

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS IN BOMBAY
BY GROUPS

JAN., 1928

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Months	Cereals	Pulses	Cereals and pulses	Other articles of food	All food	Fuel and lighting	Clothing	Home-rent	Cost of living
1925									
January	131	124	130	189	152	165	209	172	157
February	134	123	133	185	152	166	210	172	152
March	139	128	138	183	155	165	207	172	159
April	137	128	136	181	153	165	207	172	158
May	133	122	132	182	151	165	207	172	156
June	130	119	129	184	149	165	198	172	154
July	136	119	134	183	152	165	192	172	157
August	126	119	125	184	147	165	191	172	152
September	125	118	124	182	146	165	188	172	151
October	128	121	128	182	148	165	192	172	153
November	129	132	129	182	149	165	185	172	153
December	132	137	133	183	151	165	176	172	155
1926									
January	132	140	133	183	151	165	173	172	155
February	132	136	132	181	150	165	172	172	154
March	132	136	133	182	151	165	174	172	155
April	132	133	132	180	150	165	175	172	153
May	133	138	133	177	150	164	170	172	153
June	133	139	134	182	152	164	162	172	157
July	134	145	135	187	155	164	160	172	155
August	135	141	136	181	153	164	160	172	155
September	135	145	136	179	152	164	160	172	155
October	135	150	136	180	153	164	159	172	155
November	133	152	135	180	152	164	156	172	154
December	134	155	136	184	154	166	148	172	156
1927									
January	134	149	135	188	155	166	143	172	156
February	134	154	136	180	152	166	148	172	155
March	134	159	137	179	152	166	152	172	155
April	133	153	135	178	151	166	143	172	153
May	133	154	134	176	150	166	147	172	152
June	134	156	136	177	151	166	147	172	154
July	136	153	138	181	154	166	149	172	156
August	136	157	138	184	155	166	152	172	157
September	132	151	134	180	151	166	163	172	154
October	127	151	129	180	148	156	163	172	151
November	125	151	127	180	147	156	157	172	150
December	129	155	131	178	149	156	154	172	151
1928									
January	132	160	135	180	151	156	152	172	154

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

VOL VII]

BOMBAY, FEBRUARY, 1928

[No. 6

The Month in Brief

DEDUCTIONS FROM WAGES

A Report on an enquiry conducted by the Labour Office into deductions from wages or payments in respect of fines has now been published. Copies of the report can be obtained from the Labour Office, Secretariat, Bombay. The price is Re. 1 As. 7 per copy.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE TEXTILE AND ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES

In the textile industry as a whole the supply of labour was equal to the demand during the month of January 1928. The average absenteeism was 8.53 per cent. for Bombay City, 3.72 per cent. for Ahmedabad, 1.60 per cent. for Viramgaum, 13.84 per cent. for Sholapur and 8.16 per cent. for Broach.

In the engineering industry in Bombay City the supply of both skilled and unskilled labour was adequate. Absenteeism was 9.95 per cent. in the engineering workshops, 5 per cent. in the Marine Lines Reclamation of the Development Directorate, 13.59 per cent. in the Bombay Port Trust Docks and 8.80 per cent. in the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust.

In the engineering workshops of the Karachi Port Trust the percentage absenteeism was 6.80.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX

In February 1928, the Working Class Cost of Living Index Number was 148 as against 154 in the preceding month. The Index Number for food articles only was 146.

INDEX NUMBER OF WHOLESALE PRICES

The Index Number of Wholesale Prices in Bombay was 141 for the month of January 1928.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

There were three industrial disputes in the month of January 1928. The number of workpeople involved was 19,287 and the number of working days lost 377,121.

BALANCE OF TRADE

During January 1928, the visible balance of trade, including securities, in favour of India amounted to Rs. 4 lakhs.

The Cost of Living Index for February 1928

A FALL OF SIX POINTS

Increase per cent. over July 1914 .. { All articles 48 per cent.
.. { Food only 46 per cent.

In February 1928*, the average level of retail prices for all the commodities taken into account in the statistics of a cost of living index for the working classes in Bombay City was 6 points lower than in the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the general index number was 154 in January and 148 in February 1928. The general index is thus 45 points below the high-water mark (193) reached in October 1920 and 6 points less than the twelve-monthly average for the year 1927 registered a fall of 5 points. There was an all-round fall in the prices of the six foodgrains included in the index and the index numbers for Cereals and Pulses declined by 5 and 8 points respectively during the month. The combined average for "all foodgrains" stood at 129 as against 135 in the previous month. The fall of 6 points in the "other food" group was mainly due to a decline of 40 points in potatoes and of 7 points in sugar (gul). Tea and ghee recorded a slight decrease in price but beef rose by 8 points. The price of the remaining articles was practically stationary during the month under review. The index number for the "other food" group stood at 174.

The "fuel and lighting" index number declined by 12 points to 144 due to a heavy fall in the price of kerosene oil. The index number for "Clothing" advanced by one point owing to a rise in the price of T. cloths.

All items : Percentage increase over July 1914

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
January ..	61	73	56	59	57	55	56	56
February ..	62	65	55	56	57	55	56	56
March ..	61	65	54	54	57	54	55	54
April ..	61	62	56	50	58	53	55	48
May ..	67	63	53	50	56	53	53	
June ..	73	63	52	53	54	55	52	
July ..	77	65	53	57	57	55	54	
August ..	70	64	54	61	52	55	56	
September ..	85	65	54	61	51	55	57	
October ..	85	62	52	61	53	55	54	
November ..	82	60	53	61	53	55	51	
December ..	79	61	57	60	53	54	50	
Yearly average ..	73	64	54	57	55	55	54	

The articles included in the index are cereals, pulses, other articles of food, fuel and lighting, clothing and 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 prices on which the index is based are those collected between January 1st and February 15th.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX—FEBRUARY

Articles	Unit of measurement	Annual consumption (Mass Units) (in crores)	Price per (Mass) Unit			Price - Base Unit		
			July 1914	January 1928	February 1928	July 1914	January 1928	February 1928
Cereals	Mauud	70	Rs. 5.594	Rs. 7.531	Rs. 7.214	Rs. 391.56	Rs. 527.17	Rs. 504.18
		21	5.594	7.026	6.761	117.47	147.55	142.40
		11	4.354	5.526	5.443	47.89	60.79	59.87
		6	4.313	5.609	5.268	25.66	55.65	51.25
Total—Cereals					562.82	769.16	738.50	
					100	152	127	
Pulses	Mauud	10	4.302	7.005	6.563	43.02	70.05	65.61
		3	5.844	8.896	8.734	17.53	26.69	26.20
Total—Pulses					60.55	96.74	91.83	
					100	160	152	
Other food articles	Mauud	7	7.620	12.500	12.500	15.24	25.00	25.00
		7	8.557	13.693	13.094	59.90	95.85	91.66
		40	40.000	80.771	79.490	1.00	2.02	1.99
		2	2.130	3.412	3.412	10.65	17.06	17.06
		28	0.323	0.510	0.537	9.04	14.28	15.04
		33	0.417	0.833	0.833	13.76	27.49	27.49
		14	9.198	17.583	17.583	128.77	246.16	246.16
		14	50.792	94.641	94.047	76.19	141.96	141.07
		11	4.479	8.333	6.547	49.27	91.66	72.02
		3	1.552	3.573	3.573	4.66	10.72	10.72
Cocunut Oil		1	25.396	27.974	27.974	12.70	13.99	
Total—Other food articles					381.18	686.19	662.20	
					100	180	174	
Total—All food articles					1,024.55	1,552.09	1,492.53	
					100	151	146	
Fuel and lighting	Case ..	5	4.375	6.406	5.000	21.88	32.03	25.00
		48	0.792	1.281	1.281	38.02	61.49	61.49
		1	0.542	0.771	0.771	0.54	0.77	0.77
Total—Fuel and lighting					60.44	94.29	87.26	
					100	156	144	
Clothing	L.E.	27	0.594	0.906	0.906	16.04	24.46	24.46
		25	0.641	1.021	1.016	16.03	25.53	25.40
		36	0.583	0.859	0.875	20.99	30.92	31.50
Total—Clothing					53.06	80.91	81.36	
					100	152	153	
House-rent	Per month.	10	11.302	19.440	19.440	113.02	194.40	194.40
						100	172	172
Total—House-rent					113.02	194.40	194.40	
					100	172	172	
Grand Total					1,251.07	1,921.69	1,855.55	
Cost of Living Index Numbers					100	154	148	

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

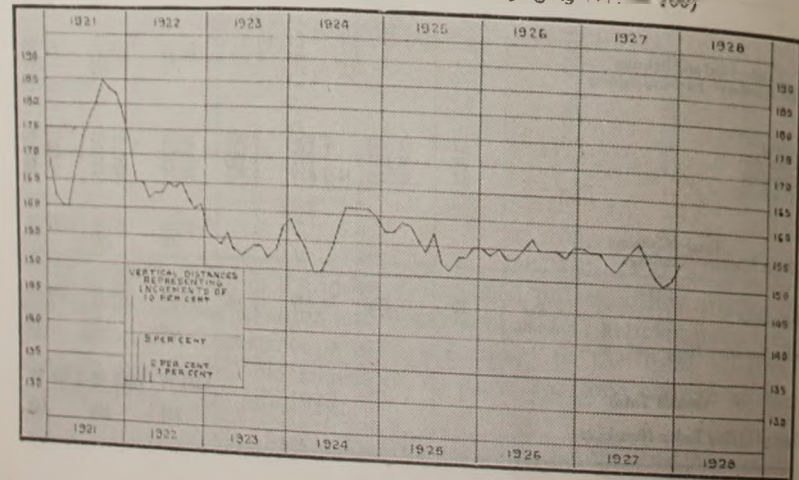
Articles	July 1914	January 1928	February 1928	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in February 1928 over or below January 1928	Articles	July 1914	January 1928	February 1928	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in February 1928 over or below January 1928
Rice	100	135	129	- 6	Salt	100	160	160	..
Wheat	100	126	121	- 5	Beef	100	158	166	..
Jowari	100	127	123	- 2	Mutton	100	200	200	+ 8
Bajri	100	130	121	- 9	Milk	100	191	191	..
Gram	100	63	153	+10	Ghee	100	186	185	- 1
Turdal	100	132	149	+ 3	Potatoes	100	186	185	- 1
Sugar (refined)..	100	164	164	..	Onions	100	230	146	-40
Raw sugar (gul).	100	160	153	- 7	Cocconut oil ..	100	110	230	..
Tea	100	202	199	- 3	All food articles (weighted average)..	100	151	146	- 5

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

Rice 22, Wheat 17, Jowari 20, Bajri 17, Gram 35, Turdal 33, Sugar (refined) 39, Raw Sugar (gul) 35, Tea 50, Salt 37, Beef 40, Mutton 50, Milk 48, Ghee 46, Potatoes 32, Onions 57 and Cocconut Oil 9.

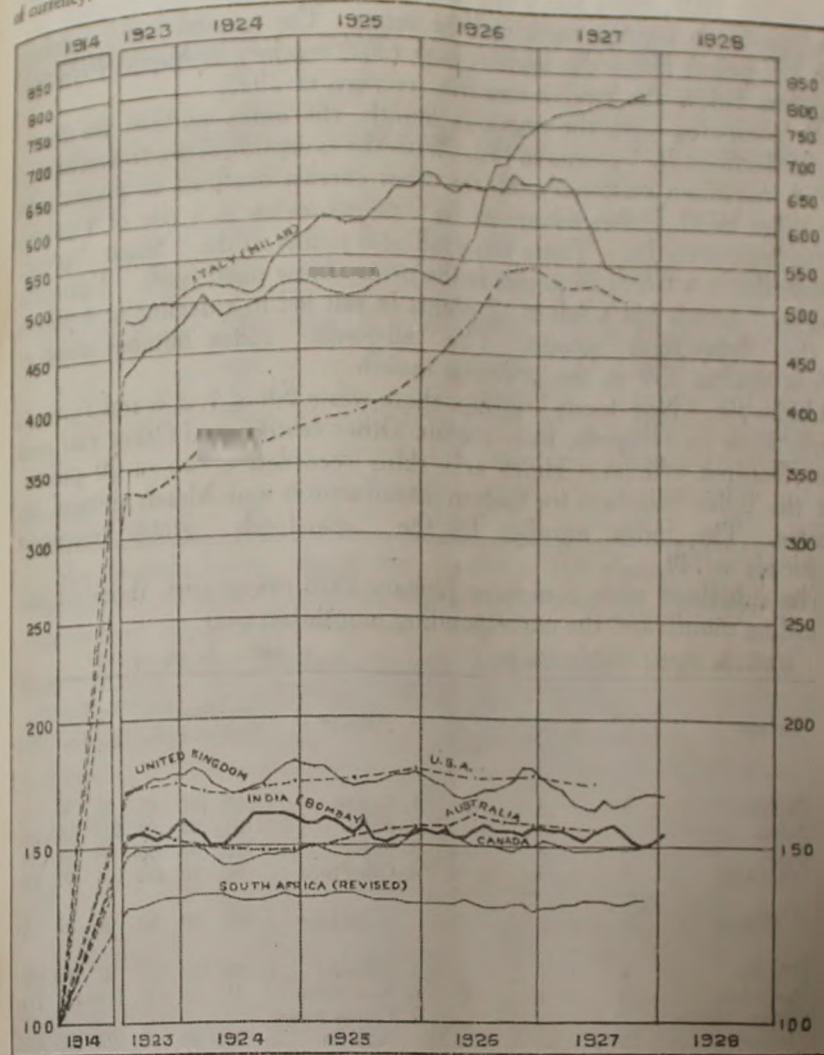
The purchasing power of the rupee being taken as 16 annas in July 1914, its purchasing power in the month under review was 10 annas 10 pies for all items and 11 annas for food articles only.

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 of the cost of living index Nos. in Bombay and other principal world centres from the middle of 1923. The diagram is on the logarithmic scale. In comparing the position and movements of the curves allowance has to be made for depreciation of currency.



The following are the sources of the Index Nos.: (1) United Kingdom—Ministry of Labour Gazette, (2) New Zealand—Census and Statistics Office, Wellington (by cable), (3) South Africa—Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics, (4) U. S. A.—Monthly Bulletin issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, (5) Canada—The Labour Gazette, published by the Department of Labour, Canada. (6) All other countries—from the Ministry of Labour Gazette, United Kingdom. In the case of Italy the Index No. is for Milan. The India figure is for Bombay.

In all cases the Index Number is for working classes only. The actual Index Numbers for twelve world centres will be found among the tables at the end of the volume. The centres for which figures are published are India (Bombay), the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Belgium, Norway, Switzerland, South Africa, France (Paris) and the United States of America. The Labour Office also maintains a register wherein the Index Numbers for all countries for which figures are available are recorded.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

1. WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY

A fall of two points

In January 1928, the index number of wholesale prices in Bombay was 141 as against 143 in the previous month. As compared with December 1927, there was a fall of 3 points in the all-foods average but the non-foods average remained the same. The general index number was 122 points below the highest peak (263) reached in August 1918 and 6 points below the twelve-monthly average of 1927.

As compared with the previous month, the index number for food-grains declined by 3 points to 132. With the exception of jowari and barley which remained stationary, all the other cereals declined in price. On the other hand, Pulses advanced by 2 points owing to a rise of 4 points in the price of tur dal. There was a fall of 8 points in the "Sugar" group mainly due to a fall of 14 points in the price of raw sugar (gul). Turmeric rose by 7 points but a fall of 17 points in salt led to a decline of 4 points in the "other food" group. The "all-foods" index number stood at 136 as against 139 in the previous month.

Under the "Non-foods" group, there was a fall of 1, 2, 6 and 7 points respectively in Oilseeds, Raw cotton, Other textiles and Other raw and manufactured articles. Hides and skins recorded a rise of 20 points, but the index numbers for Cotton manufactures and Metals showed no change. The index number for the "non-foods" group remained stationary at 144.

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

Groups	No. of items	+ or - % with Dec. 1927	+ or - % with Jan. 1927	Groups	Jan. 1927	Apr. 1927	July 1927	Oct. 1927	Dec. 1927	Jan. 1928
1. Cereals	7	-3	-15	1. Cereals	108	101	98	96	94	92
2. Pulses	2	-1	+5	2. Pulses	101	95	98	102	105	106
3. Sugar	3	-8	-17	3. Sugar	110	99	96	98	97	91
4. Other food	3	-5	+9	4. Other food	90	96	104	104	101	98
All food	15	-2	-7	All food	103	99	99	99	97	95
5. Oilseeds	4	-1	-7	5. Oilseeds	99	102	102	97	93	92
6. Raw cotton	5	-1	+47	6. Raw cotton	75	85	103	119	112	111
7. Cotton manufactures	6	-	+6	7. Cotton manufactures	94	98	99	102	100	100
8. Other textiles	2	-5	-8	8. Other textiles	99	99	104	96	95	91
9. Hides and skins	3	+17	-1	9. Hides & skins	104	104	101	105	88	103
10. Metals	5	-	-16	10. Metals	110	104	95	93	92	92
11. Other raw and manufactured articles	4	-5	-18	11. Other raw and manufactured articles	105	102	104	92	91	86
All non-food	39	-	-1	All non-food	99	99	101	100	97	97
General Index No.	44	-1	-3	General Index No.	99	99	100	99	97	96

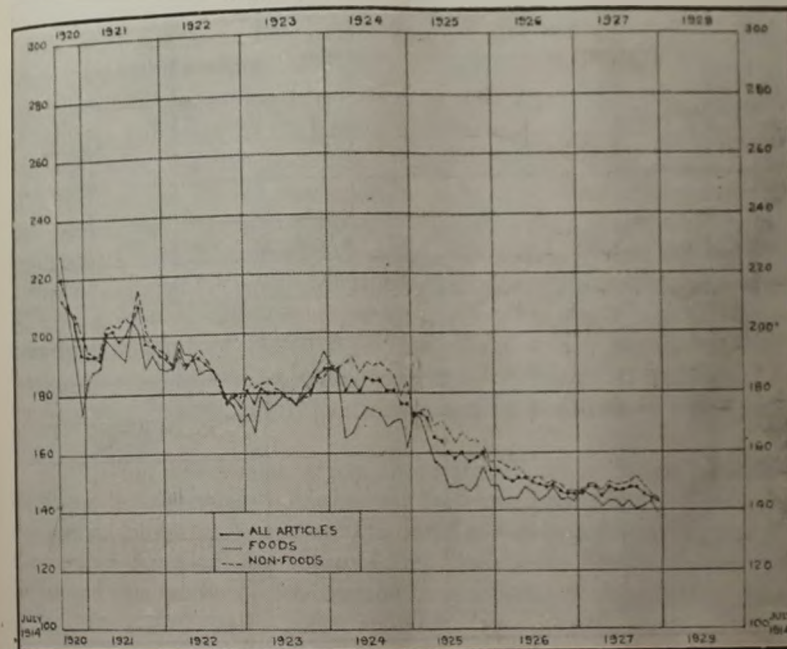
* Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on page 536.

