers from employing him, shall be guilty of victimisation and shall be liable to simple imprisonment for a week, and to a fine not exceeding Rs. 1,000." (2) "Any rule or regulation which entails forfeiture of gratuity or any other benefit for striking or interruption of continuity of service by reason of strike or lock-out shall not be applicable to any member of a registered Trade Union." No sword of Damocles should be kept hanging over Trade Unionists for the purpose of coercing them not to take lawful action by penalising such action by forfeiture of benefits to which they are otherwise entitled.

We have no doubt that these two rules will make every Union rush for registration even though subjected to other onerous provisions. Such a provision will also put to test the *bona fides* of employers who orally proclaim their sympathy for Trade Unions organised on healthy lines. We have come across several employers who discourage the formation of Unions like the Agent of the B. B. & C. I. Railway in the case of the Bombay Workshop Union.

We agree that the Central Government should legislate and make rules in order to ensure uniformity. But the rules should be made by the Legislative Assembly and not by the Executive. Many of the suggestions made in paragraphs 16, 17, 18 and 19 should

really find a place in Model Rules drafted by Government for adoption by Trade Unions. We have little doubt that most Unions will avail themselves of these Model Rules. But it is undesirable to incorporate them into Acts or By-laws or Rules having the force of laws. The object aimed at should be to impose as few burdens on Union officials as are absolutely necessary.

We object to:—(1) the fixation of the age of members or of the minimum number of members who may apply for registration; (2) the power to make rules for statements of receipts and funds; (3) the obligation of having a registered office; (4) the periodical return of the names of members; and (5) the penal provisions for default in the matter of provisions specified in paragraph 18 of the Circular Letter.

We are of opinion that registration should be as easy as possible, and no embarrassing provisions should be made that would place difficulties in registering. We cannot see why the age for membership should be different from the age at which he is allowed to work. As for the other matters they are really matters of internal management into which the Registrar should not pry. An office would be too expensive for struggling Unions with little or no funds for expenses. The return of names is calculated to lead to oppression, black-mail, and victimization! At present the Unions should be left free to develop on natural lines.

The objection against outsiders would deprive Unions of the honorary services of treasurers above the temptation of embezzlement. Our experience is that treasurers from the ranks of workers who are not educated enough to be able to keep accounts, are likely to fall a prey to temptation if funds amounting to Rs. 500 or thereabouts are entrusted to them and are not much trusted by their co-workers. The result is that the progress of Unions is arrested. Outsiders are therefore indispensable at the present stage of growth. Moreover, if outsiders cannot be responsible officials, honorary or stipendiary, they can easily control without holding any office. They would then control without responsibility. This is unquestionably vicious and demoralising. It would therefore be a blunder of the first magnitude to countenance in any way the interested objection of employers against outsiders. But if outsiders are permissible as honorary helpers it would not be right to scare them away by duties where defaults are common, which defaults really do not inflict any tangible injury to the soundness or management of the Unions.

PROTECTION

No protection can be too large in the infancy of Trade Unions. In India greater protection would be

required than in England even when Unions attain manhood, for the simple reason that political power, and much of the professional practice, business and trade are in the hands of Anglo-Indians recruited from the governing, professional and propertied classes of England. The history of the emancipation of British Trade Unions reveal a profound prejudice against Trade Unions among the governing and professional classes and an incredible hostility on the part of the business, trade and propertied classes who as employers dread loss of profits and fear Unions, as the means of making Labour the final arbiters in industries. In India these gentlemen are likely to be much more hostile. The Anglicised Indian employers share their consternation without reason because they have little knowledge of the history of British Trade Unions. The result is that distrust is created among Indian workers. This distrust is intensified by the foolish and futile denunciation of outsiders who befriend them. Among a small but influential group the distrust is deep against the unbending employers. These are denounced as cunning as the serpent that deceived Eve, and scrupulous as the wolf that devoured the lamb. Statesmanship demands that Government should incline to the side of generosity. The protecting sections should embody the principles of all the Acts mentioned in paragraph 4. We gather from them the following principles:—

(i) That Trade Unions whether registered or un-registered should have a legal status like a statutory corporation, or Joint Stock Company.

(ii) That Trade Unions shall be lawful although they be combinations or conspiracies in restraint of Trade.

(iii) That all legislation relating to labour contracts shall be abrogated.

(iv) That Trade Unions should be empowered to include in their constitution any lawful purpose they please, and to spend their funds in any way they please; and should be exempted from the application of the doctrine of *ultra vires* simply because they pursue or spend money on some purpose not specified in the constitution provided that the Unions sanction or ratify the purpose or the expenditure at meetings held in accordance with the rules of the Unions.

(v) Immunity of Trade Union Funds: That Trade Unions shall not be liable in damages for torts or breaches of contract, or wrongful acts committed by or on behalf of the Unions without any qualifying words such as "*committed in contemplation or furtherance of Trade disputes.*" The italics open wide the door for the proverbial ingenuity of lawyers and resulting ruinous litigation.

N H 981—9

(vi) That Trade Unionists—officials and members—should be fully protected. The principles of protection should be:

(a) That no act shall be criminal or actionable in an official or member, which is not criminal or actionable in an individual, who is not a Trade Unionist;

(b) That no act in a combination or conspiracy shall be criminal or actionable which is not criminal or actionable in a single individual; and

(c) That no act by a single Unionist shall be actionable or criminal, merely by reason of its being in restraint of trade, or of its being an inducement to another person to break any contract of employment, or of its being in interference with another man's business, or with his right to dispose of his capital or his labour as he chooses, or of its being in contravention of any laws or Acts except the Penal Code, provided that no act or means shall be "illegal" within the meaning of Section 43 of the Indian Penal Code by reason of its being prohibited by any law except the Penal Code, or by reason of its furnishing ground for civil action.

LEGALITY OF STRIKES

Strikes must remain legal and peaceful picketing permissible as at present. No one has yet questioned the legality of strikes or of peaceful picketing. The provisions in the Municipal Act and Post Office Act and other Acts against strikes without notice must be abrogated. Regarding conciliation and arbitration, we prefer an Act by the Central Government for the sake of uniformity with latitude to Provincial Governments to modify it in non-essentials according to the requirements of the Province. But a provision for Government intervention when such intervention is sought by the Trade Unions or unorganized strikes is urgent and beneficial in the interests of peace and order and should not be delayed till Provincial Governments have matured their schemes.

We do not believe that Section 27 of the Indian Contract Act has any application. It deals with "Agreements," not combinations or conspiracies. It is a restraint on persons and not in restraint of trade. It forbids agreements restraining a person from exercising a lawful profession, trade or business. It reproduces in India the principle in force in England. Trade Unions in England are not exempted from the operation of the principle. There is no reason to exclude Trade Unions in India from Section 27 which is based on good policy and common sense. But if Government are advised that it is in restraint of trade, it must be repealed so far as Trade Unions are concerned.



LIABILITIES

The proposals of Government under this head would impose restraints which do not exist at present, and indicate that Government have misconceived the necessities of the case in India. In England the process has been first to forge and then to break the chains. This lasted for six centuries. Some comical capitalists call this agonising struggle evolution. But no such evolution is required in India. We proceed to briefly examine the prolonged process.

In England combinations were *per se criminal* under the Common Law and the Statute of 1305, "who be conspirators," and forty or fifty other Statutes from Edward I to George IV (1305-1800 A.D.). In India combinations never were and are not criminal. In England they ceased to be criminal under Hume's Act of 1824 and Peel's Act of 1825. But they were still *unlawful* according to the Queen's Bench in the Boilermakers' Case of 1867. In India combinations never were and are not unlawful. In England they ceased to be unlawful under the Trade Disputes Act of 1871. The status given by this Act exists in India.

In England a *refusal to work* was *criminal* under the Common Law and Statute of Labourers and other Statutes. In India refusal never was and is not criminal under the general law of India. It ceased to be criminal, punishable by imprisonment under the combined effect of the Master and Servant Act of 1867 and the Employers and Workmen Act of 1871. But refusals were not strikes. They were breaches of duty more than breaches of contract, and therefore regarded as criminal.

In England strikes were criminal. In India strikes are not criminal. In England strikes for "fixing hours or wages" ceased to be criminal under Hume's Act and Peel's Act.

In England picketing—even the most peaceful picketing—was criminal. Peaceful picketing is not criminal in India. In England peaceful picketing ceased to be criminal by the Act of 1859. But the lawyers proved this was so only in the case of peaceful picketing by one person and not by two or more persons acting in concert. The Act of 1859 was repealed by the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1871 which made "watching and besetting" even by one person criminal. The lawyers again proved that a combination to coerce an employer even by peaceful means, though it furnished no ground for civil action, was a criminal conspiracy. This is not so in India. It ceased to be a criminal conspiracy in England by the Conspiracy and Protection Act of 1875 which repealed the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1871. Then "the attempt to suppress Trade Unionism by the Criminal Law was abandoned." (S. & B. Webb's "History of Trade Unionism," p. 597.)

But though strikes and peaceful picketing to be criminal, they were *actionable* under the common law of "conspiracy to injure" elaborated by the figures of "Trade Union Officials" only were personally harassed as courts held that acts *lawful* in one person were *wrongful* if done in concert by two or more persons. But in the Taff Vale Case *Trade Union Funds* were made liable. In England this liability was removed by the Trade Disputes Act of 1906. But all these remedial measures gave British Labour only one thing which India does not possess, namely, comparative immunity for Trade Union funds. But this very thing is to be withheld in India. Worse than this, peaceful picketing is to be taken away. We cannot say what else will be taken away by the contemplated more precise definition of the expression "Contemplation or furtherance." All this looks like a new lamp for the old one in Aladdin's household. We wonder whether the Law Officers of Government have scrutinised this topsy-turvyism.

We do not say that nothing is required. There is the doubt created by the Madras case. We cannot confidently comment upon it without an authorized report. It was only an interlocutory judgment. The defendants constituted a Committee of ten men. The Committee was held to be a conspiracy to induce workpeople to break their contract. This looks like the importation of the figment of "Conspiracy to injure." It is not clear what contract was meant—a statutory contract, or a mere agreement. In England when the statutory duty was swept away, the lawyers devised personal agreements. In India such personal contracts are plentiful, little understood by the men. In the Madras Case we do not know whether the case proceeded under Act XIII of 1859 for "the punishment of Breaches of Contract by artificers, workmen and labourers in the Presidency Towns." We do not know whether there was any other binding law resembling the so-called Slave Law enforceable in the Tea Plantations of Assam. This doubt, therefore, must be removed. But there are other matters.

Mr. Joshi had other Acts in view. He mentions some. We would add the Shipping Act, the Post Office Act, Act XIII of 1859 and other Acts. Under the Shipping Act a striker may possibly be punished as a deserter. An official of the Indian Seamen's Union was fined under the Act for writing to a member that he would make himself liable to penalties prescribed by the rules and resolutions of his Union if he did not get down and make way for the turn of another unemployed member. The rule of turns was devised as during the war there was a great demand for Indian stewards; but the present trade depression has thrown 5,000 stewards out of employment. Under the notorious Slave Law of



Assam and Act XIII of 1859 a striker may be imprisoned, or forced back to work, or sued in damages. Imprisonment is no discharge of debt. It is true, no striker, *qua*-striker, has been proceeded against under these Acts. But the Director-General of Post Offices and the Municipal Commissioner of Bombay had threatened to do so. Protection is unquestionably required in these cases. If this is not to be given, then a one-line Act to say that "conspiracy to injure" shall not be indictable or actionable would suffice.

