

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 lighting	Clothing	House-rent	Cost of living
1924	127	115	126	184	147	163	229	172	154
April ..	122	112	121	180	143	163	230	172	150
May ..	121	113	120	181	143	166	227	172	150
June ..	124	112	123	186	147	166	227	172	153
July ..	128	115	127	191	151	166	229	172	157
August ..	135	125	134	192	156	166	231	172	161
September ..	136	124	135	191	156	166	229	172	161
October ..	135	124	134	193	156	167	224	172	161
November ..	135	126	134	196	157	167	214	172	161
December ..	134	123	133	196	156	167	214	172	160
1925	131	124	130	189	152	165	209	172	157
January ..	134	123	133	185	152	166	210	172	157
February ..	139	128	138	183	155	165	207	172	159
March ..	137	128	136	181	153	165	207	172	158
April ..	133	122	132	182	151	165	207	172	156
May ..	130	119	129	184	149	165	198	172	154
June ..	136	119	134	183	152	165	192	172	157
July ..	126	119	125	184	147	165	191	172	152
August ..	125	118	124	182	146	165	188	172	151
September ..	128	121	128	182	148	165	192	172	153
October ..	129	132	129	182	149	165	185	172	153
November ..	132	137	133	183	151	165	176	172	155
1926	132	140	133	183	151	165	173	172	155
January ..	132	136	132	181	150	165	172	172	154
February ..	132	136	133	182	151	165	174	172	155
March ..	132	133	132	180	150	165	175	172	153
April ..	133	138	133	177	150	164	170	172	153
May ..	133	139	134	182	152	164	162	172	155
June ..	134	145	135	187	155	164	160	172	157
July ..	135	141	136	181	153	164	160	172	155
August ..	135	145	136	179	152	164	160	172	155
September ..	135	150	136	180	153	164	159	172	155
October ..	133	152	135	180	152	164	156	172	154
November ..	134	155	136	184	154	166	148	172	156
1927	134	149	135	188	155	166	143	172	156
January ..	134	154	136	180	152	166	148	172	155
February ..	134	159	137	179	152	166	152	172	155

LABOUR GAZETTE

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

BOMBAY, APRIL, 1927

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The Month in Brief

FINES IN INDUSTRY

On pages 747 to 758 of this issue will be found a summary of the report on the Labour Office enquiry into deductions from wages or payments in respect of fines together with a copy of a circular letter addressed to 24 bodies and associations for their views on the necessity or otherwise of legislation on the subject.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE TEXTILE AND ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES

In the textile industry as a whole the supply of labour was equal to the demand during the month of March 1927. The average absenteeism was 7.05 per cent. for Bombay City, 1.83 per cent. for Ahmedabad, 8.60 per cent. for Viramgaum, 12.91 per cent. for Sholapur and 7.48 per cent. for Broach.

In the engineering industry in Bombay City the supply of both skilled and unskilled labour was adequate. Absenteeism was 14.50 per cent. in the engineering workshops, 5 per cent. in the Marine Lines Reclamation of the Development Directorate, 16.12 per cent. in the Bombay Port Trust Docks and 9.50 per cent. in the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust.

In the Engineering Workshops of the Karachi Port Trust the percentage absenteeism was 6.80.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX

In April 1927, the Working Class Cost of Living Index Number was 153 as against 155 in the preceding month. The Index Number for food articles only was 151.

INDEX NUMBER OF WHOLESALE PRICES

The Index Number of Wholesale Prices in Bombay was 148 for the month of March 1927.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

There were seven industrial disputes in progress during March 1927. The number of workpeople involved was 1521 and the number of working days lost 5987.

BALANCE OF TRADE

During March 1927, the visible balance of trade, including securities in favour of India amounted to Rs. 698 lakhs.

The Cost of Living Index for April 1927

A FALL OF TWO POINTS

Increase per cent. over July 1914

{ All articles
Food only

In April 1927,* 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 declined by 2 points as compared with the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the general index number was 155 in March and 153 in April 1927. The general index was 40 points below the high-water mark (193) reached in October 1920 and two points lower than the twelve-monthly average for the year 1926.

The index number for the food group recorded a fall of one point during the month. Rice remained stationary but all the other cereals declined in price—wheat by 7 points, jowari by 2 points and bajri by 3 points, the index number for Cereals having decreased by one point to 133. The fall of 6 points in Pulses was due to a decline of 6 points in gram and 4 points in tur dal. Among other food articles ghee advanced by 5 points but tea, potatoes and onions declined by 3, 13 and 38 points respectively. There was a rise of 7 points in mutton but the price of beef remained unchanged. The other food index number was 178 as against 179 in the preceding month.

The "fuel and lighting" index remained stationary at 166. The clothing group declined by 9 points to 143.

All items : Percentage increase over July 1914

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
January ..	83	69	73	56	59	57	55	56
February ..	81	62	65	55	56	57	54	55
March ..	77	60	65	54	54	59	55	55
April ..	72	60	62	56	50	58	53	55
May ..	73	67	63	53	50	56	53	53
June ..	81	73	63	52	53	54	55	
July ..	90	77	65	53	57	57	55	
August ..	91	80	64	54	61	52	55	
September ..	92	85	65	54	61	51	55	
October ..	93	83	62	52	61	53	55	
November ..	86	82	60	53	61	53	54	
December ..	81	79	61	57	60	55	56	
Yearly average ..	83	73	64	54	57	55	55	

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 March 16 and April 15.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX—APRIL

Articles	Unit of quantity	Annual consumption (Mass Unit)	Price per Unit of Quantity			Price × Mass Unit		
			July 1914	Mar. 1927	April 1927	July 1914	Mar. 1927	April 1927
Cereals— Rice ..	Maund	70	Rs. 5.594	Rs. 7.469	Rs. 7.469	Rs. 391.58	Rs. 522.83	Rs. 522.83
Wheat ..	"	21	5.594	7.682	7.271	117.47	161.32	152.69
Jowari ..	"	11	4.354	5.81	5.698	47.89	61.59	62.68
Bajri ..	"	6	4.313	5.927	5.771	25.88	35.56	34.63
Total—Cereals ..	..	..	..	..	..	582.82	783.30	772.83
Index Numbers—Cereals ..	..	..	..	..	..	100	134	133
Pulses— Gram ..	Maund	10	4.302	6.943	6.682	43.02	61.43	66.82
Tur dal ..	"	3	5.844	8.906	8.662	17.53	26.72	25.99
Total—Pulses ..	..	..	..	..	..	60.55	96.15	92.81
Index Numbers—Pulses ..	..	..	..	..	..	100	159	153
Other food articles— Raw Sugar (Gul) ..	Maund	2	7.620	14.287	14.287	15.24	28.57	28.57
Tea ..	"	7	8.557	13.693	13.693	59.90	95.85	95.85
Salt ..	"	40	0.000	78.203	77.349	1.00	1.96	1.93
Beef ..	Seer ..	28	2.130	3.313	3.313	10.65	16.57	16.57
Mutton ..	"	33	0.323	0.500	0.500	9.04	14.00	14.00
Milk ..	Maund	14	0.417	0.813	0.844	13.76	26.83	27.85
Ghee ..	"	12	9.198	17.583	17.583	128.77	246.16	246.16
Potatoes ..	"	11	50.792	94.641	97.026	76.19	141.96	145.54
Onions ..	"	3	4.479	7.141	6.547	49.27	78.55	72.02
Coconut Oil ..	"	1	1.552	5.359	4.760	4.66	16.08	14.28
			25.396	28.573	28.573	12.70	14.29	14.29
Total—Other food articles ..	..	..	..	..	..	381.18	680.82	677.06
Index Numbers—Other food articles ..	..	..	..	..	..	100	179	178
Total—All food articles ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,024.55	1,560.27	1,542.70
Index Numbers—All food articles ..	..	..	..	..	..	100	152	151
Fuel and lighting— Kerosene oil ..	Case ..	5	4.375	7.656	7.656	21.88	38.28	38.28
Firewood ..	Maund	48	0.792	1.281	1.281	38.02	61.49	61.49
Coal ..	"	1	0.542	0.771	0.771	0.54	0.77	0.77
Total—Fuel and lighting ..	..	..	..	..	..	60.44	100.54	100.54
Index Numbers—Fuel and lighting ..	..	..	..	..	..	100	166	166
Clothing— Chudders ..	Lb.	27	0.594	0.844	0.844	16.04	22.79	22.79
Shirtings ..	"	25	0.641	0.979	0.969	16.03	24.48	24.23
T. Cloth ..	"	36	0.583	0.922	0.797	20.99	33.19	28.69
Total—Clothing ..	..	..	..	..	..	53.06	80.45	75.71
Index Numbers—Clothing ..	..	..	..	..	..	100	152	143
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	1,935.67	1,913.35
Cost of Living Index Numbers ..	..	..	..	..	..	100	155	153