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

	Food Index No.	Non-food Index No.	General Index No.
Twelve-monthly average 1918	171	275	239
" 1919	202	234	223
" 1920	206	219	216
" 1921	193	201	198
" 1922	186	187	187
" 1923	179	182	181
" 1924	173	188	182
" 1925	155	167	163
" 1926	145	152	149
" 1927	143	148	147
Monthly 1928	136	144	141

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

Wholesale Price Index Numbers, Bombay

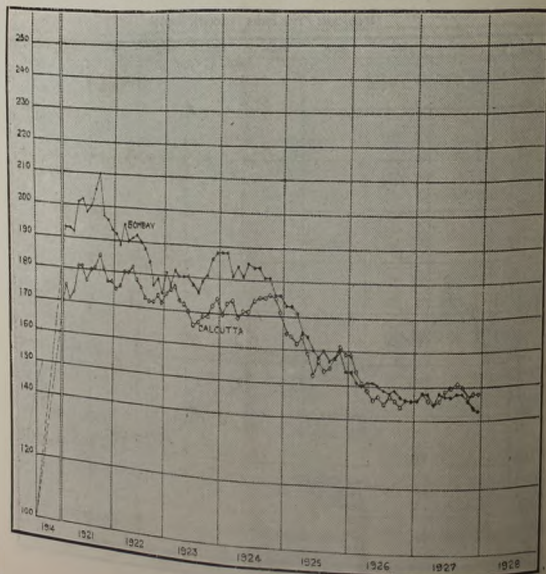


COMPARISON BETWEEN THE INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA

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

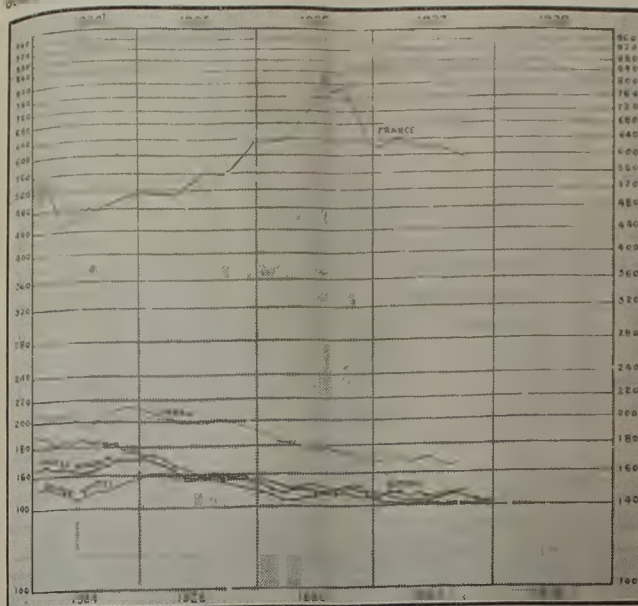
The items included in the indices are 44 for Bombay and 71 for Calcutta. The groups included in the Calcutta index but excluded from that for Bombay are tea (3 items), oil (2 items), jute-raw (3 items), jute manufactures (4 items) and building materials (1 item). There are no groups included in the Bombay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

The diagram is on an arithmetic and not a logarithmic scale



COMPARISON WITH WHOLESALE PRICES INDEX NUMBERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

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



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

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

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

2. RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN BOMBAY

FEB., 1928

Article	Grade	Rate per	Equiva- lent in tolas	July 1914			Dec. 1927			Increase (+) or decrease (-) to Jan. 1928 over or below
				As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	Paylee	208	5 10	7 7	7 10			+2 0	
Wheat	Pissi Seoni	"	204	5 10	7 1	7 2			+0 3	
Jowari	Best Sholapuri	"	196	4 3	5 5	5 5			+1 4	
Bajri	Ghati	"	208	4 7	5 9	5 10			+1 2	
Gram	Delhi*	"	188	4 4	6 4	6 7			+1 3	
Turdal	Cawnpore	"	208	5 11	9 1	9 3			+2 3	
Sugar (refined)	Java, white	Seer	28	1 1	1 10	1 9			+0 3	
Raw Sugar (Gul)	Sangli, middle quality	"	28	1 2	2 0	1 11			+0 2	
Tea	Loose Ceylon, powder	Lb.	39	7 10	15 5	15 9			+0 1	
Salt	Bombay, black	Paylee	176	1 9	2 11	3 0			+0 4	
Beef	"	Lb.	39	2 6	4 0	4 0			+0 1	
Mutton	"	"	39	3 0	6 3	6 6			+0 1	
Milk	Medium	Seer	56	2 9	4 11	4 11			+0 3	
Ghee	Belgaum, Superior	"	28	7 1	13 4	13 3			+0 2	
Potatoes	Ordinary	"	28	0 8	1 0	1 2			+0 1	
Onions	Nesik	"	28	0 3	0 6	0 6			+0 2	
Cocoanut oil	Middle quality	"	28	3 7	3 11	3 11			+0 4	

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. Seitan Chowki—Kumbharwada Road (South End).
4. Elphinstone Road.
5. Naigam—Naigam Cross Road and Development Chawls.
6. Parel—Poibawdi.
7. Ferguson Road.
8. DeLisle Road.
9. Suparibag—Suparibag Road.
10. Chinchpodi—Parsi Road.
11. Grant 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, 100. The prices are collected by the Investigators of the Labour Office.

The variations in prices during January 1928 as compared with the previous month were within narrow limits. Under foodgrains, rice and gram advanced by 3 pies each per paylee, wheat and bajri rose by 1 pie each per paylee, while turdal recorded a rise of 2 pies per paylee. The price of jowari showed no change. Amongst other food articles, sugar (refined), gul and ghee were cheaper by 1 pie each per seer, but tea and mutton advanced by 4 and 3 pies respectively per lb. Salt rose by 1 pie per paylee and potatoes by 2 pies per seer. The price of the remaining articles was practically stationary during the month under review.

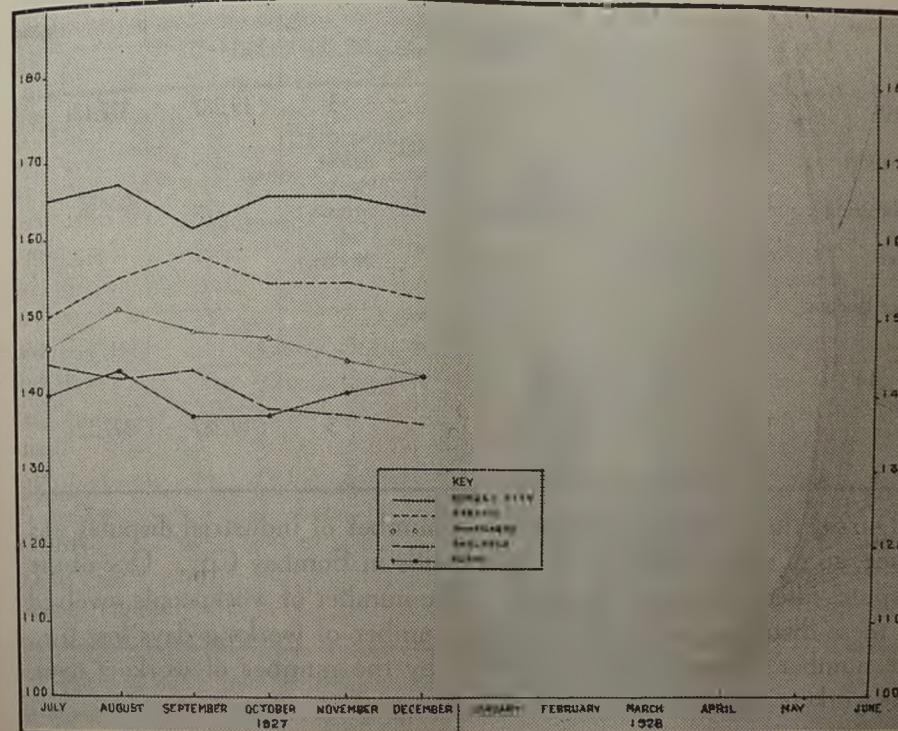
As compared with July 1914, all articles show a rise in prices. Mutton and tea are more than double and onions are double the prewar price. Potatoes, milk and ghee have risen by more than 75 per cent.; and beef, refined sugar, gul and salt by more than 60 per cent. The price of cocoanut oil is only 9 per cent. above its prewar level.

* The equivalent in tolas shown in column 4 relates to Punjab gram.

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

Articles	December 1927					January 1928				
	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
Rice	129	120	130	159	145	129	120	128	159	133
Wheat	132	136	131	127	149	132	136	131	127	142
Jowari	125	122	112	130	128	129	127	106	130	120
Bajri	119	112	106	97	112	119	115	106	98	108
Gram	176	150	125	129	112	176	149	125	131	114
Turdal	175	150	144	148	170	175	141	144	159	174
Sugar (refined)	167	147	154	123	129	167	149	154	123	120
Jagri (Gul)	157	135	129	108	143	150	135	124	111	120
Tea	190	225	200	171	200	190	225	200	171	200
Salt	131	152	151	158	165	131	152	151	158	165
Beef	218	180	100	160	141	218	180	100	180	165
Mutton	185	167	167	133	150	185	167	167	133	150
Milk	191	190	160	157	133	191	180	145	157	133
Chee	175	174	164	142	144	170	167	157	142	129
Potatoes	159	92	175	143	172	159	80	150	143	133
Onions	230	220	125	114	105	230	201	125	114	105
Cocoanut oil	112	104	133	120	109	112	111	133	120	109
Average—All food articles	163	152	142	136	142	163	149	138	139	136

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



Labour Intelligence—Indian and Foreign Industrial Disputes in the Presidency

Disputes in January .. 3 Workpeople involved 19,287

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

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

I.—Industrial Disputes Classified by Trades

Trade	Number of disputes in progress in January 1928			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in Jan. 1928	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in Jan. 1928
	Started before January	Started in January	Total		
Textile	..	3	3	19,287	377,121
Transport
Engineering
Metal
Miscellaneous
Total	..	3	3	19,287	377,121

During the month under review the number of industrial disputes was three, all of which occurred in textile mills in Bombay City. One of the disputes affected nine textile mills. The number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 19,287 and the number of working days lost (*i.e.*, the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days, less workers replaced) was 377,121.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

II.—Industrial Disputes—Causes and Results, September 1927 to January 1928

	September 1927	October 1927	November 1927	December 1927	January 1928
Number of strikes and lock-outs ..	8	7	5	..	3
Disputes in progress at beginning ..	2	1	2	..	....
Fresh disputes begun ..	6	6	3	..	3
Disputes ended ..	7	5	5	..	1
Disputes in progress at end.	1	2	..	....	2
Number of workpeople involved ..	9,151	998	1,317	..	19,287
Aggregate duration in working days ..	23,156	4,297	2,103	..	377,121
Demands—					
Pay ..	3	5	1	..	1
Bonus ..	..	..	..	..	..
Personal ..	3	1	2	..	..
Leave and hours ..	..	..	..	..	..
Others ..	2	1	2	..	2
Results—					
In favour of employees ..	1	..	..	..	..
Compromised ..	..	..	..	..	1
In favour of employers ..	6	5	5	..	..

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

III.—Industrial Disputes—Statistics for last 12 months*

Month	Disputes in progress	Disputes which began during the month	Disputes ended during the month	Aggregate number of working days lost	Disputes Settled			
					In favour of employers (Per cent.)	In favour of employees (Per cent.)	Compromised (Per cent.)	
February 1927	..	4	3	2	775	50	50	..
March	7	5	6	5,987	83	..	17
April	4	3	4	3,258	50	..	50
May	6	6	4	29,688	50	25	25
June	6	4	6	694	50	33	17
July	5	5	5	14,218	80	..	20
August	8	8	6	64,338	50	33	17
September	8	6	7	23,156	86	14	..
October	7	6	5	4,297	100	..	..
November	5	3	5	2,103	100	..	..
December
January 1928	..	3	3	1	377,121	..	..	100

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

It may be of interest to state that the highest peak (4,062,870) in terms 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 December 1927, when no strikes were reported. The nearest approach to this was in May 1924 when only 390 working days were lost.

GENERAL REVIEW OF DISPUTES

The number of industrial disputes involving stoppages of work reported as beginning in the month of January 1928 was three, one of which was a strike affecting nine textile mills. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 19,287 and the total time loss amounted to 377,121 working days. Two of the disputes arose over the question of the proposed introduction of new methods of work with a view to increasing efficiency in accordance with the recommendations of the Textile Tariff Board and the third dispute was connected with the wages question. A settlement was arrived at in the case of only one dispute during the month and the result was a compromise.

Progress of Individual Disputes

BOMBAY

All the disputes which were in progress during the month under review occurred in Bombay City. One of these was in the Spring Mill where the management, with a view to improving efficiency, put up a notice on the 31st December 1927 offering, with effect from the 1st January 1928, 50 per cent. more wages to those spinners who were willing to work two sides of a spinning frame instead of one as before. As a protest against this notice, 500 spinners struck work on the morning of the 2nd and demanded the continuance of the old system of working. In the afternoon 300 more spinners joined the strike. On the next day the whole mill was closed on account of the strike and the workers were notified that if they did not resume work by the 5th their services would be dispensed with and their outstanding wages paid on the 7th. As a result of negotiations carried on by the Bombay Textile Labour Union with the management of the mill the working of the new system was made optional and another proposal, that a spinner should work two sides of a frame when the regular hand was absent, for proportionately higher wages, was dropped. The Secretary of the Union issued a Marathi leaflet on the 12th setting forth the decisions arrived at and asking the strikers to resume work. The men however demanded withdrawal of the new notice *in toto* but this was not acceded to by the management. On the morning of the 15th, 600 strikers resumed work and each operative in the spinning department was working on one side of the frame as before. The weaving department was not opened for want of material. On the 16th, all the remaining strikers resumed work and all the departments of the mill were working as usual. The dispute ended in a compromise.

The second dispute began in the Jacob Sassoon Mill and spread to 8 other mills—the Apollo, the David (Nos. 1 and 2), the E. D. Sassoon and Alexandra, the Meyer Sassoon, the Elphinstone and the Rachel Sassoon—

all under the management of the E. D. Sassoon and Company. The dispute in the Jacob Mill was primarily due to a proposed reduction in the rates of wages in the winding department but the real cause of its extension to the other mills was the proposed introduction of new systems of work in accordance with the recommendations of the Indian Textile Tariff Board. The dispute began with a strike of 350 female winders of the Jacob Sassoon Mill who stopped work on the 2nd January as a protest against a notice put up by the management to the effect that from the 1st February 1928 the rates would be reduced by one to four pice for ten pounds of yarn produced in respect of certain counts of yarn in order to bring them down to the standard rates. The strikers were joined by 350 spinners in the afternoon. On the morning of the 3rd, the other operatives in the mill also left work at the inducement of the strikers. The management thereupon notified the strikers that their outstanding wages would be paid on the 6th and 7th. The strikers went to the Apollo, the Rachel, the E. D. Sassoon and Alexandra Mills and indulged in stone throwing whereupon, in order to prevent damage to mill property, these mills were also closed on the 3rd. The strikers created further disturbances at the Elphinstone and the Finlay Mills on the 4th, with a view to bringing out the workers but they were dispersed by the Police. The mills that were closed on the 3rd, on account of the disturbances created by the strikers tried to reopen on the 4th, but were unsuccessful owing to an insufficiency of workers. On the 5th, 1,242 spinners from the David Mills and 243 from the Meyer Sassoon Mill struck work in sympathy. A mass meeting of the strikers was convened under the auspices of the Bombay Textile Labour Union on the 5th, with a view to ascertaining the actual grievances of the men. It was then stated that the workers had been forced by the management to work three looms instead of two as before, giving them wages only for 2½ looms and to work 2 sides of the spinning frames instead of one side at only about 50 per cent. more wages. Some workers were not willing to resume work under the new system, even at proportionately increased wages. The opinion of a section of the leaders was in favour of a general strike for the speedy redress of their grievances. A Strike Committee was formed consisting of most of the prominent labour leaders with a view to bringing about an amicable settlement of the dispute. On the 6th, the weavers of the David and the Meyer Sassoon Mills joined the strike and the Elphinstone Mill was also closed down on account of the rowdiness of the strikers. On the 8th, a large number of the strikers met under the auspices of the Girni Kamgar Mahamandal to consider the strike situation and it was decided not to organise a general strike but to boycott only those mills that had proposed to introduce the new system of working. The officials of the Bombay Textile Labour Union were also averse to a general strike as they believed it was doomed to failure under the present circumstances. Both the Bombay Textile Labour Union and the Girni Kamgar Mahamandal endeavoured to afford relief to strikers who were members of the respective unions. The strikers remained firm in their attitude and many of them joined the Labour Union. The management proposed to restart the Apollo, the Manchester (which had been closed prior to the strike) and the Rachel Mills with the new

system of working from the 19th. The Secretary of the Bombay Textile Labour Union who interviewed the management suggested the postponement of the reopening of the mills to the 23rd. A meeting of the strikers was organised by the Union on the 19th when it was explained to the men that as the majority of the employees of the E. D. Sassoon & Co., had not joined the Union it was not possible for its officials to proceed with any negotiations with the management in the matter. They were appealed to, therefore, to become members of the Union and to elect two men from each mill to work as representatives of the Committee, which would open negotiations with the management. On the 21st, the management put up notices at the Apollo and the Manchester Mills that these mills would be restarted from the 23rd. The Agents also proposed to reopen the David and the Rachel Mills on the same day. The Girni Kamgar Mahamandal at this stage issued a leaflet pointing out that the E. D. Sassoon & Co., were incurring a great loss on account of the strike and advised the strikers to hold out until the notice regarding the new system was withdrawn. When the above mills were reopened on the 23rd, only 200 spinners of the Apollo Mill resumed work. Batches of workers assembled at each of the other mills but did not resume work as they were not willing to work the new system. During the following days additional strikers gradually resumed work at the Apollo Mill and by the end of the month there were in all 904 out of 1,200 workers working in that mill. The other affected mills of the E. D. Sassoon & Co., remained closed and the strike continued into the next month.

The third dispute which began on the 31st, affected the Spring Mill for a second time during the month. The management informed the operatives of the Beaming and Drawing Department that the rates of wages for 1000 ends drawn would be reduced from 25 pies to 20 pies from the 1st February 1928 in order to bring the rate on a level with that in the Textile Mill, which is also under the same management. Protesting against this, 100 operatives struck work at 10 a.m. and demanded the continuance of the old rates. As the management refused to comply with their request the men left the mill quietly at 10.30 a.m. This strike was in progress at the close of the month under review.

Employment Situation in January

THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The sources of the statistics regarding absenteeism in the Textile Industry in the Bombay Presidency are the returns prepared and sent in by the various mills in the different centres of the Presidency every month. Returns were received from 113 or 77.93 per cent. of the mills reported as working during the month of January 1928. The average absenteeism in the textile industry as a whole amounted to 8.14 per cent. as against 7.77 per cent. in the month of December 1927.

In Bombay City out of 76 mills which were working during the month 65 or 85.53 per cent. furnished returns. The supply of labour was reported as adequate by a large majority of the mills and the average

absenteeism amounted to 8.53 per cent. as against 7.91 per cent. in the previous month.

In Ahmedabad 59 mills were working during the month and 38 or 64.41 per cent. furnished information. Absenteeism amounted to 3.72 per cent. as against 4.30 per cent. in December 1927. The supply of labour was equal to the demand.

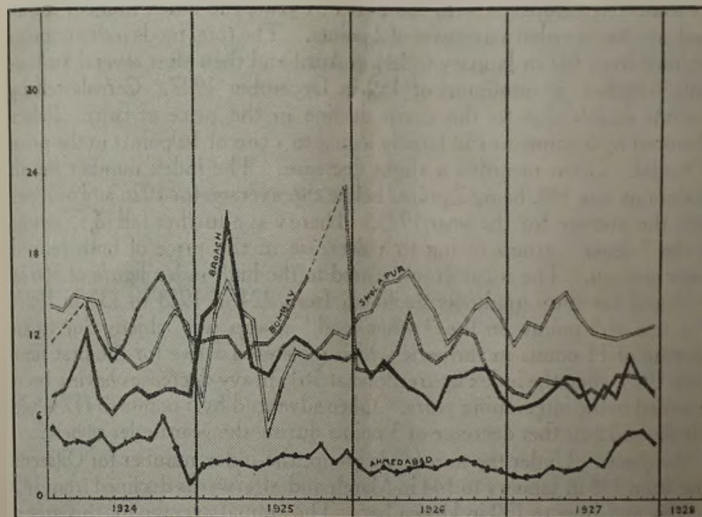
Returns were submitted by all the mills in Sholapur. None of these reported any shortage in the supply of labour and the average percentage absenteeism amounted to 13.84.

Information was supplied by only one mill in Viramgaum which was working during the month. The percentage absenteeism amounted to 1.60.

All the three mills in Broach supplied information and only one of them reported that the supply of labour was inadequate. The average absenteeism amounted to 8.16 per cent. the same as in the preceding month.

Taking the industry as a whole, the supply of labour was equal to the demand in all the centres studied.

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



THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

In the Engineering Industry in Bombay City the supply of labour was adequate. The average absenteeism in representative workshops was 9.95 per cent. as against 12.63 per cent. in the previous month. In the Marine Lines Reclamation scheme absenteeism was 5 per cent. and in the Bombay Port Trust Docks it amounted to 13.59 per cent. The average absenteeism in the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust was 8.80 per cent.

The Karachi Port Trust found both skilled and ordinary labour available in plenty. On an average 6.80 per cent. of the labourers absented themselves from work during the month under review.

Wholesale Market Prices

VARIATIONS IN BOMBAY DURING 1927

The decline in commodity prices which began in 1918 but underwent a slight check in 1924 continued during the past three years. As will be seen however from the table and chart on page 479 the fall in wholesale prices during the past year was comparatively insignificant and the price level during the greater part of the year was in the neighbourhood of 148 although the opening and the closing index numbers for the year were 146 and 143 respectively.

During 1927, the average level of wholesale prices for all the commodities included in the wholesale prices index number compiled by the Labour Office was 47 per cent. above the level of July 1914 as compared with 49 per cent. in the previous year. The general index number was 147, being 2 points less than the average for 1926 and 16 points below the average for the year 1925. The monthly variations in the index numbers for the main groups during the last two years will be found on page 538 at the end of the *Gazette*.