The reasons for withholding immunity are far from convincing. Sir Thomas Holland says, it was passed in "the rush of the tide." But S. & B. Webb say "that the most powerful Government hitherto known was constrained in spite of the protests of lawyers and employers to pass into law the Trade Disputes Act of 1906" (p. 606). This is *no case of the "Pendulum swinging too far."* They further say that the Taff Vale judgment "in fact was in flagrant disregard of the intention of Government or Parliament in 1871-76 (p. 601) and the Act of 1906 restored the original intention of Government and Parliament. However, no one has yet ventured to propose the repeal of any part of the Act of 1906. On the other hand, the Act of 1913 went further. Sir Thomas quotes Lord Askwith on increased bitterness. But unfortunately bitterness has been the daily bread of the workmen for centuries. Yet Lord Askwith says bitterness increased "often quite irrationally." We have abundant evidence in S. & B. Webb's books of the unjustifiable oppression by the classes of the masses in England. Apart from it Sir Thomas does not give due weight to the indignation and exasperation engendered by the Taff Vale judgment which were allayed by the Act of 1906. Lord Askwith declares that the Act is neither a charter of liberty nor a charter of license. Though Mr. Sydney Webb calls it "the charter of Trade Unionism" he expressly gives the warning "not to presume too far on this apparently absolute immunity" as "the ingenuity of lawyers or the prejudice of the judges" has not been "exhausted." He points out that it is confined to a trade dispute defined in the Act and "does not include all strikes." He emphasizes the danger lurking in the expressions "in the exercise of its specifically Trade Union functions" and "contemplation or furtherance." The courts have no doubt at present negatived the contention that immunity is "limited to acts done in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute." We, therefore, do not know what Government desire by the more precise definition of this last expression. But the chief argument against any modification of this immunity by way of safeguards suggested in paragraphs 25 and 26 is the fact that Parliament itself modified the original proposals of Government. The safeguards would not cover the case of a member or agent acting within the scope of his

employment even in defiance of instructions. Even if it did, it would leave the door open for actions by wealthy employers and drive Unions to bankruptcy. The most reasonable way was the way Parliament adopted. Any tampering means tearing up the protection. Whatever be the swing of the pendulum it must not be forgotten that in the opinion of competent critics, lawyers and laymen, the Act of 1906 only restored the intention of Government and Parliament in the Acts of 1871-76. We, therefore, strongly advocate the retention of the immunity in all its entirety without which it will probably degenerate into a fool's paradise.

PICKETING

Peaceful picketing has its uses (*vide* History of T. U. by Mr. & Mrs. Sydney Webb, p. 278 n.). We have ourselves observed that peaceful picketing is useful in counteracting false rumours of resumption of work by strikers circulated by employers or their agents to demoralise the strikers and destroy their solidarity. The wondrous efficacy of peaceful picketing in India makes Englishmen imagine that there must be violence or intimidation at the back of it. But where in Europe as in India are wrongs redressed by self-immolation? Where can one come across cases where mill-owners have conceded the demands of strikers because an outsider threatened to fast as happened at Ahmedabad in the case of Mahatma Gandhi? Therefore peaceful picketing is a very useful weapon in India. It is also *lawful*. Neither the Penal Code nor the Civil Code forbids peaceful picketing by a *single* individual. Under the circumstances we are amazed at the Government of India declaring "that it would be most undesirable in the present stage of the labour movement in India to countenance picketing in any form." Does this mean forging new fetters for India? It will be a retrograde step which will engender more bitterness and discontent. Labour has never asked for immunity from acts of violence or intimidation, but peaceful picketing is the work of a peace-maker and not of a law-breaker. We cannot see the logic of forbidding peaceful picketing because "acts of violence and intimidation have unfortunately characterised a large proportion of the disputes." Cases of violence have no doubt occurred; but most of them were provoked by the employers' tactics and they are a mere child's play compared with what occurs in England to-day. But the violence and intimidation that have been practised in India were not acts of men who had previously been organized into Unions. In India strikes have preceded Unions. As a matter of fact violence greatly diminished upon the organization of Unions. The progress in this respect is phenomenal. The Postal and Telegraph peons of Bombay struck work after Unions were formed. It was the most peaceful strike ever witnessed in this world. It lasted

for over four months. Yet during this period only one man was prosecuted for intimidation and that at the end of the third month. To our knowledge it was a false case but the court took a different view. Our experience is that far from its being "practically impossible in India to obtain evidence for conviction," evidence is frequently fabricated by complainants and readily accepted by subordinate courts. We cannot see the logic of depriving Unions of immunity for the unauthorized acts of members or strikers. Why should any responsibility be "laid on their Unions or their Executive Committees for the prevention of the issue of any orders authorizing picketing in any form by the members of the Union" which is not laid in England? How can it be expected that the Union or the Executive can restrain every member from peaceful or violent picketing during strikes? It would be impossible to discharge this duty efficiently. Impossibilities should not be imposed upon Unions, specially in an Act that is undertaken to give protection. Besides, such a provision would place Unions at the mercy of employers. We know that in the Osborne Case, the plaintiff was "liberally financed from capitalist sources" (Sydney Webb, p. 608). We know that after that case "up and down the country discontented or venal Trade Unionists were sought out by solicitors and others acting for the employers; and were induced to lend their names to proceedings for injunctions against their own Unions" (*ibid.*, p. 631). We cannot close our eyes to the existence of venal Unionists or virtuous employers who would willingly stoop to conquer by using the courts as steam rollers for crushing Unions. Therefore we strongly protest against the imposition of such responsibility.

SECTION 120A, INDIAN PENAL CODE

This is a new offence. It was created in panic in 1913, and ought to be repealed. It makes a legal act by illegal means a criminal conspiracy if "some act besides the agreement is done by one or more parties to such agreement in pursuance thereof." It was contended that the object of Section 120A was "to assimilate provisions of the Indian Penal Code to those of the English Law with an additional safeguard"—the safeguard being the sanction required under Section 196A of the Criminal Procedure Code. It is evidently based upon the Criminal Law Amendment Act of England of 1871. But this Act was denounced as "deliberately aiming a blow against the methods of all Trade Societies" (Webb, 283). It did not live for five years. It was "formally and unconditionally repealed by the Trade Unions Act of 1875" (Webb, 291). "The attempt to suppress Trade Unionism by the Criminal law was practically abandoned" in England by the Acts of 1871-76 (Webb, 283). We demand for Labour in India what is given to Labour

in England. We do not claim immunity from offences or violence or intimidation. But we do ask that strikers should be exempted from fines or imprisonment for illegal acts or illegal means which furnish ground for civil action or acts which are prohibited by or punishable under special Acts like the Shipping or Post Office Act or the odious Slave Law of Assam or Act XIII of 1859. The Madras Case shows that a Committee to persuade a worker by peaceful means "to break his contract" furnishes ground for a civil action. Such acts are neither indictable nor actionable in England at present. Indian workers should have the same right of association and the same freedom of measures as British workers have, especially when peaceful persuasion reinforced by pieces of silver is not prohibited to employers or their agents. We beg to observe that any differentiation in this matter and any diminution of the protection accorded to British Trade Unions or their funds, officials or members, whether acting singly or in concert, will exasperate the workers and the friends of workers in India and drive them to agitation which will only produce avoidable class bitterness and estrangement. We, therefore, counsel equality of treatment without distinction of colour or creed. We would further suggest that it should be made an offence punishable with fine or imprisonment for any employer to seduce strikers from their allegiance to their fellow-strikers or induce some of them to resume by illegal gratification.

TRADE UNION FUNDS

(a) Immunity

The question of funds has been dealt with in the Circular Letter, partly under definitions, partly under Trade Union Funds, and partly under Liabilities. This causes confusion. The most important question is the immunity of funds from actions for damages. We have discussed it under the heading of Liabilities.

(b) Uses of Funds

The next question is the uses of funds. This is considered under Definition in the Government Circular apparently because in the Osborne Case the courts held that Trade Unions had become statutory Corporations whose objects were confined by the Definition of Trade Unions and were therefore subjected to the well-known doctrine of *ultra vires*. Before this decision it was universally assumed that Trade Unions could use their money for any objects they pleased. But the courts negated this assumption and further held that they could not by their constitution enlarge the purposes as defined by the Acts of 1871-76. This was remedied by the Act of 1913 which authorized the Unions to include in their objects whatever they pleased by their constitution.

We have suggested the extension even to cases not specified in the constitution or rules provided that the Unions sanction or ratify them at their meetings. Perhaps this is also included in the Act of 1913. But the Act draws a distinction between political and other objects and imposes certain restraints. We do not think that the circumstances of the case in India call for any such restrictive legislation. This matter should be left entirely to the common sense of the people. It would be unwise in India for Trade Unions composed of members of different creeds to use money for religious ceremonies; but if the Unions desire it let them do so. We have come across cases where small sums were used for quasi-religious rites with the approbation of Hindu and Moslem members of the Union; and also for masses by Catholics. If funds can thus be used for quasi-religious purposes at discretion, surely the men can be left to act wisely in political purposes. It might well be left for Trade Unions to consider "how far it is wise and prudent for a Trade Union to engage in general politics It is not a matter in which outsiders can offer more than counsel" (Webb, 627-8). The existence of political parties in England is really at the bottom of the regulation about "separate funds," "votes by ballot for use of funds." The jealousy of the governing classes concerning the growth of the power of Labour by combination is another reason. Such restrictions are uncalled for in India. At any rate, there is absolutely no justification whatever for the Government of India to confine its uses simply "to cover elections to the Central and Provincial Legislature, and to municipal and other local bodies which have power to raise money." We invite the attention of Government to the observations of Mr. & Mrs. Sydney Webb in their History of Trade Unionism, at pp. 608-34, upon the political effect of such restrictions. "The progress of the Labour Party was causing a quite exaggerated alarm among members of the governing class. What lay behind the Osborne judgment was a determination to exclude the influence of the workmen's combinations from the political field. No Trade Union can now-a-days abstain altogether from political action. Without co-operating with other Trade Unions in taking Parliamentary action of a very energetic and very watchful kind, it cannot (as long experience has demonstrated to practically all Trade Unionists) protect the interests of its members. . . . The judges stopped the most characteristic and, as was supposed, the most constitutional of the three customary ways that (as we have shown in our *Industrial Democracy*) Trade Unions pursued of enforcing their Common Rules, namely, the method of legal enactment—and expressly prescribed—the method of collective bargaining, with its concomitant of the strike." Now, what is the use of electing members unless they can be supported? To forbid Trade Unions and

allow Railway Companies to say "is to be guilty of an amazing degree of class bias, if not hypocrisy" (*ibid.*, 630). The first result of the Taff Vale Case was "to make the new founded Labour party into an effective political force" (604). The Osborne judgment led to payment of Members of Parliament, but there is no equivalent provision in India. How can candidates be selected without the right of holding meetings et cetera for election? How can selected candidates be elected unless the registration of electors is examined and scrutinised and action taken to get electors registered or expunged or voters canvassed. We are of opinion that work would be handicapped and paralysed without the fullest power to use money for the purposes mentioned in paragraph 8, including support or publication of newspapers and without the restraints prescribed in the Act of 1906 which the peculiar circumstances of British politics led Parliament to enforce even against the opposition of the Labour Party. We therefore suggest the fullest freedom for Trade Unionism. Let no obstacles be placed in self-development according to the natural bent of the people. True liberty consists in the liberty to use or abuse, provided no one else is injured.

(c) Status of Unions and Abuses of Funds

At present the Civil Procedure Code empowers a Trade Union to sue or be sued in a representative character. But a legal status would be helpful. The Union should be able to sue or be sued as a statutory Corporation; and to have all the powers of acquiring, alienating and mortgaging any moveable or immoveable property without limitation as to extent or property. It should also be provided that the funds of the Unions may be deposited in banks in the name of the Union. Some banks decline to accept deposits in the name of the Unions under the impression it would not be legal. So far as criminal misappropriation or theft and embezzlement are concerned the Penal Code suffices.

The Union funds will no doubt be subject to the ordinary laws regulating Trust funds; but there is no necessity for special trustees. The Union officials entrusted with money will be trustees in law. Concessions for transfer of property without stamp duties would be appreciated.

STRIKE COMMITTEES

We deeply deplore that such observations as "Strike Committees formed to promote or carry on a strike," or "with the express object of creating discord," should have found a place in the Circular Letter. They are irrelevant, do not become the neutrality or dignity of Government, and do not promote the cause of truth or of harmony between Capital

and Labour. They condemn Committees which have rendered altruistic services and are at the present stage of Trade Union development almost indispensable.