APR., 1927

The following table shows the price levels of articles of food in March and April 1927 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.

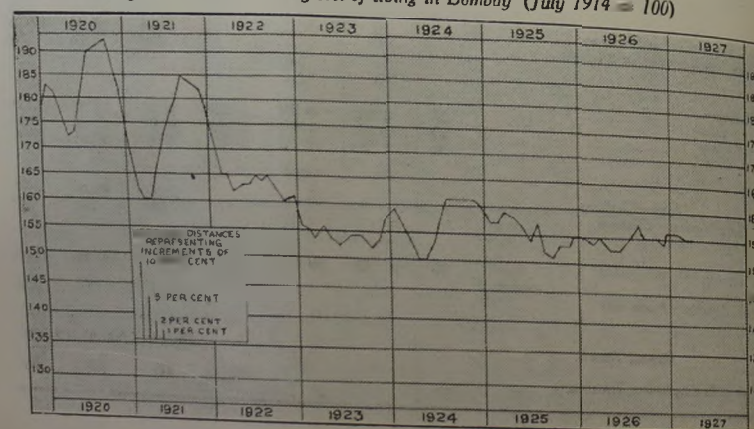
Articles	July 1914	Mar. 1927	Apr. 1927	Increase (+) or decrease (—) of points in Apr. 1927 over or below Mar. 1927	Articles	July 1914	Mar. 1927	Apr. 1927	Increase (+) or decrease (—) of points in Apr. 1927 over or below Mar. 1927
Rice	100	134	134	—	Salt	100	156	156	—
Wheat	100	137	130	—7	Beef	100	155	155	—
Jowari	100	133	131	—2	Mutton	100	195	202	—
Bairi	100	137	134	—3	Milk	100	191	191	—
Gram	100	161	155	—6	Ghee	100	186	191	—
Turdal	100	152	148	—4	Potatoes	100	159	146	—13
Sugar (refined)	100	187	187	—	Onions	100	345	307	—38
Raw sugar (gul)	100	160	160	—	Cocoanut oil	100	113	113	—
Tea	100	196	193	—3	All food articles (weighted average)	100	152	151	—1

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

Rice 25, Wheat 23, Jowari 24, Bajri 25, Gram 35, Turdal 32, Sugar (refined) 47, Raw Sugar (gul) 38, Tea 48, Salt 36, Beef 35, Mutton 50, Milk 48, Ghee 48, Potatoes 32, Onions 67, Cocoanut Oil 12.

The purchasing power of the rupee being taken as 16 annas in July 1914 its purchasing power in the month under review was 10 annas 5 pies for all items and 10 annas 7 pies for food articles only.

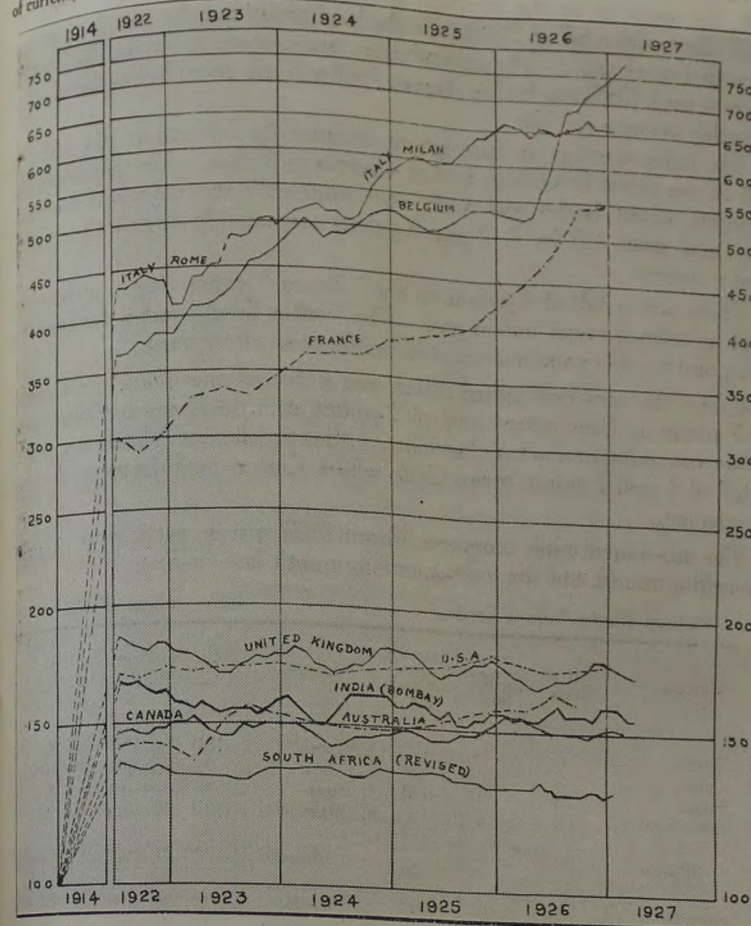
Logarithmic Chart showing cost of living in Bombay (July 1914 = 100)



APR., 1927

Comparison with the Cost of Living in other Countries

The diagram on this page shows the comparative levels of the cost of living Index Nos. in London and certain other world centres from the middle of 1922. The diagram is on the logarithmic scale. In considering the position and movements of the curves allowance has to be made for depreciation of currency.



The following are the sources of the Index Nos.: (1) United Kingdom—Ministry of Labour Gazette, (2) New Zealand—Census and Statistics Office, Wellington (by cable), (3) South Africa—Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics, (4) U. S. A.—Monthly Bulletin issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, (5) All other countries—from the Ministry of Labour Gazette, United Kingdom. In the case of Italy the Index No. was for Rome up to June 1923, and thereafter for Milan. The India figure is for Bombay only.