Foods.—As compared with the previous year, the index number for all food articles recorded a decrease of 2 points. The total foods index number declined from 147 in January to 141 in April and then after several fluctuations reached a minimum of 139 in December 1927. Cereals fell by 4 points mainly due to the sharp decline in the price of bajri. Pulses advanced by 6 points to 132 largely owing to a rise of 16 points in the price of turdal. Gram recorded a slight decrease. The index number for all foodgrains was 140, being 2 points below the average for 1926 and on a par with the average for the year 1925. There was a further fall of 15 points in the "sugar" group owing to a decrease in the price of both refined sugar and gul. The sugar group soared to the high index figure of 366 in 1920 and has since gradually declined, from 224 in 1923 to 135 in 1927. The rise of 5 points in the "other food" group was chiefly due to an increase of 11 points in turmeric which registered a rise for the first time since 1923 when the index figure stood at 561, heavy decreases having been recorded in the intervening years. Ghee advanced by 5 points to 177 while salt showed a further decrease of 3 points during the year under review.

Non-foods.—Under the non-foods group, the index number for Oilseeds rose from 138 in January to 144 in March and afterwards declined from 145 in May and June to 130 in December. The annual average for this group was 6 points higher than that for 1926. As regards Raw cotton, although the fall in prices was very pronounced in 1925 and 1926 and the group index number had touched the low point of 109 during December 1926, prices in 1927 showed a sharp recovery and the index number rapidly advanced from 113 in January to 183 in September and then receded somewhat until it was 168 in December 1927. Although there was a rise of 10 points in the raw cotton average as compared with the previous year, Cotton manufactures further declined by 12 points to 164, the index figure for that group having fluctuated between 154 in January and 172 in September. The index number for "Other textiles" rose from 135 in January to 149 in June and again fell to 130 in December, but there was

no change in the annual average for 1927. The "Hides and skins" index figure, which moved between 148 in May and 115 in November, averaged 11 points less than in 1926. Metals recorded a more or less continuous fall from 158 in January to 132 in December, the annual average being 8 points lower than in the previous year. As in the case of "Other textiles," there was no appreciable change in the annual average for "Other raw and manufactured articles" though the monthly index numbers for the latter group fluctuated between 161 in March and 153 in September and then recorded a sudden fall of 12 to 14 points during the last three months due to a heavy fall in the price of kerosene oil. The movements in the total "non-food" average were more or less similar to those of the general average, the non-food index number having reached a maximum of 152 in September and a minimum of 144 in December.

The following table shows the annual index numbers, for the last three years, of the various groups and items included in the Bombay wholesale prices index number:—

Annual Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in Bombay
(July 1914=100)

Group or item	Annual average for 1925	Annual average for 1926	Annual average for 1927	Percentage rise (+) or fall (—) in 1927 over or below 1926
Rice	136	140	133	— 5·0
Wheat	158	152	151	— 0·7
Jowari	136	135	140	+ 3·7
Barley	141	136	130	— 4·4
Bajri	156	164	141	— 14·0
Cereals	149	146	142	— 2·7
Gram	106	121	117	— 3·3
Turdal	108	130	146	+ 12·3
Pulses	107	126	132	+ 4·8
Foodgrains	140	142	140	— 1·4
Sugar	165	150	135	— 10·0
Turmeric	248	144	155	+ 7·6
Chee	187	172	177	+ 2·9
Salt	147	138	135	— 2·2
Other food	194	151	156	+ 3·3
All foods	155	145	143	— 1·4
Oilseeds	138	134	140	+ 4·5
Raw Cotton	189	140	150	+ 7·1
Cotton Manufactures	207	176	164	— 6·8
Other Textiles	154	137	137	
Hides and Skins	146	148	137	— 7·4
Metals	157	151	143	— 5·3
Other raw and manufactured articles	158	152	153	+ 0·7
Total Non-foods	167	152	148	— 2·6
General Average	163	149	147	— 1·3

Questions in the Legislature

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will Government be pleased to state at what stage the question of deduction of wages is now, and if they have come to a decision, what is the decision?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Government are at present considering the replies received to their circular letter No. L-1418 dated the 25th June 1926 and have not yet arrived at any definite decision in the matter.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will Government be pleased to state when they propose to introduce legislation regarding prompt payment of wages?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The matter is still under consideration and I am not yet in a position to make a definite statement on the subject.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: With reference to the reply given to my starred question No. 149 on 23rd August 1927, will Government be pleased to state whether the enquiry referred to is being made by the International Labour Office or by the Government of India, and what is the result of that enquiry (a) regarding the creation of employment exchanges, and (b) regarding the collection of statistics of unemployment?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The enquiry to which I referred in my reply to the Honourable Member's question on the 23rd August 1927 was an enquiry by the International Labour Conference in connection with the annual report submitted by the Government of India in accordance with Article 408 of the Treaty of Versailles. The question raised by this enquiry is receiving the consideration of Government.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a statement on page 2 of the statistics of factories for 1925, that an unsatisfactory feature of the year is the increase over the last year in the number of factories in which the majority of operatives are exempted from the various sections of the Act?

(b) Will the Government of India be pleased to state whether they propose to call for reports from the Provincial Governments justifying such exemptions and stating what compensation has been provided for workers for the loss of protection caused by the exemption and also stating the exact limitations of each exemption?

(c) Do they propose to publish these reports? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) As was stated in the note on the working of the Factories Act during the year ending 31st December 1925 local Governments have been asked to review the existing exemptions with a view to their possible reduction. It is not the intention of the Government of India to call for reports from the Provincial Governments.

(c) Does not arise.

Workmen's Compensation Act

Details of Proceedings

Information furnished by all Commissioners in the Presidency for the month of January 1928 shows that out of 47 cases disposed of during the month 38 were reported by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner in Bombay. The cases which were transferred from one Commissioner to another have not been included in the statistics. The gross amount of compensation awarded in lump sums was Rs. 20,806-5-0 as against Rs. 11,945-11-0 in the previous month and Rs. 17,630-5-0 in January 1927. Out of the 47 cases in which compensation was claimed, 15 were in respect of fatal accidents, two of temporary disablement, one of permanent total disablement and 29 of permanent partial disablement. No case of occupational disease has been reported since January 1925. The number of compensation cases in the textile industry amounted to 15 and in other industries to 32. The corresponding figures for January 1927 were 29 and 17.

The total number of claimants for compensation in all the cases disposed of during the month was 47, of whom 45 were adult males and 2 females over 15 years of age.

Out of the cases disposed of during the month under review, 20 were original claims, 26 registration of agreements and one a miscellaneous application. Compensation was awarded in 21 cases and agreements were registered in the remaining 26 cases.

Prosecutions under the Factories Act in January

AHMEDABAD

The manager of a cotton mill was prosecuted under Section 41 (f) for breach of Section 18 read with Rule 33 (ii) for not keeping the locking motion on a Roving waste opener in efficient order whereby a woman's hand was seriously injured. He was convicted and fined Rs. 200 and the amount of the fine was given as compensation to the injured person.

The spinning master of a second cotton mill was also prosecuted under Section 41 (f) for breach of Section 18 read with Rule 33 (ii) for working a scutcher without locking bar. He was convicted and fined Rs. 200.

KARACHI

The manager of a rice factory was prosecuted under Section 41 (a) for breach of Section 26 and Section 28. He was convicted and fined Rs. 15 in each of six cases.

The manager of a second rice factory was prosecuted under Section 41 (a) for breach of Section 26. He was convicted and fined Rs. 15 in each of six cases.

The manager of a flour mill was prosecuted under Section 41 (a) for breach of Section 22. He was convicted and fined Rs. 15 in each of six cases.

The manager of a brass metal factory was also prosecuted under Section 41 (a) for breach of Section 26 and Section 28. He was convicted and fined Rs. 15 in each of *three* cases. The manager was also prosecuted for breach of Section 23 for employing a child at night. He was convicted and fined Rs. 50.

Agricultural Outlook in the Presidency

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

"The position regarding crops and rainfall as it appears to-day in the various divisions of the Bombay Presidency may be briefly summarised as follows :—

Konkan.—Some light to fairly heavy and general rain was received in the North Kanara district on the 4th of February. The rainfall was unseasonal and proved somewhat harmful to grain and fodder lying in the fields. There was no rain worth mentioning in the other districts of the division during the period under review. The sowing of late crops was completed. The harvesting of cardamom, sugarcane, betel-nut, etc., was in progress. The condition of garden crops was satisfactory throughout the Division.

Gujarat.—Excepting a few cents on the 3rd February there was practically no rainfall anywhere throughout the division during the period under report. The standing crops were generally in good condition. The re-sown crops are developing satisfactorily. The irrigated crops are on the whole in excellent condition.

Deccan and Karnatak.—Since the submission of the last report, some fair to heavy rain was received almost throughout the two divisions on the 3rd and 4th February. The rainfall proved harmful to the crops lying cut on the threshing yards in both the divisions and was, in particular, injurious to cotton in the Karnatak. Except for this, however, the standing *rabi* crops were generally in good condition. The irrigated crops were in a flourishing condition almost everywhere in both the divisions."

The Nagpur Textile Union

Mr. R. S. Ruikar, Provincial Organiser of the All-India Trade Union Congress for Central Provinces and Berar has recently reorganised the Nagpur Labour League into one big textile union consisting of operatives in both the textile mills in Nagpur. An Executive Committee has been formed which consists of 25 members from the Empress Mills and 17 from the Model Mills and includes seven women and three Muhammadans. There are also on the Committee thirteen outsiders.

Among the many objects of the Union are : the securing of an eight-hour day, increases in wages, adequate maternity benefits for women and shorter working hours for them than men, the representation of labour in the Councils and the Assembly by an adequate number of elected representatives, etc.

The yearly subscription for each member has been fixed at one day's pay, payable in two equal instalments.

The Union has opened two small offices and libraries in front of the Empress and Model Mills. The authorities of both the mills have given a public assurance that no employee will be victimised for joining the Union. The Empress Mill authorities have recognised the Union and it has been registered under the Indian Trade Union Act of 1926 and is the first Union to get itself registered under the Act in the whole of the Central Provinces and Berar. Since the reorganisation of the Union, in the last month, 2000 employees have joined it and paid their dues.

Artificial Humidification in Cotton Weaving Effect on Sickness Rates

For the successful weaving of certain kinds of cotton cloth it is claimed that the natural humidity of the atmosphere is not sufficient, and it has become the practice to inject additional moisture into the air of the weaving sheds where such cloths are to be woven, in the form either of steam or of finely divided water.

In view of the continued objection of the operatives to the practice, especially during the hotter months of the year, the use of artificial humidity has long been controlled by statutory requirements, the existing regulations (which allow artificial humidification within certain limits) having been made on 21st December 1911, under the Cotton Cloth Factories Act of that year.

Since that time, the demand for the complete abolition of artificial humidification as being injurious to health has been frequently renewed by the operatives ; but no definite evidence was forthcoming to show how far humidification within the limits allowed is, in fact, injurious to health, or whether there is more sickness amongst weavers in artificially humidified sheds than amongst those in which this practice is not adopted.

Accordingly, at the request of the industry, the Secretary of State in November 1924, appointed a Departmental Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. John Jackson, H. M. Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories, "to consider and report whether any, and, if so, what modifications of the existing statutory regulations governing the use of artificial humidity in cotton-cloth factories are desirable and practicable." On the recommendation of this Committee the Home Office approached the Medical Research Council with the request that the subject of sickness incidence amongst weavers in the cotton industry should be investigated by the Industrial Fatigue Research Board. The Board have now issued the results of their investigation in the form of a Report.*

The weaving sheds chosen for investigation were situated in five Lancashire towns : Preston, Burnley, Blackburn, Nelson, and Accrington. In Preston, Burnley, and Accrington are to be found weaving sheds

* *Artificial Humidification in the Cotton-Weaving Industry : its effect upon the Sickness Rates of Weaving Operatives.* Report No. 48 of the Industrial Fatigue Research Board. H. M. Stationery Office : price 2s. 6d. net.

of both types—those that use some method of artificial humidification, the humid or "wet" sheds, and those that make no such addition to the natural moisture already present in the air, the non-humid or "dry" sheds. In Blackburn the type of cloth woven demands a high humidity, and all the sheds in the district use artificial humidification. In Nelson the position is reversed, and all the sheds in the town belong to the "dry" category.

The number of weavers covered by the inquiry was 20,133, distributed as follows—

Town	In Humid Sheds		In Non-humid Sheds	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Preston	317	2,843	308	1,767
Blackburn	513	1,756	.....	.....
Burnley	1,142	2,211	1,179	2,983
Nelson .. .. .	.....	.....	1,388	1,555
Accrington	97	1,766	27	681
Total	2,069	8,576	2,902	6,586

The employers co-operating in the inquiry, who numbered 74, were asked to supply a complete list of the weavers employed by them on 1st August 1925; and the sickness experience of these weavers was ascertained from information furnished, partly by the employers and partly by the approved societies to which the weavers belonged. No other workers than weavers were included.

The results of the investigation did not support the view that artificial humidification is responsible for excessive rates of sickness. A year's study of the sickness incidence found in all the humid sheds and that found in all the non-humid sheds reveals no significant difference between the two, either in number of days of sickness experienced, in number of claims made, or in number of persons suffering from one or more sicknesses during the year of investigation. The only difference is a slight excess of sickness in the non-humid sheds, and the number of days of sickness lost per claimant is longer in the non-humid sheds than in the humid. This slight excess of sickness in the non-humid sheds is, however, due to the presence of a few more very long claims in this group; and as these very long claims form only a small percentage of the total claims no material meaning can be attached to the slight differences thus found.

Analysis of the sickness, town by town, produces a similar result, *i.e.*, the humid sheds are not found to possess a higher sickness incidence than the non-humid sheds.

The figures were also analysed with a view to test the truth of the contention that sickness claims tend to increase in times of unemployment. During the year of inquiry the non-humid mills investigated were closed on the average for a longer period of time than were the humid mills. Lest this should have increased the sickness found in the non-humid

mills as compared with the humid mills and thus vitiate the conclusion just given, comparison was made between two groups of mills, humid and non-humid, forming only a part of the total, which experienced (according to the measure adopted) only slight unemployment during the year in question. The sickness rates for these sub-groups were found to be nearly identical with those already found for the totals, which suggests that unemployment was not a factor of importance in producing the sickness rates found to prevail. In addition, the stability of the rates makes it improbable that the results are due to the fluctuations of sampling.

The classification of mills as humid and non-humid makes no allowance for the variations within these groups. The mills were then classified according to their *degree* of humidification. Although the groups thus obtained were often too small to give reliable results when taken alone, the rates were sufficiently consistent to make it justifiable to state that no significant difference in the sickness incidence was present within the range of variation found to exist. In addition, no significant difference was found between the extremes in the humid group and the extremes in the non-humid group, *i.e.*, between the "very dry" and the "very wet." (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, January 1928.)

Employment, Wages, Hours of Labour and Trade Disputes in Great Britain in 1927

EMPLOYMENT

The outstanding feature of the employment situation in 1927 was that, in spite of acute depression in some important industries, the average number of persons actually in employment reached a higher level than in any previous year; while the average percentage rate of unemployment among insured persons fell to a lower level than in any year since 1920. The average annual percentages of insured persons unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland since the extension of the scheme of unemployment insurance in 1920 have been as follows:—

	Per cent.		Per cent.
1921	17.0*	1925	11.3
1922	14.3	1926	12.5*
1923	11.7	1927	9.7
1924	10.3		

At the beginning of the year there was an increase in the numbers unemployed following the temporary improvement which usually occurs just before Christmas, but from the second week in January there was a continuous expansion in employment for a period of nearly five months. By the end of May the percentage rate of unemployment among insured persons, which was 12.0 at 24th January, had fallen to 8.7; while the

* Exclusive of persons in the coal-mining industry disqualified for unemployment benefit by reason of trade disputes.

number of persons on the registers of employment exchanges in Great Britain fell from 1,495,839 at 3rd January to 978,176 at 23rd May. The figures at the latter date showed an improvement on those for April 1927, which were the best previously recorded since December 1926. This rapid improvement, while affecting almost every industry in some degree, was due, in part, to the recovery in those industries which had been most severely affected by the coal-mining dispute, such as the heavy iron and steel industries, iron-ore mining, ship-building, and marine and constructional engineering; though in some instances, notably iron and steel manufacture, the improvement was the result of arrears of work which had been delayed by the shortage of coal rather than a permanent expansion of the industry.

Increasing unemployment during June in the coal-mining industry obscured the improvement which continued during that month in most other industries. At the end of June the percentage rate of unemployment among insured persons in industries other than coal-mining had fallen to 7.6, as compared with 11.4 at the end of January. In July the seasonal decline which normally affects a number of industries in the second half of the year again began to make itself felt, but there was also an increase of unemployment in some other important industries. Among the insured population as a whole, however, there was very little change in the degree of unemployment in August and September. In the next two months the seasonal decline in employment continued, and was followed, in December, by the improvement which normally occurs immediately before Christmas.

At 19th December the percentage rate of unemployment among insured persons in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 9.8 (9.0 in industries other than coal-mining), as compared with 11.9 in December 1926, and 10.4 in December 1925. The total number of insured persons whose unemployment books were lodged at employment exchanges at 19th December 1927, was 1,194,305. This figure represents a decrease of 237,535 as compared with 20th December 1926, and of 48,782 as compared with 21st December 1925. The improvement in employment was, however, greater than would be indicated by these figures, since in the two years July 1925 to July 1927, the total number of insured persons increased by about 239,000 and in the twelve months July 1926 to July 1927, by 90,000.

Textile Trades.—In the cotton industry employment improved during the first quarter, but, generally speaking, was slack throughout the year, except in the section spinning Egyptian cotton, where full-time working was fairly general. In the section spinning American cotton organised short-time working, which was discontinued on 18th December 1926, was resumed in April, and continued until 4th November. After that date, short time, though no longer on an organised basis, continued in operation on an extensive scale in this section; in addition the holiday stoppages were very generally extended. In the weaving branch of the industry employment was generally slack.

RATES OF WAGES*

There was a slight reduction, during 1927, in the average level of rates of wages. In the industries and services for which statistics are available, the changes reported during the year resulted in an aggregate net reduction of £291,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 1,000,000 workpeople, and in a net increase of £30,400 in those of 280,000 workpeople. In 1926 there were net increases amounting to £133,000 in the weekly wages of 420,000 workpeople, and net decreases amounting to £53,700 in those of 740,000 workpeople.

Principal Reductions in Wages in 1927.—The greater part of the net reduction in wages in 1927 occurred in the coal-mining industry (which accounted for over 70 per cent. of the total) and in the iron and steel, textile, clothing and transport industry groups. In the coal-mining industry in all districts except Northumberland and Durham, the agreements arrived at on the termination of the stoppage in 1926 contained provisions that the wage-levels then fixed should be maintained, subject in certain instances to reductions at specified intervals, for varying periods in 1927, after which wages were to be regulated by the proceeds of the industry in each district. On the expiration of these periods, wages in all the principal coalfields (except Northumberland and Durham) were reduced, on the basis of sliding scale, to the minimum level permissible under the terms of the agreements. In the iron and steel industries, rates of wages were reduced in nearly all the principal districts in accordance with a decline in the selling prices of iron and steel, though, in some cases, the lower-paid workers were wholly or partially exempted from the effect of the reductions. The rates of wages of textile bleachers, dyers, etc., in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Scotland showed a net reduction during the year under the cost-of-living sliding scales, and, in addition, a special bonus granted in 1924 was withdrawn in Yorkshire and Lancashire. Hosiery workers in the Midlands also sustained a reduction under a cost-of-living sliding scale. In the clothing industry the principal reductions affected workers in the boot and shoe making and repairing trades, and dyers and dry cleaners. The reduction in the transport group occurred mainly in the railway service, in which the wages of a large proportion of the men in the traffic sections were increased by 1s. a week in January, but reduced by 2s. in July under the operation of a cost-of-living sliding scale agreement.

Principal Increases in Wages in 1927.—The largest body of workers who obtained an increase in wage rates were the adult male time-workers in the engineering and certain other metal industries, who were granted a special bonus of 2s. a week as from 1st August 1927, to remain in operation for six months. In the mining and quarrying group there were net increases in the wages of a majority of the iron ore miners employed in Cumberland.

* The figures given for 1927 are preliminary and subject to revision.

† The statistics are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, Government employees, domestic servants, shop assistants, and clerks. They relate to rates of wages for a full week, assuming full employment, and do not take account of variations in actual earnings resulting from changes in the state of employment. In many cases changes arranged by individual employers, and affecting unorganised workers are not reported to the Department.