These Committees usually came into existence after strikes disturbed peace,—“not to promote or carry on strikes” but to end strikes and restrain violence. In Bombay the strikes were spontaneous and economic. Though the cost of living had increased 100 per cent from 1893 to 1914 according to the official index of prices, most workers in Bombay got no increment. The mill-workers did not get any. The railway workers got very little. From 1914 to 1918 the cost of living according to the official Index of Prices rose 100 per cent over the prices of 1914. Yet the mill-workers got nothing till driven by despair they struck work. This happened at a time when the mill-owners were making profits beyond the dreams of avarice. The struggle was unequal. On one side the struggle for profit, and on the other side a struggle for life. There was an alliance between Wealth and the Police, as by some Social law the Police gravitates to the side of capital. A Police Officer actually wrote these words:—“You acquit us of partisanship, yet you say that the Police seem predisposed against the men. Is not this explained away by the fact that whereas we had on numberless occasions to disperse riotous bands, we have not been compelled to take such action against the mill-owners? It is difficult to befriend men who are stoning you as you would seem to have us do.” Yet the Police did not disperse and even befriended the *Danda Fauj* extemporised by the Bombay Tramway Company, consisting of Pathans armed with *lathis*, who believe that sticks and stones are made for breaking bones. Under such circumstances the struggle of strikers excites the sympathy of humane citizens. This gives rise to the so-called strike committees. Such Committees came into existence during the mill strikes of 1918 and 1919. They strove in vain to settle the dispute as the mill-owners were stubborn. At last H. E. the Governor intervened at the instance of the Strike Committee in 1918. Then the mill-owners immediately made some concession, but the concession was inadequate, being 30 or 40 per cent over the rates of 1914. A second strike occurred in 1919, giving rise to Sir Narayan Chandavarkar's Strike Committee. But the mill-owners declined even to discuss matters with him, demanding unconditional surrender. He appealed to the Governor, who eventually intervened. It is an open secret that the majority of mill-owners resented the Governor's intervention; but they collapsed completely and made concessions. This proves that Capital is no match for Labour without the aid of the Police, which is no doubt given to preserve peace and order but which in practice has the effect of protecting employers against strikers. In the case of the Petroleum Oil

Workers' strike in Bombay, Government actually gave the employers the services of military chauffeurs to drive the motor lorries conveying liquid fuel to the mills. Had this not been given the employers would have had to come to terms with the men. The mill-owners in Bombay did not give anything till the Governor intervened. For these reasons the Strike Committees fulfil an useful function while the Boards of Conciliation and Arbitration are under gestation, and deserve, not the condemnation, but the commendation of Government.

BENGAL NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Committee of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce have forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Commerce Department, their views regarding the proposed legislation for the registration and protection of Trade Unions in India, as follows:—

“(1) As Labour conditions are now changing in India and a large number of people are leaving villages and flocking to towns and cities for work as wage-earners, in mills, factories and mines, and as under the existing circumstances, it is to the interest of the labourers to form organizations of their own, the Committee hold that a Trade Union should be regarded as a legal organization in India. The Committee are in sympathy with the principle underlying the proposal to undertake legislation for the registration and protection of Trade Unions in India.

(2) But the Committee are of opinion that inasmuch as labour conditions in India are different from those in England, where labour organizations have been in existence for over half a century and have developed on healthy lines, legislation in India should not be a mere replica of the English legislation. In this connection the Committee beg to point out that in India a large number of labourers combine industrial labour with the universal industry of agriculture and are often migratory. Moreover, owing to the low percentage of literacy in the country there is the risk of persons entrusted with considerable sums of money never being called to account for these sums.

(3) The Committee therefore suggest:—

(a) that registration of unions should be compulsory and not optional as suggested;

(b) that statutory provision should be made for the audit and inspection of funds of the union by Government agency;

(c) that the aims and objects of the unions should be enumerated on the lines stated in the Government of India's letter, paragraph 7;

(d) that the provisions set forth in the Government of India's letter, paragraph 16, should be adopted;

(4) The Committee are of opinion that at present immunities from legal obligation and increased facilities for picketing should not be given to unions.

(5) In conclusion the Committee beg leave to express the hope that in the interest of the labourers the Government will be pleased to give labour organizations legal sanction provided they are properly constituted.” (*Statesman*, Calcutta, 1st February 1922.)

A CORRECTION

In the reply of the Bombay Engineering Employers' Federation on the subject of Trade Union Legislation, which was published in the “Labour Gazette” for December 1921, the paragraph referring to registration of Trade Unions [see page 30 (d)] should read as follows:—

“With regard to the registration of Trades Unions, my Federation are of opinion that, especially in the case of Public Utility Companies it should be a condition of registration that the rules of a Union should contain a provision that there shall be no lightning strikes, and no strikes *without* a secret general ballot...”

Labour Legislation in India.—No principal Acts relating to labour have been passed in British India since 1914.

ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

LABOUR RESOLUTIONS

The Annual General Meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon was opened by His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay, Governor of Bengal, at Calcutta on the 30th January 1922. The Bengal, Bombay, Karachi, Burma, Ceylon, Chittagong, Madras, Cochin, Naraingunge, Punjab, Upper India and Tuticorin Chambers of Commerce were represented. Among those present were the Hon'ble Mr. C. A. Innes, the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler, the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Kerr, Sir Louis Kershaw, Secretary, Industries and Overseas Department, India Office, Sir Malcolm Hogg, the Director of Industries, Madras, and the Officiating Director General of Commercial Intelligence.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Three resolutions on labour questions were moved by the Bombay and the Upper India Chambers of Commerce respectively. The Bombay Chamber of Commerce moved “that this Association expresses its fullest sympathy with any proposals of a practical nature designed to improve the conditions of labour in India, but, while recognising that full advantage should be taken of the experience gained elsewhere, considers that all legislation undertaken in India should be framed primarily with regard to the special conditions obtaining in this country.”

TRADE UNIONS

The Upper India Chamber of Commerce moved “that the Government of India's proposals for Trade Union legislation require the most careful consideration, and in particular it is essential that proposals for Conciliation Boards and Boards of Arbitration be considered conjointly with the proposed Trade Union legislation.”

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

The resolution on Workmen's Compensation moved by the Upper India Chamber of Commerce was as follows:—“That legislation in respect of Workmen's Compensation should not be undertaken until a full enquiry has taken place into the whole of the conditions which would govern the grant of compensation.” A short account of the speeches on the resolutions will appear in the next issue of the “Labour Gazette.”

* **Japan.**—The Osaka Industrial Society, the most important employers' organisation in that city, at a recent meeting, decided to petition the Japanese Government to enact the necessary labour legislation for establishing (a) a labour department, (b) a court for the settlement of labour disputes, (c) a system of pensions, (d) a system of social insurance, and (e) a law regulating labour unions. The Government were also requested to increase the number of employment exchanges, and to encourage housing societies.

* “Current Note from Abroad.”



TRADE UNIONISM IN INDIA

DEPUTATION OF THE BRITISH TRADES UNION CONGRESS

The Secretary of State for India received a deputation from the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee, at the India Office, on 22nd March 1921, in connexion with the proposed legislation by the Government of India regarding the registration and protection of Trade Unions. The following is a summary of the conversation as published in the Report of the Fifty-third Annual Trades Union Congress, held at Cardiff in September 1921—

Present: The Right Hon. Edwin S. Montagu, M. P., Secretary of State for India, the Right Hon. The Earl of Lytton, Under Secretary of State, Sir William Duke, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., Under Secretary of State, Sir Murray Hammick, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., Sir Charles Arnold White, Sir Edward Chamier, Mr. E. J. Turner, C.B.E., and Mr. S. K. Brown.

Mr. E. L. Poulton: I believe, sir, you have had a statement submitted to you of the principal items, at any rate, on which we wish to speak, particularly so far as the personal side of the question is concerned—Mr. Wadia. The position there is one which we look upon in a very serious light indeed, not merely because of the fine in itself nor even because of the injunction in itself, but because we feel it is driving a wedge really in our own movement here and it may have indirect effects. Owing to the way in which communications between different parts of the world have been developed, so that they are less and less apart, one cannot confine this sort of thing to one particular country. I understand that in regard to this particular matter there has been, since you had that statement submitted to you, sir, some alteration in the real position. We are very much concerned about the fact that there is an infant movement in India whereby Indians in a legitimate way, in a way which has been recognised in this country for a long series of years, are organising and improving their economic and industrial position, and apparently an attempt is being made, because it is an infant movement, to smother it in its infancy and to prevent these men and women, who are endeavouring in quite a constitutional manner to raise their status among the human family accomplishing their purpose.

Now, sir, we come to you this afternoon, and ask that you will use the great influence of this Department to help these men in the legitimate work which they are undertaking on behalf of their fellow men and

women in India. There has been a whole series of strikes, going on for some months past, particularly for six months of last year. In less than six months there were 67 strikes and lock-outs, and I understand that in a great many of those strikes and lock-outs, unfortunately before they were finished there was bloodshed. You know quite well, sir, that so far as we are concerned we have deprecated, and we shall continue to deprecate, resort to violence of that kind, because we know that, however aggravating the circumstances may be, and however men's passions may be inflamed, if we can keep them under control it is much better than that kind of thing happening. But, sir, these men and women are quite new to the Trade Union movement. We know that their economic position is a very, very sad one, because we have had from time to time information from our Indian friends showing the terrible conditions under which some of them work and the extraordinarily low wages they received, even making every allowance for the difference in the parity of values in the two countries. We appeal to you, sir, as the head of the India Office Department, to come to the help of these men and women, in order that they may not lose hope altogether and in order that these strikes and lock-outs may not occur, and also this moral warfare which can only tend still further to aggravate the serious position which obtains at the present time. We should like to see Conciliation Boards set up, analogous to the Boards which obtain in this country. We believe that there are men and women who would have sufficient knowledge of the methods by which we are governed here, and sufficient knowledge also of the trade conditions even in India, to enable them to negotiate on behalf of these men and women, and thus save resort to violence and the suffering which that violence entails. So far as the Parliamentary Committee itself is concerned, I can assure you that we shall do everything we possibly can. If you put it to us:—"Are we prepared to help, are we prepared to assist not only by advice but in other ways?" I say unhesitatingly, "Yes," on behalf of my colleagues in the Trade Union movement generally. We cannot think, sir, that this Department is at all in sympathy with the employers taking advantage of these men and women in the way that some of them have been doing. We, here, are well aware of the fact that there are good employers and bad employers. There are some men who are very unscrupulous in the methods they adopt against their workpeople; and, so far as the evidence goes in the particular cases which we have in mind that have taken place in India, recently it would appear that a most determined attempt has been made to stamp out entirely any sort of organisation among the workers in that particular country. We cannot think that they will receive any help or assistance or tolerance from this side, so



far as this Office is concerned. We are here to ask your aid, sir, so that the officials in India may understand that these people not only have a legitimate right to organise themselves, but that those rights will be protected and insisted upon by the power and influence of your particular Department.

Mr. Potter-Wilson: Mr. Montagu and gentlemen, this request that we forwarded to the Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress was entirely owing to the direct information supplied to us by Mr. Wadia personally as a man on the spot and as the man implicated. Not only did he supply the private report but he also supplied us with copious cuttings from "The Hindu" of Madras, which bore out to a large extent the statements that he made. To put it very briefly, the trouble arose in a very simple way, through the proprietor of the mills passing over a Trade Unionist in making a promotion, on the ground, among other things, that he was a Trade Unionist, and that this promotion was offered to other men but these other men refused to accept because they considered it belonged to the other person. As a result of that, finally a number of employees were dismissed. In the course of the dismissal there was an interview between the manager and four of the employees, and the manager drew a revolver, pointed it at them and threatened to shoot. Two of the men bared their chests and dared him to shoot, another one was afraid and suddenly grasped his wrist for fear that the revolver might be fired. As a result of that particular incident, a lock-out occurred, and a notice was put up stating that it was owing to an assault on the manager, which was incorrect. Although it started from a comparatively small thing, in a few days' time it ended in collisions between the military and the police, because the strike-breakers who had been enlisted by the mill threw stones on their way to the mill; those stones were thrown back by the strikers who were in the streets, and the result was that the police were called in and a number of workers were killed and wounded, to the extent of 15 men, women, and children. A boy of 11 and a lad of 16 were killed. Later on Mr. Wadia and the leaders of the Union were sued by the firm, and the High Court of Madras decided against them and brought in a judgment of a fine of £7,000 and costs. That was our first information and we supplied that to the Parliamentary Committee. Since then it has been brought to our notice that Mr. Wadia has settled with a firm in consideration of the judgment being quashed. As a result of that settlement on the one hand the firm withdraws from prosecuting the judgment further, and on the other hand Mr. Wadia agrees to sever all connexion with the Union and the union work he has been engaged in.

