

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS IN BOMBAY
BY GROUPS

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Months	Cereals	Pulses	Cereals and pulses	Other articles of food	All food	Fuel and light	Clothing	Housing	General living
1925									
July	136	119	134	183	152	165	192	172	152
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	152
November	129	132	129	182	149	165	185	172	152
December	132	137	133	183	151	165	176	172	152
1926									
January	132	140	133	183	151	165	173	172	152
February	132	136	132	181	150	165	172	172	152
March	132	136	133	182	151	165	174	172	154
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	153
July	134	145	135	187	155	164	160	172	152
August	135	141	136	181	153	164	160	172	152
September	135	145	136	179	152	164	160	172	152
October	135	150	136	180	153	164	159	172	152
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
February	127	152	129	174	146	144	153	172	148
March	123	145	126	171	142	144	151	172	145
April	121	147	124	168	140	145	153	172	144
May	123	153	126	175	144	145	155	172	147
June	122	142	124	172	142	158	156	172	146
July	120	144	123	177	143	158	158	172	147

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Vol. VIII

BOMBAY, AUGUST, 1928

No. 12

The Month in Brief

STRIKE IN COTTON MILLS

The strike in the Bombay cotton mills continues. The Government of Bombay called a conference of representatives of the Millowners' Association and the Joint Strike Committee with a view to referring the matters in dispute to an independent committee for enquiry and report. Sir Ghulam Husain Hidayatullah, General Member, presided, but after sitting for two days (August 15th and 16th) the conference broke up without reaching a decision as the men's leaders were unable to agree to calling off the strike pending the decision of a Committee of Enquiry while the Millowners regarded this as a condition precedent to any enquiry by a Committee.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE TEXTILE AND ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES

In the textile industry except in Bombay City where the General Strike was in progress, the supply of labour was equal to the demand during the month of July 1928. The average absenteeism was 7.49 per cent. for Ahmedabad, 1.75 per cent. for Viramgaum and 6.71 per cent. for Broach.

In the engineering industry in Bombay City the supply of both skilled and unskilled labour was adequate. Absenteeism was 11.12 per cent. in the engineering workshops, 5 per cent. in the Marine Lines Reclamation of the Development Directorate, 17 per cent. in the Bombay Port Trust Docks and 7.10 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 5.80.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBER

In August 1928, the Bombay Working Class Cost of Living Index Number was 146 as against 147 in the preceding month. The Index Number for food articles only was 142.

INDEX NUMBER OF WHOLESALE PRICES

The Wholesale Prices Index Number in Bombay for July was 147.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

There were six industrial disputes in the month of July 1928. The number of workpeople involved was 170,780 and the number of working days lost 4,141,454.

BALANCE OF TRADE

During July 1928, the visible balance of trade, including securities, in favour of India amounted to Rs. 474 lakhs.

The Cost of Living Index for August 1928

AUG. 1928

A FALL OF ONE POINT

Increase over July 1914 .. { All articles .. 46 per cent.
.. { Food only .. 42 per cent.

In August 1928,* the average level of retail prices for all the commodities taken into account in the statistics of a cost of living index for the working classes in Bombay City was one point lower than in the preceding month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the general index number was 147 in July and 146 in August 1928. The general index number was 147 in July and 146 in August 1928. The general index number was 8 points lower than the twelve-monthly average for the year 1927.

As compared with July 1928, the index number for all food articles declined by 1 point to 142. The index number for Cereals fell by one point due to a decrease of 3 points in rice having been partially counterbalanced by a rise of one point in wheat and of 2 points each in jowari and bajri. Turdal went up by one point but the price of gram showed no change. The combined average for all food-grains stood at 121 as against 123 in the previous month. Among other food articles, there was a rise of 7 points in raw sugar (gul) but refined sugar was cheaper by 15 points. Mutton and salt advanced by 3 and 4 points respectively while ghee registered a decrease of 9 points. The index number for the "Other food" group was 176 as against 177 in the preceding month.

The "Fuel and lighting" index number remained stationary at 158. The index number for the "Clothing" group advanced by one point to 159 due 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 ..	69	73	56	59	57	55	56	54
February ..	62	65	55	56	57	55	56	48
March ..	60	65	54	54	59	55	55	45
April ..	60	62	56	50	58	53	53	44
May ..	67	63	53	50	56	53	52	47
June ..	73	63	52	53	54	55	54	46
July ..	77	65	53	57	57	55	56	46
August ..	80	64	54	61	52	55	57	46
September ..	85	65	54	61	52	55	57	46
October ..	83	62	52	61	51	55	54	46
November ..	82	60	53	61	53	55	51	46
December ..	79	61	57	60	55	54	50	46
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 July 16 and August 15.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX—AUGUST

1027

Articles	Unit of quantity	Annual consumption (in units)	Price per Unit of Quantity			Price x Mass Unit		
			July 1914	July 1928	August 1928	July 1914	July 1928	August 1928
Cereals—								
Rice ..	Maund	70	Rs. 5.594	6.865	6.698	391.58	480.55	468.86
Wheat ..	"	21	5.594	6.583	6.667	117.47	138.24	140.01
Jowari ..	"	11	4.354	4.738	4.833	47.89	52.25	53.16
Bajri ..	"	6	4.313	4.146	5.229	25.88	25.25	31.37
Total—Cereals ..						582.82	701.81	693.40
Index Numbers—Cereals ..						100	120	119
Pulses—								
Gram ..	Maund	10	4.802	4.790	4.700	48.02	47.90	47.00
Turdal ..	"	3	7.044	8.172	8.200	21.13	24.52	24.75
Total—Pulses ..						69.15	72.42	71.75
Index Numbers—Pulses ..						100	105	104
Other food articles—								
Sugar (refined) ..	Maund	2	7.620	14.287	13.094	15.24	28.57	26.19
Raw Sugar (Gul) ..	"	2	4.577	12.300	13.094	9.15	24.60	27.19
Tea ..	"	5	40.000	77.776	77.776	200.00	388.88	388.88
Salt ..	"	5	2.130	3.313	3.412	10.65	16.56	17.06
Beef ..	Seer	20	8.325	0.510	0.510	166.50	10.20	10.20
Mutton ..	"	14	0.412	0.781	0.792	5.77	11.03	11.09
Milk ..	Maund	14	1.196	17.583	17.583	16.74	246.36	246.36
Ghee ..	"	11	20.792	95.833	91.667	228.73	1048.43	1008.33
Potatoes ..	"	11	4.079	7.740	7.740	44.87	85.14	85.14
Onions ..	"	3	1.512	3.573	3.573	4.54	10.72	12.73
Cocunut Oil ..	"	4	23.290	27.974	27.974	93.28	111.89	111.89
Total—Other food articles ..						381.18	616.38	616.38
Index Numbers—Other food articles ..						100	162	162
Total—All food articles ..						1,024.55	1,480.23	1,480.23
Index Numbers—All food articles ..						100	144	144
Fuel and lighting—								
Kerosene oil ..	Case	5	4.375	6.688	6.688	21.88	33.44	33.44
Firewood ..	Maund	1	0.292	1.281	1.281	38.02	61.49	61.49
Coal ..	"	1	0.542	0.771	0.771	0.54	0.77	0.77
Total—Fuel and lighting ..						60.44	95.70	95.70
Index Numbers—Fuel and lighting ..						100	158	158
Clothing—								
Chudders ..	Lb.	27	0.594	0.938	0.938	16.04	25.33	25.33
Shirts ..	"	25	0.641	1.042	1.042	16.03	26.05	26.05
T. Cloths ..	"	36	0.583	0.906	0.922	20.99	32.62	33.19
Total—Clothing ..						53.06	84.00	84.57
Index Numbers—Clothing ..						100	158	159
House-rent ..	Per month	10	11.302	19.440	19.440	113.02	194.40	194.40
Index Numbers—House-rent ..						100	172	172
Grand Total ..						1,251.07	1,837.43	1,826.18
Cost of Living Index Numbers ..						100	147	146

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

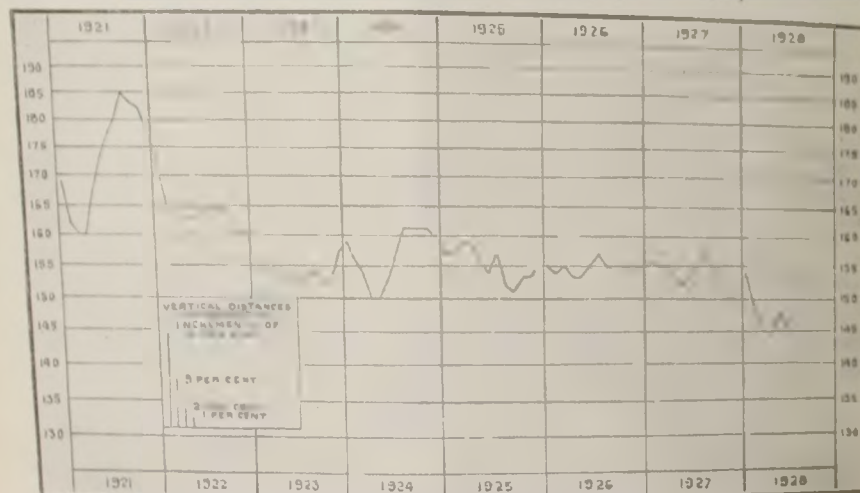
Articles	July 1914	July 1928	August 1928	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in August 1928 over or below July 1928	Articles	July 1914	July 1928	August 1928	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in August 1928 over or below July 1928
Rice	100	123	120	- 3	Salt	100	156	160	+ 4
Wheat	100	118	119	+ 1	Beef	100	158	158	..
Jowari	100	109	111	+ 2	Mutton	100	187	190	+ 3
Bajri	100	119	121	+ 2	Milk	100	191	191	..
Gram	100	145	145	..	Ghee	100	189	180	- 9
Turdal	100	140	141	+ 1	Potatoes	100	173	173	..
Sugar (refined)..	100	187	172	-15	Onions	100	230	230	..
Raw sugar (gul).	100	146	153	+ 7	Cocconut oil ..	100	110	110	..
Tea	100	194	194	..	All food articles (weighted average)..	100	143	142	- 1

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

Rice 17, Wheat 16, Jowari 10, Bajri 17, Gram 31, Turdal 29, Sugar (refined) 42, Raw Sugar (gul) 35, Tea 48, Salt 37, Beef 37, Mutton 47, Milk 48, Ghee 44, Potatoes 42, Onions 57 and Cocconut Oil 9.

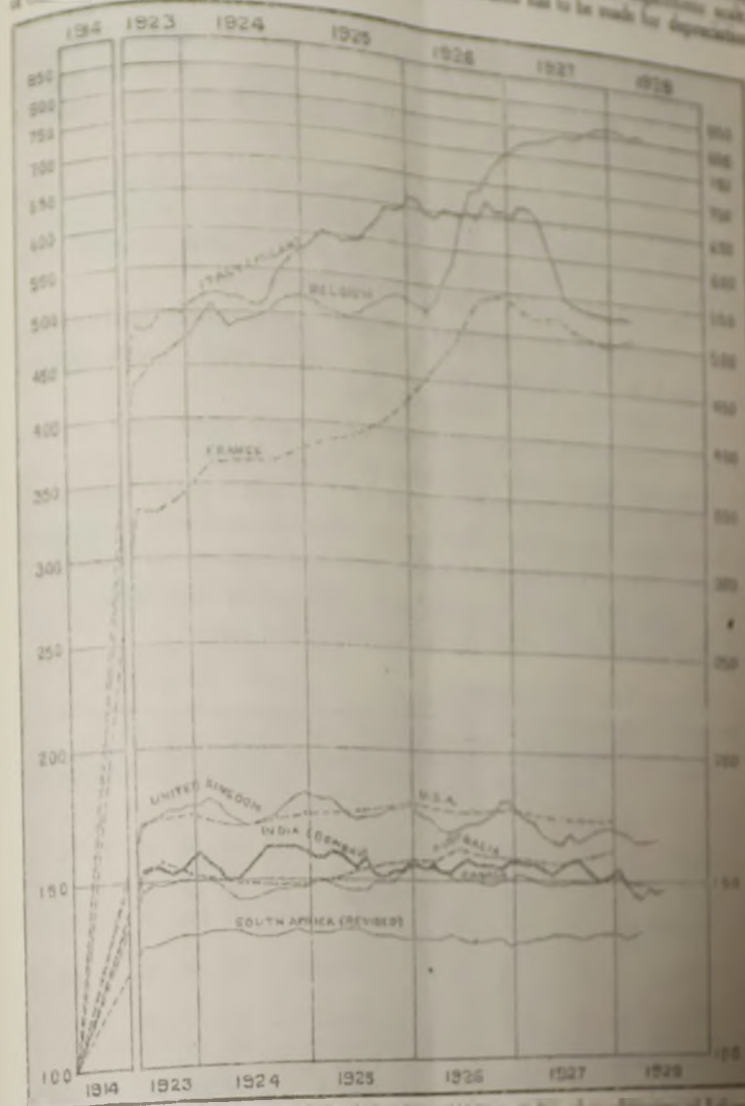
The purchasing power of the rupee being taken as 16 annas in July 1914 its purchasing power in the month under review was 11 annas for all items and 11 annas 3 pies for food articles only.

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



Comparison with the Cost of Living in Other Countries

The diagram on this page shows the comparative levels of the cost of living index No. in Bombay and various other world centres from the month of July 1914 to the month of August 1928. 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 No. (1) United Kingdom—Bureau of Labour Gazette, (2) New Zealand—Census and Statistics Office, Wellington by United Kingdom, (3) Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics, (4) U.S.A.—Monthly Bulletin, Department of Labor, Washington, (5) Canada—The Labour Gazette, published by the Department of Labour, Ottawa, (6) Australia—Monthly Bulletin of Statistics published by the Department of Labour, Canberra, (7) South Africa—Monthly Bulletin of Statistics published by the Department of Labour, Pretoria. In the case of the index No. in for Milan. The index figure is for Bombay only. The index figure for other 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, Belgium, Norway, Switzerland, South Africa, France (Paris) and the United States. The Labour Office also maintains a register wherein the index figures for all countries for whom figures are available are recorded.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

1. WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY*

Increase over July 1914 .. 47 per cent.

In July 1928, the index number of wholesale prices in Bombay was 147 as against 149 in the previous month. As compared with June 1928, there was a fall of 7 points in the food group but the non-food group showed no change. The general index number was 116 points below the highest peak (263) reached in August 1918 and on a par with the twelve-monthly average for the year 1927.

As compared with the previous month, the index number for food grains declined by 5 points to 129. With the exception of barley, which remained stationary, all the other cereals declined in price. Gram recorded a rise of 5 points but turdal fell by 9 points during the month.

There was a fall of 23 points in the "Sugar" group mainly due to a heavy fall in the price of refined sugar. The "Other food" index declined by 1 point owing to a fall of 3 points in ghee.

Under the non-food group, there was a fall of one point each in Hides and skins and Metals and of 6 points in Other textiles. Oilseeds, Raw Cotton and Cotton manufactures rose by 1, 2 and 3 points respectively while the index number for Other raw and manufactured articles remained the same. The index number for the "non-food" group stood at 149.

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

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay † 100 = Average of 1927

Groups	No. of items	+ or - % compared with June 1928	+ or - % compared with July 1927	Groups	July 1927	Oct 1927	Jan 1928	Apr 1928	June 1928	July 1928
1. Cereals ..	7	- 4	- 6	1. Cereals ..	98	96	92	92	96	92
2. Pulses ..	2	- 2	- 4	2. Pulses ..	98	102	106	102	95	94
3. Sugar ..	3	-15	- 1	3. Sugar ..	96	98	91	94	113	96
4. Other food ..	3	- 1	+21	4. Other food ..	104	104	98	104	126	126
All food ..	15	- 5	+ 1	All food ..	99	99	95	96	105	100
5. Oilseeds ..	4	+ 1	- 8	5. Oilseeds ..	102	97	92	91	93	94
6. Raw cotton ..	5	+ 1	+10	6. Raw cotton ..	103	119	111	105	111	113
7. Cotton manufactures	6	+ 2	+ 6	7. Cotton manufactures	99	102	100	99	103	105
8. Other textiles	2	- 5	-13	8. Other textiles	104	96	91	92	94	90
9. Hides and skins	3	- 1	+ 5	9. Hides & skins	101	105	103	112	107	107
10. Metals	5	- 1	+ 1	10. Metals	95	93	92	93	97	96
11. Other raw and manufactured articles	4	---	-12	11. Other raw and manufactured articles	104	92	86	86	92	92
All non-food ..	29	---	---	All non-food ..	101	100	97	97	101	101
General Index No.	44	- 1	---	General Index No.	100	99	96	97	101	100

* Actual prices will be found on pages 1126-1127. † Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on pages 1128-1129.

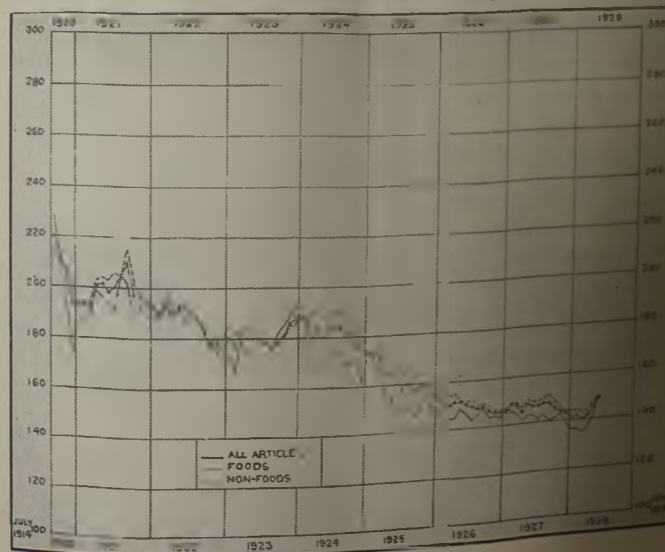
The following table is intended to show the annual movements in food, non-food and general wholesale prices:—

July 1914 = 100

	Food Index No.	Non-food Index No.	General Index No.
Twelve-monthly average for 1918 ..	171	275	239
" " 1919 ..	202	234	223
" " 1920 ..	206	219	216
" " 1921 ..	193	201	198
" " 1922 ..	186	187	187
" " 1923 ..	179	182	181
" " 1924 ..	173	188	182
" " 1925 ..	155	167	163
" " 1926 ..	145	152	149
" " 1927 ..	143	148	147
Seven-monthly " 1928 ..	140	146	144

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

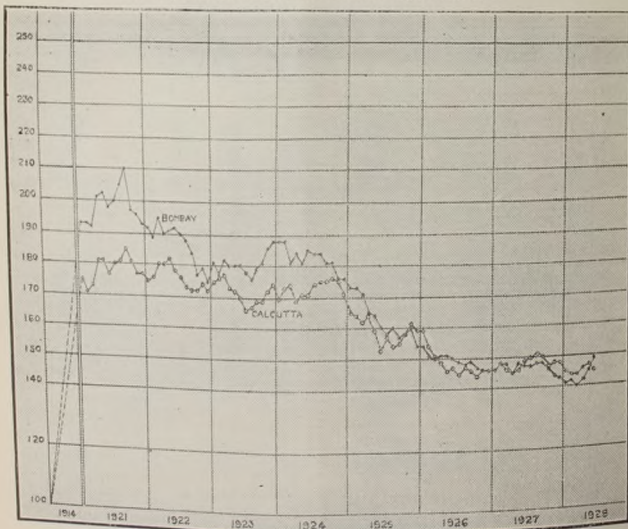


COMPARISON BETWEEN THE INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA

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.

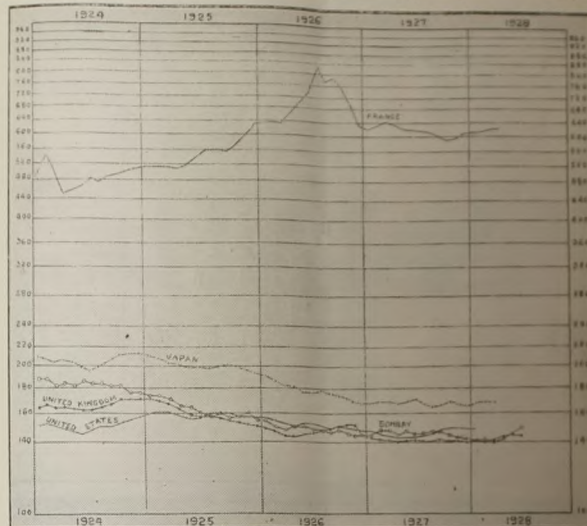
The items included in the indices are 44 for Bombay and 71 for Calcutta. The groups included in the Calcutta index but excluded from that for Bombay are tea (3 items), oil (2 items), jute-raw (3 items), jute manufactures (4 items) and building materials (1 item). There are no groups included in the Bombay 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 except in June 1928.

The diagram is on an arithmetic and not a logarithmic scale



COMPARISON WITH WHOLESALE PRICES INDEX NUMBERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

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



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

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

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

2. RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN BOMBAY

Article	Grade	Rate per	Equiva- lent in tolas	July 1914		June 1928		July 1928		Increase (+) or decrease (-) in July 1928 over or below
				July 1914		June 1928		July 1928		
				As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill.*	Paylee	204	5 10	7 1	7 0	+1 2	-0 1		
Wheat	Pissi Seoni**	"	200	4 3	4 9	4 9	+0 6	"		
Jowari	Best Sholapuri	"	204	4 7	5 3	5 3	+0 8	"		
Bajri	Ghati	"	192	4 4	5 10	6 0	+1 8	+0 2		
Gram	Delhi*	"	204	5 11	8 6	8 4	+2 5	-0 2		
Turdal	Cawnpore	"	28	1 1	1 10	2 0	+0 11	+0 2		
Sugar (refined)	Java, white	Seer	28	1 2	1 8	1 9	+0 7	+0 1		
Raw Sugar (Gul.)	Sangli, middle quality	"	39	7 10	15 4	15 2	+7 4	-0 2		
Tea	Loose Ceylon, powder	"	176	1 9	2 11	2 11	+1 2	"		
Salt	Bombay, black	Lb.	39	2 6	4 0	4 0	+1 6	"		
Beef	"	"	39	3 0	6 4	6 1	+3 1	-0 3		
Mutton	"	"	56	2 9	4 11	4 11	+2 2	"		
Milk	Medium	Seer	28	7 1	13 4	13 5	+6 4	+0 1		
Ghee	Belgaum, Superior	"	28	0 8	0 11	1 1	+0 5	+0 2		
Potatoes	Ordinary	"	28	0 3	0 6	0 6	+0 3	"		
Onions	Nasik	"	28	3 7	4 0	3 11	+0 4	-0 1		
Cocconut oil	Middle quality	"	28	3 7	4 0	3 11	+0 4	-0 1		

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. 7. Fergusson Road.
 2. Kumbharwada—Kumbharwada Road (North End). 8. DeLisle Road.
 3. Sattan Chowki—Kumbharwada Road (South End). 9. Superibag—Superibag Road.
 4. Elphinstone Road. 10. Chinchpokli—Parel Road.
 5. Naigam—Naigam Cross Road and Development Chawls. 11. Grant Road.
 6. Parel—Parel 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 July 1928 as compared with the preceding month were within narrow limits. Under food grains, rice declined by 1 pie per paylee, wheat and turdal recorded a fall of 2 pies each per paylee while gram advanced by 2 pies per paylee. The price of jowari and bajri showed no change. Among other articles of food, sugar (refined) and potatoes advanced by 2 pies each per seer; and gul and ghee rose by 1 pie each per seer. Cocconut oil declined by 1 pie per seer and tea and mutton by 2 and 3 pies respectively per lb. The price of the remaining articles was practically stationary during the month under review.

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

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

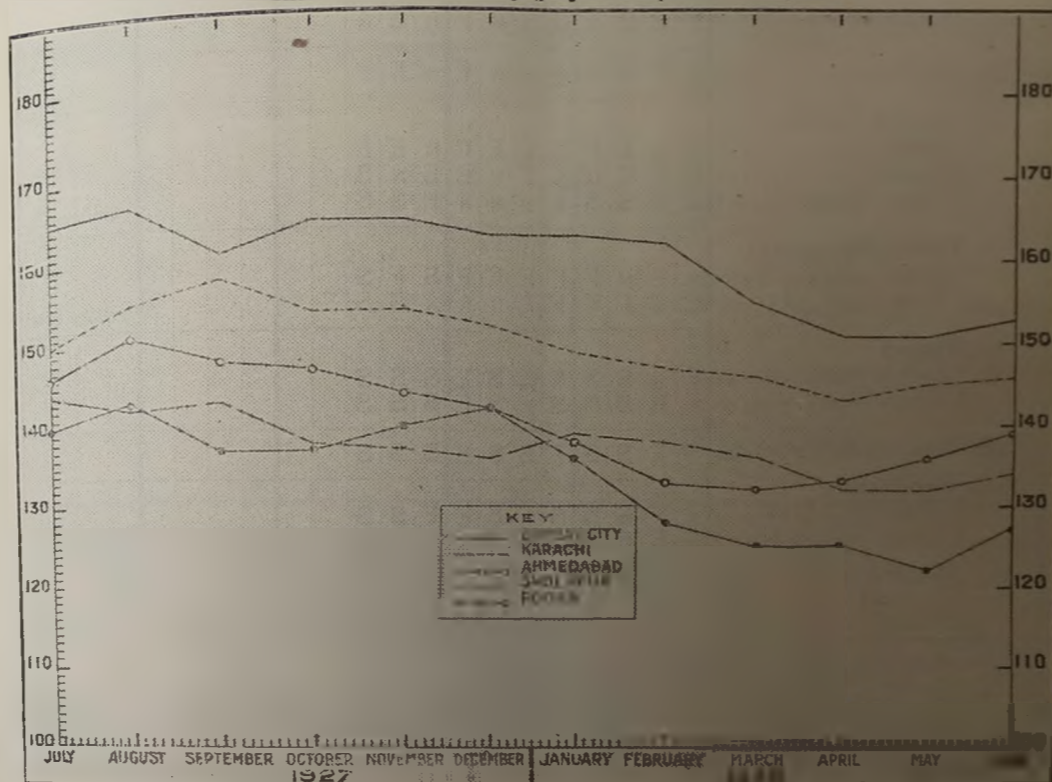
RETAIL PRICES INDEX NUMBERS OF FOOD ARTICLES IN FIVE CENTRES OF THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY (July 1914=100)

June 1928

July 1928

Articles	June 1928					Articles	July 1928				
	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona		Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
Rice (1)	139	120	130	145	130	Rice (1)	150	120	130	152	132
Wheat (1)	140	136	126	126	120	Wheat (1)	143	136	131	133	119
Jowari	122	135	102	106	103	Jowari	120	131	104	112	103
Bajri	128	133	110	83	114	Bajri	132	139	121	87	114
Gram	163	140	103	117	112	Gram	163	142	105	121	107
Turdal	177	131	137	146	128	Turdal	159	119	144	138	124
Sugar (refined)	167	160	160	131	138	Sugar (refined)	167	157	159	145	144
Jagri (Gul.)	132	135	120	103	137	Jagri (Gul.)	148	135	120	121	150
Tea	190	225	200	171	200	Tea	190	225	200	171	200
Salt	131	145	151	154	142	Salt	131	145	151	158	147
Beef	163	175	100	201	141	Beef	163	180	100	201	141
Mutton	185	162	167	133	150	Mutton	171	167	167	133	150
Milk	191	164	200	157	133	Milk	191	164	200	157	133
Ghee	154	158	160	142	144	Ghee	162	158	180	163	144
Potatoes	128	116	172	143	104	Potatoes	150	144	218	143	172
Onions	184	136	100	114	66	Onions	184	141	111	114	105
Cocconut oil	112	108	133	109	105	Cocconut oil	112	108	160	109	100
Average—All food articles	153	146	139	134	127	Average—All food articles	155	148	147	139	134

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



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

PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON, 1928

AUG., 1928

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

RAINFALL DIVISION	JUNE			JULY				AUGUST				SEPTEMBER			OCTOBER						
	6th	13th	20th	27th	4th	11th	18th	25th	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th	5th	12th	19th	26th	3rd	10th	17th	24th
I. BOMBAY PRESIDENCY																					
1 Sind	E	E	F	F	N	F	F	N	N	N	N	N									
{ River	N	S	S	S	E	F	F	S	S	S	S	S									
{ Rainfall	N	S	S	S	E	F	F	S	S	S	S	S									
2 Gujarat	S	N	S	S	E	F	F	S	S	S	S	S									
3 Deccan	N	E	S	S	E	F	F	S	S	S	S	S									
4 Konkan	E	E	F	F	N	N	E	N	E	N	F	N									
II. MADRAS PRESIDENCY																					
1 Malabar	E	N	F	S	F	N	F	F	F	F	F	N									
2 Deccan	E	N	S	N	F	F	E	S	F	F	F	S									
3 Coast North	S	F	S	N	F	N	N	F	F	N	F	N									
4 South East	S	S	S	E	F	E	E	S	S	N	N	N									
III. MYSORE																					
	E	N	S	E	N	E	F	F	N	E	E										
IV. HYDERABAD																					
1 North	S	E	S	E	E	F	N	F	F	F	S										
2 South	N	E	S	N	E	E	N	S	N	S	F										
V. CENTRAL PROVINCES																					
1 Berar	S	N	E	N	F	S	F	F	F	S	S										
2 West	S	N	S	N	E	S	F	F	E	F	S										
3 East	S	N	F	N	E	F	N	E	N	F	S										
VI. CENTRAL INDIA																					
1 West	S	E	S	F	F	E	E	E	N	F	S										
2 East	E	S	S	E	S	S	E	N	F	S	S										
VII. BENGAL PRESIDENCY																					
	F	E	E	N	E	N	N	F	N	E	N										
VIII. ASSAM																					
	F	F	F	N	E	N	N	F	N	E	E										
IX. BIHAR & ORISSA																					
1 Bihar	F	F	F	F	E	E	E	F	N	E	F										
2 Orissa	F	F	F	S	E	N	N	N	F	S	S										
3 Chota Nagpur	F	F	F	S	E	N	N	N	F	S	S										
X. UNITED PROVINCES																					
1 East	N	E	N	F	F	E	E	F	S	F	S										
2 West	E	N	F	F	F	E	N	N	N	S	S										
XI. PUNJAB																					
1 East & North	E	N	S	S	F	F	S	E	S	S	S										
2 South West	E	E	S	S	S	N	S	E	S	S	S										
XII. NORTHWEST FRONTIER																					
	S	E	S	S	F	S	S	E	S	S	S										
XIII. RAJPUTANA																					
1 West	N	F	S	S	S	E	S	E	F	S	S										
2 East	S	E	S	S	F	S	F	N	N	S	S										
XIV. BURMA																					
1 Lower	E	E	F	N	F	F	N	N	N	N	N										
2 Upper	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	F	F	F	E										

NOTES—
 * The time for the River Hydro refer to Calendar weeks.
 † "Normal" is the third to a variation from 80 to 120% of the true normal; "Excess" means more than 120% of the normal; "Fair" from 80 to 100% and "Scanty" below 80%. The values are communicated by the Director General of Observations, India. Calculation is made on the basis of the rainfall readings for recording stations in the Rainfall Division, including Hill Stations.
 The readings of levels of the Indus in Sind are communicated by the Indus River Commission and the normal and deviations from the normal are tabulated according to values for any given week ascertained from the P. W. D.

