

LABOUR GAZETTE

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

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[No. 1

Editorial Note

The "Labour Gazette" has now entered on the fourth year of its existence. It will be observed that it has changed its shape and the method of reproducing the diagrams. The change to a smaller size has not been accompanied by any reduction in the amount of matter; and it is hoped that the handier size of the volume will be appreciated.

The Gazette is intended to fulfil a two-fold purpose—(1) to supply a picture, as complete and up-to-date as possible, of Labour Conditions and the Standard of Living in Western India, and (2) to furnish local readers with a summary of the principal Labour news from the outside world.

Signed articles on Labour and Social questions will be welcomed, especially where the opinions expressed in the article are supported by actual figures.

The Labour Office hopes that all present readers will continue to extend their patronage to the Gazette, and would particularly appreciate suggestions for its improvement.

The Month in Brief

EMPLOYMENT—THE COTTON INDUSTRY

The supply of labour was generally plentiful in the CITY OF BOMBAY. The statistics regarding employment for the month ended 12th September 1924, showed an average absenteeism of 14·1 per cent. as compared with 11·7 per cent. in the month ended 12th August. The increase in the percentage was due partly to the seasonal exodus and partly to ill-health. Absenteeism was reported to be highest in spinning departments and lowest in weaving departments during the month under review.

In AHMEDABAD, the supply of labour was reported to be plentiful during the month under review except in one case. Detailed reports of absenteeism have been received from representative mills in this centre. These showed an average of 4·7 per cent. during the month as compared with 4·2 per cent. last month and 3·6 per cent. two months ago.

In SHOLAPUR, the supply of labour was adequate and absenteeism showed a slight improvement in the month under review. The average was 9·8 per cent. in the present month as compared with 10·8 per cent. last month and 11·4 per cent. two months ago.

In BROACH, there was a slight increase in absenteeism, the figures being 8·4 per cent. in the present month as compared with 7·7 per cent. last month and 6·5 per cent. two months ago.

On the whole, therefore, during the month, in the principal centres of the industry the supply of labour was plentiful but absenteeism increased except in Sholapur. The unsettling effect of the Ganpati holidays is a probable cause.

THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

In the Engineering Industry in Bombay the supply of labour was equal to the demand. The average of absenteeism in representative engineering workshops (based on the returns from three large workshops) showed a decrease, the figures being 14·1 per cent. in the month under review as compared with 12·9 per cent. last month and 13·35 per cent. two months ago.

On the Marine Lines and Colaba Reclamations of the Development Directorate, the average absenteeism was on the level of the preceding month (4 per cent.) as compared with 3·75 per cent. three months ago.

On the construction of *chawls* (tenements) at Naigaum, DeLisle Road and Sewri absenteeism remained on the level of the last four months, *viz.*, 4 per cent. On the construction of *chawls* at Worli, the average was 12 per cent. in the month under review as in the last month. The supply of unskilled labour employed for loading, removing, storing and unloading cargo in the docks by the Bombay Port Trust was plentiful. The percentage absenteeism was 18·11 in the month under review as compared with 11·31 in the preceding month and 19·26 two months ago. The decrease was due partly to the return of labourers from their villages and partly to less illness. In the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust the supply of labour was plentiful but an improvement in the attendance was recorded. The average absenteeism fell from 9·3 per cent. in the last month to 7·85 per cent. in the month under review. The percentage of absenteeism based on the attendance of monthly paid workers employed in the Engineering Workshops of the Karachi Port Trust recorded an improvement in the month under review, the figure being 9·4 per cent. as compared with 10·1 per cent. in the preceding month and 11 per cent. two months ago.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING

In August 1924, the Working Class Cost of Living, as described elsewhere in the *Labour Gazette*, was nearly 3 per cent. above the level of the preceding month. The average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the cost of living index for the City of Bombay (100 represents the level of July 1914) was 160 for all articles and 156 for food articles only. There was a rise of 4 per cent. as compared with this time last year and a fall of 17 per cent. from the high water mark (October 1920) in the general cost of living index. There was a general rise in the prices of all the cereals and pulses included in the index. The clothing group registered a rise of less than one per cent. during the month.

Each commodity has been given a relative importance roughly corresponding with the estimated aggregate annual consumption of that article

in the whole of India in the quinquennium 1909-10 to 1913-14. No allowance is made for any change in the standard of living, because an index number for any given community purporting to combine movements in prices with movements in standards of living would present great difficulties in construction and interpretation. It has been decided to reconstruct the Index on the basis of the Working Class Budgets already obtained for Bombay City. This change, which has been under contemplation for some time, will be effected as soon as possible. In the meantime the present system will continue.

THE WHOLESALE INDEX NUMBER

In August 1924 the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay was 184, the same as in the previous month. There was a fall of nearly one per cent. in the food and a rise of nearly one per cent. in the non-food group. The index number for food grains only was 135 as compared with 133 during the previous month. The general index of all the articles is a mean of the price relatives of all the articles included in the index and is obtained by dividing the sum of the index numbers by the number of articles for which quotations are available and not by finding the mean of the group index numbers for food and non-food articles. The fluctuations in the prices of foods, non-foods and all articles will be seen in the following table:—

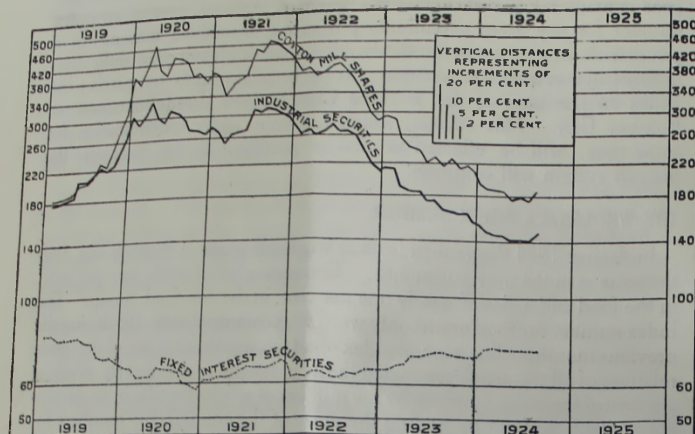
	Number of items	Increase per cent. over July 1914.				
		April 1924	May 1924	June 1924	July 1924	August 1924
Foods ..	15	67	71	75	74	73
Non-foods ..	29	92	87	90	89	90
All articles ..	44	84	81	85	84	84

Steps are being taken to revise the list of articles and reconstruct the Index.

SECURITIES INDEX NUMBER

In August 1924, the general level of the prices of 100 shares and securities was 143 showing a rise of 6 per cent. as compared with the previous month. Industrial securities registered a rise of 6 per cent. over the previous month and reverted to the level of February 1924. It is noteworthy that this is the first rise since January 1923. Cotton Ginning and Pressing Companies and Cotton Mill shares rose by 2 and 9 per cent. respectively while Electric Undertakings fell by 2 per cent. as compared with the previous month. Government and Corporation Securities remain stationary since March 1924. The annexed diagram shows the movement of Securities prices since 1919. No tables and no further discussion can be given this month owing to pressure on space.

Movements of Securities Index Nos. (Logarithmic Scale)

**INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES**

There were six industrial disputes in progress during August 1924. The number of workpeople involved was 1,612 and the number of working days lost 3,270.

COTTON MILL PRODUCTION

Cotton mill production in July and in the four months ended July 1924, as compared with the corresponding periods of the two preceding years is shown in the two following tables. In Bombay City an improvement is recorded in the production of both yarn and woven goods as compared with the preceding years. In Ahmedabad, the production of both yarn and woven goods remained practically on the level of the two previous years. The effect of the general strike in Ahmedabad referred to in this connection in the previous issue is not visible in the figures for July 1923.

(1) Month of July

	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced		
	July			July		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
Bombay City ..	28	27	29	16	18	19
Ahmedabad ..	8	8	8	7	6	7
Other centres ..	5	3	4	2	2	3
Total, Presidency..	41	38	41	25	26	29

(2) Four months ending July

	Millions of lbs of yarn spun			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced		
	Four months ending July			Four months ending July		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
Bombay City ..	114	108	102	65	65	67
Ahmedabad ..	31	15	31	28	15	29
Other centres ..	20	17	18	10	10	11
Total, Presidency..	165	140	151	103	90	107

The Bombay Millowners' Association quotations at the end of August 1923 and July and August 1924 are as follows:—

	Net rate per lb. in annas		
	August 1923	July 1924	August 1924
	Longcloth	19½	23	23½
T. Cloths	18½	21½	21½
Chudders	18½	21	21½

THE OUTLOOK

During the month the cloth markets in the Presidency were steady with a slight improvement in prices for the varieties in general demand. In Ahmedabad the yarn market was very dull, and mills were willing to sell even at reduced prices.

The working class cost of living was higher than last month but the general level of wholesale prices remained the same. The rise in industrial securities was very appreciable. The supply of labour was plentiful and there was not much industrial unrest.

The Bank rate has increased from 4 per cent. to 5 per cent. from 21 Aug. The rate of exchange in Bombay on London on 1st September, 1924 was ls. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ as against ls. 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ on the 1st of August. India's foreign trade in August showed a rise in imports and a decline in exports as compared with the preceding month.

THE AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK ON 20TH SEPTEMBER

In this Presidency, after a failure of the kharif harvest in the Deccan varying from partial failure in the west to total failure in the bulk of the "Desh" (the Eastern dry-belt) good rains were received at the end of August. This enabled rabi crops to be sown in most parts. There was then a break, and further rain has now fallen. This is excellent for the

early-sown rabi, and will enable completion of rabi sowings over the rest of the dry-belt. The outturn cannot however be forecasted, since at least two more rain spells will be necessary in October-November.

In the Konkan the rice (though transplanted late in the north) will give a satisfactory yield.

In Gujarat the harvest will be patchy, but there is nothing like a complete failure. In many tracts a very fine yield is probable.

In Sind the inundation, though starting late, has been exceptionally good and prolonged. And rainfall has been good also in some parts. Floods have caused considerably more damage than usual, and have destroyed house property as well as kharif crops. But over the rest of Sind very fine crops are expected, and the flooded area will produce good winter crops.

In the rest of India the season has been so far very erratic, patches of flooded and ruined crops alternating with patches of bumper crops, with here and there an area of drought. On the whole the outturn will probably be up to the average or above it for the kharif season. Cotton on the whole is good, and no general shortage of food-grains need be anticipated.

Labour movements are likely to be normal. In fact, if the rabi season in the Deccan continued favourable, the labour supply may be less than usual during the winter.

OUTLOOK IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

The state of trade in Great Britain showed signs of improvement in August. There was, however, a rise in the unemployment figures. According to the Ministry of Labour the number of persons on August 25th recorded on the registers of Employment Exchanges was 1,149,100.

The returns of imports and exports in France showed a decline in exports. But the rise in imports was heavy enough to increase the total volume of trade.

Business depression continued in Germany till the end of August, and the mining, metal and machinery industries were especially suffering. Nevertheless since the London Agreement the atmosphere is more optimistic, and there are some small indications of improvement in the situation.

The recent financial crisis in Austria which resulted in the failure of several banks has led to a serious shortage of credit. Trade and industry have been naturally dislocated to a certain extent. But experts like Dr. Zimmermann are of opinion that, though there may be an industrial crisis, so far as the financial crisis is concerned there are signs of early recovery.

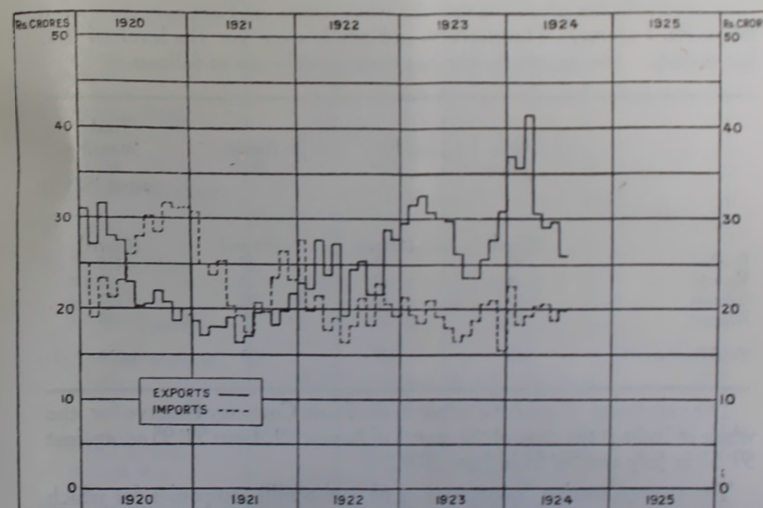
In the United States of America, if the official estimate proves to be substantially correct, there will be a cotton crop of about 12 million bales. This will have a considerable effect on the principal cotton industries of the world.

THE BALANCE OF TRADE

During August 1924, the visible balance of trade including securities against India amounted to Rs. 2.59 lakhs. The corresponding figure for 1923 was a favourable balance of Rs. 3.03 lakhs. The trade figures for the last two months for India, Bombay and Karachi are given below :—

	India		Bombay		Karachi	
	July 1924	August 1924	July 1924	August 1924	July 1924	August 1924
	<i>(in crores)</i>		<i>(in crores)</i>		<i>(in crores)</i>	
Exports (private merchandise) ..	25.93	25.15	5.34	4.76	4.48	2.38
Imports do. ..	19.98	20.65	7.05	6.79	2.82	2.83
Balance of Trade in merchandise ..	+5.95	+4.50	-1.71	-2.03	+1.66	-45
Imports of treasure ..	....	...	2.69	5.12	7	....
Exports of treasure ..	....	....	21	19	4	....
Balance of transactions in treasure ..	....	....	-2.48	-4.93	3	....
Balance of transactions in treasure (private) ..	-2.99	-5.55	....	....	....	....
Visible balance of trade including securities ..	-2.77	-2.59	....	....	....	....

The movements of actual figures of Imports and Export of private merchandise for British India since 1920 are shown in the annexed diagram

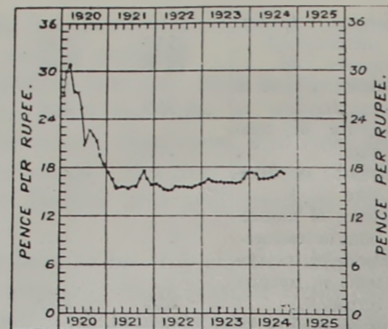


If the curve of exchange rates on the next page is consulted it will be seen that in 1920 and 1921 the exchange rate closely followed the movements of exports in their relation to imports. At the end of 1922, when exports again jumped up and imports fell, it was expected that the value of the rupee would respond to the change. It will be seen from the exchange curve that such response has actually taken place, but that the resulting fluctuations in the rupee value have been much slighter than during the disturbed years following the war.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

The rates for telegraphic transfers in Bombay on London in the first week of the last twelve months are shown below, and also the curve of the movement of the exchange since January 1920.

Month	Year	Rate (s. d.)
October	1923	1 4 3/16
November	"	1 4 11/16
December	"	1 5 7/32
January	1924	1 5 3/16
February	"	1 5 1/8
March	"	1 4 15/32
April	"	1 4 5/8
May	"	1 4 11/16
June	"	1 4 27/32
July	"	1 5
August	"	1 5 7/16
September	"	1 5 7/32



These rates are supplied by the Deputy Controller of the Currency Bombay. On the 23rd September exchange on London was 1s. 5 7/32d.

During August 1924, the Bank clearings in Bombay and Calcutta recorded an improvement of Rs. 10 crores and Rs. 25 crores respectively, as compared with the preceding month, while those in Rangoon showed a fall of Rs. 3 crores. The clearings in Karachi were on the level of the last month. The figures for the last three months are as follows :—

	June 1924	July 1924	August 1924	Total January to August 1924
	(Crores)	(Crores)	(Crores)	(Crores)
Bombay ..	49	47	57	418
Karachi ..	4	3	3	27
Calcutta ..	63	67	92	559
Rangoon ..	10	10	7	75
Total (four ports) ..	126	127	159	1,079

The percentage of gold and silver in the Paper Currency Reserve for the whole of India at the close of the month of August 1924 was 59.95 as against 59.51 in July and 58.53 in June 1924.

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

Month	Year	Rs.
September	1923	995
October	"	983
November	"	998
December	"	1,005
January	1924	924
February	"	908
March	1924	896
April	"	881
May	"	841
June	"	821
July	"	817
August	"	834

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

PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON, 1924

Abbreviations:— S = Scanty. F = Fair. N = Normal. E = Excess.

RAINFALL DIVISION.	JUNE				JULY				AUGUST				SEPTEMBER			OCTOBER			
	4th	11th	18th	25th	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	6th	13th	20th	27th	3rd	10th	17th	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
I. BOMBAY PRESIDENCY																			
1 Sind River Rainfall																			
2 Gujarat																			
3 Deccan																			
4 Konkan																			
II. MADRAS PRESIDENCY																			
1 Malabar																			
2 Deccan																			
3 Coast North																			
4 South East																			
III. MYSORE																			
IV. HYDERABAD																			
1 North																			
2 South																			
V. CENTRAL PROVINCES																			
1 Berar																			
2 West																			
3 East																			
VI. CENTRAL INDIA																			
1 West																			
2 East																			
VII. BENGAL PRESIDENCY																			
VIII. ASSAM																			
IX. BIHAR & ORISSA																			
1 Bihar																			
2 Orissa																			
3 Chota Nagpur																			
X. UNITED PROVINCES																			
1 East																			
2 West																			
XI. PUNJAB																			
1 East & North																			
2 South West																			
XII. NORTHWEST FRONTIER																			
XIII. RAJPUTANA																			
1 West																			
2 East																			
XIV. BURMA																			
1 Lower																			
2 Upper																			

NOTES—

Blank entries are used for weeks before and after the usual cultivating period, i.e., when the rainfall is of less importance. "Excess" means more than 120% of the normal; "Normal" from 80 to 120%; "Fair" from 40 to 80%; and "Scanty" below 40%. The values are communicated by the Director General of Observatories, Simla. Calculation is made in his office on the sum of the rainfall readings for recording stations in the Rainfall Division, excluding Hill Stations. The readings of levels of the Indus in Sind are communicated by the Indus River Commission, and the normal and deviations from the normal are calculated according to values for any given week ascertained from the P. W. D.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX

Articles.	Unit of quantity.	Annual consumption (Mass Units) (in crores).	Price per Unit of Quantity.			Price × Mass Unit.		
			July 1914	July 1924	August 1924	July 1914	July 1924	August 1924
Cereals—								
Rice	Maund	70	Rs. 5'594	7'380	7'620	Rs. 391'58	516'60	533'40
Wheat	"	21	5'594	6'188	7'016	117'47	129'95	147'34
Jowari	"	11	4'354	6'063	6'479	47'89	66'69	71'27
Bajri	"	6	4'313	5'500	6'083	25'88	33'00	36'50
Total—Cereals						582'82	746'24	788'51
Index Numbers—Cereals						100	128	135
Pulses—								
Gram	Maund	10	4'302	5'000	5'500	43'02	50'00	55'00
Turdal	"	3	5'844	6'620	6'865	17'53	19'86	20'60
Total—Pulses						60'55	69'86	75'60
Index Numbers—Pulses						100	115	125
Other food articles—								
Sugar (refined)	Maund	2	7'620	19'641	17'859	15'24	39'28	35'72
Raw Sugar (Gul)	"	7	8'557	14'287	16'073	59'90	100'00	112'51
Tea	"	5	40'000	81'198	79'490	1'00	2'03	1'99
Salt	"	5	2'130	3'375	3'474	10'65	16'88	17'37
Gul	"	28	0'323	0'510	0'500	9'04	14'28	14'00
Ghee	Seer	33	0'417	0'844	0'833	13'76	27'85	27'49
Mutton	Maund	14	9'198	17'583	17'583	128'77	246'16	246'16
Milk	"	11	50'792	100'000	100'000	76'19	150'00	150'00
Onions	"	3	4'479	9'520	8'927	49'27	104'79	98'20
Potatoes	"	3	1'552	4'167	4'167	4'66	12'50	12'50
Cocunut Oil	"	1	25'396	28'573	29'760	12'70	14'29	14'88
Total—Other food articles						381'18	728'07	730'82
Index Numbers—Other food articles						100	191	192
Total—All food articles						1,024'55	1,544'17	1,594'93
Index Numbers—All food articles						100	151	156
Fuel and lighting—								
Kerosene oil	Case	5	4'375	7'656	7'656	21'88	38'28	38'28
Firewood	Maund	48	0'792	1'281	1'281	38'02	61'49	61'49
Coal	"	1	0'542	0'833	0'833	0'54	0'83	0'83
Total—Fuel and lighting						60'44	100'60	100'60
Index Numbers—Fuel and lighting						100	166	166
Clothing—								
Chudlers	Lb.	27	0'594	1'313	1'344	16'04	35'45	36'29
Shirtings	"	25	0'641	1'521	1'521	16'03	38'03	38'03
T. Cloth	"	36	0'583	1'328	1'344	20'99	47'81	48'38
Total—Clothing						53'06	121'29	122'70
Index Numbers—Clothing						100	229	231
House-rent	Per month.	10	11'302	18'700	18'700	113'02	187'00	187'00
Index Numbers—House-rent						100	165	165
Grand Total						1,251'07	1,953'06	2,005'23
Cost of Living Index Numbers.						100	156	160

The Cost of Living Index for August 1924

A RISE OF FOUR POINTS

All articles .. 60 per cent. Food only .. 56 per cent.

In August 1924 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 four points above the level of the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the index was 156 in July and 160 in August, 1924. The general index is 17 per cent. below the high-water mark reached in October 1920, 2 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1922 and 4 per cent. above the twelve-monthly average of 1923. The index has reverted to the same level as it was in November 1922 and is three points higher than the highest level reached in 1923, viz., 157 in December of that year.

The cost of living index, which showed a downward tendency up to May 1924, has registered a further rise in August, the third rise in three successive months. To the rise of 5 points in foodstuffs all the cereals and pulses included in the index contribute. Wheat, jowari, bajri and gram rose by 10 points and more, and rice and turdal rose by 4 points each. In "other food articles" the appreciable rise in gul, salt and cocconut oil was almost counterbalanced by the fall in potatoes and imported sugar. The cause of the rise in cereals and gul is the shortage of rain up to the third week in August in the producing tracts. The rise in cocconut oil is believed to be due to speculation on the results of the South Indian Floods. Clothing group registered a rise of two points during the month.

All items : Average percentage increase over July 1914

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
January	34	82	83	69	73	56	58
February	34	76	81	62	65	55	56
March	36	72	77	60	65	54	53
April	44	67	72	60	62	55	50
May	47	68	73	67	63	53	50
June	48	74	81	73	63	51	53
July	49	86	90	77	65	53	56
August	53	79	91	80	64	54	60
September	65	72	92	85	65	54	...
October	75	74	93	83	62	52	...
November	75	73	86	82	60	53	...
December	83	74	81	79	61	57	...
Yearly average	54	75	83	73	64	54	...

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 all-India aggregate expenditure. No allowance is made for any change in the standard of living since July 1914.

The following table shows the price levels of articles of food in July and August 1924 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 16.

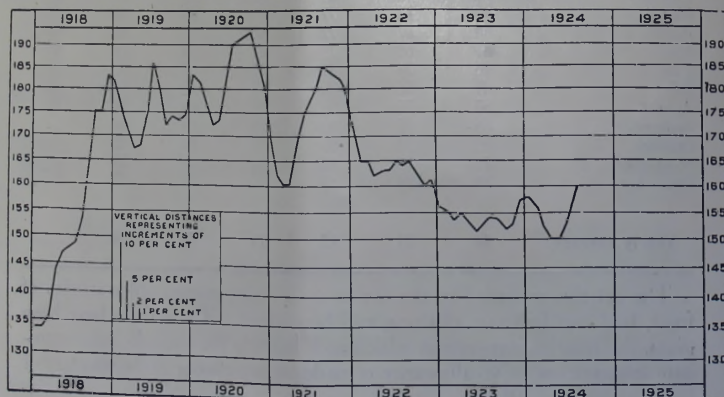
Articles.	July 1914.	July 1924.	August 1924.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in August 1924 over or below July 1924.	Articles.	July 1914.	July 1924.	August 1924.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in August 1924 over or below July 1924.
Rice ..	100	132	136	+ 4	Salt ..	100	158	163	+ 5
Wheat ..	100	111	125	+ 14	Beef ..	100	158	155	- 3
Jowari ..	100	139	149	+ 10	Mutton ..	100	202	200	- 2
Bajri ..	100	128	141	+ 13	Milk ..	100	191	191	..
Gram ..	100	116	128	+ 12	Ghee ..	100	197	197	..
Turdal ..	100	113	117	+ 4	Potatoes ..	100	213	199	- 14
Sugar (refined) ..	100	258	234	- 24	Onions ..	100	268	268	..
Raw sugar (gul) ..	100	167	188	+ 21	Cocoanut oil ..	100	113	117	+ 4
Tea ..	100	203	199	- 4	All food articles (weighted average) ..	100	151	156	+ 5

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

Rice 26, Wheat 20, Jowari 33, Bajri 29, Gram 22, Turdal 15, Sugar (refined) 57, Raw Sugar (gul) 47, Tea 50, Salt 39, Beef 35, Mutton 50, Milk 48, Ghee 49, Potatoes 50, Onions 63, Cocoanut Oil 15.

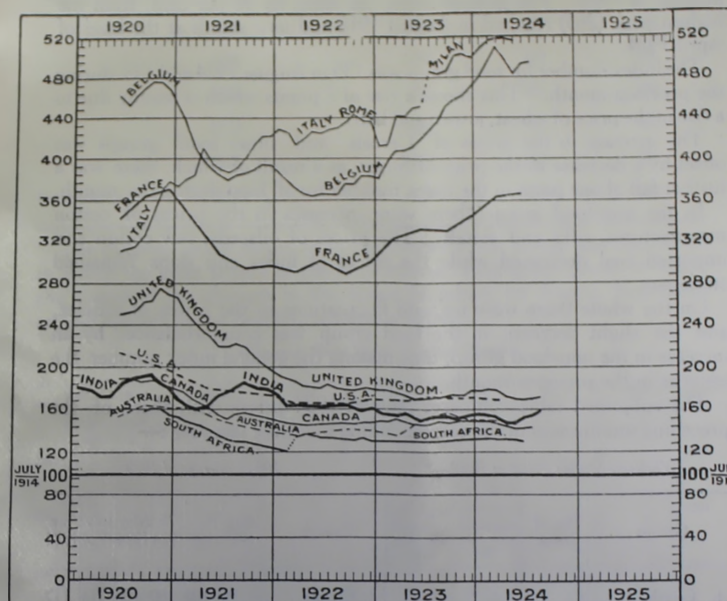
The purchasing power of the rupee being taken as 16 annas in July 1914 its purchasing power in the month under review was 10 annas for all items and 10 annas 3 pies for food articles only.

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



Comparison with the Cost of Living in other Countries

The diagram on this page shows the comparative levels and the cost of living Index Nos. in Bombay and certain other world centres.



The following is the source of the Index Nos. : (1) United Kingdom—Ministry of Labour Gazette, (2) Canada—Labour Gazette, (3) South Africa—Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics, (4) U. S. A.—Monthly Bulletin issued by the Bureau of Labour Statistics, (5) All other countries—from the Ministry of Labour Gazette, United Kingdom. The South African figures were revised in March 1922, and the dotted line shows the transition from the old and the new series. In the case of Italy the Index No. was for Rome up to June 1923, and thereafter for Milan. The India figure is for Bombay only.

In all cases the Index No. is for working class only. The actual Index Numbers for twelve world centres will be found among the tables at the end of the Volume.

Wholesale Prices in Bombay

PRICES STATIONARY

In August 1924 the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay was 84 per cent. above the level in July 1914 as in the previous month. In comparison with the corresponding month of last year, prices have risen by 5 per cent., the general index being 2 per cent. above the twelve-monthly average of 1923. The general index has fallen by 30 per cent. from the highest peak (263) reached in August 1918 and now stands at the level of April 1924.

The index number for food grains was 135 in August 1924 and 133 during the previous month. This shows a rise of 2 points which is mainly due to a rise in the price of wheat, jowari and bajri.

The increase in the prices of 'Cereals' and 'other food' groups was offset by a decrease in the price of Sugar, as a result of which, there was a further fall of one point in the index number for all food during the month.

In the non-food group, there were increases in the prices of cotton manufactures, silks and metals. The prices of oilseeds, raw cotton and imported coal decreased while the prices of hides and skins remained stationary.

On the whole there were no wild fluctuations in the prices of articles, and the slight decrease in the food group was counterbalanced by an increase in the non-food group, thus making the general index number the same as in the previous month.

The subjoined table compares August 1924 prices with those of the preceding months and of the corresponding month of last year :—

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay*

100 = average of 1923

Groups	No. of items	+ or - % compared with July 1924	+ or - % compared with Aug 1923	Groups.	Aug 1923	Nov 1923	Feb 1924	May 1924	July 1924	Aug 1924
1. Cereals ..	7	+ 2	+ 22	1. Cereals ..	96	100	100	100	114	117
2. Pulses ..	2	- 1	+ 14	2. Pulses ..	93	99	97	97	108	107
3. Sugar ..	3	- 6	- 2	3. Sugar ..	90	102	105	95	94	88
4. Other food ..	3	+ 1	- 24	4. Other food ..	107	114	108	91	81	82
All food ..	15	- 1	- 2	All food ..	98	106	104	96	97	97
5. Oilseeds ..	4	- 3	+ 11	5. Oilseeds ..	98	103	102	98	112	109
6. Raw cotton ..	3	- 2	+ 24	6. Raw cotton ..	94	135	111	115	118	116
7. Cotton manufactures ..	6	+ 1	+ 12	7. Cotton manufactures ..	95	107	106	107	105	107
8. Other textiles.	2	+ 9	+ 4	8. Other textiles.	101	97	90	99	85	105
9. Hides and skins	3	..	+ 9	9. Hides & skins.	93	108	106	100	101	101
10. Metals ..	5	+ 2	- 4	10. Metals ..	98	96	96	92	91	93
11. Other raw and manufactured articles ..	4	- 3	- 4	11. Other raw and manufactured articles..	99	94	95	98	98	95
All non-food ..	27	+ 1	+ 8	All non-food ..	97	102	103	103	104	104
General index No...	42	..	+ 5	General index No.	99	103	104	100	102	102

* Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on page 105.

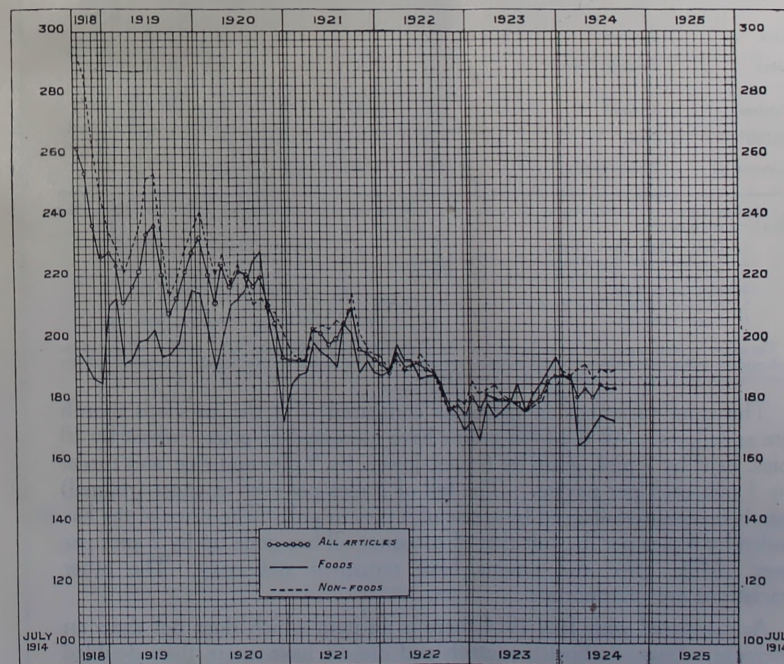
The following table is intended to show the annual movements in food and non-food wholesale prices :—

July 1914 = 100

	Food	Non-food	All articles
Twelve-monthly average 1918	171	269	236
.. .. 1919	202	233	222
.. .. 1920	206	219	216
.. .. 1921	193	201	199
.. .. 1922	186	187	187
.. .. 1923	179	182	181
Eight-monthly .. 1924	175	189	184

The diagram below shows from September 1918, which was the month in which the great failure of the rains affected food-grain prices in India, the course of the changes in the Index Numbers for Foods, Non-foods and all articles in the Bombay wholesale market.