Mr. Montagu: I am very much obliged to you for coming here to-day, because you have drawn our

attention to what I regard as one of the most important problems which India has to deal with at the present moment. There is no doubt about it that India is going to become a big industrial country. She is determined to develop her industries; she is determined to develop her amazing natural resources which are hardly yet tapped; and it is the policy of the Government to do everything in their power to assist her. It is notorious that whereas the potential wealth and perhaps the aggregate wealth of India is very great, the population is very, very poor, mainly agricultural, at the mercy to an alarming extent of climatic accidents, the failure of rain and so forth; and the only way of increasing the economic well-being of the country is to develop her manufactures. You cannot have the industrialisation of a great empire like India without the assistance of organised Labour, and therefore just as you have got to use capital and research you have got to try and see that Labour is properly and carefully organised. Therefore, not only ought we to welcome the new Trade Union movements in India, but we ought to recognise them as one of the essentials of Indian development.

Mr. Thomas: The point is, are they welcome?

Mr. Montagu: I am just coming to that. The object that you have in view is an object that is shared by the Government. Mr. Thomas very pertinently asks, are they welcome? They are young still. Probably Mr. Wadia has worked harder at Trade Union organisation than anybody else who has yet appeared in India; he is an enthusiast about it. But I think I can say that the number of Trade Unionists in India is a very, very few thousands, and there are many nascent Trade Unions in existence in India which I do not suppose would ever come near to receiving recognition from a Labour organisation in this country.

Mr. Thomas: Do you mean bogus political associations?

Mr. Montagu: I mean, in many cases, but by no means in all, bodies which are spontaneously brought together under the name of Trade Unions, and then proceed, because they understand that strikes are things associated with Trade Unions, to organise strikes, very often for mixed motives, and sometimes for purely or mainly political motives. A very great proportion of the working population, particularly in Bombay, is not really an artisan population at all. It is a land-holding population. It depends for a certain period of the year when agriculture is slack on work in the mills, and then it goes back to till its own land in the country districts, and then appears again.



It seems to me that we have got to try and find what is the most suitable form of Trade Unionism for India. I am sure you will agree with me that the organisation has not necessarily to be exactly the same as in this country. I hope that in trying to repeat the history of this country in India we may be able to avoid some of the mistakes which have existed here, profiting by example. We do not yet know whether the Trade Unions will be All-India Trade Unions or provincial Trade Unions, or how they will be organised. But I agree with you that they have got to be organised, and that they have got to be welcomed as part of the equipment of India for its industrial life. I welcome very, very much indeed the assurance that you have given me this afternoon that you, as experienced Trade Unionists, in welcoming your younger brothers in India will give to them the benefit of your advice and assistance in order that they may become healthy, prosperous, and powerful, Trade Unions.

The new Viceroy, Lord Reading, who is now on the high seas, has been, as you are much better aware than I am, associated with the history of Trade Unionism in this country very directly, in so far as legislation is concerned.

Mr. Thomas: We have paid him thousands of pounds.

Mr. Montagu: You have paid him thousands of pounds for his assistance to you in the Law courts but you have also had his assistance in the House of Commons in passing legislation.

Mr. Bowerman: Which we appreciated very much.

Mr. Montagu: I know from the conversations we had in this Office before he left England that he is going to devote his attention at the earliest possible moment to Trade Unionism in India with a view to doing his best to assist it. The situation therefore is this, that it seems to me we can most usefully devote our attention to the future rather than to the past. It is quite true that there has been this very unfortunate strike taking place in Madras in one of the mills which up till then had a reputation, I think, unsurpassed in the whole of India for its good treatment of its employees and the good relations which existed between them and the managers of the mill. The incident has been useful in this respect: it has revealed the position which arises as soon as a Trade Union comes into existence in India.

You will remember that up to the year 1871 a Trade Union in this country was an illegal body, and that there has been a series of enactments from 1871 up till the year 1913 which gave you the rights which you now possess. As there were no Trade Unions in India up till the last few years, none of this legislation

has found its place on the Indian Statute Book. There is no provision in India for the registration of Trade Unions, there is no provision in India for the property of Trade Unions in Trustees with limited liability to sue and liability to be sued in respect thereof, there is no legislation in India for the protection of Trade Unions against certain actions of tort or in respect of peaceful picketing. Therefore, when the High Court of Madras was called upon to hear an action against a Trade Union, it regarded it just as the High Court of this country would have regarded a Trade Union before 1871—as an illegal conspiracy. The result has been to show that, as Trade Unions have now come to exist in India, there must be legislation to protect Trade Unions and to defend them in the discharge of their avocations against judgments of this kind. Therefore, when on the 1st of March this year (I think it was the 1st of March) a resolution was passed in the Legislative Assembly in India recommending the introduction as soon as practicable of legislation referring to the registration and protection of Trade Unions, the Government of India accepted that resolution, and agreed to introduce a Bill as soon as they had had the opportunity of consulting the Local Governments as to its provisions. I do not know to-day what the provisions of that Bill will be; nor can I say that it will take exactly the same form as would be taken by a Bill embodying all the legislation applying to Trade Unions in this country; but as soon as it is received in this country, I should like to have the opinion of those whom you represent in this room, and I will forward it to you for your observations in order that you may express an opinion. Suffice it for to-day to know that the legislation for the registration and protection of Trade Unions, which is really the beginning of the whole matter, is now under contemplation by the Government of India as one of the first fruits of the working of the new Legislative Assembly of India.

Mr. Thomas: Do I understand from that, sir, that before the Bill is passed, that is to say, immediately you get the draft of the Bill, you will let the Parliamentary Committee have it so that they may make their observations prior to it becoming law, because that is very important from our standpoint? To be quite frank, this is what I want to get clearly from you—whether the Bill as drafted or contemplated is going to make a Trade Union exempt, that is to say, can it sue or be sued? If not, owing to the peculiar situation in India, the whole thing would be a farce. That is a very vital point from our point of view; that is the point we are primarily concerned with.

Mr. Montagu: I am not quite sure that I can promise that, because I do not remember whether it is a Bill which will normally come home for my sanction for introduction.

Mr. Turner: I think it would depend on the Government of India,* but I am not sure.

Mr. Montagu: Cannot I achieve the same result in this way? The important provision, as I understand it, is the provision with regard to the power of Trade Unions to sue and be sued. That is what you want?

Mr. Thomas: Yes.

Mr. Montagu: As the result of this deputation I can ask the Government of India at once and let you know what their views are on that point, so that you will know in good time.

Mr. Thomas: You know the exact point well, because you were in it. It was the 1906 Bill which reversed the Taff Vale judgment. That legalised the position. You know it quite well.

Mr. Montagu: Yes. That is really the right way to start. But there is one thing more that I shall want you to do, and that is to be kind enough to assist us in getting the Trade Unions on to the right lines. I do not know the best way for you to undertake that, but some of their activities doubtless spring from ignorance of how a Trade Union should be conducted. One sometimes occasionally hears of a case so strange as a strike promoted by a Trade Union in opposition to the wishes of its leaders—a thing which you would immediately recognise as entirely peculiar to India. But if we are going to help one another in this matter, if you want to assist Indian Trade Unions on to their legs we want your assistance in doing this. I should like to make this suggestion to you. Supposing we got from the Governments in India periodical reports of the development of Trade Unions in their Provinces, with comments and the history of what is going on; then on occasions we in this office could lay those reports before you, and suggest that you should use the influence you possess with the Trade Unions in India, in case it seemed that they might be going on the wrong lines. Does not that seem to you a practicable thing to do?

Mr. Poulton: We have already in a tentative kind of way attempted something on these lines. I said in my remarks—and I am quite sure that I had the whole of my colleagues with me when I said so—that we shall do all we can to put them on the right lines. So far as the Government is concerned, we very highly appreciate all you have stated; but if we could have their suggestions on any questions of legislation before the Bill actually becomes an Act it would certainly help both sides very materially.

Mr. Thomas: I think Mr. Montagu's point is a different one; do not let us mix them up. He has dealt with the Trade Union status; that is all right; but you want to go beyond that, and suggest that there

* It has since been ascertained that this is the case.

should be some medium by which consultation should take place between the Government and the Trade Unions—between us and you?

Mr. Montagu: Yes. What I mean is this. Supposing a Trade Union is being badly conducted, supposing it is causing trouble on some political grounds, or supposing it is not conducting its negotiations in a way in which an old established Trade Union here would conduct its negotiations, and there is trouble which could easily be avoided if the Trade Union had been wiser; very often under those circumstances it would be more useful than anything else that could happen if a body of sympathetic Trade Unionists in this country were to express the opinion: "This is all wrong; you ought not to have done this; we should have done it in a different way." That is what I mean.

Mr. Thomas: You see the danger at once, and I must safeguard what I say because the thing is much wider than it appears. I quite appreciate your object but I would like to put to you the absurd and irrelevant position that might arise. There is a railway organisation in India; what would the railway organisation in India say if I were going to make some comments upon some propaganda or negotiations they had in hand, the information in regard to which was *ex parte* so far as they were concerned, because it would be purely Government information? Instead of being accepted as friends, they would look upon us straightaway as subjects. Instead of being of any influence we would be useless. They would immediately say that our function was merely to talk to the Government.

Mr. Montagu: I have had too long experience of you, Mr. Thomas, to think that you would act unwisely. Does not it depend entirely on the merits of the case? Supposing we were getting at cross purposes with a Trade Union, or a section of Trade Unions in India, if we said, "We will ask the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress to come in and see us," you would not take action on the basis of any Government Report. You might say, "It looks as if things are going wrong; we will conduct our own investigation," but you would put yourself right with the Trade Union. All I want to get from you to-day is not a pledge that you will act in a particular way, but that you will, if we call your attention to matters, do your best to assist the Trade Unions in India; that is all.

Mr. Swales: Is it not equally important that you should use your good offices with the employers to see that they act in such a way that they do not in any way kill the spirit and desire of workmen to organise in their Trade Unions? Take the question of the injunctions of which we complain: the very fact that Mr. Wadia has been compelled to give up his good offices on behalf of the Trade Unions will militate



against certain workpeople taking an active part in Trade Union Work; and if it is to grow, as you desire it to grow, then there will be more and more men who are directly concerned with the workmen and workpeople themselves who will come forward as leaders. But if they are to have injunctions made against them, as Mr. Wadia and the others have done, that will do more than anything else to kill the growth that you desire and the good relationship that should exist. It appears to me that you will have to use your good offices with the employers to restrain them from obtaining injunctions against people who are acting for the protection of the people they represent. Will not it be necessary on your part as well as on our part to use your influence with the Government to prevent employers prosecuting men who may rise in the ranks of the workers and desire to protect the interests of workpeople? Cannot we ask you to-day to help us? Here is this injunction: Wadia has gone out of it, but there will be others who from the nature of the thing cannot go out of it. They will either be leaders of the men or go back to the factory as workmen, and, if merely for advising the workpeople they have an injunction granted against them, that cripples them during the rest of their life and tends more than anything else to destroy the growth of the Trade Union movement. It requires your sympathy and help to remove that difficulty.

Mr. Montagu: That is the right remedy for that particular ill. I quite agree that the authorities must be led to welcome Trade Unionism, and the employers must be led to recognise Trade Unionism, just as the good employers in this country recognise it; but, with regard to the particular matter of the injunction, is it any use trying to persuade people not to use the lawful remedies which the law gives them? Is not the best way to do what we contemplate doing—alter the law, so that an action for an injunction will not lie?

Mr. Thomas: You will remove the difficulty there.

Mr. Swales: That may be true, but equally so as long as the workpeople fear that they may be driven out of the Union and that all sorts of penalties may be imposed upon them it will restrict the growth of the Union amongst the working classes.

Mr. Bowerman: With regard to the establishment of Conciliation Boards, will that follow the natural course?

Mr. Montagu: I think I will send a special telegram about that. There have been cases in Madras, in the case of some of these strikes, where the Government has arranged an Arbitration Board, *ad hoc*, and very successfully; and there have been cases, as Mr. Wilson pointed out, in Bombay, where the Governor himself has intervened in a strike very successfully. I have made a note of the particular

point of Conciliation Boards which was mentioned by Mr. Wilson and by your chairman. I will draw the attention of the Government of India specially to that in the telegram that I propose to send.