HOURS OF LABOUR*

The total number of workers whose normal hours of labour were reported to the Ministry of Labour as having been changed in 1927 was about 20,300. Of these, 18,650 had an average increase of 3.5 hours per week and 1,650 a reduction of 4.7 hours per week. The principal increases in hours were alterations from 7 to 8 per shift, in the case of underground workers, and from 46½ to 49 per week, in the case of surface workers, at shale mines in Scotland; from 44 to 48 per week for thread workers in Scotland; and from 44 to 47 per week for the employees of certain Local Authorities in London. The hours of coal tippers and trimmers at the Bristol Channel ports were raised from 43 to 45 per week on the first shift and from 37½ to 40 on the second shift.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople whose hours of labour were reported as changed in each of the years 1919-1927, together with the aggregate amount of the change in weekly hours:—

Year	Approximate Number of Workpeople whose Hours of Labour were		Aggregate Net Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Weekly Hours.
	Increased	Reduced	
1919	1,150	6,305,000	—40,651,000
1920	2,000	570,000	— 2,114,000
1921	31,500	12,900	+ 14,500
1922	16,000	302,700	— 93,000
1923	325,000	9,600	+ 108,750
1924	13,150	16,150	+ 12,500
1925	1,300	3,925	— 11,750
1926	934,200	340	+ 3,985,000
1927*	18,650	1,650	+ 59,000

TRADE DISPUTES†

The number of trade disputes causing stoppages of work, reported to the Ministry of Labour as beginning in 1927 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 303,* the smallest number recorded in any year during the whole period of 40 years for which statistics are available.

The number of workpeople directly involved (*i.e.*, on strike or locked-out) in these disputes was about 89,600; the number indirectly involved (*i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes), was about 17,600. In addition, about 6,500 workpeople were involved, directly or indirectly, in 13 disputes which began in 1926 and continued into 1927. The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in 1927 was thus about 113,700.

The aggregate number of working days lost by these workpeople in the disputes was approximately 1,175,000: this figure is the lowest ever recorded by the Ministry of Labour. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, January 1928.)

* The figures for 1927 are preliminary and subject to revision.

† Disputes involving less than ten workpeople and those which lasted less than one day are omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (*i.e.*, number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.

Workmen's Compensation in Great Britain in 1926

The Home Office have issued a volume* containing statistics of compensation and of proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, during the year 1926. The statistics relate to seven great groups of industries—mines, quarries, railways, factories, docks, constructional work, and shipping in regard to which particulars of compensation are received from or on behalf of employers under section 42 of the Consolidating Act of 1925 (which re-enacted section 12 of the Act of 1906). These groups embrace a large proportion of the chief industries, but it has to be borne in mind that they do not by any means cover the whole field. Besides the various commercial, clerical, and domestic employments to which the Act applies, there are several important industries which are not covered by the returns, for example, building, road transport, and agriculture.

The abnormal conditions prevailing in 1926 owing to the coal mining dispute are reflected in the statistics to a marked degree. The aggregate number of persons coming within the provisions of the Acts employed in Great Britain in the seven groups of industries to which the returns relate was 7,001,795 in 1926, as compared with 7,541,014 in 1925 and with 8,359,183 in 1919, the largest number in any year for which statistics exist. (It should be noted that the figure which the employer is asked to give is the average number employed throughout the year). The following table gives comparative figures for 1914, † 1925, and 1926:—

	1914 †	1925	1926
Number of workpeople covered by returns	7,057,111	7,541,014	7,001,795
Number of cases:—			
Fatal ..	4,216 ‡	3,030	2,345
Non-fatal ..	437,900	473,055	368,563
Total ..	442,116	476,085	370,908
Payments for compensation:—	£	£	£
In fatal cases ..	679,732	864,726	674,611
In non-fatal cases ..	2,785,629	5,778,204	5,332,310
Total ..	3,465,361	6,642,930	6,006,921

The average amount of compensation paid in fatal cases in 1926 was £288, as compared with £285 in 1925 and with £161 in 1914. The average amount paid in 1926 in non-fatal cases was £83 9s. for lump-sum payments and £10 10s. for weekly payments, as compared with £82 10s. and £8 19s., respectively, in 1925; the average for all non-fatal cases was £14 9s., in 1926, as against £12 4s. in 1925 and £6 7s. in 1914.

The following table shows the number of persons employed, the total compensation paid, and the cost per person employed, in each of the

* Cmd. 3005. H. M. Stationery Office; price 6d net.

† Comparative figures for the war years 1915 to 1918 cannot be given. The figures for 1914 include Ireland; those for 1925 and 1926 do not.

‡ There was a great colliery explosion in this year.

seven groups of industries covered by the returns for the years 1925 and 1926:—

Groups of Industries	Persons employed		Total compensation paid		Cost per person employed	
	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926
			£	£	s.	d.
Shipping	207,194	203,340	237,148	263,575	22	11
Factories	5,318,658	5,267,735	2,288,580	2,249,583	8	7
Docks	142,550	127,606	263,223	261,528	36	11
Mines	1,157,085	772,883	3,275,547	2,716,279	56	7
Quarries	76,274	77,791	107,754	97,526	28	3
Constructional Work	108,813	111,705	151,943	143,872	27	11
Railways	530,440	500,735	318,735	274,558	12	0
Total ..	7,541,014	7,001,795	6,642,930	6,006,921	17	7

With regard to the large increase in the cost per person employed in the mining industry shown in the above table, it is stated in the Report that, as a result no doubt of the coal stoppage, the average amount paid in disablement cases in the coal mining industry rose from £13 12s. in 1925 to £19 1s. in 1926.

The figures given above as to total compensation paid in the seven groups of industries represent only the actual amount paid to workpeople or their dependants, and not the total charge on the industries, which would need to include the administrative expenses and medical and legal costs of employers, insurance companies, and mutual indemnity associations, the amounts placed in reserve, and the profits earned by the insurance companies. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, January 1928.)

Minimum Wage in France

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

On 3rd November 1927 a Bill was introduced in the French Chamber of Deputies by Mr. Raymond Baranton, for the purpose of "fixing by law the rate of the minimum living wage and making its observance binding in relations between wage-earners and employers."

The Bill provides that the lowest wages in private industry shall not be less than the lowest wages in the postal and telegraph administration.

The Bill does not apply to undertakings in which payment for work is made on the basis of a commission, or wholly or partially in tips from customers. In undertakings in which part of the remuneration is given in the form of board and lodging, the portion deducted from the minimum wage for this purpose may not exceed, for the present, 150 francs per month for lodging and 5 francs for each of the principal meals.

The Bill was referred to the Labour Committee of the Chamber. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, January 2, 1928.)

Labour Values in England

WHY REAL WAGES HAVE INCREASED

"Wages and Industrial Peace" was the title of a paper read by Mr. E. D. Simon on 18th January before the Manchester Statistical Society. After reviewing the measures that have been taken to facilitate industrial peace and to secure an agreed wage for labour, Mr. Simon reviewed the work of the trade unions in collective bargaining, State action by the promotion of legislation for arbitration and conciliation, from the Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1896 to Whitleyism and the setting up of the Industrial Court, and the work of the Trade Boards Act. The positive results, he said, may be summarised as follows:—

(1) The habit of collective bargaining between two well organised sides has been firmly established, and is to-day generally recognised as the best method.

(2) Elaborate machinery for conciliation and arbitration has become general.

(3) The Trade Boards, with their neutral members and legal powers of compulsion have had a substantial measure of success in raising abnormally low wages without damaging industry.

(4) In the words of Professor Clay, the State has developed a policy which has never been put into words, but which has been to encourage, assist, supplement, and if necessary compel collective bargaining, but always to avoid the responsibility of directly settling the value of any kind of labour by Act of Parliament or by departmental action.

The State has acted mainly in two ways:—

(a) through the conciliation staff of the Ministry of Labour, acting as professional conciliators, with the prestige of the Government behind them; (b) through the Industrial Court.

Mr. Simon then went on to consider what still remains to be done. Sir Josiah Stamp, he said, estimates that real wages are four times higher than they were in 1800; money values have doubled and the purchasing power of money has doubled. Moreover, the division of the national income between rich and poor had remained constant since 1800. This means that methods of production have been so much improved that, in spite of an immense increase of population, about four times as much wealth per family is produced and distributed as was the case a century and a quarter ago.

The important point is that this great increase in wealth is not due to any greater share being obtained by labour, but simply due to the greater wealth production. The cake is four times as big as it was in 1800, and the slice is therefore also four times as big. Increased production has brought immense gains to the workers and may well bring similar gains in the future.

Mr. Simon then went on to prove that high real wages for labour are due to increased production and not to trade union action. After quoting Sir Josiah Stamp's investigation, which showed that if all incomes in excess of £250 a year were taken away and the surplus shared among the population, it would only result in an increase of five shillings a week

for each family. Mr. Simon gave figures showing that the increase in real wages from the nineteenth century was not controlled by the growth of trade unionism. Summarising his conclusions, he said:—

During the nineteenth century trade unionism was weak, the cake was rapidly growing and the slice grew with it. During the first 14 years of this century, trade unionism was strong and belligerent, the cake did not grow, and the slice remained stationary. Since the war, trade unionism has been still stronger, the cake has become no larger, and the slice, if anything, slightly smaller.

The evidence therefore seems to be overwhelming that trade union activity, with industry organised on present lines, cannot obtain by force for labour more than a certain proportion of the product of industry; on the other hand, if production can be increased, wages will automatically follow. Further evidence of the truth of this principle is given by the conditions in America today, where prosperity is immense, and trade unionism, on the whole, much weaker than in this country. Wages are very high because the determining fact has been the strength of industry and not the weakness of the trade unions.

The facts seem to be incontrovertible; their lesson clear. Research is going on at an immensely greater rate than ever before. There seems every reason to suppose that production throughout industry can be made steadily cheaper and more efficient, and no reason why the production per worker should not be vastly increased, perhaps even doubled, during the next generation. In that case, wages would automatically be doubled; in no other way is there a prospect of any increase beyond possibly a shilling or two. Looking ahead, it is certainly true to say that the common interests of capital and labour are at least ten times as important to labour as the divergent interests. There is ten times as much to be gained by working in partnership for a larger cake as by fighting about the size of the slice.

That is the fundamental fact about industrial peace. The important thing about the future of trade unions is that they should appreciate this truth, and should set themselves with all their energy to work for increased output and efficiency.

Mr. Simon then went on to discuss the determination of wage rates. There are, he said, two principles. The first is that wages should be fair or just; the second that wages should be as high as the trade can bear. Mr. Simon cited the attempts to arrive at a just wage by Mr. Rowntree in England in 1914, by the Australian Commission in 1920, and the Cost of Living Committee in South Africa in 1925. His final conclusions were:—

- (1) That wages cannot be settled by a process of law, because there are no generally accepted principles on which a court could base its decisions.
- (2) That there is on the whole a good system of negotiating machinery in industry which does not work as well as it should because of suspicion and friction between the two sides.
- (3) That high wages depend on high production.

(4) That the most important reform in industry would be the development of full mutual confidence and co-operation between employers and employed, and the diversion of the whole energy of both sides into the search for efficiency.

(5) That with goodwill the negotiating machinery in most industries could be much improved and would work much more smoothly and effectively; agreements could be made to avoid many of the difficulties that now arise; all differences could be submitted to arbitration, though the award need not be binding. But stoppages should become few and far between.

"If employers will shed their bad old traditions, go out for research and all scientific methods, co-operate with one another in rationalising their industry and reducing the cost of marketing, and in relations with labour lay their cards on the table and treat them with the confidence and freedom of partners; if labour will stop talking about capitalism as the enemy and go all out to make industry progressive and efficient and co-operate fully with the management, then all other difficulties will disappear and wages will begin another period of upward movement which may well give results comparable to the great achievements of the nineteenth century." (From "Manchester Guardian Commercial Supplement, January 19, 1928.")

Labour in China

During the past year the number of labour organisations has continued to grow, and in Shanghai and other large cities there is now no trade or industry without its union. Each industrial concern of any magnitude—factories, railways, department stores, etc., has also its own organisation, and there are in addition unions of Postal, Customs and other Government employees, and of practically every other section of the wage-earning population. Perhaps the most striking development, however, has been the creation of associations amongst the agriculturists in certain provinces, both small farmers and labourers, this extension of the trades union system to the most conservative, and incomparably the most numerous, class in China being very significant. This multiplication of unions of every description is a symptom of the discontent permeating all classes in this country, and whilst undoubtedly due in part to the desire to remove economic grievances it has been actively exploited for political purposes, more especially in the case of such powerful organisations as the General Labour Union, the Seamen's Union, and more recently the Farmers' and Peasants' Unions. The authorities in South China have at last begun to realise that the labour movement, or at least the extremist section associated with the Communist party, which they had consistently used as an anti-foreign and anti-Northern weapon, was getting completely out of hand and was rapidly producing a state of anarchy. In Canton, Hankow, Changsha and other centres the demands put forward by the various groups of employees were not merely economically impossible, having in view the conditions existing in China, but practically deprived the factory owner of any control whatever, and threatened to bring all trade and industry to a standstill. At the

same time the pickets employed by the Unions arrogated to themselves the right to arrest and punish anyone who incurred their enmity; held their own "courts," in which fines, imprisonment and even death sentences were imposed, and entirely ignored the authority of the local government. So long as these activities were directed solely against those guilty of trading in "enemy" goods, or of disregarding the embargo placed on all communication with Hongkong, no serious attempt was ever made to restrain them. In time, however, the pretensions of the agitators naturally grew, and a point was finally reached when they threatened the very existence of the local government. Stern measures of suppression were then taken, first at Canton and subsequently at Shanghai, Hankow, Chang-ha and elsewhere, and for the time being at least the violence of the extremists is being held in check. As evidence of the need for such steps it may be mentioned that a recent proclamation in Hankow declared that the Unions shall be debarred from executing "landlords or other reactionaries" without the sanction of the Government, and that in Shanghai, just prior to the adoption of strong measures against the extremists, at least twenty murders of Chinese foremen and operatives were committed by hired gunmen, solely with a view to intimidating the whole body of workers and forcing them to give unhesitating obedience to the orders of the strike leaders. Strikes were very numerous during 1926, the number in Shanghai alone being more than 150, affecting some 200,000 workers, and this situation continued in the early months of the present year, culminating in an attempt to bring about a general strike. As indicated above, however, the Chinese authorities finally realised the necessity of dealing drastically with the situation. After the dissolution of the general labour union, and the execution of many of its leaders, the movement quickly collapsed, and during the past few months the labour situation in Shanghai has been unusually free from trouble, although it is to be feared that this comparative immunity is only temporary. (From "Report on the Commercial, Industrial and Economic Situation in China," Department of Overseas Trade, London.)

Arbitration in China

Commissions were recently organised in Foochow and Amoy for the settlement by arbitration of industrial disputes.

The Amoy Commission has promulgated a set of regulations governing the treatment of workers, and including (1) uniform treatment for men and women workers, (2) pensions and medical expenses for workmen killed and injured in industrial accidents, (3) a minimum wage scale, (4) limitation of the daily working period to eight hours, (5) suspension of work on Sundays with full pay.

The Foochow Commission consists of representatives of workers, employers, the local Kuomintang headquarters, the Women's Association and the local officials. The Commission was inaugurated on 21st May, and is to be the central organ for industrial disputes throughout the province.

The regulations governing its procedure include the following provisions: (1) collective agreements which prove unsatisfactory in practice shall be subject to revision by the Commission, (2) the Commission shall hear

appeals from either workers or employers for settlement of disputes by arbitration, (3) the parties in dispute shall be liable to punishment in case they fail to obey the verdict of the Commission. (From "Welfare Work," London, January 1928.)

Prohibition of Trade Union Congresses in Italy

In a circular recently addressed to the trade union organisations, Mr. Bottai, Under Secretary of State to the Ministry of Corporations, explained the decision recently taken by the Prime Minister to forbid the holding of trade union congresses from 7th December until further order.

This decision, states the circular, is obviously not intended to restrict the activities of the associations, its sole purpose being to put an end to public demonstrations, which are entirely unnecessary for their working. Therefore, meetings held by associations on their own premises to discuss questions regarding their personal interests or the foundation of a new association are still perfectly legal. At the same time, such meetings may include only members of the associations concerned, and press representatives must not be present. The number of persons attending must be strictly limited, according to the regulations, so as to allow fruitful discussion of the items on the agenda. The debates may be brought to the notice of the public only by succinct reports issued by the federations or associations concerned. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, December 12, 1927.)

Permanent Court of International Justice

SPECIAL CHAMBER FOR LABOUR DISPUTES

By letter of 9th December 1927, the Registrar of the Permanent Court of International Justice informed the International Labour Office that the special Chamber for Labour Disputes, provided for in Article 26 of the Statute of the Court, will be composed as follows during the period 1st January 1928 to 31st December 1930:

Members: Messrs. Anzilotti, Huber, Lord Finlay, De Bustamante and Altamira.

Substitutes: Messrs. Nyholm and Moore.

It will be remembered that the procedure laid down for labour cases provides that they may be heard by a special Chamber of five judges, appointed every three years by the Court. If the parties so demand, cases will be heard and determined by this Chamber. In the absence of any such demand, the Court will sit in the usual manner. The labour cases in question are principally those arising out of the application of International Labour Conventions. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, January 23, 1928.)

The Problem of the Intellectual Worker

On 19th and 20th December a Conference was held at Brussels, under the auspices of the International Labour Office, to discuss the position of the intellectual workers within the I. L. O. The Conference was attended by Albert Thomas, Director of the I. L. O., de Micheliis, Lambert Ribot and Oudegeest, as representatives of the I. L. O., and by Destree and Einstein, as representatives of intellectual workers.

The Conference decided to propose to the Governing Body of the I. L. O. to place the following items upon the agenda of the next meeting of the Commission: (1) the resignation of journalists in the event of their newspapers changing their political views: (2) the finding of appointments for engineers and technicians who give up their positions in an industrial undertaking: (3) the problem of the employment of actors and variety artists: (4) the problem of inventors who are employed in an enterprise and are in receipt of salaries. The question of the unemployment of intellectual workers is to be the subject of a Report, to be compiled by the International Labour Office in co-operation with the International Institute for Intellectual Co-operation, and submitted to the members of the Commission before the end of 1928. (From "Press Reports of the International Federation of Trade Unions," Amsterdam, No. 1, January 5, 1928.)

Census of Industries in Canada

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics under the Statistics Act of 1918 takes annually by mail an industrial census, covering statistics of fisheries, mines, forestry and general manufacture in Canada. The annual census is in addition to the Bureau's decennial census and the statistics of population, finance, education, etc. The Bureau has now issued summary figures for all manufacturing industries in Canada for the years 1924 and 1925.

Comparisons of the leading industries in the Dominion for 1925, indicate some interesting details. In regard to the number of employees the statistics show that the Sawmill industry leads with 35,458 employees, followed by pulp and paper in which 28,031 are employed. Cottons are in third position with 20,497 employees, while in fourth place is Railway Rolling Stock, employing 20,202.

The Butter and Cheese industry heads the list on the basis of the number of establishments, with 2988. In second place is the Sawmill industry with 2700 establishments. Bread and Other Bakery Products follow with 2176 establishments, while in fourth place is the Flour and Grist Milling industry with 1310 establishments.

The Electric Light and Power industry leads in regard to the amount of capital employed with \$726,721,087. It is followed by the Pulp and Paper industry with \$460,397,772 capital invested. Sawmills are in third place with \$204,134,003 capital employed, with Castings and Forgings

fourth in the list, having \$84,812,441. A close fifth in this rating is Cotton, Yarn and Cloth with an invested capital of \$83,610,686.

When rated according to the total amount of salaries and wages paid during the year 1925, the Pulp and Paper industry leads all others with \$38,560,905. The Sawmill industry is second with \$34,097,066. In third place is Railway Rolling Stock which expended \$26,580,356, while Castings and Forgings are listed fourth with an expenditure of \$21,039,510.

As regards cost of materials, the Flour and Grist Milling industry is rated in first place with \$163,164,668. The Slaughtering and Meat Packing Industry is second with \$132,329,355. In third place come Butter and Cheese with \$97,843,334, followed by Sawmills with \$78,219,728.

When compared on a basis of the gross value of products, Pulp and Paper is again in the lead with a total valuation of \$193,092,937. In second place is the Flour and Grist Milling industry with \$187,944,731. Occupying third place is the Slaughtering and Meat Packing industry with \$163,816,810, followed by Sawmills with \$134,413,845.

HOURS OF LABOUR IN MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS

In the annual census of industry the Dominion Bureau of Statistics ascertains the hours per day worked by employees, that is, the number of persons working 8 hours per day or less, 9 hours, 10 hours, and over 10 hours per day. The accompanying table gives the figures for 1925 in manufacturing establishments by sub-groups. Figures are included for some sub-groups for which none were available in 1924. Employees in non-ferrous smelters are included in the figures for 1925, whereas for 1924 they were not included in the statistics for manufacturing being classified with mining, and these are all on a working day of 8 hours or less.