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

Wholesale and Retail Prices

I. WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY

Index Remains Stationary

In March 1927, the index number of wholesale prices in Bombay was 148, the same as in the previous month. As compared with February 1927, there was a fall of 2 points in the food group but the non-food group recorded no change. The general index number was 115 points below the highest peak (263) reached in August 1918 and one point below the twelve-monthly average of 1926.

The index number for food-grains declined by 2 points to 144 due to a fall of one point in Cereals and of 4 points in Pulses. Rice advanced by 2 points, wheat, barley and turdal were practically stationary while jowari, bajra and gram fell by 4, 9 and 8 points respectively during the month under review.

There was a fall of 4 points in the "Sugar" group due to a decrease both in refined sugar and in gul. The "other food" index declined by one point to 149 owing to a slight fall in the price of turmeric.

Under the non-food group, there was a rise of one point in Oilseeds, of 7 points in Raw cotton and of 2 points each in Hides and skins and Other raw and manufactured articles. Other textiles and Metals registered a fall of 1 and 2 points respectively whilst Cotton manufactures showed no change.

The sub-joined table compares March 1927 prices with those of the preceding month and the corresponding month last year:—

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay*

100 = average of 1926

Groups	No. of items	% compared with Feb. 1927	% compared with Mar. 1926	Groups	Mar. 1926	June 1926	Sept. 1926	Dec. 1926	Mar. 1927
1. Cereals	7	-1	..	1. Cereals	101	103	103	98	102
2. Pulses	2	-3	+14	2. Pulses	93	102	103	104	109
3. Sugar	3	-3	-8	3. Sugar	97	101	104	104	93
4. Other food	3	-1	-2	4. Other food	101	98	98	95	99
All food	15	-1	..	All food	99	101	102	99	101
5. Oilseeds	4	+1	+13	5. Oilseeds	95	106	104	99	107
6. Raw cotton	5	+6	-8	6. Raw cotton	103	101	106	78	89
7. Cotton manufactures	6	..	-12	7. Cotton manufactures	106	103	98	89	93
8. Other textiles	2	-1	-8	8. Other textiles	106	96	97	96	99
9. Hides and skins	3	+1	-7	9. Hides & skins	99	97	91	101	91
10. Metals	5	-1	+3	10. Metals	100	99	97	107	105
11. Other raw and manufactured articles	4	+1	+5	11. Other raw and manufactured articles	101	97	99	104	105
All non-food	29	..	-3	All non-food	101	99	99	97	98
General Index No.	44	..	-1	General Index No.	101	101	100	98	99

* Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on page 768.

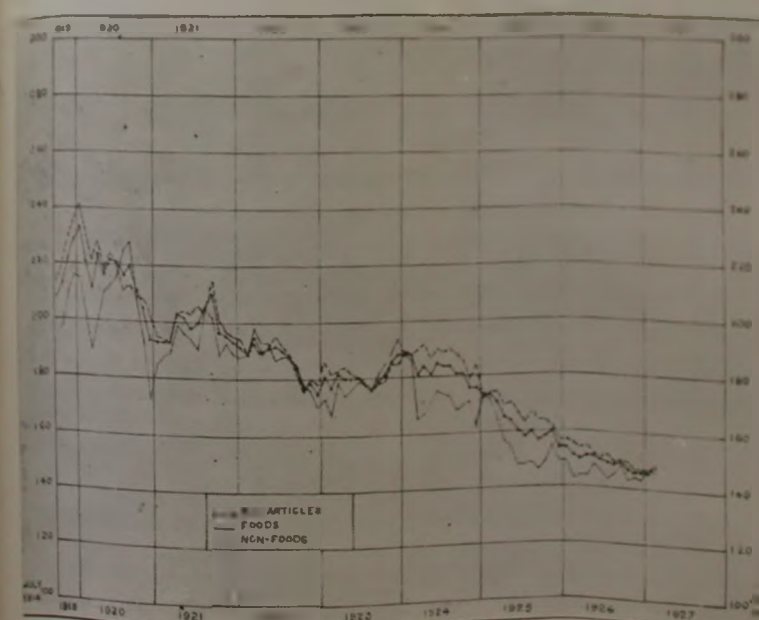
The following table is intended to show the annual movements in food and non-food and general wholesale prices:—

Index 1914 = 100

		Food	Non-food	All articles
Twelve-monthly average 1918	..	171	269	216
" 1919	..	202	233	217
" 1920	..	206	219	216
" 1921	..	193	201	199
" 1922	..	186	187	187
" 1923	..	179	182	181
" 1924	..	173	186	182
" 1925	..	155	167	163
" 1926	..	145	152	149
March 1927	..	146	148	147

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 1919.

Wholesale Price Index Numbers, Bombay

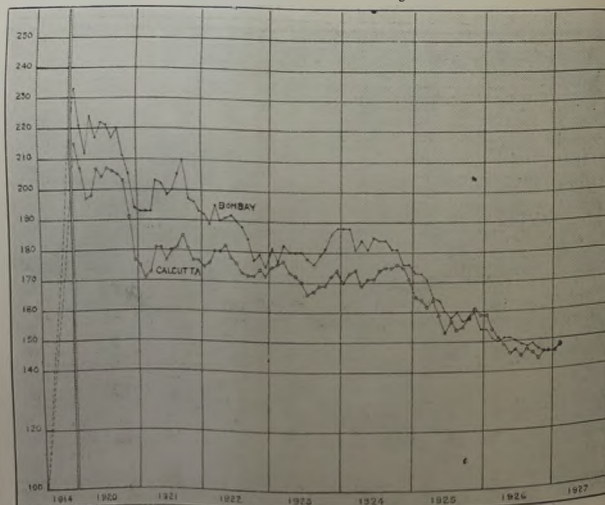


COMPARISON BETWEEN THE INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA

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.

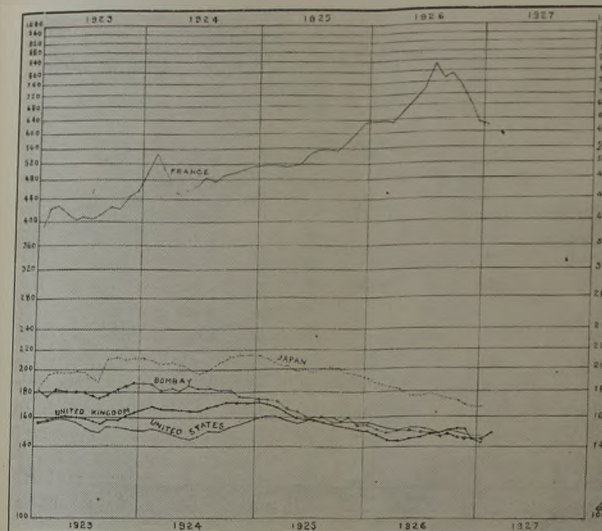
The items included in the indices are 44 for Bombay and 71 for Calcutta. The groups included in the Calcutta index but excluded from that for Bombay are tea (3 items), oil (2 items), jute-raw (3 items), jute manufactures (4 items) and building materials (1 item). There are no groups included in the Bombay 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 the two curves temporarily crossed. From November 1926 to February 1927 prices in Bombay were on the same level as those in Calcutta.