Mr. Poulton: Did we understand you correctly upon the question of legislation, that in regard to the questions which have been brought before you about this injunction, which are most difficult things to go into in detail, the legislation will take the form of preventing that kind of thing taking place in future—that it will prevent the securing of an injunction of that kind for doing what we consider to be a legitimate action?

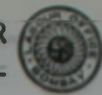
Mr. Montagu: To-day, as you speak to me, all I know about the legislation is that it is described in a telegram as being "designed to register Trade Unions and to protect them". I cannot conceive what protection can mean except to protect individual members of Trade Unions against provisions of this kind; it cannot mean anything else. Sir Edward Chamier reminds me that it protects the Unions and the members; but in order to be quite sure what the Bill contains I will get into telegraphic communication with the Government of India and let you know.

Mr. Poulton: Thank you. I am sure we are very much obliged to you, sir, not only for the courteous way in which you have received us, but for the information we have obtained. I can only hope that the result of our meeting will be to set up some kind of machinery of a consultative nature so as to help the whole situation both from the point of view of the Government and from the point of view of the workers.

*United Kingdom—According to the British Trades Union Review for November 1921, the amount of money paid out from Union funds in unemployment benefits, during the year ending 30th September 1921, was £7,434,199. This excludes the amount paid through Trade Unions under the State Insurance Acts, which, according to Dr. Macnamara's statement in the House of Commons on the 11th May 1921, was £14,340,600 for the period from 1st January to 29th April 1921. The money was derived from (1) ordinary incomes, (2) increased contributions and (3) special unemployment levies.

The Civil Servants' Confederation has decided to affiliate to the National Federation of Professional, Technical, Administrative, and Supervisory workers. The representatives of the National Federation are instructed to secure within a smaller organisation, all public officers.

*"Current Note from Abroad."



Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	January 1921.	Dec. 1921.	January 1922.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
<i>Cereals—</i>						
Rice	.. Rangoon Small-mill	.. Md.	4 11 3	5 15 3	7 9 11	6 3 1
Wheat	.. Delhi No. 1	.. Cwt.	5 9 6	9 0 0	12 0 0	9 4 6
Do.	.. Khandwa Seoni	.. Candy	45 0 0	58 8 0	82 8 0	107 8 0
Do.	.. Jubbulpore	.. "	40 0 0	55 8 0	85 8 0	87 8 0
Jowari	.. Rangoon	.. Md.	3 2 6	5 14 0	4 13 11	5 9 9
Barley	.. "	.. "	3 4 6	5 8 1	5 14 10	4 13 11
Bajri	.. Ghati	.. "	3 4 6	6 5 7	6 12 4	6 5 7
<i>Pulses—</i>						
Gram	.. Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	.. "	4 3 9	6 5 7	8 0 8	7 9 11
Turdal	.. Cawnpore	.. "	5 10 5	9 9 10	9 9 10	9 9 10
<i>Sugar—</i>						
Sugar	.. Mauritius No. 1	.. Cwt.	9 3 0	36 0 0	19 6 0	21 14 0
Do.	.. Java white	.. "	10 3 0	36 0 0	19 4 0	21 8 0
Raw (Gul)	.. Sangli	.. Md.	7 14 3	13 9 8	15 10 4	14 4 7
<i>Other food—</i>						
Turmeric	.. Rajapuri	.. "	5 9 3	8 7 0	14 0 3	14 0 3
Ghee	.. Deshi	.. "	45 11 5	74 4 7	77 2 3	80 0 0
Salt	.. Bombay (black)	.. "	1 7 6	1 13 0	2 0 0	2 2 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

<i>Cereals—</i>						
Rice	.. Rangoon Small-mill	.. "	100	127	162	132
Wheat	.. Delhi No. 1	.. "	100	161	215	166
Do.	.. Khandwa Seoni	.. "	100	130	183	239
Do.	.. Jubbulpore	.. "	100	139	214	219
Jowari	.. Rangoon	.. "	100	186	154	178
Barley	.. "	.. "	100	168	181	148
Bajri	.. Ghati	.. "	100	193	206	194
Average—Cereals	.. "	.. "	100	158	180	182
<i>Pulses—</i>						
Gram	.. Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	.. "	100	150	190	180
Turdal	.. Cawnpore	.. "	100	170	170	170
Average—Pulses	.. "	.. "	100	160	180	175
<i>Sugar—</i>						
Sugar	.. Mauritius No. 1	.. "	100	392	212	238
Do.	.. Java white	.. "	100	353	189	211
Raw (Gul)	.. Sangli	.. "	100	172	198	181
Average—Sugar	.. "	.. "	100	306	200	210
<i>Other food—</i>						
Turmeric	.. Rajapuri	.. "	100	151	251	251
Ghee	.. Deshi	.. "	100	163	169	175
Salt	.. Bombay (black)	.. "	100	123	136	145
Average—Other food	.. "	.. "	100	146	185	190
Average—All food	.. "	.. "	100	185	189	188

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	January 1921.	Dec. 1921.	January 1922.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
<i>Oil seeds—</i>						
Linseed	.. Bold	.. Cwt.	8 14 6	13 6 0	12 8 0	12 8 0
Rapeseed	.. Cawnpore (brown)	.. ..	8 0 0	10 12 0	10 12 0	10 8 0
Poppyseed	.. Do.	.. ..	10 14 0	14 8 0	15 0 0	14 8 0
Gingily	.. White	.. ..	11 4 0	15 4 0	15 0 0	13 12 0
<i>Textiles—Cotton—</i>						
(a) <i>Cotton—raw—</i>						
Broach	.. Good	.. Candy	251 0 0	323 0 0	..	..
Oomra	.. Fully good	.. ..	222 0 0	257 0 0	..	..
Dharwar	.. Saw-ginned	.. ..	230 0 0	..	468 0 0	..
Khandesh	.. Machine ginned	.. ..	205 0 0	225 0 0	..	360 0 0
Bengal	.. Do.	.. ..	198 0 0	245 0 0	369 0 0	..
(b) <i>Cotton manufactures—</i>						
Twist	.. 40S	.. Lb.	0 12 9	1 12 0	1 14 0	335 0 0
Grey shirtings	.. Fari 2,000	.. Piece	5 15 0	15 12 0	15 0 0	1 13 0
White mulls	.. 6,600	.. ..	4 3 0	11 4 0	11 4 0	15 0 0
Shirtings	.. Liepman's 1,500	.. ..	10 6 0	35 0 0	28 0 0	11 4 0
Long cloth	.. Local made 36" x 37½ yds.	.. Lb.	0 9 6	1 11 6	1 10 0	28 0 0
Chudders	.. 54" x 6 yds.	.. ..	0 9 6	1 9 0	1 8 0	1 10 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

<i>Oil seeds—</i>						
Linseed	.. Bold	.. ..	100	150	140	140
Rapeseed	.. Cawnpore (brown)	.. ..	100	134	134	131
Poppyseed	.. Do.	.. ..	100	133	138	133
Gingily	.. White	.. ..	100	136	133	122
Average—Oilseeds	.. ..	.. ..	100	138	136	132
<i>Textiles—Cotton—</i>						
(a) <i>Cotton—raw—</i>						
Broach	.. Good	.. ..	100	129	..	..
Oomra	.. Fully good	.. ..	100	116	211	..
Dharwar	.. Saw-ginned	.. ..	100	..	..	162
Khandesh	.. Machined ginned	.. ..	100	110	..	..
Bengal	.. Do.	.. ..	100	124	186	169
Average—Cotton—raw	.. ..	.. ..	100	120	198	166
(b) <i>Cotton manufactures—</i>						
Twist	.. 40S	.. ..	100	219	234	227
Grey shirtings	.. Fari 2,000	.. ..	100	265	253	253
White mulls	.. 6,600	.. ..	100	269	268	269
Shirtings	.. Liepman's 1,500	.. ..	100	337	270	270
Long cloth	.. Local made 36" x 37½ yds.	.. ..	100	289	275	274
Chudders	.. 54" x 6 yds.	.. ..	100	263	254	253
Average—Cotton manufactures	.. ..	.. ..	100	274	259	258
Average—Textiles—Cotton	.. ..	.. ..	100	212	244	235

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

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	January 1921.	Dec. 1921.	January 1922.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
<i>Other textiles—</i>						
Silk	.. Canton No. 5	.. Paces seer	5 4 0	10 3 0	5 8 0	5 8 0
Do.	.. Nankin	.. ..	17 12 0	23 8 0	30 8 0	30 8 0
<i>Hides and Skins—</i>						
Hides, Cow	.. Tanned	.. Lb.	1 2 6	1 12 0	1 12 3	2 1 5
Do. Buffalo	.. Do.	.. ..	1 1 3	0 13 9	0 14 3	0 14 6
Skins, Goat	.. Do.	.. ..	1 4 0	2 10 9	2 2 9	2 15 1
<i>Metals—</i>						
Copper brazier	.. ..	.. Cwt.	60 8 0	82 0 0	85 0 0	83 0 0
Iron bars	.. ..	.. ..	4 0 0	14 0 0	11 0 0	11 0 0
Steel hoops	.. ..	.. ..	7 12 0	18 0 0	19 0 0	19 0 0
Galvanized sheets	.. ..	.. ..	9 0 0	19 8 0	17 0 0	17 0 0
Tin plates	.. ..	.. Box	8 12 0	20 0 0	13 0 0	13 0 0
<i>Other raw and manufactured articles—</i>						
Coal	.. Bengal	.. Ton	14 12 0	36 0 0	29 0 0	28 0 0
Kerosene	.. Elephant brand	.. 2 Tins	4 6 0	8 7 0	8 3 0	8 3 0
Do.	.. Chester brand	.. Case	5 2 0	10 12 0	10 12 0	10 12 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

<i>Other textiles—</i>						
Silk	.. Canton No. 5	.. ..	100	194	105	105
Do.	.. Nankin	.. ..	100	132	172	172
Average—Other textiles	.. ..	.. ..	100	163	138	139
<i>Hides and Skins—</i>						
Hides, Cow	.. Tanned	.. ..	100	151	152	181
Do. Buffalo	.. Do.	.. ..	100	80	82	84
Skins, Goat	.. Do.	.. ..	100	214	174	235
Average—Hides and Skins	.. ..	.. ..	100	148	136	167
<i>Metals—</i>						
Copper brazier	.. ..	.. ..	100	136	140	137
Iron bars	.. ..	.. ..	100	350	275	275
Steel hoops	.. ..	.. ..	100	232	245	245
Galvanized sheets	.. ..	.. ..	100	217	189	189
Tin plates	.. ..	.. ..	100	229	149	149
Average—Metals	.. ..	.. ..	100	233	200	199
<i>Other raw and manufactured articles—</i>						
Coal	.. Bengal	.. ..	100	244	197	190
Kerosene	.. Elephant brand	.. ..	100	193	187	187
Do.	.. Chester brand	.. ..	100	210	210	210
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles	.. ..	.. ..	100	216	198	196
Total—Food	.. ..	.. ..	100	185	189	188
Total—Non-food	.. ..	.. ..	100	195	191	190
General Average	.. ..	.. ..	100	191	190	190