The Industrial Census of 1925 shows 37.2 per cent. of employees on the 8-hour day or less as compared with 33.5 per cent. in 1924, on 9 hours per day 32.8 per cent. as compared with 35.5 per cent., on 10 hours 26.1 per cent. as compared with 26.9 per cent. in 1924, on more than 10 hours 3.9 per cent. as compared with 4.3 per cent. in 1924. These changes are partly due to the inclusion of figures for sub-groups for which no data were available for 1924.

The manufacturing industries showing the greatest percentage on the 8-hour day or less are Non-Ferrous Metal Products with 57.6 per cent., Iron and its Products 43.1 per cent. and the Miscellaneous Group 46.0 per cent., the other groups being all under 40 per cent. The 9-hour day (with 32.8 per cent. for all groups) predominates with Vegetable Products at 39.2 per cent., Animal Products at 44.2 per cent. and Chemical and Allied Products at 47.1 per cent. The 10-hour day does not predominate in any group and the percentage of employees on more than 10 hours is not large in any group, the highest being in Vegetable Products where a substantial number of employees in sugar refineries work over 10 hours on account of the continuous operations involved. There are also substantial percentages of numbers of employees working over 10 hours in Fruit and Vegetable Canning, a seasonal industry, and in Pulp and

Paper Manufacturing, Rolled Iron, Steel Products, Pig Iron, etc., and cement, gas and coke where continuous processes are carried on night and day.

Number and percentages of employees on wages in manufacturing industries in Canada working specified hours per day, during 1925 census of industry

	8 hours or less (1)		9 hours (2)		10 hours (3)	
	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
I.—Vegetable products	18,742	23·2	31,627	39·2	23,413	29·0
II.—Animal Products	11,332	31·5	15,922	44·2	7,672	21·3
III.—Textiles, etc.	34,779	35·4	35,577	36·2	26,410	26·9
IV.—Wood and Paper	57,600	38·4	32,553	21·7	55,386	36·9
V.—Iron and its Products	40,296	43·1	34,481	36·8	14,996	16·0
VI.—Non-Ferrous Metal products	14,827	57·6	8,638	33·5	1,669	6·5
VII.—Non-Metallic Mineral Products	10,245	39·0	6,427	24·5	7,687	29·3
VIII.—Chemical and Allied products	4,403	37·3	5,559	47·1	1,499	12·7
IX.—Miscellaneous	10,911	46·0	8,583	36·2	3,355	15·0
All Industries	203,135	37·2	179,367	32·8	142,286	26·1

	Over 10 hours (4)		Total (columns 1 to 4)	Number of Establish- ments	*Average number of employees during year on wages and on salaries
	No.	Per cent.			
I.—Vegetable products	6,856	8·5	80,638	4,558	72,034
II.—Animal products	1,069	3·0	135,995	4,892	63,675
III.—Textiles, etc.	1,463	1·5	98,229	1,640	94,531
IV.—Wood and Paper	4,611	3·1	150,150	6,652	127,859
V.—Iron and its Products	3,828	4·1	93,601	1,075	90,125
VI.—Non-Ferrous Metal products	623	2·4	25,757	378	27,735
VII.—Non-Metallic Mineral Products	1,897	7·2	26,255	1,191	24,468
VIII.—Chemical and Allied products	330	2·8	11,791	510	13,951
IX.—Miscellaneous	654	2·8	23,703	1,435	29,846
All Industries	21,331	3·9	546,119	22,331	544,225

* The number of employees in the third last column is for the month of highest employment and therefore except in certain groups exceeds the average number during the year shown in the last column, which also includes the number of employees on salary.

† Employees in butter and cheese factories and in fish packing not included, about 27,000.

(From "Labour Gazette," Canada, December 1927.)

Wages in Sweden

The final Swedish wage statistics for 1926, compiled by the Social Board, were recently published. The information on which the statistics are based was supplied by the employers of about 3,900 undertakings in all parts of the country, and covers 280,000 workers, of whom over 200,000 are adult men.

Full particulars are given of the average earnings of men, women and young persons in various branches of industry, separate figures being shown for time work and piece work. It appears that the average earnings in 1926 of an adult man were about 2,700 kronor for the whole of Sweden and 3,700 kronor for Stockholm. These figures indicate an increase since 1913 of 118 per cent. and since 1925 of 2 per cent., but a reduction of 25 per cent. as compared with 1920, when wages reached their maximum.

The corresponding average hourly earnings for the whole country were 1·19 krona and for Stockholm 1·60 krona, 164 per cent. above the 1913 figure. This increase should be compared with the 118 per cent. rise in annual earnings.

If changes in wages and the cost of living are compared for the last few years, it is evident that whereas the cost of living remained fairly steady in 1924 and 1925, it fell in 1926, while the average annual earnings per worker during these three years rose slightly. The consequence has been a considerable rise in real wages; it is estimated that the real wages for 1926 were 28 per cent. above the 1913 level and 4 per cent. above the 1925 level.

The figures show that the well known difference between the wages paid in undertakings working solely or mainly for export and those paid in undertakings working for the home market still continues, although there has been a slight tendency to level the difference during the last three years. It appears from the figures that in 1926 persons employed in industries working for the home market earned on an average 20 per cent. more a year, and 16 per cent. more an hour, than workers in export industries. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, December 19, 1927.)

Family Budget Enquiry in Japan

The Japanese Government carried out a family budget enquiry from 1st September 1926 to 31st August 1927. The enquiry, which was executed as planned, is expected to provide data on the actual conditions of life of the people, including the cost of living, the poverty line, etc., which will be of value in guiding the social policy of Japan. For the purpose of the enquiry, 7,856 families of various classes of workers in 19 prefectures were chosen, and 6,506 families, or 83 per cent., completed the recording of their budgets for the year. Though the complete result of the investigation is not published as yet, we are able to give below,

from an *interim* report which appeared recently, the family budget of the non-manual workers compared with that of the manual workers for the month of September 1926:

The average total income of a salaried worker was found to be 114 yen per month; 98 yen, or 86 per cent. of the total, was the income of families from actual services rendered by them, while the rest was derived from other sources, such as property, etc. The average total income of a manual worker was 94 yen per month, of which 86 yen or 91 per cent. was earned by services.

The expenditure is divided into three categories: (1) expenses for daily necessities, which include clothing, food and lodging; (2) "social" expenses, including the maintenance of health and sanitation, expenses for bringing up and educating children, travelling expenses and taxes; and (3) "cultural" expenditure, in which the wages of servants are included:—

Expenditure	Salaried Workers		Manual Workers	
	Yen	Percentage	Yen	Percentage
Clothing	12.43	10.89	8.66	10.30
Food	40.97	35.90	36.58	43.50
Lodging	26.54	23.25	17.26	20.52
Daily necessities	79.94	70.04	62.50	74.32
Social	16.68	14.61	10.40	12.37
Cultural	17.51	15.35	11.20	13.31
Total ..	114.13	100.00	84.10	100.00

If the sum of the expenses for daily necessities and social expenses can be considered as the "cost of living," the salaried workers spend on this item 85 per cent. of their total earnings, while the manual workers spend 87 per cent. (From "*Industrial and Labour Information*," Geneva, December 26, 1927.)

Women Workers in Japan

WAGES AND HOURS OF COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES

The Central Employment Exchange Office of the Bureau of Social Affairs, Japan, has recently published a report on an investigation concerning women commercial employees in the cities of Tokyo and Osaka. The investigation was carried out during the months of July, August and September 1925 and covered 8,280 women employed in 121 Government offices, banks, companies, departmental stores, etc. Of the total number of women covered by the enquiry 966 were typists, 4265 office workers, 1737 telephone operators and 1312 shop assistants.

A classification of the women employees by age and civil condition shows that the majority of the women are under 21 years of age and that

the average age of typists was generally higher than that of women in other kinds of employment. The majority of the workers investigated were unmarried.

A detailed table contained in the report analysing the educational qualifications of the employees indicates that the educational attainments of typists were in general higher, and those of telephone operators lower than those of the other categories mentioned. Most of the telephone operators had only finished the primary school course.

An interesting table in the report gives the classification by years of continuous service in the case of the four kinds of operatives covered by the enquiry. It is seen that telephone operators remain comparatively long in continuous service while shop assistants change their place of employment more frequently. Speaking generally, women employees remain in employment for less than three years, one of the chief reasons for their retirement being marriage.

As regards earnings, it is pointed out that the earnings of women employees consist of salaries, bonuses, etc. Since the amount of bonus differs widely in different firms it was found difficult to tabulate it, but the statistics of salaries given show that among the typists the largest group were those receiving from 36 to 40 yen per month, while in the other kinds of employment the largest groups were those receiving from 26 to 30 or 31 to 35 yen per month. The earnings of most women employees are calculated on a daily basis.

It appears that provision was made in the schedule to collect information regarding the reasons for entering business. The headings under which information was asked for were (1) to contribute towards support of the family, (2) to support a member or members of the family, (3) for self-support, (4) preparation for emergency, (5) training for business, (6) from choice, and (7) preparation for marriage. Thirty-three per cent. of the typists, 43 per cent. of the office workers, 73 per cent. of the telephone operators and 30 per cent. of shop assistants replied that the reason for entering business was to contribute towards the support of the family. The next largest group was of persons who replied that they entered business for supporting themselves.

The hours of work of typists and office workers are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Government offices, from 4 a.m. to 4 or 5 p.m. in banks, from 8 or 9 a.m. to 4 or 5 p.m. in companies with a rest interval of half an hour or an hour for meals at noon. Sundays and national fête days are given as holidays. In the telephone bureau, telephone operators are divided into three categories, day workers, evening workers and night workers. Day workers work from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., evening workers from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., and night workers from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m. next morning including 6 hours for sleep. They are given about half an hour's rest interval every two hours. For day workers, one day in every eight days is given as a holiday, for night workers one day every three days, and for evening workers one day every eight days. The number of evening workers is, however, very small. For shop assistants the hours of work are generally from 8 or 8-30 a.m. to 6 p.m. About half an hour is allowed as a rest interval for meals at noon. A day's holiday is generally given twice or three

times a month. On Sundays, national fête days and other days, when there are many customers in the shops, no holidays seem to be given (Abstracted from the "International Labour Review," January 1928.)

Workers' Credit Association in Japan

The Bureau of Social Affairs of the Osaka Municipality recently established the Showa Co-operative Credit Association of the City of Osaka, Ltd., as a banking organ for workers.

The membership will be composed of persons who have been working continuously for three years or more after finding work through the public employment exchanges under the management of the City, and of the officials in charge of those employment exchanges. A share of investment will be 30 yen, and may be acquired by an initial payment of three yen, followed by monthly payments of 50 sen until the full amount has been paid; the maximum holding is 50 shares. The object of the Association is to advance loans to members needing capital for independent enterprise and to give greater advantages in saving money. The officers of the Association will be elected from municipal officials and other members of the Association.

The reason given for this step is that the ordinary banks are not adapted to the needs of people without property, who must devise their own institutions. If the experiment proves successful, it is hoped gradually to extend its scope throughout the country. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, January 2, 1928.)

Employment of Children in Japan

The Minimum Age of Industrial Workers Act, which came into force in Japan as from 1st July 1926, prohibited the employment of children under 14 years of age, with the exception, however, that children above 12 years of age may be admitted if they have finished the course of compulsory education in elementary schools.

Before the enforcement of the Act, the total number of juvenile workers under the age of 14 years employed in the factories coming under the Factory Act amounted to 19,737, or 1.3 per cent. of the total number of workers. After the enforcement of the Act, the number decreased to 4134 or 0.2 per cent. of the total. These children are at present allowed to work in factories for the reason that they had already been in employment before the enactment of the amended law. The majority of them, 90 per cent. being girls, are employed in cotton spinning, filature and textile factories.

The Bureau of Social Affairs of the Department of the Interior, desirous that such child labour should be entirely excluded from the factories in Japan, intends to advise the factory owners concerned to discontinue their employment, and thus totally abolish child labour within the shortest possible time. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, December 12, 1927.)

Indian Factories during 1926

An Increase of 5 per cent.

The Government of India have recently published the Annual Statistics of Factories subject to the Indian Factories Act of 1911 for the year 1926. In the prefatory note it is pointed out that the Indian Factories Act of 1911 which was revised in 1922 was further amended in 1926 without affecting the main principles which were followed in 1922. The object of the Amending Act of 1926 was only to remove certain administrative difficulties which had arisen in connection with some of the sections of the Act, and, by allowing greater elasticity in some directions and by increasing control in others, to make for smoother working.

NUMBER OF FACTORIES

The total number of factories rose from 6926 in 1925 to 7251 in 1926 or by 4.69 per cent. All the major provinces except Bihar and Orissa and Assam recorded an increase. The percentage increase in the number of factories as compared with 1925 was as high as 13 in the United Provinces and the North-West Frontier Province. The percentage rise in the number of factories as compared with the previous year was 7 in the case of Bengal and Madras while it was only 3 in the case of Bombay, the smallest percentage increase of any of the major provinces.

The following table gives the number of factories by provinces:—

Number of Factories—By Provinces

Province	Number of factories in the year		Increase (+) or decrease (—) per cent in 1926 as compared with 1925
	1925	1926	
Madras	1,121	1,198	+ 6.87
Bombay	1,358	1,398	+ 2.95
Bengal	1,148	1,234	+ 7.49
United Provinces	276	313	+ 13.41
Punjab	527	548	+ 3.98
Burma	893	923	+ 3.36
Bihar and Orissa	242	242	...
Central Provinces and Berar	644	677	+ 5.12
Assam	589	589	...
North-West Frontier Province	15	17	+ 13.33
Baluchistan	5	5	...
Ajmer-Merwara	35	35	...
Delhi	58	58	...
Bangalore and Coorg	15	14*	- 6.67
Total	6,926	7,251	+ 4.69

* Two factories are in Coorg; all the others are in Bangalore.

An analysis of factories by classes of concerns shows that the highest percentage increase (6.18) over the previous year was in the group "Food, Drink and Tobacco." This was largely due to the addition of 112 rice mills during the year. Gins and Presses rose by nearly 5 per cent. largely owing to the addition of 97 cotton ginning and baling presses during the year under report. All other kinds of concerns excepting cotton spinning and weaving, minerals and metals and processes dealing with wood, stone and glass recorded an increase. It is noticeable that among textiles while cotton factories decreased by 2 per cent. jute mills rose by the same percentage. The following table gives the details:—

Number of Factories—By Classes of Concerns

Class of Concern	Total number of factories in the year		Percentage increase (+) or decrease (—) in 1926 as compared with 1925
	1925	1926	
Government and Local Fund Factories	287	302	+5.23
Textiles	397	408	+2.77
Cotton (Spinning and Weaving and other Factories)	279	273	—2.15
Jute Mills	88	90	+2.27
Engineering	509	532	+4.52
Railway workshops	65	68	+4.62
Minerals and Metals	119	118	—0.84
Food, Drink and Tobacco	2,410	2,559	+6.18
Chemical, Dyes, etc.	394	408	+3.55
Paper and Printing	274	285	+4.01
Processes relating to wood, stone and glass	339	335	—1.18
Processes connected with skins and hides	35	36	+2.86
Gins and Presses	2,112	2,217	+4.97
Cotton ginning and baling	1,995	2,092	+4.86
Miscellaneous	50	51	+2.00
Total	6,926	7,251	+4.69

NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED

Statement IV appended to the Report gives the average daily number of persons employed in the various provinces. The following table compiled from the statement shows the average daily number of persons employed in 1925 and 1926 and the percentage increase or decrease in 1926 over 1925.

Average Daily Number of Persons Employed—By Provinces

Province	Average daily number employed in the year		Percentage increase (+) or decrease (—) in 1926 as compared with 1925
	1925	1926	
Madras	123,563	127,411	+3.11
Bombay	370,460	382,255	+3.18
Bengal	551,342	550,923	—0.08
United Provinces	78,942	85,517	+8.33
Punjab	53,533	52,648	—1.65
Burma	97,346	100,759	+3.51
Bihar and Orissa	73,641	74,323	+0.93
Central Provinces and Berar	67,104	67,106	—
Assam	48,667	48,119	—1.19
North-West Frontier Province	786	611	—22.26
Baluchistan	1,197	1,190	—0.58
Ajmer-Merwara	15,631	15,916	+1.82
Delhi	10,126	8,956	—11.55
Bangalore and Coorg	2,590	2,657	+2.59
Total	1,494,958	1,518,391	+1.57

It will be seen from the above table that the factory population rose from 1,494,958 in 1925 to 1,518,391 in 1926 or by 1.57 per cent. The highest percentage increase was in the United Provinces where the factory population rose by 8.33 per cent. Bengal, Punjab, Assam, Delhi and the North-Western Frontier Province did not share in the increase, while the factory population in the Central Provinces and Berar was stationary. In Bombay and Madras an increase of 3 per cent. was recorded.

An analysis of the figures of the average daily number of persons employed in various industries and selected classes of concerns shows that the highest individual percentage increase, namely, 14.70 was in the group "Chemical, dyes, etc.", while the highest individual percentage fall, namely, 11.58 was in the group "Processes connected with skins and hides." "Railway Workshops" recorded a rise of 7.28 per cent. and "Cotton spinning and weaving factories" of 2.1 per cent. "Jute mills" fell by 2.81 per cent. The fall in the number of persons employed in jute mills is due to the fact that a number of jute mills in Bengal changed during the year from a multiple shift system to a single shift system. This change involved reduction in the strength of the labour force. The following table is of interest.

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Average Daily Number of Persons Employed—By Classes of Concern

Class of Concern	Average daily number employed in the year		Percentage increase (+) or decrease (—) in 1926 as compared with 1925
	1925	1926	
Government and Local Fund Factories	141,135	144,519	+ 2.40
Textiles	684,117	681,613	- 0.37
Cotton (spinning and weaving and other) Factories*	331,730	338,684	+ 2.10
Jute Mills*	341,961	332,356	- 2.81
Engineering	154,833	161,892	+ 4.56
Railway Workshops	71,447	76,648	+ 7.28
Minerals and Metals	59,689	55,842	- 6.45
Food, Drink and Tobacco	163,423	170,585	+ 4.38
Chemical, Dyes, etc.	40,116	46,013	+ 14.70
Paper and Printing	26,963	28,466	+ 5.57
Processes relating to wood, stone and glass	35,383	38,063	+ 7.57
Processes connected with skins and hides	6,079	5,375	- 11.58
Gins and Presses	175,611	178,290	+ 1.53
Cotton ginning and baling	142,684	145,014	+ 1.63
Miscellaneous	7,609	7,733	+ 1.61
Total	1,494,958	1,518,391	+ 1.57

A classification of the number of operatives by men, women and children shows that as compared with 1925 in 1926 the number of men has increased by 2.54 per cent. and the number of women by 0.87 per cent. while the number of children has fallen by 12.56 per cent. The total number of women employed has risen by over 2000 while the total number of children employed has fallen by over 8000 throughout India.

As regards the proportion of men, women and children in Indian factories, 80 per cent. of the operatives are adult males, 16 per cent. adult females and 4 per cent. children. The percentage of female employees is as high as 21 in Bombay and Madras. In Bengal the percentage of female employees is only 13 and in Burma it is as low as 9. As regards children-workers in the Bombay Presidency only 1.85 per cent. of the operatives are children. The following table gives the details:—

Average Daily Number of Persons Employed—By Provinces

Province	Average daily number employed in all factories			
	Men	Women	Children	Total
Madras	94,474	27,096	5,841	127,411
Bombay	294,073	81,104	7,071	382,255
Bengal	450,035	73,085	27,813	550,923
United Provinces	77,102	6,645	1,770	85,517
Punjab	43,921	7,683	1,044	52,648
Burma	89,881	9,538	1,340	100,759
Bihar and Orissa	66,597	6,610	1,116	74,323

*These figures exclude those for clothing and jute mills returned under Government and Local Fund Factories.

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Average Daily Number of Persons Employed—By Provinces—contd.