Wholesale Price Index Numbers, Bombay



RETAIL PRICES OF ARTICLES OF FOOD IN BOMBAY IN JULY 1914,
JULY AND AUGUST 1924

The prices quoted are for local weights and measures

Article	Grade	Rate per	Equivalent in tolas	July		August		Increase (+) or decrease (-) in August 1924 over or below July 1914	
				1914	July 1924	1924	July 1914	July 1924	
				As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.
Rice	.. Bangson Small-mill	Paylee	210	5 10	7 9	8 0	+2 2	+0 3	
Wheat	.. Pasi Seoni	..	202	5 10	6 3	7 1	+1 3	+0 10	
Jowari	.. Best Sholapuri	..	198	4 3	6 0	6 5	+2 2	+0 5	
Bajri	.. Ghati	..	200	4 7	5 6	6 1	+1 6	+0 7	
Gram	.. Delhi	..	200	4 4	5 0	5 6	+1 2	+0 6	
Turdal	.. Cawnpore	..	204	5 11	6 9	7 0	+1 1	+0 3	
Sugar (refined)	.. Java, white	.. Seer	28	1 1	2 9	2 6	+1 5	-0 3	
Raw Sugar (Gul)	.. Sangli, middle quality	..	28	1 2	2 0	2 3	+1 1	+0 3	
Tea	.. Loose Ceylon, powder	.. Lb.	39	7 10	15 10	15 6	+7 8	-0 4	
Salt	.. Bombay, black	.. Paylee	168	1 9	2 10	2 11	+1 2	+0 1	
Beef	..	.. Lb.	39	2 6	4 0	3 11	+1 5	-0 1
Mutton	..	..	39	3 0	6 7	6 6	+3 6	-0 1
Milk	.. Medium	.. Seer	56	2 9	4 11	4 11	+2 2	....
Ghee	.. Belgaum, Superior	..	28	7 1	14 0	14 0	+6 11	....
Potatoes	.. Ordinary	..	28	0 8	1 4	1 3	+0 7	-0 1	
Onions	.. Nash	..	28	0 3	0 7	0 7	+0 4	....
Cocconut oil	.. Middle quality	..	28	3 7	4 0	4 2	+0 7	+0 2	

Collection of prices.—The following are the areas and streets in which price quotations are obtained for articles other than butcher's meat:—

1. Dadar—Dadar Station Road.
2. Kumbharwada—Kumbharwada Road (North End).
3. Saitan Chowki—Kumbharwada Road (South End).
4. Elphinstone Road.
5. Naigam—Naigam Cross Road and Development Chawls.
6. Parel—Pothawdi.
7. Ferguson Road.
8. DeLisle Road.
9. Suparibag—Suparibag Road.
10. Chinchuokli—Parel Road.
11. Grant Road.
12. Nal Bazaar—Sandhurst Road.

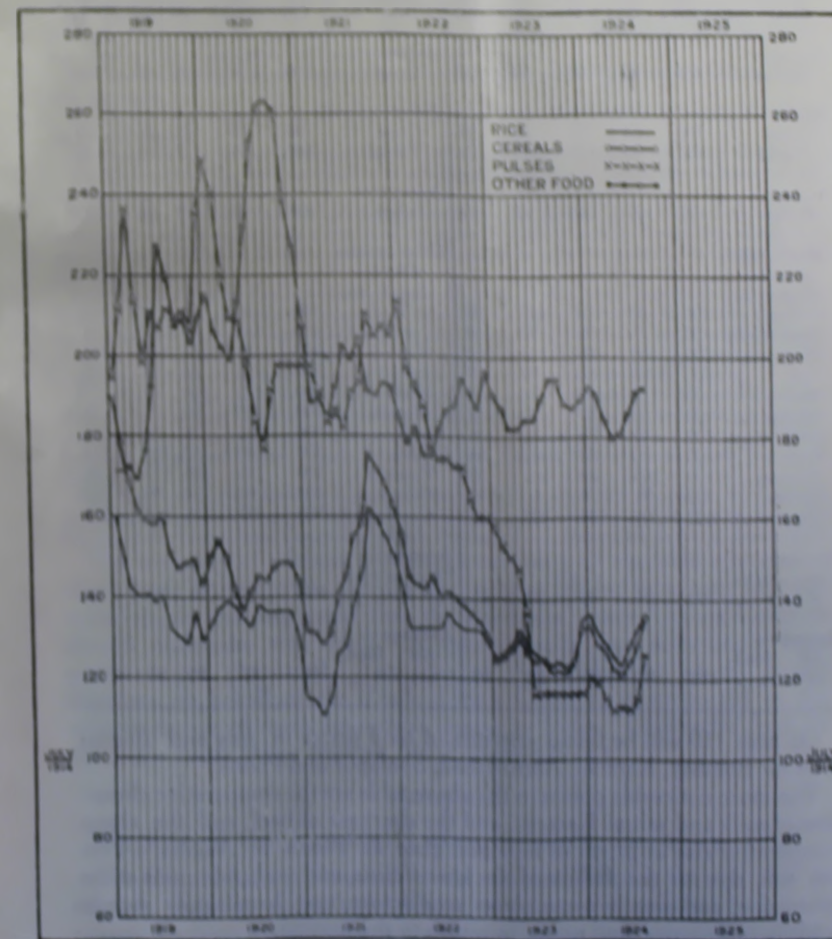
The prices for mutton and beef are collected from the Central Municipal Markets. The number of quotations collected for each article during the month is, on an average, 200. The prices are for actual transactions and are carefully collected by the Investigators of the Labour Office.

The chief variations in prices as compared with the previous month are as follows. All the food-grains have increased in price—wheat by 10 pies, bajri by 7 pies, gram by 6 pies, jowari by 5 pies and rice and turdal by 3 pies each per paylee. The fall of 3 pies per seer in sugar (refined) has been counterbalanced by a rise of 3 pies in gul. The price of tea has fallen by 4 pies per lb., but that of cocconut oil has gone up by 2 pies per seer. Milk, ghee and onions have remained stationary. The other variations are unimportant.

As compared with July 1914 there is no item which does not show an increase. Sugar (refined), mutton and onions have more than doubled themselves. Gul, ghee and potatoes are nearly twice their pre-war level.

Sugar refined has risen by one anna five pies per seer, mutton by three annas six pies per lb. and onions by four pies per lb. Raw sugar (gul) has increased by one anna one pie, ghee (clarified butter) by six annas eleven pies and potatoes by seven pies per seer. Jowari, salt, beef and milk are more than fifty per cent. higher than their pre-war level. Jowari costs two annas two pies and salt one anna two pies more per paylee; beef costs one anna five pies more per lb. and milk two annas two pies more per seer. The increase in other articles is less than fifty per cent. of their pre-war level.

Retail Prices of Food in Bombay



Comparative Retail Prices

The following table compares the retail food prices in Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona with those in Bombay in July and August 1924 (Bombay prices = 100). It will be seen that the average retail price levels in all the centres are below the level of Bombay in July and August 1924 :-

Bombay prices in July 1924 = 100					Bombay prices in August 1924 = 100						
Articles	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona	Articles	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
Cereals—						Cereals—					
Rice ..	100	96	128	97	120	Rice ..	100	102	117	96	117
Wheat ..	100	81	96	105	104	Wheat ..	100	83	91	96	92
Jowar ..	100	127	82	85	97	Jowar ..	100	69	77	90	91
Barr ..	100	84	91	90	108	Barr ..	100	82	94	91	98
Average—						Average—					
Cereals ..	100	82	98	94	107	Cereals ..	100	84	95	93	100
Pulses—						Pulses—					
Gram ..	100	84	133	89	89	Gram ..	100	83	121	86	94
Turhal ..	100	98	121	115	129	Turhal ..	100	91	117	115	124
Average—						Average—					
Pulses ..	100	91	127	97	109	Pulses ..	100	87	119	96	109
Other articles of food—						Other articles of food—					
Sugar (re-						Sugar (re-					
fined) ..	100	88	112	112	96	fined) ..	100	90	100	112	100
Jamri (Gall.) ..	100	75	95	95	89	Jamri (Gall.) ..	100	66	85	87	81
Tea ..	100	88	96	113	114	Tea ..	100	91	105	115	106
Salt ..	100	56	68	67	89	Salt ..	100	55	66	68	86
Beef ..	100	123	96	74	74	Beef ..	100	125	100	75	75
Mutton ..	100	89	89	74	82	Mutton ..	100	90	90	75	75
Milk ..	100	45	76	76	76	Milk ..	100	51	76	76	91
Ghee ..	100	80	84	107	84	Ghee ..	100	80	82	107	114
Potatoes ..	100	115	84	105	80	Potatoes ..	100	135	105	112	86
Onions ..	100	71	74	80	46	Onions ..	100	89	74	80	63
Cocoa nut oil ..	100	100	124	107	118	Cocoa nut oil ..	100	103	119	102	113
Average—						Average—					
Other articles of food ..	100	84	90	84	85	Other articles of food ..	100	89	91	94	90
Average—						Average—					
All food articles ..	100	84	96	95	92	All food articles ..	100	87	95	94	94

On page 110 will be found statistics of food prices in July and August 1924 for Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona.

The more noticeable points in the above table are the comparative cheapness of milk and salt at Karachi, and the dearness of beef, and the sharp comparative rise in prices of milk and ghee at Poona in August. This rise was due to the failure of the kharif rains, and with rabi rains more promising, and even in some places satisfactory, the Deccan milk supply is likely to improve, and prices to return to the normal.

Labour Intelligence

All-India Trade Union Congress

At a meeting of the Executive Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress held in Bombay on the 17th August 1924, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted :-

(1) Resolved that the General Secretary's report of the work done by him during the last four and half months be recorded.

(2) Resolved that the General Secretary's action in appointing the Workers' Welfare League in India as a representative of the All-India Trade Union Congress in England be approved and that this League be informed that they shall not express any views or take any action on behalf of the Trade Union Congress which are inconsistent or not expressly sanctioned by the resolutions of the Trade Union Congress.

(3) Resolved that the General Secretary's action in appointing Mr. Joseph Baptista, Dr. K. S. Bhat, and failing him Mr. Potter-Wilson—both of the W. W. League, as the delegate of the All-India Trade Union Congress to the International Workers' Educational Conference to be held at Oxford on and from the 15th August 1924 be approved.

(4) Resolved that the All-India Trade Union Bulletin be recognised as the official organ of the All-India Trade Union Congress and that Messrs. F. J. Govwala, N. M. Joshi and R. R. Bhabha be requested to form a committee for the management of the same.

(5) Resolved that the General Secretary be authorised, funds permitting, to print a Labour Directory for India.

(6) Resolved that no action be taken on the resolution of the last Congress in respect of holding its special session.

(7) Resolved that the next session of the All-India Trade Union Congress be held in Bombay.

(8) Resolved that the draft constitution as submitted by the Special Committee be approved and circulated among the Unions.

(9) Resolved that Mr. Mukund Lall Sirkar, Secretary of the Bengal Trades Union Federation, be authorised to take steps to bring a provincial committee of trade unions for Bengal into existence as provided for by Rule No. 26 of the new constitution and he be asked to report to the General Secretary about the same.

(10) Resolved that the Executive Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress do urge upon the Reforms Enquiry Committee the necessity of extending the basis of franchise for electing members for Central and Provincial legislatures so as to give adequate representation to the working classes in the country and also urge upon them the necessity of giving adequate special representation to the organisation of labour in India as long as the basis of franchise is not sufficiently widened.

(11) Resolved that on the present basis the number of seats thus reserved for the working classes shall not be less than 12 for the Legislative Assembly distributed either according to provinces or according to industries and 6 each for Bombay and Bengal Legislative Councils, 4 each for the United Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, Punjab, Madras, Burma, Central Provinces and Assam Legislative Councils.

(12) Resolved that the Reforms Enquiry Committee be requested that Messrs. N. M. Joshi and D. Chinnai be asked to appear before the committee for oral evidence on behalf of the Executive Council of the Trade Union Congress (From the All-India Trade Union Bulletin No. 2, August 1924).

The necessity of a labour directory containing all available information about trade unions in the country having been felt for some time by trade unionists, it was suggested that the All-India Trade Union Congress should undertake this work. A questionnaire has accordingly been prepared and circulated. The idea of the publication of the labour directory on behalf of the Trade Union Congress is supported by the representatives of many important unions in India. (Abstracted from the All-India Trade Union Bulletin No. 2, August 1924.)

Report of the Central Labour Board, Bombay, 1924

The Central Labour Board, Bombay, was established in the year 1922 to educate, organize and protect labour, and is a non-political body. At present 7 unions are affiliated to it without affecting their internal autonomy.

One of the principal events in the history of the Board was the Conference called the Bombay Presidency Trade Union Conference held last year under the Presidency of Mr. Joseph Baptista. Twenty-three resolutions were passed at this Conference, one of which related to the grant of gratuities to railway employees. It is claimed that the insistent demands of the Board in this matter were instrumental in securing the concession asked for from the Government of India.

The Report says that the relations between Government and the Board have been harmonious and that its recommendations have always been sympathetically considered.

The activities of the Board are numerous. It has already issued several hand-bills and leaflets on the question of organization in the mill industry, on the Workmen's Compensation Act and such other matters of labour interest. It publishes a paper called "Kamgar Bandhu". It has also started a Co-operative Society which worked at a loss in the beginning but is showing profits now.

Bombay Telegraphists' Union

On the 27th August 1924, the members of the subordinate service of the Central Telegraph Office, Bombay, met in the Saraswati Hall, Gamdevi, to welcome Mr. U. N. Roy, a representative of the All India Telegraph Union, and to form a centre of the Union in Bombay. The meeting was conducted under the presidentship of Mr. N. A. Inamdar of the Central Telegraph Office, Bombay.

Mr. Roy related at length how the Indian Telegraph Association was indifferent to the interests of the Indians in the Department and exhorted the members to join the All India Telegraph Union, presided by Mr. B. C. Paul, M.L.A., which was out to uphold the cause of all branches of the Department irrespective of caste, colour and creed. He added that the General Secretary of the present Telegraph Association, as he is also the Secretary of the Anglo-Indian Association, could be expected to do nothing better.

The president of the meeting pointed out that the ends of the Indians in the Department could be met either by joining the present Association in a body and capturing the seats in the committees or by forming an independent union; both of these modes of action required adamant unity and diplomatic tact. The latter course may be accepted, he said, as the path of less resistance. He emphasised that an independent union would only stand if the General Secretary be a well-informed, self-sacrificing, and an influential man, and a man that thoroughly knows the ins and outs of the Department. Sinews of war, the president added, was the next main point to consider and every member should consider nothing as a too liberal subscription and that he should have unremitting patience and perseverance. He cautioned the audience to examine the ground carefully before they trod on it and having advanced not to retrace at any cost. The union should be formed not in retaliation but on principles of

consolidation. He suggested to the members that they should not depend on M.L.A.'s who had no stand themselves and who had better things to look after. Concluding the president pointed out to the clerks that their condition and prospects could be bettered if the Department selected the deserving clerks to work as Murray operators—a job no more difficult than that of an average touch-typist,—thus making both for economy and efficiency. Such a scheme was recently launched by the well-intentioned officers of the Bombay Telegraph Office, but it was eventually blown off by a U boat of the Telegraph Association. He recommended that the clerks may move the Director in the quarter. A local committee was then formed.—("The Bombay Chronicle," 2nd September 1924.)

Postal Workers' Union

At Poona on August 24, a special meeting of the Poona Postal Workers' Union was held under their new President, Mr. N. C. Kelkar, to discuss matters relating to the present pay of the members of the Union.

A short history of the growth of the Union was given and it was emphasised that Poona stood first in India in establishing divisional and provincial unions and in running a monthly organ.

The present situation was then explained by several speakers and the grievances of the members outlined. The main ground of complaint was that the telegraph employees were given preferential treatment, to the benefit, of course, of the former. Not only was the pay of the telegraph employees higher, but they received special allowances in the way of house rent and over-time wages, on the ground that theirs was a technical work. But the postal employees urged that their work was everywhere admitted to be more practical and business-like and that the postal official must not only be ready and competent to work in any of the twenty departments, but also must use his discretion every moment. And yet his pay was lower than his brother worker in the telegraph department and he received no extra allowances.

It was therefore resolved by the meeting that in all sessions of the All-India Postal Union Conference the scale pay of Rs. 60 to Rs. 200 be demanded of Government, and if the Government did not think this essential, then a new committee should be called for in the Legislative Assembly, to recommend the new rates of pay and conditions. It was also resolved that the President be given permission to take any necessary steps to achieve this end.

The President, in his address, advised the postal workers to strengthen their organization, and he promised to do all he could to assist them in every way.

Mr. S. G. Vaze, Editor of the "Servant of India", has been appointed the vice-president of this Union. (Abstracted from the Times of India, Bombay, 27th August 1924.)

Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency for the Quarter ending September 1924

A DECREASE IN MEMBERSHIP

The previous review of Trade Unions in the Presidency was published in the June 1924 issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The latest information for the third quarter of the present year is summarised on pages 95 to 98 of this issue and shows in Table I on pages 95 to 97 that, when compared with the last quarter the number of members has decreased from 52,129 to 47,242 or by 9.4 per cent. This decrease in the number of members is due principally to the exclusion of the numbers of the membership returned for the Victoria Owners' and Drivers' Union and the Saloon, Hamamkhana Owners' and Barbers' Association. These two associations were reported in the issue of the *Labour Gazette* for March 1924 as Trade Unions and continued to be regarded as such in the issue for June 1924. It has now been decided that these Associations are not Trade Unions at all as they are not associations of employees organized for the purpose of bargaining with employers, but are more in the nature of Trade Guilds organized to protect the interests of the trade against third parties. These associations have therefore been permanently omitted from the Labour Office list of Trade Unions.

Information in connexion with Trade Unions is collected through the Secretaries of the Unions as well as through District Officers in the Presidency, including Sind. Table I shows that at the moment there are 8 trade unions with a membership of 21,659 in Bombay City; 7 unions with a membership of 17,200 in Ahmedabad and 6 unions with a membership of 8,383 in the rest of the Presidency. These numbers, as in previous issues, include only those unions actually known to be in existence.

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN MEMBERSHIP OF INDIVIDUAL UNIONS

In Bombay City, the Indian Seamen's Union (which bears an entirely fictitious name, and is a Union of the Goanese Saloon Staff of Steamship Companies) shows an increase of 239 members and the Bombay Presidency Postmen's (including Packers') Union an increase of 32 members. The memberships returned for the Clerks' Union, the Bombay Telegraph Workmen's Union and the G. I. P. Railway Staff Union remain unchanged. Large decreases in membership are reported in the B. B. & C. I. Railwaymen's Union, the G. I. P. Railwaymen's (Carriage and Wagon Departments) Union and the Port Trust Workshop Union.

In Ahmedabad, the Secretary of the Labour Union reports an increase of 1,000 members in the Throstle Union and 800 members in the Weavers' Union and decreases of 400 and 100 members respectively in the Card Room, Blow Room and Frame Departments' Union and the Drivers', Oilmen and Firemen's Union.

In Sholapur the Barsi Light Railway Employees' Union reports a membership of 479 in September, an increase of 9. The table on page 25 summarises the position in regard to the membership of the Unions of the Presidency since June 1922. The figures for March and June 1924 are adjusted for exclusion of the two Trade Guilds mentioned above.

The big decline in the membership of the two local Railwaymen's Unions from 2,000 to 1,200 in the case of the B. B. & C. I. Railwaymen's Union and from 3,000 to 1,200 in the G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union is due, it is reported by their Secretary, Mr. S. H. Jhabwalla, to an elimination of the names of those members who have not paid their fees and to the retrenchment by the Railways of several workmen who were members of these unions. The Clerks' Union is receiving very little support from its members and the organisers of this union are making valiant efforts to interest clerks in Bombay in the benefits of combination.

The position with reference to the G. I. P. Railway staff shows very little or no change on the figures published in the issue of the *Labour Gazette* for June 1924. The members of the union are very pleased at the decision of the Government of India to introduce "A Bill to provide for the registration of Trade Unions and in certain respects to define the law relating to registered Trade Unions in British India" in the Legislative Assembly, and they hope that a considerable increase in the number of its members will now be effected. The membership of the Union now stands as under:—

Station.	No. of Members.	Station.	No. of Members.	
Wadi Bunder (Bombay)	434	Shahabad	150	
Administrative Office (Bombay)	542	Bhopal	222	
Kalyan	500	Dhond	129	
Bhusawal	672	Ahmednagar	126	
Lonavla	250	Itarsi	150	
Poona	150	Jhansi	1,000	
Manmad	738	Jubbulpore	75	
			Total members..	5,138

The Bombay Port Trust Union held their Annual General Meeting on Sunday the 31st August under the chairmanship of their President Mr. F. J. Ginwalla. The members of the union took a keen interest in the proceedings and several members spoke on the advantages of union and in support of resolutions, especially in connexion with one for better housing conditions. The accounts of this union, as disclosed in the audited statements of Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet up to 31st March 1924, show that the income during the year by subscriptions from workmen amounted to Rs. 2,753-3-0, by entrance fees to Rs. 226, and by Interest on Current and Deposit Accounts to Rs. 334-14-9 making a total of Rs. 3,314-1-9, which ought to be considered fairly satisfactory in view of the smallness of its membership. The excess of Income over Expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,012-14-6 and this has been transferred to capital account. The Balance Sheet shows investments Rs. 5,000, Furniture valued at Rs. 183-10-0, and Cash on hand Rs. 216-14-6, against which liabilities to outstanding creditors amount to Rs. 43-12-3. The Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet which is certified by Chartered Accountants are reproduced below:—

The Bombay Port Trust Union

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FROM 1ST OCTOBER 1922 TO 31ST MARCH 1924

Expenditure		Income	
	Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.
To Salaries and wages ..	465 11 0	By subscription from workmen	2,733 3 0
.. Printing and Stationery ..	480 8 0	.. Entrance Fee ..	226 0 0
.. Conference and Congress expenses ..	636 5 0	.. Interest on Current and Deposited Accounts ..	334 14 0
.. Rent and light expenses ..	200 0 0		
.. Death and retirement benefits ..	148 2 0		
.. Legal Charges ..	140 0 0		
.. Branch Secretary's remuneration ..	125 10 0		
.. Honorarium to Auditors ..	25 0 0		
.. Postage and Telegrams ..	22 8 3		
.. General expenses including purchase, transfers, etc. ..	49 0 0		
.. Excess of Income over Expenditure transferred to Capital Fund Account ..	1,112 14 6		
	3,314 1 9		3,314 1 9

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 1924

Liabilities		Assets	
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Capital found as per last Balance Sheet	4,345 13 9	Furniture and fixtures—	
Added excess of Income over Expenditure ..	1,112 14 6	Balance as on 1st October 1922 ..	114 10 0
Outstanding creditors—	5,356 12 3	Additions during the period ..	69 0 0
The Honorary Treasurer ..	18 12 3	The Kamgar Shahukari Foundry shares (100 shares)	185 10 0
Honorarium to Auditors ..	25 0 0	Fixed Deposit at the Central Bank of India, Ltd. ..	1,000 0 0
	43 12 3	Cash—	4,000 0 0
	5,400 5 6	With the Bank of India, Ltd. ..	213 2 6
		In hand ..	5 12 0
			216 14 6
			5,400 5 6

AHMEDABAD UNIONS

The total Trade Union membership for Ahmedabad has increased from 15,850 in the previous quarter to 17,200 in the quarter under review. The Labour Union Office at Ahmedabad which has the control of the five unions whose members are workpeople in the Cotton Mill Industry reports an increase of nearly fourteen hundred members in the various unions under its charge. The total revenue of the Union Office now amounts to nearly Rs. 5,000 per month. About two years ago the union contained a total membership of nearly 25,000 members and its revenue amounted to nearly Rs. 9,000 per month. The considerable decrease in both membership and revenue is attributed to the big general strike in the Cotton Mill Industry at Ahmedabad in the year 1923. The members of the various unions are enrolled at present according to mills and the work of collecting

the fees and subscriptions of the members is done at the mills. The union officials are now endeavouring to enrol members according to the residence of the members and thus make the activities of the union independent of the Mills. The Labour Union, on behalf of the Ahmedabad mill hands, presented Mr. M. K. Gandhi, with a purse during the month of August, containing, it is reported, about Rs. 4,200. A cheap store was recently started at Saraspur under the control of their union, and the establishment of other such stores is under contemplation.

REST OF THE PRESIDENCY

Labour leaders confidently anticipate a rapid growth in the formation of new unions as a result of the decision of the Government to legislate for the registration of unions. The Press Workers' Union at Poona has appointed two more Secretaries, the total number of whom now amounts to four. The object of this appears to be an expansion of personal propaganda work for increasing the number of its members. The two unions at Broach, viz., the Fine Counts Mill Labour Union and the Saraswati Mill Labour Union are organised on an industrial basis and not on a craft basis, which is the feature of the organization in Ahmedabad. The total membership of the unions in the rest of the Presidency remains practically constant during the last three months, being 8,391 against 8,383 in the last quarter.

Summary table showing the membership of the Unions

Quarter ended.	Number of Unions.	Membership at end of quarter.	Percentage increase (+) or decrease (-) on previous quarter.	Quarter ended.	Number of Unions.	Membership at end of quarter.	Percentage increase (+) or decrease (-) on previous quarter.
June 1922..	22	57,914	..	Sept 1923 ..	19	41,646	-18.77
Sept 1922..	21	52,776	-9.87	Dec 1923 ..	19	46,037	+10.54
Dec 1922..	21	51,472	-2.47	Mar 1924 ..	21	48,902	+5.4
Mar 1923..	21	48,669	-5.45	June 1924 ..	21	49,729	+2.5
June 1923..	21	51,276	+5.78	Sept 1924 ..	21	47,242	-5.0

THE BOMBAY UNIONS

The important Unions in Bombay remain unchanged as compared with the previous quarter. These are:—

- (1) The "Indian Seamen's" Union (Saloon-Staff).
- (2) The G. I. P. Railway Staff Union.
- (3) The B. B. & C. I. Railwaymen's Union.
- (4) The G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union.
- (5) The Port Trust Workshop Union.
- (6) The Bombay Presidency Postmen's Union.

The character of the Indian Seamen's Union has been explained above. Its financial position appears to be sound, as evidenced by the figures in the Account Books shown to an officer of the Labour Office. The average monthly income has increased from Rs. 500 for the quarter ending April 1924 to Rs. 1,660 for the quarter ending July 1924. On the other

hand the expenditure has risen from Rs. 700 to Rs. 1,809 per month. The excess expenditure is met from revenue obtained as interest on its funded capital which, the Labour Office is informed, now amounts to Rs. 24,000. The Union has shifted its office from Frere Road to large and commodious premises at Sobani Buildings, Graham Road, Ballard Estate, the third floor of which has been rented at Rs. 275 per month. The Union is doing useful work in endeavouring to promote a feeling of general comradeship between the members of the various Goanese Clubs in Bombay, which were previously inclined to continuous quarrelling owing to individual rivalry and jealousies. It is the intention of the Union to open a Library and Reading and Recreation Rooms in its new premises for the use of its members and in time a refreshment room as well. The Union administers a Death Benefit Fund and is now engaged in considering the formation of a Credit Society and an Old Age Pensions Fund. This appears to be an exceedingly ambitious programme but the President of the Union, Mr. J. J. Athaide is a very zealous worker. Mr. Athaide is making energetic efforts to get all shipping companies to requisition their supplies of Saloon Crew direct through the Union. But this is not possible owing to Section 25 (1) of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act of 1923 which provides that "a person shall not engage or supply a seaman to be entered on board any ship in British India unless that person either holds a license under this Act for the purpose, or is the owner or master or mate of the ship, or is *bona fide* the servant and in the constant employ of the owner, or is a shipping master". The officers of the Union state that they have however succeeded in persuading the Government Shipping Broker to call for all his supplies of Saloon Crew through the Union, and this statement has been partly confirmed by the Government Shipping Broker who states that owing to the large membership of the Union and the non-possibility of obtaining supplies of labour outside the Union he has generally to make his selection from men forwarded to his office by the Union.

Accounts of the Unions

Table II on page 98 shows the financial position of the unions so far as the monthly income and expenditure is concerned. The position with reference to the income and expenditure of the Indian Seamen's Union and the annual accounts of the Bombay Port Trust Union have been dealt with above. It will be seen by referring to this table that there is a considerable decline in the income of the two local Railwaymen's Unions in Bombay, and of the Bombay Port Trust Union. The income of the Bombay Presidency Postmen's Union has increased from Rs. 200 to Rs. 512 per month and their expenditure has increased from Rs. 80 to Rs. 305. The total expenditure of the five cotton mill workers' unions in Ahmedabad amounted to a monthly average of Rs. 925 against an average monthly income of nearly Rs. 3,000. It is understood that the object of the Labour Union officials is to build up a large reserve fund as is done by most Trade Unions in other countries.

QUASI UNIONS

As in previous reviews the following Associations are excluded from the lists of Trade Unions, as these are regarded as Associations rather than Trade Unions:—

- (1) The Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants of India and Burma.
- (2) The Bombay Presidency Postal Association.
- (3) The Kamgar Hitawardhak Sabha.
- (4) The Girni Kamgar Sabha.

To this list should now be added the following Trade Guilds:—

- (5) The Victoria Owners' and Drivers' Union.
- (6) The Saloon, Hamamkhana Owners' and Barbers' Association.

The first two associations are very active, and the third is now reviving its activities by the organisation of an anti-liquor campaign, carried on principally with the aid of magic lantern lectures and wrestling matches, at which small prizes are given to the winners. The Girni Kamgar Sabha is usually active only at the time of a general strike, and is therefore at the moment in a state of hibernation. The Saloon, Hamamkhana Owners and Barbers' Association reports a considerable decrease in membership which is due entirely to the failure of the association in convincing the Bombay Municipality against the licensing of all barbers in Bombay City. This association came into existence for one special purpose only, and will presumably die a natural death.

SUMMARY

The outstanding features of the quarter under review are (1) a decrease in trade union membership in the Presidency of 5 per cent. over previous quarter; (2) an increase of 1,350 members in the Unions of Cotton Mill operatives under the Labour Union in Ahmedabad; and (3) the continued complete absence of unions of cotton mill workers in Bombay.

Ahmedabad Millowners' Association

The names of the office bearers of the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association for the ensuing year were published on page 6 of the July issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The Secretary of the Association has kindly informed the Labour Office that Mr. C. K. Mashruwalla is a Joint Honorary Secretary along with Mr. G. I. Patel, B.A., M.L.C. He has also pointed out that in the reference to want of labour schools made in connection with "Welfare Work in Ahmedabad" published on page 28 of the above issue of the *Labour Gazette*, there is some misunderstanding. The Millowners' Committee, known as the Tilak Swaraj Fund Committee, finances labour schools at Ahmedabad to the extent of Rs. 1,250 monthly out of the total expense of Rs. 1,400.