The diagram is on an arithmetic and not a logarithmic scale



COMPARISON WITH WHOLESALE PRICES INDEX NUMBERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

The following diagram illustrates the comparative level of Wholesale Prices Index Numbers in five countries. The bases are 1913 for the 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), the Director, Labour Office, Dutch East Indies (by letter); 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

APR. 1927

Article	Grade	Rate per	Equiva- lent in tolas	July 1914	Feb. 1927	Mar. 1927	Percentage increase or decrease from July 1914 to Feb. 1927	Percentage increase or decrease from July 1914 to Mar. 1927
				As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill.	Paylee	212	5 10	7 11	7 11	+2 1	
Wheat	Pisai Seoni	"	204	5 10	7 9	7 10	+2 0	
Jowari	Best Sholapuri	"	196	4 3	5 10	5 8	+1 5	+0 1
Bajri	Ghati	"	208	4 7	6 0	6 2	+1 7	+0 2
Gram	Delhi	"	192	4 4	6 5	6 8	+2 4	+0 3
Turdal	Cawnpore	"	204	5 11	9 0	9 1	+3 2	+0 1
Sugar (refined)	Java, white	Seer	28	1 1	2 0	2 0	+0 11	
Raw Sugar (Gul)	Songli, middle quality	"	28	1 2	2 0	1 11	+0 9	-0 1
Tea	Loose Ceylon, powder	Lb.	39	7 10	15 2	15 3	+7 5	+0 1
Salt	Bombay, black	Paylee	176	1 9	2 10	2 11	+1 2	+0 1
Beef	"	Lb.	39	2 6	4 0	3 11	+1 5	-0 1
Mutton	"	"	39	3 0	6 6	6 4	+3 4	-0 2
Milk	Medium	Seer	56	2 9	4 11	4 11	+2 2	
Ghee	Belgaum, Superior	"	28	7 1	13 2	13 3	+6 2	+0 1
Potatoes	Ordinary	"	28	0 8	1 0	1 0	+0 4	
Onions	Nasik	"	28	0 3	0 10	0 9	+0 6	-0 1
Cocanut oil	Middle quality	"	28	3 7	4 0	4 0	+0 5	

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

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

The prices for mutton and beef are collected from the Central Municipal Markets. The number of quotations collected for each article during the month is, on an average, 100. The prices are collected by the Investigators of the Labour Office.

The variations in prices during March 1927 as compared with the previous month were slight. Under food-grains, wheat and turdal rose by one pie each per paylee, bajri and gram recorded a rise of 2 and 3 pies respectively per paylee while jowari declined by 2 pies per paylee. The price of rice remained the same. Amongst other food articles, ghee advanced by one pie per seer, salt by one pie per paylee and tea by one pie per lb.; but raw sugar (gul) and onions fell by one pie each per seer. The prices of beef and mutton per lb. were lower by 1 and 2 pies respectively during the month under review.

As compared with July 1914 all articles show considerable increases. Onions are 200 per cent. above their pre-war level. Sugar (refined), tea, mutton, milk and ghee have risen by more than 75 per cent., gul and salt by more than 60 per cent. and potatoes and beef by more than 50 per cent. The rise in the prices of food grains is about 30 to 50 per cent. The price of cocoanut oil is only 12 per cent. above its pre-war level.

APR. 1927

COMPARATIVE RETAIL PRICES

The following table compares the retail food prices in Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona with those in Bombay in February and March 1927 (Bombay prices = 100). It will be seen that the average retail price levels in all the centres were below the level of Bombay in February and March 1927:—

Bombay prices in February 1927 = 100

Bombay prices in March 1927 = 100

Articles	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona	Articles	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
Cereals—						Cereals—					
Rice ..	100	107	107	113	103	Rice ..	100	107	107	113	103
Wheat ..	100	82	92	89	107	Wheat ..	100	81	95	92	109
Jowari ..	100	77	85	68	93	Jowari ..	100	81	92	74	91
Bajri ..	100	96	107	73	106	Bajri ..	100	92	104	73	95
Average—						Average—					
Cereals ..	100	91	98	86	102	Cereals ..	100	90	100	88	100
Pulses—						Pulses—					
Gram ..	100	86	86	79	88	Gram ..	100	85	77	81	90
Turdal ..	100	105	101	94	115	Turdal ..	100	112	100	95	103
Average—						Average—					
Pulses ..	100	96	94	87	102	Pulses ..	100	99	89	88	97
Other articles						Other articles					
of food—						of food—					
Sugar (re-						Sugar (re-					
fined) ..	100	90	97	102	98	fined) ..	100	88	94	102	98
Jagri (Gul)	100	80	80	70	59	Jagri (Gul)	100	83	83	67	59
Tea ..	100	103	103	118	108	Tea ..	100	102	102	117	108
Salt ..	100	62	71	104	88	Salt ..	100	60	69	101	86
Beef ..	100	110	54	61	74	Beef ..	100	113	51	56	75
Mutton ..	100	75	75	75	71	Mutton ..	100	77	77	69	69
Milk ..	100	46	57	76	76	Milk ..	100	43	57	76	76
Ghee ..	100	74	76	76	71	Ghee ..	100	75	75	75	70
Potatoes ..	100	56	61	86	74	Potatoes ..	100	66	48	93	74
Onions ..	100	92	84	84	59	Onions ..	100	84	93	83	65
Cocanut oil	100	90	112	112	98	Cocanut oil	100	90	112	112	98
Average—						Average—					
Other articles						Other articles					
of food ..	100	80	79	88	80	of food ..	100	80	78	86	80
Average—						Average—					
All food						All food					
articles ..	100	84	85	87	87	articles ..	100	85	84	87	86

Actual retail prices at these centres will be found among the miscellaneous tables at the end of the Gazette. The relative prices show a considerable difference at the different centres. As compared with the previous month, the relative average for all food articles rose by one point at Karachi, was steady at Sholapur and declined by one point each at Ahmedabad and Poona. Referring back to March 1926, it is found that in relation to Bombay the average for all food articles is lower by 3, 9, 2 and 5 points respectively at Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona.

As compared with the previous month, the relative price of rice remained stationary and that of salt declined at all the four mofussil centres. Wheat fell at Karachi and jowari at Poona but both recorded a rise at the remaining three centres. The relative price of sugar (refined) and gram declined at Karachi and Ahmedabad. Ghee rose at Karachi and tea was unchanged at Poona but both showed a slight fall at the other centres. Milk was steady except at Karachi where it showed a small decrease. Potatoes and turdal advanced at Karachi and Sholapur.

Labour Intelligence—Indian and Foreign Industrial Disputes in the Presidency

Disputes in March 1 Workpeople involved 1,521

At the end of this issue will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during March 1927, 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 March 1927, and working days lost.