	Average daily number employed in all factories			
	Men	Women	Children	Total
Central Provinces and Berar	41,954	23,059	2,093	67,106
Assam	24,280	12,489	11,350	48,119
North-West Frontier Province	558	52	1	611
Baluchistan	1,154	—	36	1,190
Ajmer-Merwara	14,481	1,234	201	15,916
Delhi	8,395	193	368	8,956
Bangalore and Coorg	1,723	881	53	2,657
Total for 1926	1,208,628	249,669	60,094	1,518,391
Total for 1925	1,178,719	247,514	68,725	1,494,958
Percentage increase (+) or decrease (—) in 1926 as compared with 1925	+2.54	+0.87	-12.56	+1.57

From the point of view of the number of persons employed, the cotton mill and jute mill industries are the most important in India. In 1926, the former employed 339,252 persons and the latter 332,611. The following table gives an analysis of the average daily number of persons employed in the cotton mill industry:—

Average Daily Number of Persons Employed in Cotton Mills—By Provinces

Province	Average daily number employed			
	Men	Women	Children	Total
Madras	20,346	5,130	3,742	29,218
Bombay	186,904	52,977	5,241	245,122
Bengal	10,361	1,973	1,127	13,461
United Provinces	21,673	1,079	397	23,149
Punjab	1,178	106	111	1,395
Burma	329	157	—	486
Bihar and Orissa	518	—	—	518
Central Provinces and Berar	13,965	3,568	1,846	19,379
Assam	33	—	3	36
North-West Frontier Province	—	—	—	—
Baluchistan	—	—	—	—
Ajmer-Merwara	1,682	202	68	2,152
Delhi	3,906	133	295	4,336
Bangalore and Coorg	—	—	—	—
Total for 1926	261,097	65,325	12,830	339,252
Total for 1925	255,301	62,782	14,140	332,223
Percentage increase (+) or decrease (—) in 1926 as compared with 1925	+2.27	+4.05	-9.26	+2.12

It will be seen from the above table that, as compared with 1925, the total number of operatives in cotton mills increased by 2 per cent. The percentage increase in the case of adult male and female employees was 2.27 and 4.05 respectively while there was a fall of 9.26 per cent. in the case of children as compared with the previous year. Of the total number of persons employed in cotton mills 76.96 per cent. were men, 19.26 per cent. women and 3.78 per cent. children. In the Bombay Presidency, the percentages for men, women and children were 76.25, 21.61 and 2.14 respectively. It is of interest to note that in the United Provinces nearly 94 per cent. of the operatives in cotton mills are men.

The percentage of factories employing men, women and children remained the same in 1926 as in the previous year being 98, 68 and 22 respectively. In the Bombay Presidency 95 per cent. of the factories employed men and 71 per cent. employed women in addition to men. In Assam the percentage of factories employing women was as high as 93 while in the North-West Frontier Province it was as low as 6. As regards child labour, while for the whole of India the percentage of factories employing it comes to 22, it varies widely from province to province. In the Bombay Presidency it is 16. In Assam as in the case of women so also in the case of children a very large percentage of the factories employs this kind of labour.

The following table gives the details of the number of factories employing men, women and children in the various provinces:

Province	Number of Factories in the year							
	1925				1926			
	Total	Employing men	Employing women	Employing children	Total	Employing men	Employing women	Employing children
Madras (a) ..	1,121	1,057	870	197	1,198	1,108	943	199
Bombay (b) ..	1,358	1,321	987	239	1,398	1,330	997	222
Bengal ..	1,148	1,148	732	411	1,234	1,233	801	418
United Provinces (c) ..	276	273	154	66	313	308	166	74
Punjab ..	527	527	333	71	548	548	342	115
Burma ..	886	886	406	73	923	923	447	100
Bihar and Orissa ..	242	242	111	39	242	242	121	42
Central Provinces and Berar ..	644	644	505	19	677	677	531	117
Assam ..	589	589	542	402	589	589	546	362
North-West Frontier Province ..	15	15	3	1	17	17	1	1
Baluchistan ..	5	5	1	1	5	5	1	1
Ajmer-Merwara ..	35	35	27	11	35	35	24	11
Delhi ..	58	58	16	9	58	58	41	19
Bangalore and Coorg ..	15	15	3	3	14	14	3	3
	6,815	6,815	4,682	1,555	7,251	7,087	4,946	1,581
	98	98	68	22	98	98	68	22

(a) Particulars of 72 factories not available. (b) Particulars of 67 factories not available.
(c) Particulars of 5 factories not available.

HOURS OF LABOUR

From Statement V appended to the Report, three separate tables have been compiled showing the hours of work for men, women and children. The following table shows the hours of work for men in 1925 and 1926:—

Hours of Work—For Men

Province	Total number of factories employing men in		Number of factories in which normal weekly hours were					
			Not above 48 in		Above 48 and not above 54 in		Above 54 in	
	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926
Madras (a) ..	1,057	1,108	250	239	188	185	619	684
Bombay (b) ..	1,321	1,330	174	175	112	110	1,035	1,045
Bengal ..	1,148	1,233	539	588	212	267	397	378
United Provinces (c) ..	273	308	49	52	24	20	200	236
Punjab ..	527	548	51	52	27	28	449	468
Burma ..	886	923	161	175	94	105	631	643
Bihar and Orissa ..	242	242	87	96	47	42	108	104
Central Provinces and Berar ..	644	677	55	48	23	27	566	602
Assam ..	589	589	427	438	78	83	84	68
North-West Frontier Province ..	15	17	6	6	6	10	3	1
Baluchistan ..	5	5	1	1	1	1	5	5
Ajmer-Merwara ..	35	35	8	8	1	1	27	27
Delhi ..	58	58	61	14	18	19	24	25
Bangalore and Coorg ..	15	14	8	8	7	6	1	1
Total ..	6,815	7,087	1,831	1,899	836	902	4,148	4,286
	100 00	100 00	26.87	26.80	12.26	12.72	60.87	60.48

It will be seen from the above table that in 26.80 per cent. of the factories the normal weekly hours of work were not more than 48, in 12.72 per cent. they were not more than 54 and in 60.48 per cent. they were above 54. As compared with the previous year there appears to have been no change in the working hours in the various factories. In the Bombay Presidency, the percentages of factories in which the hours per week are (a) less than 48, (b) more than 48 and less than 54 and (c) above 54, are 13, 8 and 79 respectively. It thus appears that the proportion of factories in which the hours of work are more than 54 per week is very much higher in the Bombay Presidency than the general average for the whole of India.

(a) Particulars of 72 factories not available. (b) Particulars of 67 factories not available.
(c) Particulars of 5 factories not available.

As regards the hours of work for women operatives the percentage of factories in which the weekly hours were (a) less than 48, (b) above 48 and not above 54 and (c) above 54 were in 1926, 31·22, 12·75 and 56·03 respectively, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 31·76, 11·47 and 56·77. In Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, and Ajmer-Merwara in none of the factories did women work for less than 54 hours a week. In the Bombay Presidency nearly 75 per cent. of the factories employing women have hours of work extending over 54 per week. The following table gives the details.

Hours of Work—For Women

Province	Total number of factories employing Women in		Number of factories in which normal weekly hours were					
			Not above 48 in		Above 48 and not above 54 in		Above 54 in	
	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926
Madras (a) ..	870	943	240	241	121	135	509	567
Bombay (b) ..	987	997	91	102	146	148	750	747
Bengal ..	732	801	453	490	121	166	158	155
United Provinces (c) ..	154	166	11	12	7	17	136	137
Punjab ..	333	342	..	..	..	..	333	342
Burma ..	406	447	119	128	47	49	240	270
Bihar and Orissa ..	111	121	48	61	33	27	30	33
Central Provinces and Berar ..	505	531	30	37	22	31	453	463
Assam ..	542	546	489	477	39	47	14	22
North-West Frontier Province ..	3	1	..	..	..	..	3	1
Ajmer-Merwara ..	27	24	..	..	..	..	27	24
Delhi ..	9	24	4	4	..	10	5	10
Bangalore and Coorg ..	3	3	2	2	1	1	..	..
Total ..	4,682	4,946	1,487	1,544	537	631	2,658	2,771
	100·00	100·00	31·76	31·22	11·47	12·75	56·77	56·03

The percentage of factories in which the weekly hours of work for children were more than 30 rose from 66·69 in 1925 to 70·08 in 1926. In the Bombay Presidency out of the 222 factories for which information was available, in 47·75 per cent. of the cases the hours of work were below 30 per week and in 52·25 per cent. of the cases they were above 30 per week. It is noteworthy that only in the case of children are the hours of work lower in the Bombay Presidency than in the whole of India. The following table is of interest :—

(a) Particulars of 72 factories not available.
(c) Particulars of 5 factories not available.

(b) Particulars of 67 factories not available.

Hours of Work—For Children

Province	Total number of factories employing children in	Number of factories in which normal weekly hours were				
		Not above 30 in		Above 30 in		
		1925	1926	1925	1926	
Madras (a) ..	197	199	48	41	149	158
Bombay (b) ..	239	222	133	106	106	116
Bengal ..	411	418	126	132	285	286
United Provinces (c) ..	66	74	25	19	41	55
Punjab ..	71	82	14	11	57	71
Burma ..	73	89	7	7	66	82
Bihar and Orissa ..	39	42	2	5	37	37
Central Provinces and Berar ..	19	25	13	15	6	10
Assam ..	402	395	142	132	260	263
North-West Frontier Province ..	1	1	1	1	..	..
Baluchistan ..	1	1	..	..	1	1
Ajmer-Merwara ..	11	11	..	..	11	11
Delhi ..	17	15	6	4	11	11
Bangalore and Coorg ..	8	7	1	..	7	7
Total ..	1,555	1,581	518	473	1,037	1,108

HOLIDAYS

Under section 22 of the Indian Factories Act no person shall be employed in any factory on a Sunday unless that person has had, or will have, a holiday for a whole day on one of the three days immediately preceding or succeeding the Sunday. Exemptions may be granted by the Local Government to those factories where a Local Government is satisfied of the necessity for an exemption. The following table is of interest :—

Holidays and Exemptions from Prescribed Weekly Holidays

Province	Number of factories in which					
	Holidays were granted on				Majority of operatives were exempted from Section 22 in	
	Sundays in		Week days or Sundays in			
1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926	
Madras (a) ..	446	435	534	649	92	83
Bombay (b) ..	244	286	1,054	1,019	24	26
Bengal ..	370	405	171	179	607	650
United Provinces (c) ..	58	58	48	53	167	197
Punjab ..	61	59	466	450	37	39

(a) Particulars of 72 factories not available.
(c) Particulars of 5 factories not available.

(b) Particulars of 67 factories not available.

Holidays and Exemptions from Prescribed Weekly Holidays—*contd.*

Province	Number of factories in which					
	Holidays were granted on				Number of factories exempt from Section 22 in	
	Sundays in		Week days or Sundays in			
	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926
Burma	258	276	635	647	43	54
Bihar and Orissa	70	71	89	95	83	76
Central Provinces and Berar	284	280	360	397	22	27
Madras	24	32	7	9	558	546
North-West Frontier Province	12	12	3	5		
Baluchistan	1	1	4	4		
Ajmer-Merwara	3	3	32	32		
Delhi	10	9	37	38	11	11
Bangalore and Coorg	11		4	14	1	2
Total	1,852	1,927	3,444	3,591	1,645	1,713

ACCIDENTS

The following table presents the statistics of accidents in factories, by provinces for the years 1925 and 1926, classified according to 'fatal', 'serious' and 'minor'.

Accidents

Province	Fatal		Serious		Minor		Total		Percentage increase (+) or decrease (-) in 1926
	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926	
	Madras	15	15	210	267	867	981	1,092		1,263	+15.08
Bombay	50	49	599	875	2,466	3,060	3,115	3,984	+27.90
Bengal	79	76	909	1,123	1,692	1,811	2,680	3,010	+12.31
United Provinces	20	12	131	141	1,250	1,484	1,401	1,637	+16.85
Punjab	20	15	22	20	416	488	458	523	+14.19
Burma	30	28	202	282	1,097	1,078	1,329	1,388	+4.44
Bihar and Orissa	25	54	302	366	1,402	1,803	1,729	2,223	+28.57
Central Provinces and Berar	10	5	50	35	193	203	253	243	-3.95
Assam	10	7	30	28	30	24	70	59	-15.71
North-West Frontier Province				1	2	4	2	5	+150.0
Baluchistan				1	15	15	15	16	+6.67
Ajmer-Merwara		2	14	7	424	450	438	459	+4.79
Delhi	4		9	9	27	34	40	50	+25.00
Bangalore and Coorg			3		20	6	23	6	-73.91
Total	263	270	2,481	3,155	9,901	11,441	12,645	14,866	+17.96
	2.08	1.82	19.62	21.22	78.30	76.96	100.00		

The total number of accidents rose from 12,645 in 1925 to 14,866 in 1926 or by 17.56 per cent. The increase was particularly large in Bombay and Bihar and Orissa, and substantial in Bengal, the United Provinces, the Punjab and Madras. Although the total number of fatal accidents rose from 263 in 1925 to 270 in the year under report all the provinces except Bihar and Orissa, Ajmer-Merwara and Delhi recorded a fall. In Bihar and Orissa the number of fatal accidents rose from 25 in 1925 to 54 in 1926 but this was due to a series of catastrophes due to mechanical incompetence. If the percentages of each class of accidents to the total are calculated, it is seen that while in 1925, 2.08, 19.62 and 78.30 per cent. of the accidents were fatal, serious and minor respectively, the corresponding percentages in 1926 were 1.82, 21.22 and 76.96 respectively.

In the prefatory note to the Report it is pointed out that vigorous steps are being taken in all provinces for the improvement in fencing and guarding the machinery. Safety posters are also being used to an increasing extent to bring home to the workers the precautions which they must take in the performance of their work.

CONVICTIONS

During the year under report 1417 convictions were obtained for the contravention of the Factories Act which resulted in the conviction of 349 persons. In 1925, 998 convictions were obtained and 271 persons convicted. The larger number of convictions during the year under report is an indication of increasing strictness in the enforcement of the provisions of the Act. It may, however, be pointed out that there are still complaints in some provinces as regards the inadequacy of fines imposed by magistrates, particularly in cases connected with the employment of women and children.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

The number of factories inspected during the year was 6399 or 88 per cent. of the total. In 1925 only 86 per cent. of the factories were inspected. The year under report thus shows an increase of 2 per cent. in the number of factories inspected. The majority of the uninspected factories were in Bengal and Assam. In Bombay, Madras and Punjab the percentage of uninspected factories was less than 2, 4 and 7 respectively. In Bengal it is proposed to open a sub-office in Jalpaijuri, which, it is expected, will help to reduce the number of uninspected factories.

Current Periodicals

Summary of titles and contents of special articles

THE LABOUR MAGAZINE—VOL. VI, NO. 9, JANUARY 1928. (The Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party, London.)Special Articles: (1) *Democracy or Disruption—II*, by Walter M. Citrine.—Birth of the minority movement. pp. 387-391.(2) *Behind the Scenes of Bolshevism and Fascism*, by M. Philips Price, Part III.—pp. 392-396.(3) *The Birth of the Labour Movement in Latin America*, by Santiago Iglesias (Secretary, Pan-American Federation of Labour). pp. 397-399.(4) *The Re-Discovery of Direct Labour: A New Municipal Push*, by R. B. Sutburn, pp. 400 & 401.(5) *Trade Unionism in Transition*, by Arthur Pugh (General Secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation). pp. 402-404.(6) *In the "Eight-fifteen": Here's wishing you a happy new—Government!*, by T. S. Dickson. pp. 405-407.(7) *The Swiss Grain Monopoly*, by Ernst Reinhard, M.P. (Chairman of the Swiss Socialist Party). pp. 412-415.

Routine Matter—As in previous issues.

INDUSTRIAL WELFARE—VOL. X, NO. 109, JANUARY 1928. (The Industrial Welfare Society, London.)Special Articles: (1) *Suggestions*, by Sam Movor. pp. 3-8.(2) *A Distributing Trade Pension Scheme*. pp. 8-10.(3) *The Unhealthy Works Store*. pp. 14-16.

Routine Matter—As in previous issues.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR REVIEW—VOL. XVII, NO. 1, JANUARY 1928. (International Labour Office, Geneva.)Special Articles: (1) *The Control of Industrial Combinations from the Social Standpoint*, by Rene Hoffherr. pp. 1-23.(2) *Minimum Wage Legislation in the United States*, by Rudolf Broda, A.M., J.D. (Associate Professor of Social Science, Antioch College, Ohio).—History of the movement; the range of protected persons; the principle of wage fixation; methods of application; the recommendatory Massachusetts law; the results of minimum wage legislation—the increase of wages, are the increases legitimate? has minimum wage legislation led to the elimination of slow workers? has minimum wage legislation increased the efficiency of employees or employers? has minimum wage legislation afforded protection to fair employers? does the minimum tend to become the maximum? has business been unduly hurt? conclusions. pp. 24-50.(3) *Labour Legislation in Latin America: I*, by Moises Poblete-Troncoso (Former Under-Secretary in the Chilean Ministry of Hygiene, Social Assistance and Welfare, and Labour; Professor in the University of Santiago de Chile).—Historical survey—the period of Spanish colonisation, the intermediate period; characteristics of Latin-American social legislation—immigration, the recentness of Latin-American social legislation, Latin-American social law, tendency to codification, the position of foreigners, co-operation of Latin-American countries in international social policy. pp. 51-67.(4) *Refugee Problems and their Solution*—The refugee problem; the organisation of refugee relief; the legal status of the refugees; the placing of Russian and American refugees; miscellaneous activities; conclusion. pp. 68-85.(5) *Professional Musicians and the Weekly Rest*—Austria; Czechoslovakia; France; Germany; Great Britain; Hungary; Italy; Japan; Poland; Spain; United States. pp. 86-89.(6) *Collective Labour Agreements in Rumania in 1926*. pp. 89-92.(7) *Working Conditions of Women Commercial Employees in Japan*—Age; civil status; educational attainments; period of continuous service; earnings; reasons for entering business; hours and holidays. pp. 92-96.

Routine Matter—As in previous issues.

MONTHLY LABOR REVIEW—VOL. XXV, NO. 3, SEPTEMBER 1927. (U. S. Department of Labor, Washington.)Special Articles: (1) *Indoor Recreation for Industrial Employees*—Rest and recreation rooms; club-houses; management, dues and membership; bowling alleys or game rooms; swimming pools; gymnasiums; social gatherings; lectures, moving pictures, etc.; musical organisations; other clubs; financing clubs and social affairs. pp. 1-14.(2) *Public Service Retirement Systems: New York and New Jersey*—New York State employees retirement system—scope of system, administration, source of funds, conditions for retirement, retirement allowances, options, additional benefits, refunds, provision for dependents, growth of

system—statistics, finances of system; New Jersey State employees retirement system—administration, contributions, conditions for retirement, retirement allowances, refunds, provision for dependents, statistics of system; New Jersey State teachers' pension and annuity fund—scope of the system, administration, contributions, conditions for retirement, retirement allowances options, refunds, provision for dependents, growth of system—statistics, contributions and funds; general. pp. 14-31.

(3) *The Problem of the Worker Displaced by Machinery*, by James J. Davis (Secretary of Labor). pp. 32-34.(4) *Industrial Relations in the United States*, by H. B. Butler, C. B. (Deputy Director of the International Labor Office). pp. 39-44.(5) *Conference to Promote Industrial Prosperity of New England*. pp. 45 and 46.(6) *Conditions in Indian Cotton Mills*. pp. 46-48.(7) *Vacations with Pay for Industrial Workers*. p. 49.(8) *Accident and Health Hazards of Locomotive Firemen*. pp. 50 & 51.(9) *Palestine Workers' Contracting Society*—Conditions of membership; policies of association; general convention. pp. 78-81.(10) *Consumers' Co-operation in Basel, Switzerland*—Provision for employees; difficulties encountered. pp. 81-83.(11) *Widows, Orphans and Old-Age Contributory Pensions in Scotland*—Pre-act claims; post-act widows and orphans claims; pensions for persons over 70; finances of the scheme. pp. 87-89.(12) *Trade Union Movement in India*—Origin and present extent of the movement; character and position of the unions. pp. 96-98.(13) *Changes in Union Scales of Wages and Hours of Labor, 1913 to 1927*. pp. 112-135.(14) *Earnings and Hours of Labor of Workers in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 1926*—Government industrial establishments; general summary of preliminary results—I—number of returns received and number of workpeople covered; II—average weekly earnings; III—normal hours of labour; IV—hours actually worked; V—average hourly earnings; VI—extent of short time. pp. 137-144.

Routine Matter—As in previous issues.

THE JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE—VOL. IX, NO. 12, DECEMBER 1927. (Harvard School of Public Health, Baltimore.)Special Articles: (1) *The Ozone Fallacy in Garage Ventilation*, by Carroll M. Salls, Ph.D. (Chemical Engineer, New York State Bureau of Industrial Hygiene)—Early experiments; tests in experimental chamber; summary. pp. 503-511.(2) *The Degree of Nicotine Action of the Workman's Organism from Inhaled Tobacco Dust*, by Dr. A. Burstein (From the Chemical-Hygiene Laboratory of the Odessa Section of the All-Union Institute for Industrial Medicine)—conclusions. pp. 512-519.(3) *Elementary Outline of Some of the Principles and Practices of the Electric Power Industry as Related to Safety*, by J. P. Jackson (Chairman, Safety Codes Committee, American Institute of Electrical Engineers).—Introduction; elementary conceptions—electric power, insulation; elements of electrical systems—electric power stations, sub-stations, transmission lines, primary and secondary distribution, electric utilization; tools and rules. pp. 520-547.