Labour Intelligence—Indian and Foreign
 Industrial Disputes in the Presidency

Disputes in July .. 6 Workpeople involved .. 170,780

At the end of this issue will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during July 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 July 1928, and the number of working days lost.

I.—Industrial Disputes Classified by Trades

Trade	Number of disputes in progress in July 1928			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in July 1928	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in July 1928
	Started before July	Started in July	Total		
Textile	4	.....	4	169,600	4,134,584
Transport	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Engineering	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Metal	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Miscellaneous	.....	2	2	1,180	6,870
Total	4	2	6	170,780	4,141,454

During the month under review the number of industrial disputes was six, of which three occurred in Bombay City, and one each in Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Ambernath. One of the disputes in Bombay City was a general strike which affected 68 cotton mills, two silk mills and one bleaching mill. The number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 170,780 and the number of working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days, less workers replaced) was 4,141,454.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

II—Industrial Disputes—Causes and Results, March 1928 to July 1928

	March 1928	April 1928	May 1928	June 1928	July 1928
Number of strikes and lock-outs ..	14	10	8	7	0
Disputes in progress at beginning ..	2	2	2*	4	4
Fresh disputes begun ..	12	8	6	3	2
Disputes ended ..	12	5	4	3	3
Disputes in progress at end ..	2	5	4	4	3
Number of workpeople involved ..	14,631	163,770	164,089	166,156	170,780
Aggregate duration in working days ..	72,239	1,314,041	4,243,194	4,211,847	4,141,454
Demands—					
Pay ..	6	4	3	3	2
Bonus ..	..	..	..	..	..
Personal ..	2	2	1	1	2
Leave and hours ..	3	..	..	..	..
Others ..	3	4	4	3	2
Results—					
In favour of employees ..	1	..	..	..	1
Compromised ..	..	..	2	..	2
In favour of employers ..	11	5	..	3	..

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

III—Industrial Disputes—Progress for last 12 months †

Month	Disputes in progress	Disputes which began during the month	Disputes ended during the month	Aggregate number of working days lost	Disputes Settled		
					In favour of employers (Per cent.)	In favour of employees (Per cent.)	Compromised (Per cent.)
August 1927 ..	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
February ..	10	8	8	249,083	87	13	..
March ..	14	12	12	72,239	92	8	..
April ..	10	8	5	1,314,041	100	..	..
May ..	8	6	4	4,243,194	50	..	50
June ..	7*	3	3	4,211,847	100	..	..
July ..	6	2	3	4,141,454	..	33	67

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

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

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

GENERAL REVIEW OF DISPUTES

The number of industrial disputes involving stoppages of work reported as beginning in the month of July 1928 was two as compared with three in the previous month. The number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 1180 and the time loss amounted to 6870 man-days. Both the disputes arose over questions relating to the employment of particular individuals. In addition, four disputes including the General Strike in the Bombay textile mills, involving 169,600 work-people in all, were in progress at the beginning of the month under review and resulted in a time loss amounting to 4,134,584 man-days. Out of the six old and new disputes, complete settlements were arrived at in three cases and a partial settlement in one case. The result was favourable to the workers in one case while in two other cases compromises were effected. In the case of the remaining dispute which affected more than one establishment, the strike in one of the units terminated in a partial compromise.

Progress of Individual Disputes

BOMBAY

The number of industrial disputes in progress in Bombay City during the month under review was three, one of which was the continuation of the General Strike in the Textile Industry. There was practically no change in the situation with regard to the General Strike, during the month. On the 5th, the Millowners put up notices on the gates of their mills explaining the standardised conditions of service and standard rates of wages. They also made arrangements through the managers of the mills to give wide publicity to their standardisation schemes amongst the millhands, who however remained firm and tore off the notices put up at certain mills. Vigorous and systematic picketing was carried on by the strikers and the extremist leaders who addressed the daily meetings of the strikers continued to exhort the men to remain firm till all their seventeen demands were granted by the millowners. The Joint Strike Committee distributed relief doles to the strikers four times during the month. The total number of instances in which relief was given amounted to 100,921. Owing to the paucity of the funds at the disposal of the Committee the doles were reduced from 4 seers of rice and 1 seer of dal to 2 seers of rice and $\frac{1}{2}$ a seer of dal per head. In order to ensure a continuation of funds in the hands of the Joint Strike Committee, local Trade Unions were approached, collections were made from individual workers in other industries on or after their pay-days, deputations of the members of the Committee were sent to Ahmedabad and Poona to collect subscriptions to the Strikers Relief Fund, and handbills were issued appealing to the local merchants and the office clerks for funds. A public meeting of the citizens of Bombay was convened under the auspices of the Joint

Strike Committee with a view to enlisting the moral and material support of the public for the Strikers' cause. As a result of these endeavours and the exertions of the Citizens' Textile Workers' Relief Committee and owing to the receipt of a total amount of £300 by way of foreign contributions, the balance of funds at the disposal of the Joint Strike Committee towards the close of the month amounted to about Rs. 3,400, after the expenditure on the distribution of the weekly doles had been met. The agents of two or three mills also distributed rations to their employees and the management of one of the mills supplied milk to their strikers' children.

The Sub-Committee appointed by the Bombay Municipal Corporation to investigate the question of affording relief to the strikers' families from Municipal funds submitted a report which was discussed at the session of the Municipal Corporation held on the 9th. The report was recorded and the proposal to grant relief to the strikers' families from Municipal funds was thrown out. On an informal move by certain members of the Corporation it was proposed to start a Mayor's Fund for the relief of the strikers' children. Persons of all ranks and all shades of opinion responded to the appeal for funds issued by the President of the Corporation and the total amount subscribed to the Fund during the month under review amounted to more than Rs. 44,000. The Fund was utilised for feeding children with effect from the 23rd July and nearly 6,000 children on an average were fed daily with cooked rice and dal and milk.

As it appeared that there was no immediate prospect for a settlement of the strike in the near future, some business men and commercial bodies in the city addressed letters to the Millowners' Association in the matter, and the Bombay Municipal Corporation passed a resolution requesting Government to appoint a Conciliation Board with a view to bringing about a settlement. A representation was also made to Government by a prominent member of the Joint Strike Committee asking for a reference of the dispute to arbitration. On the 14th July the Honourable the General Member of the Government of Bombay granted interviews to Mr. N. M. Joshi of the Joint Strike Committee and to Mr. Jehangir Petit, the Chairman of the Millowners' Association, in connection with the strike situation. The result of the interview with Mr. Petit was discussed at a meeting of the Committee of the Millowners' Association and it was decided not to turn down any proposal for arbitration until the terms of reference to be submitted to the proposed Arbitration Board were announced. In the meanwhile, the Committee of the Millowners' Association unanimously decided on a programme of opening groups of mills on the standardised rates of wages from the 6th August. The Joint Strike Committee, however, issued Marathi leaflets warning the strikers against being misled by the tactics of the millowners and exhorting them to remain firm. This dispute continued into the next month.

The second dispute was a continuation of the strike in the Swadeshi and the Kurla Spinning and Weaving Mills at Kurla. There was no development of any importance in the strike situation during the month under review. A few workers of each of the two mills turned up for work daily

the mills remained closed. Picketing was carried on by the strikers as usual. This dispute continued into the next month.

The third dispute occurred in the Charni Road Branch of Messrs. Kemp & Co., Ltd. Chemists, where the management dismissed a storekeeper for insolence. Twenty men who had been working under him struck work on the morning of the 5th July. In the afternoon of the same day 70 other employees also struck work in sympathy. The demand of the strikers was that the dismissed storekeeper should be reinstated by the Management. The Board of Directors met on the 6th and appointed one of the members of the Board to enquire into the cause of the strike. This was notified by the management to the strikers who were asked to resume work forthwith. The strikers however not only did not resume work but some of them brought out about 50 men working at the Byculla Branch of the Company on the 7th. These 50 men resumed work on the 8th. On the 9th, the dismissed storekeeper was reinstated by the management and all the strikers resumed work. The strike thus ended in favour of the workers.

AMBERNATH

Owing to the dismissal by the management of two machine drivers and a supervisor of the mechanical shop of the Western India Match Factory at Ambernath, 1090 workers of the Factory struck work on the 21st July and demanded the reinstatement of the dismissed men. The other demands of the strikers were (1) that the grievances of the men should be considered at joint meetings of the representatives of the Labour Union and the management; (2) that workers should not be dismissed on flimsy pretexts; (3) that conditions of work should be more liberal; (4) that the promises given by the management at the time of the settlement of the last dispute should be fulfilled; (5) that an increase in pay of 5 per cent. should be given to those workers getting less than Rs. 40 per mensem; and (6) that the management should not adopt a hostile attitude towards the Labour Union. The management expressed their willingness to reinstate all the dismissed men except one, and they also agreed to consider the other demands. The strikers however decided to hold on till all the dismissed men were re-engaged and began to picket the factory. With a view to effecting a settlement the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Thana, and the Resident Magistrate, Kalyan, visited the factory and conferred with the Secretary of the Labour Union. In response to the request of these officers the Labour Union proposed certain modified conditions on which the men would resume work, one of which was that the company should withdraw the notice served on Mr. Naidu, one of the dismissed men, and give him a certificate for his past service in addition to three months' wages as compensation. The management were not disposed to accept this condition *in toto* and as a result the strikers decided to remain out and carry on vigorous picketing. There was no change in the situation on the 25th and the 26th July but on the 27th the Secretary of the Labour Union who carried on negotiations with the Head Office of the Company at Bombay arrived at the following terms of settlement: (1) that Naidu should resign on condition that the notice served on him was withdrawn and he received

his due wages and a certificate of service; (2) that all workers of the Emptying Department should be reinstated; and (3) that an investigation should be made into the allegations made by the men against one Mr. Mookerji. The men were agreeable to the terms arrived at and the management also agreed not to discharge any worker without giving sufficient notice both to the worker concerned and to the Union. All the strikers resumed work on the 28th July and the strike ended in a compromise.

AHMEDABAD

The strike in the Gujarat Weaving, Spinning and Manufacturing Mill which continued from the previous month came to an end on the 1st August when all the remaining strikers resumed work, as a result of the promise made by the management that the grievances of the men would be duly looked into. This strike also ended in a compromise.

SHOLAPUR

The dispute which arose in the Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Mills in April last and affected the Vishnu Mill during the month of June spread to the remaining three cotton mills in Sholapur city during the month under review. The dispute as far as the Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Mills was concerned virtually ended on the 2nd on which date 6,500 hands of the mills resumed work in pursuance of a compromise arrived at between the Labour Union and the management. The remaining strikers of the mills who had gone to their villages were recalled by the Union and by the 10th normal working was resumed in these mills. The strike in the Vishnu Mill continued without any change in the situation. At one of the meetings of the strikers which was addressed by the Officials of the Labour Union a reference was made to an alleged assault on a worker of the Laxmi Mill by the management and a suggestion was made that the operatives of that mill should have struck work in protest. Some 19 millhands who went to the Laxmi Mill on the 16th with the intention of creating trouble were kept out by the management. When the news spread to the operatives working in the mill 496 weavers struck work in protest on the same day. Forty weavers however resumed work subsequently. On the 17th, 150 operatives of the reeling department of the same mill struck work alleging reductions in their wages. The outstanding wages of the millhands were paid on the 17th and 18th.

In the Jam Mill about 100 operatives of the reeling department struck work in the afternoon on the 17th complaining of reductions in their wages. On the 18th, 1000 hands of the Narsinggirji Mill also struck work for a similar reason but shortly afterwards, 750 of them resumed work. As the strikers of the Laxmi Mill did not resume work the management declared a lockout on the 19th. There was no important change in the situation during the rest of the month. Daily meetings of the strikers were organised by the Labour Union at which the officials of the Union reiterated their advice of asking the men to remain firm till their grievances were redressed. The jobbers of the mills as well as certain leading men of the city tried to induce the strikers to resume work unconditionally but to no effect. This dispute continued into the next month.

Sholapur Mill Strike

A CORRECTION

We have received from the Agents, the Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Company, Ltd., the following notice, which was posted in the mills as embodying the terms on which the strike was settled, those terms differing in important respects from those published in the *Labour Gazette*, July issue at p. 931.

(1) As personally explained, generally the rates for samples are and will be so fixed that one loom can get a daily wage of annas twelve to fourteen including High Price Allowance, according to the kind of cloth for efficient production. Rates for new sorts also will be fixed on the above basis.

(2) The present practice of giving a daily wage of annas twelve including High Price Allowance for one loom for samples, till the rate of New Samples is fixed, will be continued. While he is getting a daily wage on samples, if the production is low due to particular reasons, the present practice of giving him the above mentioned full daily wage will be continued.

(3) In B Mill, no change is made in the rates of current Cypher numbers and the present rates will continue. Similarly in C Mill the present rates will remain unaltered.

(4) If due to departmental slackness, there be any delay in gaiting up the beam, and if the information of the same is given, as far as possible such delay will be avoided.

(5) When there would be delay due to the want of sufficient Fancy Jobbers, necessary arrangements will be made.

(6) When a person remains absent due to accident, funeral, and other accidental cause, he is not and will not be marked double absent.

(7) The old people will not require passes and if new ones are to be issued they will be issued under the signature of the Manager for at least three months, and if they are found unnecessary, they will be dispensed with altogether.

(8) No one will be victimised for having gone on strike.

1st July 1928.

Investigation of Industrial Relations

The Japanese Department of Commerce and Industry, which has been enquiring into industrial relations and efficiency in mines and factories where disputes have occurred, recently ordered the municipal and prefectural authorities to investigate urgently the terms of labour contracts, relations between employers and workers' organisations, welfare institutions, the standard of living and intelligence of workers, production, and sales and banking conditions in mines and factories generally. (From "*Industrial and Labour Information*," Geneva, July 9, 1928.)

The Bombay Mill Strike

CONFERENCE BREAKS DOWN

In accordance with the promise given to the Legislative Council at the last Poona session, Government called a conference of representatives of the Millowners and the Strike Committee in order to ascertain whether both parties were agreeable to a Conciliation Board, and if so, what the terms of reference to that Board should be. The Conference took place at the Secretariat on August the 15th.

The Honourable Sir Ghulam Husain Hidayatullah, General Member, presided. The Bombay Millowners' Association was represented by Mr. J. B. Petit, Chairman, Mr. H. Sawyer, Deputy Chairman, Sir Victor Sassoon, Bart., Sir Joseph Kay, Sir Manmohandas Ramji, Sir Fazulbhoj Currimbhoy, Mr. S. D. Saklatwala, and Mr. F. Stones. The representatives of the Joint Strike Committee were Messrs. N. M. Joshi, S. A. Dange, Syed Munawar, R. S. Asavale, S. H. Jhabwalla, R. S. Nimbkar, A. A. Alwe, M. U. Rajab, B. Gadkari and Godse. Mr. J. F. Gennings, Director of Information and Labour Intelligence and Mr. A. H. Dracup, Under Secretary to Government, General Department, were also present.

In opening the proceedings, the Chairman said that Government were as anxious as anyone on either side to find a solution of the present situation, and he hoped that all members would co-operate with Government in bringing about a settlement of the dispute. He understood that both sides were agreeable to the formation of a Conciliation Board or to the setting up of a Committee of Enquiry. If that were so, the first question was what should be the terms of reference. After some discussion as to the composition of the Committee of Enquiry, the Conference proceeded to discuss the terms of reference and the following were agreed to—

- (1) Whether the scheme of a standardized muster and of a standardized schedule of rates prepared by the Millowners' Association is fair and reasonable;
- (2) Whether the 17 demands advanced by the Strike Committee are fair and reasonable and to what extent, if any, they should be met;
- (3) Whether the standing orders for operatives as published by the Millowners' Association are fair and reasonable.

The Millowners' representatives also undertook to produce all books relevant to the enquiry that the Committee of Enquiry consider should be produced, for the inspection of the representatives of labour before the Committee.

The Conference then proceeded to consider the question whether or not and on what terms the men should return to work pending the decision of the Committee of Enquiry. The representatives of the Millowners' Association suggested that if the men returned to work at once, the question as to the rate at which they should be paid for the remaining days in August could be settled as a preliminary point by the Committee of Enquiry, while the rate of pay for September would be in accordance with the decision of the Committee on the general terms of reference, if the Committee reported before the next pay day, which would be in October. The representatives of the Strike Committee said that they could not agree to

any resumption of work that did not provide for the men going back on the rates prevailing in 1925. Mr. Joshi pointed out that the question of making a return to work one of the issues before the Conference had taken the men's representatives by surprise and they felt that they could not agree to a resumption of work without consulting the main Strike Committee. Mr. J. B. Petit then said that if that were so, the representatives of the Millowners' Association desired to make it clear that the agreement arrived at that afternoon on various points was merely tentative and binding on neither side. The Conference was then adjourned until August 16.

When the proceedings were resumed, Mr. Joshi announced that the Strike Committee were unable to advise the strikers to return to work pending the decision of the Court of Enquiry. Mr. J. B. Petit, Chairman of the Millowners' Association, then said that this attitude on the part of the Joint Strike Committee required a reconsideration of their position by the Millowners. The representatives of the Association then retired to confer privately. On returning to the conference Mr. J. B. Petit stated that the representatives of the Millowners had endeavoured to meet the labour representatives in every possible way. They had agreed to refer the rules passed by the Committee of the Association to the Committee of Enquiry; they had also agreed to refer the question of the standardized muster and the standardized schedule of rates to the Committee which was to be set up. They had also agreed to the Committee of Enquiry deciding what advance should be paid to the men during the period which would intervene between the commencement of work by the men and the report of the Committee of Enquiry and the manner in which that advance should be given. They had agreed to the strike being called off at once or on the 1st of September. In spite of this, however, the representatives of labour were not prepared to advise the men to resume work at once. Under those circumstances he regretted that his Association was unable to agree to the appointment of a Committee of Enquiry, because so far as the Millowners were concerned, it was a condition precedent to any such Enquiry that the strike should be called off. Mr. Joshi said that he was unable to agree to the proposition that the calling off of a strike was a condition precedent to the setting up of a Committee of Enquiry. Ever since the dispute started, the Joint Strike Committee had always been willing to agree to the appointment of a Conciliation Board or a Court of Enquiry. Neither he nor the Millowners had ever agreed to a Board of Arbitration whose findings would be binding on both sides and in his opinion for the men to resume work before the Committee of Enquiry published its report would be tantamount to accepting a board of arbitration whose findings would be accepted. The men had been on strike for nearly four months and he did not consider it reasonable that they should be asked to go back when after a short period they might be compelled to come out again.

The Chairman expressed his regret that the Conference should have broken down because the parties were unable to agree on this one point and added that should there be any change in the attitude of either party, Government would do all that they could to assist. After the representatives of the Millowners and of the Strike Committee had expressed their appreciation of the efforts made by the Chairman, the Conference broke up.

Accident in Factory Compound

DEFINITION OF A WORKMAN

IN THE COURT OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION,
BOMBAY

Application No. 90 B.—6 of 1928 for order to deposit compensation

Kala Kuber, guardian of Kesar Kuber, minor
daughter of Kuber Rupa, deceased . . . Applicant ;

against

The Shorrock Spinning, Weaving and Manu-
facturing Company, Limited, Ahmedabad . . . Opposite Party.

Claim—Rs. 750

In this case Kala Kuber, on behalf of his sister Kesar Kuber, claims compensation for the death of Kuber Rupa his father who was employed by the Shorrock Spinning, Weaving and Manufacturing Company, Limited, of Ahmedabad and who died as a result of an accident while in their employ. The opposite party in their written statement, filed on their behalf by the Bombay Claims Bureau, deny liability on the ground that the deceased was not at the time of his death a workman within the meaning of the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923 in that, although he was working in a factory as defined by section 3 sub-clause (a) of the Indian Factories Act of 1911, he was not employed therein within the meaning of section 2 (2) of that Act. The following are the agreed facts relating to the employment and the death of the workman :—

The opposite party desired to extend their premises. On the place where that extension was to be built there was a tank which contained water for use in the boilers actuating the machinery of the mill. In order to make the extension it was necessary to make a tank in another part of the compound and to dig a trench connecting the new tank with the engine house. The deceased workman was engaged on August 29, 1927, and was employed in the excavation of this trench. He was engaged on daily rates of wages: he was placed on the muster roll of the Assistant Engineer's Department and would have received his pay on the same day as the rest of the time workers in the mill, that is, at the end of a fortnight. The department to which he was attached does a number of odd jobs about the mill and the men who work in that department may be employed inside or outside the buildings which comprise the factory. On September 1st, the fourth day after the workman was engaged, he was digging the trench when the sides collapsed and he was killed.

The point of law for decision is whether at the time of his death the deceased Kuber Rupa was a workman within the meaning of the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923. The persons who, subject to the provisions of section 2 (1) (n), are included in the definition of workmen, are given in Schedule II of the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923 and it was

contended on behalf of the applicant that he came within the provisions of the second clause of that Schedule, which reads as follows :—

"employed within the meaning of clause 2 of section 2 of the Indian Factories Act of 1911 in any place which is a factory within the meaning of sub-clause (a) of clause 3 of that section."

The place where the accident happened was clearly a factory within the meaning of sub-clause (a) of clause 3 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911.

The next point is whether the workman was employed in the factory. Sub-clause 2 of section 2 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, reads as follows :—

"A person who works in a factory whether for wages or not (a) in a manufacturing process or handicraft or (b) in cleaning any part of the factory used for any manufacturing process or handicraft or (c) in cleaning or oiling any part of the machinery or (d) in any other kind of work whatsoever incidental to or connected with the manufacturing process or handicraft or connected with the article made or otherwise the subject of the manufacturing process or handicraft therein shall be deemed to be employed therein."

On behalf of the applicant it is contended that the deceased was a workman within the meaning of sub-clause (d) above. I regret that I am unable to accept this contention. I do not think that the digging of a trench which, when completed, would connect a new tank, containing water for the use of the boilers, to the engine house, can be said to be "work incidental to or connected with the manufacturing process." The connection between the trench and the process is too remote to bring the workman engaged on that work within the orbit of the Workmen's Compensation Act. Nor do I think that the fact that the man might have been employed on work which would have brought him into the purview of the Act is a material factor in the case. It is true that some of the men with whom he was working might on other occasions be engaged on work which would lead to the conclusion that they were employed in the factory within the meaning of the Workmen's Compensation Act. But we have to deal only with the case of the workman who was killed and the work upon which he was engaged when he was killed. Those are the only factors that can be considered in arriving at a decision as to whether or not he was a workman within the meaning of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

I therefore find that, in law, the deceased Kuber Rupa was not a workman within the meaning of the Workmen's Compensation Act. It should, however, be clearly understood that this decision is not tantamount to saying that workmen employed in the Engineering Department for odd jobs in and about a factory do not come under the Workmen's Compensation Act. It is possible, indeed it is probable, that having regard to the nature of the work done by those men, accidents may occur to them the circumstances of which may bring them within the purview of sub-clause 2 of clause 2 of the Indian Factories Act. Each case must be considered on its merits in connection with the surrounding facts, but in this case I have no doubt that the deceased was not a workman within the meaning of the Workmen's Compensation Act. The application must, therefore, be dismissed. There will be no order as to costs.

Dated 23rd June 1928.

(Signed) J. F. GENNINGS,

Acting Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation.

Death from Heart Disease

ACCIDENT OR NATURAL CAUSES

IN THE COURT OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION,
BOMBAY

Application No. 215-B-17 of 1928 for an order to deposit compensation,
under Section 8 (1) of Act VIII of 1923.

Jadhav Mava minor son of the deceased
Mava Soma by guardian his brother Vola
Mava Applicant.

against

The British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.,
by Agents Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie
& Co. Opposite Party.

Claim—Rs. 1387-8-0

In this case Jadhav Mava by his guardian claims compensation for the death of his father who was employed by the opposite party as a seaman on board the S.S. "Karagola," the cause of the injury being that while carrying a pot of paint he stumbled over something on the deck and as the result thereof died. The opposite party do not admit that death was due to an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment. The issues for decision, therefore, are (1) Did the workman Mava Soma meet with an accident? (2) Did the accident arise out of and in the course of his employment? (3) Did the death of the workman result from the accident?

The evidence that an accident did, in fact, occur is to be found in the evidence given before the Court by Pitamber Mava, a lascar on the S.S. "Karagola." He states that on the 23rd December 1927 at about 4-30 in the afternoon he was engaged in painting the side of the ship. The deceased workman, Mava Soma, was employed that day in bringing paint to the men who were working. The witness saw him coming along and stumble, and fall over something belonging to a passenger. Mava Soma fell and hit his nose. With the help of some of the passengers and crew he was lifted up and laid on the deck after which he was carried to the hatch where in about a quarter of an hour he died. Another witness, a lascar named Mava Nana says that he heard cries that someone had fallen and saw some passengers trying to raise the deceased, who was on the hatch. Another witness, a Quarter Master, also saw the deceased on the hatch surrounded by passengers and crew. All these witnesses say that the man was bleeding from the bridge of the nose but there is no agreement as to the extent of the bleeding. The suggestion was made in the cross-examination of these witnesses that what really happened was that the deceased Mava Soma was sitting on the hatch when he suddenly rolled over and subsequently died. No evidence, however, was called on behalf of the opposite party to prove their story of how the man came to die. The doctor and the captain both say that the man was not bleeding, and

the doctor says that he found no bruises on the man when he examined him. It is possible that between the arrival of the doctor and the captain somebody may have wiped off the blood that may have been flowing, but the point is not material except in so far as it affects the credibility of the applicant's witnesses and throws doubt on whether there was an accident at all. But as I say, for some reason which I am unable to understand, no evidence at all was called by the opposite party to contradict the evidence for the applicant. If the man was sitting quietly on the hatch when he died suddenly, somebody must have seen him sitting there, somebody must have gone to his assistance, somebody must have called the doctor. But no witnesses have been called on this point.

I can, therefore, see no reason why I should disbelieve the positive evidence of Pitamber Mava, the first witness for the applicant, who says definitely that he saw the deceased fall owing to having stumbled over some article on the deck. I, therefore, find as a fact that the deceased Mava Soma did meet with an accident.

As regards issue No. 2 there is really no dispute, and I find that the accident did arise out of and in the course of the workman's employment.

The third issue for decision, therefore, is did death result from the accident? The evidence of Dr. Agashar shows that the man died from heart failure. There was no *post-mortem* examination and it was not possible to diagnose with certainty the disease that caused failure of the heart. Mava Soma had never reported sick and had never been under treatment while the doctor was on board the ship, but the man must have been suffering from heart disease. His condition was such that the shock of a fall might cause heart failure, with the symptoms observed by the doctor, and subsequent death. Similar circumstances have arisen in cases decided under the English Act, the leading case being *Clover Clayton & Co. vs. Hughes* reported at 3 B.W.C.C. 275. In that case a workman was suffering from an aneurism which was ruptured while he was tightening a nut with a spanner. It was held that this was an injury by accident although the disease was so far advanced that the man might have died in his sleep. The case of *Trodden vs. Lennard & Sons*, 4 B.W.C.C. 190 to which Mr. Mantri has drawn my attention is another case of the same kind. In this case a workman was descending a rope ladder when it twisted. The man fell into the water and was found to have died not from drowning but from heart failure. The heart was in such a state that any slight exertion might have caused failure. It was held that the man died as the result of an accident. A study of these and other cases shows that the principle upon which they were decided was this—to use the phraseology of Mr. Willis in his book on *Workmen's Compensation*—that the fact that at the time of the occurrence the workman was suffering from a bodily condition which made him susceptible to injury from even moderate exertion, would not prevent the occurrence from being accidental. If the accident "is one of the contributing causes without which the injury which actually followed would not have followed," or to quote the words of Lord Loreburn in *Clover Clayton & Co., vs. Hughes*, "did the man die from the disease alone or from the disease and employment taken together looking at it broadly," then compensation is payable. In

this case we have a man suffering from heart disease. In the course of his employment he stumbles and falls and within half an hour he dies from heart failure. On these facts I have no hesitation in saying that the man's death was due to accident, and that his death was caused by a shock, or a fall reacting upon a diseased heart. That being so, I find issue 3 in the affirmative and award compensation accordingly.

The wages of the deceased amounted to Rs. 22 a month and his rations were estimated by the opposite party at 8 annas a day. I accept this valuation and find that the man's wages amounted to Rs. 37 a month, the assumed wages being Rs. 35. The applicant is, therefore, entitled to compensation of a lump sum of Rs. 1050. I also award Rs. 20 costs to include court fees and witness summonses.

(Signed) J. F. GENNINGS,

Acting Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation.

Questions in the Legislature

BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Millhands' Strike, Bombay : Firing

Mr. R. S. Asvale : Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the police officer who ordered the police to open fire on an unarmed and defenceless crowd of mill-workers during the general strike in the City of Bombay in April last had any authority to do so ;

(b) if so, from whom ;

(c) if not, whether they intend to appoint a special committee for an immediate enquiry into the conduct of the officer or officers responsible for the firing ?

The Honourable Mr. J. R. Martin : (a) and (b) The Police officer who ordered the police to open fire on a riotous crowd of strikers on the 23rd April 1928 acted under the authority of section 128, Code of Criminal Procedure, and section 40 of the City of Bombay Police Act, 1902, and in exercise of his right of self-defence and in defence of the lives of the members of the police party under his charge.

(c) Does not arise.

Handloom Industry

Mr. Shaikh Abdul Aziz Abdul Latif : Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether they are aware that the handloom industry in the Bombay Presidency is greatly suffering on account of the competition by the mills and the higher duty placed upon yarn of low count which is chiefly used by handloom weavers ;

(b) whether they intend to help this industry during the period of depression ?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Harilal D. Desai : (a) Enquiries have already been made by Government in this direction and no evidence is forthcoming that great suffering has been caused.

(b) The question is under consideration.

Workmen's Compensation Act

Details of Proceedings

Information furnished by all the Commissioners in the Presidency for the month of July 1928 shows that out of 39 cases disposed of during the month 35 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. 23,064-15-0 as against Rs. 14,610-15-0 in the previous month and Rs. 19,222-12-0 in July 1927. Out of the 39 cases in which compensation was claimed, 10 were in respect of fatal accidents, two of permanent total disablement and 27 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 13 and in other industries to 26. The corresponding figures for July 1927 were 10 and 27.

The total number of claimants for compensation in all the cases disposed of during the month was 40, of whom 36 were adult males, 3 adult females and one a male below 15 years of age.

Out of the cases disposed of during the month under review, 19 were original claims and 20 registrations of agreements. Compensation was awarded in 18 cases, agreements were registered in 20 cases and one case was dismissed.

Prosecutions under the Factories Act in July

AHMEDNAGAR

The occupier of a cotton ginning factory was prosecuted under section 41 (f) for breach of section 18 (1) (a) and (c) for not fencing the engine fly wheel and for not guarding the gin roller pulleys and he was convicted and fined Rs. 10 for each of two offences. The occupier was also prosecuted under section 41 (h) for not maintaining a "D" form register and was convicted and fined Rs. 10.

AHMEDABAD

The manager of a cotton mill was prosecuted under section 41 (f) for breach of Rule 33 (ii) for working the hard waste breaker without a locking motion. He was convicted and fined Rs. 200.

The manager of another mill was prosecuted under section 41 (f) for breach of section 18 (1) (c) whereby an operative was injured on a calender. He was convicted and fined Rs. 100.