Accidents and Prosecutions STATISTICS FOR AUGUST 1924

(Supplied by the Chief Inspector of Factories)

The monthly statistics of the accidents in factories and workshops in the Bombay Presidency, published on pages 100 and 101 of this issue, contain details of accidents reported during the month of August in Bombay City, Ahmedabad, Karachi and other centres of the Presidency.

During August, in Bombay City there were in all 140 factory accidents of which 3 were fatal, 5 serious and the remainder 132 minor accidents. Of the total number, 55 or 39·3 per cent. were due to machinery in motion and the remaining 60·7 per cent. to other causes. By far the largest number of accidents occurred in workshops, the proportion in different classes of factories being 52·9 per cent. in workshops, 45·7 per cent. in textile mills and 1·4 per cent. in miscellaneous concerns.

In Ahmedabad, there were sixteen accidents, all of which occurred in cotton mills. Of these, two were fatal, two serious and the remaining 12 minor. Nine accidents were due to machinery in motion and the rest to other causes.

In Karachi, there were in all four accidents, three of which occurred in railway workshops and one in an engineering workshop. All accidents, except one which was serious, were minor and with one exception were due to causes other than machinery in motion.

In other centres of the Presidency, the total number of accidents was 31, of which twelve were in textile mills, fifteen in workshops and four in miscellaneous concerns. Seven accidents were due to machinery in motion, and 24 to other causes. Three of these accidents were fatal and the remaining twenty-eight minor.

PROSECUTIONS

During August 1924, there were in the Bombay Presidency four prosecutions under the Indian Factories Act, two of which were made in Bombay City, one in the Bombay Suburban District and one in Ahmedabad.

Bombay

The occupier of one oil mill was prosecuted under section 41 (j) for breach of section 33 in not submitting an occupation notice. He was convicted and fined Rs. 25. The prosecution of the manager of one cotton mill under section 41 (f) for breach of Rule 33 (ii) for not providing self-locking apparatus to the hard waste breaker ended in a conviction and the manager was fined Rs. 50.

Bombay Suburban

On the 30th of May 1924, eight women were employed on night shift in one Bone Mill at Chembur in contravention of the provisions of section 24 (a) of the Indian Factories Act. The occupier of the mill was prosecuted under section 41 (a) and was convicted and fined Rs. 10 for each of the eight cases.

Ahmedabad

One cotton mill in Viramgam was prosecuted under section 41 (f) for breach of section 18 and Rule 33 (ii). The manager was convicted and fined Rs. 50.

A Plea for the Direct and Special Representation of Labour

In his evidence before the Reforms Enquiry Committee Mr. N. M. Joshi pressed the claims of labour for representation in the legislative bodies. The method of representation suggested by him was not nomination but direct election by labour organizations all over India. The objection raised by Sir Arthur Froom that this would give an opportunity to labour leaders to step in as political agitators, was met with the reply that even political agitators had a place in the political evolution of a country, and that such considerations ought not to weigh in giving representation to labour. Asked by the President whether he considered it impossible to represent labour through ordinary constituencies, Mr. Joshi replied that in Bombay the franchise being restricted to those paying Rs. 10 or more as monthly rent, and workers being unable to pay Rs. 10 as rent could not exercise a vote. It was pointed out to Mr. Joshi that the absence of a stable industrial population was a serious impediment in the direct representation of labour. Mr. Joshi however replied that the labouring population in Bombay was stable, and the scheme of direct representation was a feasible one, since the membership of labour organizations throughout India numbered about 200,000. Mr. Joshi admitted that owing to their want of education, it would not be always possible to elect men from among the workers but in his opinion it was not necessary to restrict representation only to the actual workers. (Abstracted from the "Bombay Chronicle," 1st September, 1924.)

Concessions for Female Workers

The *Kamkari* (26th July 1924) pleads for the following concessions on behalf of female workers in factories and says that if factory-owners are unwilling to grant them, Government should introduce necessary legislation in the matter :—

- (1) They (the female workers) should be allowed to attend to their work rather late, as they have to cook food for the whole family before leaving home.
- (2) They should be allowed to leave the factory for some time during working hours, as they have to attend to the requirements of their children.
- (3) The rule under which the pay of the operative, who has not worked for full twenty-two days, is withheld, should not be enforced in their case, as it is they who have to nurse the sick in the family.
- (4) They should be given leave of absence when the male members of the family leave for another place, and also their pay for the days they have served, as early as possible.

Workmen's Freedom Bill

Mr. N. M. Joshi proposes to move for leave to introduce the Workmen's Freedom Bill in the September Session of the Legislative Assembly. The following is the text of the Bill :—

A Bill to

Repeal legislation making breach of contract of service, absence from work and desertion on the part of artificers, labourers and workmen and enticing away, harbouring or employing a labourer under labour contract, a penal offence.

WHEREAS, on the ground of sound public policy, on the ground of the equality of all classes in the eye of law and on the ground of the desirability of the working classes being free to terminate their contract of service before its expiry without being criminally liable, it is expedient to repeal legislation making breach of contract from service, absence of work and desertion on the part of artificers, labourers or workmen and enticing away, harbouring or employing a labourer under labour contract, a penal offence punishable with imprisonment or fine or with both; it is hereby enacted as follows :—

1. This Act may be called the Workmen's Freedom Act, 1924.
2. It shall come into force on the first day of April 1926.
3. The Workmen's Breach of Contract Act, 1859, sections 490 and 492 of the Indian Penal Code and sections 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 202, 203, 204 and 208 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901, be repealed.

In a statement attached to the text of the Bill, Mr. Joshi explains the necessity of such legislation. He points out that the principle that a breach of contract of service must not be treated as a criminal offence is accepted by all civilized countries; and the Government of India have done the same by promising to repeal the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act, 1859, from 1st April 1926. But, as it happens, the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act is not the only law which treats a breach of contract of service as a criminal offence. Certain sections of the Indian Penal Code and those of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, which are still in existence, have the same effect. It is necessary, therefore, if the principle that a breach of contract of service is not to be treated as a criminal offence is to be fully recognised, that these sections should be repealed. It is pointed out further that the offending section (490) of the Indian Penal Code was enacted at a time when the country was not well inhabited, the roads were not secure and means of transport were not easily available. These conditions have now changed and there is therefore no justification for the existence of the law.

Mr. Nehru's appeal to Jamshedpur Labourers

On the occasion of his receiving an address at Jamshedpur, Mr. Motilal Nehru expressed the opinion that in India Labour had not only to fight Capital but also to fight alien rulers who kept down both Capital and Labour. He considered strikes to be a legitimate weapon in the hands of workers but warned them against its misuse. The attainment of Swaraj was in his opinion a necessary preliminary to the nationalisation of industries. Mr. Nehru concluded with an appeal to the workers to be more efficient and to come up to the standard of Europeans.

(Abstracted from "The Times of India", 23rd August 1924.)

Industrial Disputes in the Presidency

Disputes in August .. 6 Workpeople involved .. 1,612

On page 99 will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during August 1924, with the number of workpeople involved, the date when the dispute began and ended, the cause and the result. The word "dispute" in the official sense means an interruption of work and it is here used in that sense as virtually synonymous with "strike". A dispute, as counted by the Labour Office, is an interruption of work involving ten or more persons and of not less than twenty-four hours' duration. Detailed statistics have been collected since 1st April 1921, the date on which the Labour Office was instituted.

Summary tables have been constructed in order to show the position at a glance, and the diagram at the end of this article shows graphically the same facts. Table I shows the number, magnitude and duration of strikes in August 1924.

I.—Industrial Disputes classified by Trades

Trade	Number of disputes in progress in August 1924			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in August 1924	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in August 1924*
	Started before 1st August	Started in August	Total		
Textile	4	4	1,350	2,920
Engineering
Miscellaneous	2	2	262	350
Total, August 1924	6	6	1,612	3,270
Total, July 1924	4	4	2,104	3,661

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

There were six industrial disputes in progress in August 1924, four of which occurred in cotton mills and two in miscellaneous concerns. The number of workpeople involved was 1,612 and the working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days less workers replaced) 3,270 which, it will be seen, is a decrease on the July 1924 statistics.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

II.—Industrial Disputes—Results April to August 1924

	April 1924	May 1924	June 1924	July 1924	August 1924
Number of strikes and lock-outs ..	4	2	5	4	6
Disputes in progress at beginning ..	1	....	....	....	....
Fresh disputes begun ..	3	2	5	4	5
Disputes ended ..	4	2	5	....	1
Disputes in progress at end ..	....	....	....	....	....
Number of workpeople involved ..	568	250	567	2,104	1,612
Aggregate duration in working days ..	2,717	390	1,169	3,661	3,270
Demands—					
Pay ..	1	....	3	2	3
Bonus ..	....	....	....	....	1
Personal ..	2	2	1	....	....
Leave and hours ..	....	....	....	2	....
Others ..	1	....	1	....	1
Results—					
In favour of employees ..	1	....	....	1	....
Compromised ..	....	1	....	....	3
In favour of employers ..	3	1	5	3	3

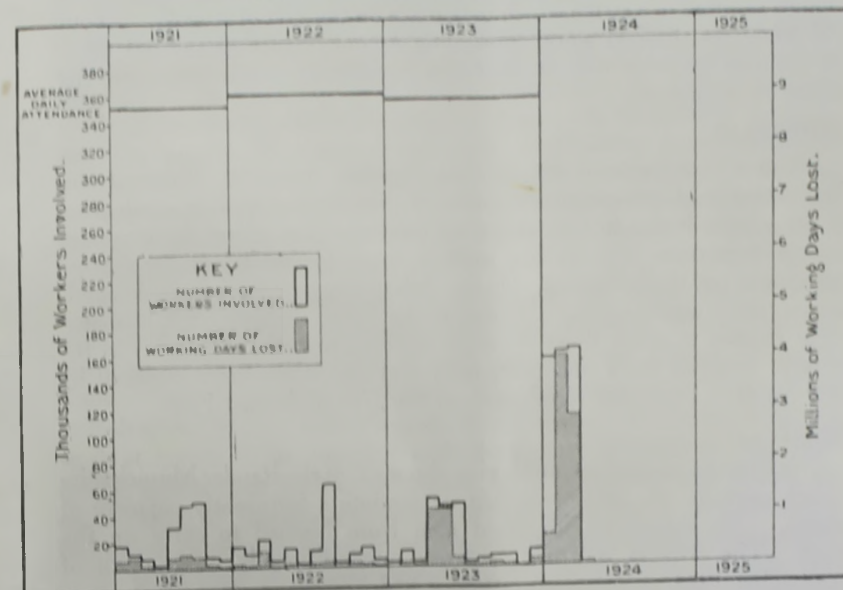
The last summary table shows, among other things, the proportion of strikes settled in favour of the employers and the employees, or compromised.

III.—Industrial Disputes

Month	Number of strikes and lock-outs	Aggregate duration in working days	Proportion settled			In progress. (Per cent.)
			In favour of employers. (Per cent.)	In favour of employees. (Per cent.)	Compromised. (Per cent.)	
August 1923 ..	15	25,244	53	7	20	20
September 1923 ..	8	55,934	63	..	37	..
October 1923 ..	8	36,178	87	..	13	..
November 1923 ..	7	712	71	29	..	..
December 1923 ..	9	120,903	78	11	..	11
January 1924 ..	7	565,238	72	..	14	14
February 1924 ..	3	4,062,870	..	67	..	33
March 1924 ..	4	2,893,881	50	25	..	25
April 1924 ..	4	2,717	25	75	..	..
May 1924 ..	2	390	50	..	50	..
June 1924 ..	5	1,169	100	..	..	..
July 1924 ..	4	3,661	75	25	..	..
August 1924 ..	6	3,270	50	33	..	17
Totals or (cols. 4 to 7)						
Average ..	82	7,772,167	60	21	10	9

It may be of interest to state that the highest peak in respect of the number of working days lost through strikes in this Presidency since April 1921 was reached in February 1924 whereas the lowest level was reached in May 1924.

Effect of Industrial Disputes, Bombay Presidency



GENERAL REVIEW OF DISPUTES

During August 1924, there were six industrial disputes in the Bombay Presidency as compared with four in the preceding month. Three of these were due to the question of pay, one to the question of a bonus and the other two to personal and other grievances. Of the six disputes, two were settled in favour of the workers and three in favour of the employers, while one continued in the next month.

BOMBAY CITY

In Bombay City three disputes occurred during the month under review. On the 11th of August 350 operatives of the Ring Department in the Empress Mill struck work demanding the reinstatement of the Head Jobber whose services were dispensed with for inefficiency. The Manager put up a notice to the effect that if the strikers did not resume work by the morning of the 12th their outstanding wages would be forfeited. Thereupon all the operatives resumed work unconditionally on the 12th when the strike terminated. The dispute in the Gold Mohur Mills arose over a question of short payment in the wages for July 1924. Wages for July were paid on the 13th August. On the 15th the weavers, numbering about 500, attended the mill as usual, but remained idle, alleging that they had been paid less than usual, and demanded more money. They were informed by the Manager that no reduction in the rates had been introduced, and that they had been paid according to the work turned out by them. This did not satisfy the strikers and they went out. The strike lasted for six days and ended on the 21st August, the strikers having resumed work unconditionally. The announcement of the reduction in the rates

of wages of labourers employed in the Improvement Trust Quarries at Dongri resulted in a strike which took place on the 21st of August. About 240 labourers stopped work demanding a continuance of the old rates. On the next day work was resumed on a promise for reconsideration of the orders of reduction.

AHMEDABAD

About 250 weavers of the Motilal Hirabhai Spinning, Weaving and Manufacturing Company struck work on 24th August against a reduction in the weekly bonus to the operatives for remaining absent for two days during Mohurram, but resumed work on the following day on the Agents agreeing to pay the full bonus. On the 26th they again struck work demanding increased wages and the dismissal of the Head Jobber. The management refused to grant these demands whereupon half the number of the strikers resumed work unconditionally and the others were replaced by new hands. The strike terminated on the 27th of August 1924.

SURAT

The Bhangis (sweepers) numbering about 22, of the Rander Municipality struck work on the 20th of August demanding a fortnightly payment of wages. The authorities imported men from Nadiad to carry on the work. The strikers returned to work unconditionally on the 9th of September 1924.

Unemployment in India

It appears that the word "unemployment" is likely to come into currency in discussing Labour Conditions in India. Hitherto it has been assumed that there is no unemployment in India. And it is undoubtedly true that unemployment does not exist to the same extent as in Western countries, and is not likely to be for many years a serious social problem.

However in Western India it is stated in conversation that considerable unemployment exists among the clerical classes. Figures of unemployed clerks have been given to the Labour Office; but as these are mere guesses it is not considered desirable to print them. Unemployment is also known to exist to some extent among the saloon staff of steamships, and certified motor-drivers.

An Employment Bureau has also been started by the Central Labour Board to find suitable jobs for industrial skilled labourers, and the Honorary Secretary has addressed various Government and private institutions in the matter. The object is to substitute a regular fee of reasonable dimensions for the elastic commissions now levied by "middlemen", i.e., private labour suppliers.

The Labour Office has no information as to the alleged profits of the middlemen. But it would seem on the face of it that an organised Bureau should be a better agency through which to deal.

The Labour Office is trying to secure figures of unemployment, and would be much obliged for any definite statistical information on this subject, whether relating to labourers or any other class of employees.

Women in Industry

In a very suggestive article entitled "Women in Industry" in the August number of the "*Indian Review*", Madras, Mr. N. M. Joshi has dealt with the question of the conditions of women in Indian factories and the methods that will have to be adopted to improve them. He has pointed out firstly that the number of women in industrial employment is increasing, the total number of women employed in factories, mines, tea, coffee and rubber estates being 550,000. It is however likely that this figure may not be absolutely correct, as Mr. Joshi has taken figures for factories in 1922, mines in 1921, and estates in 1920.

Mr. Joshi has then weighed the advantages and disadvantages of the employment of women in modern organized industry. He has pointed out that, owing to the system of early marriage, the majority of Indian women workers are married women. Having thus a home and children to look after, they are required to do double work,—work in factories and work at home. This, together with the factory atmosphere, Mr. Joshi thinks, affects their health. Moreover, he is of opinion that factory life has the effect of "loosening the bonds of sexual morality". It is dangerous to express an opinion on such matters, as the extent to which immorality in the same class of persons exists outside of factories is unknown. Mr. Joshi is however not unmindful of the benefits accruing from industrial work. He points out that work in factories gives women economic independence, which is a matter of considerable importance in a country like India.

Mr. Joshi deals somewhat perfunctorily with such questions as those of keeping all industrial employment open to women, and of giving equal wages for equal work. A further contribution on these points would be welcome.

Mr. Joshi believes that Indian women workers have not yet been given adequate protection by the State. He thinks that maternity benefits must be granted, and that Government's fear that if the law is passed it will be evaded, and that there are not enough lady doctors to certify that a woman is expecting to become a mother, is unfounded. According to Mr. Joshi lady doctors are not absolutely essential for the successful working of the scheme of Maternity Benefits. He points out that in the Currimbhoy Ebrahim and Company's mills in Bombay the scheme is working successfully with only male doctors for certifying. Mr. Joshi thinks that the scheme, if adopted, would not cost much, and that the expenditure can be met by a cess of two per cent. on the value of production.

In passing Mr. Joshi refers to the necessity of providing crèches for the protection of children. He is also of opinion that Government should appoint women inspectors of factories. He considers that an immediate need is to educate and organize women in factories, but that, as illiteracy makes any kind of organization impossible, education must precede.

Mr. Purcell's Opinion of Indian Labour Conditions

The Press Telegrams relating to the recent Trades Union Congress in London indicate that Mr. A. A. Purcell of Coventry, who presided, discussed Indian labour conditions in his opening speech. According to the telegrams he described the conditions in Industrial India as "unspeakable horror", and stated that "every time the workers in India revolted and sought by strikes or other means to remedy the evils there were shootings and violent acts of repression". He advocated that "legitimate trade union activity be given the same scope as in England, and the Indian workers must be enabled to organize on such a scale as would secure it to them".

In dealing with Press Telegrams there is always the possibility of mutilation of the text in transmission. But since the Labour Office is the official bureau for labour information in the Bombay Presidency, and since the *Labour Gazette* circulates to many foreign countries, it seems desirable to make some comment on Mr. Purcell's opinions, as telegraphed.

To apply any particular descriptive phrase to any particular social phenomenon is a purely personal question. But, in order to enable foreign readers to visualize the wage-levels of mill labourers in this Presidency we give below the approximate average weekly earnings in sterling of mill operatives and clerks at the three chief industrial centres. The figures are based on information available in the Labour Office, and rupee currency is converted to sterling at 1s. 5d. to the rupee, this being a fair average level for the last few months. The wages for clerks are for clerks in private employ. Government's own rates for its clerical staff are somewhat higher.

Approximate average wages of (1) Cotton Mill Operatives and (2) Clerks in three industrial centres, stated as weekly wages in sterling.

	Mill Operatives.			Clerks.		
	Bombay.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Bombay.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Inferior ..	7 5	7 5	5 10	14 2	8 10	8 10
Medium ..	11 8	10 8	9 7	28 4	17 4	14 2
Superior ..	17 0	14 10	13 10	42 6	26 6	26 6

These figures show that the mill-hands are able to command wages which compare very favourably with the wages of clerks. And the clerical classes in India are of the same type from which emanate lawyers and members of the Legislative Councils. When the wages of the least skilled class of mill-hands vary from a little over half to nearly the same as those of the clerical class it cannot be said that the mill-hands are at all down-trodden.

As to the conditions under which they work this country possesses an efficient and active body of Factory Inspectors, and the conditions in mills are supervised closely under a detailed Factories Act, which has been in existence for many years and kept up to date by amendments and rules.

In considering the conditions under which Indian workmen live it is not legitimate to compare them with the conditions under which English workmen or English middle class families live in England. They can only be compared with (i) the conditions of living in the village homes from which the workmen or their ancestors came, or (ii) the conditions of living of Indian middle classes in Bombay. The homes both of Indian villagers and Middle Class families in Bombay are small in floor-space and bare of furniture. It is hoped that the Labour Office may some day be able to present accurate statistics of these phenomena. In the meanwhile it is only necessary to emphasize that the improvement of Indian working class conditions, for which all the better Employers, as well as Government and various charitable organizations, are continually striving, depends partly on creating first a desire for that improvement.

Attention is also drawn to the detailed accounts of welfare work in Bombay mills which appear in this issue of the *Labour Gazette*.

Mr. Purcell's allegations regarding suppression of strikes and repression of Trade Unions are evidently based on totally erroneous information. No strikes in this Presidency have ever been suppressed by force; and firing and police coercion have never been resorted to except for the protection of life and property, when palpably threatened by mobs inspired by the desire to destroy. Trade Unions are encouraged and not repressed; and the workers in India enjoy the same rights of association for the purpose of collective bargaining and the protection of their common interests as the workers in England enjoy. Legislation for the registration and Trade Unions is now before the Government of India.

Hospital Accommodation in Bombay

On page 21 of the *Labour Gazette* for June 1924 some figures of hospital accommodation in Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta were given. These figures were for the year 1920 and were abstracted from pages 400-403 of the *Statistical Abstract for British India*, Government Printing, Calcutta, 1923.

The Labour Office has since obtained some more up-to-date and more detailed figures of beds available from the Medical Relief Committee.

The following summarizes these figures:—

Total number of beds available and projected .. 3,846

Of these, 2,126 are beds available in hospitals of a special kind (e.g., Prison hospitals), assigned to special communities (e.g., St. George's European General Hospital), and Private or Communal Hospitals and Nursing Homes.

The remainder, i.e., 1,306 existing beds and 414 projected beds are free beds in General Hospitals available to Indians.

Excluding 96,352 persons, which the Medical Relief Committee extract from the 1921 Census tables as figures of special communities provided for as outlined above, the balance (1,079,562) is the figure of the general population for which the 1,306 existing and 414 projected beds will be available free. This figure is however too high as an estimate of the actual population which will avail itself of the free beds, since it includes many rich Indians who would go to private nursing homes, or not seek hospital accommodation at all.

On the other hand these 1,306 + 414 beds are not all for general medical and surgical cases. Only 622 + 236 beds for males, and 229 + 98 beds for women and children are of this class. Of the rest 109 + 16 are for eye diseases, 80 + 52 for Tuberculosis, 266 for Infectious diseases, and 12 (projected) unspecified.

One General Hospital is in the Fort North Section of A Ward, and the remainder are all grouped in E, F and G Wards.

Industrial Decentralization

Under the above title *Capital* in its issue of the 4th September contains a suggestive article signed "W".

Briefly what "W" pleads for is the resuscitation of the indigenous crafts of India on a village factory basis. He argues that it is possible to erect factories "large enough to profitably utilize power, yet small enough to maintain village conditions to the full". In this way he anticipates that Indian industries "will be developed all round", and nevertheless "the evils of industrialization will be avoided". The use of machinery will be thus introduced and popularized over a much wider area without those disturbing movements of the population to the industrial cities which result in immediate (and usually permanent) overcrowding.

It is open to some doubt whether there is any great scope for the erection of industrial machinery in rural tracts. Ginning and pressing factories already exist in cotton-producing tracts because it is economical to send cotton already ginned, and in pressed bales, to the spinning mills. There are also here and there small oil and flour mills, sugar-cane crushing mills, and some others. Everything depends on whether intermediate processes in the handling of raw material can be economically carried out on the spot.

But the erection of plant for production of manufactured articles in villages is of limited practicability. For example earthen pots can be produced by the village potter very cheaply, and it is doubtful whether erection of machinery for the production of pots could be made to pay. The same applies to shoes, cord, brass pots, cots, matting and many other household necessities.

That scope exists for further enterprise in the production of flour, ginned and pressed cotton, and a few other things is no doubt true. But a general decentralization of industry, whereby "the advantages of power and mass-production are linked to village conditions" is another matter.

Mass-production implies collection of raw material and distribution and selling of the finished product. Unfortunately it is only in the cities that facilities for such operations exist. Moreover the personal idiosyncrasies of the human machine have to be considered. If a labourer wants to leave the fields and work in a machine-room, he craves excitement in leisure hours in the form of the lighted streets and the cinema.

Food Supply of India

In an article entitled "Population and Food Supply in India", in the August No. of the *Indian Review*, Madras, Dr. P. P. Pillai has tried to bring up to date the existing estimate of the ratio of produce in food grains to the population of British India. He estimates a total produce of about 77.5 million tons, deducts 9 million tons for seed-grain, and 1.5 million tons for export, and finds that 67 million tons are available for food. On the basis of 1½ lbs. of meal or flour per head per diem (the Famine Commission's Estimate) and taking the population of British India as 252 millions he finds that after feeding this population for one year 5 million tons will be left, which, he says, "is obviously too insignificant to last the people till the next harvest time and meet the demands for cattle food."

Here, unless we seriously misunderstand Dr. Pillai, there is a strange confusion of thought. If the period for consumption is taken as one year, there is clearly no interval "till the next harvest."

But there are other serious confusions and miscalculations also. The 252 millions is an estimate calculated for 1918-19 on the basis of the 1911 Population and the Vital Statistics of the following years. The actual recorded population in 1921 was only 247 million persons. Again the Famine Commission's allowance of 1½ lbs. per head per diem was for adult workers only, and of the 247 million persons in 1921 approximately 31 millions were of ages 0-5 years, and other large numbers were children from 5-10 years, and aged persons of 70 years and over. Consequently all Dr. Pillai's estimates are calculated on a wrong base and by the use of a wrong diet factor. Truly "statistics" will prove anything.

With Dr. Pillai's verdict that "with the extension of scientific cultivation, dry farming and the use of improved seeds, heavier yields per acre may be looked for" all will be in agreement. The problem is how to persuade the Indian cultivator to revise his ideas. One of the rules of conduct of the ryot is said by a distinguished authority to be "to do as his grand-father did, and because he did it."

At the end of his article Dr. Pillai relies on "increased productiveness of industry, more than on the arts of improved cultivation" as a "source of relief...to meet the needs of India at the present day". Taken in conjunction with the general tenor of his article we assume that the author means to say that India must export manufactured articles and, in return, import food.

Alleged Decay of Rural Administration

Rao Bahadur Talmaki, addressing a gathering at the Servants of India Society on the 30th August said that 'Rural Reconstruction' was a national problem affecting 90 per cent. of the population of India. Prosperity of the rural classes was in his opinion essential even for the industrial development of the country. He deplored the fact that villages were no longer autonomous and self-contained, that there was pressure on land, and village industries were decaying. All this he attributed to the centralized form of Government and to the advent of industrialism from the West. He pointed out that the present deplorable condition could be alleviated by enabling agriculturists to raise loans at a cheap rate of interest, by giving them facilities for marketing their produce and for buying implements, by enabling them to increase the productivity of their soil, by providing them with occupation for spare time, and above all, by giving them suitable education.

In conclusion Rao Bahadur Talmaki sounded a note of warning by saying that 'unless we improve the condition of villages the fate of our towns and cities will be doomed'. (*Abstracted from the Times of India, September 2nd, 1924.*)

Workmen's Meals

In the Associated Press report of the debate in the Legislative Assembly on 18th September on Mr. K. Rama Aiyengar's motion to suspend the Taxation Committee and appoint a Committee in its place for a close enquiry into the general conditions of the economic life and labour, etc., Mr. Patel is stated to have "insisted thatthe millhands were living on one meal a day".

The Labour Office has a good deal of information on this point. In some (*probably very few*) individual cases Mr. Patel's statement might be true, but speaking generally it is incorrect. A mill operative takes two solid meals a day—one at noon and the other at night. Sometimes he takes three, and oftener than not he has tea in the morning with overnight 'roti' left over.

Very careful enquiries were made by the Labour Office Investigators in this connexion during the recent mill strikes in Bombay. They found that in almost all cases the strikers were able during the first few weeks of the strike to afford two good meals a day as usual. Many families had to come down to rations (one meal a day) later.

If the word "meal" in Mr. Patel's statement is considered as hot food only, the statement *may* be in some cases correct; but it would certainly be far from correct to suggest that a millhand only *eats* once a day.

Welfare Work in Mills

The Labour Gazette has from time to time published isolated fragments of information regarding Welfare Work carried out by the Employers in Mills or groups of mills in Bombay. But, since the publication of news relating to only one or two items of Welfare Work is liable to be interpreted by readers, especially in foreign countries, as meaning that no other work is in progress, the Labour Office a month back circularized the six leading Mill-groups in Bombay inviting them to submit regularly for publication in the Gazette an account of their welfare activities.

It is gratifying to note that two of the six groups have sent accounts of their work, and one other has promised to do so. The accounts actually sent are published verbatim below, and will, it is hoped, serve to dispel any idea that may be prevalent in other countries that the Bombay millhands are not looked after by their employers.

THE CURRIMBHOY EBRAHIM WORKMEN'S INSTITUTE

A. General Summary of activities for July 1924

The Institute has been for the last six years doing welfare work at four centres for the operatives of the group of 8 mills of Messrs. Currimbhoy Ebrahim & Sons, Ltd.

EDUCATIONAL WORK

(a) *Schools* :—Three night schools (one English and 2 Marathi) for whole-time workers, 2 classes for half-time workers, one kindergarten class for the children at the Creche and 2 primary classes for women workers are conducted. Other activities such as, music, moral, sewing classes, school-boys' clubs, debating society, savings funds are also attached to these classes. Total number of students on roll is 168 with an average attendance of 91.

(b) *Libraries and Reading Rooms* :—Four libraries and three reading rooms have been located at the different centres with 17 monthlies, 11 weeklies and 13 dailies. Total number of books issued was 94 while that of readers was 1,705.

(c) *Lectures and Meetings* :—In all 8 meetings were arranged during the month 3 of which pertained to education while 5 to co-operation.

ECONOMIC WORK

This work is being done to relieve the workers from the clutches of Marawaries and Pathans by giving them loans at cheap rates and also inculcate in them the habit of thrift.

The number of C. C. Societies is 30 with a membership of 1,348. Loans of Rs. 2,238 were granted while amount of loans returned was Rs. 2,135-10-9. The Co-operative Store worked only for 6 days in July when the sales amounted to Rs. 627-14-6 and 102 workmen took advantage of the same. A grain shop has been opened at each mill and grain of good quality is sold to workmen on credit at reasonable price. 396 workmen availed of the facility and the amount of sales came to Rs. 1,293-11-0. The workers' savings bank has not yet revived from the effects of the strike the total membership being 96 and the total savings being Rs. 40-12-0. The membership at the Boys' savings funds was 60 with total amount of savings Rs. 51-4-0 by July 1924.

RECREATIONAL WORK

About 2,100 persons took advantage of the Social club with a refreshment room at the Institute and the membership at the Workmen's Cymnasium was 101. The dramatic and cricket clubs did not work during the month mostly on account of the monsoon.

MATERNITY AND INFANT WELFARE

The total number of children on roll was 67 with a daily attendance of 50. Here children of the women workers are taken care of from morning till evening. Milk, biscuits and medical treatment if necessary is given free. 10 children were treated during the month. Dr. Driver pays occasional visits to the Creche.

WORKS COMMITTEES

These have been started in all the C. E. Mills when the representatives of the workers and the management periodically meet together and discuss various questions pertaining to workers' welfare as well as questions of individual or departmental grievances, if any. No meeting was called in July.

MEDICAL RELIEF AND MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

(a) Medical relief:—Almost all the C. E. Mills have been provided with dispensaries attended by qualified doctors who treated 13,150 patients during the month at the mills. The whole-time visiting doctor assisted by a special man appointed to find out and take the doctor and medicine to the chawls of workmen absent from their work owing to illness also attended to 193 cases. The Agents of the Mills also sanctioned three years ago the following schemes which were availed of by the workmen:

	No. of cases for July 1924
1. Maternity benefit (full pay leave one month before and one month after delivery)	15
2. Compensation for accidents cases	5

(b) Miscellaneous activities:—(1) Writing of applications—Arrangements of writing applications free of charge for the workers of the C. E. Mills in cases of maternity benefits, discharge, deceased men's wages, letters and money orders, complaints regarding water, sanitation, etc., have been made at both the Crescent and the main centres. Five such applications were written during the month.