I.—Industrial Disputes Classified by Trades

Trade	Number of disputes in progress in March 1927			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in March 1927	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in March 1927
	Started before 1st March	Started in March	Total		
Textile	2	5	7	1,521	5,987
Transport	....	....	....	....	....
Engineering	....	....	....	....	....
Metal	....	....	....	....	....
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	....
Total	2	5	7	1,521	5,987

During the month under review the number of industrial disputes was seven all of which occurred in cotton mills. Two of the disputes were in Jalgaon, one in Ahmedabad and the rest in Bombay. The number of workpeople involved in these seven disputes was 1,521 and the number of working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days, less workers replaced) was 5,987.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

II.—Industrial Disputes—Causes and Results, November 1926 to March 1927

	November 1926	December 1926	January 1927	February 1927	March 1927
Number of strikes and lock-outs	4	2	5	4	7
Disputes in progress at beginning	....	1	....	1	2
Fresh disputes begun	4	1	5	3	5
Disputes ended	3	2	4	2	6
Disputes in progress at end	1	....	1	2	1
Number of workpeople involved	1,216	712	4,002	1,777*	1,521
Aggregate duration in working days	3,094	1,251	16,507	775	5,987
Demands—					
Pay	2	2	3	4	3
Bonus	....	....	....	....	....
Personal	2	....	1	....	4
Leave and hours	....	....	....	....	....
Others	....	....	1	....	....
Results—					
In favour of employees..	....	1	....	1	....
Compromised	1	....	....	....	1
In favour of employers..	2	1	4	1	5

* This figure includes number of strikers originally involved in the dispute in the Emperor Edward Mill, viz., 692, which carried forward from January.

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.)
April 1926	3	3	3	13,087	67	33	..
May	6	6	4	8,457	100	....	..
June	9	7	7	1,752	100	....	..
July	4	2	4	661	100	....	..
August	7	7	7	22,457	86	....	14
September	3	3	3	3,558	100	....	..
October	7	7	7	14,358	86	14	..
November	4	4	3	3,094	67	....	33
December	2	1	2	1,251	50	50	..
January 1927	5	5	4	16,507	100	....	..
February	4	3	2	775	50	50	..
March	7	5	6	5,987	83	....	17

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

It may be of interest to state that the highest peak (4,062,870) in respect of the number of working days lost through strikes in this Presidency since April 1921 was reached in February 1924 whereas the lowest level (390) was reached in May 1924.

GENERAL REVIEW OF DISPUTES

The number of industrial disputes involving stoppages of work, reported as beginning during the month of March 1927, was 5, as compared with 3 in the previous month. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 1096. In addition, 425 workpeople were involved in 2 disputes which had begun before March, and which were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of new and old disputes in progress was thus 7, involving 1521 workpeople, and resulting in a total time loss of 5987 working days. Of the 5 disputes beginning in March, four directly involving 708 workpeople, arose out of questions respecting the employment of particular persons. One involving 388 workpeople related to the question of wages. Settlements were arrived at in the case of 4 new disputes and the 2 old disputes. The results were favourable to the employers in 5 disputes, while the remaining dispute ended in a compromise.

Progress of Individual Disputes

BOMBAY CITY

There were 4 disputes in progress in Bombay City during the month under review. One of these involving 275 workpeople, was a continuation of the dispute begun in the weaving department of the Sir Shapurji Broacha Mills during the previous month. There was no change in the situation during the first 6 days of the month and the weaving department was not opened for night-shift working. On the 7th the management put up a notice stating that as the strikers suspended work voluntarily, their services would be dispensed with and their outstanding wages paid on the 10th. The strikers, however, had no inclination to resume work. The outstanding wages were paid to all the strikers on the 10th and the 11th, and the management decided to discontinue night-shift working until further notice. The strike thus ended in favour of the employers.

The second dispute took place in the Jacob Sassoon Mill, Bombay. As cases of theft of fine cloth had taken place in the Mill, the management decided that all the operatives of the folding department should be searched every day when they left the Mill. Two folders who were thus searched assaulted a sepoy and were, therefore, discharged on the 9th. Twenty-four operatives of the folding department struck work at 3-30 p.m. on the same day in sympathy with the dismissed men and demanded their re-instatement. The management, however, did not grant their demand and the strikers left the mill quietly at 5 p.m. On the next day they came to the mill but did not resume work. Their outstanding wages were paid in the afternoon. On the following day, however, all the strikers resumed work unconditionally. The strike thus ended in favour of the employers.

The third dispute occurred in the Bomanji Petit Mill on the 9th March. Two spinners in this Mill were promoted to be jobbers by the spinning

master, and a third spinner applied to the spinning-master for a similar promotion, but his request was refused. He, therefore, struck work after recess and 49 other spinners also stopped work in sympathy with him. On the next day, the strikers represented their case to the manager who told them that they should resume work immediately, otherwise they would have to leave the mill and to receive their wages on the next pay-day. On the 11th, 10 strikers resumed work unconditionally and the management engaged 16 new hands. Fifteen more strikers returned to work on the 12th and on the 14th the management discharged the remaining strikers and engaged new hands in their place. The strike thus ended in favour of the employers.

The fourth dispute occurred in the Madhavji Dharamsi Mill, where 506 weavers struck work on the 10th, demanding the re-instatement of 4 line jobbers whose services had been dispensed with by the management on account of inefficiency. In the evening on the same day, the management notified the strikers that if they did not resume work on the 11th, their wages would be forfeited. There was no change in the situation on the 11th but on the 12th, 60 strikers resumed work unconditionally. On the 14th, 430 more strikers returned to work in the morning, and, in the afternoon, the remaining 16 strikers also resumed work. This strike also terminated in favour of the employers.

AHMEDABAD

The weavers in the Shri Ambika Mills were given damaged cloth in lieu of their wages and they were also compelled to clean the looms while they were at work. The weavers were dissatisfied at this and when a jobber named Ismail was discharged by the management for inefficiency on the 30th, 128 weavers struck work. They demanded the re-instatement of the dismissed jobber and a redress of their other grievances. On the next day, 30 strikers resumed work unconditionally. In case the remaining strikers did not resume work, the management proposed to pay them off and engage new hands. The strike continued into the next month.

JALGAON

The dispute which began in the Bhagirath Ramchandra Cloth Mill during February continued into the month of March. On the 1st, 10 strikers resumed work and the management engaged 90 new hands. Negotiations for settlement were in progress and on the 3rd all the strikers resumed work unconditionally. The strike thus ended in favour of the employers.

In the same mill 105 operatives struck work again on the 7th demanding that the compensatory allowances should be restored to their original level. The number of strikers increased to 378 on the next day and the management engaged 41 new men. The Agents distributed handbills amongst the strikers, asking them to return to work on the 9th unconditionally and stating that if they did not do so, their outstanding wages would be forfeited. This had no effect. A deputation of the men waited on the District Magistrate who promised to intervene on their behalf and ask the management to grant them a compensatory allowance of 9 annas to the

rupee. This did not, however, satisfy the strikers. On the 9th the number of new hands working in the Mill was 59. On the 10th the strikers sent a notice to the management containing the following terms of settlement :—

1. That they should get full wages ;
2. That they should be allowed to resume work on the 11th ;
3. That they should get wages for the days they had struck work ;
- and
4. That none of the workers should be discharged for having taken part in the strike.