Routine Matter—As in previous issues.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE—VOL. XXVII, NO. 12, DECEMBER 1927. (The Department of Labour, Canada.)Special Articles: (1) *League of Nations International Labour Organization*—The ratification of draft conventions; Canadian member of consultative committee; the League of Nations and the International Labour Organization; the Deputy Director's visit to South Africa; visit to Northern Europe of Director of the International Labour Office; ratification by Germany of the eight-hour day convention; industrial accidents. pp. 1303-1308.(2) *Labour's New Co-partnership*. pp. 1308 & 1309.(3) *Recent Movements in Great Britain towards Peace in Industry*. pp. 1309 & 1310.(4) *Employees' Stock Ownership in International Paper Company*. pp. 1311 & 1312.(5) *Census of Industries in Canada for the Years 1924 and 1925*. pp. 1322-1327.(6) *Hours of Labour in Manufacturing Establishments, Census of Industry, 1925*. pp. 1350-1353.(7) *Comparison of Purchasing Power of Wages in Terms of Food and Rent in Cities in Various Countries*. pp. 1353 & 1354.

Routine Matter—As in previous issues.

Current Notes from Abroad

UNITED KINGDOM

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Ministry of Labour, the changes in wages reported to have come into operation during December resulted in a reduction of about £6,700 in the weekly full-time wages of about 73,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £1,900 in those of nearly 27,000 workpeople.

The largest group of workpeople whose wages were reduced were iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands, in whose case there was a reduction equivalent to about 3½ per cent. on current rates. There was a small reduction (less than 1 per cent. on current rates) in the wages of coal miners in Warwickshire. In the case of steel sheet millmen and galvanisers in various districts in England and Wales the wages of the higher-paid men were reduced and those of the lower-paid men were increased. Other groups of workpeople whose wages were increased included electrical cable makers, roller leather makers, and the employees of various local authorities.

The changes in wages so far reported to the Ministry of Labour for the year 1927, in the industries for which statistics are compiled, have resulted in net increases of £30,400 in the weekly full-time wages of 280,000 workpeople, and in net reductions of £389,000 in those of over 1,850,000 workpeople. In 1926 there were net increases of £133,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 420,000 workpeople, and net reductions of £83,700 in those of 740,000 workpeople. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, January 1928.)

At 31st December the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 68 per cent. above that of July 1914, as compared with 69 per cent. a month ago, and 75 per cent. a year ago. The corresponding figures for food alone were 62, 63 and 67 respectively.

The fall since 1st December was mainly due to decreases in the average prices of eggs and butter. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, January 1928.)

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Ministry of Labour as beginning in December was 12. In addition, 15 disputes which began before December were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in December (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 7600; and the aggregate duration of all disputes during December was about 38,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of 10,600 workpeople involved and 51,000 working days lost in the previous month. The total number of workpeople

involved in all disputes in progress in 1927 was approximately 113,700. The time lost by such workpeople was about 1,175,000 working days; this is the lowest figure recorded in the whole period (of forty years) for which statistics are available. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, January 1928.)

OTHER COUNTRIES

The number of trade unions in Japan at the end of June 1927 was 488 and their total membership 292,335, including 12,800 women. The unions may be classified as follows:

Unions organised by trades	135
Membership	23,774
Unions organised by industries	218
Membership	236,119
Unions of general workers	135
Membership	32,442

There are 219 independent unions with an aggregate membership of 126,621, and 45 federations, comprising 224 affiliated unions, with an aggregate membership of 165,714.

Distribution by industries is as follows:

Industry	Number of Unions	Membership		
		Male	Female	Total
Machine and Tools	75	96,630	1,158	97,788
Chemical	53	9,159	1,055	10,214
Textile	18	9,073	7,824	16,897
Food and Drink	13	5,019	538	5,557
Miscellaneous	92	15,541	938	16,479
Mining	12	11,245	31	11,276
Gas and Electricity	6	4,058	..	4,058
Transport	55	100,756	578	101,334
Communications	1	825	..	825
Civil Engineering and Construction	28	3,556	..	3,556
Others	235	23,673	678	24,351
Total	488	279,535	12,800	292,335

Comparison of these figures with those relating to the end of December 1926 shows that while there was no change in the number of unions, the membership increased by 7596. While the unions organised by trades and those of general workers decreased, the unions organised by industries increased. While the number of independent unions decreased, that of unions affiliated with the federated bodies increased.

The number of unions and their membership increased in every branch of industry save that of transport. The rate of increase was most pronounced in the textile and mining industries.

The percentage of workers organised is about 6.25. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, January 16, 1928.)

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS IN JANUARY 1928

Name of concern and locality	Approximate number of workpeople involved		Date when dispute		Cause	Result
	Directly	Indirectly	Began	Ended		
<i>Textile Trades</i>			1928	1928		
1. The E. D. Sassoon Group of Mills— The Jacob Sassoon Mill .. The Apollo Mill .. The David Mill No. I .. The David Mill No. II .. The E. D. Sassoon and Alexandra Mills .. The Rachel Sassoon Mill .. The Elphinstone Spg. & Weaving Mill .. The Meyer Sassoon Mill ..	2,085	12,102	2 Jan.	..	The proposed introduction of new methods of work in accordance with the recommendations of the Textile Tariff Board.	No settlement reported.
2. The Spring Mill, Naigaum, Bombay ..	800	4,200	2 Jan.	16 Jan.	Introduction of a new system of working by which each spinner is to work spindles on both sides of the spinning frame instead of on one side.	The strike ended in a compromise.
3. The Spring Mill, Naigaum, Bombay ..	100	..	31 Jan.	..	Reduction in rates of wages.	No settlement reported.

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

Count or Number	Pounds	Month of December			Nine months ended December		
		1925	1926	1927	1925	1926	1927
		(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10	4,428	7,485	5,975	44,406	63,285	57,467	
Nos. 11 to 20	13,463	20,519	17,047	140,765	169,165	159,713	
Nos. 21 to 30	9,004	13,361	15,228	99,665	127,904	137,962	
Nos. 31 to 40	1,059	1,532	2,177	9,381	15,072	18,999	
Above 40	479	965	813	3,508	7,844	8,203	
Waste, etc.	72	106	95	369	942	917	
Total	28,505	43,968	41,335	298,094	384,212	383,261	

BOMBAY CITY

Count or Number	Pounds	Month of December			Nine months ended December		
		1925	1926	1927	1925	1926	1927
		(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10	3,408	6,528	5,118	37,455	55,972	50,170	
Nos. 11 to 20	6,319	14,017	10,186	79,803	115,287	104,682	
Nos. 21 to 30	3,981	7,702	8,817	54,710	77,766	84,113	
Nos. 31 to 40	338	767	1,068	3,981	6,953	9,043	
Above 40	179	353	406	1,678	3,008	4,006	
Waste, etc.	63	96	95	290	856	916	
Total	14,288	29,463	25,690	177,917	259,842	252,930	

AHMEDABAD

Count or Number	Pounds	Month of December			Nine months ended December		
		1925	1926	1927	1925	1926	1927
		(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10	352	273	228	2,267	1,954	1,756	
Nos. 11 to 20	3,784	3,354	3,700	33,906	29,149	29,387	
Nos. 21 to 30	3,757	4,274	5,153	34,642	36,748	42,067	
Nos. 31 to 40	622	635	812	4,011	6,484	7,258	
Above 40	227	454	240	1,277	3,677	2,878	
Waste, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	8,742	8,990	10,133	76,103	78,012	83,346	

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

Description	Month of December			Nine months ended December		
	1925	1926	1927	1925	1926	1927
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	986	3,011	1,973	10,124	16,495	20,116
Chudders	1,001	1,523	1,366	13,272	14,288	14,954
Dhosis	5,968	7,668	8,426	57,777	67,643	73,622
Drills and jeans	474	1,278	1,333	6,637	9,210	11,632
Cambrics and lawns	84	38	77	448	265	540
Printers	243	175	178	2,111	1,413	1,376
Shirtings and long cloth	6,347	7,711	9,917	69,433	83,292	88,290
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	818	1,587	1,184	8,991	12,094	12,778
Tent cloth	115	295	33	1,183	1,035	443
Other sorts	522	439	488	4,306	3,892	4,117
Total	16,558	23,725	24,975	174,282	209,627	227,868
Coloured piecegoods	5,415	11,911	10,289	68,797	89,420	92,838
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	134	191	268	1,817	2,043	2,037
Hosiery	41	24	31	187	191	259
Miscellaneous	102	276	325	1,374	2,162	2,627
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	62	204	249	426	1,462	2,690
Grand Total	22,312	36,331	36,137	246,883	304,905	328,319

BOMBAY CITY

Description	Month of December			Nine months ended December		
	1925	1926	1927	1925	1926	1927
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	551	2,547	1,565	7,273	14,512	15,958
Chudders	427	959	944	8,481	9,911	10,481
Dhosis	907	2,273	2,531	15,928	20,811	25,295
Drills and jeans	366	1,185	1,203	5,556	8,445	10,859
Cambrics and lawns	4	6	35	203	41	278
Printers				19		
Shirtings and long cloth	3,795	5,921	7,139	49,003	64,456	64,396
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	389	1,098	765	6,103	8,600	8,973
Tent cloth	68	259	8	693	888	365
Other sorts	191	264	291	1,684	2,171	2,412
Total	6,698	14,516	14,481	94,943	129,839	139,017
Coloured piecegoods	2,388	8,796	6,843	47,264	64,262	65,281
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	120	180	257	1,731	1,963	2,002
Hosiery	8	7	11	57	48	88
Miscellaneous	67	224	265	1,085	1,755	2,108
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	37	162	117	341	1,013	1,747
Grand Total	9,318	23,885	21,974	145,421	198,880	210,243

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

Description	Month of December			Nine months ended December		
	1925	1926	1927	1925	1926	1927
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	173	180	77	877	566	995
Chudders	454	458	344	3,683	3,369	3,251
Dhosis	3,951	4,409	4,805	32,714	38,266	38,596
Drills and jeans	17	23	11	370	224	220
Cambrics and lawns	23	33	42	173	220	258
Printers	162	84	100	1,381	720	621
Shirtings and long cloth	1,839	1,275	2,159	16,091	14,021	18,143
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	347	412	317	2,587	2,755	2,885
Tent cloth	34	5	24	417	15	39
Other sorts	221	110	138	1,798	935	1,061
Total	7,221	6,989	8,017	60,091	61,091	66,069
Coloured piecegoods	1,967	1,981	2,119	13,360	15,965	16,448
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	1	3	2	9	14	11
Hosiery	34	15	20	129	142	172
Miscellaneous	31	40	50	242	365	449
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	24	41	130	75	436	922
Grand Total	9,278	9,069	10,338	73,906	78,013	84,071

WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN BOMBAY

Article	Grade	Rate per	Prices in the month of				Index numbers				
			July 1914	Jan. 1927	Dec. 1927	Jan. 1928	July 1914	Jan. 1927	Dec. 1927	Jan. 1928	
Cereals—											
Rice ..	Rangoon Small-mill	Md.	4 11 3	6 6 10	6 3 1	5 13 4	100	137	132	124	
Wheat ..	Delhi No. 1	Cwt.	5 9 6	8 6 0	7 8 0	7 5 3	100	150	134	131	
Do. ..	Khandwa Seoni	Candy	45 0 0	80 0 0	67 8 0	66 0 0	100	178	150	147	
Jowari (1)	Jubbulpore	"	40 0 0	58 8 0	53 8 0	49 8 0	100	146	134	124	
Barley ..	Cawnpore	Maund	3 2 6	4 12 2	4 7 1	4 7 1	100	151	141	141	
Bajri ..	Ghati	"	3 4 6	4 8 10	3 14 8	3 14 8	100	139	119	119	
			3 4 6	5 9 9	4 3 9	4 2 0	100	171	129	126	
Index No.—Cereals			....	....	....	....	100	153	134	130
Pulses—											
Gram ..	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	Maund	4 3 9	5 4 8	5 4 8	5 4 8	100	125	125	125	
Turdal ..	Cawnpore	"	5 10 5	7 15 0	8 7 5	8 10 10	100	140	150	154	
Index No.—Pulses			....	....	....	....	100	133	138	140
Sugar—											
Sugar (refined)	Mauritius	Cwt.	9 3 0	....	....	....	100	149	135	132
Do. (do.)	Java, white	"	10 3 0	18 0 0	14 4 0	14 2 0	100	177	140	139	
Do. Raw (Gul)	Sangli or Poona	Maund	7 14 3	9 8 5	9 8 5	8 7 0	100	121	121	107	
Index No.—Sugar			....	....	....	....	100	149	131	123
Other Food—											
Tumeric	Rajapuri ..	Maund	5 9 3	7 3 4	8 15 8	9 6 2	100	129	161	168	
Ghee ..	Deshi	"	45 11 5	74 4 7	71 6 10	71 6 10	100	163	156	156	
Salt ..	Bombay (black)	"	1 7 6	1 14 0	2 4 0	2 0 0	100	128	153	136	
Index No.—Other food			....	....	....	....	100	140	157	153
Oilseeds—											
Linseed	Bold	Cwt.	8 14 6	10 10 0	9 14 0	10 2 0	100	147	139	136	
Rapeseed	Cawnpore (brown)	"	8 0 0	11 1 0	10 4 0	10 4 0	100	119	111	114	
Poppy seed	"	"	10 14 0	16 12 0	18 0 0	17 5 0	100	138	128	128	
Gingelly seed	White	"	11 4 0	15 12 0	12 15 0	12 11 0	100	154	166	159	
Index No.—Oilseeds			....	....	....	....	100	140	157	153

Textiles—Cotton—										
(a) Cotton, raw—†										
Broach ..	Fully good	Candy	251 0 0	246 0 0	435 0 0(5)	435 0 0(5)	100	111	157	173
Oomra ..	Saw-ginned	"	222 0 0	231 0 0	348 0 0	339 0 0	100	111	157	155
Dharwar ..	Machine-ginned	"	230 0 0	229 0 0	442 0 0(5)	442 0 0(5)	100	113	162	157
Khandesh ..	Do.	"	205 0 0	231 0 0	332 0 0	321 0 0	100	116	158	154
Bengal ..	Do.	"	198 0 0	229 0 0	312 0 0	305 0 0	100	113	168	166
Index No.—Cotton, raw			....	....	....	....	100	113	168	166
(b) Cotton manufactures—										
Twist ..	40 s	Lb.	0 12 9	0 15 6	1 0 3	1 0 3	100	122	127	127
Grey shirtings ..	Fair 2,000	Piece	5 15 0	8 9 0	9 10 0	9 10 0	100	144	162	162
White mulls* ..	6/600	"	4 3 0	8 14 0	8 8 0	8 8 0	100	212	203	203
Shirtings ..	Liepmann's 1,500	"	10 6 0	17 4 0	18 4 0	18 4 0	100	166	176	176
Long Cloth (3) ..	Local made 36" x 37½ yds.	Lb.	0 9 6	0 13 6	0 15 0	0 15 0	100	142	158	158
Chudders (4) ..	54" x 6 yds.	"	0 9 6	0 13 0	0 14 9	0 14 9	100	137	155	155
Index No.—Cotton manufactures			....	....	....	....	100	154	164	164
Index No.—Textile—Cotton			....	....	....	....	100	140	166	165
Other Textiles—										
Silk ..	Manchow	Lb.	5 2 6	6 0 3	6 13 2	6 2 11	100	117	132	120
Do. ..	Mathow Lari	"	2 15 1	4 8 1	3 12 3	3 12 3	100	153	128	128
Index No.—Other Textiles			....	....	....	....	100	135	130	124
Hides and Skins—										
Hides Cow	Tanned	Lb.	1 2 6	1 10 6	1 3 4	1 9 6	100	143	104	138
Do. Buffalo	Do.	"	1 1 3	0 13 11	0 14 0	0 15 8	100	81	81	91
Skins, Goat	Do.	"	1 4 0	2 8 6	2 3 4	2 7 0	100	202	179	195
Index No.—Hides and Skins			....	....	....	....	100	142	121	141
Metals—										
Copper braziers		Cwt.	60 8 0	56 12 0	61 0 0	60 12 0	100	94	101	100
Iron bars		"	4 0 0	6 12 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	100	169	150	150
Steel hoops		"	7 12 0	10 2 6	9 2 0	8 12 0	100	131	118	113
Galvanised sheets		"	9 0 0	14 1 0	12 0 0	12 0 0	100	156	133	133
Tin plates		Box	8 12 0	21 0 0	14 0 0	14 8 0	100	240	160	166
Index No.—Metals			....	....	....	....	100	158	132	132
Other raw and manufactured articles—										
Coal (2)	Bengal Imported	Ton	14 12 0	21 0 0	21 0 0	21 0 0	100	142	142	142
Do.	Elephant Brand	2 Tins	19 11 6	26 0 2	19 15 2	20 10 0	100	132	101	105
Kerosene	Chester Brand	Case	4 6 0	7 10 6	6 6 6	5 0 0	100	175	146	114
Do.		"	5 2 0	9 12 6	8 8 6	8 8 6(6)	100	191	166	166
Index No.—Other raw and manfd. articles			....	....	....	....	100	160	139	132
Index No.—Food			....	....	....	....	100	147	139	136
Index No.—Non-food			....	....	....	....	100	146	144	144
General Index No.			....	....	....	....	100	146	141	141

(1) Quotation for Sholapur quality since March 1926. (2) Since June 1925, the quotation is for Bengal, 1st Class Jheris. (3) Quotation for 37" 37½ yds. since March 1926. (4) Quotation for 50" x 6 yds. since March 1926. (5) Quotation for September 1927. (6) Quotation for December 1927.
 * In the absence of price-quotations for the grade 6/600 the price quoted for white mulls is for the grade 6,000/56 since June 1925 and for 6,000/54 since 19 October 1927.
 † Since October 1925, the price-quotations for raw cotton are for the following five varieties, viz., Broach Fully good; Oomra Fine; Dharwar, Saw-ginned, F. G.; Khandesh, Fully good; Bengal, Fully good.

WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN KARACHI*

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Article	Grade	Rate per	Prices in the month of				Index Numbers				
			July 1914	Jan. 1927	Dec. 1927	Jan. 1928	July 1914	Jan. 1927	Dec. 1927	Jan. 1928	
<i>Cereals—</i>											
Rice (1)	Larkana No. 3	Candy	39 0 0	56 4 0	66 4 0	66 4 0	100	144	170	170	
Wheat, white	5% barley, 3% dirt, 30% red	"	31 8 0	43 4 0	38 14 0	39 6 0	100	137	123	125	
" red	5% barley, 3% dirt, 92% red	"	31 4 0	39 10 0	38 14 0	39 6 0	100	137	123	125	
" white	2% barley, 14% dirt	"	32 8 0	44 8 0	40 2 0	40 10 0	100	127	123	125	
" red	2% barley, 14% dirt	"	32 4 0	40 14 0	37 4 0	35 12 0	100	127	123	125	
Jowari	Export quality	"	25 8 0	35 0 0	37 4 0	35 12 0	100	137	146	140	
Barley	3% dirt	"	26 8 0	36 0 0	33 8 0	32 8 0	100	136	126	123	
Index No.—Cereals			....	....	....	....	100	135	138	137
<i>Pulses—</i>											
Gram (2)	1% dirt	Candy	29 8 0	40 8 0	40 0 0	39 0 0	100	137	136	132	
<i>Sugar—</i>											
Sugar	Java white	Cwt.	9 2 0	17 2 0	13 12 0	13 10 0	100	188	151	149	
"	" brown	"	8 1 6	15 6 0	13 0 0	13 0 0	100	190	161	161	
Index No.—Sugar			....	....	....	....	100	189	156	155
<i>Other food—</i>											
Salt		Bengal Maund	2 2 0	1 10 6	1 10 3	1 10 6	100	78	77	78	
<i>Oilseeds—</i>											
Cotton seed		Maund	2 11 3	3 15 0	3 6 0(3)	3 6 0(3)	100	146	125	125	
Rapeseed, bold	3% admixture	Candy	51 0 0	68 0 0(3)	68 0 0(3)	68 0 0(3)	100	133	133	133	
Gingelly	Black 9% admixture	"	62 0 0	91 0 0	80 0 0	72 0 0	100	147	129	116	
Index No.—Oilseeds			....	....	....	....	100	147	129	125
<i>Textiles—</i>											
Jute bags	B. Twills	100 bags	38 4 0	53 0 0	54 4 0	50 10 0	100	139	142	142	

LABOUR GAZETTE

FEB. 1928

<i>Textiles—Cotton</i>										
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind	Maund	20 4 0	25 12 0	30 2 0(3)	36 2 0(3)	100	127	176	176
(b) Cotton manufactures										
Drills	Pepperell	Piece	10 3 6	14 6 0	15 12 0	17 0 0	100	141	154	166
Shirtings	Liepmann's	"	10 2 0	17 8 0	18 0 0	18 0 0	100	173	178	178
Index No.—Cotton manufactures			....	....	....	....	100	157	166	172
Index No.—Textiles—Cotton			....	....	....	....	100	147	170	174
<i>Other Textiles—Wool</i>	Kandahar	Maund	28 0 0	35 0 0	34 0 0	33 0 0	100	125	121	118
<i>Hides—</i>										
Hides, dry	Sind	Maund	21 4 0	14 12 0	19 0 0(5)	19 0 0(5)	100	69	89	89
"	Punjab	"	21 4 0	14 12 0	19 0 0(5)	19 0 0(5)	100	69	89	89
Index No.—Hides			....	....	....	....	100	69	89	89
<i>Metals—</i>										
Copper Braziers		Cwt.	60 8 0	58 8 0	61 0 0	61 0 0	100	97	101	101
Steel Bars		"	3 14 0	6 4 0	6 4 0	6 4 0	100	161	161	161
Plates		"	4 6 0	7 0 0	7 4 0	7 2 0	100	160	166	163
Index No.—Metals			....	....	....	....	100	139	143	142
<i>Other raw and manufactured articles—</i>										
Coal	1st class Bengal	Ton	16 0 0	22 0 0	20 8 0	19 4 0	100	138	128	120
Kerosene	Chester Brand	Case	5 2 0	9 10 0	8 6 0	8 6 0	100	188	163	163
"	Elephant	2 Tins	4 7 0	7 8 0	6 3 6	6 3 6	100	169	140	140
Index No.—Other raw and manufactured articles			....	....	....	....	100	165	144	141
Index No.—Food			....	....	....	....	100	140	135	134
Index No.—Non-food			100	137	137	136
General Index No.			100	138	136	135

LABOUR GAZETTE

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* Yarn (40 Grey, Plough) has been omitted from the index on want of quotation. (1) Quotation for Suldkur white, since August 1926. (2) Quotation for 3 per cent. mutual since April 1924. (3) Quotation for September 1927. (4) Quotation for October 1927. (5) Quotation for November 1927.