Wholesale prices index numbers in Bombay by groups from January 1920

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Months.	Cereals.	Pulses.	Sugar.	Other food.	Total food.	Oil-seeds.	Raw cotton.	Cotton manufactures.	Other textiles.	Hides and skins.	Metals.	Other raw and manufactured articles.	Total non-food.	General average.
1920														
January ..	184	178	323	202	215	210	202	312	153	196	297	200	241	231
February ..	167	192	305	189	203	194	179	301	164	167	277	197	228	211
March ..	152	186	289	188	190	177	170	306	189	175	259	189	224	219
April ..	162	178	329	178	201	173	149	314	270	214	279	191	238	211
May ..	166	171	397	173	211	179	168	305	175	113	284	204	220	217
June ..	161	152	420	170	213	173	159	310	178	172	294	198	227	222
July ..	151	145	452	181	216	171	144	318	179	164	288	208	222	220
August ..	163	155	456	184	225	173	132	306	183	133	257	209	212	217
September ..	164	156	470	184	228	189	139	295	186	119	257	209	212	218
October ..	167	156	385	163	208	178	135	293	186	145	247	216	211	210
November ..	166	160	312	158	193	164	134	287	184	188	240	202	209	204
December ..	154	160	255	141	173	148	122	284	181	175	239	204	203	192
1921														
January ..	158	160	306	146	185	138	120	274	163	148	233	216	195	191
February ..	159	145	324	149	188	133	110	265	163	172	234	216	193	191
March ..	156	139	338	150	189	129	108	256	163	152	246	216	190	190
April ..	173	149	329	164	199	146	112	267	163	169	247	216	198	198
May ..	173	151	314	162	196	150	115	272	142	166	248	232	200	199
June ..	184	158	267	169	194	161	126	270	109	141	239	222	205	197
July ..	186	151	234	185	191	171	137	269	138	156	244	206	203	199
August ..	216	166	229	181	205	160	137	267	138	160	242	210	202	203
September ..	212	169	230	174	202	150	217	265	138	180	240	206	211	207
October ..	192	164	207	180	189	130	169	273	138	182	209	202	199	195
November ..	196	175	203	190	193	129	170	263	138	163	204	198	192	193
December ..	188	180	200	185	189	136	198	259	138	136	200	198	191	190
1922														
January ..	182	175	210	190	188	132	166	258	139	167	199	196	190	190

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

Retail prices of articles of food in Bombay in July 1914, December 1921 and January 1922

The prices quoted are for local weights and measures

Articles.	Grade.	Rate per	Equiva- lent in tolas.	Increase + or decrease — in January over or below				
				July 1914.	December 1921.	January 1922.	July 1914.	December 1921.
				As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.
Rice ..	Rangoon Small-mill	Paylee	216	5 10	9 1	8 7	+2 9	-0 6
Wheat ..	Punjab Piss	"	212	5 10	11 8	11 5	+5 7	-0 3
Jowari ..	Madrasi	"	208	4 3	7 8	6 11	+2 8	-0 9
Bajri ..	Ghati	"	200	4 7	8 8	7 9	+3 2	-0 11
Gram ..	Punjab red	"	208	4 4	9 7	9 10	+5 6	+0 3
Turdal ..	Cawnpore	"	204	5 11	10 11	11 8	+5 9	+0 9
Sugar (raw) ..	Sangli, middle quality	Seer by weight	28	1 2	2 6	2 5	+1 3	-0 1
Sugar (refined) ..	Java, white	"	28	1 1	2 2	2 0	+0 11	-0 2
Tea ..	Ceylon, middle quality	Lb.	39	7 10	9 11	9 11	+2 1	..
Salt ..	Bombay, black	Paylee	188	1 9	2 5	2 3	+0 6	-0 2
Beef ..	Crawford Market	Lb.	39	2 6	5 0	5 0	+2 6	..
Mutton ..	"	"	39	3 0	7 6	7 6	+4 6	..
Milk ..	Medium	Seer by measure	56	2 9	4 11	4 11	+2 2	..
Ghi ..	Belgaum, Deshi	" by weight	28	7 1	10 8	10 8	+3 7	..
Potatoes ..	Mettrappalayam	"	28	0 8	1 7	1 4	+0 8	-0 3
Onions ..	Nasik	"	28	0 3	0 9	0 7	+0 4	-0 2
Cocconut oil ..	Middle quality	"	28	3 7	3 11	3 9	+0 2	-0 2

Retail prices of Articles of food in December 1921 and January 1922

Articles.	Price per	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.
		December 1921.	December 1921.	December 1921.	December 1921.	January 1922.	January 1922.	January 1922.	January 1922.
		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—	Maund ..								
Rice ..	"	8 6 5	11 6 10	10 0 0	7 15 4	7 15 4	11 0 7	10 0 0	7 9 7
Wheat ..	"	10 15 11	11 3 8	11 6 10	9 15 0	10 11 10	10 12 1	10 10 8	10 14 2
Jowari ..	"	7 5 8	6 7 5	7 0 6	9 0 3	6 10 5	5 14 4	7 4 4	8 6 0
Bajri ..	"	8 9 8	6 13 6	8 5 0	6 7 3	7 12 3	6 14 1	7 4 4	6 3 7
Pulses—	"								
Gram ..	"	9 3 2	9 6 7	9 2 3	9 4 10	9 7 6	9 1 3	8 6 9	9 8 10
Turdal ..	"	10 10 8	10 0 0	11 6 10	9 8 10	11 6 10	10 0 0	11 6 10	9 8 10
Other articles of food—	"								
Sugar (refined) ..	"	15 3 10	14 8 9	17 12 5	16 13 6	14 1 7	13 8 11	17 12 5	16 13 6
Jagri (gul) ..	"	17 9 4	16 0 0	20 0 0	14 8 9	17 4 9	16 0 0	16 0 0	13 5 4
Tea ..	Lb. ..	0 9 11	0 8 11	0 12 5	0 12 4	0 9 11	0 8 11	0 12 5	0 10 5
Salt ..	Maund ..	2 8 9	2 0 0	2 0 0	3 11 11	2 6 11	2 0 0	2 0 0	3 7 7
Beef ..	Seer ..	0 10 3	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 6 0	0 10 3	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 6 0
Mutton ..	"	0 15 5	0 12 0	1 0 0	0 10 0	0 15 5	0 12 0	1 0 0	0 10 0
Milk ..	Maund ..	17 9 4	11 6 10	13 5 4	13 5 4	17 9 4	11 6 10	13 5 4	13 5 4
Ghee ..	"	76 3 1	71 1 9	80 0 0	72 11 8	76 3 1	73 9 2	75 4 8	68 1 4
Potatoes ..	"	11 6 10	10 13 7	13 5 4	15 3 10	9 7 0	6 2 6	8 6 9	13 5 4
Onions ..	"	5 4 4	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	3 15 1	5 0 0	5 8 3	4 9 2
Cocconut oil ..	"	27 13 3	29 14 6	35 8 11	33 10 11	26 14 3	30 7 7	35 8 11	29 1 5

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

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

Cereals—		150	172	162	150	142	166	162	144
Rice ..		197	267	243	193	192	256	227	211
Wheat ..		169	178	185	314	153	162	191	292
Jowari ..		200	163	176	183	180	163	154	177
Bajri ..									
Average—cereals ..		179	195	191	210	167	187	184	206
Pulses—		214	247	228	216	220	238	211	222
Gram ..		183	150	186	164	196	150	186	164
Turdal ..									
Average—pulses ..		198	199	207	190	208	194	199	193
Other articles of food—		200	200	198	168	202	186	198	168
Sugar (refined) ..		205	230	225	187	185	230	180	172
Jagri (gul) ..		127	129	160	119	127	129	160	100
Tea ..		120	153	132	168	114	152	132	156
Salt ..		200	200	168	231	200	200	167	240
Beef ..		229	203	270	168	230	200	267	167
Mutton ..		191	257	267	183	191	257	267	183
Milk ..		150	167	180	130	150	172	169	121
Ghee ..		255	200	350	381	211	114	221	333
Potatoes ..		340	275	250	200	254	275	276	183
Onions ..		110	122	178	126	106	124	178	109
Cocconut oil ..									
Average—other articles of food ..		193	194	216	187	179	185	201	176
Average—all food articles (unweighted) ..		191	196	209	193	180	187	197	185

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in India and Foreign Countries

Country.	India (Bombay)	United Kingdom.				Canada.	South Africa.	Australia.	New Zealand.	United States of America.		
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)					(5)	(6)	(7)
No. of articles.	43	45	44	150	60	272	188	92	140	96	325	88
1913 Average	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914	100	100	99	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1915	127	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123
1916	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160
1917	206	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	204
1918	222	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225
1919	237	226	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225
1920	211	308	310	326	353	258	250	209	202	225	253	206
March	224	313	306	332	348	263	250	225	206	216	272	263
April	217	306	304	333	348	258	250	233	205	210	269	264
May	222	301	291	329	335	258	250	234	215	204	262	258
June	220	299	292	324	333	256	250	236	215	195	250	250
July	217	298	288	320	325	244	241	230	216	184	242	234
August	218	293	284	318	318	241	241	215	218	170	225	226
September	210	282	266	308	305	225	225	208	214	148	225	208
October	204	263	245	293	269	214	214	197	214	137	207	208
November	192	243	220	269	251	214	214	196	212	134	189	190
December	191	232	209	251	229	208	206	192	206	129	177	173
1921	191	215	192	230	211	199	199	192	204	124	167	163
January	190	208	189	215	203	194	170	181	201	117	162	154
February	198	200	184	209	198	182	170	166	198	115	154	150
March	199	191	182	206	193	182	170	162	196	117	151	143
April	197	183	179	202	187	179	170	162	196	117	148	142
May	199	186	178	198	186	176	170	159	196	120	148	139
June	203	183	179	194	184	174	170	160	193	120	152	141
July	207	176	183	191	181	172	170	160	193	120	152	143
August	195	163	170	184	171	169	170	156	193	122	152	143
September	193	161	166	176	171	168	170	156	193	122	150	141
October	190	161	166	176	171	168	170	156	193	122	150	141
November	190	161	166	176	171	168	170	156	193	122	150	141
December	190	161	166	176	171	168	170	156	193	122	150	141
1922	190	161	166	176	171	168	170	156	193	122	150	141
January	190	161	166	176	171	168	170	156	193	122	150	141

Country.	United States of America			France.	Italy.	Japan.	Germany.	Nether-lands.	Norway.	Sweden.	Denmark.
	(8)	(9)	(10)								
No. of articles.	25	200	22	45	..	56	77	..	93	47	33
1913 Average	100	100	100	100	(c)	100	(b)	100	(e)	100	100
1914	100	100	100	100	..	95	100	106	100	100	100
1915	140	140	140	140	..	97	..	147	159	116	..
1916	188	188	188	188	..	117	..	229	233	145	138
1917	262	262	262	262	..	148	..	294	341	185	164
1918	339	339	339	339	..	196	..	400	345	244	228
1919	213	213	230	356	..	239	..	306	345	339	293
1920	229	217	254	587	96	321	1,587	294	351	330	294
March	220	222	267	553	106	300	1,636	300	354	354	..
April	227	221	266	493	101	248	1,571	301	368	361	..
May	220	220	244	496	98	255	1,463	302	382	366	..
June	218	213	216	501	100	240	1,500	304	409	363	383
July	191	209	204	526	105	231	1,544	296	417	365	385
August	177	200	184	502	105	231	1,571	293	425	365	394
September	170	192	166	461	107	221	1,614	290	419	346	398
October	146	178	148	435	105	206	1,631	267	403	331	403
November	140	167	141	407	103	201	1,538	240	377	299	374
December	133	157	136	377	98	195	1,446	218	344	267	341
1921	140	147	129	347	97	191	1,414	203	319	290	290
January	123	140	126	329	94	190	1,418	193	312	250	280
February	117	140	120	325	82	191	1,353	182	297	237	270
March	120	135	123	332	83	192	1,353	184	294	229	257
April	126	138	125	331	87	196	..	179	294	218	254
May	125	137	118	342	93	199	..	174	294	218	254
June	136	136	136	342	93	207	..	..	300	211	224
July	136	136	136	342	93	219	..	..	287	202	202
August	136	136	136	342	93	214	..	..	286	182	186
September	136	136	136	342	93	214	..	..	286	175	186
October	136	136	136	342	93	214	..	..	286	175	186
November	136	136	136	342	93	214	..	..	286	175	186
December	136	136	136	342	93	214	..	..	286	175	186

* July 1914=100. (c) New index numbers. (d) 1914=100. (e) 1920=100. (f) Revised figures. (g) Average Dec. 1913 to June 1914=100.
 (1) Statist. (2) Economist. (3) Board of Trade. (4) Times. (5) Bradstreet. (6) Bureau of Labour. (7) Federal Reserve Board.
 (8) Analyst. (9) Duns. (10) Gibson.