The manager of a cotton press was prosecuted under section 41 (f) for not fencing fly wheel. He was convicted and fined Rs. 100.

The manager of a second press factory was similarly prosecuted under section 41 (f) for the above offence and he was convicted and fined Rs. 50.

The manager of a cotton ginning factory was prosecuted under section 41 (a) for breach of section 26 for employing certain persons beyond the hours fixed in the time-table. He was convicted and fined Rs. 60 in each

of three cases. The manager was also prosecuted under section 41 (h) for breach of section 35 for not maintaining "D" form register. He was convicted and fined Rs. 70.

The manager of a second ginning factory was prosecuted under section 41 (a) for breach of section 26. He was convicted and fined Rs. 40 in each of twelve cases.

The manager of a third ginning factory was prosecuted under section 41 (a) for similar breach of section 26. He was convicted and fined Rs. 40 in each of eight cases.

The manager of a fourth cotton ginning factory was prosecuted under section 41 (g) for breach of an order under section 19-A whereby a child was killed. He was convicted and fined Rs. 80. The Magistrate awarded Rs. 70 out of the fine to be paid to the heir of the deceased child.

The manager of a hosiery factory was prosecuted under section 41 (a) for breach of section 26. He was convicted and fined Rs. 10 in each of five cases.

KAIRA

The manager of a cotton ginning factory was prosecuted under section 41 (a) for breach of section 26. He was convicted and fined Rs. 10 in each of six cases.

Employment Situation in July 1928

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 49 or 72.06 per cent. of the mills reported as working at the various centres of the Presidency except Bombay City where the general strike in the Textile Industry was in progress throughout the month. On account of this fact, the Presidency average of percentage absenteeism in the Textile Industry as a whole has not been worked out for the month of July.

As all the mills but one in Bombay City were affected by the general strike, no statistics of absenteeism have been compiled for this centre.

In Ahmedabad 58 mills were working during the month and 39 or 67.24 per cent. furnished information. Absenteeism amounted to 3.49 per cent. as against 3.81 per cent. in June 1928. The supply of labour was equal to the demand.

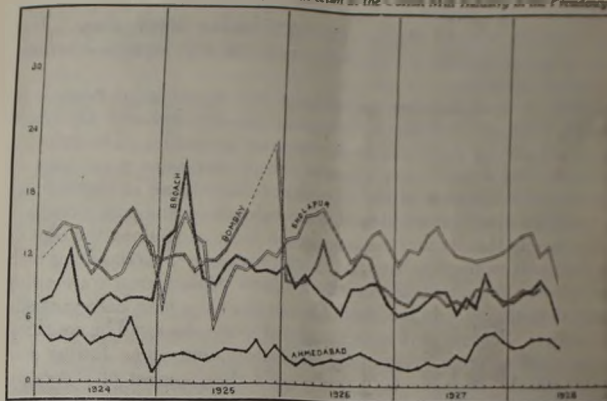
Returns were submitted by all the mills in Sholapur but as each of these mills was affected by an industrial dispute during the month, no statistics of absenteeism have been compiled for this centre.

Information was supplied by only one mill in Viramgaum which was working during the month. The percentage absenteeism amounted to 1.75 as against 1.94 in June 1928.

All the three mills in Broach supplied information and only one of them reported that the supply of labour was inadequate. The absenteeism amounted to 6.71 per cent. as against 6.35 per cent. in the preceding month.

Taking the industry in the centres studied, the supply of labour was adequate whilst absenteeism decreased at all the centres except Broach.

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 11.12 per cent. as against 12.76 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 17 per cent. The average absenteeism in the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust was 7.10 per cent.

The Karachi Port Trust found both skilled and ordinary labour available in plenty. On an average 5.80 per cent. of the labourers absented themselves from work during the month under review.

Agricultural Outlook in the Presidency

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

The weather and crop reports received so far go to show that the agricultural outlook is generally satisfactory except that some rain is urgently needed to complete the transplanting operation of the rice crop in many parts of Gujarat and to promote the general growth of the early sown crops in the Deccan and Karnatak. Some slight trouble from grasshoppers is also reported from parts of Nasik and Satara districts in the Deccan and in many places in the Karnatak.

The outlook as it appears at the present moment in the different divisions of the Bombay Presidency may be briefly summarised as follows :—

Konkan.—The position in this division has been on the whole satisfactory. The rainfall has been both well-spread and adequate and the staple crops rice and *nagli* are showing a healthy development. The transplanting operations have all been completed and weeding has been undertaken generally.

Gujarat.—Since the submission of the last report good rains have generally been received almost throughout the division with the result that *kharif* sowings have now been completed generally. The crops so far are making a satisfactory progress except that some good rain is urgently needed in parts of the Ahmedabad district and in South Surat for transplantation of rice and for the nourishment of the young crops.

Deccan.—In this division the areas in the West lying along the edge of the *Sahyadris* continue to have a satisfactory season—the rains being both adequate and well distributed and the crops in consequence are showing a good development. In the North Deccan also rains have been generally satisfactory. Sowings have been completed everywhere. The condition of the standing crops is generally satisfactory, but some further rain would still be desirable for a really good development of the crops. In the South-East Deccan the crops are only in fair condition at present and good rain is immediately required to promote their growth and to save them from withering in places. Grasshoppers appeared in parts of Nasik and Satara Districts and caused slight damage to the crops.

Karnatak.—Excepting the eastern portion of this division, where more rain is badly needed in the near future for a really good development of the crops, the conditions are generally satisfactory elsewhere as a result of good and adequate rains received during the period under review. The sowing of the *kharif* crops has been finished and that of cotton commenced in places. The transplantation of rice, etc., is also nearly completed. The crops are showing good progress except in the east. Grasshoppers appeared in many places in this division and caused slight damage to crops.

Labour News from Ahmedabad

THE MILLOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

The annual general meeting of the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association was held on 19th July 1928 when Seth Chamanlal G. Parekh presided. In his presidential speech he remarked that "during the last year labour was plentiful and free from strikes and such other trouble." Seth Chamanlal was re-elected president for the ensuing year.

THE LABOUR UNION

The Secretary of the Labour Union was deputed to study the strike situation in Bombay. Since his return from Bombay a series of articles on the Bombay strike are being published in the *Majur Sandesh*. The Union itself is not engaged in collecting donations for the relief of the Bombay strikers. It is the labour deputation from Bombay that is collecting donations from the workers here on pay days. The amount to be

given by each worker has not been fixed. The amount collected so far comes to about Rs. 3000.

As a result of the propaganda conducted by the Labour Union in the undertaking of a housing programme for the relief of labourers dislodged by last year's floods, the Standing Committee of the Municipality is now once more engaged in working out a scheme for submission to the Board.

It was brought to the notice of the Labour Union that two Europeans were recruiting labour from Ahmedabad for the tea plantations in Assam. The *Majur Sandesh* published a note advising the Ahmedabad workers not to allow themselves to be recruited. It is understood that as a result of this agitation recruiting work has been stopped and the two Europeans have left for the Panch Mahals to recruit Bhils. It is estimated that about forty workers only have been recruited from Ahmedabad.

Railwaymen's Congress

The ninth congress of the Russian Railwaymen's Union was held in Moscow from 25th May to 12th June 1928.

There were present 796 voting delegates, and 188 advisers; 7.2 per cent. of the delegates were women, and 4.9 per cent. young persons (up to 22 years of age). Thirty-two per cent. were not members of the Communist Party. The different occupations were represented as follows: skilled workers and engine drivers, 66.7 per cent.; guards, 5 per cent.; unskilled workers, 7.3 per cent.; higher officials, 1.3 per cent.; clerks, cashiers, etc., 4.3 per cent.; subordinate employees, pointsmen, brakemen, etc., 8.2 per cent.; postal, telegraph and telephone employees of the railways, 1.7 per cent.; permanent-way men, 5.6 per cent. About 44 per cent. of the delegates were trade union officials.

TRADE UNION QUESTIONS

Since the last congress, held in 1926, the membership had increased by 110,700 and was now approximately 1,121,000. During the same period 5400 members had been expelled, about half of them for systematic refusal to pay contributions, and others for misappropriation of funds and other misdemeanours.

There had been considerable developments in the activities of the Union during the past two years. The active membership of the various bodies had increased, and new premises had been built or taken over as clubs for the purposes of propaganda and education, and a number of dining rooms opened for the exclusive use of railwaymen.

Some improvement in the financial affairs of the Union was reported, but it was stated that there were still many cases of embezzlement and difficulty in collecting contributions. On an average, 40 per cent. of the members were in arrears.

The Chairman of the Central Committee stated that the organisation had hardly observed the principles laid down by the previous congress as regards reduction of administrative expenses. The reductions effected were very small, while in some cases expenses had actually increased, and the amounts handed over to the various funds (unemployment, education, etc.) were insufficient.

WAGES

The question of wages was discussed at great length. Dissatisfaction was expressed at the introduction of the new scale, partly because it involved a reduction in the wages of 23 per cent. of the railwaymen (with increases affecting 70 per cent.), and partly on account of difficulties in the application of the scale. Norms of production had been considerably increased and piece rates reduced, so that many railwaymen had been obliged either to work harder than before or to receive lower wages. It frequently happened that a skilled worker with considerable experience received under the new scale no more, or even less, than a new recruit without much special training. The Chairman of the Central Committee stated that he would take steps to rectify such mistakes, but that it was necessary to work harder in order to obtain better wages. In 1927 the average earnings of railwaymen, including workers employed in construction and repair shops, were 69 roubles a month, or, in real wages, 83 per cent. of the prewar wage. For the current year the average had been fixed at 73.20 roubles. Mr. Rudzutak, Commissary for Transport, informed the congress, however, that it was feared that it would be impossible to reach that level this year. No means were available which would make it possible to pay an average wage of 73.20 roubles. The trade union organisations should give energetic support to the Government policy in this matter.

The deficit of the transport undertakings was 195,000,000 roubles in 1926-27, and would probably be 225,000,000 this year. The Commissariat for Transport was thus obliged to economise on labour costs.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The number of unemployed members rose from 44,100 on 1st January 1926 to 99,600 on 1st October 1927. It was stated that there would be a further increase during the present year, inasmuch as the management of the State railways would have to reduce the staff for reasons of economy. The Commissary for Transport stated that the total number of railwaymen employed, including construction and repair shops, was 490,000 at the beginning of 1928, was now 470,000, and at the end of the year would be 450,000, if the railways were not to exceed their budget.

The majority of the unemployed received unemployment insurance benefits amounting to 12-17 roubles a month. The Union also granted relief to its unemployed members who had belonged to the union for two years or more before becoming unemployed. Persons who had belonged to the union for between two and three years received 10 roubles a month; those who had been members for three to five years received 12 roubles, and those who had been members for six years or more, 15 roubles.

The Chairman of the Central Committee stated that it was difficult to relieve unemployment in view of the reduction of staff, the labour turnover, and the tendency of certain classes of unemployed persons to refuse work offered, especially temporary work. He added that much could be done to reduce unemployment among railwaymen by training those unemployed in another trade. Very little had so far been done in this direction.

CONDITIONS OF LABOUR

The discussion on conditions of work turned mainly on accidents, the continuous use of locomotives, and housing.

The number of accidents in repair shops had increased from 30,000 in 1925-26 to 65,000 in 1926-27.

The principal causes suggested were the absence of protective devices and danger signs, and the ignorance of workers and management.

Railway accidents were also increasing. Losses incurred by the railways through accidents amounted to 6,700,000 roubles in 1924-25, 8,000,000 in 1925-26 and over 9,000,000 in 1926-27. The management accused the railwaymen of carelessness and lack of discipline. The delegates admitted that these charges were to some extent justified, but that it was quite unfair to attribute all the accidents to the fault of the workers. Accidents were frequently due to defects in the permanent way and equipment; broken couplings were caused by the use of worn-out rolling stock.

The system of continuous use of locomotives aroused keen criticism. It had been introduced unavoidably in view of the lack of engines, but the change had been made too suddenly and without sufficient preparation. The result has been to upset the shifts of drivers. Delegates complained that frequently shifts had been kept on duty for 36 consecutive hours, contrary to labour legislation.

Station employees complained that they had to work on an average ten to eleven hours a day. The average hours of guards were 250 to 300 a month.

As regards the housing situation, it was alleged that many railwaymen were obliged to live in disused carriages, huts and sheds.

Finally, the congress noted that there were still numerous breaches of collective agreements on the part of the management, and that neither the Commissariat for Labour nor the trade union organisations showed sufficient energy in the defence of the workers' interests.

TECHNICAL STAFF

The technical staff available was said to be quite insufficient. Only about 45 per cent. of the engineers urgently needed were available for railway service. Of the managing staff, only 14 per cent. were engineers and technical experts; 86 per cent. were "illiterates from the technical point of view," according to a member of the Central Committee. On the other hand, young persons, on completing their studies in engineering schools, had great difficulty in finding employment. The congress drew the attention of the Commissary for Transport and the Commissariat for Labour to this paradox. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, July 16, 1928.)

The International Labour Office

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The International Labour Conference has concluded its Eleventh Session, and the delegates have dispersed from Geneva. They have left behind them a considerable programme of work to be discharged by the International Labour Office during the coming months.

In the first place, the Office becomes the custodian and advocate, so to speak, of the new Convention—the twenty-sixth of the series—and the new Recommendation—the thirtieth of the series—adopted by this Session, relating to the creation, maintenance and application of minimum wage-fixing machinery in badly-organised or lowly-paid trades. It will be the duty of the Office to watch the fulfilment in respect of these decisions of the obligations accepted by the States under Article 405 of the Peace Treaty.

In the second place, the Office will have to put into formal terms the draft Questionnaires adopted by this Session on the subject of the prevention of industrial accidents, to communicate them to Governments, collect and analyse the replies and prepare reports and concrete proposals for submission to the next Session of the Conference.

In the next place, the Governing Body of the Office has been requested to take up anew the whole question of the revision of Conventions and to present a report on the problem to the next Conference. This question, it will be remembered, has already occupied the attention of the Governing Body on several occasions, more particularly as a result of the proposal of the British Government with regard to revision of the Hours Convention. Incidentally, it may be observed that, in the course of an exchange of views on this matter during the debate on the Director's Report, the representative of the British Government made an important formal declaration of its attitude and intentions, and one that may prove to indicate the lines along which a solution of this thorny problem may be found.

Finally, the Conference adopted a number of resolutions calling for enquiries by the Office into a variety of questions, ranging from the causes which hinder production to the reform of the calendar. On most of these questions—for examples, the effects of rationalisation, housing conditions, disablement, and production in general—the Office has already gathered material, and in some cases published it, in the normal course of its work. In other cases, however, the Office is called upon to break new ground, subject always to the approval of the Governing Body, which will decide at its next meeting the precise steps to be taken to give effect to these decisions of the Conference. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, June 25, 1928.)

Hours of Young Persons in Great Britain

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck recently introduced a Bill in the British House of Commons to make better provision for regulating the employment of young persons in particular occupations.

He explained to the House that there was a definite gap in the social code relating to hours. Children under 14 were safeguarded by the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act, and those over 18 by the Factories Acts, but those between 14 and 18 were entirely unprotected. He instanced the occupations of van-boys, errand boys, warehouse boys, young persons engaged in refreshment houses, page-boys in

hotels and night clubs and young persons employed in cinemas as being definitely outside the Factories Acts, Shops Acts and Education Act. This gave opportunities to employers, perhaps more through carelessness than anything else, to inflict on their young employees hours obviously detrimental to health and welfare. He had heard of van-boys working from 6-30 a.m. to 8-30 p.m. from 8 a.m. to 8-30 p.m. and from 4 a.m. to 5 p.m., of page-boys in restaurants working until well after midnight, and in night clubs until two and three in the morning.

Following established precedents, the Bill sought to give power to local authorities to regulate these matters by bye-laws. It had been drawn up in close collaboration with Government Departments; the Home Office, Ministry of Labour and Board of Education had been exceedingly helpful, in fact, so far as Government Departments were concerned, it was entirely an agreed Bill.

The question having been put to the House, the motion was agreed to and the Bill read the first time. It was ordered to be read the second time and to be printed. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, July 16, 1928.)

A Guide to Employment

The London Advisory Council for Juvenile Employment have issued a *Guide to Employment for London Boys and Girls*.

The guide covers, under trade groups, the majority of the varied occupations open to boys and girls in London and district, showing the recognised avenues for entering these occupations and the ordinary methods of training, both workshop and technical. The description is not confined to the work of skilled mechanics, but shows in some detail the services performed by certain professional workers, by clerical, commercial and domestic workers, as well as by process workers and labourers.

Though in the main only occupations normally entered under the age of 18 are included, the guide covers all such employments as are usually taken up by boys and girls both from secondary and from elementary schools. A distinction is drawn between occupations which largely fall to the share of young workers and often entail a change early in working life, and those which from the first offer reasonable prospects of permanence. So far as is possible, technical terms are avoided, and sufficient description of working conditions is given to enable some idea to be formed of what is actually to be anticipated when school is left behind and working life begins.

An appendix shows the various types of technical and commercial schools, institutes and classes arranged by the London County Council in connection with the occupations described in the guide. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, July 1928.)

Earnings in Manufacturing Industries in the United States

The May 1928 issue of the *American Federationist* contains an article on the above subject. The statistics given are based on the reports of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics on Employment and Pay Rolls. The following table gives the index of weekly earnings in "Textiles and their Products."

Index of Weekly Earnings (1923—100)

Month	1926	1927	1928
January	101.1	100.8	99.3
February	103.2	104.8	101.1
March	103.3	104.8	..
April	99.2	100.7	..
May	97.0	100.2	..
June	96.9	100.2	..
July	95.0	99.2	..
August	98.9	101.4	..
September	98.5	102.0	..
October	102.0	103.0	..
November	98.5	99.1	..
December	101.7	101.5	..
Average ..	99.8	101.5	..

The article contains some interesting figures giving the index of Labour's share in production and consumption. The base taken is the year 1922. The following figures are of interest:—

Index of Labour's Share in Production and in Consumption

	Share in production	Share in consumption
1922	100	100
1923	94	103
1924	110	111
1925	100	107
1926	103	110
1927	113	111
January	107	102
February	108	111
March	107	111
April	110	115
May	110	111
June	114	108
July	116	115
August	117	119
September	115	112
October	116	111
November	119	107
December	128	116
1928	..	..
January	113	104
February	110	107

Profit-Sharing and Labour Co-Partnership in 1927

Inquiries have recently been made by the Ministry of Labour as to the operation, in 1927, of schemes of profit-sharing and labour co-partnership known to have been in existence in that year, and statistics compiled from the information obtained are given below, together with figures for earlier years. These statistics are in continuation of those contained in the Report on Profit-sharing and Labour Co-partnership in the United Kingdom issued in 1920 (Cmd. 544) and in annual articles subsequently published in this *Gazette*. The figures relate only to definite schemes under which employees participate in profits on some pre-arranged basis; schemes consisting in the giving of bonuses or gratuities at the discretion of the employer, without any specified basis, and schemes providing for bonuses which depend only on output, sales, etc., and not on profits, are excluded from these statistics.

ALL SCHEMES IN OPERATION

The total number of undertakings of all kinds known to have been practising profit-sharing at the end of 1927, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 440. Of these, seven firms had each two separate schemes in operation, and the total number of schemes was therefore 447. About 437,000 workpeople were employed in the businesses concerned, of whom about 235,000 participated, or were entitled to participate, in the benefits of the schemes.

The following Table gives comparative figures for the years 1923-27 as to the numbers of schemes in operation, the numbers of employees covered, and also, so far as the information is available, as to the bonuses paid under these schemes:—

Year	Number of firms or societies	Number of schemes	Approximate number of employees entitled to participate	Bonuses paid under schemes for which details are available*			
				Number of schemes	Amount per head	Average percentage addition to earnings	
				£	s.	d.	Per cent.
1923	412	418	189,000	334	6	16 4	4.8
1924	420	426	205,000	338	7	13 2	4.8
1925	429	435	215,000	351	9	0 5	5.1
1926	432	438	223,000	354	8	16 3	4.4
1927	440	447	235,000	348	8	9 0	3.9

The figures in the above Table include schemes in co-operative societies as well as schemes in ordinary businesses. (From *Ministry of Labour Gazette*, London, June 1928.)

*Schemes in operation under which no bonus was earned are included.

Trade Union Membership in Various Countries

JAPAN

According to a report of the Japanese Bureau of Social Affairs, the number of trade unions in Japan at the end of 1927, was 505, an increase of 17 as compared with the end of June 1927, and their total membership was 309,493 (an increase of 17,158) of whom 296,469 were males (an increase of 16,934) and 13,024 females (an increase of 224)

The following table shows the number of unions and their memberships, by industry :—

Industrial Group	Number of Unions	Membership		Total
		Male	Female	
Machine and tools	72	96,188	994	97,182
Chemical	57	7,904	1,200	9,104
Textile	19	7,695	7,857	15,552
Food and drink	13	4,580	699	5,279
Miscellaneous	86	14,260	801	15,061
Mining	11	11,196	2	11,198
Gas and electricity	10	8,819	6	8,825
Transport	61	115,477	709	116,186
Communications	1	871		871
Civil engineering and construction	26	2,560		2,560
Others	149	26,919	748	27,667
Total	505	296,469	13,024	309,493

The number of unions and their membership in the principal prefectures were as follows :—

Prefecture	Number of Unions	Membership
Tokyo	82	50,913
Osaka	68	39,752
Kanagawa	29	36,016
Hyogo	39	74,726
Hiroshima	15	22,253
Fukuoka	14	22,220

LATVIA

A report laid before the 7th congress of the Latvian Trade Unions, held at Riga on 21st and 22nd April 1928, stated that the total membership of the affiliated organisations on 31st December 1927 was 18,732, as compared with 15,818 in 1926. At the beginning of 1928, two new federations joined the central organisation, so that at the date of the congress this organisation included 22 federations with about 22,000 members. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, May 28, 1928.)

International Textile Workers' Congress

The Congress of the International Federation of Textile Workers' Unions was held at Ghent from 21st May to 1st June 1928. The main purpose of the congress was to discuss the general situation in the textile industry and also to discuss the work of the Congress. The Congress also considered the question of the

SECRETARY'S REPORT

In the course of his report, the Secretary mentioned that in the year 1927 the number of members affiliated to the International Federation of Textile Workers' Unions was 70,000. He mentioned that increasing efforts had been made to establish contact with the Indian textile workers' organisations, and that the presence of a delegate from one of them gave reason to hope that until a national textile workers' organisation had been formed in India, it might be possible to secure the affiliation of a federation of the principal textile workers' organisations of that country. No success had attended the efforts of the Secretary to secure the affiliation of Japanese, Brazilian and Mexican textile workers. In the opinion of the Secretary, the most outstanding feature of the previous three years' work was the journeys undertaken to various countries for the purpose of investigating textile workers' conditions. In England, where the woollen textile workers had been confronted with demands on two occasions for reduction of wages, it had been possible to refute the arguments of the employers who had alleged that every serious condition of employment existed in competing undertakings in other countries of Europe.

INTERNATIONAL SITUATION IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

It was reported that in many countries of Europe better conditions of labour had been secured by the trade union organisations, but that the terrible conditions that existed in England at the beginning of the textile industry were seen almost with the same barbarity in the Far East today.

One of the most peculiar international developments was that at the United States, where factories had been rapidly built in the Cotton States itself, in which workers could be induced to work for long hours, and wages were miserably low in comparison with those of the New England States. A comparison of hours of labour and wages in different parts of the United States was almost like a comparison between Europe and some of the Far Eastern countries.

The report emphasised the fact that since the last International Textile Workers' Congress the most striking development in the industry had been the growth in the production of artificial silk. During the past few years, production had been increased many times over, and fabulous profits had been made by the employers. But in no case had fabulously high wages been paid. On the other hand, many complaints were being made of the grave risks which the workers ran in some factories. There could be no doubt about psychological dangers that existed in any industry of a competitive international character in which some workers were working very much longer hours than others and for very much lower wages.

HOURS OF LABOUR

On the initiative of the British delegation, a discussion was held with regard to the hours of labour obtaining in the textile industry.

Mr. J. Bell (England, Cotton Textile Workers) stated that in England the hours of work prescribed by law were 55½ per week, but that the agreements concluded by the workers' organisations with the employers fixed the working week at 48 hours or less. It was the opinion of the cotton textile workers' representatives that only by legislation was it possible to secure a satisfactory solution of the problem of working hours. With the development of the artificial silk industry, difficulty had arisen owing to the fact that other trade unions not catering exclusively for textile workers had commenced to organise the workers concerned. Such unions had recognised overtime and the two-shift system, with the result that the position of the established textile workers' organisations had become somewhat precarious.

In spite of the prevalence of bad trade, the employers had demanded a working week of 55½ hours. It was for these reasons that the textile workers' organisation demanded legislation to regulate working hours. The Factory Bill announced by the present Government contained exceptions by which it was possible to extend normal working hours. The textile workers' unions were opposed to such exceptions. They wished working hours to be definitely fixed by law and no exceptions allowed under any conditions.

Mr. Arthur Shaw (England, Woollen Textile Workers) emphasised the fact that since 1919 the hours of work in the woollen section of the textile industry had been 48. Overtime in the woollen section could only be worked if a permit was granted by a joint commission of employers and workers, who only granted permits to meet a "temporary phase of trade" or because the internal organisation of an undertaking was temporarily "out of balance." Such permits allowed overtime not exceeding six hours per week. Existing collective agreements covered 230,000 workers. The employers alleged that longer hours were being worked in France, and that Germany was also working extended hours. It seemed that the employers were endeavouring to undermine the 48-hour week, and that this necessitated particular vigilance on the part of textile workers' organisations inasmuch as 60 to 70 per cent. of the workers engaged in the woollen textile industry were women. It was for this reason that it was incumbent on that Congress to insist upon the ratification of the Washington Hours Convention. Mr. Shaw pointed out that attempts were being made, in view of what was alleged to exist on the Continent, to introduce the system of two consecutive shifts into the industry.

Representatives of the German Textile Workers' Union stated that according to existing collective agreements the hours of work in Germany were generally 51. These collective agreements would expire next month, and the Union hoped to secure improvements. At the end of December 1927, the German Union had concluded over 130 agreements affecting about 800,000 workers. Thirty-eight agreements concluded on behalf of 69,337 workers prescribed a 48-hour working week. In the following cases, additional hours were allowed: One collective agreement, affecting

1,100 workers, allowed a working week of 50 hours; 46 agreements, affecting 520,646 workers, allowed a working week of 51 hours; 15 agreements, affecting 23,659 workers, allowed a working week of 52 hours; 12 agreements, affecting 66,632 workers, allowed a working week of 53 hours; 24 agreements, affecting 103,530 workers, allowed a working week of 54 hours. Overtime at the rate of 25 per cent. extra pay was provided for in 95 agreements, affecting 685,312 workers.

RESOLUTION ON THE EIGHT-HOUR DAY

After hearing further reports from other countries the Congress unanimously adopted the following resolution:

That this Congress reaffirms the Resolution of the Vienna Congress and expresses its determination to pursue with increased energy the complete enforcement of the Eight-Hour Day as a maximum;

The Congress opposes all the exceptions which permit overtime and which in all countries are a source of misuse and result in an obvious violation of the Eight-Hour Day principle;

The Congress declares that the introduction or maintaining of the shift system is detrimental to the working classes, and calls upon all its affiliated organisations to take action for the abolition of the system for women and young persons.

On the proposal of Mr. Ben Turner, Chairman of the Committee responsible for the drafting of this resolution, it was also decided to send the following telegram to the International Labour Office:

The International Textile Workers' Congress in Ghent strongly supports the proposal of the Japanese workers' delegates to the International Labour Conference asking for a full international investigation of the conditions of the workers in the textile industry in all countries.

The Congress further demands the unconditional ratification of the Washington Hours' Convention. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, June 18, 1928.)

Labour Courts in Poland

The recent Legislative Decree relating to Labour Courts in Poland provides that the Courts shall consist, for the purpose of dealing with civil litigation, of a President appointed by the Government and of assessors and substitutes representing the employers and the workers. The workers' organisations are now studying the training of these assessors.

On 28th March 1928 the first course for training workers for their new task was begun. It was organised by the trade unions of non-manual workers in industry, commerce and administrative offices. Each course is to consist of 30 lectures dealing with industry, labour legislation, occupational organisation, etc. The lecturers include several high officials of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, and a number of University professors. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, June 11, 1928.)

Eleventh Session of the International Labour Conference

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

The Eleventh Session of the International Labour Conference (held on 16th June 1928) in accordance with the Convention of 1919 (Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery) by 26 votes to 27 the Conference adopted a Draft Convention concerning the creation of machinery in trades, to be determined by each State.

By 81 votes to 18 the Conference adopted a Recommendation (concerning general guiding principles for the application of such machinery) Prevention of Industrial Accidents; by unanimous vote the Conference decided to place on the agenda of the 12th Session:

The General Prevention of Industrial Accidents; and

The Protection against Accidents of Workers Employed in Loading or Unloading Ships.

By 54 votes to 5 the Conference adopted a draft Convention relating to the prevention of industrial accidents in general to be discussed at next year's discussion.

By a unanimous vote the Conference adopted a draft Convention concerning the protection against accidents of workers employed in loading or unloading ships. By a unanimous vote the Conference decided that the opinion of the Joint Maritime Commission should be obtained on the maritime aspects of the proposed Draft Convention on this subject, and should be communicated to Governments.

By a unanimous vote the Conference adopted a resolution in favour of the appointment of a Joint Committee of Governments, employers and workers to study the question of coupling accidents on railways, with special reference to the use of automatic couplings.

By a unanimous vote, the Conference adopted a resolution outlining the steps which should be taken to assist the "Safety First" movement.

By a unanimous vote, the Conference recommended that the International Labour Office should be authorized to continue its comparative study of national safety legislation.

Application of Conventions: The Conference adopted unanimously the conclusions of the Committee appointed to examine the annual reports of Governments on the measures taken to give effect to Conventions called by them.

Standing Orders: The Conference adopted unanimously several amendments to its Standing Orders relating to substitute delegates, etc., and also a number of amendments to the "standing clauses" of Draft Conventions relating to registration, ratifications, date of application, etc. The Governing Body was requested further to consider the question of revision of Conventions.

Resolutions: The Conference adopted, in most cases unanimously, resolutions in favour of enquiries into the causes which impede production, industrial relations, the effects of rationalisation on conditions of employment, housing conditions, dangers to motor vehicle drivers, rules regarding

the use of locomotives, collective bargaining in agriculture, re-education and re-employment of disabled persons, and conditions of work in the textile industry. Resolutions were also adopted with regard to voluntary associations for the support of the Organisation, calendar reform, the support of the Organisation, and the establishment of national labour departments. Resolutions relating to official languages were referred to the Governing Body.

Meeting of the Governing Body: The elections for the Governing Body for the next three years were held on the basis of Article 20 of the Peace Treaty as it stands, the amendments adopted in 1922 not yet having secured the requisite number of ratifications to make it operative. ("Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, June 18, 1928.)

Trade Unionism in Russia

CONGRESS OF TEXTILE WORKERS

The eighteenth congress of the Textile Workers' Union of the U. S. S. R. was held in Moscow from 194 to 20th April 1928. There were present 25 delegates, of whom 92 were women (42 per cent.). More than half the delegates (75 per cent.) had been directly elected by the workers in various undertakings; others were trade union officials (10 per cent.). The Communists present were 46 per cent. Several representatives of similar trade union organizations in other countries were also present.