(2) Booking of money orders:—An arrangement of booking money orders of the workmen of C. E. Mills for a week from their pay has been made at the Institute. It was suspended since the last strike but will be re-started most probably from this month.

B. Details for July 1924

Educational

(1) Libraries and Reading Rooms

Name	Members	Books issued	Readers
A. Main Centre	152	82	55 daily.
B. Crescent Centre	126	Nil.	Nil.
C. Indian Bleaching	21	(Report not submitted)	
D. Bhagini Samaj	15	12	Nil.
	314	94	55 daily.

(2) Schools

Name	On Roll	Average attendance
A. Samaj Night School, English side	41	26
B. Do. Marathi side	32	23
C. Crescent Day School*	24	****
D. Do. Night School	17	(Report not submitted)
E. Women's Training Classes—		
I. Pearl Mills	16	11
II. Pabaney Mills	21	14
F. Sewing Class—		
I. Pearl Mills	5	5
G. Kindergarten Class	12	12
	168	91

* The work of the Library, Reading Room and School at the Crescent Centre was closed during the month owing to sickness of the man in charge of the Centre.

H. Music Class.—The class was held regularly during the month for students of the Samaj Night Schools when songs relating to *Bihag, Bhairavi, Pahadi, Bhimapalas* and *Gara ragas* were taught to them. The total number of boys on the roll was 12 and daily average attendance was 9.

I. Moral classes and gatherings.—(1) Samaj Night Schools: moral class was arranged by the members of the Boys' Educational Association on the 12th instant and was conducted by Mr. K. V. Natekar, when he explained the importance of Ekadashi day. About 40 boys attended the class.

(2) Pearl Mill Women's Class.—A moral class was held on Thursdays (i.e., 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st) during the month when the following story was narrated and its moral explained:—

Name of the story: "Raja Satwadhira". Attendance: About 25.

(3) E. Pabaney Mill Women's Class.—A moral class was held on the following dates:—

Date	Story told	Attendance
3rd, 7th and 12th ..	Story about luck	.. .. . About 22
16th ..	Motor Car Hobby	.. .. . Do.
21st ..		
24th ..		
26th ..	Sita's Forest Life	.. .. . Do.
29th ..		
31st ..		

Gatherings.—Gatherings were arranged on Mondays during the month at the Pabaney Mill Women's Class for offering prayers to God Shankar when devotional songs were sung and sweet-meet was distributed. Attendance at this came to about 40.

J. Boys' Educational Association.—Work done during this month:

Date	Subject	Chairman	Speakers	Attendance
5th July 24 ..	(1) Meeting. "The use of Boys' Educational Association."	Mr. T. D. Wavale ..	Messrs. Mali and Naik.	About 25
19th July 24 ..	(2) Lectures. "Life of an agriculturist."	Mr. Shaik Hassan ..	Mr. Desai.	.. 30
26th July 24 ..	"National Situation"	Mr. K. T. Chawan ..	Mr. Patade.	.. 20

Economic

(A) Co-operative Credit Societies

	Societies	Members	Borrowers	Loans granted	Loans recovered
Figures for June 1924 ..	30	1,348	46	Rs. 2,238	Rs. a. p. 2,135 10 9

(B) C. E. Co-operative Stores

The number of people took advantage of the Stores	Sales
102	Rs. a. p. 627 14 6

(C) Pearl Mills Savings Bank

No. of members at the beginning	New	Left	At the end	Amount deposited
102	Nil	6	96	Rs. a. p. 40 12 0
Amount withdrawn				Rs. a. p. 106 8 0 only.
Particulars of the total amount of deposits:—				
1. C. Co-operative Bank				246 3 9
2. Balance on hand				28 8 9
				274 12 6

(D) Boys' Savings Fund

Name	Members	Amount deposited	Deposit with-drawn
1. Samaj Night School, English side ..	39	Nil	Rs. a. p. 4 12 0
2. Do, Marathi side ..	5	Nil	Nil
3. Crescent Day School ..	16	Nil	Nil
	60		4 12 0

The total amount of deposits (Rs. 51-4-0) has been kept with the Social Service League Workers' C. C. Society, Ltd.

Recreational

(1) *Gymnasium*.—The total number of members at the end of the month was 101 out of which 75 were workmen of the C. E. Mills and the rest 26 were outsiders.

(2) *Tiffin house at the main Centre*.—The advantage of this tiffin house was taken by 2,100 people during the month and the total amount of sale proceeds was Rs. 685 only.

(3) *Social Club at the Crescent Centre*.—The club was closed during the month for want of convenient time.

Creche

The total number of children on the roll at the beginning was 67, 9 children left the Creche, and at the end of the month the total number was 58 with the daily average attendance of 50.

Ten sick children were given treatment during the month out of which 2 were cured and the rest were under treatment. The children were often sent to the dispensary at the Fazulbhoj Mills for treatment during the month.

General Meetings and Gatherings

(1) *Gatherings*.—Gatherings were arranged twice (on the 24th and 26th) during the month by the members of the Gymnasium for offering prayers to their deity "Hanuman", when they distributed sweetmeat. All the members of the Gymnasium attended each time.

(2) The annual general meetings of the societies mentioned below were held during the month:—

Date	Name of the Society	Chairman	Place and Time
22nd	Curriumbhoj Folding.	Mr. S. B. Kulkarni.	Central Hall at 6 p.m.
24th	Rohidas.	do.	Old day school shed at 6 p.m.
25th	Pearl Mills.	do.	Central Hall at 6 p.m.
27th	Bhuranvadekar Maratha.	do.	Central Hall at 3 p.m.
27th	Kumbhakar.	do.	Central Hall at 8 a.m.

Miscellaneous

(1) *Free Medical Aid*.—Medical Aid was given to 193 patients during the month out of which 182 were men, 4 women and 7 children, 188 cases cured, 4 continued their treatment and one died.

(2) *Writing of applications*.—5 applications were written for the workmen of the C. E. Mills during the month.

II

THE MESSRS NOWROSJEE WADIA & SONS, AGENTS FOR THE BOMBAY DYEING & MANUFACTURING Co., LTD.

1. All the three Mills have in their close vicinity residential quarters for the workpeople where rooms are let at very moderate rent.

2. There are grain shops, where grain is sold at cost price, and that too not for cash, as the amount due by each buyer is deducted out of his wages on pay day only. This system gives the workman double advantage. It provides food for the man and his family, and prevents him from borrowing money on heavy exorbitant rate of interest from Marwaris to pay the grain dealers who again cheat the workman not only in quality and quantity but also in the rate.

3. There are cloth shops, where cloth is sold on the same principle as the grain.

4. In addition to the above necessities of life, each of the three Mills has a well equipped dispensary, where workman and their wives and children are treated free of any charge. To give an idea of the extent to which men and their families are given free medical aid the following numbers will prove interesting:—

Spring Mills	250 per day.
Textile Mills	175 " "
Dye Works	50 " "

The above numbers include all sorts of diseases and accidents. General state of health of the men was good taking into consideration the season of the year. We had no cases of cholera, plague or infectious diseases.

5. There is a Creche at the Spring Mills where workwomen and widowers bring their infants and children who are kept in charge of a qualified nurse till the closing hours. The children are given milk, biscuits, etc., free of charge.

6. In addition to all these, a Maternity Hospital, under the name of The Nowrosjee Wadia Maternity Home and Free Dispensary has been established in the Mill Area solely for the benefit of the workpeople.

Industrial Welfare in England

The value of the work done by a host of agencies for smoothing the relations between employers and employed is usually underestimated by the general public, who are more impressed by one strike or lock-out than by 99 disputes amicably settled without, in many cases, the outside world's having been cognisant of their occurrence. For the sake of a right perspective it is as well at times that such bodies as the Industrial Welfare Society should bring their achievements into the limelight. The society has for the last six years been responsible for bringing to the notice of employers the value of welfare work as an instrument for creating better relations with their workers, and as an aid to practical management. The fruits of its endeavours are seen in the existence of organized schemes for ensuring the safety, health, and comfort of the worker in more than a thousand industrial concerns, covering all the branches of manufacturing, as well as the distributing and retail trades. The evidence of those responsible for the management of representative concerns such as the British Thomson-Houston Company, General Electric Company, McVitie and Price, Josiah Wedgwood and Sons, the Salt Union, and Stewarts and Lloyds, is a testimony to the seriousness with which the work is taken by those in the best position to judge of its merits. Industrial welfare schemes entail a certain amount of expenditure, but provided they are wisely administered so as to arouse no doubts as to their *bona fide* intention in the mind of a possibly hostile worker, the evidence given in the society's latest publication seems fairly conclusive that the gain in reduced absenteeism, less frequent staff changes, fewer accidents, etc., leaves in the long run a significant balance on the right side. (*The Economist*, August 9, 1924.)

Labour in Japan

I

Under the title of "Japanese Labour Organisation, Growth and Recognition of Unions" the *Times Trade and Engineering Supplement for 2nd August 1924* publishes a well-informed article from a correspondent.

In spite of the entire absence of any ethnological or cultural connexion between the two countries, and in spite of the obviously profound differences in national character, it is evident that the social structure of Japanese life is comparable with that of the Bombay Presidency. Thus we read that the persons carrying on trade as tanners are regarded as outcastes and called by the equivalent of that word. Again, the agricultural population contains 70 per cent. peasant proprietors owning very small farms, and the remainder are tenants. During the off-season the farmer and his family work as labourers in silk-production, braid-weaving, tea-planting, etc. Only 13 per cent. of the population lives in large towns. The term is not defined, but the percentage must be very close to the corresponding percentage in this Presidency.

The writer divides Japanese labour into certain groups, viz.:—(1) Metal, mining, ship-building, transport, and chemical industries, (2) Textiles, match-manufactures, matting and braid-weaving and the like, (3) Agricultural, (4) Tanning, butchers and the like. In group (1) more men are employed, the employees are better educated, and government itself have laid down lines for conditions of labour. In group (2) 60 per cent. are women workers, the industries are described by the writer as "sweated", and labour has been slow in organising and obtaining recognition. In group (3) a Farmers' and Peasants' Union has been formed mainly composed of tenant farmers, for the amelioration of the conditions under which they hold their lands. This Union, which is scarcely analogous to a Trade Union, finds some counterpart in the spasmodic organisation of tenants in the Konkan. Group (4), outcastes, originally lived in separate villages (c.f. our Maharwadas, etc.), but after the restoration were placed on the same legal footing as other Japanese. They have recently combined into a powerful society.

Under the Factory Law of 1911 hours of work are fixed at a maximum of 12 per day, but employers can obtain an extension on showing cause. As a result in the Cotton Textile Industry, when trade is good, hours are often as long as 16. Night work is, however, controlled. Living conditions in this group are very bad. Factory Inspectors are few, and, except in a few more enlightened mills, sickness is great.

Old age pensions have been in existence since 1875, and there is now some provision for workmen's compensation and insurance.

Strikes were forbidden till 1919, after which Unions were recognised, but "outside interference" was not permitted. The influence and membership of the Unions has declined since 1921.

II

Workers' Councils in Japan can be traced back two decades when provision of this kind was first made in a Porcelain Factory and a Spinning Mill. In the year 1900 arrangements were made in the case of the Porcelain Factory for joint discussion between representatives of the employers and workers concerning conditions of labour and welfare generally. In the case of the Spinning Mill a council with a certain number of workers' representatives was established in 1896 to judge cases of workers charged with violation of factory rules. Similar attempts were made in 1915 and in 1916 in various directions, but a real Workers' Council in the modern sense was established only in 1919 by the Government Railway. Since then Workers' Councils are gathering in importance and in 1921 there were over 50 such councils. In addition, about 30 councils for the discussion of mutual aid between workers, promotion of culture and friendship and the furtherance of a better understanding between the representatives of employers and workers were established during the same year. Of late the enthusiasm for Workers' Councils has been on the decline but at the end of the year 1923, there were in existence in Japan 124 councils, 94 of which were regular Workers' Councils and the rest quasi-Workers' Councils. (Abstracted from *Industrial and Labour Information*, 11th August 1924).

III

In Japan the number of organized workers is very small in comparison with the whole number of the working population. For instance, out of 400,000 mines only 3,000 are organized. There are three large labour unions in Japan. The Japan Federation of Labour having a membership of 24,000, the Japan Seamen's Union with a membership of 23,000 and the Land Workers' Union which is the largest, with a membership of 45,000. (Abstracted from *Press Reports of the I. F. T. U.*)

Statistical Year Book of Poland

We have received the very full and complete summary of conditions in Poland during 1922-23*. Chapter XIV, Social Statistics, contains information on labour conditions. The population (1921) was 27,192,674 (which is closely approximate to the population of this Presidency including Indian States). The number of Unemployed, which was 206 thousand in January 1922, fell to 61 thousand in November 1922, rose to 115 thousand in March 1923, and fell again to 76 thousand by June 1923. The number of "Industrial Establishments" (definition not given) rose from 2,149 in July 1922 to 3,854 in June 1923, and the number of operatives from 265 thousand to 483 thousand in the same period. Official Employment Bureaus received from 32 to 67 thousand applications per month and succeeded in securing places for a fraction, varying from one-third to one-sixth of the monthly applicants.

* *Annuaire Statistique de la République Polonaise*, II Année, 1923; Office Centrale de Statistique, Varsovie, 1924, pp. 223.

Strikes, for which statistics are available for the calendar years 1921 and 1922, numbered 1,520 in 24 months, involving 1,486,338 operatives, and costing nearly 9 million working days. About 70 to 75 per cent. ended favourably to the strikers. Of causes, wage disputes accounted for the vast majority of the strikes. Seasonally considered, it is to be noted that very few strikes occur in the winter. Statistics of accidents are only available for the year 1921, when they numbered 4,699, spread over a number of different causes. In the same year there were 70 Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors, and 69 other staff. On 1st January 1923 there were 143 Insurance Offices dealing with insurance of workmen, and the number of workmen insured was :—compulsorily 1,415,798 ; voluntarily 2,271 ; dependants (both classes) 1,721,101. But these figures are not quite complete owing to non-receipt of returns from certain offices.

Strikes in Germany 1923

The August Number of the *Reichsarbeitsblatt*, which is the official organ of the German Ministry of Labour, gives statistics of strikes in Germany during 1923. The main figures are as follows :—

Strikes	..	..	..	..	1,878
Workers affected (sum of the highest figures for any day during the duration of a strike)—					
(a) Directly	..	..	..	..	1,487,754
(b) Indirectly	..	..	..	..	19,953
Working days lost—					
(a) for workers directly affected	..	..	..	..	11,014,163
(b) for workers indirectly affected	..	..	..	..	131,889
Causes of strikes—					
(a) wages	..	..	..	..	1,579
(b) hours of work	..	..	..	..	32
(c) others	..	..	..	..	390
Results of strikes—					
(a) completely successful	..	..	..	..	287
(b) compromised (<i>teilweisen erfolg.</i>)	..	..	..	..	955
(c) completely unsuccessful	..	..	..	..	636

The total under "Causes of Strikes" exceeds the total number of strikes because where a strike had a dual cause it is counted to each head.

Classified by Industrial groups we find that the following are the results in the industries principally affected :—

Group.	Number of strikes.	Number of strikers.	Number of days lost (directly).
Mines, smelting-works, etc.	140	314,444	2,339,012
Quarries and earth works	238	61,008	772,609
Metal manufactures	111	237,019	1,598,913
Industries " of machines, etc. "	250	151,373	1,234,470
Textiles	110	92,811	501,788
Wood and wooden articles	242	59,103	853,961
Building	251	94,924	877,560

In addition to industrial strikes there were 70 strikes in Agricultural and Forest occupations which affected 123,540 workers directly and 22,333 indirectly, and caused a total loss of 1,828,252 working days. Most of these were for increase of wages and only 11 out of 70 were successful.

There are also figures for 40 strikes of superior staff (*angestellter*) in industrial concerns, affecting 47,339 workers directly, and 2,287 indirectly, and causing a total loss of 265,833 working days. It is noteworthy that 27 out of the 40 were compromised.

Lockouts in industrial concerns numbered 168, involving 118,747 workers directly locked out, and a loss of 1,331,660 working days. The causes and results were as follows :—

Causes—

(a) wages	..	..	..	..	129
(b) hours of work	..	..	..	..	8
(c) other causes	..	..	..	..	53

Results—

(a) completely favourable	..	..	..	..	53
(b) compromised	..	..	..	..	88
(c) completely unfavourable	..	..	..	..	27

There were also 4 agrarian lock-outs and 2 lock-outs of officers in industrial concerns.

The above are all classed as economic (*wirtschaftliche*) disputes. There is further mention of 47 "Political" strikes, involving 318,536 workers directly and 2,265 indirectly, and causing a total loss of 1,048,283 working days. Causes and results are not tabulated for "Political" strikes.

Figures given for previous years show that conditions in 1923 had much improved. During 1919 to 1922 the number of industrial strikes, and the number of lost working days had been, each year, from two to three times the figures of 1923. In the case of "Political" strikes the improvement is far more marked. The figures of "Political" strikes since 1918 are interesting :—

Year	Number of strikes (Political)	Workers directly affected	Working days lost
1918	241	925,120	3,766,456
1919	902	2,562,664	12,934,768
1920	4,408	6,762,242	36,504,142
1921	435	502,021	3,751,504
1922	160	352,334	346,306
1923	47	318,536	1,032,952

Automatic Couplings and the Safety of Railway Workers

Under the above title the International Labour Office, Geneva, has published a special report (*Studies and Reports, Series F, second section (Safety), No. 1*).

The enquiry arose out of a resolution adopted at the fifth session in October 1922, requesting the Governing Body to obtain information upon the question of automatic couplings, "in order to decide whether an international agreement is desirable in the interests of the workers".

The report shows that the use of automatic couplings has given rise to wide divergencies of opinions, and is complicated by technical questions (for instance men still have to pass between vehicles if the connecting of brake and steam heating pipes is not automatic). Statistics were collected and analyzed for 15 countries, of which India was one.

The principal statistics in favour of automatic couplings are furnished by the United States of America. In that country up to 1893 the coupling system was that known as the "link and pin". The introduction of automatic coupling in 1893 reduced the number of coupling and uncoupling accidents per thousand operations from 2.41 fatal and 62.77 non-fatal in 1893 to 0.63 and 9.37 in 1902.

It is mentioned from information supplied by the India Office that the number of engines and vehicles in India fitted with automatic coupling arrangements and not so fitted was in 1923—

	Engines	Vehicles
Fitted	3,344	65,086
Not fitted	6,396	145,447

And it is stated that all engines and vehicles on the metre and narrower gauge lines in India belonged to the automatic class.

In other countries automatic couplings are in general use in the United States of America, Canada, Mexico, and Natal, and on a few narrow gauge railways in Great Britain, France, and Germany.

The general conclusion arrived at at the end of the Report is that the actual effects of automatic couplings, when introduced, have been most beneficial to railwaymen. On the other hand the existing accident rates in the United Kingdom *without* automatic coupling are actually lower than the rates in the United States of America *with* automatic coupling.

The following table is compiled from tables given in the Report. But, in using it, accurate deductions cannot be drawn, because the figures are not exactly comparable. "Train-mileage" does not bear exactly the same meaning in all the countries. In the column for Number of Railway Employees "contractor's workmen" are specifically excluded in the case of Great Britain, and it is by no means certain that the figures cover the same meaning in other countries. The definitions of "fatal" and "non-fatal" accidents are not identical. For instance in Germany, Norway, and the United States of America an accident is only classed as

"fatal" if death occurs within twenty-four hours, while in other countries there is no stated time limit (in Great Britain it is approximately 6 months). The variations in the definition of "non-fatal" accidents are still more disturbing. The chief points of the definition in each case are given in the margin.

It is perhaps hardly justifiable to publish a comparative table on such very divergent data, but those consulting it may be able to make allowances for the different definitions.

ACCIDENTS TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES (For interpretation of the figures see text)

Country.	Number of Railway Employees.	Train mileage (000 omitted).	Year for which employees and mileage stated.	Number per million train-miles of				Definition of non-fatal accident.
				All accidents.		Coupling and uncoupling accidents.		
				Fatal.	Non-fatal.	Fatal.	Non-fatal.	
India ..	698,577	160,375	Average 1919-1920.	2.82	5.82	0.17	0.65	Not stated.
United Kingdom ..	648,724	415,480	Average 1911-1920.	0.93	12.97	0.03	1.53	Absence of work for one day.
Canada ..	152,137	108,208	Average 1912-1920.	1.85	40.55	0.13	1.55	Not stated.
United States of America.	1,635,018	1,167,214	Average 1905-1914.	3.04	93.23	0.19	2.68	Absence of work for three days out of the 10 days following the accident.
Belgium ..	60,038	48,456	Average 1909-1913.	1.44	11.12	0.12	2.32	Not stated.
Switzerland ..	29,836	24,879	Average 1913-1922.	1.17	54.98	0.13	6.43	Absence of work for six days.
Germany ..	888,728	386,958	Average 1912-1921.	2.01	3.84	0.33	0.51	Absence of work for fourteen days.
Sweden ..	25,202	16,515	Average 1906-1916.	1.48	8.66	0.21	1.92	Not stated.
Norway ..	5,227	6,786	Average 1913-1920.	0.48	3.8	0.09	0.72	Requiring medical treatment.

Labour Legislation

The Labour Office has received from the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, copies of two draft Bills (1) to provide for the registration of Trade Unions and in certain respects to define the law relating to registered Trade Unions in British India, and (2) to make provision for enabling the investigation and settlement of trade disputes. These Bills will be published in the *October* issue of this journal.

The Collection of Statistics by Legislative Enactment

A full account of the proceedings in connexion with the Bill to Provide for the Collection of Statistical Information for Public Purposes in the Bombay Presidency introduced in the second Session of the Bombay Legislative Council which met at Poona in the month of July was published in the *Labour Gazette* for August 1924. The Labour Office takes this opportunity of correcting two errors which occurred in the article referred to. One of these inadvertently crept into the article through a clerical mistake and the other was due to inaccurate newspaper reports.

1. In the tenth line in the first column on page 25, Mr. A. N. Surve has been shown as a member for the Non-Muhammadan Rural Constituency in the Ratnagiri District. Mr. Surve is member for Non-Muhammadan Urban, Bombay City, North.

2. In the second paragraph in the first column of page 22, Mr. Gordhandas Patel is reported to have considered that an Industrial Disputes Bill should precede a Statistics Bill. Since publishing this, the Labour Office has received the complete official text of all the speeches made on the Bill in the Council and on examination of Mr. Patel's speech, it has been found that he did not make the suggestion reported.

In the previous article on the subject of the Collection of Statistics by Legislative Enactment the principal arguments in favour of the Bill were dealt with, and facts and figures were given showing why this piece of Legislation is necessary. It was also stated that the arguments against the Bill would be dealt with in full detail in the September issue of the *Labour Gazette*, which would contain, in addition to complete answers to all objections raised against the Bill, extracts from the Acts of other countries which deal with such questions as the power to collect statistics on "other matters", the right of entry to factories, the power to make observations, etc. The arguments against the Bill may be grouped under two broad heads: (1) Arguments against the Principle of the Bill; and (2) Arguments against the Clauses of the Bill.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE PRINCIPLE OF THE BILL

Various arguments have been raised by different associations and bodies against the principle of providing statutory powers for the collection of statistics in this Presidency. Most of these arguments fall under one or the other of the following five main heads:—

I. That the Bill is not required because it is (a) Unnecessary; (b) Superfluous; (c) Premature; (d) Inquisitorial; and because it may be (e) Dangerous and (f) Expensive.

II. That there is no analogy or precedent in the English Act for the legislation proposed for Bombay.

III. That the collection of statistics is a subject for all India Legislation.

IV. That General Statistics collected from time to time are not of much value, are misleading and are liable to be misunderstood. And

V. That statistics should be collected *ad hoc* as and when required, and that this should be provided for under legislation for settlement of industrial disputes.

I. (a) That the Bill is unnecessary

GENERAL ANSWER

The obvious answer to this is a repetition of the arguments advanced in favour of the Bill in the previous issue of the *Labour Gazette*. These are:—

(1) The growth of industrialism in the Bombay Presidency during the last ten years has been very great, and it is desirable that the policy of drift, which has been responsible for well known and deplorable conditions in the Industrial world of the West, should not be followed in the East.

(2) The magnitude of recent industrial strikes, the loss of money involved, the distress caused, and the general dislocation of ordinary conditions demand that every possible means should be used to prevent their recurrence, or to secure that any future disputes shall be rapidly and completely settled. And the collection of facts and figures in advance is an obvious method of securing the above object.

(3) The voluntary method of collecting statistics has not been found to be successful.

(4) The principle of providing statutory powers for the collection of statistics has been universally accepted and adopted by most of the civilised countries of the world.

SPECIAL CRITICISM

It is argued that, in the absence of any legislation dealing with trade disputes and other labour matters, no case has been made out for the necessity of the Bill and that apart from the question of trade disputes there is no necessity for the collection of statistics in connexion with labour matters.

ANSWER

When proposing any legislation for the settlement of industrial disputes it is better that legislation for the collection of full and accurate statistics on all subjects which have a bearing upon the several causes which lead to such disputes should either precede or must form a complementary piece of legislation. The latter was the method originally proposed in the case of Bombay. Statistics in connexion with labour matters such as the cost of living, average daily earnings per capita in different occupations for different industries, the hours of labour, the numbers of workpeople employed and unemployed, etc., will prove, it is hoped, as valuable for the prevention of industrial disputes as for the settlement of the same. Such statistics published from time to time for each industrial centre will afford a close insight into the material conditions of the working classes, and help to facilitate friendly adjustments of wages in accordance with the cost of living.

Several statistics which have a direct bearing on questions intimately connected with labour have only an indirect bearing on questions arising in the course of a trade dispute. For instance, the Labour Office collects family budgets, in order to ascertain the manner in which a worker's family spends its income, thereby facilitating historical and international comparisons of standards of living. The Labour Office also collects extensive information in connexion with the rents paid by different people in different social strata, and the best way to collect this information is by the issue of forms to houseowners. The Labour Office compiles indexes showing the rise and fall in (1) retail prices, (2) wholesale prices, and (3) shares and securities. Of these three types of information the first—

Family Budgets—will continue to be collected on a voluntary basis. But the other two are much better collected under legal sanction as is done in all industrially advanced countries. There are also various other subjects which have an intimate and direct bearing on prices. These are freights, bank deposits, rates of exchange, figures of production, imports and exports, etc. Any proposals to collect full and accurate statistics in connexion with these various matters are doomed to failure unless such proposals are supported by sanctions and penalties for failure to supply information.

I. (b) That the Bill is superfluous

CRITICISM

The legislation is considered as unwarranted because up to this time the Labour Office has been supplied with all the information it required voluntarily. In an article dated the 14th June 1924, "Commerce" said:

"There can be no question but that employers in Bombay have co-operated with the labour department in a whole-hearted manner and have supplied data readily."

ANSWER

This criticism contains (1) a fallacy in reasoning, and (2) a mis-statement of fact. The fallacy in reasoning is contained in the presumption that the Statistics Bill is meant primarily if not entirely for the collection of statistical data from employers. This is not so. Compulsory powers are primarily required for enquiries in connexion with prices both wholesale and retail, rents and cost of living and secondarily for data in connexion with wages, hours of labour, employment and unemployment, etc.

The mis-statement of fact is contained in the statement that the Labour Office has been able to obtain all the information it required voluntarily. It has already been pointed out, in dealing with the arguments in favour of the Bill, that the voluntary method of collecting statistics has not been found to be wholly successful, because employers have not co-operated in a whole-hearted manner in the supply of information to the Labour Office. The Engineering Employers' Federation which controls the second largest industry in the Bombay Presidency definitely refused to supply any statistics to the Labour Office. During the enquiry into wages and hours of labour in the Cotton Mill Industry held in May 1921, 25 mills in Ahmedabad did not supply information and in a similar enquiry held for August 1923 the publication of the results has been considerably delayed owing to the fact that complete returns were not received un'til seven months after the issue of forms, and then only after the Investigators of the Labour Office had had to visit almost all mills in the Presidency—four to five visits being necessary in several cases.

I. (c) That the Bill is premature

CRITICISM

It is held that the Bill is premature because conditions in the countries which have been shown as possessing Statistical Acts, and conditions in India, are so radically different that there are *prima facie* reasons for believing that what is suitable for the one must be unsuitable for the other.

ANSWER

The question at the back of a Statistics Act is whether statistics are required and, if statistics are required, the chances of getting full and accurate statistics by the voluntary method. It does not stand to reason that this country should have a Statistics Act because most industrial countries have such Acts. The facts are that the Government of Bombay have established a Labour Office to compile statistics in connexion with labour matters, that the Labour Office has functioned for nearly four years without a Statistics Act, and that the voluntary method of collecting information has not been successful. With the expansion of the activities of the Labour Office it is necessary to have full and accurate data on a variety of subjects. It is not possible now to procure such full and accurate data without legislation compelling the supply of information and a Statistics Act is therefore necessary. The question whether most countries or all countries have such legislation is a matter which is not entirely relevant but at the same time the fact that most countries have such legislation shows how universally recognised is the principle that it is not possible to collect complete and correct data by the voluntary method. India has been officially recognised by the League of Nations, after a very careful examination of her claims, as one of the eight chief industrial countries of the world, and this recognition must be largely due to the industrial pre-eminence of the Bombay Presidency. It is exceedingly significant that of the eight chief industrial countries of the world India to-day stands alone in being without a Statistics Act.

The rapid growth of industrialism in this Presidency within the last ten years as reflected in the increase in the number of factory workers from about 260,000 in 1913 to 353,280 in 1923 or an increase of 36 per cent. foreshadows still further rapid development in the future. Almost all reforms and advances in the history of the world have been resisted on the ground that they are premature. But prevention is better than cure, and the Bombay Presidency ought to take a pride in keeping abreast of the march of modern thought.

I. (d) That the Bill is Inquisitorial

CRITICISM

It is believed that to place in the hands of a Government official the power of intervening, almost without restraint, in the industrial activities of Bombay cannot but result in a grievous injury to industry and in constant disputes between industry and Government itself.

ANSWER

This is a highly exaggerated view. There is no question of interference or intervention in any industrial matters by the Director of the Labour Office or by a Government official in the position of a Statistician. The collection of statistical information in a form which is issued for that purpose, and where all the forms returned are treated with the utmost confidence, does not mean interference or intervention in industrial matters. The right to enter factories, etc., is to be exercised only in connexion with

making enquiries as are necessary to any investigation which the Officer who exercises the right has on hand. The working of a Statistics Act is much simpler than some employers fear, and, except in cases where co-operation for the supply of information is refused, there is no possibility of any disputes between industry and Government. Employers who agree with the criticism given above are extremely pessimistic regarding the powers which they think a Statistics Bill would confer on a Statistician. It may be assumed that in its final form, after passing through the hands of a Committee, there will be nothing in the Bill proposed for Bombay to justify the fears of employers in this matter. When the Census of Production Bill was before the House of Commons in 1906, Mr. Lloyd George who was then President of the Board of Trade said, "there is no desire to have an inquisition of any sort into the trade of any man." This is the general principle underlying all similar legislation and it applies equally to the legislation now proposed for this Presidency. There are many other enactments on the statute book which *could* be inquisitorial, if misused. The safeguard lies in Public Opinion, which would soon stamp on and annihilate any attempts at inquisitorial action.