Four more operatives struck work on the 10th and the number of new hands working in the Mill increased to 79. The management engaged 34 additional new hands on the 11th. On the 12th, the strikers again met the District Magistrate and agreed to resume work on condition that they were given a compensatory allowance of 9 annas to the rupee. As promised, the strikers assembled at the Mill on the 13th, when the District Magistrate visited the place. The Mill was, however, closed on account of the Bazaar day. On the 14th all the strikers resumed work and the management agreed to pay them 9 annas in the rupee as compensatory allowance for a period of three months. The strike thus ended in a compromise.

Prosecutions under the Factories Act in the Bombay Presidency March 1927

BOMBAY

The manager of an oil mill was prosecuted under Section 41(h) and Section 43(c) for not maintaining a "D" register. He was convicted and fined Rs. 25.

AHMEDNAGAR

The manager of a cotton ginning factory was prosecuted under Section 41(h) for breach of Section 35 for not maintaining a "D" form register and under Section 41(i) for breach of Section 36 for not putting up "R" form (an Abstract of Act and Rules). The manager was convicted and fined for Rs. 30 in each of two cases. (Total Rs. 60 for 2 cases.)

The manager of another ginning factory was similarly prosecuted under Section 41(h) and Section 41(i) for similar offences and he was convicted and fined Rs. 30 in each of two cases. (Total Rs. 60 for 2 cases.)

EAST KHANDESH

The manager of a cotton ginning factory was prosecuted under Section 41(a) for breach of Section 24 read with Rule 75 for employing women before the legal hours. He was convicted and fined Rs. 20 in one case and Rs. 5 in each of fourteen cases. (Total Rs. 90 for 15 cases.)

The manager of another ginning factory was prosecuted under Section 41(h) for not maintaining a "D" register, under Section 41(a) for employing children without certificates, under Section 41(f) for not maintaining covers over gin roller pulleys (rule 38d) and under Section 43(c) for not

extending the height of partition as ordered to comply with Section 20. The manager was convicted and fined as follows :—

- Rs. 10 under Section 41(h) one case.
- Rs. 15 in each of five cases under Section 41(a).
- Rs. 10 under Section 41(f).
- Rs. 10 under Section 43(c).

The manager of a third ginning factory was prosecuted under Section 41(a) for breach of Section 24 read with Rule 75. He was convicted and fined Rs. 5 in each of fifteen cases. The manager was also prosecuted under Section 41(a) for breach of Section 26 and was convicted and fined Rs. 5 in each of five cases.

The manager of a fourth ginning factory was prosecuted under Section 41(a) for breach of Section 24 read with Rule 75. He was convicted and fined Rs. 5 in each of six cases. The manager was also prosecuted under Section 41(a) for breach of Section 23(b) and was convicted and fined Rs. 7 in each of six cases. He was also prosecuted under Section 41(f) and Section 41(h) for breach of Rule 38(d) and Section 35 for not maintaining a "D" register respectively and was convicted and fined Rs. 15 under Section 41(f) and Rs. 5 under Section 41(h).

The manager of a fifth ginning factory was prosecuted under Section 41(a) for breach of Section 24 read with Rule 75. He was convicted and fined Rs. 25 in one case and Rs. 15 in each of fourteen cases. The manager was also prosecuted under Section 41(h) for breach of Section 35 and was convicted and fined Rs. 10.

WEST KHANDESH

The manager of a cotton ginning factory was prosecuted under Section 41(a) for breach of Section 24 read with Rule 75. He was convicted and fined Rs. 15 in each of six cases. The manager was also prosecuted under Section 41(a) for breach of Section 26 and was convicted and fined Rs. 10 in each of four cases.

NASIK

The manager of a ginning factory was prosecuted under Section 41(a) for breach of Section 24 read with Rule 75. He was convicted and fined Rs. 10 in each of ten cases.

HYDERABAD

The manager of a cotton ginning factory was prosecuted under Section 41(a) for breach of Section 23(b). He was convicted and fined Rs. 25 in each of seven cases.

The manager of a second ginning factory was prosecuted under Section 41(a) for breach of Section 23(b) and was convicted and fined Rs. 20 in each of six cases.

The manager of a third ginning factory was prosecuted under Section 41(h) for not maintaining a "D" register and was convicted and fined Rs. 100. The manager was also prosecuted under Section 41(a) for breach of Section 23(a) and was convicted and fined Rs. 25 in each of six cases.

Agricultural Outlook in the Presidency

The following summary of conditions in the Presidency during the period ending 20th April 1927 has been supplied by the Director of Agriculture, Gujarat. The period under review passed away without any rainfall. The standing crops were generally in a satisfactory condition except places in North Gujarat where their yield is expected to be much below normal. The picking of cotton is nearing completion in many places and the harvesting of rabi crops such as wheat, barley, etc., is in progress almost everywhere in the Division. The crops under irrigation are generally doing well.

Konkan.—The situation in this division is generally the same as reported last time. The standing crops are generally in good condition. Harvesting of rabi crops is in full swing in many places and cutting of sugarcane continues in parts of Kanara district. Preparation of lands for the next season is in progress and rab burning operations have been started.

Deccan and Karnatak.—Excepting a few drops of rainfall during the early part of April in a few places in Belgaum and Bijapur Districts of the Karnatak there has been no rainfall in either of these two divisions. The harvesting and threshing of rabi crops are in full progress almost everywhere, while the crushing of sugarcane continues in the canal and other sugarcane areas. The garden crops are doing well in both the divisions. The cotton picking is coming to an end in some places in the Karnatak. Lands are being prepared for the next season.

Employment Situation in March 1927

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 123 or 84·25 per cent. of the mills reported as working during the month of March 1927. The average absenteeism in the textile industry as a whole amounted to 8·11 per cent. as against 7·34 per cent. in the preceding month.

In Bombay City out of 80 mills which were working during the month, 75 or 93·75 per cent. furnished returns. The supply of labour was reported as adequate by a large majority of the mills and the average absenteeism amounted to 9·05 per cent. as compared with 7·72 per cent. during February.

In Ahmedabad 55 mills were working during the month and 38 or 69·09 per cent. furnished information. Absenteeism amounted to 1·83 per cent. as against 1·68 per cent. in February. The supply of labour was equal to the demand.

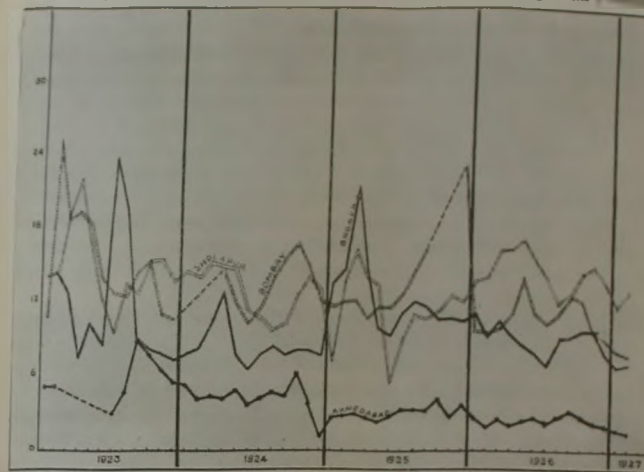
All the mills in Sholapur submitted returns and none of them reported any shortage in the supply of labour. The average percentage absenteeism amounted to 12·91.

One of the two mills in Viramgaum submitted a return and reported that the supply of labour was equal to the demand. The average absenteeism amounted to 0·60 per cent.