Organization and Finance

The union has at present 847,000 members, including 20,000 unemployed workers and 6000 young people (under 18 years of age). More than half the members are women. The financial position of the union has much improved since the crisis which occurred in 1926 as a result of the bad administration of the Central Committee of that period. The accounts of the Central Committee, however, have not been approved.

At present, the expenditure on organization and administration has been so reduced that about 75 per cent. of the revenue from contributions is spent on the welfare of the members (medical benefits, recreation, employment, etc.). The fund for the unemployed amounts to 100,000,000 roubles. There is also a "vocational fund" (training, clubs, propaganda) amounting to 20,000,000 roubles, and the international mutual aid fund to 10,000,000 roubles.

A new Central Committee was appointed for two years until the next congress. It consists of 41 members, of whom 28 are women. Thirteen members belong to the Communist Party. Mr. Malobarsky was elected Chairman of the Central Committee.

The congress decided that it was necessary in the future to unite organizations from various political and economic tasks (for example, in connection with the anniversary of the Red Army, the placing of internal loans, etc.), which are detrimental to the proper work of the union.

Wages

The congress considered that there was still too great a diversity between the rates of wages paid for work of the same kind in different undertakings in the textile industry, as a result of which skilled workers and foremen were continually moving from one factory to another in search of higher remuneration, and the output of the undertakings suffered.

It was decided to revise the new scale, which considerably reduced the number of wage groups, in view of the fact that numerous objections have been raised by the workers. Skilled workers, in particular, are discontented with the new scale because, while it increases slightly the wages of unskilled or semi-skilled workers, it makes practically no increase in, and, in fact, sometimes actually reduces, the wages of skilled workers. According to Mr. Melnichansky, 45 per cent. of the workers will obtain a small increase in wages (0.17 roubles per day on the average) by the new scale, 52 per cent. will receive the same wages as before, and 3 per cent. will have their wages slightly lowered.

The delegates pointed out that the continued intensification of work made necessary by the lack of textile products on the market uses up the plant very rapidly; as a result, those employed on piece-work (and they are the majority) cannot keep their output at the same level, and as soon as production falls, wages automatically follow.

According to the Central Committee, the average monthly wage in the textile industry at present is 32 per cent. higher than the corresponding wage in 1913. The Committee considers that the union should seek to obtain an increase in wages in proportion to the increase in individual output.

Although no precise figures were given at the congress, the following are the wages in the State textile undertakings in September 1927, according to the most recent data:—

Branch of Industry	Monthly Wage		Daily Wage	
	Chervonetz Roubles	Prewar Roubles *	Chervonetz Roubles	Prewar Roubles
Cotton ..	54.95	27.6	2.29	1.16
Woollen ..	57.06	28.7	2.38	1.20
Linen ..	37.29	18.9	1.76	0.89
Hemp ..	47.42	23.8	2.05	1.03
Silk ..	60.08	30.3	2.60	1.32
Average ..	52.45	26.3	2.22	1.12

Administration of Industry

Questions relating to the administration of industry occupied much of the attention of the congress. According to a number of delegates, the

* The prewar roubles have been calculated by the International Labour Office according to the index numbers of the cost of living (1913=100) for the month of September 1927.

lack of unity and of ability in management, and the absence of well-considered programmes, are having a serious effect on production. Programmes are drawn up very late, and are changed frequently. The quality of the raw materials is unsatisfactory, the machinery and the looms are worn, and spare parts are lacking.

Intensification and rationalisation of work can scarcely be applied in such conditions. Moreover, the workers are mistrustful of attempts at rationalisation, partly because such efforts are often not sufficiently thought out, are applied in a haphazard fashion, and hence do not give the results anticipated, and partly because rationalisation chiefly affects the workers, involving an increase in individual output (frequently without any compensating increase in wages) and unemployment for the workers dispensed with. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, May 28, 1928.)

Agricultural Workers in England and Wales

According to the Agricultural Statistics for 1927 (Part I), which have been issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the total number of workers returned as employed on agricultural holdings above one acre in extent in England and Wales on 4th June 1927, was 774,449 as compared with 794,899 in 1926 and with 803,338 in 1925. The returns do not include the occupier or his wife, or domestic servants; but they do include members of his family working on the holding.

The following Table gives the totals for each of the last three years, distinguishing regular and casual workers:—

Classes of Workers	1927	1926	1925
<i>Regular Workers</i> —			
Males:			
21 years old and over	452,835	455,904	441,944
Under 21 years old	134,238	135,508	137,469
Women and girls	62,629	62,949	59,940
<i>Casual Workers</i> —			
Males:			
21 years old and over	67,078	79,193	90,870
Under 21 years old	18,034	19,738	23,878
Women and girls	39,635	41,607	49,237
Total, all workers	774,449	794,899	803,338

It will be seen that the reduction in 1927 was more than double that in 1926; the total reduction in the two years was nearly 29,000. The heaviest reduction was in casual workers; but, for the first time since 1923, there has also been a reduction in the number of adult male regular workers. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, June 1928.)

Trade Disputes Bill

Provision for Courts of Enquiry and Boards of Conciliation

CERTAIN STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS DECLARED ILLEGAL

The Government of India have now published their Bill "to make provision for the investigation and settlement of trade disputes and for certain other purposes" which they propose to introduce in the next Session of the Legislative Assembly to be held at Simla in September. The present Bill has been framed in light of the criticisms received from Provincial Governments and the various persons and bodies consulted on the original Bill drafted by the Government of India in the year 1924 which was published, with the covering letter from the Government of India, in the issue of the *Labour Gazette* for October 1924.

The main part of the present Bill differs in many respects from the corresponding sections of the Bill as originally drafted. The most important difference is that, whereas the 1924 Bill contemplated only one type of tribunal, viz., Boards which would be authorised to investigate and settle trade disputes, the present Bill contemplates the establishment of two different types of tribunal, viz., Courts of Enquiry, and Boards of Conciliation. The object of the Courts of Enquiry, which will ordinarily be composed of persons having no direct interest in the dispute, will be to investigate and report on such questions connected with the dispute as may be referred to them. The object of Boards of Conciliation, which will ordinarily include representatives of the parties to the dispute, will be to secure a settlement of the dispute. The proposal made in the 1924 Bill to create panels of persons suitable for representing the interests of parties upon Boards has been abandoned in order to leave Government as free a hand as possible to select the persons best qualified to serve on the Courts or Boards with reference to the particular dispute in question. In other respects, the proposals follow the general lines of those framed in 1924. They do not in any way involve compulsory arbitration.

Section 15 of the Bill is designed in the interests of the public to prevent strikes without notice in public utility services. Provisions of this character based upon the Canadian Law of 1907 were included in the 1924 Bill, but these have been substantially modified and the present proposals follow the latest English law on this question. The present section is applicable only to persons employed on monthly wages and requires that such persons shall give a month's previous notice in writing before withdrawing from their duties. Further, the section is not applicable to railway services unless and until these have been declared to be public utility services for the purposes of the Act.

Sections 16 to 20 of the Bill are designed to prevent illegal strikes and lock-outs and follow closely the provisions of sections 1, 2 and 7 of the British Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Act of 1927.

The following is a copy of the Bill which will now be introduced in the Indian Legislature:—

A Bill to make provision for the investigation and settlement of trade disputes, and for certain other purposes

WHEREAS it is expedient to make provision for the investigation and settlement of trade disputes, and for certain other purposes hereinafter appearing; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. *Short title, extent and commencement.*—(1) This Act may be called the Trade Disputes Act, 1928.

(2) It extends to the whole of British India, including British Baluchistan and the Sonthal Parganas.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Governor General in Council may, by notification in the Gazette of India, appoint.

2. *Interpretation.*—In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(a) "Board" means a Board of Conciliation constituted under this Act;

(b) "Court" means a Court of Inquiry constituted under this Act;

(c) "employer" means, in the case of any industry, business or undertaking carried on by any department of the Government, the authority prescribed in this behalf or, where no authority is prescribed, the head of the department;

(d) "lock-out" means the closing of a place of employment, or the suspension of work, or the refusal by an employer to continue to employ any number of persons employed by him, where such closing, suspension or refusal occurs in consequence of a dispute and is intended for the purpose of compelling those persons, or of aiding another employer in compelling persons employed by him, to accept terms or conditions of or affecting employment;

(e) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(f) "public utility service" means—

(i) any railway service which the Governor General in Council may, by notification in the Gazette of India, declare to be a public utility service for the purposes of this Act; or

(ii) the postal, telegraph or telephone services; or

(iii) any industry, business or undertaking which supplies light or water to the public; or

(iv) any system of public conservancy or sanitation;

and includes any other industry, business or undertaking which the Governor General in Council may, after giving by notification in the Gazette of India not less than three months' notice of his intention so to do, by a like notification declare to be a public utility service for the purposes of this Act;

(g) "railway company" means a railway company as defined in section 3 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890 (IX of 1890);

(h) "strike" means a cessation of work by a body of persons employed in any trade or industry acting in combination or a concerted refusal, or a refusal under a common understanding, of any number of

persons who are or have been so employed to continue to work or to accept employment ;

(i) "trade dispute" means any dispute or difference between employers and workmen, or between workmen and workmen, which is connected with the employment or non-employment or the terms of the employment, or with the conditions of labour, of any person ; and

(j) "workman" means any person employed in trade or industry for hire or reward, but does not include any person employed in the naval, military or air service of the Crown.

Reference of Disputes to Courts and Boards

3. *Reference of disputes to Courts or Boards.*—If any trade dispute exists or is apprehended between an employer and any of his workmen, the Local Government, or where the employer is the head of a department under the control of the Governor General in Council or is a railway company, the Governor General in Council, may, by order in writing,—

(a) refer any matters appearing to be connected with or relevant to the dispute to a Court of Inquiry to be appointed by the Local Government or the Governor General in Council, as the case may be ; or

(b) refer the dispute to a Board of Conciliation to be appointed by the Local Government or the Governor General in Council, as the case may be, for promoting a settlement thereof.

Courts of Inquiry

4. *Constitution of Courts.*—(1) A Court shall consist of a chairman and such other persons as the appointing authority thinks fit, or may, if such authority thinks fit, consist of one person.

(2) A Court, having the prescribed quorum, may act notwithstanding any vacancy in the number of its members other than the chairman.

5. *Duties of Courts.*—(1) A Court shall, either in public or in private, at its discretion, inquire into the matters referred to it and report thereon to the authority by which the Court was appointed.

(2) A Court may, if it thinks fit, make interim reports.

Boards of Conciliation

6. *Constitution of Boards.*—(1) A Board shall consist of a chairman and two or four other members, as the appointing authority thinks fit, or may, if such authority thinks fit, consist of one independent person.

(2) Where the Board consists of more than one person, the chairman shall be an independent person and the other members shall be either independent persons or persons appointed in equal numbers to represent the parties to the dispute ; all such persons shall be appointed on the recommendation of the parties concerned.

Provided that, if any party fails to make the necessary recommendation within the prescribed time, the appointing authority shall select and appoint such persons as it thinks fit to represent that party.

(3) A Board, having the prescribed quorum, may act notwithstanding any vacancy in the number of its members other than the chairman :

Provided that, where a Board includes an equal number of persons representing the parties to the dispute and any of such persons resigns

from the Board before it has completed its work, the authority appointing the Board shall appoint, in the manner specified in sub-section (2), another person to take his place, and the proceedings shall be continued before the Board so re-constituted.

7. *Duties of Boards.*—(1) Where a dispute has been referred to a Board under this Act, it shall be the duty of the Board to endeavour to bring about a settlement of the same, and for this purpose the Board shall, in such manner as it thinks fit and without delay, investigate the dispute and all matters affecting the merits thereof and the right settlement thereof, and in so doing may do all such things as it thinks fit for the purpose of inducing the parties to come to a fair and amicable settlement of the dispute, and may adjourn the proceedings for any period sufficient in its opinion to allow the parties to agree upon terms of settlement.

(2) If a settlement of a dispute is arrived at by the parties thereto after it has been referred to a Board and during the course of the investigation thereof, a memorandum of the settlement shall be drawn up by the Board and signed by the parties, and the Board shall send a report of the settlement, together with the memorandum, to the authority by which the Board was constituted.

(3) If no such settlement is arrived at during the course of the investigation, the Board shall, as soon as possible after the close thereof, send a full report regarding the dispute to the authority by which the Board was constituted, setting forth the proceedings and steps taken by the Board for the purpose of ascertaining the facts and circumstances relating to the dispute and of bringing about a settlement thereof, together with a full statement of such facts and circumstances and its findings thereon and the recommendation of the Board for the settlement of the dispute.

(4) The recommendation of the Board shall deal with each item of the dispute, and shall state in plain language what in the opinion of the Board ought and ought not to be done by the respective parties concerned.

General

8. *Finality of orders constituting a Court or Board.*—No order of the Governor General in Council or of a Local Government appointing any person as a member of a Court or a Board shall be called in question in any manner.

9. *Procedure and Powers.*—(1) Courts and Boards shall follow such procedure as may be prescribed.

(2) Courts and Boards shall have the same powers as are vested in Courts under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (V of 1908), when trying a suit in respect of the following matters :—

(a) enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath ;

(b) compelling the production of documents and material objects ; and

(c) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses ; and shall have such further powers as may be prescribed ; and every inquiry or investigation by a Court or Board shall be deemed to be a judicial proceeding within the meaning of sections 193 and 228 of the Indian Penal Code (XLV of 1860).

10. *Filling of vacancies.*—(1) If the services of the chairman or of any other member of a Court or Board cease to be available at any time for the purposes of the Court or Board, the appointing authority shall appoint another chairman, or may appoint another member, as the case may be, and the proceedings shall be continued before the Court or Board so re-constituted.

(2) Where the Court or Board consists of one person only and his services cease to be available as aforesaid, the appointing authority shall appoint another person in his place, and the proceedings shall be continued before the person so appointed.

11. *Form of report.*—The report of a Court or Board shall be in writing and shall be signed by all the members of the Court or Board :

Provided that nothing in this section shall be deemed to prevent any member of a Court or Board from recording a minute of dissent from a report or from any recommendation made therein.

12. *Publication of results of inquiry.*—The authority appointing a Court or Board shall publish its report in such manner as such authority thinks fit, and may publish or cause to be published from time to time, in such manner as such authority thinks fit, any information obtained, or conclusions arrived at, by the Court or Board as the result of its inquiry or investigation.

13. *Certain matters to be kept confidential.*—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 12, there shall not be included in any report or publication made or authorised by a Court or Board or the authority appointing a Court or Board any information obtained by the Court or Board in the course of its inquiry or investigation as to any Trade Union or as to any individual business (whether carried on by a person, firm or company) which is not available otherwise than through evidence given before the Court or Board, except with the consent in writing of the secretary of the Trade Union or of the person, firm or company in question ; nor shall any individual member of the Court or Board or any person concerned in the proceedings before it disclose any such information without such consent.

(2) If any member of a Court or Board or any person present at or concerned in the proceedings before a Court or Board discloses any information in contravention of the provisions of sub-section (1), he shall, on complaint made by or under the authority of the Trade Union or individual business affected, be punishable with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees :

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall apply to the disclosure of any such information for the purposes of a prosecution under section 193 of the Indian Penal Code (XLV of 1860).

14. *Representation of parties.*—Save as may be otherwise prescribed, no person shall be entitled to be represented by a legal practitioner before a Court or Board.

Special provision regarding Public Utility Services

15. *Sudden strikes in utility services.*—(1) Any person who, being employed on monthly wages in a public utility service, voluntarily

withdraws from the duties of his office without permission or without having given to his employer one month's previous notice in writing shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to fifty rupees, or with both.

(2) Any person who abets the commission of an offence under sub-section (1) shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both.

(3) No Court shall take cognisance of any offence under this section save on complaint made by, or under authority from, the Governor General in Council or the Local Government.

(4) No Court inferior to that of a Presidency Magistrate or a Magistrate of the first class shall try any offence under this section.

Special provision for Illegal Strikes and Lock-outs

16. *Illegal strikes and lock-outs.*—(1) A strike or a lock-out shall be illegal which—

(a) has any object other than, or in addition to, the furtherance of a trade dispute within the trade or industry in which the strikers or employers locking out are engaged ; and

(b) is a strike or lock-out designed or calculated to coerce the Government either directly or by inflicting hardship upon the community.

(2) It shall be illegal to commence or continue, or to apply any sums in furtherance or support of, any such illegal strike or lock-out.

(3) For the purposes of this section, a trade dispute shall not be deemed to be within a trade or industry unless it is a dispute between employers and workmen, or between workmen and workmen, in that trade or industry, which is connected with the employment or non-employment or the terms of the employment, or with the conditions of labour, of persons in that trade or industry.

(4) A strike or a lock-out shall not be deemed to be calculated to coerce the Government unless such coercion might reasonably be expected as a consequence thereof.

17. *Penalty.*—(1) If any person declares, instigates, incites others to take part in, or otherwise acts in furtherance of, a strike or lock-out which is illegal under the provisions of section 16, he shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both :

Provided that no person shall be deemed to have committed an offence under this section by reason only of his having ceased work or refused to continue to work or to accept employment.

(2) No Court shall take cognisance of any offence under this section save on complaint made by, or under authority from, the Governor General in Council or the Local Government.

(3) No Court inferior to that of a Presidency Magistrate or a Magistrate of the first class shall try any offence under this section.

18. *Certain provisions of Act XVI of 1926 not to apply to illegal strike or lock-out.*—The provisions of sections 17 and 18 of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 (XVI of 1926), shall not apply to any act done in contemplation or furtherance of a strike or lock-out which is illegal under section 16, and any such act shall not be deemed for the purposes of any enactment to be done in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute.

19. *Protection of persons withholding from illegal strike or lock-out.*—(1) No person refusing to take part, or to continue to take part, in any strike or lock-out which is illegal under the provisions of section 16 shall, by reason of such refusal or by reason of any action taken by him under this section, be subject to expulsion from any trade union or society, or to any fine or penalty, or to deprivation of any right or benefit to which he or his legal representatives would otherwise be entitled, or be liable to be placed in any respect, either directly or indirectly, under any disability or at any disadvantage as compared with other members of the union or society, anything to the contrary in the rules of a trade union or society notwithstanding.

(2) Nothing in the rules of a trade union or society requiring the settlement of disputes in any manner shall apply to any proceeding for enforcing any right or exemption secured by this section, and in any such proceeding the Court may, in lieu of ordering a person who has been expelled from membership of a trade union or society to be restored to membership, order that he be paid out of the funds of the trade union or society such sum by way of compensation or damages as the Court thinks just.

20. *Injunctions for restraint of application of funds.*—Without prejudice to the right of any person having a sufficient interest in the relief sought to sue or apply for an injunction to restrain any application of the funds of a trade union in contravention of the provisions of section 16, an injunction restraining any application of the funds of a trade union in contravention of the provisions of that section may be granted at the suit or upon the application of the Governor General in Council or a Local Government.

Rules

21. *Power to make rules.*—(1) The Governor General in Council in respect of industries, businesses and undertakings carried on by him or under his authority, or by a railway company, and the Local Governments in respect of other businesses, industries, or undertakings within their respective provinces, may make rules for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(a) the powers and procedure of Courts and Boards, including rules as to the summoning of witnesses, the production of documents relevant to the subject-matter of an inquiry or investigation and the number of members necessary to form a quorum;

(b) the allowances admissible to members of Courts and Boards and to witnesses;

(c) the ministerial establishment which may be allotted to a Court or Board and the salaries and allowances payable to members of such establishments;

(d) the occasions and manner in which persons may be represented by legal practitioners in proceedings under this Act before a Court or Board;

(e) any other matter which is to be or may be prescribed.

(3) All rules made under this section shall be published in the Gazette of India or the local official Gazette, as the case may be, and shall, on such publication, have effect as if enacted in this Act.

Native Wages in Bloemfontein

The South African Wage Board is carrying out an investigation into the wages, hours and conditions of unskilled labourers in the city of Bloemfontein.

One of the chief witnesses was Mr. Clements Kadalie, General Secretary of the Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union. He read a statement, the main feature of which was the demand for a minimum wage of 3s. 6d. per day. In reply to a question by the Chairman, Mr. Kadalie said that his demand was not for a living wage, which would be 5s. a day.

In the course of his statement, Mr. Kadalie said that the natives did not suggest any decision at that stage for semi-skilled labour, which they would leave to a future date, when it could be seen how the proposed determination worked in practice. He claimed that before the War it had been a recognised custom to pay unskilled labour 2s. 6d. per day. Since the War the cost of living had gone up 40 per cent. There had, moreover, been a steady rise in the standard of living of natives, which was approved by all thinking people. The increase of 1s. per day asked for was therefore long overdue.

Mr. L. Marquard, on behalf of the Joint Council of Europeans and Bantu, submitted figures to show the cost of living of natives. Questionnaires had been sent out, and from those returned figures had been compiled for a month of 30 days. The cost of living of 2 adults and 3 children averaged as follows:—

Foodstuffs	..	..	..	2	14	10
Fuel, light, etc.	..	..	..	1	4	10
Sundries	..	..	..	2	7	6
Total	..	..	..	6	7	2

This gave a figure of 4s. 1d. per day, which was very close to these reached by similar enquiries in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

A representative of the master builders opposed the suggested increase in wages. He stated that if the rate was raised, many builders would prefer to employ Europeans at 8s. per day. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, June 11, 1928.)

Criminal Conspiracy in Trade Disputes Protection for Members of Unregistered Trade Unions

BILL TO AMEND THE INDIAN PENAL CODE

Section 17 of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 says that "no officer or member of a registered Trade Union shall be liable to prosecution under section (2) of Section 120B of the Indian Penal Code for any agreement made between the members of such Trade Union as to any such object of the Trade Union as is mentioned in section 15, if such agreement is an agreement to commit an offence." In order to provide similar protection to the officers and members of unregistered Trade Unions, Mr. N. M. Joshi introduced a Bill to amend the Indian Penal Code in the Legislative Assembly, on the 14th February 1928. The text of the Bill and the 'Statement of Objects and Reasons' are given below :

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BILL No. 12 OF 1928 A Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code.

WHEREAS it is necessary to legalise Trade Unions and whereas it is expedient to protect the members and officers of such Trade Unions from criminal liability under section 120B of the Indian Penal Code;

And whereas it is necessary to protect from criminal liability any two or more persons acting together in the any act or communication in furtherance of a trade dispute or in restraint of trade;

And whereas it is expedient further to amend the Indian Penal Code for the purpose hereinbefore appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows :-

1. *Short title.*—This Act may be called the Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Act, 1928.

2. *Amendment of section 43, Act XLV of 1860.*—To section 43 of the Indian Penal Code the following proviso shall be added, namely:—

"Provided that nothing is illegal if done or proposed to be done by two or more persons in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute or in restraint of trade, unless it be an offence when committed by one person."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

1. Trade Unions are now organized all the world over as a legitimate method of protecting and furthering the cause of labour. The Trade Unions Act of 1926 is only an instance of the recognition of this principle in India, though only to a limited extent. The said Act, however, protects only such of the Trade Unions, their members and officers as are registered under the said Act. It affords no protection to Trade Unions which are not registered.

2. In the present state of the Trade Union movement in India and even elsewhere some Trade Unions may not get themselves registered under

the Act. It is, however, absolutely necessary to protect the members and officers of such Trade Unions from the criminal liability for their acts done in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute or in restraint of trade. Moreover, under the present unorganised condition of labour in India there will be many cases when two or more persons may combine themselves without forming a Trade Union in furtherance or in restraint of the interests of labour. The actions of such persons may now be prosecuted under the provisions of section 120B of the Indian Penal Code.

Under the existing criminal law, as contained in section 120B of the Indian Penal Code an agreement between two or more persons to do an illegal act is an offence. The word illegal as defined in section 43 of the Indian Penal Code includes inter alia anything which affects contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute or in restraint of trade or about a ground for such action and thereby would be "illegal" under the Indian Penal Code. Such an act was not considered to be an offence under the existing law under the English law. Further, such an act of the Government of India was not considered to be an offence under the Government of India Act, 1919. It is true that under section 43 of the Government of India Act, 1919, the Local Government or some other authority appointed by the Government General in Council is necessary to commence a prosecution. But it cannot be denied that under some circumstances it was very difficult for the authorities giving sanction to commence a prosecution. Moreover, in this country Government themselves are large employers of labour.

It is, therefore, necessary for the protection of the members and officers of unorganised Trade Unions and unorganised workers and with the Indian Criminal law as it stood before 1913.

The object sought to be achieved by modifying the definition of the term "illegal" by adding a proviso to it at the end of section 43 of the Indian Penal Code as given in clause 2 of the Bill.

N. M. JOSHI.

Indian Labour in Ceylon

The following extracts from an Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Indian labourers have been published for general information.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Indian Labour Ordinance, No. 27 of 1927, and shall be read and construed as one with Ordinance No. 11 of 1865, Ordinance No. 13 of 1889, and the Labour Ordinance No. 1 of 1923.

Chapter I—Minimum Wages

2. (1) In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires "Minimum rates of wages" means the rates proper in cash or kind or both for an able-bodied unskilled male labourer above the age of sixteen years, for an able-bodied unskilled female labourer above the age of fifteen years, or for an able-bodied child of either sex for time work;

"Labourer" means a labourer as defined by section 3 of Ordinance No. 13 of 1889;

"Employer" includes any person who enters into an agreement either expressly or impliedly with any labourer and the duly authorized agent or manager of such person;

"Controller" means the Controller of Indian Immigrant Labour.

(2) Every labourer shall be deemed to be able-bodied unless and until the Controller shall determine that he is not able-bodied.

(3) Should any question arise as to whether a labourer is able-bodied or not, it shall be determined by the Controller, and such determination shall be final.

3. (1) Where a labourer is employed at work other than time work for a day or a successive number of days within any calendar month, the wages payable to him for that day or successive number of days, shall not be less than the wages payable to such labourer for such period at the minimum rates of wages prescribed under this Ordinance.

(2) In the case of a labourer paid by the day, any period of work performed by such person exceeding nine hours per day (including time not exceeding one hour taken for the mid-day meal) shall be paid for at overtime rates, and shall be in addition to the minimum rates of wages payable to the labourer for a day's work. Such overtime rates shall not be less per hour than one-eighth of the minimum rates of wages fixed under this Ordinance.

4. No employer shall knowingly employ for work on estates any child below the age of ten years, or knowingly permit such child to be employed.

5. (1) It shall be lawful for the Governor by notification in the *Gazette* to appoint for any revenue district an estate wages board composed of five members, none of whom shall be members of the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour.

(2) The said board shall be composed of a chairman (who shall be a public officer nominated by the Governor) and four other members, of whom two shall be employers of Indian labourers working on estates, the remaining two being selected to represent the labourers.

(3) Such members shall hold office for a period not exceeding three years, and any member leaving the Island for a period exceeding six months or being absent from three consecutive meetings of an estate wages board shall *ipso facto* cease to be a member. Any member may resign by notice in writing given to the Colonial Secretary.

(4) Any member ceasing to be a member in the manner aforesaid shall be eligible for reappointment.

(5) Any vacancy created by death or incapacity to act or in the manner indicated in paragraph (3) of this section may be filled by the Governor, and such member shall hold office until the expiration of the three years in question.

(6) At a meeting of the estate wages board three members shall form a quorum and the chairman shall be entitled to vote and in case of equality of votes shall have a second or casting vote.

6. (1) The Governor may, if he thinks it expedient, establish one estate wages board for two or more revenue districts, and thereupon such board shall be the estate wages board for the combined revenue districts, or the Governor may establish an estate wages board for portions of one, two, or more revenue districts, and thereupon such board shall be the estate wages board for the area so combined.

(2) The Governor may from time to time alter the boundaries of the area over which any estate wages board has jurisdiction.

(3) For the purpose of this chapter, an estate shall be deemed to be subject to the jurisdiction of that estate wages board within whose area the whole of the estate is situated, or within whose area is that part of the estate where the person resident on the estate and in chief control of the labourers working thereon, has his estate office or other place of management.

7. It shall be lawful for the Controller to make such payments as may be necessary to the members of the estate wages boards to meet the cost of travelling and maintenance in connection with meetings of such boards from the Immigration Fund created by Ordinance No. 1 of 1923.

8. (1) Subject to the provisions of this chapter, an estate wages board shall, from time to time as occasion may require, fix minimum rates of wages for time work performed on estates within its jurisdiction: Provided that the chairman of such wages board shall by notification in the *Gazette* and in at least one local English and one local Tamil newspaper, if such are available, give notice of the intention of the estate wages board to fix minimum rates of wages, or where such have been already fixed to alter the same at least one month before the estate wages board proceeds to fix or alter such rates, and provided further that such estate wages board may before fixing such minimum rates of wages hear any interested person and his witnesses who may have given due notice of his intention of being present.

(2) An estate wages board may, if it thinks fit, fix different minimum rates for labourers working in different localities within its jurisdiction, and may fix different rates for different classes of labourers.

(3) An estate wages board may cancel or vary from time to time any minimum rates of wages fixed under this chapter.

(4) The chairman of an estate wages board shall inform the chairman of the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour of each decision of the estate wages board fixing, cancelling, or varying a minimum rate of wages, and the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour may confirm, vary or cancel every such decision.

(5) The Chairman of the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour shall by notification in the *Gazette* and in at least one local English and one local Tamil newspaper, if such are available, publish the decision of such estate wages board, and the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour shall not confirm, vary, or cancel such decision until after the expiration of one month from the date of such notification.

9. (1) The Board of Indian Immigrant Labour may from time to time of its own motion fix any minimum rates of wages or cancel or vary any minimum rates of wages which have already been fixed under this chapter whenever any estate wages board, upon being required so to do by the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour, shall fail to fix, vary, or cancel such minimum rates within two months or such further period as may be allowed by the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour.

(2) The Board of Indian Immigrant Labour when acting under this section shall give notice to the public and hear witnesses (if any) as provided in sub-section (1) of the preceding section.

10. (1) A minimum rate of wages or a cancellation or variation thereof shall not take effect until it has been approved by the Governor in Executive Council and published in the *Gazette*. When so published the minimum rate or the cancellation or variation thereof shall be binding on all employers, and shall take effect from a date (being not less than one month from the date of publication) to be fixed by the Controller and to be published in the *Gazette*. Such rate or the cancellation or variation thereof shall also be published in at least one local English and one local Tamil newspaper, if such are available.

(2) A notification in the *Gazette* to the effect that any minimum rate of wages has been fixed, varied, or cancelled with the approval of the Governor in Executive Council under this chapter shall be judicially noticed, and shall be conclusive proof of the fact and of the date on which the minimum rate of wages or variation or cancellation thereof takes effect.

(3) After such publication in the *Gazette* every employer shall exhibit in some conspicuous place on his estate a notice in the Tamil language on a board setting forth the minimum rates of wages applicable to his estate, so that it may be readily seen and read by the labourers.

11. (1) Any person who employs or pays a labourer to whom a minimum rate of wages fixed under this chapter is applicable at a rate of wages less favourable to the labourer than the minimum rate shall on conviction by a police magistrate be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred rupees for each offence.

(2) In any proceedings against an employer under this section the court shall, whether there is a conviction or not, order the employer to pay in addition to the fine, if any, such sum as may be found by the court to represent the difference between the amount which ought at the minimum

rate applicable to have been paid to the labourer during the period of six months immediately preceding the date on which the plaint was filed or the summons was served and the amount actually paid to him during that period.