Reference is also invited to the remarks of Mr. A. N. Surve (Non-Muhammadan Urban, Bombay City, North) who, in supporting the first reading of the Bill in the Bombay Legislative Council, said :

"Mr. President, the bill that is before us is described as a very dangerous bill. Is it really dangerous? References have been made to some of its provisions. It is stated that it contains power of entry into factories and other places. Sir, I think that if that power is given, it is not likely to be abused because it is only for a limited purpose. The power is given in order to enable the other provisions of the Bill to be worked. For instance, if the officer calls for a return and the return is duly sent in, what guarantee is there that it does not contain any mis-statements or false statements? Therefore that return must be checked, and how can it be checked if a personal visit is not paid to the factory or to the building? Sir, under the Factories Act, every factory can be inspected by the factory inspector, and when that legislation was passed no cry was raised that a power of very great magnitude was going to be entrusted to Government officers, and I have not heard of any instance in which that power has been abused. Then, why should we entertain any fear when this Bill contains a similar provision?"

I. (e) *That the Bill may be dangerous*

CRITICISM

It may be dangerous because the intrusion of an Investigator of the Labour Office into a Factory or Mill at the time of a dispute may be immediately seized upon by the ignorant and highly volatile workmen of this Presidency as indicating that Government is on their side; and the impending or existing trouble will thereby be precipitated or enhanced.

ANSWER

It is not the intention of Government to interfere in any shape or form with the progress of any strike or industrial dispute by sending any representative of the Labour Office into a factory or place where a strike is in progress. In cases where it may be necessary to make enquiries in connexion with the cause and the progress of any strike or dispute such enquiries are made from accredited representatives of both the employers and the employees affected. Such enquiries do not require legislative sanction, and no additions to any enquiries made at present are intended to be provided for under the Statistics Bill.

I. (f) *That the Bill may be expensive.*

CRITICISM

"With regard to the point of economy, I submit that it is unnecessary to spend two lakhs of rupees, in these days when money is so scarce, for gathering information which can be got for nothing."

Mr. C. N. Wadia (Bombay Millowners' Association) in the Bombay Legislative Council.

ANSWER

In proposing legislation for the provision of statutory powers for the collection of statistics it is not the intention of Government at present to undertake any large increase in the staff of the Labour Office. The appointment of Investigators at Karachi and Sholapur has already met with the administrative approval of Government and such appointments will probably be made during the forthcoming financial year, if approved in Council. The actual expenditure for the upkeep and maintenance of the Labour Office amounted to Rs. 67,000 in 1921-22, Rs. 1,00,000 in 1922-23 and to Rs. 1,06,000 in 1923-24. The expenditure for 1924-25 is expected to amount to very little more than the figure for last year. The justification for this expenditure is contained in the press note published by the Government of Bombay in April 1921, which said :—

"In every considerable civilised country there is now a special Department which collects information as to wages and other working conditions and generally watches over the relations between the employers and employed.

"In India during the last few years it has become more and more apparent that some organisation on the lines of the labour departments of the world is needed. There is a pressing need for full and accurate information about the actual wages paid at the present time and how these wages compare with those paid in previous years. In making this comparison one has to bear in mind that the purchasing power of money has fallen; hence the necessity of getting exact information as to the course of prices and the cost of living generally. The need for authoritative information on these and similar points is felt by all. Existing statistics leave much to be desired. Figures given by employers are immediately discounted on the ground that they are not disinterested; counter statements made by employees are open to the same damaging criticism. Some impartial authority which, without bias in one direction or the other, will endeavour to ascertain the facts, would appear to be urgently necessary.

"While the cost of such a Department is not productive in the sense that it earns interest yet, in countries where such an organisation exists, it is not usually regarded as a purely unproductive investment, for it is pointed out that by helping to secure harmonious relations between employers and employed it saves the parties immediately concerned, and the country generally a great deal of money that might otherwise be wasted in industrial disputes. It is not suggested that the setting up of the Bombay office will overcome all labour difficulties. It is not intended that it should arbitrarily intervene in all disputes between capital and labour but it is felt that it will be an advantage to the parties concerned to have all the available facts bearing on economic conditions readily accessible..."

It will be seen therefore that the expenditure incurred in connection with the collection of Labour statistics is not unproductive and wasteful and that the expenditure incurred on the upkeep of a Labour Office is to the advantage both of capital and of labour. The immediate point at issue would appear to be whether any increase in the expenditure of conducting the Labour Office will be necessary as a result of legislation for the collection of statistics. The answer to this has already been given above and it may be said that no increase of any importance is contemplated in the expenditure of running the Labour Office at present.

II. *That there is no analogy or precedent for the Bill*

CRITICISM

It is said that the legislation for the collection of statistics in England and in other countries offers no analogy or precedent to what is proposed in Bombay.

ANSWER

The cause, precedent or analogy for legislation providing statutory powers for the collection of statistics exists as soon as the voluntary system of collecting statistical data is found to be inefficient. In the absence of full and accurate statistics important decisions are often based on figures which are conjectural and in order to obtain dependable data most countries in the world have found it necessary to provide legislation. Mr. Lloyd George in introducing the 'Bill to provide for the taking of a Census of Production' in the House of Commons on the 16th May 1906 said:

"I think it is generally felt that we have not got reliable statistics. . . . The figures of both sides were more or less conjectural. They were biased with conjecture and partisanship. . . . It will be quite impossible to have a reliable census at all unless it is compulsory, for the very obvious reason that if a number of men fail to fill in forms, through neglect or opposition to the census, you never can say how much they represent—whether they represent 5, 10 or 15 per cent.; and the absence of whatever they represent would vitiate the whole return."

Mr. J. Chamberlain, Leader of the Opposition, supported the Bill and said:

"Whatever opinions we may have on the condition of trade or other matters connected with fiscal reform, there is one thing which we all want, and that is the possibility of our having at our disposal correct statistics on which we can perhaps base very different conclusions. At all events we all want correct statistics—a thing which is most difficult to obtain. One thing will be admitted, that the statistics of the Board of Trade, collected with admirable care and no doubt with most perfect impartiality, are at the same time altogether inadequate and incomplete. . . . we shall ask for nothing we do not want. What we ask for we must insist upon having from all."

The analogy in the Census of Production Act for the Bombay Bill is that as soon as the necessity of complete statistics in connection with a certain subject was recognised in England, powers were asked for to compel the furnishing of information. The time has arrived in this Presidency to compile statistics in connection with all questions bearing on labour and to make this information accurate and of value. It is necessary to ensure completeness in any enquiry which is undertaken and to ensure such completeness statutory powers are necessary. The precedents for the Bombay Bill are the successive failures of the voluntary method of collecting statistics. This view is recognised by the Karachi Chamber of Commerce whose representative, Mr. F. Clayton, whilst supporting the Bill in the Council, said:

"The position simply is that while a considerable number supply information, there are a certain number that will not do so, the result being that while statistics available have proved to be of considerable value they cannot be effectively so, to the full extent desirable, nor be adequate for the purpose intended, unless they are quite complete and to make this possible is the sole object in view. In this connection it is important to remember that this Bill is in the interests of Capital and also of Labour. Only figures carefully compiled and complete will prove what wages it is reasonable for labour to demand and what wages capital can afford to pay for its labour. In view of all these reasons, I think the bill should be welcomed by both the parties who are mutually interested in this matter."

III. That an All-India Bill is preferred

CRITICISM

"Any collection of statistics of one province will not be useful for the development of industries in India, or the country as a whole, or for the interests of labour or capital. . . . To develop the industries of any country, you must have statistics for the entire country and not merely for one province of that country. . . . This subject is one affecting not one province only but the whole of India."

Mr. Laljee Naranjee (Indian Merchants' Chamber) in his speech on the Statistics Bill in the Bombay Legislative Council.

ANSWER

Mr. A. Montgomerie, Secretary to Government in the Home Department, replied to this argument conclusively in the Bombay Legislative Council, when, in replying to the various criticisms raised against the Bill, he said:

"The first reading of the Bill has been attacked on several grounds. The first is that it ought to have been an all-India measure. For my own part I am inclined to agree with the honourable members who have raised that point. The only thing is that the Government of India have so far themselves declined to enter into such legislation, on the grounds that the conditions obtaining in the various provinces are so very different. At the same time, they indicated that they had no objection to any province which thought that it was sufficiently advanced to call for such legislation, engaging in legislation applying only to that province. It is obvious, I think, to all that the conditions of Bombay which render the application of the Statistics Act especially suitable to it are entirely different from those of a province, say like Madras, or any of the purely agricultural provinces. Labour has certainly reached a stage in Bombay which it has not reached in any other Presidency, and we have had forcibly brought to notice in Bombay the necessity of avoiding those errors which have gone up to make one of the least satisfactory chapters in the history of Western civilisation."

Mr. F. Clayton dealt with this question from an entirely different point of view. He said:

"The third objection is that the Statistics Bill should be dealt with by the Government of India. It was one of the greatest surprises of my connection with this Council to hear one honourable member seriously suggest that the Bombay Government should abrogate its power of enacting legislation to the Central Government. Is not Bombay able to manage its own affairs in industrial matters? Here we are, as the chosen representatives of the people of this Presidency, possessing certain rights and powers of legislation, even considering the asking for wider powers, and yet suggesting that the Bombay Government should voluntarily part with its power in favour of the Government of India. I ask you to consider whether it is or is not right that Bombay should legislate for what it wants and that a statistical bill which affects industrial and commercial concerns in the Bombay Presidency should or should not be dealt with by its own Council. Surely, Bombay desires to retain this power in its own hands and I cannot imagine any honourable member has a mandate from his constituency to deplete it of powers it now possesses. I certainly consider that this is a matter solely within the competence of the Bombay Government and this honourable House."

Those employers and persons who plead for all-India legislation for statutory powers for collecting statistics lose sight of the fact that the statistics required under the legislation proposed are statistics of the conditions under which labour lives and works in each industry in each industrial centre in the Bombay Presidency. An average of the daily earnings of a carpenter in Madras, Sind and Assam would be meaningless and of no practical utility whatever. Similarly a cost of living index compiled for the whole of India can hardly be made applicable to Sholapur and to Delhi. What capital and labour both want to know is what is the cost of living at Ahmedabad, what is the average wage earned by a worker of a particular type, in a particular occupation, in a particular industry, in Ahmedabad; and the relation between the earnings of that workman and his cost of living in that centre. Whether India provides such legislation for the whole country or not does not concern the people of the Bombay Presidency. The people and the Government of Bombay want labour's statistics in connection with their own labour and it is necessary in order to collect complete and correct information that statutory powers should be given to the officer and the department entrusted with the work of collecting such data. The Labour office and the Statistics Bill are not concerned with the development of industries in the whole of India. The Labour office of the Government of Bombay is concerned entirely with matters affecting labour in the Bombay Presidency and it is for this purpose that a Statistics Bill is required for this Presidency.

IV. *Alleged misleading Nature of General Statistics*

CRITICISM

That the publication of statistics purporting to set forth by means of figures the whole of the conditions under which labour is employed is misleading. Every employer has his own rules, his own special privileges, his own methods of organisation, his own standard of efficiency or of output, and no statistics published by an independent office could deal with all these aspects of any particular trade or industry by means of figures. The collection and publication of such statistics would therefore provide nothing which would be of any use in settling a dispute which occurred under conditions not dealt with at the time the statistics were published.

ANSWER

This criticism is tantamount to a definite assertion to the effect that all statistics setting forth average earnings are misleading. If this were to be true we would not have that mass of invaluable statistical information in connexion with wages and earnings of all classes of labourers in most countries of the world which we now have available.

In every enquiry into wages, earnings and hours of labour special information is always asked for in connexion with any special concessions allowed in the shape of cheap or rent-free housing, cheap grain, free clothing, travelling allowances, etc. In cases where a concession or concessions are general to any industry such concession or concessions are valued and allowances are made for them in the figures tabulated. But where any particular concession is confined to an individual unit the fact that such concession was granted is recorded.

The object of ascertaining average earnings is to find out what each set of workpeople doing the same kind of work normally earn in a set period of time in a particular industrial centre. These average earnings calculated from time to time afford a comparison between two different dates with regard to their connexion with the cost of living. In all cases, where allowances are given in the form of a dearness allowance, a regular bonus, or an allowance for regular attendance, the details in connexion with such allowances are asked for and are added to the monthly earnings in each case. It would not be correct to say, therefore, that the concessions and privileges allowed by various employers are not taken into consideration. Every endeavour is made in each enquiry to split up the workpeople in any one industry into as many divisions or occupations as possible according to variations in responsibility, expert knowledge, efficiency, amount of output, etc. For example, in the Cotton Mill Industry, 'moulders' are divided into three classes according to the quality of work turned out. As a result of this it is possible to ascertain the average daily earnings of each class of workpeople even in individual occupations with a great deal of accuracy.

The essential point which has been entirely lost sight of in the criticism made is the fact that the majority of general strikes, for the prevention and the settlement of which governments legislate, result from big issues such as the payment of a general bonus, organised short time, a general reduction of wages, or a general demand for an increase in wages, etc., *i.e.*, factors which affect the whole of a particular industry in a particular centre.

It is for the purpose of assisting in disputes on such issues that it is proposed to compile statistical information on a variety of subjects in connexion with labour matters. In the case of a dispute which is either apprehended or has occurred in connexion with a concession or concessions allowed by a few units the cause of such a dispute can be easily enquired into and reported upon by a Court of Enquiry, if appointed, within a very short period of time. The primary intention of legislation for the appointment of Courts of Enquiry, Conciliation or Arbitration for the prevention and settlement of trade disputes is not to appoint such Courts for every small localised strike or dispute in connexion with minor personal grievances (unless such grievance is taken up by a powerful union as the cause for a general strike) but to provide machinery for dealing with a general dispute such as the one that occurred last year in connexion with the question of a reduction of wages in Ahmedabad, or the one that occurred in Bombay recently in connexion with the question of the non-payment of Bonus. Any Court of Enquiry appointed to deal with such disputes would require general statistical data of the kind which can best be compiled with the assistance of compulsory powers.

In disputes concerning individual units on matters of internal organisation the examination of a firm's representatives, books and documents would suffice for the purposes of an Enquiry and any general statistical data would not be necessary. If however, the dispute occurred over the question of the adjustment of wages in an industrial concern it would be necessary to ascertain (1) the level of the cost of living, and (2) the average earnings of similar groups of workpeople in the same industry. Such information, no Court of Enquiry could collect within the very limited time at its disposal. In a general dispute which occurs on the big issues of wages or organised short time no general statistics of value could be compiled after a dispute has been apprehended or has occurred. In such cases reliance must be placed on general and impartial statistics compiled by a central Government office. In the Bombay Presidency this Labour Office has been established to deal with labour statistics and it is an ordinary part of its duties to collect all the data which it considers necessary for the early settlement of trade disputes.

FURTHER CRITICISM

It is asserted that there is a probability that general statistics published by a Central office would be liable to do harm, in that they would be read by people, employers, employees and others, who would not know how they were compiled nor precisely to what conditions they applied. This might cause misunderstandings which would be but a short step towards precipitating a breach between the employer and the employees.

ANSWER

Statistics based on cent per cent. accurate returns cannot do any harm and are not likely to be misunderstood because all statistics published would be prefaced by a report giving exact details with regard to the methods used in compilation. If such a view were universally held we should have no statistics at all. It is possible that the publication of statistics may precipitate a breach between employers and employees but accurate statistics invariably result in an eventual balance being established between

capital and labour, by bringing about an understanding which would be based on sound figures.

In dealing with this point in the Legislative Council, during the debate on the Bill, Mr. Montgomerie said:

"It is the intention of Government, by the collection of facts, to put before the public such material as will enable them to judge between the masses and the classes; to produce material which will exhibit the true facts of the case and by doing away with misconceptions and misunderstandings, by squashing at the very outset the false statements made by labour and occasionally by capital which lead to these industrial disputes render the occurrence of such disputes impossible. It is the intention of Government to put that material before the public and before the masses and before the classes and so eliminate any antagonism that there may be (and that there ought not to be) between the masses and the classes. As to the advantage, from every point of view, of having this mass of material, I do not think it necessary for me to say anything to the House."

The Bombay Millowners Association recognised the value of general statistics when, in criticising the Labour Office Report on an Enquiry into the Wages and Hours of Labour in the Cotton Mill Industry held for May 1921, they said, in July 1922:

"The value to the community as a whole of the tabulation and classification in so convenient a form of the daily earnings of the large proportion of the population of Bombay comprised by the operatives in the Cotton Mill Industry requires no emphasis. . . . The statistics will prove of very considerable assistance to them in their work, and will also tend to remove a considerable amount of misunderstanding which the absence of such figures hitherto has created."

V. *That statistics should be collected ad hoc as and when required for the settlement of a dispute, and that this should be provided for under legislation for the settlement of industrial disputes*

ANSWER

There is no known precedent in any country in the world, by which provision for the collection of general statistical information in connexion with labour matters are included in legislation dealing with trade disputes. The functions and the operation of the two acts are entirely different, although a Statistics Act is a complementary piece of legislation, and without a Statistics Act an Industrial Disputes Act cannot function as efficiently as is desirable.

Employers of labour have endeavoured to show that all the information that would be required by a Court of Enquiry in connexion with any dispute can be collected under the provisions of a Trade Disputes Bill and ought to be so collected only after a dispute has been apprehended as likely to occur or after a dispute has occurred.

The main object of any legislation on the subject of trade disputes is the averting of apprehended disputes or the settling of disputes which have actually arisen as a consequence of lightning strikes. This object is realised by the appointment of Courts of Enquiries to make full investigations into the causes of apprehended or actual disputes, and to report regarding the true state of affairs in each case, so that it may be possible for both parties to a dispute and the general public to form an impartial opinion of the merits of each particular case. The first essential for any Court of Enquiry is to have readily available all the possible statistical data concerning the condition, the cost of living, the average earnings and the hours of labour, etc., of the workpeople in the industry in which a dispute is apprehended or has occurred which it is likely to require.

The provisions in the Industrial Disputes Bill for the production of papers, books and documents would not enable the collection of all material

relevant to the dispute. The collection and tabulation of statistical material is a very slow process, and can best be carried out in statistical offices. The necessity of a speedy termination of each dispute must be a sufficient reason to have general and latest statistical information in connexion with all labour matters readily available.

The provisions in those sections of the Trade Disputes Bill which call for information are intended and meant to supplement the general statistical information collected by an impartial and central Government Department, by making compulsory the production of papers and documents of a confidential nature, and to enforce correct evidence on oath or solemn affirmation, and are not meant to call for the wages rolls of a large number of concerns for the purpose of compiling statistics therefrom. It is not impossible to extract figures from the books of a firm or company in order to make statistical compilations where correct records are available, but the factor of time must prove a vital deterrent as already pointed out above. Moreover, the provisions in the Trade Disputes Bill which make the furnishing of books, papers and documents compulsory would be of no utility at all in connexion with periods for which records have been destroyed. For example, in a case where a dispute is threatened on the question of a general reduction in wages it might be necessary for a Court of Enquiry to examine annual figures for a series of years. The existence of a statistical office with statutory powers to help it in collecting complete information would make the preservation of full and accurate yearly information possible, and in time a mass of valuable statistical data would be readily available in connexion with all phases of an industry.

It must be definitely understood by all those who hold that statistics should be collected *ad hoc* as and when required and at the time a dispute occurs that it would be practically impossible to collect any statistical information on subjects such as rents, the cost of living, average earnings by groups of occupations in particular industries, etc., at a time when a dispute threatens or occurs and that all such information must be collected and compiled from time to time irrespective of the fact whether such disputes occur or not.

Moreover any criticism made to the effect that the only object for the collection of statistics is the utility of such information for the purposes of trade disputes is both narrow and misleading. Full and accurate statistics, in addition to their undoubted value for the settlement of disputes, provide also a permanent and continuing record of the economic position of the people, their ways of living, their actual income, and their potential capacity to increase that income.

Arguments against the Clauses of the Bill

The arguments against the Clauses of the Bill to Provide for the Collection of Statistical Information for Public Purposes in the Bombay Presidency may be classified as major objections and minor objections. Among minor objections may be included all those criticisms made only for the purpose of making some criticism against an imaginary defect in a particular clause or section. For example, section 8 of the Bill provides for the authentication of forms and prescribes that every form delivered or issued

by the Director or a statistician shall be sufficiently authenticated if the name of the Director or statistician by whom it is delivered or issued has been printed or stamped thereon. One association insists that the officer who issues forms should personally sign each and every one of them. This association views this simple and harmless clause with the greatest possible alarm, and reads into it a covert attempt on the part of Government to flood employers and industries with an overwhelming number of forms for statistical enquiries of all types and descriptions. It is therefore considered that if a statistician was legally forced to personally sign every form which issued from his office, a considerable limitation would be prescribed on the extent of the enquiries conducted by him. It will be generally admitted that this objection is both absurd and unsubstantial.

Again objections are raised as to the manner prescribed for the delivery of forms and it is considered that prosecutions would follow in every case where a form which never reaches the person or body by whom it is to be filled is not returned. It is hardly necessary to deal with these and similar objections. Attention may therefore be directed only to the major objections. These group themselves under four main heads which are:—

- I. That the scope of the Bill is very wide;
- II. That the power to enter factories is dangerous and is against the interests of Industry;
- III. That the penalties are too severe; and
- IV. That the power to make observations in reports is apt to be dangerous and should be restricted.

I. That the scope of the Bill is very wide

CRITICISM

It is stated that a study of the various clauses of the Bill itself shows that it is a very wide piece of legislation, enabling the compulsory collection of statistics dealing with nearly every conceivable subject.

ANSWER

The Bombay Bill as at present published does not give any more power to the Director of the Labour Office or to the Statistician of the Government of Bombay than that given to a Labour Commissioner or a statistician in any other country.

It is not, however, proposed to defend the scope of the Bombay Bill, because it is quite certain that, when the Bill comes up before the Council its scope will be materially limited either in Council or in Committee. It might however be of utility to demonstrate by reference to their enactments how very wide are the powers entrusted to their statisticians by other countries.

The Australian Act No. 15 of 1905, relating to the Census and Statistics of the Commonwealth provides the scope of the statistics to be collected (1) in respect of the Census, and (2) generally. With regard to the first, Section 12 provides that the particulars to be specified in the Householder's Schedule shall include the following:—

"(a) the name, sex, age, condition as to, and duration of, marriage, relation to head of the household, profession or occupation, sickness or infirmity, religion, education, and birth-place, and (where the

person was born abroad) length of residence in Australia and nationality of every person abiding in the dwelling during the night of the Census Day;

- (b) the material of the dwelling and the number of rooms contained therein;
- (c) any other prescribed matters."

With regard to the second—General Statistics—section 16 of the Act defines the subjects on which statistics should be collected annually, these are:—

- (a) Population;
- (b) Vital, social and industrial matters;
- (c) Employment and non-employment;
- (d) Imports and Exports;
- (e) Inter-State trade;
- (f) Postal and telegraphic matters;
- (g) Factories, mines and productive industries generally;
- (h) Agricultural, horticultural, viticultural, dairying and pastoral industries;
- (i) Banking, Insurance and Finance;
- (j) Railways, tramways, shipping, and transport;
- (k) Land tenure and occupancy; and
- (l) Any other prescribed matters.

The list of enumerated heads regarding which statistics may be collected in Canada under the Statistics Act of 1918 is very exhaustive. Firstly, the Act provides for the taking of a Census of Population and Agriculture every tenth year. Section 19 of the Canadian Act prescribes the details. It reads:—

"Each census of population and agriculture shall be so taken as to ascertain with the utmost possible accuracy for the various territorial divisions of Canada, or of the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta as the case may be—

- (a) their population and the classification thereof, as regards name, age, sex, conjugal condition, relation to head of household, nationality, race, education, wage earnings, religion, profession, or occupation and otherwise;
- (b) the number of houses for habitation, whether occupied or vacant, under construction or otherwise, the materials thereof and the number of rooms inhabited;
- (c) the area of occupied land and its value, and its condition thereof as improved for cultivation, in fallow, in forest, unbroken prairie, marsh or waste land, and otherwise; the tenure and acreage of farms, and the value of farm buildings and implements;
- (d) the products of farms, with the values of such products, and the number and value of domestic animals within the preceding census or calendar year;
- (e) the municipal, educational, charitable, penal and other institutions thereof; and
- (f) such other matter as may be prescribed by the Governor in Council."

Secondly, the Canadian Act provides for a census of Industry—Mines, fisheries, forestry, manufactures, etc. For this, section 20 of the Act prescribes that:—

"A census of the products of industry shall be taken for the year one thousand nine hundred and eighteen, and subsequently at such intervals as may be determined by the Minister, which census shall be taken so as to ascertain with the utmost possible accuracy,—

- (a) the products of all mines and quarries, fisheries, forests, manufacturing establishments, and the number and kind of buildings and other works of construction used in connection with the same;
- (b) any other trade and business which may be prescribed, with the quantity of real estate and the number and kind of buildings and plant used in connection therewith; and
- (c) any other matters that may be prescribed by the Minister."

Under section 21 the Dominion Statistician is empowered, under the directions of the Minister, to prepare forms for the collection of such data as may be, in his judgment, desirable for the proper presentation of industrial statistics. Such forms must embody enquiries regarding—

- (1) the name of person, partnership or corporation;
- (2) kind of goods manufactured or business done;
- (3) capital invested;
- (4) principal stock or raw materials used, and total value thereof;
- (5) gross quantity and value of articles manufactured;
- (6) number of persons employed, distinguished as to sex, adults and children;
- (7) the power used or generated;

- (8) total wages and salaries paid;
 (9) number of days on which it was carried on; and
 (10) any other specified matter.

Thirdly, the Act provides for annual reports on the statistics of Commerce and Navigation of Canada with foreign countries and prescribes that such reports shall (1) comprehend all goods, wares and merchandise exported from Canada to other countries, all goods, wares and merchandise imported into Canada from other countries, and all navigation employed in the foreign trade of Canada, and (2) state the kinds, quantities and values of the merchandise entered and cleared coastwise into and from the customs collection ports of Canada. The Act also prescribes the preparation and publication of monthly reports of the exports and imports of Canada, including the quantities and values of accounts drawn from the warehouse and such other statistics relative to the trade and industry of the country as the minister may consider expedient. Provision is also made for the collection and publication of statistics regarding the domestic trade of the country. Fourthly, the Act prescribes for the collection of annual statistics regarding the capital invested, the traffic equipment, the working expenditure and any such other information as the Governor in Council may prescribe in respect of transportation companies, and also for monthly returns of the traffic carried during each month by each transportation company. Fifthly, statistics are to be collected under the Canadian Act every year relating to (1) the criminal business transacted in every court or tribunal administering criminal justice; (2) the prisoners committed to penitentiaries, reformatories or jails; and (3) cases in which the prerogative of mercy has been exercised. Sixthly, in addition to the above and subject to the direction of the minister the Canadian Bureau of Statistics shall collect, abstract and tabulate annually statistics in relation to all or any of the following matters:—

- (a) Population;
 (b) Births, deaths and marriages;
 (c) Immigration and Emigration;
 (d) Agriculture;
 (e) Education;
 (f) Public and Private Finance; and
 (g) any other matters prescribed by the Minister or by the Governor in Council.

It will be seen from the above that in addition to specific determined heads under each of the five big subjects of the Census of Population and Agriculture, Census of Industry, Statistics of Trade and Commerce, Transportation Statistics and General Statistics express provision is made, in each specific case for the collection of statistics on any other matters that may be prescribed either by the Minister or by the Governor in Council. In addition to these exceedingly wide powers section 35 of the Canadian Act further provides that the Governor in Council may authorize the Minister to have any special statistical investigation made that is deemed advisable, and may prescribe the manner and by what means such investigation shall be made.

As already pointed out above, the Canadian and the Australian Acts are general statistical acts, whereas the Bombay Bill is intended to provide statutory powers for the collection of statistics by the Labour Office of the Government of Bombay. In view of this it would be of interest to examine the scope of the statistics which are allowed to be collected

under Acts specifically dealing with the collection of labour statistics. Legislation for the collection of statistics in the British Dominions is universally general and includes, in most cases, the collection of labour statistics. In America, all industrial States which have Labour offices have special legislation empowering Labour Commissioners to collect statistics in connexion with labour matters. In Georgia, Section 2 of the Acts of 1911 (page 133) as amended by Act, page 82, Acts of 1913 prescribes:—

"The Commissioner . . . shall collect and collate information and statistics concerning labour and its relation to capital, showing labour conditions throughout the State; the hours of labour; the earnings of labour, and their educational, moral and financial condition, and the best means of promoting their mental, moral and material welfare; shall also collect and collate information and statistics concerning the location, capacity of mills, factories, workshops and other industries, and actual output of manufactured products, and also the character and amount of labour employed; the kind and quantity of raw material annually used by them, and the capital invested therein; shall also collect and collate information on statistics concerning the location, estimated and actual horse power and condition of valuable water powers, developed and undeveloped, in this State; also of timber lands and such other information and statistics concerning the industrial welfare of the citizens of this State as he may deem to be of interest and benefit to the public; and by the dissemination of such data to advertise the various industrial and natural resources of Georgia in order to attract and bring capital into this State."

In Colorado, Section 3903 of the Revised Statutes of 1908 prescribes that—

"The duties of the Commissioner shall be to collect, systematise and present in triennial reports to the Legislature statistical details relating to all departments of labour in the State such as the wages and hours of labour, cost of living, amount of labour required, estimated number of persons depending on daily labour for their support, the estimated number of persons employed by the several industries within the State, the operation of labour saving machinery in relation to handle labour, etc. Said statistics may be classified as follows:—

- First.*—In Agriculture.
Second.—In Mining.
Third.—In Mechanical and Manufacturing Industries.
Fourth.—In Transportation.
Fifth.—In clerical and all other skilled and unskilled labour not abovementioned.
Sixth.—The amount of cash capital invested in lands, in building and machinery, severally, and means of production and distribution generally.
Seventh.—The number, age, sex and condition of persons employed; the nature of their employment; the extent to which the apprenticeship system prevails in the various skilled industries; the number of hours of labour per day; the average length of time employed per annum and the net wages received in each of the industries and employments within the State.
Eighth.—The number and condition of the unemployed, their age, sex and nationality together with their cause of idleness.
Ninth.—The sanitary condition of lands, workshops, dwellings; the number and size of rooms occupied by the workers, etc., the cost of fuel, rent, food, clothing and water in each locality of the State; also the extent to which labour saving processes are employed to the displacement of hand labour.
Tenth.—The number and condition of the Chinese in the State; their social and sanitary habits; number of married and single; the number of employed and the nature of their employment; and the gross amount yearly; the amount expended by them in rent, food and clothing, and in what proportion such amounts are expended for foreign and home productions respectively; to what extent their labour comes in competition with the other industrial classes of the State.
Eleventh.—The number, condition and employment of the inmates of the State prison, county jails and reformatory institutions, and to what extent their employment comes in competition with the labour of mechanics, artisans and labourers outside of these institutions.
Twelfth.—All such other information in relation to labour as the Commissioner may deem essential to further the objects sought to be attained by this statute.
Thirteenth.—A description of the different kinds of labour organisations in the State and what they accomplish in favour of the class for which they were organised."

The Labour Statistics Acts of the other States comprised in the United States of America are based on lines similar to those either of Colorado or Georgia with differences regarding the nature of the statistics specifically prescribed according to the area, position, and industrial importance of

each State. It will be noticed that in each case the Act gives an 'open cheque' to the Labour Commissioner regarding the collection of statistics on any other matter concerning the industrial welfare of the citizens. There is no limitation of consultation or reference to any higher authority and the Commissioner of Labour alone is empowered to exercise his discretion as to what other matter he shall decide on for the collection of statistics on matters in connexion with labour.