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

Count or Number.	Month of December.			Nine months, April to December.		
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1919.	1920.	1921.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds	5,569	6,101	7,205	49,999	45,944	58,652
Nos. 11 to 20	21,395	22,439	23,179	182,723	177,617	182,760
Nos. 21 to 30	12,752	14,362	13,828	113,191	116,278	118,788
Nos. 31 to 40	1,131	1,205	1,026	10,715	9,772	9,433
Above 40	194	138	158	1,813	993	1,497
Waste, etc.	8	5	9	85	180	234
Total	41,049	44,250	45,405	358,526	350,784	371,364

Bombay Island

Count or Number.	Month of December.			Nine months, April to December.		
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1919.	1920.	1921.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds	5,151	5,565	6,450	46,285	42,436	52,855
Nos. 11 to 20	17,181	17,449	17,676	145,627	138,331	132,988
Nos. 21 to 30	7,287	8,388	8,966	67,393	71,559	71,890
Nos. 31 to 40	429	445	604	4,354	3,955	4,590
Above 40	126	76	85	1,189	726	755
Waste, etc.	2	..	1	34	138	169
Total	30,176	31,923	33,782	264,882	257,145	263,247

Ahmedabad

Count or Number.	Month of December.			Nine months, April to December.		
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1919.	1920.	1921.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds	135	267	247	1,149	1,311	1,918
Nos. 11 to 20	1,560	2,533	2,293	14,110	16,628	23,433
Nos. 21 to 30	4,114	4,677	3,290	33,454	33,296	33,633
Nos. 31 to 40	574	648	340	5,190	4,680	3,865
Above 40	58	51	47	420	168	519
Waste, etc.	..	..	..	..	3	2
Total	6,441	8,176	6,217	54,323	56,086	63,370

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

Bombay Presidency

Description.	Month of December.			Nine months, April to December.		
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Grey and bleached piece-goods—	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Chadars Pounds ..	1,815	1,235	1,130	15,859	12,804	13,146
Dhotis	4,144	4,496	6,415	47,466	41,647	58,360
Drills and jeans	1,237	981	693	11,807	9,910	7,172
Cambrics and lawns	87	59	44	744	476	670
Printers	329	224	615	3,022	2,439	3,270
Shirtings and long cloth	8,947	7,549	7,710	74,202	69,230	73,885
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	2,498	1,697	1,128	17,143	13,179	11,359
Tent cloth	143	305	91	1,823	1,195	1,027
Other sorts	785	720	1,636	6,788	5,410	10,089
Total	19,985	17,266	19,462	178,854	156,290	178,978
Coloured piece-goods	9,207	8,215	7,085	70,245	67,362	66,676
Grey and coloured goods, other than	200	192	175	1,980	1,903	1,497
than piece-goods.						
Hosiery	22	108	22	161	230	159
Miscellaneous	63	97	109	738	768	854
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	8	26	22	55	114	61
Grand Total	29,485	25,904	26,875	252,033	226,667	248,225

Bombay Island

Description.	Month of December.			Nine months, April to December.		
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Grey and bleached piece-goods—	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Chadars Pounds ..	1,176	723	603	9,179	7,389	8,347
Dhotis	1,374	1,551	2,293	13,627	10,614	17,907
Drills and jeans	1,156	931	682	11,050	9,265	6,797
Cambrics and lawns	49	49	28	520	303	505
Printers	5	5	132	82	42	231
Shirtings and long cloth	6,043	5,454	4,929	48,630	45,684	50,835
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	2,167	1,551	900	14,792	11,189	9,182
Tent cloth	126	248	72	1,452	1,015	860
Other sorts	367	372	923	3,933	2,491	5,521
Total	12,458	10,884	10,562	103,265	87,992	100,185

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

Description.	Month of December.			Nine months, April to December.		
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Coloured piece-goods	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and coloured goods, other than	7,792	7,224	5,998	59,966	58,166	56,552
piece-goods.	196	189	160	1,932	1,884	1,428
Hosiery	15	19	16	109	96	97
Miscellaneous	63	96	107	738	767	851
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	6	22	18	46	106	53
Grand Total Pounds ..	20,530	18,434	16,861	166,056	149,011	159,166

Ahmedabad

Description.	Month of December.			Nine months, April to December.		
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Grey and bleached piece-goods—	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Chadars Pounds ..	558	424	381	5,903	4,648	3,617
Dhotis	1,899	2,029	3,113	26,225	24,116	31,599
Drills and jeans	25	11	2	360	277	210
Cambrics and lawns	34	2	5	144	90	85
Printers	195	176	299	2,033	1,486	2,151
Shirtings and long cloth	1,818	1,312	1,905	17,885	16,946	16,732
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	283	135	187	2,136	1,787	1,947
Tent cloth	8	.....	.....	22	31	22
Other sorts	179	196	331	1,408	1,582	2,410
Total Pounds ..	4,999	4,285	6,223	56,116	50,963	58,773
Coloured piece-goods	553	319	287	4,608	3,938	3,730
Grey and coloured goods other than .. ..	.....	1	1	4	2	18
piece-goods.						
Hosiery	6	88	7	52	134	63
Miscellaneous .. ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	3	4	4	9	7	7
Grand Total Pounds ..	5,561	4,697	6,522	60,789	55,044	62,591

*Germany.—An advisory office for industrial women workers has been opened by the Federation of German Women's Union, in order to enable women workers to study economic, hygienic and moral questions affecting women workers. To the office is attached a library furnished with books and documents relating to women's work, and which publishes bi-

monthly reports on publications concerning the occupations in which women are employed.

According to the bill concerning maternity protection, which was passed by the Reichstag on 17th December 1921, the maternity benefit is fixed at 3 marks per day, and the maximum annual income giving the right to the benefit is raised from 10,000 to 15,000 marks.

** Current Note from Abroad."



Principal Trade Disputes in progress in January 1922

Name of concern and locality.	Approximate number of workpeople involved		Date when dispute		Cause.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.	Began.	Ended.		
<i>Textile Trades.</i>						
1. The Shahpur Spinning and Weaving Mills Co., Ltd., Shahpur, Ahmedabad.	400 (weavers).	..	2 January ..	4 January ..	The payment of a week's wages deposited by the strikers.	Successful. (Demands granted.)
2. The Mulji Jetha Mills, Jalgaon, East Khandesh.	1,438	..	8 January ..	19 January ..	Increased rates of pay for the months of November and December and pay for the days of the strike which occurred in December 1921.	Unsuccessful.
3. The David Mill, Carroll Road, Parel, Bombay.	2,577	..	10 January ..	11 January ..	Payment of bonus on the 11th, monthly pay on the 12th and the Sankrant holiday on the 13th instead of on the 12th, 13th and 14th respectively.	Unsuccessful. (Work resumed unconditionally.)
4. The Asarwa Mills Co., Ltd., Asarwa, Ahmedabad.	445 (Throstle and Frame Departments.)	..	11 January ..	12 January ..	The strikers were opposed to a deduction of four days' wages being made for their absence during the Congress week.	Unsuccessful.
5. The Pearl and Premier Mills, Parel, Bombay.	2,800	..	12 January ..	13 January ..	Payment of monthly wages on the 13th of each month instead of on the 15th.	Unsuccessful. (Work resumed unconditionally.)
6. The Chhoi Silk Mill, Parel, Bombay.	350	..	13 January ..	18 January ..	A bonus for the year's work as in other mills. The management informed them that no bonus could be paid as no profit had been made by the mill.	Successful. (Demands granted.)
7. The Ahmedabad Cotton Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Sarangpur Road, Ahmedabad.	284 (weavers).	..	15 January ..	17 January ..	A half-holiday on the day following the Makar-Sankrant holiday.	Unsuccessful. (Work resumed unconditionally.)
8. The Asarwa Mills Co., Ltd., Asarwa, Ahmedabad.	40 (winders).	..	16 January ..	17 January ..	Supply of bad material.	Successful. (Demands granted.)
9. The Barsi Spinning and Weaving Mill, Barsi Town, District Sholapur.	116 (weavers).	..	16 January ..	19 January ..	An increase of one pie in piece rates.	Unsuccessful. (Work resumed unconditionally.)
10. The Planet Mill, Fergusson Road, Parel, Bombay.	120 (Roving and Carding Departments.)	..	17 January ..	20 January ..	An increase in the rates of wages per hank.	Unsuccessful. (Work resumed unconditionally.)
11. The Bombay Industrial Mill, Pipe Road, Parel, Bombay.	150 (weavers).	..	19 January ..	24 January ..	An increase of one pie per pound all round.	Unsuccessful. (Work resumed unconditionally.)

Name of concern and locality.	Approximate number of workpeople involved		Date when dispute		Cause.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.	Began.	Ended.		
<i>Textile Trades—contd.</i>						
12. The Surat Industrial Mills, Ltd., Surat.	120 (weavers).	..	23 January ..	27 January ..	The strikers asked for Rs. 10 per head in celebration of the introduction of new machinery. [Full pay for the period during which the mill was closed for the introduction of steam engine to replace oil engines was asked, and granted, but not the Rs. 10 bonus.]	Unsuccessful. (Some resumed work unconditionally and others were paid off.)
13. The New China Mill, New Sewri Road, Sewri, Bombay.	438 (Mule and Reeling Departments.)	725	24 January ..	.....	Dissatisfaction as to the piece rates paid in the Mule and Reeling Departments. (An increase of one pie in the piece rates demanded.)	.....
14. General strike of thirteen mills in Ahmedabad.	3,672 (Mussalman weavers.)	..	27 January ..	28 January ..	The Mussalman mill-workers wanted to observe Friday as a holiday instead of Sunday.	Unsuccessful. (Work resumed unconditionally.)
15. The Birla Mill, Elphinstone Road, Parel, Bombay.	30	..	30 January ..	1 February ..	The prevention of bathing in the mill premises.	Unsuccessful. (Work resumed unconditionally.)
16. The Bombay United Spinning and Weaving Mills, Charni Road, Bombay.	2,000	..	31 January ..	.....	The non-payment by the liquidator of the former owners of Rs. 62,000, at the credit of old workers in the Provident Fund.	.....
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>						
17. The Bombay Flour and Oil Mill, Victoria Cross Road, Byculla, Bombay.	158	..	25 January ..	.....	Demand for the usual yearly bonus at the rate of ten per cent calculated on the total pay and allowances earned by each workman during the year.	.....

*Italy.—The trade union organisations of Civil Servants in Italy fall into four categories, viz., (a) of employees in public administrative departments (ministries, post offices, etc.), (b) of officials, non-manual and manual workers in State industrial concerns (tobacco factories, salt works, arsenals, etc.), (c) of Judges and law court employees, etc., and (d) of teachers. The Italian law places no restriction on State employees with regard to their becoming members of trade unions or political organisations. But the right to strike is regulated as follows by Sections 14 and 15 of the Act of 22nd June 1908, No. 290 (Sections 43 and 44 of the Codified text of Legislation, concerning the

legal status of non-manual workers in State employment).

“Without prejudice to penalties provided for in existing legislation employees who cease work in a manner calculated to interrupt or disturb the continuity and regularity of service, shall be declared to have resigned.

On the advice of the Disciplinary Council, the minister may, however, take into consideration individual conditions and responsibilities and apply other penalties, such as suspension of grade or of salary, refusal of promotion, etc.

Employees whose voluntary resignation has been accepted and those who have been officially declared to have resigned lose all right to pensions and other allowances.”

** Current Note from Abroad.”



CURRENT NOTES FROM ABROAD

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

United Kingdom.—In the course of a debate in the House of Commons on the 8th November 1921, the Minister of Labour declared the attitude of Government towards the Genoa Conventions and Recommendations. The Draft Convention, fixing the minimum age for admission of children to employment at sea at 14 years, was accepted. It was announced that the Merchant Shipping Act would be amended to accord with the Draft Convention concerning unemployment indemnity in case of loss or foundering of the ship. The Recommendation concerning unemployment insurance for seamen was already provided for in the Unemployment Insurance Act. Government did not accept the Recommendation concerning limitation of hours of work in the fishing industry. Action on the Draft Convention for establishing facilities for finding employment for seamen, and the Recommendations concerning limitation of hours of work in inland navigation and establishment of national seamen's codes, was postponed. The House agreed to a motion approving Government's attitude in this connexion.

The Industrial Armistice Bill which was introduced into the House of Commons on 1st November 1921 proposes the establishment of an arbitration board, for each group of trades, consisting of a Chairman appointed by the Ministry of Labour, and two representatives each of employers' and workers' associations. The Bill also provides for the establishment of an industrial court of appeal consisting of a Judge of the High Court and two assessors. Heavy fines are to be paid for failure to comply with the awards of the courts. For a period of five years all industrial disputes are to be referred to the courts set up for the purpose. According to this measure it would be unlawful for an employer to declare a lock-out or for workmen to go on strike, if the Minister of Labour considers such action to be detrimental to

any section of the public unconnected with the dispute, and until the matter being referred to the arbitration court, or to the court of appeal, results in no settlement.