All the three mills in Broach supplied information. The supply of labour was equal to the demand and the average absenteeism was 7·48 per cent. as against 7·08 per cent. in the preceding month.

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

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



THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

In the Engineering Industry in Bombay City the supply of labour was adequate. The average absenteeism in representative engineering workshops was 14·50 per cent. as against 12·39 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 16·12 per cent. The average absenteeism in the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust amounted to 9·50 per cent.

In the Karachi Port Trust both skilled and ordinary labour was available in plenty and on an average 6·80 per cent. of the labourers absented themselves from work during the month under review.

Labour Disputes in China

PROPOSED "INDUSTRIAL SERVICE" LEAGUE

The programme of the International Industrial Service League, which is to be established shortly in Shanghai, was adopted at a preliminary meeting on 5th January 1927 at the Union Club, Shanghai.

The objects of the League were stated as follows:

To serve the community through the study and improvement of human relations and conditions in industry. The League has adherence to no national or political party, but it claims to be liberal in its thinking.

Labour News from Ahmedabad

THE LABOUR UNION

A delightful programme was gone through during the Holi festival and several labourers took part in the entertainments organized by the Union. At the request of the Union the Sanitary Association arranged to show a film entitled 'Slaves of custom' which was very much appreciated by a big audience of about two thousand workers.

For the last few years workers have been in the habit of being absent from work on the days following Dhuleti and Gokul Ashtami. The Council of Representatives of the Labour Union considered this question and arrived at the conclusion that workers should not absent themselves on the day following Dhuleti but it is absolutely necessary to have a holiday on the day following Gokul Ashtami. Leaflets were accordingly distributed in mills exhorting workers to follow the above decision. Several mills were able as a result of this propaganda to work full day on the day following Dhuleti but some were able to work half day or even less only. It is hoped that in the next few years this decision of the Union will be fully carried out by the workers.

The Joint Council of Representatives of the Frame and Throstle Unions has passed two resolutions to the following effect: (1) 'Not only is the efficiency of workers impaired by the evil practice of bribery for securing service in mills but also the poverty and indebtedness of labourers are increased to a great extent. This Council is of opinion that strict measures should be adopted to remove this serious evil. The Secretary is authorized to request the Millowners' Association to open a Labour Exchange under the joint management of the Labour Union and the Millowners' Association.' (2) 'Owing to the great delay involved in the present system of settling disputes workers have to put up with much injustice. They lose confidence and finally unauthorized strikes are the result. It is therefore necessary to appoint a Joint Committee of the Labour Union and the Millowners' Association to dispose of complaints quickly. The Secretary is empowered to take all necessary steps to bring about this end.'

The Labour Union has severely condemned the unauthorized strike in the Gordhan Mill at the beginning of this month.

Propaganda work in connection with explaining the benefits of the Union is conducted in an intense manner and meetings are held for this purpose in different mills almost daily. It is likely that the membership of the Union will show an increase in the next quarter.

It is proposed to publish monthly an "Illustrated Majur Sandesh" containing eight pages and at least two pictures. An annual subscription of annas three will be charged for this special issue.

THE B. B. & C. I. RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

The President of the above Association had requested the Agent of the Railway to discuss with him the grievances of the employees. The Agent would not agree to this. The President thereupon sent a letter to the Agent stating that the employees have refused to join the Staff Councils and have resolved to stand firm by the Association until their grievances are redressed, and also requested to be informed within ten days whether

the Agent was willing to interview him and discuss the complaints or not. The President has further stated that if the Agent refuses to discuss matters the responsibility for whatever the public and the Railway authorities may have to suffer in consequence will rest entirely with the Agent and not the Association.

HIGH MORTALITY IN AHMEDABAD

On 22nd November 1926 the Municipality appointed a Doctors' Committee to report on the high mortality in Ahmedabad. In the course of its report the Committee has remarked on the following lines: 'In many mills in the city the latrines are in a very bad condition. Urinals and latrines are very few in proportion to the number of workers. In all parts of the compounds of mills heaps of rubbish are found lying together and the accumulation of dirty water from the dyeing and bleaching departments forms a fruitful source of disease. It is necessary to consider these matters carefully.'

Workmen's Compensation

Details of Compensation and Proceedings during March 1927 under the Workmen's Compensation Act (Act VIII of 1923)

This article contains the summary of compensation statistics for the month of March 1927. All commissioners in the Presidency furnished information and out of a total number of 43 cases disposed of during the month, 40 were reported by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner in Bombay. It must be remembered that these are not the numbers of cases which came within the purview of the courts of the commissioners but of cases actually disposed of. Two cases which were reported as having been transferred from one Commissioner to another have not been included in the statistics. The gross amount of compensation awarded during the month amounted to Rs. 26,951-10-3 as against Rs. 15,815-13-6 in the previous month and Rs. 14,987-12-5 in March 1926. Out of the 43 cases in which compensation was claimed, 16 were fatal accidents, 23 of permanent partial disablement, 2 of temporary disablement and the remaining two of permanent total disablement. No case of occupational disease has come up since January 1925. The number of compensation cases in the textile industry amounted to 17 and in other industries 26. The corresponding figures for March 1926 were 3 and 20.

The total number of claimants for compensation in all the 43 cases was 46 of whom 40 were adult males and 2 adult females. The remaining four were under 15 years of age, one being a female and the rest males.

Out of the cases disposed of during the month under review 24 were original claims and 19 registration of agreements. Compensation was awarded in 22 cases, agreements were registered in 19 cases, one case was dismissed and another was allowed to be withdrawn.

Industrial Disputes in India during 1926

The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour recently published a bulletin containing the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the year 1926. These statistics show that the total number of disputes reported amounted to 128 as against 134 in the previous year. The number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 186,811 as against 270,423 in 1925; and the number of working days lost was 1,097,478 as against 12,578,129. The general effects of the disputes (1) by Provinces and (2) by Classes of Establishments are set out in the following two tables:—

General Effects of Disputes—By Provinces

Province	No. of disputes	No. of workpeople involved	No. of working days lost
Bombay	57	25,201	77,390
Bengal	57	141,808	837,978
Madras	2	131	1,335
United Provinces	3	1,310	14,570
Bihar and Orissa	3	5,700	13,600
Central Provinces	4	1,514	17,760
Assam	1	500	1,000
Burma	1	10,647	133,845
Total	128	186,811	1,097,478

General Effects of Disputes—By Classes of Establishments

Class of Establishments	No. of disputes	No. of workpeople involved	No. of working days lost
Cotton Mills	57	22,713	79,027
Jute Mills	33	129,951	769,022
Engineering Works	4	1,224	8,707
Conservancy	13	8,980	25,612
Railway Workshops	3	6,900	10,500
Oil Fields	1	10,647	133,845
Oil Works	1	551	4,685
Printing Works	2	90	570
Tea Estate	1	500	1,000
Coal Fields	1	200	1,600
Miscellaneous	12	5,055	62,910
Total	128	186,811	1,097,478

Nearly 90 per cent. of the total number of disputes occurred in the provinces of Bombay and Bengal. Each of these provinces reported 57

disputes while no other province in India reported more than 4 disputes during the year under review. It will be seen that the number of workpeople affected by the disputes in Bengal was more than five times the number affected by an equal number of disputes in Bombay and the number of working days lost was more than ten times as much. If the statistics are considered according to classes of establishments it is found that the greatest number of disputes occurred in cotton mills. These involved 22,713 operatives and resulted in a time loss of 79,027 working days. Jute mills come next with 33 disputes involving 129,951 workpeople or 69·56 per cent. of the total and a time loss of 769,022 working days which amounts to 70·07 per cent. of the total time loss for British India.