The most recent piece of legislation in connexion with statutory powers for the collection of general or specifically labour statistics, as far as it is known, is that of Japan. An Act, Act No. 52, concerning investigations for the collection of labour statistics, was promulgated in Japan on the 19th April 1922. The Japanese Legislature has presented the Executive of the country with an absolutely 'open cheque' regarding the collection of labour statistics. Section 1 of the Japanese Act reads as follows:—

"Whenever it is necessary for the collection of statistical information concerning labour, the Government shall institute an investigation into actual conditions throughout the country or within a certain specified district upon a specially fixed date.

Provisions respecting date, scope, method, and any other essential matters connected with the investigation into actual conditions provided for in the preceding paragraph shall be issued by an Imperial Ordinance."

The following table gives the wording of the provision made for the collection of statistics on 'other matters' in each of the various known statistical Acts of the world.

Scope of the statistics to be collected under different Acts by the Director or Statistician—Provision for 'Other Matters'.

Country.	Act.	Section.	
United Kingdom.	Census of Production Act, 1906.	Schedule containing List of Persons required to make returns.	(F) Every person carrying on any other trade or business which may be prescribed.
Canada	.. The Statistics Act, 1918.	34	"Subject to the direction of the Minister the Bureau shall collect, abstract and tabulate annually statistics in relation to.....(g) any other matters prescribed by the Minister or by the Governor in Council."
		35	"The Governor in Council may authorize the Minister to have any special statistical investigation...."
South Africa	.. A. The Census Act, 1910. B. The Statistics Act, 1914.	1 (1) Act of 1914.	"Statistics shall be collected annually.... in relation to any other matter prescribed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette."
New Zealand	.. The Census and Statistics Act, 1910.	21	"The statistician shall... collect annually statistics in relation to all or any of the prescribed matters.....(k) any other prescribed matters."

Country.	Act.	Section.	
Commonwealth of Australia.	Census and Statistics Act, 1905.	16	"The statistician shall..... collect annually statistics in relation to all or any of the following matters.....(j) any other prescribed matters....."
Victoria	.. Statistics Act, 1915.	13	"The occupier..... shall whenever so required by the Government Statist..... furnish..... particulars..... concerning.....(i) any other matters....."
Tasmania	.. A. The Statistical Returns Act, 1877. B. The Statistical Returns Amendment Act, 1895.	2	"For the purpose of collecting and furnishing statistical information for public purposes it shall be lawful for the Statistician to deliver to such persons as he sees fit such forms as he deems necessary, the same having been first approved of by the Governor in Council."
Queensland	.. Statistical Returns Act of 1896.	4	"For the purpose of collecting and publishing statistical information relating to pastoral, agricultural, mining, manufacturing or other producing interests, the Registrar-General may prepare and deliver to such persons, and in such manner as he thinks fit....."
Western Australia	.. Statistics Act, 1907.	8	"The statistician shall..... collect, annually, statistics in relation to all or any of the following matters..... (j) any other prescribed matters."
Sweden	.. Act relating to Statistical Returns, 1913.	1	"Every person who carries on mining or manufacturing or any business connected therewith by way of trade..... shall be bound to make statistical returns concerning his business operations."
Norway	.. 1. Statistics Compilation Act, 1907. 2. Trust Commission Act, 1919. 3. Labour Commission and Socialisation Committee Act.	..	"When..... any other investigation into economic and social conditions is undertaken..... persons carrying on business and other private persons including companies shall be bound to give such information as it may be decided to procure." "Everyone carrying on a business.... shall be bound to give all the information, submit all the documents.... which may be demanded....." Do.
Greece	.. Art. 8 of Law of 12/25, Nov. 1911.	..	Local authorities and trade unions shall be obliged to transmit to the Department of Labour and Social Thrift all information required of them.

Country.	Act.	Section.	
Switzerland	Decree of 8th Oct. 1920.	3	"To investigate conditions of both domestic and factory labour."
Japan	Act. Collection of Statistics, 1922.	..	"Whenever it is necessary for the collection of statistical information concerning labour, the Government shall institute an investigation into actual conditions....."
Argentina	Art. 8, Law of 30 Sept. 1912.	..	All information required by the National Department of Labour for carrying out its work.
Arkansas	Act No. 322 of 1913.	3	"The Commissioner of Labour and Statistics shall collect....statistical details.....relating to.... and in general all matters and things which affect or tend to affect the prosperity of the mechanical, manufacturing and productive industries....."
California	Act No. 1828. Codes 1906. Amended by Chapter 21, Acts of 1911.	3	"The duties of the Commissioner shall be to collect.....statistical details relating to all departments of labour Twelfth. All such other information in relation to labour."
Colorado	Revised Statutes 1908. Sec. 3902/11. Amended by Chap. 140, Acts of 1909.	3903	"The duties of the Commissioner shall be to collect...statistical details relating to all departments of labour.. Twelfth. All such other information in relation to labour as the Commissioner may deem essential.."
Georgia	Acts of 1911, page 133.	2	"The Commissioner.....shall collect and collate information and statistics concerning labour and its relation to capital.....and such other information and statistics concerning the industrial welfare of the citizens...."
Utah	Compiled Laws, 1907, 2427 x 2 -8.	..	"In addition, each person.....shall furnish such other information as shall be requested.....by the bureau."
Washington	Codes and Statutes, 1910.	..	"to collect.....statistical details relating to all departments of labour in the State."
Hawaii	Revised Laws, 1905, page 1308, sections 2146-2152.	2148	"It shall be the duty of the said Commission to make a full and careful enquiry and investigation into 21. Any other matters of a kindred character which will throw light upon the subject and tend to solve the problems incidental to the labour question in this country."
Iowa	Code of 1897; Supplement of 1907.	2470	"The duties of the said Commissioner shall be to collect.....statistical details relating to all departments of labour in the State....."

Country.	Act.	Section.	
Kansas	General Statutes, 1909, sections 8017 to 8026.	8017	"...to collect...statistical details relating to all departments of labour and industrial pursuits in the State.....to other matters relating to the commercial, industrial, social, educational, moral and sanitary conditions prevailing within the State; and the exploitation of such other subjects as will tend to promote the permanent prosperity of the..... industries."
Maine	Acts of 1911, chapter 65.	2	"It shall be the duty of the department to collect.....statistical details relating to.....to other matters relating to the commercial, industrial, social, educational, moral and sanitary conditions....."
Minnesota	Acts of 1913, chapter 518.	10	"On request of the department and within the time limited therein, every employer of labour, any officer of a labour organisation or any other person from whom the department of labour shall find it necessary to gather information, shall make a certified report to the department .....of all matters covered by the request."
Missouri	Revised Statutes, 1909.	7784	"The object...shall be to collect... statistical details and information relating to all departments of labour in the State...."
Montana	Acts of 1913, chapter 55.	4	"The Commissioner shall collect..... statistical details relating to all departments of labour and industry in the State....."
Nebraska	Revised Statutes, 1913.	3554	"The duties of the Commissioner... collect...statistics and facts...and... to examine...kindred subjects and matters pertaining to the welfare of industrial interests and classes."
New Jersey	Compiled Statutes, 1910, page 3021.	2a	"The Bureau...shall...collect and publish...such other information as may be necessary to show the true condition....."
North Dakota	Revised Codes of 1905, sections 127-135.	127	"It shall be the duty of...to collect, systematise and present...statistical details relating to all labour departments in the State...."
Oregon	Lord's Oregon Laws, 1910.	5016	"It shall also be the duty...to collect ...statistical details relating to all the departments of labour in the State ...and to such other matters relating to the commercial...conditions of the labour classes and the permanent prosperity of the respective industries of the State as the Bureau may be able to gather."

Country.	Act.	Section.	
Pennsylvania	Acts of 1913, No. 267.	11	" It shall be the duty of the said bureau to keep in touch with labor in the Commonwealth.....and to collect, assort, and publish statistical details and general information relative thereto."
Porto Rico	Acts of 1912, Act No. 84.	3	" shall collect and collate information upon the subject of labor, its relations to the industries of the country..... the earnings of laboring men and women, and the means of promoting their material, social, intellectual and moral welfare.....to prepare, collate and publish labour statistics."
Rhode Island	General Laws, 1909, Chapter 80.	1	" he shall collect...together with such other information as he may deem to be useful...in reference to the subjects in regard to which he is required to report."
Texas	Revised Criminal Statutes, 1911.	..	" It shall be the duty of every owner, manager.....to make such reports and returns as said bureau may require for the purpose of securing such labor statistics....."

It will thus be seen that (1) as compared with other legislation in the British Dominions and in the American States and Japan the scope of the statistics that could be collected under the Bombay Bill, as published, is exceedingly limited, and (2) that the provision for the collection of statistics on "other matters"—matters not specifically defined in an Act—is not only universal to all similar legislation but that in America this power is often left at the discretion of the Labour Statistician. It is difficult for any office to present a complete list of the subject heads on which it is likely to require and collect statistics during the course of its career once and for all. Statistics may be required on any subject at any time and perhaps very urgently. It is necessary to have some provision in every Statistics Act to cover the collection of statistics on a matter not specifically provided for. Last year the Labour Office was entrusted by Government with the work of preparing a Securities Index Number for the Stock Exchange Inquiry Committee. The Labour Office found it extremely difficult to procure information from the books of the Stock Exchange and from Brokers, and had to place reliance for the preparation of the index on newspaper reports covering a period of ten years. Considerable time was lost owing to want of continuous figures in many cases, and the completion of the index was, as a result, delayed. In the case of missing figures the Agents of the various companies, whose securities were selected, were requested to furnish the rates recorded in their 'transfers' registers. Had the Labour Office had the Statistics Act to work with, all the information that was

necessary to compile the index could have been procured from the Stock Exchange registers within a few days. Similarly in the last Bonus Disputes in Bombay, during the continuation of which nearly seven millions working days were lost, the statistics required by the Bonus Dispute Enquiry Committee regarding mill profits could have been called for and compiled as soon as the dispute was apprehended had the Statistics Act been available. It is for purposes such as these that such a clause is necessary and it is not the intention of Government, with the help of this clause, to collect statistics on each and every kind of subject as feared by the public generally, and by employers in particular. Mr. A. N. Surve recognised this point of view when, during the course of the debate on the Bill in Council, he said :

" The second point that was raised was about clause 4 (6). Sir, the lawyer section of this House knows the principle of law called 'et hoc genera' which means that when in a piece of legislation all things are not enumerated specifically a general clause is inserted by which things falling in the same category are included in it. Similarly, if a power under that principle is given here it is not likely to be abused. The Government has not specified all the particular items on which statistics should be collected, because though our Presidency is far advanced industrially, still it has not reached perfection: there are still many industries which may crop up in the future, and we do not know at this time what particular details we will require hereafter. Therefore, Government have reserved to themselves the power of adding a few more similar heads to the list, in order to obviate the necessity of coming to this House for sanction again and in doing so, I think they have not done anything which can be called wrong. Besides, you will see that clause 4 begins with 'Subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder.' This is a safeguard. If Government pass an order, they cannot pass an order of an altogether different kind: they must pass an order subject to the provisions of the Act and which is in harmony with the spirit of this particular Act."

Very closely allied to the criticism that the scope of the Bill is very wide is the criticism that the Bill gives too great a power to the Director, Labour Office, or to the Government Statistician empowered to collect statistics under its various provisions. The concluding portion of Mr. Surve's speech in the Bombay Legislative Council in connexion with this point is also of interest. Mr. Surve said :

" Thirdly, it has been urged that although in other countries there are similar Acts, those Acts are administered by Ministers who are responsible to the legislature of the country. I quite concede the point that here it is not so. But I ask, even if Government abuse this power, can we not correct them? We have the weapon of criticism; we have the power of the purse at the time of the budget; and we can compel them to meet our wishes.

Sir, this bill is in favour of labour, and if this power is given, the correct figures can be obtained and in future strikes may be prevented and labour would be benefited. Therefore, I heartily support the bill."

II. That the Power to enter Factories, etc., is dangerous and is against the Interests of Industry.

This question has already been partly dealt with under the two objections (1) that the Bill is Inquisitorial; and (2) that the Bill may be dangerous under the general heading of arguments against the Principle of the Bill. The subject is again dealt with here more specifically in connexion with the objection to the clauses of the Bill. The clause on which this objection is based is clause 10 which reads as follows :—

" For the purpose of making any enquiries or observations necessary for the proper carrying out of this Act the Director or any person authorised in this behalf by the Director in writing, may, at

any reasonable hour between sunrise and sunset enter any factory, mine, building, shop, or place where persons are employed or where articles are sold or bartered, and may make such enquiries as are necessary to any investigation."

CRITICISMS

"I am, Sir, somewhat concerned as to the power to be given to the director under clause 10. This clause states that 'the director or any person authorised in this behalf by the director in writing, may, at any reasonable hour between sunrise and sunset enter any factory', etc. Surely, Sir, it is intended to allow a director to delegate his powers to any minor official and allow that minor official the right to enter any factory and call for any information he may desire. I cannot think that this honourable House will agree to any such legislation."—(Mr. J. A. Kay, nominated, during the debate on the Bill in the Bombay Legislative Council.)

"2. Coming to clause 10, whilst I have no objection to the Director of Labour entering my factory this section must more clearly define the standing of an officer the Director may be pleased to depute. 'Or any person authorised' certainly does not satisfy me. The law compels me to admit a factory inspector and I am pleased it does. He is not a nuisance but on the other hand always a welcome visitor. He is a man of standing and I must have the assurance that those deputed by the Director of Labour to enter my factory must also be men acceptable to me."—(Mr. J. Addyman, European, Bombay City, during the debate on the Bill in the Bombay Legislative Council.)

"3. Is it to be wondered at, Sir, that employers feel that the system of, what I will call for the sake of euphemism, leakage, which is somewhat prevalent in this country, should not be given opportunities to function in regard to their private affairs, their secret processes and methods which the Labour Department are empowered by this bill to enter their factories and observe?"—(Mr. L. S. Hudson, Bombay Chamber of Commerce, during the debate on the Bill in the Bombay Legislative Council.)

ANSWER

The power to enter factories, mines, buildings, shops or places where persons are employed is to be exercised by the Director or a Government Statistician only for the purpose of making enquiries or observations necessary for the proper carrying out of the provisions of the Act. The provisions of the Act are concerned with the collection of statistics on subjects specifically defined or to be defined. The Bill is in no way concerned with any enquiries into either the private affairs or the secret processes and methods of employees and manufacturers. The cases where the right of entry will be requested will be, in the case of factories, the room of the Manager or the person in charge, and the records which will be asked for, for the purposes of inspection, will be the records necessary for the purpose of filling up the form in respect of which the enquiry is made. In the case of Trading Concerns, entry will be requested for the purpose of enquiries regarding prices, and the books and papers which will be asked for will be those relating to price records. In all cases entry would be requested, and would only be demanded as a matter of right if refused. The main object of the section is verification—the verification of returns made to the Labour Office or to the Government Statistician for the time being in charge of an enquiry. The right would be exercised either by the Director or the Government Statistician himself or by a responsible officer belonging to the Statistical office which conducts an enquiry. The public are protected from unnecessary molestation by the provision of penalties—fine amounting to Rupees one thousand or imprisonment for six months or both—for the punishment of all officers who may misuse the right of enquiry or entry by asking offensive or improper questions. The following table gives a list of the Countries and Acts which grant power to the Statistician to enter factories, etc. The wording of the section which expressly grants this power is given in all cases.

List of Countries and Acts which grant power to the Statistician to enter factories, etc.

Country	Act	Section	Power to enter Factories
Canada	The Statistics Act, 1918.	36	"Every person who has the custody or charge of any provincial, municipal or other public records or documents, or of any records or documents of any corporation, from which information sought in respect of the objects of this Act... can be obtained, or which would aid in the completion or correction thereof, who willfully or without lawful excuse refuses or neglects to grant access thereto to any census officer, commissioner, enumerator, agent or other person deputed for that purpose by the Dominion Statistician... is guilty of an offence....."
South Africa	Statistics Act, 1914.	5 (1)	"For the purpose of making any enquiries... the prescribed officer or any officer authorized by him in writing may... enter upon any land... and may enter any factory, mine... and may make such enquiries as are prescribed or allowed by this Act."
Commonwealth of Australia.	Census and Statistics Act, 1925.	19 (1)	"For the purpose of making any inquiries or observations necessary for the proper carrying out of this Act, the Statistician or any officer authorized in writing by him may, at any time during working hours, enter any factory, mine, workshop, or place where persons are employed, and may inspect any part of it... and may make such inquiries as are prescribed or allowed by the regulations."
Victoria	Statistics Act, 1915.	14	"For the purpose of making any inquiries or observations necessary for the proper carrying out of this Act, the Government Statist or any person duly authorized under his hand... may within reasonable hours in the day-time enter any land, factory, mine, building or place where persons are employed."
Western Australia	Statistics Act, 1907.	11 (1)	"For the purpose of making any inquiries... the Statistician or any officer duly authorized by him may, at any time during working hours, enter any factory... and may make such inquiries as are prescribed."
New Zealand	Census and Statistics Act, 1910.	24 (1)	"For the purpose of making any inquiries or observations necessary for obtaining the statistics authorized to be obtained under this Act, the Statistician or any officer authorized in writing by him may, at any time during working hours, enter any factory, mine, workshop, or place where persons are employed, and may inspect any part of it... and may make such inquiries as are prescribed or allowed by the regulations....."

Country	Act	Section	Power to enter Factories
Arkansas	Acts of 1913. Act No. 322.	9	"Upon his failure....to obtain information in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Commissioner of labor and statistics shall have the power to enter any factory, mill, workshop, store, business house, public or private work, or other establishment or place....for the purpose of gathering facts and statistics....."
California	Codes 1906. Act No. 1828.	7	"He shall have free access to all places and works of labor....."
Iowa	Code of 1897; Supplement of 1907.	2472	"The Commissioner of the Bureau of labor statistics shall have the power to enter any factory or mill, workshop, mine, store, business house, public or private work.....for the purpose of gathering facts and statistics....."
Kansas	General Statutes 1909. Sections 8017 to 8026.	8019	"The Commissioner ....shall have power to enter any factory or mill, workshop, private works or State institutions which have shops or factories .....for the purpose of gathering facts and statistics....."
Maine	Acts of 1911. Chapter 65.	4	"The Commissioner as State factory inspector and any authorized agent of the labor department shall have power to enter any factory or mill.....for the purpose of gathering facts and statistics....."
Minnesota	Acts of 1913. Chapter 518.	8	"In the discharge of its duties, the members and employees of the department may enter any factory.....at all reasonable times.....and give such direction as may be necessary....."
Nebraska	Revised Statutes 1913. Sections 3551 to 3560.	3557	"In case any owner or occupant or his agent shall refuse to admit any officer of the bureau to his workshop or factory .....he shall forfeit the sum of ten dollars for every offence....."
Oregon	Lord's Oregon Laws 1910. Sections 5014- 22.	5019	"Said Commissioner of the Bureau of labor shall have power to enter any factory, mill, office, workshop, or public or private works, at any reasonable time, for the purpose of gathering facts and statistics....."
Pennsylvania	Acts of 1913. No. 267.	8	"The Commissioner of labor and industry shall visit and inspect, or cause to be visited and inspected, during reasonable hours and as often as practicable, every room, building or place...." "The Commissioner of labor and industry and all inspectors may, in the discharge of their duties, enter any such place, building, or room...."

Country	Act	Section	Power to enter Factories
Porto Rico	Acts of 1912. Act No. 84. Added to by Act No. 72 Acts of 1913.	10	"The Chief of the Bureau of labor and the assistant chief of said bureau are hereby authorized, except as herein otherwise provided, to enter any building, plantation or premises where persons are employed, during the hours said persons are working, to make any inspection or investigation authorized thereby."
Washington	Codes and Sta- tutes, 1910.	6556	"The Commissioner of labor.....or any employee of the bureau of labor shall have power to enter any factory, mill, mine, office, workshop or public or private works at any time for the purpose of gathering facts and statistics....."

III. That the Penalties are too severe

CRITICISM

"So far as the penal clauses are concerned, I think every honourable member who has spoken is against them. So am I. I am not in favour of imprisonment for refusal to give information."—
(Mr. F. Clayton, Karachi Chamber of Commerce, during the debate on the Bill in the Bombay Legislative Council.)

ANSWER

The penalty provided under the Bill for (a) refusal or wilful neglect to fill or cause to be filled up a form; (b) for insertion into a form of information known to be false; (c) refusal or wilful neglect to return a form during the prescribed time limit; (d) refusal to give access to any premises to which access is allowed under the Act; (e) refusal to give access to any records to which access is allowed under the Act; and (f) wilful refusal to answer or giving false answers is simple imprisonment which may extend to six months or a fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or both. The penalty of imprisonment as an alternative or as an addition to a fine is not unknown in similar legislation in other countries for the offences described above, and the punishment of imprisonment as a substantive penalty is found in the Canadian, South African, Argentinian and in several of the American Acts. It will be generally admitted that some form of penalty or sanction must be provided for in such an Act; otherwise there would be no utility in providing statutory powers. On the other hand the penalty provided should not be so insignificant that an employer may disregard the infliction of it with impunity. It is therefore necessary that some equitable penalty must be provided for punishing those who refuse information. In view of the unanimous condemnation of imprisonment as a part of the penalty for failure to supply information or refusal to grant access in the case of the Bombay Bill, it may be considered as certain that Government will not insist on the retention of imprisonment in the Bill. It is also possible that the maximum fine that may be inflicted under the Bill will be reduced from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 500. These changes

ought to meet with the general approval of both the public as well as the employees. As regards the penalties provided for divulging information and asking improper questions it is held that the interests of the employers and the public should be satisfactorily safeguarded and in view of this it is not proposed to make any reduction in the penalty of imprisonment or fine amounting to one thousand rupees or both provided for these offences.

IV. That the Power to make observations in Reports is apt to be dangerous and should be restricted

CRITICISM

"Clause 5, I notice, permits the Director to make 'any observations he may deem proper' on any statistics he may obtain. This, I submit, Sir, is inequitable. It is very unfair to allow any Director to make his own observations, seeing that the people who furnish the statistics would not have any right to make corrections nor have any right to inspect the returns." (Mr. J. A. Kay, nominated, during the debate on the Bill in the Bombay Legislative Council.)

ANSWER

This criticism is based on section 5 of the Bill which reads as follows:—

"Subject to the general or special orders of Government the Director shall compile and tabulate the statistics so collected and may publish them or abstracts thereof with any observations he may deem proper to make thereon."

The power to make observations in a set of tables which contain the tabulated results of any statistical enquiry is of the utmost importance to both the public and the employers and employees concerned. It is often very difficult for a layman to gauge correctly the significance of a mass of figures contained in a statistical table without some guiding observations and explanatory comments. It is more difficult still to draw the right deductions from each set of figures presented. This can often be done, correctly, only by those who have actually tabulated and compiled the figures from which the final averages are computed. It would not be quite correct to say that the people who furnish the statistics would not have any right to make corrections nor have any right to inspect the returns. As a matter of fact in any important enquiry which is conducted by the Labour Office, the main Employers' or Employees' Associations connected with that enquiry are always consulted not only with regard to the form that issues for the enquiry, but also in connexion with the manner in which the statistics should be presented, and the form in which the final report should be published. In the enquiry held into the wages and hours of labour in the Cotton Mill Industry in May 1921 the technical and other matters in connexion with that enquiry were dealt with by an expert sub-committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association consisting of Mr. J. A. Kay, Chairman of the Association, Sir Dinsha Wacha and Messrs. S. D. Saklatwalla, C. N. Wadia, and F. Stones with Mr. C. B. Sayer, the Secretary of the Association. A similar sub-committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association is to deal with the report about to be published in respect of the second enquiry held into wages and hours of labour in the Cotton Mill Industry in August 1923. When it was proposed to hold a census of wages in the Engineering Industry in the Bombay Presidency in 1922, the Bombay Engineering Employers' Federation were similarly

consulted in connexion with the form which it was intended to issue for collecting the necessary information. This enquiry was not held owing to the refusal of the Federation to furnish the Labour Office with any statistics regarding wages in any of the workshops owned by the members of the Federation.

The tabulation sheets utilised for compiling the statistics returned by individual concerns contain no information showing the identity of particular sets of figures and these sheets are therefore always open for the inspection of those who are interested in the manner in which the final averages are computed. Every possible assistance is therefore available to those interested for the examination of the figures and the observations to be made on such figures, but at the same time this power has necessarily to be restricted to duly authorised representatives of either employers or employees in the industry for which the enquiry is held. The power to make observations in reports is expressly or tacitly provided for in almost all Acts. The following table contains a list of the countries and Acts which give this power expressly, together with the wording of the sections under which the power to make observations is prescribed.

Provision for power to make observations on reports issued by a Statistician in various Acts in other countries.

Country	Act	Section	Power to make observations
United Kingdom ..	Census of Production Act, 1906.	4	"As soon as practicable after any census is complete the Board of Trade shall present to Parliament a report of their proceedings under this Act."
South Africa ..	Statistics Act, 1914.	6 (2)	"All statistics, or abstracts thereof, prepared for publication and the prescribed officer's observations thereon (if any)....."
New Zealand ..	Census and Statistics Act, 1910	25 (1)	"The statistician shall compile and tabulate the statistics collected pursuant to this Act, and shall publish such statistics or abstracts thereof.... with observations thereon."
Commonwealth of Australia.	Census and Statistics Act, 1905.	20 (1)	"The statistician shall compile and tabulate the statistics collected pursuant to this Act, and shall publish such statistics or abstracts thereof..... with observations thereon."
Victoria ..	Statistics Act, 1915.	17 (1)	"The Government Statist may publish any information for the public benefit."
Western Australia ..	Statistics Act, 1907.	14	"The statistician shall compile and tabulate the statistics collected pursuant to this Act, and shall publish such statistics or abstracts thereof with observations thereon."

Country	Act	Section	Power to enter Factories
Georgia	Acts of 1911, page 133.	6	"The Commissioner shall annually publish a report..... embodying therein such information and statistics as he may deem expedient and proper...."
Iowa	Code of 1897, Supplement of 1907.	2470	".....and in said biennial report he shall give a statement of the business of the Bureau since the last regular report, and shall compile and publish therein such information as may be considered of value....."
Kentucky	Statutes, 1903 ..	33 A (5)	"The Commissioner shall make a separate report..... on the subject of labour, and include such recommendations as may be deemed proper....."
Minnesota	Acts of 1913, chapter 518.	13	"Such reports shall contain..... such recommendations as the Commissioner may deem proper."
Nebraska	Revised Statutes, 1913.	3559	"The Commissioner shall report.... with such suggestions and recommendations as may be deemed wise and proper."

Bill circulated to Public Bodies for opinion

In the summary of the debate on the Bill in the Bombay Legislative Council given in the previous article on this subject published in the *Labour Gazette* for August 1924 it was stated that the Council unanimously adopted Mr. Pahalajani's amendment for a postponement of the Bill to the October session of the Council pending the circularisation of the Bill to public bodies and associations for opinion. Mr. M. R. Jayakar (Bombay University), Leader of the Swarajist Party and the Opposition in the Bombay Legislative Council, in advising Government to postpone the consideration of this measure, said:—

"My suggestion to Government is, and I hope they will accept it, that having found that the object and principle of the Bill has met with general acceptance in this House, they should allow the consideration of this Bill to be postponed to another session and that in the meanwhile the Bill may be circulated to important commercial and public bodies in the city and province of Bombay for their opinion, and that in the meanwhile Government may undertake to make changes in the light of the suggestions made by the honourable members. If the Bill comes back with such changes and with the benefits of the opinions of the persons consulted by Government, I am sure it will facilitate matters to a considerable extent and the passage of the Bill will be smooth and certain. I may suggest that the several Acts on which the Government are relying may be supplied to the honourable members, so that they can study the whole question and come to a decision upon it. This is the first measure of its kind, with far-reaching consequences, and I think the House has to be very cautious in accepting this measure. For these reasons, I have made the suggestion to Government, and I hope that they will accept it."

The Bill has, in accordance with the decision arrived at in the Legislative Council, been circulated to commercial and public bodies for opinion. The principle of the Bill has met with almost general acceptance, and the objections to the clauses are in the same tenor as those dealt with above.

Industrial Fatigue

1.—"Economics of Fatigue and Unrest," by P. Sargant Florence, Ph.D. (G. Allen & Unwin, Ltd., London, 1924, 16 shillings net).

This new and important work sums up most of the existing information on the complicated subject of the adjustments of conditions of work to get the maximum possible result from the human unit. After a summary of economic history leading up to the large modern financial group controlling a number of large factories, and some discussion of mechanical efficiency and economy in overhead costs, the author proceeds to his main theme. "Industrial Fatigue" is defined (following the definition of the Health of Munition Workers' Committee) as "the sum of the results of activity which show themselves in a diminished capacity for doing work"; and "Industrial Unrest" is defined on the same lines as "the sum of the results of certain industrial conditions which show themselves in a diminished willingness for doing work". However the author discards all definitions when analysing the conditions leading to diminished capacity and diminished willingness, and at the end of the book sums up the subject thus:—

"Under the circumstances, fatigue and unrest is, perhaps, the shortest symbol that will include all the interrelated physiological and psychological states (short of absolute incapacitation and absolute ill-will) making for industrial inefficiency and economic loss."

Industrial unrest, the tangible results of which reach their limit in general strikes, is a concept familiar for a century or more to the general public. Industrial fatigue is a comparatively new concept, and research students from outside and business managers from inside Industrial Establishment are still only groping their way towards the optimum conditions of labour.

The author names six forms of loss of efficiency, which he calls unproductive cost. These are:—

- (1) Labour Turnover,
- (2) Absence from work,
- (3) Deficiency in output,
- (4) Defective quality of output,
- (5) Accidents,
- (6) Sickness.

These are discussed in the order named, examples given of observed phenomena, and an irreducible minimum loss suggested in some cases. Unfortunately these six forms of loss of efficiency are not mutually exclusive. Thus enhanced Labour Turnover necessarily causes enhancement under heads (3) and (4), and enhanced rates of accidents and sickness cause enhancement under head (2). Losses in such cases are therefore capable of investigation and analysis under either head.

(1) *Labour Turnover*.—The practical effects of a systematic policy of selection, training and promotion, transfer between departments, regularization of work through busy and slack seasons, and following up of the reasons for leaving, are shown to have reduced the Labour Turnover in one American factory from 68 per cent. to 61 per cent., 52 per cent., 37 per cent., and 28 per cent., in successive years. These percentages are ratios

of the number of new hands engaged during one year (to replace leaving hands) to the total establishment. The minimum unavoidable percentage is estimated at 25 per cent. for English and American conditions.

(2) *Absence from work*.—This is sub-divided into ordinary Total absence, Lateness, and absence owing to Strikes and Lockouts. The author complains of the "wide divergence in current estimates of unavoidable lost time". As he points out, we have first to fix a maximum time-limit for the word "absence", beyond which the absent workman passes into the head labour turnover. No such time-limit appears to have been adopted by general consent as yet, and the author suggests one month. This however would be rather a short time-limit for an old and tried workman incapacitated temporarily by sickness. He gives an estimate of minimum unavoidable absence, (i) with a limit of one month, (a) men 1.08, (b) women 1.22, (ii) with a limit of six months, (a) men 2.61, (b) women 3.16. These ratios are the percentages of total lost working time to grand total possible working time in one year. And the author finds his estimates much lower than such actual recorded losses as are available, thereby deducing that much loss of time through absence is avoidable. As to methods for reducing this form of loss the discussion is concerned with hours, working conditions, living conditions and affiliations of workers. But, as said above, losses by sickness and accidents come under this head also.