12. (1) For the purpose of administering this chapter, the Controller shall have power at all reasonable times, with or without notice, to enter upon any premises on which labourers work and to inspect all records connected with the engagement, registration, payment, and discharge of such labourers (including any forms III in Schedule C to Ordinance No. 13 of 1889), and to make all such inquiries as may be necessary to ascertain the rates at which wages have been paid to such labourers.

(2) It shall be the duty of every employer to have and keep at an office on the estate every form III in Schedule C to Ordinance No. 13 of 1889 delivered to him by a labourer and also proper records of the wages paid to labourers, and any employer who fails to do so, or, when requested so to do by the Controller, fails to produce any such form or records, not being forms or records over one year old, or to answer any question relating to any such form or records or to the wages paid by the employer, shall, on conviction by a police magistrate, be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred rupees.

(3) Any agent appointed under section 8 of Ordinance No. 1 of 1923 and any officer authorised by him in writing shall have the same powers of inspection and making inquiries as are conferred on the Controller by this section.

13. No prosecution under this chapter shall be instituted except by or with the written consent of the Controller.

14. In each of the two immediately preceding sections, "Controller" includes any officer of his department of or above the rank of inspector who is generally or specially authorised in writing by the Controller to act for the purposes of such section.

15. If any person contravenes any provision of this chapter, then, if no penalty is imposed by the chapter, he shall, on conviction by a police magistrate be liable for each offence to a fine not exceeding one hundred rupees.

Chapter II.—Amendments of Ordinance No. 11 of 1865 and Ordinance No. 13 of 1889. (Sections 16-29.)

Chapter III

30. Every employer shall exhibit in some conspicuous place on his estate, so that they may be easily seen and read by labourers, translations in Tamil of Ordinances No. 11 of 1865, No. 13 of 1889, No. 43 of 1921, No. 1 of 1923 and of this Ordinance, as issued by the Government. (From "International Labour Office Legislative Series," Geneva: 1921—Ceyl. 1.)

Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India Conditions of Rural Labour

The Royal Commission on Indian Agriculture which was appointed early in the year 1926 has recently issued its Report. It is proposed in this article briefly to summarise some of the discussions contained in the Report dealing with problems connected with agricultural labour.

The development of communications and the consequent cheapening of travelling facilities, the Commission point out, are bringing the villages into closer touch with urban centres and tending to break down the isolation and self-sufficing economy of the village.

In the course of their remarks, they emphasize the close relations between agriculture and public health and point out that in order that there may be better farming there must be better living on the part of the cultivator. For better living certain conditions regarding sanitation and health are necessary which, they think, are unsatisfactory at the present time. Sanitation, they point out, in any accepted sense of the word is practically non-existent and economic wastage due to disease is very considerable. In order to improve these conditions a close co-operation between Government Departments and the public is, in their opinion, essential. It is the duty of Government to investigate basic medical problems and enunciate and direct sound principles of public health administration. It is the duty of the people to co-operate in giving effect to such recommendations and generally to assist in improving rural conditions.

As regards diseases prevalent in the country and which take a large toll of human lives, the Commission make certain definite recommendations as regards malaria. Of all the diseases in India, they say, malaria is the most wide-spread and its effects on the efficiency of the rural community are disastrous. The principal prophylactic in the treatment of this disease is quinine and cinchona febrifuges and not the least of Government's responsibility in the control of malaria is connected with its policy in regard to the manufacture of this drug. At present all the cinchona plantations with one exception and the factories for the manufacture of quinine are owned by the provincial Governments of Bengal and Madras. If the question of malaria is to be seriously tackled, they are of opinion that the development of cinchona cultivation in all provinces which contain areas suitable for its growth, the manufacture of quinine, and the control of its distribution so far as the price within India is concerned, should be taken over by the Government of India.

In the course of the discussion of the problem of human nutrition, the Commission refer to the work done by Colonel McCarrison and recommend that the various workers on the nutrition problem should be formed into a Committee of Nutrition which should meet at regular intervals to discuss common questions. It is also recommended that a central institute of human nutrition should be established.

The Commission point out that no lasting improvement in the standard of living of the great mass of the population can possibly be attained if

every enhancement in the purchasing power of the cultivator is to be followed by a proportionate increase in the population and they therefore suggest that the Government in the rural areas should be given powers which would act as stimulus to a desire for better living. One of the methods suggested for accomplishing this is the formation of Better Living Societies.

One of the problems dealt with in the Report is of spare time employment for the villagers. The Commission point out that the amount of spare time which the cultivator has on his hands varies greatly according to the agricultural conditions but they assume as a broad generalization that the large majority of cultivators have at least two to four months of absolute leisure during the year. It is also pointed out that the industries located in the rural areas are of present unimportant from the point of view of demand for labour, and it is therefore suggested that their multiplication within economic limits would be one solution of the problem of spare time employment in the rural areas.

Numerous suggestions were made to the Commission as regards spare time employment. In the opinion of the Commission an industry which seems to offer considerable promise is the extension of the local manufacture of agricultural implements. They also think that there are opportunities for the development of the poultry industry and in their opinion the work done in connection with poultry rearing in the United Provinces would suggest that this industry has possibilities of expansion.

The Commission point out that the development of village industries on a co-operative basis is essential if they are to survive increasing competition. For this it would be necessary for Government to give advances in special cases to artisan co-operative societies for the purchase of improved machinery. The main lines on which assistance could be given to the smaller industries to enable them to hold their own in the intensive competition of modern times would be co-operative organisation and provision of facilities for technical education.

The Commission refer to the finding of the Famine Commission of 1880 as regards the pressure of population on land and say that the labour problem of to-day is the same from the agricultural point of view as when the Famine Commission made its report. They suggest that the pressure might be relieved by permanent migration within India. It is pointed out that while seasonal migration prevails to a considerable extent, permanent migration does not take place on the scale that might be expected. They recommend therefore that the State should encourage the free movement of labour and where any restrictions exist they should be reduced or abolished as soon as possible. In certain areas migration is impeded by malaria or lack of water. Such conditions should be investigated and improved and definite schemes of colonisation introduced. In this connection the example of Burma is quoted. Colonies for Burmese from the congested areas have been established on lands which have been disafforested or on waste lands coming under irrigation for the first time.

As regards emigration abroad, the Commission think that the possibility of emigration is confined to the tropical and sub-tropical parts of the British Empire only. Ceylon and British Malaya at present attract a large amount of Indian labour but the limits of absorption in these parts have probably

been reached. The British West Indies, Mauritius, British Guiana and the Fiji Islands also attract a certain number of Indian emigrants but British Guiana seems to be the only country which offers scope for immigration on any considerable scale. It is pointed out that British Guiana is capable of absorbing over two million people or more than the total Indian population at present resident abroad.

The Report contains an interesting discussion on rural indebtedness. It is pointed out that the general expansion of the credit of the landholder, his illiteracy and the temptation he has to relieve present necessities by mortgaging future income and even his capital have on the one hand led to increase in indebtedness, while on the other the position of the money-lender has been strengthened by the rapid development of commerce and trade, the introduction of established law and permanent civil courts and the enactment of such measures as the Contract Act.

It is pointed out that the legislative measures designed to deal with the problem of indebtedness have proved a comparative failure. The Kamianti Agreements Act in Bihar and Orissa has been found ineffective. The provisions of the Deccan Agriculturists Relief Act are being evaded and the Usurious Loans Act is practically a dead letter in every province in India. The Commission recommended that all the provinces in India should undertake an enquiry into the causes of the failure of the Usurious Loans Act as they think that if the provisions of this Act were fully utilised, it would go far to remove the evils of uncontrolled usury. They also recommended for the consideration of Provincial Governments the Punjab Moneylenders Bill and the British Moneylenders Act of 1927. They think that the case for a simple Rural Insolvency Act should also be examined.

The Commission record their belief that the greatest hope for the salvation of the rural masses from the crushing burden of debt rests in the growth and spread of a healthy and well organized co-operative movement based upon the careful education and systematic training of the villagers themselves.

Unemployment in the Punjab

Report of the Committee of Enquiry*

The Committee appointed by the Punjab Government early in the year 1927 to inquire into the unemployment problem has recently issued its report. The following were the terms of reference of the Committee:—

- (1) To investigate and report the extent of the existence of unemployment among (a) the educated, and (b) the uneducated classes of the community in the Punjab;
- (2) The causes of unemployment; and
- (3) The possible remedies for unemployment.

The Committee prepared a questionnaire which was issued to 24 organised social and political associations besides all District Bar Associations, all heads of Government departments, ten members of the Legislative Council representing different well-defined interests, all Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners and all heads of colleges in the province and a number of individuals who had offered to give evidence or were thought likely to be able to furnish the Committee with information or advice. The response to the Committee's invitation was disappointing. Only about 20 private individuals and associations sent in their answers to the questionnaire and the bulk of the evidence obtained was derived from officials of various departments, of whom about 120 submitted replies.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG THE UNEDUCATED CLASSES

As regards unemployment among the uneducated classes, the evidence showed that there was no unemployment worthy of mention among this class of the community, except among certain sections, such as weavers notably at Shahpur, amongst ex-soldiers who were not disposed to return to agriculture after leaving the colours and among workers in cotton ginning factories. The Committee also arrived at the conclusion that in some districts there was considerable distress among the classes who formerly subsisted by money-lending and petty shop-keeping but whose activities had been somewhat curtailed by the march of events in recent years. The only case of unemployment in the true sense of the word which the Committee came across was unemployment among men formerly employed in the Railway workshops at Lahore. These people, however, are reported to come chiefly from the North-Western Provinces and the United Provinces and unemployment amongst them cannot be regarded as unemployment in the Punjab.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG THE EDUCATED CLASSES

For the purpose of this enquiry, the Committee have defined the words "educated classes" as those who have at least completed the full vernacular or Anglo-Vernacular course. The word "unemployment" indicates the existence of a large number of young men who have failed to obtain salaried posts in Government or private service or any other employment outside the ancestral occupations for which by reason of their education they have become unfitted or disinclined or in which a decent living is no

* Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab, 1928, price Rs. 9.

longer to be made. The unemployed also include those who though in possession of salaried posts or practising a profession are unable to make a decent living or are qualified by their educational attainments for better positions. In determining the extent of unemployment among the educated classes the Committee have relied more or less on the statistics of the number of persons entering colleges and getting their university degrees. These statistics have been supplemented by the evidence given by the Secretary of the Punjab University Appointments Board as regards the absorption of university graduates in employment. In his evidence, the Secretary pointed out that as a result of careful enquiries made by his Board in 1915-16 it was found that the annual output of graduates was then just about being absorbed. At that time about 400 B.A. s and B.Sc. s were graduating each year but the average annual outturn was now between 700 and 800 and the Secretary estimated that this number was about 200 in excess of requirements.

As regards unemployment in individual occupations, the Committee point out that the profession of law is over-crowded and that many of those who follow it are unable to make a decent living. This conclusion is supported by the fact that in 1917 the number of advocates and pleaders was 1698 and in January 1928 it was 3613 although the total number of civil and criminal cases of all sorts including appeals and revisions was actually slightly less in 1926 than in 1916.

The medical profession also, in the opinion of the Committee, shows signs of being over-crowded. The licentiates turned out by the medical school find no difficulty in being absorbed but the position as regards medical graduates is not satisfactory. The Committee are of opinion, however, that there are ample openings for private practitioners in rural areas if such practitioners would adapt themselves to existing conditions.

The graduates of the Lyallpur Agricultural College do not appear to be finding difficulty in getting employment. So also is there no unemployment in the engineering profession.

Coming to the teaching profession, the Committee arrive at the conclusion that so far as intermediates and matriculates rely on the teaching profession for employment, there is bound to be even more unemployment in the future among this class than there is at present. On the other hand the number of candidates completing the vernacular course and passing the Vernacular Final Examination is barely sufficient to meet the existing demands of the Education Department and is wholly insufficient to meet the increasing demands of rural development. In this class, therefore, there is at present no unemployment and will be none for some years to come.

CAUSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT

As regards the causes of unemployment, the Committee point out first of all that it is due to the number of posts available for members of the educated classes not having increased in anything like the same ratio as the number of possible competitors. Another cause has been that the educational system which was originally intended to produce clerks has continued to be regarded merely as an avenue to Government service. The education

thus imparted renders boys unfit for their ancestral occupations. Another effect of this system of education has been that in certain classes of the population the idea of undertaking any kind of manual labour, even labour requiring skill, is regarded with abhorrence. Among the causes of unemployment the Committee also point out that the problem of unemployment is getting keener due to extension of education to classes which previously did not aspire to Government service.

THE REMEDIES FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

In discussing the question of the remedies for unemployment the Committee deal mainly with the system of education and how it should be reorganised. They point out on the basis of the evidence collected by them that higher education has become so easily available to people who are either mentally or financially incapable of receiving it that a large number of persons graduate from the universities and find themselves unable to get employment. To remedy this evil the Committee recommend that higher education should be reorganised as soon as possible so as to ensure that only those who are capable of benefitting by it and who will be subsidised by the State or those who are able to pay for it in full shall receive it. They also recommend that this reorganisation should be accompanied by such a revision of the whole system of education as will ensure that youths of all classes shall be given opportunities of such educational training as will enable them to find useful and reasonably lucrative employment in other spheres. As a corollary to this recommendation they point out that the educational qualifications required of candidates for certain Government appointments should be lowered. The Committee think that at present many posts in Government service are reserved for graduates or matriculates but it is really not necessary to do so. It is pointed out that the education imparted must be a real education related to life.

The evidence received by the Committee shows that there are existing avenues of employment of which much greater advantage could be taken and that the existence of a large number of trained young men in industry would give an impetus to the development of industry. They therefore recommend that provision for greatly expanded facilities for technical and industrial education should be made. In their opinion this will be at least a partial solution of the problem of unemployment.

As regards professional education, the Committee recommend the creation of facilities for training in architecture. Another profession in which they think there ought to be plenty of openings is that of the dispensing chemist. The evidence given before the Committee showed that there was a very great demand for qualified dispensers and it was pointed out that about 500 dispensers would be required during the next five years. The Committee also recommend that in order further to cope with unemployment in the medical profession, the system of subsidising private practitioners in rural areas should be revived. Incidentally the Committee point out that since much litigation is caused by defective drafting of legal documents, arrangements should be made for the training of graduates in law in the art of conveyancing with a view to the eventual abolition of the system of deed-writers and petition-writers. This would, on the one

hand, enlarge the sphere of work of those who adopt the profession of law, and, on the other, tend to eliminate from the profession all those who are not likely to be successful.

With a view to providing new avenues of employment the Committee suggest co-operative production and distribution, both agricultural and industrial. If such training were provided, they think that many small industries could profitably be started.

Lastly, the Committee recommend that small holdings should be provided for educated young men. This would, in their opinion, provide the means, though on a small scale, of solving the pressing problem of keeping the educated agriculturist on the land and preventing him from swelling the ranks of the unemployed. The necessity of giving such education to children in schools as will not create in them a distaste for manual work is also emphasised by the Committee and they further recommend that practical schools of agriculture like the industrial schools of the Department of Industries should be started.

Two of the members of the Committee, Messrs. Manak Chand Pandit and Sardar Ujjal Singh, have appended notes of dissent to the report. The former points out that the remedies suggested by the Committee are inadequate to meet the existing unemployment. As regards agriculture, he says that there is a great desire on the part of the educated young men to adopt agriculture as their profession and that it is for Government to treat the educated classes in a more liberal manner than they have been treated in the past. He also suggests dairy farming as a possible source of employment to young men, if proper assistance were given to them by Government. He complains of want of facilities for industrial training. As regards Government service, he urges that Government should throw open the Army, Navy and the Air Force to educated young men. At the present time, he points out, these departments are a close preserve of Europeans. In his opinion the Punjab Government should make a strong recommendation to the Government of India that recruitment in the Army, Navy and the Air Force should not be restricted to any particular race or caste.

Sardar Ujjal Singh in his note says that the main cause of unemployment among the educated classes is a mistaken idea that the object of education is Government service. He thinks that educational propaganda in the press and on the platform should be started to change this angle of vision of young men, who consider Government service as a supreme object of an educated man's ambition. He agrees with Pandit Nanak Chand in maintaining that Indianisation in the Army, Navy and the Air Force should be accelerated. He disagrees with the Committee that higher education should be made more expensive or more difficult. He thinks that Government ought to encourage industrial schemes and maintain an industrial information bureau. He also advocates the grant of State scholarships for industrial training in foreign countries and thinks that Government should make arrangements with manufacturing firms abroad for facilities for practical training for young men sent out by Government. In his opinion arrangements should also be made with foreign manufacturing firms to allow *bona-fide* business men opportunities for practical training.

Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency

Returns for Second Quarter

II

We had not sufficient space at our disposal in the July 1928 issue of the *Labour Gazette* to complete the Quarterly Review of Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency for the Second Quarter of the current year. In the last paragraph of that article it was stated that the interesting activities of those Unions which had not already been specifically dealt with would be published as a supplementary note in the August 1928 issue of the *Labour Gazette*.

The Bombay Bank Peons' Union.—On the 3rd June a meeting of about 40 peons of the different banks in Bombay was held in the compound of the Nana Shanker Temple at Tardeo under the presidentship of Mr. S. H. Jhabwala. The Chairman explained the advantages of Trade Unionism and advised the bank peons in Bombay to form a Union of their own. He stated that the Union funds would assist not only the members themselves but also the families of those who might die prematurely. Membership forms were then distributed amongst those who were present and they were asked to fill them up and return them to Mr. Jhabwala. A second meeting attended by about 150 bank peons was held in Bombay on the 24th June at which it was advocated that peons serving in firms other than banks also should be eligible for membership to the Bank Peons' Union. The number of members with which the Union started amounted to 191.

The Bombay Telephone Co.'s Employees' Union.—This Union was formed on the 1st April 1928 and is intended to cover all classes of workers employed by the Bombay Telephone Company. Mr. F. J. Ginwala has been appointed President and Mr. B. D. Mistry, Honorary General Secretary. At a meeting of the members of the Union held during the month of May the following main demands were formulated :—

(1) Leave Rules : The Company should grant all employees one month's leave for every year of service instead of fifteen days' leave as at present and the workers should be allowed to accumulate leave for three years ;

(2) Provident Fund : The Company's contribution to the Provident Fund account of each employee was formerly limited to a period of ten years. Subsequently, it was extended to fifteen years. The men now request that the Company should pay its contributions for a period of twenty-five years. Deductions from the salaries of the employees contributing to the Provident Fund were formerly made at the rate of one-twelfth of pay every month. The rate of deduction was subsequently reduced to one-sixteenth of pay. The employees now demand that the rate of deduction should be restored to the original rate.

About the middle of May the Union addressed a letter to the administration requesting that recognition should be granted to the Union. In reply the Company asked for a copy of the constitution of the Union with its aims and objects and expressed their willingness to co-operate with any organisation truly representing the employees and to settle any differences

which might arise from time to time between the employers and the employed to the satisfaction of both the parties.

The Clerks' Union.—This Union which was formed in April 1918 has been practically moribund for the last two or three years. Messrs. A. Krishna Rao and J. M. Thakar began to interest themselves in the work of the Union during the quarter under review. Two general meetings were held on the 12th and the 19th May and a new Managing Committee appointed. It was decided to conduct active propaganda for the enlistment of new members by members of the Managing Committee visiting all chawls and localities inhabited by clerks in Bombay City. It was also decided to revive the Union's Co-operative activities and in June the Clerks' Co-operative Society was working with a membership of 195 persons. An Unemployment Bureau was also started from the 1st June.

At an Extraordinary General Meeting of the members held in the Servants of India Society's Hall about the end of May resolutions were passed (1) requesting the Government of Bombay to extend the Rent Act for a further period of three years; and (2) to request the members of the Managing Committee to hold a conference at an early date. At the same meeting it was also decided to hold three competitions for Essay Writing, Elocution and Speed in Shorthand with a first prize of a gold medal, a second prize of a silver medal and a third prize of a bronze medal to the successful competitors in each of the three competitions. The competitions were to be open to all clerks whether members of the Union or not, but non-members were required to pay an entrance fee of Rs. 3 for each competition in which they elected to compete. The membership of this Union stands at 1014.

The Currency Association.—The membership of this Union fell from 232 to 151 during the quarter under review—the fall being due to peons of the Currency Office withdrawing from the Association to join the Government Peons' and Menials' Union. Messrs. S. C. Joshi, M.A., LL.B., M.L.C., R. M. Dongre and B. B. Acharya represented the Union in two interviews given to the Union by the Honourable Sir Bhupendranath Mitra, Finance Member to the Government of India, and the Honourable Mr. E. Burdon, C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of India in the Finance Department, during their recent visits to Bombay, in connection with the conditions of service of Shroffs and men with long service. It is stated that the officers were duly impressed by the representations made to them. A written representation was submitted to the authorities for increasing the pay of Record Suppliers in the Currency Office in view of the revision already made in the salary of Record Suppliers in the offices of the Accountant General and the Collector of Customs. In this the Union had some success inasmuch as the pay of one Record Supplier was revised.

The Bombay Mill Clerks' Union.—This Union was formed on the 27th May 1928 with Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A., as President and Mr. G. N. Sahasrabudhe as Secretary. The membership is reported at 250 and the objects of the Union are to organise all mill clerks employed in textile mills

in Bombay City. A meeting of the members of the Union was held on the 24th June under the presidentship of Mr. N. M. Joshi when it was decided to send a protest to the Joint Strike Committee appointed by textile workers in Bombay for the conduct of the General Strike in the textile mills against interference and harassment by strikers whilst clerks proceeded to their work at the mills. The President stated at the meeting that although he did not object to the formation of a separate Union for mill clerks, he was strongly in favour of there being one Union for all classes of employees engaged in a particular industry. It is the intention of the members of the Union to submit a memorial of their grievances to the Bombay Millowners' Association but action in this connection is to be deferred until such time as the General Strike comes to an end.

The Professional Letter Writers Association.—This Union was formed in March 1927 with Mr. S. C. Joshi, M.L.C., as President in order to protect the interests of professional letter writers. Sixty members joined the Union during the quarter under report. At a special general meeting held on the 17th June, it was resolved that a memorial should be submitted to the authorities to remit license fees for those writers working in the mill areas until such time as the General Strike ended.

The Bombay Postal Union.—The annual general meeting of this Union was held in the Prarthana Samaj Hall in Bombay on the 21st April with Mr. N. M. Joshi in the chair. The Honourable Sir Bhupendranath Mitra, Finance Member to the Government of India, attended the meeting. Mr. D. S. Joshi, the Honorary Secretary, presented the annual report which detailed the various activities of the Union during the year ending 31st March 1928. He stated that Government had been pleased to remove a number of grievances of the men, petitions regarding which had been submitted to Government from time to time. The social side of the activities of the Union during the year under report were maintained by organising various cricket matches with local teams and the organisation of a free reading room and library. An amount of Rs. 50 was distributed as Death Relief to the families of deceased members. The balance sheet presented at the meeting showed a cash balance of Rs. 29,158-6-6. Figures for the quinquennium ending 31st March 1928 showed that the balance to the credit of the Union had increased to the figure stated from Rs. 9696-8-10 and that the membership had improved from 1,065 to 1,411.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendranath Mitra made the following speech at the meeting:—

"I thank both the President and the Honorary Secretary for all the kind words they have said in regard to me. I have, as Member in charge of Industries and Labour, done my best to alleviate some of your grievances which I considered it was desirable should be remedied. As to whether as a Finance Member I shall be able to take any action in the direction suggested by your Secretary I am unable to say because from what I have been able to gather from the statement made in the Legislative Assembly the question of the substitution of Provident Fund for Pension is beset with great difficulties which requires the assistance of Actuaries for its solution and I gather that Actuaries are now examining how best these difficulties should be solved."

The Bombay Branch of All India Telegraphs Union.—A meeting of the members of the Bombay Branch of the All India Telegraphs Union was held on the 6th May with Mr. N. M. Joshi in the chair. The meeting adopted the revised constitution and the new rules and bye-laws framed by the Managing Committee. Mr. N. M. Joshi was elected President for the current year with Mr. S. C. Joshi as Secretary.

The Remaining Unions in Bombay City.—There is nothing of particular interest to report regarding the activities of the rest of the Bombay Unions. The latest information in connection with membership, income and expenditure of all Unions not specifically dealt with in this review is given in Tables II and III printed on pages 987 to 1008 in the July 1928 issue of the *Labour Gazette*.

AHMEDABAD

The activities of the Unions of the cotton mill operatives in Ahmedabad which are under the control of the local Labour Union have been dealt with in the article under this heading published in the July issue of the *Labour Gazette*.

The B. B. & C. I. Railway Employees' Association.—The membership of this Union increased from 7606 to 7835. The Agent of the B. B. & C. I. Railway recognised the Association in the month of March but the Union is reported to be dissatisfied with the terms of recognition and has referred certain points to the Agent for reconsideration. The Union is receiving a large number of complaints from its members employed on the traffic staff in regard to the hardships they are put to in the matter of getting leave owing to the absence of leave reserve.

The Postal and R. M. S. Union.—The annual report and the statements of accounts for the year 1927 of this Union were published during the quarter under review. The most important activity of the Union during the year related to Flood Relief work in Gujarat. The year opened with a balance of Rs. 2085-13-5. The total income during the year amounted to Rs. 1073-9-0 of which a sum of Rs. 716 was on account of half-yearly fees and Rs. 283-5-0 on account of contributions to the reserve fund. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 647 including an amount of Rs. 337 remitted to the Presidency Association as contributions for the year. The balance at the credit of the general fund account of the Union at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 2512-6-5.

REST OF THE PRESIDENCY

Up to the end of the first quarter of the current year by far the greater majority of the remaining Unions in the Bombay Presidency outside the cities of Bombay and Ahmedabad were Postal Unions affiliated either to the Bombay Presidency Postal Association or to the Bombay Presidency Postmen's Union. The activities of these Unions are more or less confined to constitutional agitation for the removal of specific grievances and for improvements in conditions of service. The remarks made under the headings of the two Federations of Postal Unions published in the first instalment of this article in the July issue of the *Labour Gazette* apply generally to the activities of the individual affiliated members as well.

During the quarter under review there was considerable Trade Union activity in various districts of the Bombay Presidency. The staff of the G. I. P. Railway at Poona organised itself into a Union which was registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act on the 21st May. Five hundred workers of the Government Arsenal at Kirkee also formed a Union in the beginning of July. Including these two Unions there are now seven Trade Unions in Poona. Two thousand textile workers in Sholapur organised themselves into a Union in the month of May. The workers of the G. I. P. Railway at Sholapur have also formed a Union having 206 members and this was registered on the 13th June. The workers of the Match Factories at Kurla and Ambernath also formed Unions of 500 and 700 members respectively during the same month. In view of the fact that all these Unions are recent formations, they have been mainly engaged in drawing up their constitutions and their rules, and they have consequently no interesting activities to report. Endeavours will be made however to collect as much information as possible regarding Unions in centres outside Bombay and Ahmedabad cities for the next quarterly review, to be published in the issue of the *Labour Gazette* for October 1927.

In view of the fact that there are now nearly 90 Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency great difficulty is being experienced in collecting the necessary information for this review and for the tables which accompany it. The main object in publishing quarterly reviews of Trade Unions in the *Labour Gazette* is to assist Trade Unionism in the Bombay Presidency by giving the latest and the most authentic information with regard to their membership, income and expenditure and interesting activities. If these reviews are to maintain the same standard that has now been reached it is absolutely necessary that the Secretaries and the Assistant Secretaries of the various Unions should do their utmost to co-operate with the Labour Office by supplying the information asked for as early as possible.

Industrial Unrest in India

I. Labour Troubles at Jamshedpur

II. The Strike in the East Indian Railway Workshops

In the July 1928 issue of the *Labour Gazette* the Labour Office declared its intention of publishing a series of articles dealing with each of the big industrial disputes that have occurred in India since the beginning of this year and the first article published in that issue dealt with the Jamshedpur Lock-out. The present article gives a continuation of the dispute which, at the moment of writing, is still in progress at Jamshedpur, and also deals with the strike and the Lock-out in the East Indian Railway Workshops at Lillooah and Asansol.

I

LABOUR TROUBLES AT JAMSHEDPUR

(Continued from page 968, July 1928 issue of the "*Labour Gazette*")

On the 2nd July 1928 Mr. N. B. Saklatwala, C.I.E., Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Company, in a Press interview announced the conditions of the re-opening of the Tata Iron and Steel Works at Jamshedpur. He stated that the conditions for the re-opening of the Works constituted neither a victory nor a defeat for the Company or the workers. The Company had proposed only those conditions which, in their opinion, would ensure efficiency, contentment and harmonious relations between the workers and the management. The majority of the conditions were in reality more in the nature of a guarantee to the workers for safeguarding their interests rather than a restriction or deprivation of any of their privileges. Broadly stated, the main terms assured to the workers not only the continuance of a bonus scheme involving a distribution of Rs. 10 lakhs a year but also sympathetic consideration of their representations for increased wages in all deserving cases. In fact, an assurance was given that increments should be given effect to as soon as the Works re-open and that in all cases where increments were unavoidably delayed they should be granted with retrospective effect from the date of re-opening.

The other conditions guaranteed to the workers, notwithstanding any responsibility on their part for the present situation, the continuity of their service for purposes of furlough, provident fund, etc. The only condition in the proposed terms that was intended to protect the interests of the Company is the proviso that the Company will engage only such men as are necessary for the Works. On a close examination it will be seen that this condition is as much in the interests of the workers as that of the Company itself. The Tariff Board found, in their enquiry, that the Company employed men in excess of their requirements. The acceptance of the recommendation of the Tariff Board's finding involved a large measure of retrenchment by reduction of staff. The Company, however, at considerable sacrifice, followed a policy—right up to the date of the first *hartal* of not discharging a single worker as a measure of retrenchment and of contenting themselves with such little retrenchment as they were able to effect by not filling vacancies as they arose in the

course. In pursuing this policy the Company acted solely out of consideration for the workers. This policy had already cost the Company many lakhs of rupees, but they had received no co-operation from the workers. In the situation that now confronted the Company it was no longer possible to adhere to what is indisputably an uneconomic and uncommercial policy. He added that the Company had, for their very existence, to reduce their cost of production so as to enable them to sell their steel in competition with the steel manufacturers of other countries. In this connection he stated that in large Continental works the average output of a worker is 130 tons finished steel per year, whereas the average output at Jamshedpur is only 16 or 17 tons of steel per year per worker. That is, on an average, 7 or 8 workers do at Jamshedpur the work which one worker does in Continental works. The average expenditure on wages paid to Indian workers alone on each ton of steel produced at Jamshedpur works out at Rs. 25, while the inclusive corresponding expenditure for Continental workers is only Rs. 12 or Rs. 13 per ton of steel. The Company were not confining their proposals of retrenchment, as had been said in some quarters, to Indian workers only. They had, in fact, effected greater retrenchment among the Covenanted European staff also, and in the last three or four years a reduction of practically 40 per cent. had been made by reducing the European staff of 229 to about 140. In the last two months the services of 4 more members of the Covenanted staff were dispensed with and their places were to be taken by Indians. More retrenchments of the European staff were expected to be made in the near future.