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WHOLESALE PRICES INDEX NUMBERS IN BOMBAY BY GROUPS
Prices in July 1914 = 100

Month	Cereals	Pulses	Sugar	Other food	Index No. food	Oilseeds	Raw cotton	Cotton manufactures	Other textiles	Hides and skins	Metals	Other raw and manufactured articles	Index No. non-food	General Index No.
1925 January	153	102	174	267	173	143	210	216	168	118	165	159	172	173
1926 January	147	119	148	172	149	127	154	186	149	155	151	158	157	154
February	143	117	148	158	143	129	150	186	147	153	152	153	156	151
March	148	117	146	152	144	127	144	186	145	147	151	153	154	151
April	144	119	150	156	144	131	138	183	143	171	151	150	155	151
May	149	123	156	153	148	137	138	182	143	155	151	146	152	151
June	150	128	152	148	146	142	141	182	131	144	149	147	151	150
July	146	128	144	148	143	140	144	180	130	147	150	148	152	149
August	148	133	146	146	145	134	149	178	130	128	147	148	149	148
September	150	130	156	148	148	140	149	173	133	134	147	151	150	149
October	145	129	144	146	143	132	149	165	134	147	148	152	149	147
November	144	133	152	146	144	131	118	157	131	144	150	160	147	146
December	143	131	156	144	143	133	109	156	132	150	161	158	147	146
1927 January	149	133	149	140	147	138	113	154	135	142	158	160	146	146
February	149	137	139	150	146	143	125	165	135	135	158	159	149	148
March	148	133	135	149	144	144	132	163	134	137	156	161	149	148
April	144	125	134	150	141	143	128	161	136	142	149	156	147	148
May	143	127	132	155	143	145	142	162	142	148	147	159	150	148
June	143	130	129	164	143	145	149	161	149	137	142	156	149	147
July	139	129	130	162	141	143	154	163	142	139	136	159	149	147
August	142	131	132	161	143	143	159	167	138	142	135	156	150	148
September	135	125	133	165	140	141	183	149	141	144	133	149	148	148
October	136	135	132	162	141	136	179	172	141	140	133	153	152	148
November	140	139	138	155	143	131	172	166	131	115	134	141	148	146
December	134	138	131	157	139	130	168	164	130	121	132	140	145	144
1928 January	130	140	153	153	136	129	166	164	124	141	132	152	144	141

COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS FOR INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Name of country	India (Bombay)	United Kingdom	Canada	Australia	Italy (Rome)	Belgium	Norway	Switzerland	U.S.A. (New York)
Items included in the index	Food, fuel, clothing, light and miscellaneous	Food, fuel, clothing, light and miscellaneous	Food, fuel, clothing, light and miscellaneous	Food and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, fuel, light, and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, fuel, light, and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, fuel, light, and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, fuel, light, and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, fuel, light, and miscellaneous
1914 July	100	100	100	(a) 100(f)	(b) 100	(b) 100	(c) 100	100	100(j)
1915 July	104	125	97	119	(f) 108	99	117	117	103
1916 July	108	148	102	115	117	116	116	146	106
1917 July	118	180	130	116	128	146	190	190	114
1918 July	149	203	146	118	144	197	253	204(a)	118
1919 July	186	208	155	132	157	205	222	222	126
1920 July	190	252	190	154	182	313	453	307	155
1921 July	177	219	152	152	178	387	379	294	133
1922 July	165	184	147	140	159	429	366	251	164
1923 July	153	169	146	151	158	(h) 487	429	238	(i) 135
1924 July	157	170	144	149	160	512	493	169	132
1925 July	157	173	146	153	163	508	509	168	131
1926 July	157	170	150	(a) 161	(f) 163	449	637	180	(p) 130
September	155	172	149	158	163	457	624	161	(q) 405
October	155	174	148	157	163	672	705	161	131
November	154	179	150	157	163	657	730	161	131
December	156	179	151	157	163	657	741	161	129
1927 January	156	175	152	157	163	655	755	210	130
February	155	172	151	156	162	667	770	208	130
March	155	171	150	156	162	663	771	203	131
April	153	165	148	155	161	651	774	201	131
May	152	164	148	155	161	612	776	201	132
June	154	163	148	155	161	586	785	201	132
July	156	166	149	155	161	548	793	203	132
August	157	164	149	155	161	543	787	203	131
September	154	165	149	155	161	537	794	197	131
October	151	167	149	155	161	536	804	196	132
November	150	169	150	155	161	531	809	195	132
December	151	169	150	155	161	531	812	195	132
1928 January	154	168	150	155	161	531	812	195	132
February	148	168	150	155	161	531	812	195	132

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

INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Country	India (Bombay)	Japan	China (Shanghai)	Java (Batavia)	Australia	Egypt (Cairo)	United Kingdom (1)	Denmark	Holland	Norway	Sweden	Canada (2)	United States of America (3)
No. of articles	44	56	147	92	92	26	150	45	48	100	47	236	404
1913 Average	100	100	(d) 100	100	100	100	100	100	100	(a) 100	(f) 100	100	100
1914	100	96	100	100	106	(c) 103	102	102	109	(c) 115	(f) 116	102	98
1915	117	117	100	100	147	103	140	140	146	159	145	110	101
1916	149	149	100	100	138	128	188	188	224	233	185	127	127
1917	230	230	100	100	153	176	262	262	276	341	244	179	177
1918	223	223	100	100	178	211	339	339	373	345	339	199	194
1919	216	216	100	100	189	231	356	356	304	322	331	209	206
1920	198	198	152	152	228	316	307	307	292	(c) 377	298	244	226
1921	187	187	146	146	175	173	197	197	182	182	211	172	147
1922	181	181	156	156	162	146	159	159	160	160	233	152	149
1923	182	182	173	173	143	166	166	166	151	151	233	153	154
1924	163	163	159	159	170	152	159	159	155	155	269	155	150
1925	149	149	164	164	168	132	148	148	145	145	196	144	144
1926	150	150	164	164	171	134	144	144	145	145	204	145	151
March	151	151	163	160	176	132	144	144	143	143	198	145	151
April	151	151	160	158	175	128	145	145	143	143	196	145	152
May	150	150	157	157	171	129	146	146	143	143	196	145	152
June	149	149	155	156	169	129	149	149	141	141	196	143	156
July	148	148	161	155	170	129	149	149	139	139	196	143	151
August	148	148	164	156	166	129	151	151	146	146	197	142	149
September	149	149	171	158	162	129	152	152	143	143	188	142	151
October	147	147	171	158	162	130	152	152	147	147	182	142	148
November	146	146	172	157	163	130	152	152	147	147	182	142	150
December	146	146	170	156	162	130	146	146	145	145	170	140	147
1927	146	146	173	156	162	126	144	144	143	143	177	141	147
January	148	148	171	156	160	124	143	143	144	144	165	140	145
February	148	148	172	154	157	124	141	141	144	144	160	139	146
March	148	148	171	154	160	124	141	141	143	143	159	138	149
April	(b) 145	145	173	154	160	124	141	141	145	145	160	139	152
May	148	148	173	155	163	123	142	142	145	145	159	138	144
June	147	147	169	155	163	123	142	142	145	145	159	139	152
July	147	147	171	153	169	118	141	141	151	151	160	141	144
August	148	148	171	153	169	117	141	141	149	149	161	141	152
September	148	148	172	153	173	117	141	141	149	149	161	141	145
October	146	146	169	152	178	120	142	142	150	150	158	145	147
November	144	144	169	151	174	115	141	141	150	150	157	143	149
December	143	143	164	151	174	115	141	141	151	151	143	143	150
1928	141	141	164	151	174	115	140	140	151	151	143	143	151

1913 = 100. (a) Average for half year ended June 1914 = 100. (b) Revised figures. (c) The figures from 1914-1920 are for December. (d) February 1913 = 100. (e) Average January 1911 = 100. (f) Board of Trade. (g) Dominion Bureau of Statistics. (h) Bureau of Labor Statistics. (i) Average for year ended June 1914 = 100.

RETAIL FOOD INDEX NUMBERS FOR INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Name of country	India	United Kingdom	Canada	South Africa	Australia	New Zealand	United States of America	France (b)	Italy	Denmark	Finland	Holland	Norway	Sweden (c)	Denmark	Switzerland
No. of articles	17	20	27	18	45	59	43	13	9	..	37	27	..	51	..	..
No. of stations	Bombay	630	60	9	30	25	51	Paris	Rome	59	..	Amsterdam	30	49	100	33
1914 July	100	100	100	(a) 100	100	100	100	100	(c) 100	(d) ..	100	(e) 100	100	100	100	(f) 100
1915	105	132	105	107	131	112	98	122	95	..	..	142	160	124	128	..
1916	105	161	114	116	130	119	109	132	111	..	..	176	279	142	146	..
1917	114	204	157	128	126	127	143	183	137	..	..	210	289	181	166	..
1918	142	210	175	134	131	139	164	206	203	..	..	210	289	268	187	..
1919	187	209	186	139	147	144	186	261	206	..	..	211	319	310	212	..
1920	188	258	227	197	194	167	215	373	318	..	982	211	319	297	253	211
1921	174	220	148	139	161	164	145	306	402	100	1,278	180	295	232	236	157
1922	160	180	138	116	148	144	139	297	459	87	1,105	140	233	179	188	166
1923	148	162	137	116	164	144	144	321	496	105	968	136	218	160	200	170
1924	151	162	134	117	149	148	140	360	(f) 508	124	1,016	138	248	159	210	169
1925	152	167	141	120	156	154	156	421	602	133	1,107	152	260	169	159	159
1926	155	161	149	116	159	149	154	574	654	185	1,067	168	198	156	158	157
August	153	161	150	117	159	149	152	587	660	193	1,116	164	196	156	160	158
September	152	162	147	117	155	148	155	590	652	186	1,110	164	193	157	159	157
October	153	163	147	120	153	147	157	624	654	197	1,091	164	191	157	159	157
November	152	169	148	119	155	146	158	628	630	206	1,081	164	186	158	159	158
December	154	169	151	117	158	149	158	599	631	208	1,081	164	184	157	156	157
1927	155	167	153	116	158	148	156	592	625	208	1,063	166	180	156	157	156
January	152	164	151	117	153	146	153	585	642	212	1,064	168	177	153	156	156
February	152	162	149	118	151	146	150	581	635	205	1,055	173	175	151	156	156
March	151	155	146	119	151	145	151	580	617	204	1,034	168	169	151	152	156
April	150	154	145	121	152	145	152	589	565	201	1,021	162	169	150	157	157
May	151	154	146	120	153	145	151	580	541	207	1,035	172	172	151	157	157
June	154	159	147	119	152	144	149	557	524	210	1,065	172	175	151	157	157
July	155	156	147	118	155	144	149	539	518	204	1,121	160	175	152	159	159
August	151	157	146	117	157	143	151	532	509	207	1,109	160	174	156	159	159
September	148	161	148	119	159	143	153	520	509	210	1,120	165	173	155	161	161
October	147	163	149	119	157	144	153	500	510	211	..	165	171	155	..	..
November	149	163	149	119	157	144	153	523	513	..	..	..	171	154	..	..
December	143	163	149	119	155	146	155	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1928	141	162	149	119	155	146	155	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
January	141	162	149	119	155	146	155	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
February	146	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(a) Average for the year 1914. (b) includes fuel and lighting. (c) January to June 1914. (d) 1921 = 100. (e) Figure for June. (f) The figures for Italy from July 1923 are for Milan. (g) Figure for August. (h) June 1914 = 100. (i) Revised figures. (j) The figures from January 1926 are for the Hague (base, January to July 1914 = 100).

RETAIL PRICES OF ARTICLES OF FOOD IN DECEMBER 1927 AND JANUARY 1928*

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

Articles	Price per	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Singapur	Poona	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Singapur	Poona
		December 1927	December 1927	December 1927	December 1927	December 1927	January 1928	January 1928	January 1928	January 1928	January 1928
<i>Cereals—</i>											
Rice	Maund	7 3 10 <i>129</i>	8 0 0 <i>120</i>	8 0 0 <i>130</i>	8 6 9 <i>159</i>	8 5 4 <i>145</i>	7 3 10 <i>129</i>	8 0 0 <i>120</i>	7 14 5 <i>128</i>	8 6 0 <i>139</i>	7 11 3 <i>133</i>
Wheat	"	7 6 3 <i>132</i>	5 11 5 <i>136</i>	6 2 6 <i>131</i>	6 9 2 <i>127</i>	8 0 0 <i>149</i>	7 6 3 <i>132</i>	5 11 5 <i>136</i>	6 2 6 <i>131</i>	0 9 2 <i>127</i>	7 10 2 <i>142</i>
Jowari	"	5 7 1 <i>125</i>	4 7 1 <i>122</i>	4 4 3 <i>112</i>	3 11 9 <i>130</i>	4 6 5 <i>128</i>	5 9 10 <i>129</i>	4 9 8 <i>127</i>	4 0 10 <i>106</i>	3 11 9 <i>130</i>	4 1 10 <i>130</i>
Bajri	"	5 2 1 <i>119</i>	4 11 4 <i>112</i>	5 0 0 <i>106</i>	3 6 8 <i>97</i>	4 9 3 <i>112</i>	5 2 1 <i>119</i>	4 13 7 <i>115</i>	5 0 0 <i>106</i>	3 7 2 <i>96</i>	4 0 9 <i>108</i>
<i>Index No.—Cereals</i>		<i>126</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>116</i>	<i>129</i>	<i>126</i>
<i>Pulses—</i>											
Gram	Maund	7 9 0 <i>176</i>	5 11 5 <i>150</i>	5 0 0 <i>125</i>	5 8 9 <i>129</i>	5 7 1 <i>112</i>	7 9 0 <i>176</i>	5 10 7 <i>149</i>	5 0 0 <i>125</i>	5 10 2 <i>130</i>	5 8 11 <i>144</i>
Turdal	"	10 4 1 <i>175</i>	10 0 0 <i>150</i>	8 14 3 <i>144</i>	8 10 0 <i>148</i>	11 3 8 <i>136</i>	10 4 1 <i>175</i>	9 8 7 <i>141</i>	8 14 3 <i>144</i>	9 4 5 <i>139</i>	11 7 6 <i>174</i>
<i>Index No.—Pulses</i>		<i>176</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>141</i>	<i>176</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>144</i>

<i>Other articles of food—</i>											
Sugar (refined)	Maund	12 11 2 <i>167</i>	10 10 8 <i>147</i>	12 4 11 <i>154</i>	13 4 11 <i>129</i>	12 0 6 <i>129</i>	12 11 7 <i>150</i>	10 13 7 <i>140</i>	12 4 11 <i>150</i>	12 4 11 <i>139</i>	11 3 8 <i>126</i>
Jasri (gul)	"	13 7 2 <i>157</i>	9 6 7 <i>135</i>	11 6 10 <i>129</i>	8 6 9 <i>100</i>	10 1 0 <i>141</i>	12 11 7 <i>150</i>	9 6 7 <i>135</i>	11 0 7 <i>130</i>	8 10 5 <i>111</i>	8 5 9 <i>120</i>
Tea	Lb.	0 14 10 <i>190</i>	0 15 7 <i>225</i>	0 15 7 <i>208</i>	1 1 10 <i>171</i>	1 0 5 <i>168</i>	0 14 10 <i>190</i>	0 15 7 <i>225</i>	0 15 7 <i>208</i>	1 1 10 <i>171</i>	1 0 5 <i>200</i>
Salt	Maund	2 12 9 <i>131</i>	2 0 0 <i>152</i>	2 4 7 <i>151</i>	3 8 2 <i>150</i>	3 1 7 <i>165</i>	2 12 9 <i>131</i>	2 0 0 <i>152</i>	2 4 7 <i>151</i>	3 8 2 <i>158</i>	3 1 7 <i>165</i>
Beef	Seer	0 11 3 <i>188</i>	0 9 0 <i>180</i>	0 6 0 <i>160</i>	0 4 0 <i>160</i>	0 6 0 <i>141</i>	0 11 3 <i>210</i>	0 9 0 <i>180</i>	0 6 0 <i>160</i>	0 4 6 <i>180</i>	0 7 0 <i>165</i>
Mutton	"	0 12 4 <i>185</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 8 0 <i>133</i>	0 9 0 <i>150</i>	0 12 4 <i>165</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 8 0 <i>133</i>	0 9 0 <i>150</i>
Milk	Maund	17 9 4 <i>191</i>	8 6 9 <i>190</i>	8 0 0 <i>160</i>	11 6 10 <i>157</i>	13 5 4 <i>133</i>	17 9 4 <i>191</i>	8 0 0 <i>180</i>	7 4 4 <i>145</i>	11 6 10 <i>157</i>	13 5 4 <i>133</i>
Ghee	"	88 14 3 <i>175</i>	74 6 8 <i>174</i>	72 11 8 <i>164</i>	80 0 0 <i>162</i>	74 6 8 <i>164</i>	86 7 9 <i>170</i>	71 1 9 <i>167</i>	69 9 0 <i>157</i>	80 0 0 <i>142</i>	66 10 8 <i>129</i>
Potatoes	"	7 2 3 <i>139</i>	5 0 0 <i>92</i>	4 11 8 <i>111</i>	5 11 5 <i>143</i>	5 12 11 <i>172</i>	7 2 3 <i>139</i>	4 5 8 <i>86</i>	5 11 5 <i>130</i>	5 11 5 <i>163</i>	4 7 10 <i>133</i>
Onions	"	3 9 2 <i>230</i>	4 0 0 <i>220</i>	2 0 0 <i>125</i>	2 13 9 <i>114</i>	2 1 8 <i>108</i>	3 9 2 <i>230</i>	3 10 6 <i>234</i>	2 8 0 <i>125</i>	2 17 9 <i>114</i>	2 1 8 <i>105</i>
Coconut oil	"	28 9 1 <i>112</i>	25 9 7 <i>104</i>	26 10 8 <i>133</i>	32 0 0 <i>120</i>	30 7 7 <i>109</i>	28 9 1 <i>112</i>	27 9 9 <i>111</i>	26 10 8 <i>133</i>	32 0 0 <i>120</i>	30 7 7 <i>109</i>
<i>Index No.—Other articles of food</i>		<i>174</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>151</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>173</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>141</i>	<i>139</i>
<i>Index No.—All food articles (unweighted)</i>		<i>163</i>	<i>152</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>136</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>163</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>136</i>

* The sources of the price-quotations used in this table are the Monthly Returns of Average Retail Prices Current supplied by the Director of Agriculture, Poona