(3) *Deficiency in output*.—Apart from the policy known as "ca' canny" deliberately introduced by workers' organizations, the author points out that uniformity of output cannot be expected, either as from each individual worker in a group of workers, or as from one and the same worker at different times. Nor is the rate of output of one worker continuous over the whole of a single work-spell. Statistics of output taken from recorded examples show that the range of variations in output per hour or per day is very great. Statistics of output in the form of curves of hourly output over two continuous spells in one day show that output reaches its maximum in the middle of the morning spell, and declines sharply before closing in the evening. The principal question which is involved is the adjustment of hours of work and spells of work so as to produce the greatest possible output. This is one of the main problems on which Industrial Fatigue research workers are now engaged. The data so far available are, the author thinks, too fragmentary to enable a minimum for loss by deficiency in output to be estimated.

(4) *Defective quality of output*.—The author finds that "the additional losses in production involved by an increase in the proportion of the work that is defective has not yet received adequate study". The subject is therefore treated in less detail. But the general discussion shows that defective output obeys the same laws as deficiency of output. Thus rejections of articles finished during the last working hour of the day are proportionately and actually higher than rejections in other hours. It is, therefore, once again, largely a question of adjusting the hours and spells of work. But the extent of losses under these two heads are obviously dependent also directly upon the extent of the labour turnover and indirectly upon the frequency and severity of accidents and sickness.

(5) *Accidents*.—This subject, being already widely studied, and being controlled by the Factories Department in this country will not be discussed here.

(6) *Sickness*.—For this head of loss reference is invited to Part III of the present article.

The concluding chapters of the book under notice are devoted to summarizing the results of investigations in those conditions of labour which control the losses under the above six heads, and especially heads (3) and (4). These conditions are specified as:—1. Total hours of work; 2. Cycles or spells of work and rest; 3. Types of work; 4. Physical working conditions; 5. Incentives and Employment Policies; 6. Type and experience of the worker; and 7. Rates of wages and conditions of living. The whole result of the discussion shows how far we have advanced from the stage in which employers believed that the lower the wages they paid and the longer the hours which their employees worked the greater would be their profits. The ultimate object of the study of Industrial Fatigue and Unrest is to discover the position of equilibrium in each industry, which may be defined as that sum of conditions of labour at which the efficiency of production is at a maximum—a position which the author believes can never be attained until "the enthusiastic co-operation of labour" is united to "capitalist control".

Finally the author pleads for more complete and accurate record-keeping in Industrial concerns, and indicates not only the subjects on which he recommends the keeping of a record but the exact forms which he recommends for use.

II.—The Industrial Fatigue Research Board.

This Board, which has now been in existence in England since 1918, is the lineal descendant of the Health of Munition Workers' Committee which, during the war, conducted "the first systematic attempt to study the human factor in industry from its physiological and psychological standpoints"*. To continue the work of that committee the Industrial Fatigue Research Board was appointed in July 1918, under the joint control of the Medical Research Committee and the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and from the second year of its existence has been under the sole control of the Medical Research Council.

The methods by which the Board is financed are not very clear. From the Second Annual Report it is evident that it was originally financed by a Treasury Grant, which was cut off, in whole or in part, at the end of the financial year 1920-21. But the Medical Research Council took steps to ensure that the work of the Board should not be interrupted; and it would appear that various groups of industries have contributed to the work, and that owing to voluntary assistance the number of paid employees of the Board is comparatively small.

The investigations being largely scientific and technical the Council of the Board has delegated its functions to various scientific and special committees of which the following were in existence at the time of the 4th

* All quotations in this article, unless otherwise stated, are from a paper read before the Royal Statistical Society, on 15th May 1923 by Mr. D. R. Wilson, Secretary of the I. F. R. Board.

Annual Report published on 2nd June 1924.

Scientific Committees—

1. Industrial Health Statistics.
2. Physiology of Muscular Work.
3. Industrial Psychology.

Special Committees—

4. Post Office Work.
5. Accident Causation.
6. Optimum Length of Spell.
7. Physiology of Ventilation.
8. Design of Machinery.
9. Industries specially affecting women.
10. Legibility of Type.

These committees consist of the highest experts in the country, and their number and variety are sufficient indication of the scope of the Board's researches.

These are two main lines of research, viz. :—Field observations, and Laboratory Tests; both of which usually enter into any given investigation. "A considerable amount of laboratory research has been carried out on fundamental points, whilst on the other hand experiments have in some instances been conducted on a large scale under practical conditions". Field investigations under practical conditions involve the consent and collaboration of the employers concerned, which consent and collaboration have, apparently, usually been forthcoming.

In addition to the two main lines indicated above a third line of investigation denoted by Farmer in the 4th Annual Report "The method of grouping by Differential Tests" has also been followed though it would seem that this class of research is not a third line, distinct (as Wilson implies) from the two main lines of research, namely, Field observations and Laboratory Tests—and homologous with them—but merely a research-process, which might be adopted in enquiries of either of the two main types.

The object of this method, as stated by Farmer is "to see if two groups, differing in some known respect, also differ in some unknown respect". Thus in the case of the investigation into Telegraphist's cramp it was found, by segregating the cramp group and the non-cramp group, and testing for various qualities, that the cramp group "manifested, in a greater degree than the other group, deficiency in co-ordination". The same test was then applied to a number of learners from whom a group was segregated exhibiting deficiency in co-ordination. "It now remains to be seen whether this group will tend to develop cramp in later years". If it does, the quality "deficiency in co-ordination" will be proved to be what Farmer calls "a true differentiant".

In passing we may remark that this phenomenon seems to be a particular application of the phenomenon known in statistical theory as concealed classification. Thus, if out of two given telegraph areas a much higher proportion of cases of cramp were observed in one area than in the other area, it would not be right to conclude that conditions of work in the first area are unsatisfactory until the extent of the concealed classification, i.e., the proportions of individuals in each area exhibiting the "true differentiant" had been ascertained

Another example of the method of Differential Tests is the investigation into personal susceptibility of individuals to factory accidents, based on psychological studies of the subjects.

The conclusions arrived at in any individual Report of the Board are "more or less tentative in character, and awaiting subsequent confirmation or disproof". Confirmation is considered as obtained if either a prognostication of the Board, based on some item of their researches, is proved in practice to be correct, or a second investigation (usually in some different industry) arrives at the same conclusions as the first.

If there is up till now any general scepticism among recognized statisticians as to the value of the Board's results it is based on the following grounds (i) that the samples tested for any variable are too small to be representative; and (ii) that concealed classification is not always isolated and eliminated. But the volume of work is being piled up so rapidly that the above-mentioned obstacles must gradually be surmounted.

The following is a list of publications of the Board all of which are available in the Labour Office Library :—

- 1st Annual Report, 1920.
- 2nd Annual Report, 1921.
- 3rd Annual Report, 1922.
- 4th Annual Report, 1923.

each of which contains some special contributions in addition to the report itself.

Special Reports.

- No. 1 The Influence of Hours of Work and Ventilation on Output in Tinsplate Manufacture.
 - No. 2 The Output of Women Workers in relation to Hours of Work in Shell-making.
 - No. 3 A Study of Improved Methods in an Iron Foundry.
 - No. 4 The Incidence of Industrial Accidents upon Individuals with Special Reference to Multiple Accidents.
 - No. 5 Fatigue and Efficiency in the Iron and Steel Industry.
 - No. 6 The Speed of Adaptation of Output to altered Hours of Work.
 - No. 7 Individual Differences in Output in the Cotton Industry.
 - No. 8 Some Observations on Bobbin-Winding.
 - No. 9 A Study of Output in Silk Weaving during the winter months.
 - No. 10 Preliminary Notes on the Boot and Shoe Industry.
 - No. 11 Preliminary Notes on Atmospheric Conditions in Boot and Shoe Factories.
 - No. 12 Vocational Guidance.
 - No. 13 A Statistical Study of Labour Turnover in Munitions and other Factories.
 - No. 14 Time and Motion Study.
 - No. 15 Motion Study in Metal Polishing.
 - No. 16 Three Studies in Vocational Selection.
 - No. 17 An Analysis of the Individual Differences in the Output of Silk Weavers.
 - No. 18 Two Investigations in Potters' Shops.
 - No. 19 Two Contributions to the Study of Accident Causation.
 - No. 20 A Study of Efficiency in Fine Linen Weaving.
 - No. 21 Atmospheric Conditions in Cotton Weaving.
 - No. 22 Some Studies in the Laundry Trade.
 - No. 23 Variations in Efficiency in Cotton Weaving.
- and the following Reports without serial Nos.
- A Comparison of Different Shift Systems in the Glass Trade.
 - Two Studies on Rest Pauses in Industry.
 - On the Extent and Effect of Variety in Repetitive Work.
 - Results of Investigation in Certain Industries.

The scope for research into Industrial Fatigue is practically unlimited, and its practical advantage is to obtain in the end the optimum conditions or position of equilibrium outlined in the penultimate paragraph of Part I of this article. It is for physiological, psychological and other research workers in Bombay to consider whether some organized investigations into fatigue in various local industries would not be worth making.

III

The *Journal of Industrial Hygiene for July 1924* (published by the Harvard Medical Service U. S. A.) contains a valuable summary of the work carried out by the Edison Electric Illuminating Company of Boston on their sickness and accident records.

The Company which employs about 2,233 employees has maintained accurate medical records since 1913. The present report analyses the records for the 5-year period 1918-1922 only.

It may be mentioned that the Company uses an elaborate system of sickness benefits, which commences with the crediting of each new employee with one day of sickness allowance (with full pay) for each month of employment during his first year, and proceeds up to the payment from a benefit fund of 15 weeks' full salary.

The record for each case of sickness or accident was transferred to a punch card of the "dual" type, i.e., containing both the full figure columns for punching and space for writing as well. The written entries facilitate rapid checking of the punching.

The items on each card were: Check No., Department, Sex, Social Status, Age, Birthplace, Nationality, Occupation, Duration of service in years and months, Calendar year and month of onset, Day of the week, Number of calendar days lost, Number of working days lost, Diagnosis of sickness under the International Code, Diagnosis of sickness under the U. S. A. Census Bureau Code, Cause of accident, Wage group, Benefit paid, and several further items.

Departments numbered 36, occupations 84, causes of accidents 22, Nationalities 35, wage groups 8 (between 1 and 100 dollars in 10-dollar group intervals upto 70 and then 70-100).

The cards when ready were passed through a Powers Machine for sorting, and cross-sorting. As a result a mass of information was obtained. The sickness most common among the Edison Company's U. S. A. employees were common colds 34 per cent., diseases of the stomach 8 per cent., diseases of the pharynx and tonsils 6 per cent. Next came accidents, diseases of the pharynx and tonsils, functional nervous disorders, dysmenorrhœa, and joint diseases. Among women employees only dysmenorrhœa was an easy second to common colds.

The sicknesses and diseases were cross-tabulated by many of the other items such as month of onset (to give seasonal variation), day of the week of onset, age-groups, wage-groups, occupations, benefits paid and so on.

It is pointed out that, as sickness caused twenty times as many cases of absenteeism as accidents, and seven times as many lost working days, the study of disease-prevention is even more important to employers of labour than the study of accident-prevention, to which alone attention has hitherto mainly been paid. It is mentioned that "short time absences are a very great drain upon the company".

Of course the prevalent types of sickness in India would be very different from the types indicated above as most prevalent among the Edison employees. But it is open to question whether a careful record of sickness as well as of accident in Indian Industrial concerns would not prove of practical use in the end.

This leads us to mention that it would be quite unnecessary for Bombay employers to do their own tabulation. If a standard form of record were agreed to, and the records supplied at intervals to the Labour Office, that office could enter up each case on a card, and hire the use of Powers Machines for sorting and tabulation. In this way statistical results could be obtained from a much larger field than the 2,233 operatives of a single company. One point however must be emphasised namely that accurate diagnosis is essential. The Edison Company employ their own medical men; yet their card provided for four types of diagnoses, viz., Company Medical Officer, Company Nurse, Local Medical Officer, and self. In India the fourth type would have to be excluded altogether. If accurate diagnosis is not possible the enquiry would be not only useless but harmful. But the problem of securing reliable diagnoses could presumably be solved.

A standard card providing for 10,000 recorded cases from different companies is suggested at the end of the article under review, and could easily be modified for Bombay conditions.

Reviews of Reports

Annual Factory Report of the Presidency of Bombay, 1923. (Government Central Press, Bombay, 1924.)

There was a net rise of 141 factories during the year, the total number being 1,203. Of these, 1,120 factories actually worked. The total number of persons employed fell from 360,518 to 356,480. The fall was principally due to bad trade. 1,120 factories were inspected as against 1,062 in 1922. 34 prosecutions were instituted by full-time inspectors and 11 by additional inspectors. Figures of accidents in factories have been given for the last ten years. These show that the number of accidents in 1923 was 815, which is the lowest recorded figure for the last ten years.

Detailed figures of wages paid in various factories are not given but we get an interesting account of the conditions under which operatives work and of welfare work in Sholapur. It is pointed out that under the new Rules the period of lime-washing has been reduced from fourteen to twelve months. Provision is being made for supplying operatives with clean drinking water and a Sholapur mill has installed plant to filter the whole of the drinking water supply. In regard to ventilation, progress continues to be made. There is still a dearth of houses in Ahmedabad. In Bombay the Development Directorate has constructed nearly 3,000 rooms, and one factory in the Bombay Suburban District has provided accommodation for nearly 900 persons. In one of the mills in Sholapur, "the latest type of housing provided is a model of cleanliness".

The account given of welfare work in Sholapur is of very special interest. All mills there maintain creches, a grain allowance is given and schools maintained for half-timers. It is believed that the percentage of literacy in Sholapur amongst mill children is the highest of the main centres of industry in the Presidency. The lead in welfare work is given by the Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Mills. A full-time welfare officer is

employed in addition to a full-time doctor. A hospital is maintained in which over 50,000 outdoor patients were treated during the year. A lakh of rupees are spent per annum on welfare work.

Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in the province of Bihar and Orissa, 1923. Patna. (Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar and Orissa.)

The number of factories rose from 215 to 229, 218 of which actually worked during the year. The statistical table at the end of the report shows a decrease in the number of persons employed but we are told that the figures for 1922 were not accurate, and that there was really an increase of 1,166. The number of factories inspected was 106 while the total number of inspections was 190. There was a considerable decline in the number of accidents which was 1,168, as against 1,273 in 1922. Almost the whole of this improvement was in the "serious" class.

The conditions under which operatives worked during the year were on the whole satisfactory. Ventilation in factories was good and so was lighting during daylight hours. Inspections made at night, however, revealed inadequate lighting, and steps are being taken to remove this defect. There was no outbreak of epidemics and the general health of operatives was good. Housing conditions have not changed, but new dwellings have been erected to meet the increasing demand.

Report of the B. B. & C. I. Railway Employees' Union

From the Fourth Annual Report for the year 1923-24 of the B. B. & C. I. Railway Employees' Union, we learn that during the year under report the membership of the Union increased from 600 to 1,000. The Union aims mainly at raising the social and economic status of its members. For this purpose it has started a free reading room and a library and its members can also take advantage of the Co-operative Credit Society started conjointly with the G. I. P. Railway Workmen's Union. Besides this, Death and Retirement Benefit Funds have been started. In the course of the year, 25 Retirement Benefits amounting to Rs. 395-8-0 and 6 Death Benefits amounting to Rs. 132-0-0 were paid to members.

Report of the G. I. P. Railway Workmen's Union

The Fifth Annual Report of the G. I. P. Railway Workmen's Union for the year 1923-24 does not give the total number of its membership but it is stated that during the year there was a reduction. The causes given for this reduction are illiteracy and distrust of the Union prevailing in the minds of its members.

The Union contemplates starting a Retirement Benefit Society and a Mutual Death Benefit Society from next year.

Report of the Bombay Port Trust Employees' Union

From the Second Annual Report for October 1922 to March 1924 of the Bombay Port Trust Employees' Union, we learn that the Union is making progress and its membership has gone upto 600. Like the B. B. & C. I. Railway Employees' Union the Port Trust Union grants Retirement gratuities and Death Benefits.

Current Notes from Abroad

INTERNATIONAL

The 27th ordinary Congress of the International Miners' Federation was held at Prague during the first week of August. The President announced the figures of the constituent unions in 1922 and in 1924. These showed that the total number of organised coal-miners had declined from 2,128,800 to 1,972,150.

The Congress passed a resolution declaring that it was the duty of all the affiliated organizations to support the anti-war campaign organized either by the competent national centre or by the I. F. T. U. (*Abstracted from Press Reports of the I. F. T. U.*)

The International Metal Workers' Congress, held at Vienna, adopted a resolution calling upon metal workers in all countries to combat the attempt of capitalists to impair or abolish the eight-hour day. It was decided to call a special conference to settle the question of admission of the All-Russian Metal Workers' Union into the International Metal Workers' Federation. (*Abstracted from the Reports of the I. F. T. U.*)

The Governing Body of the International Labour Organization at its meeting in April decided that in view of the success of the Conference of Labour Statisticians held in October 1923, the Director of the International Labour Office should be authorized to take appropriate steps for the calling of a second conference of Labour Statisticians in February 1925. This second conference will be devoted mainly to the classification of industries and to statistics of cost of living, unemployment and wages. The object of these conferences of Government Labour Statisticians is to improve as well as to standardize the methods of statistics existing in the various countries throughout the world to the end that they may be comparable one country with another, and thus furnish valuable information for use in questions of industrial economics. (*The Labour Gazette, Canada, July, 1924.*)

The Conference of the Labour Ministers of Britain, France, Belgium and Germany held at Berne was concluded on September 10th. The Ministers agreed to the desirability of reaching a practical international application of the principle of the eight-hour day on the basis of the Washington Convention.

The German Minister emphasised that he could not accept anything implying any sort of foreign control on German economic legislation. He was assured that the position of all countries signing the convention would be exactly the same and any country doubting the efficacy of the application of the eight-hour day in another may complain to the Governing Body of the International Labour Office. He thereupon agreed to recommend the ratification of the convention to Germany. (*Abstracted from the Times of India, September 11, 1924.*)

Important services are being rendered by the International Labour Office in supplying the information on labour and industrial questions in response to inquiries received.

In the year 1923, the office sent detailed replies to 323 major requests for information, many of these involving research on more than one question.

Requests have been received from Governments, employers' associations, trade unions, universities, libraries, philanthropic and other institutions, belonging to the following countries:—Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Esthonia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Latin America, Lithuania, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Roumania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States and Yugoslavia.

Among the subjects on which information was requested were conditions of labour, including hours and wages, technical education, apprenticeship, vocational guidance, social assurance, including unemployment insurance, industrial health and safety, workers' control and emigration. The information supplied to Governments is of special importance in view of the fact that these particulars are frequently needed with a view to the preparation of new national legislative and administrative measures. (*The Labour Gazette, Canada, July 1924.*)

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The second International Workers' Educational Conference was to be held at Ruskin College, Oxford, from the 15th to 17th August. Over 60 delegates representing 23 countries were expected to attend. (*Abstracted from the Reports of the I. F. T. U.*)

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UNITED KINGDOM

The Trade Union Congress in London has adopted the workers' charter providing for the nationalisation of land, mines and railways, forty-four hour working in a week, minimum wage in each industry, adequate provision for unemployment, adequate housing, full educational facilities, and pensions for all at the age of sixty. (*The Voice of India, September 5, 1924.*)

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One of the questions referred to the committee appointed in England to enquire and report upon the conditions and prospects of British industry and commerce, is to enquire into the relations between those engaged in production. This will involve inquiry into methods of industrial remuneration, the main causes of unrest and disputes, and the methods of avoidance or settlement of disputes, as for example, co-partnership, co-operation, Wages Boards and voluntary arbitration, state regulation of wages, and compulsory arbitration and compulsory enforcement and extension of agreements. (*Abstracted from the Board of Trade Journal, July 31, 1924.*)

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The Ministry of Labour is engaged on the consideration of a problem which arises from the narrow margin between the pay of the skilled worker and the unskilled. In part the matter has its origin in unemployment, but it appears that many skilled workmen in our leading industries have gone overseas rather than work alongside unskilled labour at little, if any, more money.

This has gone on to such an extent that serious concern is felt as regards the future supply of skilled artisans, and the Minister of Labour is taking steps to encourage appropriate industrial organizations to consider possible remedies. One of these is a revival of the apprenticeship system, which it is felt would not only replace the skilled men who have been lost to industry, but would do something to solve the juvenile unemployment problem, which is national in its bearing. In order that something shall be done before winter, it is proposed to call a conference of members of Parliament of all parties. (*The Manchester Guardian Commercial, 14th August, 1924.*)

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There was a slight decline during July in employment in the United Kingdom. The percentage of unemployed among those insured against unemployment under the Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 9.9 at 28th July 1924 as compared with 9.4 at 23rd June.

The changes in rates of wages reported in July resulted in an aggregate reduction of over £53,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 820,000 workpeople, and in an aggregate increase of £21,000 in those of about 460,000 workpeople. Coal miners in Northumberland, Durham and Scotland showed a reduction while the coal-miners in Yorkshire and the East Midlands showed an increase in the wage bill.

At 1st August the average level of retail prices was approximately 71 per cent. above that of July 1914.

There were 57 trade disputes at the beginning of July and 38 which began before were still in progress. The total number of workpeople involved has been provisionally estimated to be not far from 150,000 as compared with 50,000 in the previous month. This rise was due to the building trade dispute which began on the 7th of July. (*Abstracted from the Ministry of Labour Gazette, August, 1924.*)

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The following statistics of the days lost through strikes were recently given by the British Minister of Labour. In the first six months 1920-1924 were lost:—

1920	..	4,300,000	1923	..	4,290,000
1921	..	79,000,000	1924	..	2,700,000
1922	..	18,500,000			

(*Abstracted from Press Reports of the I. F. T. U.*)

This summer, instead of the British Trade Unionists going to Russia, an invitation is to be sent to the Communist Trade Unionists to appoint delegates to attend the Trades Union Congress to be held at Hull this month. It has not been found convenient by the General Council to accept the invitation of the Red International of Trade Unions to send delegates to Russia to investigate the present state of the country. (Abstracted from *The Times*, 26th July, 1924.)

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OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

The family allowance system, which now applies to about 2,700,000 workers in France, is tending to become general throughout French industry. It is almost universally applied by large scale industry, and is spreading to other establishments. These official figures, taken from the *Industrial and Labour Information*, the weekly publication of the International Labour Office, were given in a report submitted by the Director of the Family Allowance Committee to the Fourth Family Allowance Congress held 26th May in France.

Sums paid by way of family allowances are very large. If to the sums paid by the equalisation funds are added the amount of family allowances paid directly to their workers by various employers, including the railway and mining companies, the annual total reaches about 300 million francs. To this the amounts paid by the public administrations should be added.

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According to a new regulation recently published in the Bulgarian Official Journal, any municipality which needs labour for its local work may obtain a minimum of 50 persons from the Compulsory Labour Office with a maximum which may not exceed the number of persons at work in the municipality in question. Municipalities are bound to pay to the Office the wages of the labourers and their foremen in two instalments, the first before the despatch of the labourers, and the rest after the work is done. They are also required to see to their maintenance, feeding, clothing, etc., according to a scale fixed by the Office. The period of service cannot be less than two months, nor more than six months per annum. (*International Labour Office, Weekly News Service, 67-B.*)

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By its Act of 6th March 1924, which introduces a general system of social insurance, Bulgaria enters the rapidly increasing number of States which protect wage-earners as a body against all physical risks by means of compulsory insurance.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Group life insurance is now in force on at least 27 railroads in the United States, according to a compilation by *The Railway Age*. Together these lines are protecting more than 200,000 men. The aggregate value of policies representing this insurance is upward of \$260,000,000. The Union Pacific Railway started its plan as early as 1917, but a large part of the insurance has been underwritten within the past two years. (*The Labour Gazette, Canada, July 1924.*)

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The fifty thousand members of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, who went on strike in Greater New York on June 25th, are returning to work, due to the signing of one-year collective agreements by all four elements in the industry, the union, the jobbers, the big "inside" manufacturers and the sub-manufacturers or contractors through whom the jobbers operate. One of the main features of the agreements is the establishment of a system of employment insurance. Members of the United Cloth Hat and Cap Makers of North America also entered into an agreement with the Cloth Hat and Cap Manufacturers' Association of New York. One of the main features of this contract also is its provision for unemployment insurance, with the further feature that every manufacturer is obligated to pay into the union's unemployment fund a sum equal to 3 per cent. of his total pay-roll. The manufacturer thus pays the entire insurance, which is considered an increase in wages paid to all workers collectively instead of to workers individually. Another agreement worthy of study is the one entered into between the newspaper owners of New York City and the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union. It contains the novel feature of not only establishing the principle of conciliation and arbitration in settling future disputes, but it also creates the machinery, a printing commission, by which this principle may be perpetuated. It is thought by its framers that the contract will be regarded as a model throughout the country. (*Industrial News Survey, Vol. VIII, No. 22, July 21, 1924.*)

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A noteworthy feature of the past week was the hearing in the New York Supreme Court in the injunction suit which the Iron League of New York brought against the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers to restrain the union from picketing and violence in the present strike and asking \$5,000,000 damages. The union, in answer, filed a counter claim asking \$10,000,000 damages. The League contended, on the other hand, that the closed shop was illegal, while the union, on the other hand, maintained that the League had conspired to destroy it. The Court took the case under advisement. The outcome will be watched with interest as one of the most important labour litigations in the United States. (*Industrial News Survey, Vol. VIII, No. 21, July 14, 1924.*)

Another significant happening in the labour field is shown by despatches from West Virginia, stating that twenty-six coal companies, with forty-five mines, in the Kanawha district, have posted notices of a return to the 1917 wage scale for operatives with no recognition of the union. This action, the despatches state, was delayed until every effort had been made to come to terms with the union and destroys the influence of the United Mine Workers of America in northern West Virginia. (*Industrial News Survey, Vol. VIII, No. 21, July 14, 1924.*)

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OTHER COUNTRIES

The General Statistical Department of the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture has just published the results of the Industrial Census of 1920. According to the census there were at this date in Brazil 13,336 industrial undertakings, employing 275,512 workers.

The chief group was "Food and Drink" with 3,969 undertakings, followed by Clothing 1,988, Pottery 1,590, Textiles 1,211, and Metal Working 1,207.

But it is clear that the term "Industrial Undertaking" is very much wider than is customary in other countries, since 6,493 of the undertakings employed from 1 to 4 workers, and 424 none at all, being worked by the proprietors and the members of their families. Undertakings with 1,000 workers numbered 31, and undertakings with more than 50 and less than 1,000 numbered 795. Apparently there are about 1,000 real Industrial Establishments, but how many of these employ power is not at the moment known. (*Abstracted from Industrial and Labour Information, August 11, 1924.*)

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The first Japanese Labour Census, which was to have been taken on 1st October 1923, and which was postponed on account of the earthquake, will be taken on 1st October this year. (*From Industrial and Labour Information, August 11, 1924.*)



TABLE I—PRINCIPAL TRADE UNIONS IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

Name of District	Name of Union or Federation and Date of formation	Number of members	Name and address of	
			President or Chairman	Secretary
1. Bombay City..	1. The Indian Seamen's Union*—April 1921.	11,239	J. J. Athaide, Freers Road, Bombay.	S. A. Reballs, Freers Road, Bombay.
			Directors—Dr. Theodora Fernandes and Mr. T. Rodrigues.	
	2. The B. B. & C. I. Railwaymen's Union—July 1920.	1,200	Rai Sahib Chandrika Prasad of Ajmer.	S. H. Jhalwala, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.
			Vice-President—F. J. Ginwalla, Hornby Road, Fort, Bombay.	C. Bhaskardas, Chargehand, B.B. & C.I. Ry. Workshop, Parel.
	3. The G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union (Carriage and Wagon Departments)—May 1919.	1,200	Rai Sahib Chandrika Prasad of Ajmer.	S. H. Jhalwala, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.
			Vice-President—F. J. Ginwalla, Hornby Road, Fort, Bombay.	
	4. The Port Trust Workmen's Union—March 1920.	1,000	F. J. Ginwalla, Hornby Road, Fort, Bombay.	S. H. Jhalwala, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.
5. The Clerks' Union—April 1918.		500	B. M. Anandrao, B.A., Malabar Lumbering Company, Bank Street, Fort, Bombay.	1. Anant Padmanabh, 53, Medow Street, Fort, Bombay.
			Vice-President—Nanlal Parbhuram, Laud & Co., Examiner Press Building, Bombay.	2. S. Bhawani Rao, Ghelabhai Building, Chautpati, Bombay.
6. The Bombay Presidency Postmen's (including Packers) Union—April 1918.	1,032	F. J. Ginwalla, Hornby Road, Fort, Bombay.	S. H. Jhalwala, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.	
7. The G. I. P. Railway Staff Union—May 1921.		5,138	Motilal J. Mehta, Ag. Assistant Auditor, Audit Office, G. I. P. Railway, Bombay.	1. Swami Adwaitanand, G. I. P. Railway Staff Union Office, Dadar, Bombay.
				2. Narayan G. Kale, Operative Branch, C. T. S.'s Office, Bombay.

* The name of this Union is misleading, as the Union is purely for the saloon staff and its members are of Goan nationality.

TABLE I—PRINCIPAL TRADE UNIONS IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY—contd.

Name of District	Name of Union or Federation and Date of formation	Number of members	Name and address of	
			President or Chairman	Secretary
1. Bombay City— contd.	8. The Bombay Telegraph Workmen's Union—July 1922.	350	Not elected	S. H. Jhalawalla, 123, Road, Bombay.
	Total Members, Bombay City ..	21,659		
2. Ahmedabad ..	1. The Weavers Union—February 1920.	3,500	Anusuya Sarabhai, Sewa Ashram, Ahmedabad.	Gulzari Lal Nanda, Labour Union Office, Ahmedabad. Assistant Secretary—Khan dubhai Kasanbhai Desai, Raipur, Ahmedabad.
	2. The Winders Union—June 1920.	200	Do.	Do.
	3. The Throstle Union—February 1920.	6,000	Anusuya Sarabhai, Sewa Ashram, Ahmedabad.	Gulzari Lal Nanda, Labour Union Office, Ahmedabad. Assistant Secretary—Khan dubhai Kasanbhai Desai, Raipur, Ahmedabad.
	4. The Card Room, Blow Room and Frame Department Union—August 1920.	2,000	Do.	Do.
	5. The Drivers, Oilmen and Firemen's Union—September 1920.	300	Do.	Do.
	6. The Post and Railway Mail Service Association—February 1919.	200	V. J. Patel, Khamsa, Ahmedabad.	M. V. Kothari, Raipur, Ahmedabad.
	7. The B. B. & C. I. Railway Employees' Association—February 1920.	5,000*	Do.	Do.
	Total Members, Ahmedabad ..	17,200		Assistant Secretary—B. N. Sandil, Dolatkhana Sarangpur, Ahmedabad.

*Approximate.

TABLE I—PRINCIPAL TRADE UNIONS IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY—contd.