The Advisory Committee on labour questions appointed by the League of Nations Union, consists of eight members. The three members appointed by the Executive Committee of the Union are Mr. G. N. Barnes, Mr. Stuart Bunning and Mr. Henry Vivian. The remaining five, appointed by the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, are Mr. Ben Turner (Weavers), Mr. Ben Tillett, M.P. (Dockers), Miss Jessie Varley (Women workers), Mr. J. Davenport (General workers) and Mr. A. A. H. Finlay (Pattern makers). At its first meeting, the Committee considered questions of procedure. It is expected that the Committee will meet regularly in future and that it will devote special attention to the work of the International Labour Organization.

Australia.—The Motherhood Endowment Bill which was recently introduced in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, confines its operation to families whose income does not exceed the basic wage laid down by the Board of Trade, as sufficient for maintaining a man, his wife and two children. If a man earns 6s. a week more than the basic wage and has three children, his wife is not entitled to any allowance for the third child. But, she will be entitled to allowance if there are four or more children and unless her husband's income is equal to 12s. a week, more than the basic wage. A widow with a child or children is entitled to 6s. or 10s. a child, per week subject to approval by the Minister, provided her private income does not exceed the basic wage by more than 6s. a week. The mother of an illegitimate child under 14 years, with no adequate means of support, is also eligible for the allowance. In calculating the income of a person, 5 per cent. of the capital value of any land or buildings owned or used rent free, less a deduction of interest paid on any mortgage upon the property, is included, while the maintenance benefits, or sick pay received from a friendly society, are not included.

Payment is made only on condition that the mother supports the child or children, and in case the mother dies the allowance for



the children is to be paid to a person approved by the Minister. Further, where the mother of any child is dead, or if alive, it is proved to the satisfaction of the Minister that the child is not adequately supported, the Minister may direct payment to be made to an approved person, of a sum not exceeding 10s. a week for every child. No payment is made to a mother who is not naturalised, or who has not been a *bona fide* resident of the State for at least two years before her application for payment, or if she is not enrolled as a voter under the Electoral Act. Children receiving payment under the State Children Relief Act, the Deserted Wives and Children's Act, or the Infant Protection Act, are excluded. Payment ceases if the mother is convicted of any offence under the Act or is incapacitated from discharging her duties incidental to the care of children. Institutions recognized by Government as orphanages coming within the Act, are entitled to 6s. a week for every child. The rates of payment may be changed in accordance with the reports of the Board of Trade, or on the recommendation of an authorised person in respect of a child.

South Africa.—The Conference of the African Native Organisation, known as the "Industrial and Commercial Workmen's Union of South Africa" was opened at Port Elizabeth on 22nd October 1921, with Mr. J. G. Gumbo as President. In the course of his address, he stated that the absorption of all the small unions into a big organisation would bring about an early change in the industrial and commercial outlook of the coloured and African native races. The Conference empowered the Central Vigilance Committee to report on the question as to which political party the union should be affiliated. The Conference protested against the increase of working hours in the railways and harbours. It viewed with serious alarm "the existing system of dragging indentured labour into various industrial centres," and suggested the sending of a deputation to the Minister of Railways and Harbours, for abolishing the system, by the introduction of legislation. Resolutions were also passed demanding (1) the representation of African natives at the International Labour Conference, (2) improved

living conditions for farm workers, (3) a commission to enquire into the condition of African natives in the Transvaal mines, and (4) the erection of sanatoria for the treatment of cases of miners' phthisis.

Japan.—According to the revised figures now issued by the Police Bureau of the Department of Home Affairs, there are 273 labour unions with 110,688 members throughout Japan, and not 11,680 members as mentioned in the "Current Notes" on Japan on page 53 of the "Labour Gazette" for December 1921. These figures are however preliminary and do not include unions in the Nagasaki and six other Prefectures.

The *Kojo kai* which is an organisation of the workers in the military arsenals in Osaka, Tokyo, Nagoya, Atsuta and other towns, with the intention of extending its membership so as to include workers in all Government works, has altered the clauses of its constitution. 500 employees of the state tobacco factory have already joined the union. Efforts are being made to make the union the largest organisation of State employees. It is stated that the union will adhere to moderate principles and will urge Parliament to enact the necessary labour legislation.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Official Publications

INDIA

Department of Statistics (Government Printing, India, Calcutta) :—

Report of the Wholesale and Retail Prices in India for fortnight ending 30th November 1921.

Report of the Production and Consumption of Coal in India for 1920.

Report of the Trade of Calcutta during April to November 1921.

Prices and Wages in India, No. 512, 1921—36th issue.

Statistics of cotton spinning and weaving in Indian Mills for November 1921.

Return showing exports and imports of wheat, jute, rice from the chief ports of India, for weeks ending 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th January and 4th February 1922.



Estimate for Civil Services on Public Works and Buildings.

Return showing the total gross Indian sea and land Customs Revenue in ten months April 1921 to January 1922.

Report of the Production of Tea in India during the Calendar year 1920.

Return showing the wholesale and retail prices of cereals, pulses, oilseeds, sugar, salt, etc., in India by Districts for fortnight ending 15th December 1921.

Accounts relating to trade by land of British India with foreign countries for September 1921.

Statement of actual rainfall in June, July, August, September 1921 (*Director General of Observatories*).

Bird's eye-view of the Indian trade in cotton and cotton goods (*Bihar and Orissa Publicity Bureau*).

Development of Forests in India (*Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Delhi*).

Assam Legislative Council Debates, Vol. I, Nos. 1, 2 and 3.

Proceedings of the Central Provinces Legislative Council held from 1st to 13th August 1921 and 28th November to 3rd December 1921, Vol. III, Nos. 1-6.

Table of contents and index to the above, Vols. I & II.

Proceedings of the Central Provinces Legislative Council held on 30th January 1922, Vol. I, No. 1.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council of H. E. the Governor of Burma, from 12th February to 21st December 1921.

Bombay Civil List, Corrected up to 1st January 1922 (*Manager, Government Central Press, Bombay*).

Indian Trade Journal from 9th January to 9th February 1922 (*issued by the Commercial Intelligence Department, Calcutta*).

UNITED KINGDOM

Board of Trade Journal, Vol. CVIII, Nos. 1310-12
Statutory Rules and Orders—Trade Boards:—

No. 769 of 1910—Regulations of 22nd July 1910 made by the Board of Trade under Section 12 of the Trade Boards Act, 1909, as to the Constitution of District Trade Committees. No. 1704 of 1914—Regulations of 24th November 1914 made by the Board of Trade varying the Regulations of 22nd July 1910, under Section 12 of the Trade Boards Act, 1909, as to the Constitution of District Trade Committees.

No. 1439 of 1918—Regulations made by the Minister of Labour under Section 18 of the Trade Boards Act, 1909, as to the mode of giving Notice of matters of which Notice has to be given under the Trade Boards Acts of 1909 and 1918.

His Majesty's Stationery Office, London.

Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, and Final Report of the Royal Commissioners appointed to enquire into the Organisations and Rules of Trades Unions and other associations.

An Appendix to the eleventh and Final Report of the Royal Commissioners appointed to enquire into the Organisation and Rules of Trades Unions and other associations, Vol. II.

Fifth and Final Report of the Royal Commission on Labour, Part I, 1894, C. 7421.

Estimates for Civil Services for the year ending 31st March 1922 on Public Works and buildings, on salaries and expenses of Civil Departments, on Law and Justice, on Education, Science and Art, on Foreign and Colonial Services, on Non-effective and Miscellaneous, on Health Labour and Insurance, on Unclassified Services.

Estimates for Revenue Department for year ending 31st March 1922.

Fiscal Blue Books—British and Foreign Trade and Industrial conditions:—

A Memoranda of Statistical tables and charts prepared in the Board of Trade with reference to the British and Foreign Trade and Industrial Conditions, C. D. 1761 and Second Series C. D. 2337.

Statistical tables and charts to the British and Foreign Trade and Industry (1854-1908) C. D. 4954. (In continuation of certain tables and charts contained in the Returns C. D. 1761 of 1903 and C. D. 2337 of 1904, with additions).

Index to the two volumes of Memoranda of Statistical tables and charts prepared in the Board of Trade with reference to British and Foreign Trade and Industrial Conditions. (C. D. 1761 of 1903 and C. D. 2337 of 1904) C. D. 2669.

Labour Gazette for January 1922 (*Ministry of Labour*).

CANADA

Labour Gazette for December 1921 (*Department of Labour*).

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics for January 1922 (*Compiled and Published by the Minister of the Interior*).



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Federal Reserve Bulletin for December 1921 (*Federal Reserve Board*).

Labour Laws of the United States of America with decisions of courts relating thereto, Series No. 3, Parts I and II (*United States' Department of Labour, Bureau of Labour Statistics*).

Labour Legislation of 1914 (Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Statistics, No. 166).

Industrial Bulletin of the Industrial Commissioner of New York State, Vol. I, No. 1, for January 1922.

Manual of Labour Laws enforced by the Department of Industries, November 1921. (*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Labour and Industries*).

BELGIUM

Revue du Travail for December 1921 (*Ministry of Industry*).

NETHERLANDS

Maandschrift for December 1921. (*Central Bureau of Statistics, La Hague*).

GERMANY

Reichs-Arbeitsblatt, No. 30, 31st December 1921. (*Reichsamt für Arbeitsvermittlung, Berlin*).

GENEVA (International Labour Office)

Official Bulletin, Vol. IV, Nos. 24, 25, 26, Vol. V, Nos. 1 and 2.

Index to the Official Bulletin, Vol. III.

Daily Intelligence, Vol. IV, No. 39.

League of Nations—Treaty Series, Vol. III, No. 3.

Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, Vol. II, No. 11 (*The League of Nations*).

Industrial and Labour Information, Vol. I, Nos. 1-3.

Do. do. No. 2, Russian Supplement.

Bibliographical Summary, Nos. 1 to 52.

Monthly Summary of the League of Nations for December 1921, No. 9.

Report of the International Emigration Commission, August 1921.

International Labour Directory, 1921.

Report on the Items on the agenda of the Third Session of the International Labour Conference, 1921:—

(1) The reform of the constitution of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office.

(2) The adaptation to agricultural labour of the Washington decisions concerning the regulation of hours of work.

(3) and (4) On the adaptation of the Washington decisions concerning measures for the prevention of or providing against unemployment.

(5) The adaptation to agricultural labour of the Washington decisions concerning the protection of women and children.

(6) Special measures for the protection of agricultural workers.

(7) The disinfection of wool infected with anthrax.

(8) The prohibition of the use of white lead on painting.

(9) The weekly rest day in industrial and commercial employment.

(10) Report on (a) Age of employment of children as Trimmers and Stokers.

(b) Compulsory medical examination of all children employed on board ships.

Supplementary Report on the above items.

Unofficial Publications and Books

INDIA

Indian Journal of Economics for July, November 1921, January 1922 and Conference Number (*University of Allahabad*).

Commercial Gazette, Vol. III, Nos. 4-6 (*Calcutta Share and Stock Syndicate*).

Notes on some simple methods of testing the registration of vital occurrences in India—C. A. Bentley (*Published by the All-India Sanitary Conference*).

Journal of the Indian Economic Society for December 1921, Vol. IV, No. 4 (*Indian Economic Society*).

Indian Industries and Power (Bombay and Calcutta), Vol. XIX, Nos. 1 to 4.

First Annual Report of the B. B. & C. I. Railway Union for 1920-21.

UNITED KINGDOM

The Economist, Vol. XCIII, No. 4087-91.

The Socialist Review for January 1922 (*issued by the Independent Labour Party*).

Monthly Review of London County and Westminster Parr's Bank, Ltd., for December 1921.

Monthly Review of London Joint City and Midland Bank, Ltd., for December 1921.

Monthly Review of Barclay's Bank for January 1922, Vol. IV, No. 1.

Report of the Proceedings of the 53rd Annual Trades Union Congress held in Park Hall, Cardiff, from 5th to 10th September 1921. (*Published by authority of the Congress and the General Council*).