The Company would be able to revise the scales of wages, for which there was insistent demand, only if the policy of the employment of only the necessary number of workers is accepted. This was demonstrated in the case of the Duplex Plant Crane Drivers. The reorganisation of this section was affected in April. The men of this department who went on strike in February attended the Works in larger proportion during the recent *hartals* than in any other department—experience of the working of the reorganisation having showed them that it secured to them liberal revision of their scales of wages while not involving too much increase in work. Mr. Saklatwala went on to say that the wages at Jamshedpur were higher than anywhere else in India for similar class of work. Notwithstanding this, if there were still some men whose wages were low by comparison with the other men in the Works, the Company would be able to put things right when it no longer had to bear the burden of large numbers of unnecessary men. In the circumstances it was clear that the Company had acted in the best interests of the workers themselves in stipulating that they would only engage such numbers of men as were actually required for the purpose of working the plant efficiently. An assurance was given that no individual or section of workers would be penalised in any way whatever and this is proved by the undertaking given that in the re-engagement of men preference would be given, as far as possible, to those with long service. The promise to grant all men who were in service on the 31st May and who were not re-engaged, the full amount of their provident fund, including the whole of the Company's contribution and in addition

the railway fare from Tatanagar to the Station nearest to their homes, was reiterated.

In conclusion, Mr. Saklatwala stated that the fact must not be lost sight of that the management owed a responsibility not only to the workmen but also to the Indian tax-payer and the shareholders and that they were bound to take measures to ensure efficiency and proper conditions of work. He hoped that the men would realise that the Company were doing all they could to reopen the Works at the first opportunity, and he advised the men that they should desist from listening to advice from interested parties, which had been the cause of so much hardship and loss to both sides. He advised the men to put their faith in the Company with whom alone their interests were interlinked.

On the 3rd July the Workers' Publicity Committee at Jamshedpur published the following list of immediate grievances and demands for redress :—

- (1) Sheet Mill and Boiler House men and all hands discharged or reduced for the *hartals* or their attitude towards the strikers must be taken back and there should be no victimisation ;
- (2) The lock-out and strike period wages must be paid ;
- (3) A general increment to all uncovenanted employees ;
- (4) A general bonus to be extended to all uncovenanted employees irrespective of their departments and nature of work ;
- (5) The minimum wages of all labourers to be raised to Rs. 30 and Rs. 22 per month for males and females respectively ;
- (6) Detailed departmental grievances to be settled in consultation with Labour representatives ;
- (7) A Board comprising representatives of both Labour and the Management to be set up to effect any general retrenchment when necessary.

The above list of demands goes further in several important details than the list of demands formulated by Mr. Homi early in June in consultation with the Foremen's Association on which he was then prepared to negotiate a settlement with the Management. The Executive Committee of the Labour Association, passed a resolution on the same day that the terms offered in the Company's notice of the 26th June were unsatisfactory on the whole and recorded their emphatic protest particularly against the Company's decision to carry out a reduction of about one-quarter of the number of Indian employees which they stated was in violation of the Company's declared policy against mass retrenchment.

Mr. Homi telegraphed to the strike leaders at Jamshedpur on the 4th from Bombay asking them to authorise him to announce that he agreed to recommend the men to go back to work provided that the *status quo ante bellum* was maintained and that the outstanding issues were referred to the arbitration of 2 public men, viz., Sir M. Visveshwarayya, and Mr. Subash Chandra Bose or Mr. N. M. Joshi who should go thoroughly into the question of the prevailing discontent and offer a solution for it. In reply the strikers telegraphed to Mr. Homi assuring him of their approval of his arbitration proposals and giving him *carte blanche* for doing in their name anything he deemed fit for bringing about a termination of the deadlock.

Mr. Homi wired back advising the strikers to hold firm " as success was imminent."

In a letter to the *Times of India*, Mr. Homi stated that if the Company agreed to the appointment of arbitrators, as suggested by him he was prepared to place his revised terms before them for their decision and to recommend to the workers an immediate resumption of work, but a vital condition precedent to resumption would be that all the workers on strike, lock-out or under dismissal under the reduction scheme should be taken back in the workshops.

On the 8th, the Government of Bihar and Orissa intimated through the Deputy Commissioner their decision not to intervene in the strike. About 2000 men directly employed by the Company and 1500 workers under labour contractors were employed at the Works.

At a meeting of the strikers held the same evening Mr. Sharma, a Punjab pleader, suggested that the Bombay Share Market should be made the target of the labourers and that they should devise means whereby the Tatas would lose hold on the market which would tell seriously upon the shareholders, and which, in turn, would equally affect the Directorate. On the 9th the management opened an Employment Bureau for the re-engagement of those men of the various departments who wished to return. A notice was also put up stating that the Merchant and Plate Mills would be re-opened on the 10th and that those men who wished to be re-engaged should report themselves at the Bureau. Those who were not re-engaged would be given a settlement on and after that date. A reasonable length of time would be allowed for those workers who wished to be re-engaged but had left Jamshedpur.

The official reply of the Government of Bihar and Orissa to the request made by the labour leaders for Government intervention stated that His Excellency the Governor had not yet seen a clear-cut statement on the issue on which it would be possible to arbitrate and that in any event there was nothing that gave Government power to intervene, except at the request of both parties to the dispute.

In addition to the departments already working, the Plate and Merchant Mills were re-started in the morning of the 10th and worked full one shift. Twenty-five persons belonging to these departments who had observed *hartal* offered themselves for re-engagement in accordance with the notice of the Company and were admitted. Vigorous picketing of the men who were prepared to return to work was responsible for the poor response to the action of the management in re-opening certain of the mills. Loyalist workers were assaulted in some cases and a Special Magistrate was appointed by Government to deal with emergent cases.

The Company put up another notice asking the men of the Coke, Blast, Plant, Furnaces, Bar Mills, Roll Turning Shop, Boiler and Power Houses Traffic, Brick, Electrical Machine Shops and Structural Departments who wished to be re-engaged to report at the Employment Bureau from Wednesday the 11th July onwards.

In view of the extensive campaign of intimidation and abuse directed against those men who were willing to resume work and the prevalence of picket law at Jamshedpur, Mr. J.R. Dain, I.C.S., the Deputy Commissioner,

issued the following Order under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, on the 11th, warning those who improperly interfered with loyalist workmen :—

“ For the purpose of this Order a picketer means any person standing or loitering on or beside any road, path, by-way or other route used by the public within the town of Jamshedpur or in its neighbourhood for the purpose of preventing by any means persons from passing either to their work or to their homes or on any lawful business.

“ Whereas certain picketers this morning attended and attempted to interfere with the working of the Sand Line between L Town Gate and Subarnarekha river, it is hereby ordered that no picketer shall be allowed to approach or remain within a distance of 100 yards on either side of the Sand Line. This order will remain in force for two months, unless previously withdrawn.”

There was a poor response from the strikers in connection with the two notices put up by the management offering re-engagement.

From the 12th onwards stringent action was taken against those persons who resorted to intimidation of loyal workers. Cases were instituted against a number of strikers, and Mr. Homi the strike leader, was warned in regard to his methods. About 50 persons who were on *hartal* were re-engaged by the management on the 12th and the attendance at the Works amounted to about 4000 including about 150 *hartalists*.

As a result of the promulgation of the Order under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and the strong warning given to Mr. Homi, picketing at the Works was less violent on the 13th than what it had been but house-to-house picketing attended with threats of violence by batches of rowdy strikers continued. The Labour Association sent two representatives to Bombay to discuss the situation with Mr. N. M. Joshi and to bring him down to Jamshedpur if possible.

Notwithstanding the order issued by the Deputy Commissioner, picketing and intimidation continued unabated outside the works, and scores of women with broomsticks and buckets of dirty water were posted at all important points and they also paraded the streets. The Police had made about 40 arrests so far and several cases were referred to Court.

At a mass meeting of the strikers held on the 14th, resolutions were passed requesting the Directors of the Company to come over to Jamshedpur to find a solution for the deadlock; and declaring “ no confidence ” in the two representatives of the Labour Association who were sent to Bombay to meet Mr. Joshi. The Deputy Commissioner extended the order under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code to the town section on the ground that picketers in the old town and the crowds collected by them had been obstructing traffic, molesting people in their houses and causing annoyance and disturbance to public tranquillity and that there were apprehensions of a serious breach of the public peace.

On the 15th over 250 *hartalists* were re-engaged and the attendance at the Works was about 4000.

The management of the Company completed the lifting of the lock-out in the Works on the 16th. A notice announced that the men belonging to departments other than those that had been opened already would be

re-engaged on their reporting at the Employment Bureau. The effect of this was that the entire Works were thrown open for all those who were willing to rejoin on the Directors' terms. The notice was reported, however, to have had little effect on the strikers, who continued picketing with renewed vigour. Mr. Homi continued to exhort the workers to resist the “ zoolum ” (tyranny) of the Directors and to hold out till their demands were conceded. Mr. N. M. Joshi arrived at Jamshedpur on the same day and had an interview with the General Manager. The Chairman of the Board of Directors also arrived at Jamshedpur with a view to conferring with the General Manager on the situation. Mr. N. M. Joshi had another long interview with the Chairman and the General Manager and also with the Deputy Commissioner the next day. It was reported that negotiations for a speedy and amicable settlement were being carried on but that the particulars had not been disclosed.

The men of the Electrical Department stopped work on the 17th as a protest against alleged indiscriminate reduction in the Department. The attendance at the Works, however, improved and amounted to approximately 4100 including 500 *hartalists* who had been re-engaged up to date. The main body of the strikers, however, still remained unbending and firm and there was no sign of an early settlement.

The negotiations started by Mr. N. M. Joshi fell through on the 18th, owing to the management being unwilling to withdraw the modified reduction scheme and Mr. Homi and his party not agreeing to the basis of the settlement proposed. Owing to the continuation of assaults by the strikers on loyalist workers, the Deputy Commissioner announced that section 144 would be promulgated over certain areas, if the state of affairs demanded it.

The attendance at the Works improved to 4670 on the 19th and the men of the Electrical Department who went on strike on the 17th resumed work. They formulated their demands and submitted the same to the Labour Association for a reply within three days.

Mr. Kishori Lal Ghosh, Secretary, Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress, endeavoured to effect a conciliation between the Labour Association and Mr. Homi's party by proposing the appointment of a Joint Committee consisting of an equal number of members from both sides to deal with the present situation.

Owing to the prevalence of rioting and the use of violence by picketers in preventing workmen from going to work, the Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhum issued a further Order under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code on the 23rd that no picketing would be allowed on the Straight Mile Road or within 100 yards of either side of that road, and that no picketer whilst acting as such would be allowed to enter this prohibited area or to remain within it.

Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, M.L.A., arrived in Jamshedpur on the same day and had an interview with the General Manager. In addressing a mass meeting of the strikers in the evening he said that they had secured for the Company a bounty of about a crore of rupees and in return it was only fair that the Company should be liberal to its workmen. He regretted his inability to arrive at any definite settlement with the management

but he promised that he would make some useful suggestions to the Directors of the Company on his return to Bombay. Mr. Homi declared that except in the case of retrenchment and increments, a solution had been found for all outstanding issues. He stated that the management was in agreement with the workers, that there should be an increase of wages and that they had also given a promise of a revision of wages with retrospective effect from the date of the re-opening of the Works. He further stated that Mr. Joshi had proposed that the workers should agree to retrenchment in return for the payment of compensation at the rate of one month's wages for every year of complete service, in addition to the privileges already offered by the Company.

In addition to the departments already working, the Merchant Mills, the Plate Mills, the New Blooming Mills, and the Sheet-Bar and Billit Mill were in operation. The total attendance at the Works amounted to 4700 including 750 hartalists.

Mr. N. B. Saklatwala returned to Jamshedpur from Calcutta on the 24th and drew up new terms on behalf of the Company, which were communicated to the strikers through Mr. J. R. Dain, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.

The following announcement over the signature of the Chairman was made at Jamshedpur on the 28th in pursuance of the modified terms previously communicated to the strikers:—

"I came to Jamshedpur on the 16th of this month with full powers from the Board of Directors to offer such terms as I consider adequate to effect a proper settlement of the dispute between the Company and its workmen. Nobody realises better than myself the serious loss which both the Company and the men are suffering and I have done my utmost since my arrival to find a settlement which should be acceptable to the men. So far, in spite of the efforts of Mr. Joshi and Mr. Jamnadas Mehta and the impartial exertions of Mr. Dain, the Deputy Commissioner, the offers which I have made have not been accepted by those who claim to be the leaders of the workmen. I think that the time has now come when the men themselves should know fully the offers which have been made and should consider them for themselves.

(1) The Rs. 10 lakhs bonus scheme announced in April will still be in force.

(2) The Company is prepared to spend about Rs. 5 lakhs a year on increments of wages in the works. Some of the details have not yet been worked out, but I am able to say that (a) as regards rejas and coolies the minimum rate will be raised from 5 annas to 6 annas and the maximum rate from 7 annas to 8 annas and all the intermediate rates will be raised by at least 1 anna; and (b) as regards monthly paid staff, the minimum rate will be raised from 8 annas to 9 annas and the balance of the Rs. 5 lakhs will be divided among other men who have not recently received increments and whose work and present wages justify increase. Three-quarters of the total amount set aside will be given to men now drawing Rs. 2 a day or under. Standard rates are being fixed for most classes of work. No man will have his wages reduced.

In those cases where increments have not been announced at the time of re-opening, they will be made retrospective to the date of joining service, subsequent to July 9th and men who were working before July 9th will get the benefit of the increments from that date.

(3) It has been conceded by all who have taken part in the recent discussions that the Company is entitled to employ only the number of men which it thinks necessary for efficient operation. While the Company must insist on reduction, it now proposes to reduce the number by only about 18 per cent. Of the men reduced, about 60 per cent. have less than two years' service.

(4) The previous announcements about re-instatement without break of service, except in the Boiler department and Sheet Mills stand unchanged. The men in these two departments will be restored to continuity of service after twelve months' satisfactory work.

(5) The Company will definitely not pay any man for the period during which he has not worked.

(6) The announced alteration in the Works Service Rules will not be put in force at present.

(7) It was announced on the 26th June that the men who are reduced will be given the amount of their railway fares to their homes and also the full amount of their provident fund including the whole of the Company's contribution. These will still be paid, and in addition it has been decided to give each man reduced one month's pay for each completed year of service. This will cost the Company several lakhs of rupees in addition to the heavy cost of the other concessions.

(8) There will be no victimisation and practically all those who have been prominent as strike leaders will be re-employed. An exception will be made, however, of a very few men who have indulged publicly in personal slander of the foulest type. Such action would lead to their immediate dismissal in ordinary times and cannot be condoned by strike conditions, although the Company has never attempted and does not attempt to penalise men for vigorous efforts in a labour dispute.

(9) Some minor complaints have been brought forward. The General Manager will consider these sympathetically and remedy them as circumstances allow.

I wish to make it clear that these terms have been discussed with Mr. Joshi and have been explained through Mr. Dain, to the local leaders of the dispute. They are the best terms which the Company can offer and I ask the workmen to consider them earnestly and to realise their fairness. They cannot be left open indefinitely, and if there is no adequate response at an early date, the Company will be free to withdraw any or all of them so far as concerns the men who have not rejoined by that time.

Even though the Company may be in a much better position to continue the struggle than the men, it desires to see peace restored at Jamshedpur as early as possible in the interests of all. I wish to assure the men that the Company is anxious for their well-being and I ask them to return to work at an early date so that the trouble of the last few months may soon be forgotten."

A mass meeting of the strikers held in the evening condemned the modified terms as unacceptable and demanded the settlement of their dues within 24 hours.

There was no change in the situation till the end of the month but the strikers anticipating that the Works would be generally thrown open on the 1st August, made active arrangements for more intensive picketing with effect from that date.

On the 1st August the prospects of a general resumption of work on the part of the strikers were reported to have been brighter and signs were visible that the workmen were in favour of rejoining, notwithstanding the advice of their leaders. On the 2nd August the total attendance at the Works was reported at 7901, and it improved to 8221 on the 3rd.

Following up a telegram from Mr. Jamnadas Mehta stating that he was pressing the Directors in Bombay for a satisfactory settlement of the Strike and asking for modified terms from the strike leaders, the men in a public meeting held on the 4th once more declared that they would keep up to the last, although some of the speakers had been insisting on accepting the terms of settlement put forward by the management. The meeting decided to call off picketing, as the men wanted to demonstrate to the management that the people were staying off voluntarily and not through outside pressure. The attendance at the Works amounted to 8438.

Mr. Homi left for Bombay on the 7th to discuss the situation with Mr. Jamnadas Mehta. Before leaving, he advised the men that they should remain firm until their four main demands were fully met, viz., increments, lock-out wages, withdrawal of the Company's policy of retrenchment, and reinstatement of all workers without break of service.

The Workers' Publicity Committee in a bulletin published on the 9th made the following statement:—

"Labour has never challenged the right of the Steel Company to employ as many men as it needs. Labour also never objected to any retrenchment that may fit in with the Company's requirements. The only point on which labour differs from the management is on the method, pace and extent of reduction."

The bulletin adds that reduction is one of the main issues on which all negotiations are apt to break and declares that when the lives and welfare of thousands are involved, the question cannot be left to the sole discretion of a private corporation; but the public, of whom these workmen form a part, must have a vital say in the matter, more so since this Company had profited through the public revenues by crores of rupees. It further states that while the reduction of 3500 men which the Company proposed to make would save 7 lakhs of rupees a year, every month of the deadlock meant a loss of rupees eighteen lakhs on the basis of the Tariff Board's estimate. It asks if the matter of retrenchment of labour is an issue of such vital economic necessity as to warrant the prolongation of a very costly deadlock.

On the 10th August the attendance at the Works amounted to 9196 including 1600 *hartalists*. On the 11th the Company put up the following notice at the Works:—

"The Chairman of the Company announced on the 28th July liberal terms for the resumption of work by the required number of men and

valuable concessions to the men to be retrenched. Although some of the men have since rejoined, there has not been a response sufficient to enable work to be resumed on a proper scale. In that announcement the Chairman indicated the consequences if by an early date the response to his offer was inadequate. The Company finds that during the period which has since elapsed, the men have not availed themselves of the opportunity of returning to work in adequate numbers. In view of this it has become necessary to make the following announcement of policy:—

(1) On and from Tuesday, 14th August, the Company will, up to the total number of men required, employ all those who apply irrespective of whether they are on the reduction list or not. Men will be re-engaged in the order in which they apply until all vacancies have been filled. As soon as all the vacancies are filled, no man will be re-employed even if his name is not on the reduction list.

(2) If by Monday, 20th August, all the vacancies are not filled, the Company will employ new men from outside. These new employees will be kept on in the Company's service under the usual conditions and will replace old employees who have not returned to work. The old employees who are thus replaced will not be re-engaged.

(3) Any man who has applied to be re-employed not later than Monday 20th August, to whom the Company has been unable to give employment because the required number of men have already been engaged, will be given, in addition to his ordinary dues, the full amount of his Provident Fund including the whole of the Company's contribution, a railway ticket to the station nearest to his home and one month's pay for each completed year of service, subject to a maximum of four months' pay.

(4) Any man who has not applied to be re-employed by Monday, 20th August, will, when he applied for settlement, receive only his ordinary dues, a railway ticket to his home station and that part of his Provident Fund which he would get under the ordinary rules. The Company will not, after 20th August, give any further compensation to men who have not offered to rejoin service by that date.

(5) All men occupying quarters belonging to the Company who have not returned to work by 20th August will be given notice to vacate their quarters.

(6) The Company repeats its intention of continuing for the benefit of those men who return to work or are newly engaged the Rs. 10 lakhs bonus scheme announced in April and the increments to the lower paid men, as announced by the Chairman on the 28th July."

At the moment of writing the deadlock continues but the number of loyalist workers returning to work is daily increasing.

II

LABOUR TROUBLES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

On the 19th January 1928 the workmen of the Smithy Shops of the Workshops of the East Indian Railway at Lillooah put up a demand to the management asking for an increase of 25 per cent. in wages in order that their earnings might be brought into line with those obtaining in the State Railway Workshops at Lucknow and Lahore. They also formulated

grievances in connection with Privilege, Casual and Sick Leave. The men of four other shops also put up similar demands to the authorities. In reply the workers were informed that the management would enter into correspondence with the authorities in charge of the workshops at Lucknow and Lahore in order to ascertain the rates of pay and conditions of service obtaining at those centres, before taking further action in the matter. This, however, did not satisfy the men and 10,000 workers struck work at the Lillooah workshops on the 23rd January. At a meeting of the strikers held on the same day, the men gave out that the strike was due mainly to the corruption of and harassment by the Mistries and Foremen. Later on in the day Mr. K. C. Ray Chaudhuri, Labour member in the Bengal Legislative Council, had an interview with the management on behalf of the strikers, as a result of which the following terms were arrived at:—

- (1) An Indian mechanic who was an intriguer was to be dismissed;
- (2) None of the strikers were to be persecuted; and
- (3) The Agent was to recommend to the Railway Board that full pay for the period of the strike should be granted.

The terms of the settlement were communicated to the strikers who accepted them and all the 10,000 men who went out on the previous day resumed work.

On the 16th February the management of the Lillooah workshops dismissed two men for fighting in the workshops. On the 29th February the employees of the workshops held a meeting at which they demanded:—

- (1) That the pay of the unskilled workers should be doubled and that their minimum wage should be fixed at Rs. 30; and
- (2) That the wages of all skilled workers should be increased by 25 per cent. in order to equalise their wages with those of the workers in the State Railway Workshops at Lahore and Lucknow.

A demand was also made for the reinstatement of the men dismissed on the 16th. The meeting passed a resolution to the effect that if these demands were not granted, direct action would be resorted to.

On the 2nd March the management suspended four men for idling. On the 5th ten thousand men who attended the workshops as usual in the morning refused to work and remained idle demanding the reinstatement of the six men who had been suspended and discharged on the 16th February and the 2nd March. In a communiqué issued by the Agent on the 6th in reply to the men's demands submitted to him on the 29th February, he stated that the rates of wages of the Lillooah workshop men were substantially increased in 1920 in order to meet the high cost of living which was then prevailing and that since then those rates had not been reduced, although the cost of living had fallen. He pointed out that there was no justification for any general increase in the rates of wages. With regard to the demand that the rates of pay at Lillooah should be brought into line with those prevailing at Lucknow or Lahore, he stated that although there were differences in the rates of pay at the different centres owing to differences in local conditions, the general level of the rates at Lillooah did not compare unfavourably with those prevailing either at Lucknow or at Lahore. He also pointed out that whereas the working hours at Lucknow and Lahore were 48 hours per week, the workers at Lillooah only worked

for 4½ hours. He said that while no general increase in the rates of wages was possible, enquiries were being made into the earnings of workers employed in similar workshops in Calcutta and its vicinity and that if this investigation showed that the rates required to be raised in particular cases, he would be prepared to sanction the necessary increases.

On the 7th March the employees of the workshops turned up for work as usual but finding that only four out of the six dismissed and suspended men had been reinstated, they refused to do any work and continued to remain idle. At 4 p.m. a meeting of the men was held when Mr. K. C. Mitra, the Secretary of the E. I. Railway Labour Union, advised the men to remain firm until all the men were reinstated. On the 8th the Agent put up a notice to the effect that as the men had failed to work in the shops, the workshops would remain closed until further notice. Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha, M.L.C., President of the E. I. Railway Labour Union, interviewed the Agent on the 12th on behalf of the strikers and handed him the following summary of the men's demands:—

- (1) The two dismissed workmen of the "M" shop should be reinstated;
- (2) Full wages should be paid for the period of the lock-out;
- (3) Minimum wages should be forthwith fixed at Rs. 30 per month and the wages of those of the existing staff who were getting less than this figure should be increased to the minimum of Rs. 30. There should also be a general increase of 25 per cent. in the pay of the subordinate staff;
- (4) The E. I. Railway Labour Union should be recognised; and
- (5) Free quarters should be provided or in lieu thereof a house-rent allowance should be granted.

The Agent gave the following reply to these demands:—

- (1) The two dismissed men would not be reinstated as the management were satisfied that they had been fighting in the workshops;
- (2) Payment of wages for the lock-out period could not be recommended to the Railway Board;
- (3) A reference was invited to the communiqué of the 6th March;
- (4) The Union was already enjoying the privileges which it would enjoy if it were recognised; and
- (5) He was unable to agree to the acceptance of the demands of the men for free quarters or house-rent allowance, as the grant of this would be in direct conflict with the general policy of the administration.

Answering certain questions put to him by the workers, the Agent stated that Sunday working was not permitted under the Indian Factories Act and that there were in all 30 holidays granted to the men in a year, for 15 days of which the men received full pay. For the remaining 15 days the workshops remain closed mainly on account of the unwillingness of the workers to attend to work.

At a meeting of the strikers held on the 14th the men threatened to call a General Strike on the whole Line if their demands were not acceded to by the management. Mr. Ray Chaudhuri put forward a suggestion that the demands might be reduced. This proposal was rejected and it was decided that unless the original demands were conceded, every endeavour should

be made to call a general strike. At another meeting held on the 17th, a resolution was passed that if the men's demands were not granted by the 19th, all the employees of the Railway shops and sheds around Howrah should go on strike from the 20th.

On the 20th March the Railway Board issued a communique stating that two officers had been deputed by the Government of India to examine schemes of reduction in State-owned Railway workshops and that these officers, having completed their enquiry on the South Indian Railway, were to take up the E. I. Railway next. The Government of India decided, after consultation with the Agent of the E. I. Railway, that it was not in the interests of either the Railway administration or the men themselves that the enquiry should be postponed until a settlement of the present dispute had been reached, especially in view of the danger that if the enquiry was postponed until the dispute had been settled and the men had come back to work, they would feel that the Railway administration had taken up the question of reducing the staff as a method of reprisal. In order to avoid that danger, the Government of India decided to hold the enquiry on the E. I. Railway, as originally proposed, with the following terms of reference to the investigating officers:—

(a) To report to Government the number of men required in future for efficient, economic working of the shops; and

(b) If a substantial reduction in numbers was found necessary, the manner in which it should be carried out and the steps to be taken to prevent possible hardship to the men affected.

The investigating officers were not authorised to enquire into the origin or the merits of the dispute which led to the present situation at Lillooah.

The trouble at the Lillooah workshops spread to other departments of the E. I. Railway on the 20th and the Howrah General Stores Depot and the Howrah Block Signal Shops were affected. On the 21st five hundred men of the Carriage Department, Cleaning and Examining Staff and Foremen's Staff at Howrah and about 300 men working at Bamangachi struck work. The establishments affected were guarded by armed police. The strikers began an effective campaign of picketing at the Howrah General Stores and Block Signal workshops from the 25th and some strikers even patrolled the river in boats. In spite of the picketing, however, some employees were still reported as working in the General Stores.

On the 27th March the Agent issued a communique with reference to an allegation contained in the *Amrita Bazaar Patrika* to the effect that about Rs. 14,000 were realised every month from the workers' pay by way of fines. The Agent pointed out that that was far from the truth and he stated that during the 6 months ending February 1928 the total amount of fines inflicted amounted to under Rs. 220, a large part of which was levied in connection with loss of tools, etc. He stated that disciplinary fines, wherever inflicted, were always credited to a Fines Fund, which was utilised for the benefit of the staff of all communities.

On the 28th several hundred strikers went to the office of the Agent in order to have an interview with him. The Agent admitted a small deputation headed by Mr. Mitra, who reiterated the demands of the men. In reply, the Agent regretted his inability to add anything further to his

communique of the 6th March. The result of the interview with the Agent was communicated to the strikers by Mr. Mitra. After the meeting was over, the men marched to Bamangachi and stormed the bridge leading into the Loco Workshops. About 2000 strikers began to picket the workshops and when the police attempted to disperse them, they started throwing brickbats from all sides causing injuries to some police and Railway officers. The police thereupon opened fire on the men for one minute as a result of which the situation was brought under control. The effect of the firing was that two men were killed and some others were injured. The men then dispersed from Bamangachi and stopped an evening train on the Amta-Howrah Light Railway near Panchnantala with the result that passengers were forced to alight and continue their journey on foot.

As a result of vigorous picketing carried on by the strikers, about 1000 workers of the workshops of Messrs. Burn & Co. and several hundreds of employees from the workshops of Messrs. Jessop & Co. were prevented from attending work on the 29th. Although the police had made arrangements to protect loyal workers from molestation by the strikers, several of the latter were assaulted. Some hundreds of coolies employed by Messrs. Bird & Co.'s workshops at the Howrah Good Shed were afraid to go home without police escort but in the end the police persuaded them to proceed. The strikers also created considerable trouble at several Station Yards. On the 30th they directed their attention to lorries and vans passing along the roads and attempted to eject all workmen whom they found on them. Stone throwing was indulged in and several affrays took place between the strikers and the police. Mr. Ray Chaudhuri wired to the Honourable Sir George Rainey, Commerce Member of the Government of India, pointing out that the recent police firing at Bamangachi was likely to result in a sympathetic strike throughout the line and stating that the labour leaders would be prepared to advise the men to resume work, if the Agent was instructed to agree to a conciliation conference with the District Magistrate as Chairman, in order to investigate the *bona fide* grievances of the men. Three hundred and fifty men working at Messrs. Martin & Co.'s Bankura workshops struck work, partly in sympathy with the Lillooah strikers and partly on account of intimidation. The men demanded a 50 per cent. rise in wages and provident fund facilities. Two thousand workers in the Howrah workshops of Messrs. Jessop & Co. went out on the 31st March with similar demands. The trouble spread to the other workshops at Howrah by 7000 employees of Messrs. Burn & Co. striking work on the same demands on the 2nd April. There was no important development till the 15th April, when 2000 strikers assembled at midnight in the vicinity of the Lillooah workshop offices and decided to march on foot in the direction of Burdwan, stopping at various places on the way, in order to hold protest meetings to undermine the loyalty of those who had remained at work. In order to cope with any unexpected situation that might arise, a special patrol train with 100 constables and 12 men of the Eastern Frontier Rifles followed the men.

The two officers deputed by the Government of India to investigate the position with regard to the working of the Lillooah workshops submitted their report on the 16th April recommending a reduction of 2600 hands, to

be effected in the course of 20 months. The report stated that 400 of the retrenched men could be absorbed in the new workshops of the E. I. Railway at Tatanagar and that the retrenchment should proceed first in the case of those workers who had reached 55 years of age and then with men with less than one year's service, giving to the latter one month's pay as bonus. These recommendations were accepted by the Government of India, who instructed the Agent to give effect to them as early as possible after the reopening of the workshops.

On the 17th the strikers who started on the demonstration march to Burdwan visited Serampore, French Chandernagore and Chinsura, and collected some funds for their relief but by the time they reached Chinsura their number had dwindled to 600. Owing to the drop in their numbers and the information that they would not be permitted to hold meetings in the Railway Loco Shed or in any part of the Railway premises at Bandel, the idea of proceeding with the march was abandoned and the men returned by rail to Lilloah on the same day. On the 18th they held a demonstration march from Howrah to Calcutta guarded throughout by mounted police and contingents on lorries. On reaching Calcutta they held a meeting at the maidan and passed a resolution to collect funds for relief whilst they were out of work.

Some strikers offered passive resistance on the 19th by sitting on the Railway lines on the Amta-Howrah Light Railway and preventing the running of trains. When the police arrived on the scene, they started throwing stones as a result of which certain police officials were injured. The strikers were eventually dispersed after four arrests had been made. A second demonstration march was held through the streets of Calcutta on the same day and a monster meeting took place at the Stradhananda Park.

The Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, promulgated an Order on the 20th preventing the strikers from carrying offensive weapons and from public utterances of cries, singing songs and playing music. Vigorous picketing on a large scale was carried on by the strikers and several cases of intimidation and assault on loyal workers were reported to the police from time to time.

At a meeting of the sympathisers of the workers held on the 25th Mr. C. F. Andrews enunciated the following demands for the men:—

- (1) The minimum pay should be a living wage;
- (2) Pay should be granted for public holidays and factory off-days;
- (3) Increases in pay should be granted if the Government of India's reconstruction scheme was adopted;
- (4) The housing conditions of the workers should be improved; and
- (5) A deputation of the strikers should be allowed to discuss the situation with the Agent on the lines of the above proposals with a view to settling the dispute.

A meeting of the strikers was held on the 26th under the presidency of Mr. Subash Chandra Bose at which a committee consisting of Messrs. Andrews, S. C. Bose, Satyandranath Mitra, Mrinalkanti Bose and others was formed to negotiate with the management for an honourable settlement on the lines suggested by Mr. Andrews. The meeting also

decided to organise a third demonstration march of the strikers from Howrah to Kancharapara on the 27th April, which was duly held. The All-India Trade Union Congress received a donation of £20 for the relief of the E. I. Railway strikers from the International Transport Workers' Federation, Amsterdam. A large number of the strikers were reported to have left Howrah for their villages and those that remained in the city were able to carry on, on account of generous credit terms offered by the shop-keepers. Mr. Chaudhuri, the Labour leader in the Bengal Legislative Council, went to Darjeeling on the 30th to discuss the strike situation with His Excellency the Governor and the Honourable Member in charge.

Mr. Andrews interviewed the Agent of the East Indian Railway on the 1st May with regard to the strike situation. The Agent stated that the workshops would be re-opened immediately, the men expressed their willingness to resume work. "May Day" celebrations were observed with great enthusiasm and several affrays were reported to have occurred between the strikers and the police. The 300 strikers who left Howrah on the demonstration march on the 27th April returned after making a collection of funds at Kancharapara and other industrial centres on the Eastern Bengal Railway.

His Excellency the Governor of Bengal in replying to a telegram sent to him at Darjeeling by the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, in which the Chamber had suggested the appointment of a conciliation court and requested His Excellency's presence in Calcutta with a view to an early settlement of the strike, regretted that he could not refer the dispute to the Bengal Industrial Disputes Panel, as the Railway strike was primarily the concern of the Railway Board. With regard to the dispute between Messrs. Jessop & Co. and Messrs. Burn & Co. and their employees, His Excellency stated that the necessary conditions had not been fulfilled for Government to take the action suggested by the Chamber. His Excellency also said that he was keenly watching the situation and would be glad to return to Calcutta if his presence would conduce to the restoration of peace and goodwill.

The Indian Merchants' Chamber sent another telegram on the 3rd May to the Railway Board suggesting to them that the agency of the Bengal Industrial Disputes Panel should be utilised for dealing with the strike. A conference between the Railway officials and the representatives of the men was held on the 4th May when Mr. Douglas, Additional District Magistrate, was also present. The strikers submitted a petition to Mr. Douglas containing the following four alternative demands:—

- (1) He should endeavour to bring about an honourable settlement of the dispute at once; or
- (2) The strikers should be fed until a settlement was reached; or
- (3) He should arrange for payment of all dues to the strikers in respect of arrears of pay, lock-out wages, provident fund and gratuity to be made at once; or
- (4) Free picketing should be allowed by the strikers without any interruption by the police.

Mr. Douglas after consulting the Agent gave a categorical reply to the men's petition. He pointed out that he had no authority to interfere with

the strike with a view to effecting a settlement and he regretted his inability to undertake to feed them during the interim period. With regard to the payment of dues, he pointed out that the Agent was willing to arrange payment to all those strikers who sent in their resignations individually. As regards picketing, he said that he had no objection to this provided that picketing was entirely peaceful. In addressing a meeting of the strikers after the close of the conference, Mr. Mitra said that all avenues for effecting a settlement had been explored but with no result and he stated that the responsibility for any other disturbances that might be created by the strikers would be laid at the door of the railway authorities. In a subsequent interview with the Press Mr. Mitra stated that if the railway authorities were prepared to meet the strikers half way, the workers would be willing to forego a part of their demands. If that was not possible, he said that the deadlock would continue until the men had achieved their object. He stated that he relied for the success of the strike on the fact that the strikers were all skilled workers and that it would not be possible for the management to replace them easily by engaging new hands. In the afternoon the representatives of the Union interviewed the Chief Engineer and the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer of the Railway in the District Magistrate's chambers. After the interview, Mr. Mitra again addressed the men and advised them neither to surrender nor to tender their resignations. As there was no possibility of arriving at any settlement he left it to the men to do as they liked. The men declared that they would not resume work unconditionally and they demanded payment of their dues. The Strikers Relief Committee was distributing relief to the extent of Rs. 700 every day. In view of the fact that the funds at their disposal were fast running out and contributions from the public were not encouraging, it was decided to resort to street collections for additional funds.

Mr. Douglas and certain police officials had another discussion with the strike leaders during which it was stated that the men were willing to accept a minimum wage of Rs. 16 per month with an annual increment of 10 per cent. in order to facilitate a settlement of the dispute. It was decided that the men's representatives should meet the Agent on the next day. The strikers threatened that if no settlement was effected, they would offer *satyagraha* (passive resistance) in batches of 2000 with a view to obstructing all workers in the city. At a meeting held by the Union leaders on the 8th May a selection was made of persons who were to meet the Agent on the 9th and the minimum demands to be placed before the Agent were formulated. Accordingly, a deputation of the strikers consisting of Messrs. K. C. Mitra, Broda Prasanna Pain, Mrinalkanti Bose (President, Bengal Trade Union Federation), Kishorilal Bose (Secretary, Bengal Trade Union Federation), Sibnath Bannerjee and 16 workmen waited on the Agent on the 9th and presented a memorandum containing the following minimum demands of the men which the Agent was asked to concede before the strikers resumed work:—

- (1) Reinstatement of the dismissed workmen of the "M" shop or an open enquiry;
- (2) A minimum wage of Rs. 16 per month;
- (3) A general all round increase of 10 per cent. in wages;

- (4) Provision for free quarters, or as the alternative house rent at 20 per cent. of the men's salary;
- (5) Payment for Sundays and other public holidays;
- (6) Formal recognition of the Union by letter on the following

- (a) Free passes to be given to the Union workers;
 - (b) Special leave and passes to be given to the delegates of the executive of the Central Committee once in every three months;
 - (c) The right to hold meetings in the Railway Institute and on railway land;
 - (d) Interview with Railway officials in all cases of emergency; and
 - (e) Rooms to be provided either free or on rent in Railway premises for the offices of the Union.
- (7) Ten days' time should be given for resumption of work;
 - (8) One month's pay should be given to all strikers on resuming work and this to be deducted from the men's pay in monthly instalments spread over a period of six months;
 - (9) The question of lock-out wages should be left to be discussed with the Railway Board; and
 - (10) No victimisation.

The Agent gave the following reply to each of the above ten demands formulated by the men:—

- (1) He could not agree to this.
- (2) and (3) It would not be found possible, in view of what had already been explained in his communique of the 6th March, to promise any increase in wages. Unskilled workers were paid at the rate of 9 annas per day, i.e., about Rs. 14 per month for a regular worker. They had chances of rising to higher wages at 11 annas per day or Rs. 17 per month. Figures were quoted to show that the majority of the workers were earning well above the minimum demand. Out of 11,675 men employed at the Lillooah workshops, 1973 only could earn under Rs. 20 per month on the present rates of pay, 3245 earned between Rs. 20 and Rs. 30, 4729 between Rs. 30 and Rs. 40, 1155 between Rs. 40 and Rs. 50 and 493 above Rs. 50; the maximum wages earned in certain cases being as high as Rs. 90 per month. The approximate average earnings per worker per month amounted to Rs. 31.

(4) He was not prepared to commit himself or the Railway Board in any way with regard to the question of housing or house-rent allowance, as it was against the declared policy of Government.

(5) Full pay was given at present for 15 public holidays and it was not possible to extend this concession to more public holidays or to Sundays.

(6) He was prepared to recognise any duly representative Union of the employees and to meet its representatives on any matter if he was satisfied that it was emergent but he would not agree to grant any special concession with regard to leave or passes to the employees except in so far as they were due to such employees and subject to the exigencies of the service.

(9) The reply was not favourable.

(7), (8) and (10) There would be no victimisation. His previous offer to take the men back in case they showed willingness to resume work was still open. He also pointed out that as a result of a recent investigation conducted by the two officers deputed by the Government of India, it would be necessary to effect some reduction in the staff on the lines indicated in the communique issued by the Government of India.

A mass meeting of the strikers was held at night on the 9th at which inflammatory speeches were made by the leaders. It was decided that the men should begin to offer *satyagraha* at all Law Courts, Railway Stations and the Agent's offices from the next day. In accordance with this decision the strikers began to practise *satyagraha* from the 10th by stopping all trams, buses and other vehicular conveyances and by pulling out passengers from all vehicles. Trains on the Amta-Howrah Light Railway were held up and certain European officers and civilians were attacked. Mr. Sibnath Bannerjee, a strike leader, was arrested in connection with unlawful assembly and was released on bail. The British Trade Union Congress sent Mr. N. M. Joshi an amount of £250 for the relief of the E. I. Railway strikers.

As a result of picketing by the strikers, 800 men of Messrs. John King & Co's workshops at Howrah could not attend work on the 11th. Vehicular traffic of all kinds was obstructed in Howrah and Calcutta and many police officers were attacked by the strikers. As a consequence of this, the police served a notice on Mr. Mitra not to lead any processions. From the 12th May the strikers ceased to interfere with any kind of traffic as a result of an exhortation by the Secretary of the Union to them to remain peaceful. There was no further trouble in the workshops of Messrs. John King & Co. A conference of the labour leaders was held at Mr. Subash Chandra Bose's residence on the 14th at which the following decisions were arrived at—

- (1) To carry on the strike to a finish;
- (2) To suspend all activities in connection with *satyagraha* and picketing and to remain non-violent and peaceful;
- (3) To raise a relief fund for the strikers; and
- (4) That no deputations of the strikers should wait on the Agent unless the Agent himself asked them to meet him.

On the 16th Messrs. Spratt and D. K. Goswamy (a member of the Workers and Peasants Party in Bengal) addressed a workers' meeting and asked the men to spread the strike over the whole line in order to make the Railway authorities yield.

The Honourable Mr. A. N. Moberley came to Calcutta from Darjeeling on the 17th in connection with the Bamangachi shooting case. There was no demonstration by the strikers as they were all engaged in collecting subscriptions. At a meeting of the strikers held in the evening, Mr. Mitra held out a hope that in view of the Honourable Member's visit to Calcutta, there was a chance of an early settlement of the dispute and he asked the men to remain peaceful, but on the 19th the Labour Union sent emissaries to various points to create trouble on the whole Railway. It was decided to relegate the work of collecting funds for relief to the Provincial Congress Committee and to concentrate the strikers on picketing and propaganda. The Calcutta European Association addressed a letter to the Government

of Bengal on the 20th requesting that steps should be taken to prevent a riot by the strikers. A proposal was mooted on the 21st to re-open the Lillooah workshops within a few days and to offer police protection to loyal workers who were willing to resume work. In view of this, the strike leaders cabled to the Workers' Welfare League of India in London for financial assistance to carry on the strike. The Agent issued a communique stating that the Lillooah workshops and the Stores Department would be re-opened on the 25th May and an employment officer would be appointed to take in the men. He promised that two other officers—one an Indian and the other an European—would be appointed to hear the grievances, if any, of the men. Mr. Mitra, the Secretary of the Union, exhorted the men not to resume work and to remain firm and he promised to give the strikers additional relief to the extent of Rs. 2 per head in view of the approach of the Bakri-Id festival. As a result of instigation by the E. I. Railway Union leaders, 2820 workers in the Keshoram Cotton Mills struck work on the 23rd. At first the weaving section only went out but the whole mill had to be closed as a result of picketing practised by the strikers on the advice of their leaders. The Third International at Moscow remitted £700 to Mr. Mitra for strike relief work. This brought the foreign contributions received up to this date for relief work for the E. I. Railway strike to Rs. 20,000.

When the Lillooah workshops re-opened on the morning of the 25th, 4257 workers including 201 Chinese carpenters attended but with the exception of the Chinese workers all the rest remained idle and refused to clear out when asked to do so. The Labour leader, Mr. Mitra, was sent for and he persuaded the men to leave the workshops. The Agent issued a communique stating that the Lillooah workshops and the Stores Department would remain open throughout each day from the 25th May, except on Sundays, and that those who wanted to resume work should sign an undertaking to the effect that they would not resort to *satyagraha* in future. As a result of instigation by the strike leaders 300 men at the Ondal workshops struck work in sympathy and the Labour Union issued leaflets asking the men to remain firm. On the 26th the strikers were advised by the leaders to sign the Agent's pledge to work but that they should practise *satyagraha* after getting into the workshops. The management, however, did not permit the strikers to do this. The International Federation of Trade Unions, Amsterdam, remitted £100 to Mr. Joshi for the E. I. Railway strike relief.

Two thousand men presented themselves at the Lillooah workshops on the 28th but only 22 signed the pledge and went in. As soon as these men went inside they practised *satyagraha* and were expelled. The management offered double wages to those who were prepared to work on the three holidays that followed. With regard to the Ondal strikers, the Agent issued a notice on the 29th that if they failed to resume work by the 31st or, having resumed work commenced *satyagraha* they would be summarily dismissed and made to vacate quarters.

His Excellency the Governor of Bengal granted an interview to Mr. Mitra on the 30th May when the strike leader explained the demands of the men to His Excellency and requested the intervention of Government with a

view to a settlement of the dispute. His Excellency regretted his inability to intervene in the dispute, as the Railway administration was directly under the control of the Government of India. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce addressed a letter to the Government of Bengal pointing out that Communists of the type of Spratt should not be permitted to enter India and requesting that adequate protection should be arranged for loyal workers. Government replied stating that with regard to the question of admission of Communists into India they had already forwarded their recommendations to the Government of India and that all necessary action had been taken with regard to the protection of loyal workers.

In a note issued to the Press, Mr. Mitra stated that the demands of the men were greatly reduced with a view to effecting an early settlement. The demand for holidays was given up with the exception that Sundays should be paid holidays. The demand for 20 per cent. of pay as house-rent allowance had been reduced to 10 per cent. The workshops at Lilloah were opened on the 31st but the strikers did not go in.

(To be continued)

Census of Workers in Japan

According to the Japanese Bureau of Social Affairs, the total number of workers in factories, mines, transport and communications, casual employment, etc., at the end of 1927 was 4,703,757, an increase of 27,091 as compared with the number at the end of June 1927.

These workers may be classified as follows:—

Industry	Type of Undertaking	Number of Workers		
		Male	Female	Total
Factory workers	State	104,133	29,434	133,567
	Public	6,498	1,137	7,635
	Private	988,950	978,979	1,967,929
Total		1,099,581	1,009,550	2,109,131
Mine workers		278,678	64,237	292,915
Workers in transport and communications		392,828	26,774	419,602
Casual workers and others		1,437,645	444,464	1,882,109
Grand Total		3,158,732	1,545,025	4,703,757

The percentage of workers organised is a little more than 6.5.
(From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, July 9, 1928.)

Reviews of Books and Reports

The Hope of the Workers, by Austin Hopkinson, second edition (revised and enlarged), London, Martin Hopkinson & Co., Ltd., 1927, pages 115

This book was originally written by the author who is a Member of Parliament for the benefit of his constituents in a large industrial district of North-East Lancashire. The book is intended as an indictment of socialism which the author condemns in every shape and form. He regards the modern theories of socialism as destructive of individual freedom and as impediments in the way of England's progress. In practice, he regards socialism as involving robbery and the socialistic organization of the State would therefore be against the tenets of Christianity. Even sound trade-unionism according to him is ruined by socialism. The book is a frankly propagandist and seeks to put the case for capitalism in a brief and simple form, without the ponderous polemics of the political economist. Thus the author has succeeded in doing but his whole-hearted prejudices seem to weaken rather than to strengthen his case.

Report of the Department of Industries, Assam, for the year 1926-27

During the year under report the activities of the Department were confined to the encouragement of handloom weaving and sericulture, which are the two main cottage industries of the province, and to the control of technical and industrial education.

As regards handloom weaving it is pointed out that during the last six years about 2000 fly-shuttle sleys have been introduced by the Department in the province and over 100 students have been given training in improved methods of weaving. During the year three peripatetic weaving parties consisting of 18 Demonstrators and 3 Weaving Assistants were at work. Public demand for advice and demonstration is increasing and the need of increasing the number of these parties is being felt.

Report on the Working of the Department of Industries and Commerce (Hyderabad Deccan) for the year 1927

The Weaving Factory continued to work in the current year on the same lines as in the previous year. The great need for the development of work in this section which deals with the most important industry of the State next to agriculture, was felt to be expert technical advice and it was on this account that the appointment of a full-time Textile Expert was proposed. This proposal has been sanctioned and it is expected that the Department will launch a scheme for the development of the hand-weaving industry in the State in particular and cottage industries in general, by instituting a Central Cottage Institute and extending its activities in the Districts.

The Government has been pleased to sanction a sum of Rs. 80,000 as a temporary measure to meet the expenses of the appointment of the Textile Expert and the institution of the Cottage Industry Institute including

provision for assisting and improving the time honoured Pattem hand weaving industry.

At the special request of the Director-General the Secretary to Government, Legislative Department, held successive meetings of the Select Committee and carried through the Factory Bill to a finish. The bill is now ready to pass on to the Legislative Council. It is hoped it will be passed into an Act in about a couple of months time. The proposals for the appointment of Factory Inspectors are under consideration of the Department so that as soon as the Act is passed steps will be taken for its proper administration.

Administration Report on the Working of the Department of Industries and Commerce, Mysore

The Director of Industries and Commerce, Mysore, who is also the Officer-in-Charge of Labour, has issued his annual report for the year 1926-27. It appears that the department is conducting a statistical enquiry into the present condition of industries in Mysore State. For this purpose a schedule was circulated to the various industrial concerns. A large majority of the works in the State have furnished the required information. The information received is now being tabulated and it is expected that the results will be published shortly in the form of a separate publication.

In Mysore State the Government has started various industrial concerns which are run by the Department of Industries and Commerce. These concerns are required to carry on work under commercial conditions. But they are also intended to afford training to young men who are taken as apprentices. It appears from the report that all the concerns run by the department with the exception of the Government Soap Factory worked at a loss during the year.

There were 6 labour disputes in the textile mills in Bangalore resulting in strikes and lock-outs, the duration of which ranged from a few hours to a fortnight. The causes of these disputes were reported to be dismissals of hands on account of retrenchment, refusal to pay bonus or gratuity, levy of excessive fines for trivial mistakes, victimization and demand for holidays. The Director of the Department of Industries and Commerce interceded with the managements of the mills on behalf of the labourers. The points of dispute were amicably settled in all cases except one in which firearms had to be used by the police resulting in some loss of life.

The Director points out that the growing consciousness of labour is illustrated by the readiness with which associations of persons employed in certain trades are formed. They are now being registered under the Charitable Societies Regulation. At present there are four such organisations in existence, three at Bangalore and one at Mysore. The Director expresses the opinion that it is desirable that an enactment analogous to the British Indian Trade Unions Act should be soon passed in the State. He also points out that it is necessary to pass some legislation for facilitating the institution of conciliation or arbitration boards. The Factory Regulations are also being revised and the question of the appointment of Inspectors and Certifying Surgeons to administer the provisions of the new Regulation is being considered.

Current Periodicals

Summary of titles and contents of special articles

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR REVIEW - VOL. XVIII, NO. 1, JULY 1928. (International Labour Office, Geneva.)

Articles: (1) *Seasonal Unemployment in the Clothing Industries*.—The situation of the workers; statistics of unemployment; Great Britain and Northern Ireland, pp. 1-12.

(2) *Closing Legislation in European Countries*.—Historical sketch of the legislation; the opening and closing hours—regulations applying to all or most shops, special shops; and rest regulation. pp. 13-24.

(3) *Co-operation and Monopolies in Sweden*, by Herman Stolpe. pp. 46-57.

(4) *The Hours of Work in American Industry*.—1. Nature of the regulations—legislative agreements, customs; sphere of application of the regulations—legislation, collective agreements; number of persons covered by the Washington Convention and by existing national laws. pp. 58-71.

(5) *Employment of Women before Childbirth in German Industry*.—Occupations; hours; working mothers and household duties; health risks. pp. 76-92.

(6) *Recent Wage Changes in Various Countries—Denmark, Norway, Sweden*. pp. 93-107.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

MONTHLY LABOUR REVIEW - VOL. XXVI, NO. 3, MARCH 1928. (U. S. Department of Labour, Washington.)

Articles: (1) *Use of Cost-of-Living Figures in Wage Adjustments*, by Ethelbert Stewart (Assistant States Commissioner of Labour Statistics).—Railroad arbitration under the Federal Act of 1926; Colorado industrial commission; minimum wage boards; state and municipal agencies; between employers and employees; industrial arbitration boards; individual companies; association. pp. 1-8.

(2) *American Trade Unions and the Problem of Unemployment*.—Measures for the prevention of unemployment—restriction of membership, indemnity for loss of job, regulation of number of employees, distribution of work available, limitation of overtime, finding jobs for members, open markets and increasing business; measures for the relief of unemployment—unemployment exemption from dues, loans to members; unemployment insurance plans, labour's unemployment conference. pp. 8-23.

(3) *Unemployment in Europe*. pp. 24 and 25.

(4) *Workmen's Compensation and the Conflict of Laws*, by Ralph H. Dixon (Assistant Professor of University of Minnesota).—(i) Is a compensation award in one state entitled to full faith and credit in other states? (ii) Will a right to compensation arising under the act of one jurisdiction be enforced directly in another jurisdiction? (iii) When does the local act apply? herein of the so-called extraterritorial operation of the acts; (iv) the effect of the receipt of compensation under the act of one jurisdiction upon a recovery under the act of another jurisdiction; (v) the effect of the local act or the act of another jurisdiction upon a common-law action for damages or some other action not based upon a workmen's compensation act; (vi) the effect of the local act or the act of another jurisdiction and other factors upon a common-law action for damages or some other action not based upon a workmen's compensation act; conclusion. pp. 56-73.

(5) *Labour Legislation of 1927*.—Employment contract; wages—private employment, public works, public employees; hours of labour—private employment, public works, holidays and days of rest; safety and health—prohibited employments, employment in mines inspection, sanitation, miscellaneous; labour unions and disputes; pensions; vocational rehabilitation; investigating commissions. pp. 82-88.

(6) *Wages and Hours of Labour in Foundries and Machine Shops, 1927*. pp. 123-130.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

THE JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE - VOL. X, NO. 6, JUNE 1928. (Harvard School of Public Health, Baltimore.)

Special Articles: (1) *Spray Painting Hazards as determined by the Pennsylvania and the National Safety Council Surveys*, by Henry Field Smyth, M.D., Dr. P. H. and Henry F. Smyth, Jr. B.S. in Ch. E.—Introduction; chemical methods employed in determining benzol vapour concentrations in air; one method selected from the literature; procedure used on samples collected in Pennsylvania—field samples, tests of accuracy of method; samples collected at experimental booth; procedure used on samples collected in national safety council survey; discussion; lacquer spraying and the benzol hazard; lacquer components; scope of studies; difference in conditions; classifications of sprayers; analysis of materials; benzol sampling; air measurements; medical examinations—historically blood examinations, development of benzol blood pictures; discussion; conclusions; paint and enamel spraying and the lead hazard; scope of studies; chemical methods—preparation of samples, determination of lead; analysis of materials; conditions affecting lead in air; extent of exposure to lead;

medical examinations—histories, urine analyses, analyses of feces, blood examinations, cases of poisoning, discussion; conclusions; vitreous enamel spraying and silicosis: scope of studies, ear conditions; medical examinations—histories, X-ray findings; discussion; conclusions; medical examinations for all sprayers. pp. 163-213.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE VOL. XXVIII, NO. 6, JUNE 1928. (The Department of Labour, Canada.)

Special Articles.—(1) Labour Legislation enacted by the Parliament of Canada and by the Legislatures of British Columbia and Alberta: Parliament of Canada; British Columbia: payment of wages; coal mines; mechanics' liens; woodmen's liens; superannuation; miscellaneous acts; Alberta: industrial disputes investigation act; coal miners' wages; women's bureau; workmen's compensation; minimum wages for women; boilers' act; building trades protection; woodmen's liens; resolution. pp. 581-585.

(2) Old Age Pensions in Canada.—Statement of payments made for pensions in British Columbia, agreement with Saskatchewan. pp. 588 and 589.

(3) Old Age and Invalidity Pensions recommended in South Africa. pp. 589 and 590.

(4) Social Insurance in France.—New act providing various benefits for industrial population: general provisions; sickness insurance; maternity benefits; invalidity insurance; old age pensions; death benefits; family allowances; temporary pensions for orphans; unemployment guarantee; voluntary insurance. pp. 590-594.

(5) Social Insurance in Germany in 1927.—Sickness insurance and maternity benefits; accident insurance; invalidity and old age; miners' insurance; non-manual workers' insurance; costs. pp. 594-596.

(6) Rehabilitation and Workmen's Compensation in Ontario.—Merit rating; penalty for bad experience; refunds now made annually; new first aid regulation; rehabilitation; temporary disablements; board will assist. pp. 599-603.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

Mines in India

In the House of Commons replying to Mr. Mardy Jones, Earl Winterton said that the Government of India employed ten Government Inspectors of Mines and as far as Lord Birkenhead was aware the number was not considered inadequate. All important mines were inspected in 1926 and many of them several times.

Mr. Mardy Jones pointed out that there were 722 coal-mines in India and many of them hundreds of miles apart. Fatal accidents were frequent and it was most vital that inspectors should appear as soon as possible after an accident.

Earl Winterton replied that this was a matter for the local Government. Out of 722 mines 660 had been inspected last year and inspections totalled 1700.

Mr. Mardy Jones declared that the vital point was not the number of inspectors but that when a fatal accident occurred an inspector should appear as soon as possible.

Earl Winterton replied that it was really a matter which should be dealt with by the councils and assemblies in India rather than by the House of Commons.

Further replying to Mr. Mardy Jones Earl Winterton stated that deaths from accidents in coal-mines in India owing to falls of roofs and sides in 1926 were 90 compared with 107 in 1925, 130 in 1924 and 166 in 1923. (From "Daily Gazette," Karachi, July 18, 1928.)

Current Notes from Abroad

INTERNATIONAL

The Japanese Government delegate to the Governing Body of the International Labour Office has informed the Office that the Japanese Privy Council has approved the ratification of the Convention concerning workmen's compensation for occupational diseases, the Convention concerning equality of treatment for national and foreign workers as regards workmen's compensation for accidents, and the Convention concerning the simplification of the inspection of emigrants on board ship. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, July 16, 1928.)

UNITED KINGDOM

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Ministry of Labour, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation during June resulted in a reduction of over £5000 in the weekly full-time wages of 60,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £3900 in those of over 37,000 workpeople.

The principal bodies of workpeople affected by reductions included higher-paid men employed at iron puddling furnaces and in iron and steel rolling mills and forges in the Midlands, and men employed by electrical contractors in England and Wales. Adult timeworkers employed in the textile bleaching, dyeing, finishing, etc., industries received temporary increases amounting to 2s. to 3s. per week in the case of male workers and 1s. per week in that of female workers; juvenile workers in the same industries had their wages reduced. Adult female workers employed in the silk industry at Leek received increases in wages, varying in the case of timeworkers from 1s. to 3s. 6d. per week. There were also increases in the wages of building trade operatives at various towns in the South and East of England. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, July 1928.)

At 30th June 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 65 per cent. above that of July 1914, as compared with 65 per cent. a month ago and 66 per cent. a year ago. For food alone the corresponding percentage for 30th June was 57, as compared with 56 a month ago and 59 a year ago. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, July 1928.)

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Ministry of Labour as beginning in June, was 20. In addition, 13 disputes which began before June were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in June (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 23,700, and the aggregate duration of all disputes during June was about 452,000 working days. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, July 1928.)