Name of District	Name of Union or Federation and Date of formation	Number of members	Name and address of	
			President or Chairman	Secretary
3. Sukkur	N. W. Railway Union (Sukkur District)—September 1923.	3,574	Mr. Thakurshah, Head Clerk, District Loco Office, Sukkur.	Telikinath Kaul, Station Road (Gardabadi), Sukkur.
4. Karachi	N. W. Railway Union (Karachi District)—1923.	3,500	Tharwardan, Cashier, Goods Office, Karachi.	Kazi Khuda Bakhsh, 32, New Haroon Building, Bunder Road, Karachi.
5. Sholapur	The Bori Light Railway Employees' Union—March 1921.	479	G. G. Bhadbhade, Kardavadi.	G. T. Malgi, Kardavadi.
6. Poona	The Press Workers' Union—February 1921.	110	John Mathews, Foreman, Scottish Mission Press, Poona Cantonment.	1. G. T. Salpal, 879, Shukrawar Peth, Poona City.
				2. N. B. Parshik, Gori khankar Press, Poona City.
				3. Krishnai Shridhar Bende, Aryabhushan Press, Poona City.
				4. D. S. Raibagar, Govardhan Press, Poona City.
7. Broach	1. The Fine Counts Mill Labour Union—October 1923.	360	None	Dinkarrao Narbharan, Pleader, Broach.
	2. The Sarawati Mill Labour Union—October 1923.	360	Do.	Do.
	Total, rest of Presidency ..	8,383		
	Total Members, Presidency ..	47,242		

TABLE II—INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF PRINCIPAL TRADE UNIONS IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

Name of District	Name of Union or Federation	Income per month	Sum paid per member per month	Expenditure per month
		Rs.		Rs.
1. Bombay City ..	1. The Indian Seamen's Union.	1,660	Rs. 6 (per year)	1,809
	2. The B.B. & C.I. Railwaymen's Union.	175	From Re. 1 to 4 annas according to pay.	75
	3. The C.I.P. Railwaymen's Union.	175	Do. do.	75
	4. The Port Trust Workshop Union.	150	As. 4 for those earning Rs. 50 and under per month; As. 8 for those earning above Rs. 50.	45
	5. The Clerks' Union ..	100	As. 4	30
	6. The Bombay Presidency Postmen's (including Packers') Union.	512	From Re. 1 to 4 annas ..	305
	7. The C.I.P. Railway Staff Union.	400	One day's pay per year ..	300
	8. The Bombay Telegraph Workmen's Union.	75	As. 4	30
2. Ahmedabad ..	1. The Weavers' Union.	875	As. 4	175
	2. The Winders' Union.	25	As. 2	12
	3. The Throstle Union.	1,287½	As. 4 per labourer; As. 2 per doffer; Anna 1 per half-day worker.	500
	4. The Card Room, Blow Room and Frame Department Union.	500	As. 4	226
	5. The Drivers, Oilmen and Firemen's Union.	125	As. 6 per oilman; As. 8 per driver or fire-man.	14
	6. *The Post and Railway Mail Service Association.	..	....	..
	7. The B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees' Association.	Exact amount not available.	Rs. 2 per year for workers earning Rs. 50 and under per month; Rs. 3 for those earning Rs. 50 to 100; Rs. 4 for those earning Rs. 100 and upwards.	300
3. Sukkur ..	The N.W. Railway Union (Sukkur District).	540	Subscription at the rate of ½ per cent. of monthly pay from all members.	160
4. Karachi ..	The N.W. Railway Union (Karachi District).	700	Do. do.	300
5. Sholapur ..	The Barsi Light Railway Employees' Union.	From 25 to 35.	An amount equal to one day's pay as drawn by a member on the 1st of January of each year.	From about 25 to 30.
6. Poona ..	The Press Workers' Union	4	As. 2 to As. 3	About 2
7. Broach ..	1. The Fine Counts Mill Labour Union.	90	As. 4 per member	Nil (†).
	2. The Saraswati Mill Labour Union.	90	Do.	Nil (†).

* The members are not paying fees at present. † Except some casual printing charges.

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS IN AUGUST 1924

Name of concern and locality	Approximate number of work-people involved		Date when dispute		Cause	Result
	Directly	Indirectly	Began	Ended		
<i>Textile Trades.</i>						
1. The Empress Mill, De Lisle Road, Bombay.	350	...	11 Aug.	12 Aug.	Demand for the reinstatement of the Head Jobber who was dismissed for inefficiency.	Work resumed unconditionally.
2. The Gold Mohur Mills, Dadar Road, Bombay.	500	...	15 Aug.	21 Aug.	The alleged short payment in the wages for July 1924.	Work resumed unconditionally.
3. The Motilal Hirabhai Spinning, Weaving and Manufacturing Co., Ltd., outside Premgate, Ahmedabad.	250	...	24 Aug.	25 Aug.	Demand for a bonus for the two days of absence during Mohurrum.	Work resumed on a promise to give full bonus.
4. Do.	250	...	26 Aug.	27 Aug.	Demand for an increase in wages and the dismissal of the Head Jobber.	Work resumed unconditionally by half the number and the others were replaced by new hands.
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>						
5. The Rander Municipality, Rander, Surat.	22	...	20 Aug.	..	Demand by sweepers for a for-tenight payment of wages.	No settlement reported.
6. The Improvement Trust Quarries, Dongri, Bombay.	240	...	21 Aug.	22 Aug.	Against the reduction in daily wages from Rs. 1-4-0, 1, and as. 10 to Re. 1, as. 14 and as. 9 respectively.	Work resumed on a promise to reconsider the orders of reduction.

ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES DURING AUGUST 1924
1. Bombay City

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of injury.						Total No. of persons injured.		
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.	
	Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.	Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.	Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.	Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.	Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.			
I Textile Mills—													
Cotton Mills ..	168	45	80	18	5	3	13	5	231	55	249	5	63
Woolen Mills ..	2	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	5	1	5	..	..
Others ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	170	46	83	18	5	3	13	5	236	56	254	5	64
II Workshops—													
Engineering ..	12	2	80	7	1	..	3	..	88	9	92	9	64
Railway ..	44	6	760	58	1	..	1	..	802	64	804	2	..
Mint ..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..
Others ..	4	1	13	..	..	..	1	..	16	1	17	1	..
Total ..	60	9	855	65	2	..	5	..	908	74	915	12	74
III Miscellaneous—													
Chemical Works ..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..
Flour Mills ..	2	..	7	1	..	..	..	..	8	1	9	..	..
Printing Presses ..	2	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	5	..	..
Others ..	10	..	12	1	1	..	2	..	20	1	23	1	..
Total ..	14	..	24	2	2	..	2	..	35	2	39	2	2
Total, All Factories ..	244	55	962	85	9	3	20	5	1,179	132	1,208	14	140

2. Ahmedabad

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of injury.						Total No. of persons injured.		
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.	
	Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.	Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.	Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.	Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.	Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.			
I Textile Mills—													
Cotton ..	57	8	7	6	28	2	36	2	47	10	111	14	..
Total ..	57	8	7	6	28	2	36	2	47	10	111	14	..
II Miscellaneous—													
Match Factory ..	2	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	1	3	1	..
Flour Mills ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Oil Mills ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Total ..	2	1	2	1	1	..	1	..	2	2	4	2	..
Total, All Factories ..	59	9	9	7	29	2	37	2	49	12	115	16	..

Explanations :—1. The progressive figures do not always agree with the figures shown in the previous issue, but are corrected to date.
2. "Fatal" means causing the death of the injured persons without specification of period.
"Serious" means causing absence from work for more than 20 days.
"Minor" means causing absence from work for more than 48 hours and up to 20 days.

ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES DURING AUGUST 1924—contd.
3. Karachi

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of injury.						Total No. of persons injured.		
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.	
	Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.	Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.	Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.	Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.	Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.			
I Workshops—													
Railway and Port Trust ..	6	..	20	3	..	..	3	1	23	2	26	3	..
Engineering ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	6	1	20	3	..	..	3	1	23	2	26	3	..
II Miscellaneous—													
Total ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	..	4	..	..
Total, All Factories ..	10	1	20	3	..	..	4	1	26	2	30	3	..

4. Other Centres

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of injury.						Total No. of persons injured.		
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.	
	Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.	Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.	Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.	Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.	Jan to July 1924.	Aug 1924.			
I Textile Mills—													
Cotton Mills ..	32	5	17	5	2	..	6	..	41	10	49	10	2
Others ..	3	..	2	2	2	..	..	..	3	2	5	..	..
Total ..	35	5	19	7	4	..	6	..	44	12	54	10	2
II Workshops—													
Railway ..	10	1	83	13	..	1	1	..	92	13	93	14	..
Arms and Ammunition Works ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..
Others ..	3	..	7	..	..	..	1	..	9	..	10	..	..
Total ..	14	1	90	14	..	1	2	..	102	14	104	14	..
III Miscellaneous—													
Ginning and Pressing Factories ..	10	..	4	3	3	2	1	..	10	1	14	3	..
Paint Works ..	..	1	5	..	..	..	2	..	4	1	6	..	..
Others ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	11	1	9	3	3	2	3	..	14	2	20	3	..
Total, All Factories ..	60	7	118	24	7	3	11	..	160	28	178	17	..

Note.—For Explanations see previous page.

WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN BOMBAY

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	Price.				Index numbers.					
			July 1914.	August 1923.	July 1924.	August 1924.	July 1914.	Aug. 1923.	July 1924.	Aug. 1924.		
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.						
Cereals—												
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	Md.	4 11 3	5 13 4	7 0 4	7 0 4	100	124	149	149		
Wheat	Delhi No. 1	Cwt.	5 9 6	6 8 0	8 7 0	7 8 0	100	116	151	149		
Do.	Khandwa Seoni	Candy	45 0 0	60 0 0	70 0 0	75 0 0	100	113	156	167		
Do.	Jubbulpore	"	40 0 0	45 0 0	49 0 0	57 0 0	100	113	156	167		
Jowari	Cawnpore	Maund	3 2 6	3 12 11	4 3 9	4 7 1	100	121	134	143		
Barley	.....	"	3 4 6	3 1 1	4 7 0	4 3 9	100	94	134	141	
Bairi	Ghati	"	3 4 6	4 8 10	5 1 3	5 4 8	100	139	155	129		
Pulses—												
Gram	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	Maund	4 3 9	3 6 2	4 5 5	4 3 9	100	80	102	100		
Turdal	Cawnpore	"	5 10 5	5 1 3	5 4 8	5 4 8	100	90	94	94		
Sugar—												
Sugar	Mauritius No. 1	Cwt.	9 3 0	21 12 0	20 12 0	20 8 0	100	237	226	223		
Do.	Java, white	Maund	10 3 0	22 8 0	22 4 0	20 3 0	100	221	238	198		
Raw (Gul)	Sangli or Poona	"	7 14 3	11 9 0	13 5 4	13 9 8	100	147	169	172		
Other Food—												
Turmeric	Rajapuri	Maund	5 9 3	34 4 7	24 7 10	24 14 4	100	615	439	446		
Ghee	Desi	"	45 11 5	88 9 2	85 11 5	85 11 5	100	194	188	188		
Salt	Bombay (black)	"	1 7 6	3 4 0	2 4 0	2 4 0	100	221	153	153		
Oilseeds—												
Linseed	Bold	Cwt.	8 14 6	13 2 0	14 0 0	13 6 0	100	147	157	150		
Rapeseed	Cawnpore (brown)	"	8 0 0	9 12 0	12 2 0	12 2 0	100	122	152	152		
Poppy seed	.....	"	10 14 0	13 0 0	14 4 0	14 0 0	100	120	131	129	
Gingelly	White	"	11 4 0	15 0 0	18 0 0	17 0 0	100	133	160	151		
Index No.—Cereals							100	120	145	146		
Index No.—Pulses							100	85	98	97		
Index No.—Food grains							100	112	133	135		
Index No.—Sugar							100	202	211	198		
Index No.—Other food							100	343	260	262		
Index No.—All Food							100	176	174	173		
Index No.—Oilseeds							100	131	150	146		

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Textile—Cotton—											
(a) Cotton, raw—											
Broach	Good	Candy	251 0 0	475 0 0	560 0 0	551 0 0	100	189	252	248	
Oomra	Fully good	"	222 0 0	"	"	"	100	"	"	"	
Dharwar	Saw-ginned	"	230 0 0	"	555 0 0	546 0 0	100	230	271	267	
Khandesh	Machine-ginned	"	205 0 0	"	537 0 0	528 0 0	100	230	271	267	
Bengal	Do.	"	198 0 0	455 0 0	"	"	100	210	265	260	
Index No.—Cotton, raw											
(b) Cotton manufactures—											
Twist	40S	Lb.	0 12 9	1 10 0	1 13 0	1 14 0	100	204	227	235	
Grey shirtings	Fari 2,000	Piece	5 15 0	12 14 0	13 14 0	13 14 0	100	217	234	234	
White mulls	6,600	"	4 3 0	8 4 0	8 12 0	8 12 0	100	197	209	209	
Shirtings	Liepmann's 1,500	"	10 6 0	24 0 0	27 0 0	27 0 0	100	231	260	260	
Long Cloth	Local made 36" x 37½ yds.	Lb.	0 9 6	1 3 9	1 7 0	1 7 3	100	208	242	245	
Chudders	54" x 6 yds.	"	0 9 6	1 2 9	1 5 0	1 5 6	100	197	221	226	
Index No.—Cotton manufactures											
Index No.—Textile—Cotton											
Other Textiles—											
Silk	Manchow	Lb.	5 2 6	9 10 0	9 6 6	9 2 3	100	187	182	177	
Do.	Matbow Lari	"	2 15 1	6 0 0	5 10 4	6 11 6	100	203	192	228	
Index No.—Other Textiles											
Hides and Skins—											
Hides, Cow	Tanned	Lb.	1 2 6	1 13 4	1 12 2	1 13 7	100	159	152	160	
Do. Buffalo	Do.	"	1 1 3	0 11 8	1 2 7	1 2 6	100	68	108	107	
Skins, Goat	Do.	"	1 4 0	2 5 6	2 6 1	2 4 10	100	187	190	184	
Index No.—Hides and Skins											
Metals—											
Copper braziers	.....	Cwt.	60 8 0	77 0 0	66 0 0	67 0 0	100	127	109	111
Iron bars	.....	"	4 0 0	8 0 0	7 0 0	7 0 0	100	200	175	175
Steel hoops	.....	"	7 12 0	14 0 0	11 4 0	12 6 0	100	181	145	160
Galvanised sheets	.....	"	9 0 0	16 4 0	15 10 0	15 10 0	100	181	174	174
Tin plates	.....	Box	8 12 0	17 12 0	20 0 0	20 0 0	100	203	229	229
Index No.—Metals											
Other raw and manufactured articles—											
Coal	Bengal, 2nd Class Steam	Ton	14 12 0	24 10 0	22 10 0	22 10 0	100	167	153	153	
Do.	Imported	"	19 11 6	27 6 0	29 9 6	25 13 10	100	139	150	131	
Kerosene	Elephant Brand	2 Tins	4 6 0	7 8 0	7 10 6	7 10 6	100	171	175	175	
Do.	Chester Brand	Case	5 2 0	10 0 6	9 8 0	9 8 0	100	196	185	185	
Index No.—Other raw and manfd. articles											
Index No.—Food							100	176	189	190	
Index No.—Non-food							100	176	184	184	
General Index No.							100	176	184	184	

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WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN KARACHI

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	Prices.				Index Numbers.			
			July 1914.	Aug. 1923.	July 1924.	Aug. 1924.	July 1914.	Aug. 1923.	July 1924.	Aug. 1924.
Cereals—			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.				
Rice	Larkana No. 3	Candy.	39 0 0	45 0 0	55 8 0	61 13 0 ^(a)	100	115	142	158
Wheat, white	5% barley, 3% dirt, 30% red.	"	31 8 0	34 8 0	46 8 0	42 12 0	100	110	148	136
" red	5% barley, 3% dirt, 92% red.	"	31 4 0	33 12 0	45 8 0	41 12 0	100	108	146	134
" white	2% barley, 1 1/2% dirt.	"	32 8 0	35 8 0	47 14 0	44 0 0	100	109	147	135
" red	2% barley, 1 1/2% dirt.	"	32 4 0	34 12 0	46 14 0	43 0 0	100	108	145	133
Jowari	Export quality	"	25 8 0	23 0 0	34 4 0	37 14 0	100	90	134	149
Barley	3% dirt	"	26 8 0	25 0 0	37 8 0	37 8 0	100	94	142	142
Index No.—Cereals	....	....	..	..	..	..	100	105	143	141
Pulses—										
Gram	1% dirt	Candy	29 8 0	25 0 0	33 8 0	32 8 0	100	85	114	110
Sugar—										
Sugar	Java white	Cwt.	9 2 0	20 14 0	20 5 0	19 5 0	100	229	223	212
"	" brown	"	8 1 6	..	..	..	100	..	..	..
Index No.—Sugar	....	....	..	..	..	..	100	229	223	212
Other food—										
Salt	....	Bengal Maund.	2 2 0	2 14 6	1 10 0	1 10 0	100	137	76	76
Oilseeds—										
Cotton seed	..	Maund.	2 11 3	3 10 0	4 6 0	..	100	134	162	..
Rapeseed	..	Candy.	51 0 0	59 0 0	72 0 0	77 8 0	100	116	141	152
Gingelly	..	"	62 0 0	84 0 0	..	..	100	135	..	..
Index No.—Oilseeds	....	....	..	..	..	..	100	128	152	152
Textiles—										
Jute bags	B. Twills	100 bags.	38 4 0	45 0 0	61 0 0	61 0 0	100	118	159	159

Textiles—Cotton—										
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind	Maund.	20 4 0	49 10 0	52 8 0	45 8 0	100	245	259	225
(b) Cotton manufactures—										
Drills	Pepperill	Piecc.	10 3 6	25 0 0	28 0 0	27 0 0	100	245	274	264
Shirtings	Liepmann's	"	10 2 0	25 0 0	29 0 0	28 0 0	100	247	286	277
Yarns	40s Grey (Plough)	Lb.	0 12 2	..	..	..	100	..	..	..
Index No.—Cotton manufactures	....	....	..	..	..	..	100	246	280	271
Index No.—Textiles—Cotton	....	....	..	..	..	..	100	246	273	255
Other Textiles—Wool	Kandahar	Maund.	28 0 0	36 0 0	35 0 0	40 0 0	100	129	125	143
Hides—										
Hides, dry	Sind	Maund.	21 4 0	12 0 0	16 0 0	15 0 0	100	56	75	71
"	Punjab	"	21 4 0	12 0 0	16 0 0	15 0 0	100	56	75	71
Index No.—Hides	....	....	..	..	..	..	100	56	75	71
Metals—										
Copper Braziers	..	Cwt.	60 8 0	79 0 0	71 0 0	70 0 0	100	131	117	116
Steel Bars	..	"	3 14 0	7 2 0	6 10 0	6 8 0	100	184	171	168
" Plates	..	"	4 6 0	7 8 0	8 4 0	8 0 0	100	171	189	183
Index No.—Metals	....	....	..	..	..	..	100	162	159	156
Other raw and manufactured articles—										
Coal	1st class Bengal	Ton.	16 0 0	35 0 0	25 0 0	25 0 0	100	219	156	156
Kerosene	Chester Brand	Case.	5 2 0	9 14 6	9 6 0	9 6 0	100	193	183	183
"	Elephant	2 Tins.	4 7 0	7 6 0	6 3 6	7 8 6	100	166	140	170
Index No.—Other raw and manufactured articles	....	....	..	..	..	..	100	193	171	170
Index No.—Food	....	....	..	..	..	..	100	119	142	139
Index No.—Non-food	....	....	..	..	..	..	100	159	182	167
General Index No.	....	....	..	..	..	..	100	149	165	155

(a) This quotation for rice is for the grade 'Sukkur, white'.

COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS FOR INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Name of country.	India (Bombay).	United Kingdom.	Canada.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Italy (Rome) (c).	Belgium.	Norway.	Switzerland.	South Africa.	France (Paris).	U. S. of America.
Items included in the index.	Food, fuel, light, clothing and rent.	Food, rent, fuel, light, clothing, etc.	Food, fuel, light, rent, household utensils and furnishing.	Food and Rent.	Food, fuel, light and rent.	Food, clothing, heat, light, rent and miscellaneous.	Food, clothing, light, fuel and household utensils.	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent, tax, etc.	Food, heating and lighting.	Food, fuel, light and rent.	(g)	Food, clothing, heating and lighting, and light and miscellaneous items.
1914 July	100	100	100	(a) 100	100	(b) 100	(d) 100	100	(f) 100	100	100	(h) 100
1915 July	104	125	97	119	107	99	..	(e) 117	119	103	..	105
1916 July	108	148	102	115	113	116	..	146	140	106	..	118
1917 July	118	180	130	116	119	146	..	190	180	114	..	142
1918 July	149	203	146	118	128	197	..	253	229	118	..	174
1919 July	186	208	155	132	133	205	..	275	261	126	238	177
1920 July	190	252	190	..	149	313	453	..	253	155	..	217
1921 July	177	219	152	..	157	387	379	..	209	133	..	..
1922 September	165	179	148	143	144	437	376	249	157	120	289	166
October	162	178	147	..	143	444	376	..	160	121	..	..
November	160	180	147	..	143	439	384	..	160	122	..	..
December	161	180	148	142	143	438	384	238	161	121	300	170
1923 January	156	178	150	..	142	412	383	..	160	120	..	..
February	155	177	150	..	143	413	397	..	158	120	..	..
March	154	176	152	136	143	441	408	240	161	119	324	169
April	155	174	149	..	143	441	409	..	160	120	..	..
May	153	170	147	..	144	449	413	..	163	120	..	..
June	151	169	146	151	145	452	419	239	166	120	324	170
July	153	169	146	..	148	..	429	..	166	119	..	..
August	154	171	149	..	146	..	439	..	164	118	..	..
September	154	173	148	156	148	..	453	232	164	118	331	172
October	152	175	149	..	148	..	458	..	167	121	..	..
November	153	175	150	..	148	..	463	..	167	122	..	..
December	157	177	150	152	148	..	470	234	168	133	345	173
1924 January	158	177	150	..	150	..	480	..	170	133	..	..
February	156	179	150	..	151	..	495	..	168	134	..	..
March	153	178	148	150	152	..	510	249	168	134	365	170
April	150	173	145	..	..	..	498	..	166	134	..	..
May	150	171	143	485	..	166	134
June	153	169	143	492	251	168	133	366	..
July	156	170	144	493
August	160	171

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(a) From 1914 to 1919 figures relate to second quarter. (b) First half of 1914. (c) Unofficial. (d) April 1914. (e) From 1915 to 1919 June figures are given. (f) June 1914 = 100. (g) Expenditure of a family of four persons. (h) Average 1913 is the base.

WHOLESALE PRICES INDEX NUMBERS IN BOMBAY BY GROUPS

Prices in July 1914 = 100

H 532-8a

Months.	Cereals.	Pulses.	Sugar.	Other food.	Index No. food.	Oil-seeds.	Raw cotton.	Cotton manufactures.	Other textiles.	Hides and skins.	Metals.	Other raw and manufactured articles.	Index No. non-food.	General index no.
1921 August	216	167	229	181	205	160	137	264	184	160	242	206	204	205
1922 August	166	132	227	238	188	138	197	248	191	139	183	185	188	188
September	163	127	212	241	185	135	191	229	191	142	182	187	183	184
October	145	119	210	249	178	138	165	226	192	112	183	180	176	177
November	137	111	213	260	176	138	173	224	192	146	185	182	180	179
December	129	105	216	266	170	135	185	220	192	122	186	181	178	175
1923 January	125	102	202	305	173	130	200	227	191	165	194	178	186	181
February	125	95	210	268	167	132	210	225	191	132	195	174	182	177
March	127	93	242	296	179	139	213	227	195	134	187	176	183	182
April	128	92	242	269	174	134	204	217	195	167	185	176	184	180
May	124	88	248	284	176	131	205	217	195	161	185	172	182	180
June	128	91	234	302	179	134	211	212	195	144	186	166	180	180
July	127	90	215	317	178	132	210	211	196	139	182	169	178	178
August	120	85	202	343	176	132	210	209	196	138	178	168	176	176
September	124	85	209	354	182	136	211	215	196	149	177	162	178	179
October	122	85	214	368	185	133	211	217	192	153	178	169	179	181
November	125	90	228	365	189	138	303	235	187	161	174	158	185	186
December	125	91	243	375	194	141	286	229	187	146	167	162	185	188
1924 January	127	92	244	340	188	138	273	236	182	157	166	160	189	188
February	125	88	236	348	187	136	248	234	173	158	174	160	188	188
March	123	84	220	263	165	129	244	238	235	140	171	164	190	181
April	122	84	217	279	167	127	258	237	229	146	169	170	192	184
May	125	88	212	293	171	131	258	236	191	149	168	166	187	181
June	131	92	213	293	175	137	259	236	201	149	170	158	190	185
July	143	98	211	260	174	150	265	232	187	150	166	166	189	184
August	146	97	198	262	173	146	260	235	203	150	170	161	190	184

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INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Table with columns for Country, No. of articles, India (Bombay) (B), Japan, China (Shanghai), Java (Batavia), Australia, Egypt (Cairo), United Kingdom, France, Netherlands (H), Norway, Sweden, Canada, and United States of America. Rows include monthly averages and monthly price numbers for years 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, and 1924.

* July 1914 = 100. (a) Average Dec. 1913 to June 1914 = 100. (b) Revised figures. (c) The figures from 1915-19 are for December. (d) February 1913 = 100. (e) Based of Trade.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX NUMBERS IN BOMBAY BY GROUPS

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Table with columns for Months, Cereals, Pulses, Cereals and pulses, Other articles of food, All food, Fuel and lighting, Clothing, Housing, and Cost of living. Rows are organized by year from 1921 to 1924, showing monthly price index numbers for each category.

RETAIL PRICES OF ARTICLES OF FOOD IN JULY AND AUGUST 1924

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

Articles.	Price per	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
		July 1924.	July 1924.	July 1924.	July 1924.	July 1924.	Aug. 1924.	Aug. 1924.	Aug. 1924.	Aug. 1924.	Aug. 1924.
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cereals—											
Rice	Maund ..	7 6 1 <i>132</i>	7 4 4 <i>109</i>	8 14 3 <i>144</i>	7 2 6 <i>135</i>	8 14 3 <i>154</i>	7 9 11 <i>136</i>	7 12 11 <i>117</i>	8 14 3 <i>144</i>	7 4 11 <i>138</i>	8 14 3 <i>154</i>
Wheat	" ..	6 3 0 <i>111</i>	5 0 0 <i>119</i>	6 2 6 <i>131</i>	6 5 7 <i>123</i>	6 7 5 <i>120</i>	7 0 3 <i>125</i>	5 13 6 <i>139</i>	6 6 5 <i>136</i>	6 11 4 <i>130</i>	6 7 5 <i>120</i>
Jowari	" ..	6 1 0 <i>139</i>	4 0 10 <i>111</i>	5 0 0 <i>131</i>	5 2 5 <i>179</i>	5 14 1 <i>171</i>	6 7 8 <i>149</i>	4 7 1 <i>122</i>	5 0 0 <i>131</i>	5 13 1 <i>203</i>	5 14 1 <i>171</i>
Bajri	" ..	5 8 0 <i>128</i>	4 9 8 <i>109</i>	5 0 0 <i>106</i>	4 15 0 <i>140</i>	5 15 0 <i>145</i>	6 1 4 <i>141</i>	5 0 0 <i>119</i>	5 11 5 <i>121</i>	5 7 6 <i>156</i>	5 15 0 <i>145</i>
<i>Index No.—Cereals</i>		<i>128</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>157</i>	<i>148</i>
Pulses—											
Gram	" ..	5 0 0 <i>116</i>	4 2 11 <i>110</i>	6 10 8 <i>167</i>	4 7 6 <i>104</i>	4 7 4 <i>92</i>	5 8 0 <i>128</i>	4 9 2 <i>120</i>	6 10 8 <i>167</i>	4 12 1 <i>111</i>	5 2 9 <i>106</i>
Turdal	" ..	6 9 11 <i>113</i>	6 8 0 <i>97</i>	8 0 0 <i>130</i>	6 14 10 <i>119</i>	8 8 2 <i>129</i>	6 13 10 <i>117</i>	6 3 5 <i>93</i>	8 0 0 <i>130</i>	7 3 1 <i>123</i>	8 8 2 <i>129</i>
<i>Index No.—Pulses</i>		<i>115</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>107</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>118</i>

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Other articles of food—											
Sugar (refined)	" ..	19 10 3 <i>258</i>	17 4 9 <i>238</i>	20 0 0 <i>222</i>	22 1 1 <i>221</i>	19 4 5 <i>206</i>	17 13 9 <i>234</i>	16 0 0 <i>220</i>	17 12 5 <i>198</i>	20 0 0 <i>200</i>	17 12 5 <i>190</i>
Jagri (gul)	" ..	14 4 7 <i>167</i>	10 10 8 <i>153</i>	13 5 4 <i>150</i>	13 5 4 <i>172</i>	12 11 2 <i>181</i>	16 1 2 <i>188</i>	10 10 8 <i>153</i>	13 5 4 <i>130</i>	13 14 7 <i>179</i>	12 15 3 <i>185</i>
Tea	Lb. ..	0 15 10 <i>203</i>	0 13 10 <i>200</i>	0 15 7 <i>200</i>	1 1 9 <i>171</i>	1 0 5 <i>200</i>	0 15 6 <i>199</i>	0 14 2 <i>205</i>	0 15 7 <i>200</i>	1 1 9 <i>171</i>	1 0 4 <i>200</i>
Salt	Maund ..	3 6 0 <i>158</i>	1 14 6 <i>145</i>	2 4 7 <i>151</i>	3 4 3 <i>147</i>	2 15 11 <i>159</i>	3 7 7 <i>163</i>	1 14 6 <i>145</i>	2 4 7 <i>151</i>	3 6 7 <i>153</i>	2 15 11 <i>159</i>
Beef	Seer ..	0 8 2 <i>158</i>	0 10 0 <i>200</i>	0 8 0 <i>133</i>	0 6 0 <i>240</i>	0 6 0 <i>141</i>	0 8 0 <i>155</i>	0 10 0 <i>200</i>	0 8 0 <i>133</i>	0 6 0 <i>240</i>	0 6 0 <i>141</i>
Mutton	" ..	0 13 6 <i>202</i>	0 12 0 <i>200</i>	0 12 0 <i>200</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 11 0 <i>183</i>	0 13 4 <i>200</i>	0 12 0 <i>200</i>	0 12 0 <i>200</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>
Milk	Maund ..	17 9 4 <i>191</i>	7 13 8 <i>177</i>	13 5 4 <i>267</i>	13 5 4 <i>183</i>	13 5 4 <i>133</i>	17 9 4 <i>191</i>	8 15 2 <i>201</i>	13 5 4 <i>267</i>	13 5 4 <i>183</i>	16 0 0 <i>160</i>
Ghee	" ..	100 0 0 <i>197</i>	80 0 0 <i>187</i>	84 3 4 <i>189</i>	106 10 8 <i>190</i>	84 3 4 <i>163</i>	100 0 0 <i>197</i>	80 0 0 <i>187</i>	82 0 10 <i>185</i>	106 10 8 <i>196</i>	114 4 7 <i>221</i>
Potatoes	" ..	9 8 5 <i>213</i>	10 0 0 <i>184</i>	8 0 0 <i>210</i>	10 0 0 <i>250</i>	7 10 6 <i>227</i>	8 14 10 <i>199</i>	12 1 2 <i>229</i>	9 6 7 <i>247</i>	10 0 0 <i>250</i>	7 10 6 <i>227</i>
Onions	" ..	4 2 8 <i>268</i>	2 15 2 <i>162</i>	3 1 3 <i>154</i>	3 5 4 <i>133</i>	1 14 10 <i>96</i>	4 2 8 <i>268</i>	3 11 2 <i>203</i>	3 1 3 <i>154</i>	3 5 4 <i>153</i>	2 10 1 <i>131</i>
Cocosnut oil	" ..	28 9 2 <i>113</i>	28 13 3 <i>117</i>	35 8 11 <i>178</i>	30 7 7 <i>114</i>	33 10 11 <i>120</i>	29 12 2 <i>117</i>	30 12 4 <i>125</i>	35 8 11 <i>178</i>	30 7 7 <i>114</i>	30 10 11 <i>120</i>
<i>Index No.—Other articles of food</i>		<i>193</i>	<i>178</i>	<i>187</i>	<i>181</i>	<i>164</i>	<i>192</i>	<i>187</i>	<i>188</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>173</i>
<i>Index No.—All food articles (unweighted)</i>		<i>169</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>168</i>	<i>164</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>171</i>	<i>163</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>167</i>	<i>160</i>

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