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INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS IN JULY 1928

Name of concern and locality	Approximate number of workpeople involved		Date when dispute		Cause	Result	Number of working days lost during the month	Total number of working days lost in the dispute on termination
	Directly	Indirectly	Began	Ended				
<i>Textile Industry</i>								
1. General Strike, Bombay—								
(a) 10 cotton mills.	20,262		16 Apr.	1928	Introduction of new systems of work in accordance with the recommendations of the Textile Tariff Board and alleged reductions in rates of wages and increases in hours of work.	No settlement reported.	1,230,741	
(b) 8 cotton mills and Indian Bleaching Mill.	17,834		17 Apr.	1928				
(c) 1 cotton mill.	5,774		18 Apr.					
(d) 2 cotton mills.	5,750		19 Apr.					
(e) 3 cotton mills.	5,525		21 Apr.					
(f) 23 cotton mills.	47,199		23 Apr.					
(g) 14 cotton mills and Choi Silk Mill.	26,631		24 Apr.					
(h) 6 cotton mills and Alliance Silk Mill.	17,713		25 Apr.					
(i) 1 cotton mill.	956		26 Apr.					
2. Strike in Sholapur Mills—								
(a) The Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Mills.	2,500	5,500	21 Apr.	10 July	Alleged reduction in wages.	No settlement reported except in the case of the strike in the Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Mills where a partial compromise was effected.	154,328	
(b) The Vishnu Mill.		3,914	21 June					
(c) The Laxmi Mill.	606	2,830	16 July					
(d) The Jam Mill.	100		17 July					
(e) The Narsingirji Mill.	1,000		18 July					
3. Strike in Kurla Mills—								
(a) The Swadeshi Mill.	3,337	375	14 May		Demand for an increase in wages.	No settlement reported.	141,512	
(b) The Kurla Spinning and Weaving Mill.		1,800	17 May					
4. The Gujarat Ginning and Manufacturing Mill, outside Premgate, Ahmedabad.								
	902		28 June	1 July	Damaged cloth given in lieu of wages.	The strike ended in a compromise.	Nil.	1,955
<i>Miscellaneous</i>								
5. Messrs. Kemp & Co., Chattri Road, Bombay.	90		5 July	9 July	Demand for reinstatement of a dismissed store-keeper.	The strike ended in favour of the workers.	330	330
6. The Western India Match Factory, Ambernath.	1,090		21 July	28 July	Demand for reinstatement of dismissed men.	The strike ended in a compromise.	6,540	6,540

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

Count or Number	Month of June			Three months ended June			
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928	
BOMBAY PRESIDENCY							
	Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	
Nos. 1 to 10	.. ..	6,443	6,337	596	19,410	18,419	4,498
Nos. 11 to 20	.. ..	17,501	18,147	5,415	53,815	55,397	23,144
Nos. 21 to 30	.. ..	15,804	15,580	6,012	46,700	47,644	24,265
Nos. 31 to 40	.. ..	1,638	2,293	1,218	5,030	6,210	4,840
Above 40	.. ..	764	921	482	2,308	2,879	1,713
Waste, etc.	.. ..	123	114	..	377	323	92
Total ..		42,273	43,392	13,723	127,640	130,872	58,552
BOMBAY CITY							
	Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	
Nos. 1 to 10	.. ..	5,763	5,571	34	17,312	16,204	2,654
Nos. 11 to 20	.. ..	11,671	12,169	226	36,016	37,392	6,951
Nos. 21 to 30	.. ..	9,966	9,707	41	29,218	29,696	6,377
Nos. 31 to 40	.. ..	710	1,056	..	2,176	2,719	997
Above 40	.. ..	298	416	..	845	1,372	417
Waste, etc.	.. ..	110	114	..	345	323	92
Total ..		28,518	29,033	301	85,912	87,706	17,488
AHMEDABAD							
	Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	
Nos. 1 to 10	.. ..	238	192	165	598	571	540
Nos. 11 to 20	.. ..	3,189	3,227	3,316	9,938	9,823	9,281
Nos. 21 to 30	.. ..	4,252	4,645	4,648	12,890	14,298	14,147
Nos. 31 to 40	.. ..	753	924	994	2,213	2,536	2,953
Above 40	.. ..	367	357	356	1,116	1,073	922
Waste, etc.	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..		8,799	9,345	9,479	26,755	28,301	27,843

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

Description	Month of June			Three months ended June		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	912	2,039	221	2,513	4,740	1,163
Chudders	1,964	1,854	652	4,365	4,658	2,065
Dhotis	8,097	8,729	5,769	22,914	24,498	17,116
Drills and jeans	822	1,157	232	3,136	3,803	1,734
Cambrics and lawns	24	50	40	56	111	148
Printers	165	130	205	585	491	570
Shirtings and long cloth	11,370	10,124	3,447	32,112	31,114	12,507
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	1,365	1,268	597	3,340	4,305	2,208
Tent cloth	20	16	22	84	196	93
Other sorts	508	467	340	1,499	1,518	1,021
Total ..	25,247	25,834	11,525	70,604	75,434	38,625
Coloured piecegoods	9,772	9,730	2,742	27,827	29,974	12,663
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	329	240	39	958	673	310
Hosiery	30	34	56	80	99	151
Miscellaneous	189	294	33	709	860	309
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	217	391	105	571	1,127	637
Grand Total ..	35,784	36,523	14,500	100,749	108,167	52,695

BOMBAY CITY

Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	824	1,821	57	2,222	3,518	676
Chudders	1,517	1,385	66	3,124	3,373	703
Dhotis	2,558	3,150	311	6,988	8,474	2,417
Drills and jeans	772	1,084	127	2,875	3,599	1,404
Cambrics and lawns	11	16	1	14	42	28
Printers	9,009	7,588	699	25,249	23,565	5,278
Shirtings and long cloth	1,031	785	100	2,378	3,259	915
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	17	7	18	63	173	82
Tent cloth	324	241	28	861	806	309
Other sorts	16,063	16,077	1,407	43,774	46,809	11,812
Total ..	16,063	16,077	1,407	43,774	46,809	11,812
Coloured piecegoods	7,361	6,846	486	19,420	20,363	5,174
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	319	236	9	928	664	232
Hosiery	3	11	2	15	30	12
Miscellaneous	170	234	4	589	686	130
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	128	241	5	292	640	195
Grand Total ..	24,044	23,645	1,913	65,018	69,192	17,555

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

Description	Month of June			Three months ended June		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
Grey & bleached piecegoods—Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Khadi	18	30	33	65	53	93
Chudders	345	333	453	966	902	1,121
Dhotis	4,537	4,418	4,585	13,129	12,531	12,030
Drills and jeans	28	28	33	92	89	54
Cambrics and lawns	14	34	36	40	64	107
Printers	74	32	128	319	201	299
Shirtings and long cloth	1,802	2,005	2,239	5,151	5,428	5,598
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	271	395	387	722	782	882
Tent cloth	3	3	6	6	5	5
Other sorts	81	131	183	361	437	426
Total ..	7,170	7,409	8,077	20,851	20,492	20,610
Coloured piecegoods	1,526	1,663	1,583	5,741	6,193	5,240
Grey and coloured goods, other than piecegoods	1	1	2	4	5	4
Hosiery	27	24	53	65	70	139
Miscellaneous	19	60	26	120	172	173
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	86	147	100	274	476	436
Grand Total ..	8,829	9,304	9,841	27,055	27,408	26,602

WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN BOMBAY

Article	Grade	Rate per	Prices in the month of				Index numbers					
			July 1914	July 1927	June 1928	July 1928	July 1914	July 1927	June 1928	July 1928		
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.						
Cereals—												
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	Maund	4 11 3	6 3 1	5 4 8	5 4 2	100	132	113	112		
Wheat	Delhi No. 1	Cwt.	1 9 6	7 12 9	7 10 9(5)	7 10 9(5)	100	139	137	137		
Do.	Khandwa Seoni	Candy	45 0 0	77 8 0	91 0 0	80 0 0	100	172	202	178		
Do.	Jubbulpore	..	40 0 0	51 0 0	48 0 0	49 0 0	100	128	120	123		
Jowari (1)	Cawnpore	Maund	3 2 6	4 5 5	3 11 3	3 6 2	100	137	117	107		
Barley ..	Ghati ..	..	3 4 6	4 3 9	4 0 4	4 0 4	100	129	123	123	
Bajri ..	..	..	3 4 6	4 7 1	4 8 10	4 3 9	100	135	139	129
	Index No.—Cereals						100	139	136	130		
Pulses—												
Gram ..	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	Maund	4 3 9	4 8 10	4 12 2	4 15 7	100	108	112	117		
Turdal ..	Cawnpore	..	5 10 5	8 7 5	7 15 0	7 6 6	100	150	140	131		
	Index No.—Pulses						100	129	126	124		
	Index No.—Food grains						100	137	134	129		
Sugar—												
Sugar (refined)	Mauritius	Cwt.	9 3 0	..	..	..	100	..	..	..
Do. (do.)	Java, white	..	0 3 0	14 10 0	17 12 0	..	100	144	174	134		
Do. Raw (Gul)	Sangli or Poona	Maund	7 14 3	9 1 10	10 3 3	13 10 6	100	116	129	124		
	Index No.—Sugar						100	130	152	129		
Other Food—												
Turmeric	Rajapuri ..	Maund	5 9 3	8 4 9	15 10 4	15 10 4	100	149	280	280		
Ghee ..	Deshi	..	45 11 5	91 6 10	75 11 5	74 4 7	100	200	166	163		
Salt ..	Bombay (black)	..	1 7 6	2 0 0	2 2 0	2 2 0	100	136	145	145		
	Index No.—Other food						100	162	197	196		
	Index No.—All Food						100	141	150	143		
Oilseeds—												
Linseed	Bold ..	Cwt.	8 14 6	10 13 0	10 8 0	10 9 6	100	121	118	119		
Rapeseed	Cawnpore (brown)	..	8 0 0	11 6 0	10 10 0	10 10 0	100	142	133	133		
Poppy seed	..	..	10 14 0	17 14 0	17 2 0	17 2 0	100	164	157	157
Gingelly seed	White	11 4 0	16 4 0	12 9 0	12 13 0	100	144	112	114		
	Index No.—Oilseeds						100	143	130	131		

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Textiles—Cotton—										
(a) Cotton, raw	Good	Candy	251 0 0	350 0 0	399 0 0	401 0 0	100	139	159	160
Broach	Fully good	..	222 0 0	343 0 0	366 0 0	377 0 0	100	155	165	170
Ocmra	Saw-ginned	..	230 0 0	358 0 0	397 0 0	399 0 0	100	156	173	173
Dharwar	Machine-ginned	..	205 0 0	328 0 0	342 0 0	357 0 0	100	160	167	174
Khandesh	Do.	..	198 0 0	316 0 0	336 0 0	330 0 0	100	160	170	167
Bengal	..	..					100	154	167	169
	Index No.—Cotton, raw						100	154	167	169
(b) Cotton manufactures										
Twist	40 s	Lb.	0 12 9	1 1 6	1 3 0	1 3 0	100	137	149	149
Grey shirtings	Farl 2,000	Piece	5 15 0	8 12 0	9 6 0	9 10 0	100	147	158	162
White mulls*	6/600	..	4 3 0	9 0 0	8 8 0	8 12 0	100	215	203	209
Shirtings	Liepmann's 1,500	..	10 6 0	17 4 0	19 0 0	19 0 0	100	166	183	183
Long Cloth (3)	Local made 36" x 37 1/2 yds.	Lb.	0 9 6	0 15 0	0 15 6	0 15 9	100	158	163	166
Chudders (4)	54" x 6 yds.	..	0 9 6	0 14 6	0 14 9	0 15 6	100	153	155	163
	Index No.—Cotton manufactures						100	163	169	172
	Index No.—Textiles—Cotton						100	159	168	171
Other Textiles—										
Silk	Manchow	Lb.	5 2 6	7 0 11	6 4 0	6 1 4	100	137	121	118
Do.	Mathow Lari	..	2 15 1	4 4 10	4 0 6	3 12 3	100	146	137	128
	Index No.—Other Textiles						100	142	129	123
Hides and Skins—										
Hides Cow	Tanned	Lb.	1 2 6	1 9 4	1 9 8	1 11 5	100	137	139	148
Do. Buffalo	Do.	..	1 1 3	0 14 7	0 15 3	0 14 0	100	85	88	81
Skins, Goat	Do.	..	1 4 0	2 7 0	2 10 7	2 9 10	100	195	213	209
	Index No.—Hides and Skins						100	119	147	146
Metals—										
Copper braziers	..	Cwt.	60 8 0	54 8 0	60 0 0	59 12 0	100	90	99	99
Iron bars	..	..	4 0 0	6 4 0	7 0 0	7 0 0	100	156	175	175
Steel hoops	..	..	7 12 0	10 0 0	9 0 0	8 12 0	100	129	116	113
Galvanised sheets	..	..	9 0 0	12 1 0	12 0 0	11 14 0	100	134	133	132
Tin plates	..	Box	8 12 0	14 14 0	14 8 0	14 8 0	100	170	166	166
	Index No.—Metals						100	136	138	137
Other raw and manufactured articles—										
Coal (2)	Bengal ..	Ton	14 12 0	21 0 0	21 0 0	21 0 0	100	142	142	142
Do.	Imported	..	19 11 6	25 6 1	18 2 1	18 4 2	100	129	92	93
Kerosene	Elephant Brand	2 Tins	4 6 0	7 10 6	6 11 0	6 11 0	100	175	153	153
Do.	Chester Brand	Case	5 2 0	9 12 6	8 12 0	8 12 0	100	191	171	171
	Index No.—Other raw and manfd. articles						100	159	140	140
	Index No.—Food						100	141	150	143
	Index No.—Non-food						100	149	149	149
	General Index No.						100	147	149	147

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(1) Quotation for Sholapur quality since March 1926. (2) Since June 1925, the quotation is for Bengal, 1st Class Jheria. (3) Quotation for 37" x 37 1/2 yds. since March 1926. (4) Quotation for 50" x 6 yds. since March 1926. (5) Quotation for May 1928.
 * 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 x 19 since October 1927.
 † Since October 1925, the price-quotations for raw cotton are for the following five varieties, viz., Broach, Fully good; Ocmra, Fine; Dharwar, Saw-ginned, F. G.; Khandesh, Fully good; Bengal, Fully good.

WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN KARACHI*

Article	Grade	Rate per	Prices in the month of				Index numbers					
			July 1914	July 1927	June 1928	July 1928	July 1914	July 1927	June 1928	July 1928		
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.						
Cereals—												
Rice (1)	Larkana No. 3	Candy	39 0 0	63 12 0	66 4 0 (4)	59 12 0	100	163	170	153		
Wheat, white	5% barley, 3% dirt, 30% red	"	31 8 0	40 12 0	39 8 0	38 4 0	100	129	125	121		
" red	5% barley, 3% dirt, 92% red	"	31 4 0	39 10 0	"	"	100	127	"	"		
" white	2% barley, 11% dirt	"	32 8 0	42 2 0	40 12 0	39 6 0	100	130	125	121		
" red	2% barley, 11% dirt	"	32 4 0	40 14 0	"	"	100	127	"	"		
Jowari	Export quality	"	25 8 0	38 0 0	34 0 0	35 8 0	100	149	133	139		
Barley	3% dirt	"	26 8 0	33 0 0	33 4 0	32 8 0	100	125	125	123		
Index No.—Cereals							100	136	136	131		
Pulses—												
Gram (2)	1% dirt	Candy	29 8 0	35 8 0	36 8 0	37 8 0	100	120	124	127		
Sugar—												
Sugar	Java white	Cwt.	9 2 0	14 4 6	14 6 0	13 3 0	100	157	158	145		
"	" brown	"	8 1 6	13 7 0	13 8 0	13 8 0 (6)	100	166	167	167		
Index No.—Sugar							100	162	163	156		
Other food—												
Salt		Bengal Maund	2 2 0	1 14 0	1 8 0	1 8 3	100	88	71	71		
Oilseeds—												
Cotton seed		Maund	2 11 3	4 3 0	3 6 0 (3)	3 6 0 (3)	100	155	125	125		
Rapeseed, bold	3% admixture	Candy	51 0 0	65 0 0	66 10 0 (5)	66 10 0 (5)	100	127	131	131		
Gingelly seed	Black 9% admixture	"	62 0 0	97 0 0	75 8 0	74 8 0	100	156	122	120		
Index No.—Oilseeds							100	146	126	125		
Textiles—												
Jute bags	B. Twills	100 bags	38 4 0	49 8 0	51 4 0	51 8 0	100	129	134	135		

Textiles—Cotton												
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind	Maund	20 4 0	35 6 0	36 6 0 (5)	36 0 0	100	175	186	176		
(b) Cotton manufactures												
Drills	Pepperell	Piece	10 3 6	14 0 0	19 4 0 (5)	17 12 0	100	137	186	174		
Shirtings	Liepmann's	"	10 2 0	17 0 0	18 0 0	18 8 0	100	168	178	183		
Index No.—Cotton manufactures							100	153	183	179		
Index No.—Textiles—Cotton							100	160	182	178		
Other Textiles—Wool	Kandahar	Maund	28 0 0	39 0 0	36 0 0	36 0 0	100	139	129	129		
Hides—												
Hides, dry	Sind	Maund	21 4 0	14 8 0	17 8 0	20 8 0	100	68	82	96		
"	Punjab	"	21 4 0	14 8 0	17 8 0	20 8 0	100	68	82	96		
Index No.—Hides							100	68	82	96		
Metals—												
Copper Braziers		Cwt.	60 8 0	55 0 0	60 12 0	61 0 0	100	91	100	101		
Steel Bars		"	3 14 0	6 4 0	6 8 0	6 10 0	100	161	168	171		
" Plates		"	4 6 0	6 12 0	7 4 0	7 4 0	100	154	166	166		
Index No.—Metals							100	135	145	146		
Other raw and manufactured articles—												
Coal	1st class Bengal	Ton	16 0 0	22 0 0	19 4 0	19 4 0	100	138	120	120		
Kerosene	Chester Brand	Case	5 2 0	9 10 0	8 6 0	8 9 0	100	188	163	167		
"	Elephant	2 Tins	4 7 0	7 8 0	6 4 0	6 7 0	100	169	141	145		
Index No.—Other raw and manufactured articles							100	165	141	144		
Index No.—Food							100	135	133	130		
Index No.—Non-food							100	139	138	140		
General Index No.							100	137	136	136		

*Yarn (40 Grey, Plough) has been omitted from the index for want of quotation. (1) Quotation for Sukkur 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 May 1928. (6) Quotation for June 1928.

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 July ..	141	102	159	184	148	140	182	208	144	139	153	155	163	158
1926														
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	146	151	150	149
October ..	145	127	134	144	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 ..	153	133	149	140	147	138	113	154	135	142	158	160	146	146
February ..	149	137	139	150	146	143	125	163	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	145
May ..	145	127	132	155	143	145	142	162	142	148	147	159	150	148
June ..	143	130	129	164	143	145	149	161	149	137	142	156	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	172	141	140	133	153	152	148
October ..	136	135	132	162	141	136	179	167	131	144	133	141	148	146
November ..	140	139	138	155	143	131	172	166	131	115	134	140	145	144
December ..	134	138	131	157	139	130	168	164	130	121	132	139	144	143
1928														
January ..	130	140	123	153	136	129	166	164	124	141	132	132	144	141
February ..	133	136	121	155	136	124	163	162	122	157	133	131	144	142
March ..	128	129	122	161	135	124	162	162	124	140	132	132	143	140
April ..	130	135	127	162	137	128	158	162	126	153	133	131	141	142
May ..	130	131	129	180	141	132	165	164	130	151	133	140	147	145
June ..	136	126	152	197	150	130	167	169	129	147	138	140	149	149
July ..	130	124	129	196	143	131	169	172	123	146	137	140	149	147

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COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS FOR INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Name of country	India (Bombay)	United Kingdom	Australia	New Zealand	Italy (Rome)	Pelgium	Norway	Switzerland	South Africa	France (Paris)	U. S. America
	Food, fuel, light, clothing and rent	Food, rent, fuel, light, clothing and miscellaneous	Food, fuel, light and rent	Food and rent	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, heat, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, light, fuel and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, heating, lighting and rent	Food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, heating and lighting, rent and miscellaneous
1914 July ..	100	100	100	(a) 100 (j)	(k) 100	(b) 100	(c) 100	100	(e) 100 (k)	100 (f)	100 (g)
1915 ..	104	125	97	119	(l) 108	99	...	(d) 117	...	103	105 (m)
1916 ..	108	148	102	115	117	116	...	146	...	106	118
1917 ..	118	180	130	116	128	146	...	190	...	114	142
1918 ..	149	203	146	118	144	197	...	253	204 (e)	118	174
1919 ..	186	208	155	132	157	205	...	d) 275	222	126	199
1920 ..	190	252	190	135	182	313	453	307	224	155	200
1921 ..	177	219	152	154	178	387	379	294	200	133	174
1922 ..	165	184	147	140	178	357	379	294	200	(p) 238 (n)	174
1923 ..	153	169	146	151	158	(h) 487	429	307	224	(q) 341	200
1924 ..	157	170	144	149	160	512	493	307	224	(r) 307	174
1925 ..	157	173	146	153	163	598	509	307	224	(s) 302	170
1926 ..	157	170	150	151	163	649	637	259	168	(t) 334	173
1927 March ..	155	171	150	(a) 161	(l) 163	649	637	220	162 (a)	(u) 366	173
April ..	155	171	150	156	...	663	771	203	159	(v) 390	178
May ..	153	165	148	...	...	651	774	201	158	(w) 485	(m) 176
June ..	154	163	148	155	161	612	776	201	159	...	...
July ..	156	166	149	155	161	586	785	201	160	525	173
August ..	157	164	149	...	161	548	790	203	160	...	...
September ..	154	165	149	157	...	543	787	203	160	...	...
October ..	151	167	149	...	...	537	794	197	161	507	...
November ..	150	169	150	...	...	536	804	196	161	...	...
December ..	151	169	151	...	161	536	809	195	162	...	...
1928 January ..	154	168	151	...	159	531	812	195	162	498	172
February ..	148	166	150	...	...	531	813	194	161	...	...
March ..	145	164	149	157	...	531	811	194	161	...	...
April ..	144	164	149	...	...	531	807	193	160	507	...
May ..	147	164	148	...	...	531	807	193	160	...	...
June ..	146	165	...	...	...	...	805	193	160	...	...
July ..	147	165	...	...	...	...	811	193	160	...	170
August ..	146	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

(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. (k) Revised figures. (l) Figures from 1915 to 1926 refer to August. (m) Figures from 1915 to 1926 refer to December. (n) First half of the year. (o) Yearly averages for the years 1918-1926. (p) June figures.

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RETAIL PRICES OF ARTICLES OF FOOD IN JUNE AND JULY 1928*

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

Articles	Price per	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
		June 1928	June 1928	June 1928	June 1928	June 1928	July 1928	July 1928	July 1928	July 1928	July 1928
<i>Cereals—</i>											
Rice (1)	Maund	7 12 7 <i>139</i>	8 0 0 <i>120</i>	8 0 0 <i>130</i>	7 10 6 <i>145</i>	7 7 11 <i>130</i>	8 6 0 <i>150</i>	8 0 0 <i>120</i>	8 0 0 <i>130</i>	8 0 4 <i>152</i>	7 9 11 <i>132</i>
Wheat (1)	"	7 13 2 <i>140</i>	5 11 5 <i>136</i>	5 14 10 <i>126</i>	6 7 8 <i>126</i>	6 8 11 <i>120</i>	8 0 0 <i>143</i>	5 11 5 <i>136</i>	6 2 6 <i>131</i>	6 13 10 <i>133</i>	6 6 5 <i>119</i>
Jowari	"	5 5 4 <i>122</i>	4 14 9 <i>135</i>	3 14 5 <i>102</i>	3 0 9 <i>106</i>	3 8 4 <i>103</i>	5 3 8 <i>120</i>	4 12 5 <i>131</i>	3 15 2 <i>104</i>	3 3 4 <i>112</i>	3 8 4 <i>103</i>
Bajri	"	5 8 3 <i>128</i>	5 9 10 <i>133</i>	5 2 7 <i>110</i>	2 14 6 <i>83</i>	4 10 <i>114</i>	5 11 3 <i>132</i>	5 13 11 <i>139</i>	5 11 5 <i>121</i>	3 0 11 <i>87</i>	4 10 8 <i>114</i>
<i>Index No.—Cereals</i>		<i>132</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>136</i>	<i>132</i>	<i>122</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>117</i>
<i>Pulses</i>											
Gram	Maund	7 0 3 <i>163</i>	5 5 4 <i>140</i>	4 1 8 <i>103</i>	5 0 9 <i>117</i>	5 7 1 <i>112</i>	7 0 3 <i>163</i>	5 6 9 <i>142</i>	4 3 4 <i>105</i>	5 3 0 <i>121</i>	5 3 0 <i>107</i>
Turdal	"	10 5 8 <i>177</i>	8 12 3 <i>131</i>	8 6 9 <i>137</i>	8 8 6 <i>146</i>	8 7 10 <i>128</i>	9 4 10 <i>159</i>	7 14 5 <i>119</i>	8 14 3 <i>144</i>	8 1 4 <i>138</i>	8 3 3 <i>124</i>
<i>Index No.—Pulses</i>		<i>170</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>132</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>161</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>116</i>

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Jaggri (gul)	Maund	12 11 2 <i>167</i>	11 10 2 <i>160</i>	12 12 10 <i>160</i>	13 1 0 <i>131</i>	12 15 3 <i>138</i>	12 11 2 <i>167</i>	11 5 2 <i>157</i>	12 11 2 <i>167</i>	14 8 5 <i>145</i>	13 24 4 <i>160</i>
Tea	Lb.	11 4 11 <i>132</i>	9 6 7 <i>135</i>	10 10 8 <i>120</i>	8 0 0 <i>103</i>	9 9 9 <i>137</i>	12 11 1 <i>148</i>	9 6 7 <i>135</i>	12 11 1 <i>148</i>	9 6 7 <i>135</i>	10 8 5 <i>150</i>
Salt	Maund	0 14 10 <i>190</i>	0 15 7 <i>225</i>	0 15 7 <i>200</i>	1 1 10 <i>171</i>	1 0 5 <i>200</i>	0 14 10 <i>190</i>	0 15 7 <i>225</i>	0 15 7 <i>200</i>	1 1 10 <i>171</i>	1 0 5 <i>200</i>
Beef	Seer	2 12 9 <i>131</i>	1 14 6 <i>145</i>	2 4 7 <i>151</i>	3 6 11 <i>154</i>	2 10 7 <i>142</i>	2 12 9 <i>131</i>	1 14 6 <i>145</i>	2 4 7 <i>151</i>	3 8 2 <i>158</i>	2 12 3 <i>147</i>
Mutton	"	0 8 5 <i>163</i>	0 8 9 <i>175</i>	0 6 0 <i>100</i>	0 5 0 <i>201</i>	0 6 0 <i>141</i>	0 8 5 <i>163</i>	0 9 0 <i>180</i>	0 6 0 <i>100</i>	0 5 0 <i>201</i>	0 6 0 <i>141</i>
Milk	Maund	0 12 4 <i>185</i>	0 9 9 <i>162</i>	0 10 0 <i>167</i>	0 8 0 <i>133</i>	0 9 0 <i>150</i>	0 11 5 <i>171</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>
Ghee	"	17 9 4 <i>191</i>	7 4 4 <i>164</i>	10 0 0 <i>200</i>	11 6 10 <i>157</i>	13 5 4 <i>133</i>	17 9 4 <i>191</i>	7 4 4 <i>164</i>	10 0 0 <i>200</i>	11 6 10 <i>157</i>	13 5 4 <i>133</i>
Potatoes	"	78 0 9 <i>154</i>	67 6 0 <i>158</i>	71 1 9 <i>160</i>	80 0 0 <i>142</i>	74 6 8 <i>144</i>	82 0 10 <i>162</i>	67 6 0 <i>158</i>	80 0 0 <i>160</i>	91 6 10 <i>163</i>	74 6 8 <i>144</i>
Onions	"	5 11 5 <i>128</i>	6 4 5 <i>116</i>	6 8 6 <i>172</i>	5 11 5 <i>143</i>	3 8 2 <i>104</i>	6 11 7 <i>150</i>	7 12 11 <i>144</i>	8 5 0 <i>218</i>	5 11 5 <i>143</i>	5 12 11 <i>172</i>
Cocconut oil	"	2 13 9 <i>184</i>	2 7 5 <i>136</i>	2 0 0 <i>100</i>	2 13 9 <i>114</i>	1 5 1 <i>66</i>	2 13 9 <i>184</i>	2 8 11 <i>141</i>	2 3 7 <i>111</i>	2 13 9 <i>114</i>	2 1 8 <i>105</i>
<i>Index No.—Other articles of food</i>		<i>158</i>	<i>153</i>	<i>151</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>161</i>	<i>157</i>	<i>161</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>144</i>
<i>Index No.—All food articles (unweighted)</i>		<i>153</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>134</i>

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

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WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS IN BOMBAY BY GROUPS

Prices in July 1944 = 100

Month	1943	1944	All India	Food and Clothing	House	Cost of Living
Jan	108	117	104	105	111	105
Feb	108	118	105	105	109	105
Mar	108	121	108	105	108	105
Apr	108	122	108	105	108	105
May	108	123	108	105	108	105
Jun	108	124	108	105	108	105
Jul	108	125	108	105	108	105
Aug	108	126	108	105	108	105
Sep	108	127	108	105	108	105
Oct	108	128	108	105	108	105
Nov	108	129	108	105	108	105
Dec	108	130	108	105	108	105
1944						
Jan	108	131	108	105	108	105
Feb	108	132	108	105	108	105
Mar	108	133	108	105	108	105
Apr	108	134	108	105	108	105
May	108	135	108	105	108	105
Jun	108	136	108	105	108	105
Jul	108	137	108	105	108	105
Aug	108	138	108	105	108	105
Sep	108	139	108	105	108	105
Oct	108	140	108	105	108	105
Nov	108	141	108	105	108	105
Dec	108	142	108	105	108	105
1945						
Jan	108	143	108	105	108	105
Feb	108	144	108	105	108	105
Mar	108	145	108	105	108	105
Apr	108	146	108	105	108	105
May	108	147	108	105	108	105
Jun	108	148	108	105	108	105
Jul	108	149	108	105	108	105
Aug	108	150	108	105	108	105
Sep	108	151	108	105	108	105
Oct	108	152	108	105	108	105
Nov	108	153	108	105	108	105
Dec	108	154	108	105	108	105
1946						
Jan	108	155	108	105	108	105
Feb	108	156	108	105	108	105
Mar	108	157	108	105	108	105
Apr	108	158	108	105	108	105
May	108	159	108	105	108	105
Jun	108	160	108	105	108	105
Jul	108	161	108	105	108	105
Aug	108	162	108	105	108	105
Sep	108	163	108	105	108	105
Oct	108	164	108	105	108	105
Nov	108	165	108	105	108	105
Dec	108	166	108	105	108	105
1947						
Jan	108	167	108	105	108	105
Feb	108	168	108	105	108	105
Mar	108	169	108	105	108	105
Apr	108	170	108	105	108	105
May	108	171	108	105	108	105
Jun	108	172	108	105	108	105
Jul	108	173	108	105	108	105
Aug	108	174	108	105	108	105
Sep	108	175	108	105	108	105
Oct	108	176	108	105	108	105
Nov	108	177	108	105	108	105
Dec	108	178	108	105	108	105
1948						
Jan	108	179	108	105	108	105
Feb	108	180	108	105	108	105
Mar	108	181	108	105	108	105
Apr	108	182	108	105	108	105
May	108	183	108	105	108	105
Jun	108	184	108	105	108	105
Jul	108	185	108	105	108	105
Aug	108	186	108	105	108	105
Sep	108	187	108	105	108	105
Oct	108	188	108	105	108	105
Nov	108	189	108	105	108	105
Dec	108	190	108	105	108	105
1949						
Jan	108	191	108	105	108	105
Feb	108	192	108	105	108	105
Mar	108	193	108	105	108	105
Apr	108	194	108	105	108	105
May	108	195	108	105	108	105
Jun	108	196	108	105	108	105
Jul	108	197	108	105	108	105
Aug	108	198	108	105	108	105
Sep	108	199	108	105	108	105
Oct	108	200	108	105	108	105
Nov	108	201	108	105	108	105
Dec	108	202	108	105	108	105
1950						
Jan	108	203	108	105	108	105
Feb	108	204	108	105	108	105
Mar	108	205	108	105	108	105
Apr	108	206	108	105	108	105
May	108	207	108	105	108	105
Jun	108	208	108	105	108	105
Jul	108	209	108	105	108	105
Aug	108	210	108	105	108	105
Sep	108	211	108	105	108	105
Oct	108	212	108	105	108	105
Nov	108	213	108	105	108	105
Dec	108	214	108	105	108	105
1951						
Jan	108	215	108	105	108	105
Feb	108	216	108	105	108	105
Mar	108	217	108	105	108	105
Apr	108	218	108	105	108	105
May	108	219	108	105	108	105
Jun	108	220	108	105	108	105
Jul	108	221	108	105	108	105
Aug	108	222	108	105	108	105
Sep	108	223	108	105	108	105
Oct	108	224	108	105	108	105
Nov	108	225	108	105	108	105
Dec	108	226	108	105	108	105
1952						
Jan	108	227	108	105	108	105
Feb	108	228	108	105	108	105
Mar	108	229	108	105	108	105
Apr	108	230	108	105	108	105
May	108	231	108	105	108	105
Jun	108	232	108	105	108	105
Jul	108	233	108	105	108	105
Aug	108	234	108	105	108	105
Sep	108	235	108	105	108	105
Oct	108	236	108	105	108	105
Nov	108	237	108	105	108	105
Dec	108	238	108	105	108	105
1953						
Jan	108	239	108	105	108	105
Feb	108	240	108	105	108	105
Mar	108	241	108	105	108	105
Apr	108	242	108	105	108	105
May	108	243	108	105	108	105
Jun	108	244	108	105	108	105
Jul	108	245	108	105	108	105
Aug	108	246	108	105	108	105
Sep	108	247	108	105	108	105
Oct	108	248	108	105	108	105
Nov	108	249	108	105	108	105
Dec	108	250	108	105	108	105