CAUSES OF DISPUTES

Questions of pay were responsible for 60 or nearly 47 per cent. of the total number of disputes. "Personnel" and "Other" causes were responsible for 24 per cent. and 17 per cent. respectively. The two following tables show the causes of disputes (1) by Provinces and (2) by Classes of Establishments:—

Causes of Disputes—By Provinces

Province	Pay	Bonus	Personnel	Leave and Hours	Others
Bombay	27	1	22	..	7
Bengal	27	3	8	11	8
Madras	..	..	..	..	2
United Provinces	..	..	..	..	3
Bihar and Orissa	2	..	1	..	..
Central Provinces	3	..	..	..	1
Assam	..	..	..	..	..
Burma	1	..	..	..	..
Total	60	4	31	11	22

Causes of Disputes—By Classes of Establishments

Class of Establishments	Pay	Bonus	Personnel	Leave and Hours	Others
Cotton Mills	24	1	22	..	10
Jute Mills	12	3	5	9	4
Engineering Works	2	..	..	1	1
Conservancy	9	..	1	..	3
Railway Workshops	1	..	2	..	..
Oil Fields	1	..	..	..	..
Oil Works	1	..	..	..	..
Printing Works	1	..	1	..	..
Tea Estate	..	..	..	..	1
Coal Fields	1	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	8	..	..	1	3
Total	60	4	31	11	22

Over 47 per cent. of the disputes in each of the provinces of Bombay and Bengal arose over questions of pay. Disputes due to "Personnel" causes were most frequent in Bombay while those caused by questions relating to "Leave and Hours" were reported only by Bengal. If the figures are considered by groups of establishments, it is found that disputes in Cotton Mills were very often due to questions of wages and demands for dismissal or reinstatement of particular individuals. In Jute Mills the predominant causes were those connected with questions of wages and leave and hours of work. Disputes regarding bonus were only confined to Cotton and Jute Mills.

RESULTS OF DISPUTES

Only 12 or 9.4 per cent. of the disputes resulted entirely in favour of the workers. A similar number of disputes resulted in partial success. The remaining 104 or 81.2 per cent. of the total number of disputes were unsuccessful. The results of the disputes are summarised in the following two tables according to Provinces and Classes of Establishments:—

Results of Disputes—By Provinces

Province	Successful	Partially successful	Unsuccessful
Bombay	5	5	47
Bengal	6	7	44
Madras	1	..	2
United Provinces	1	..	2
Bihar and Orissa .. .. .	..	..	3
Central Provinces .. .. .	..	..	4
Assam .. .. .	..	..	1
Burma .. .. .	..	..	1
Total	12	12	104

Results of Disputes—By Classes of Establishments

Class of Establishments	Successful	Partially successful	Unsuccessful
Cotton Mills	6	46
Jute Mills	3	29
Engineering Works
Conservancy	1	10
Railway Workshops	2
Oil Fields	1
Oil Works	1
Printing Works	2
Tea Estate	1
Coal Fields	1
Miscellaneous	2	10
Total	12	12	104

SUMMARY OF DISPUTES ACCORDING TO MONTHS

The progress and the general effects of the disputes according to months are given in the following table:—

Progress and Effects of Disputes according to Months

Months	No of disputes in progress at beginning	No. of fresh disputes begun	No. of disputes ended	No. of disputes in progress at end	No. of work-people involved	No. of working days lost
January ..	1	6	7	..	1,105	5,375
February ..	..	12	11	1	40,293	246,562
March ..	1	15	15	1	10,407	67,889
April ..	1	13	13	1	43,438	302,011
May ..	1	14	12	3	20,765	52,811
June ..	3	12	12	3	10,926	33,132
July ..	3	6	9	..	9,609	80,520
August ..	..	14	14	..	13,042	45,399
September ..	..	6	5	1	2,624	8,858
October ..	1	10	11	..	9,570	25,558
November ..	..	10	8	2	29,670	170,774
December ..	2	9	11	..	16,692	58,589
Year ..	1	127	128	..	186,811	1,097,478

The following table shows the results of the disputes according to months:—

Results of Disputes according to Months

Months	Successful	Partially successful	Unsuccessful
January ..	..	..	5
February ..	..	..	8
March ..	..	..	11
April ..	..	..	12
May ..	..	..	11
June ..	..	..	12
July ..	..	..	9
August ..	..	..	11
September ..	..	2	4
October ..	2	..	9
November ..	1	2	5
December ..	2	2	7
Year ..	12	12	104

During the year under review, there was, on the whole less industrial strife in India than in any recent year. The number of strikes recorded was 128 which is less than that of any year since 1920, when the collection of these statistics commenced. The total number of working days lost through strikes and lockouts was approximately 11 lakhs against an average of 74 lakhs per year in the preceding five years.

Conditions of Work in Italy

A "LABOUR CHARTER"

The Fascist Grand Council in Italy, at its January Session, approved the following resolution submitted by Mr. Bottai, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Corporations:

The Fascist Grand Council,

Reaffirming categorically the right of the State to dictate the rules which should govern national production and labour according to the principles of the new order, and the bases of which are contained in the legislation relating to the regulation of collective relations in industry; and

Bearing in mind the duties allotted to the Ministry of Corporations—the instrument of radical change—and to the central corporate bodies which will shortly be constituted;

Accepts the idea of a "Labour Charter," and decides to submit it to examination, keeping in view the following test principles:—

- (1) That there should be solidarity among the various elements of production, in the supreme interests of the nation;
- (2) That there should be a complete co-ordination of the laws for the welfare and relief of the workers;
- (3) That there should be a co-ordination and overhauling of the laws for the protection of labour; and
- (4) That general rules should be established for labour contracts.

Mr. Mussolini himself, in the capacity of Minister of Corporations, was entrusted with the task of drafting the "Charter," in agreement with the Ministers concerned and with the General Secretary of the Fascist Party.

It is intended to publish the text of the "Charter" on 21st April next, the anniversary of the foundation of Rome and the National Labour Day.

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS: MR. ROSSONI'S VIEWS

Mr. Rossoni, President of the Confederation of Fascist Trade Unions, has given in two articles published in *Lavoro d'Italia* his views on points (1) and (4) of the above resolution; the parts relating to the unification and improvement of existing social legislation are, he says, less open to discussion.

Labour contracts (he contends) should so far as possible be uniform for all classes and areas; the limitations and exceptions should depend solely on the requirements of a given industry or locality, or on individual fitness and capacity to produce.

In every contract there should be a preamble referring to the general conditions governing the relations between the employers and workers, according to Italian industrial organisation, and affirming the principle of mutual recognition by the contracting parties in their representative capacities.

Recruitment

The taking on of workers should be effected through employment offices set up in each Province by the provincial organisations of the Confederation of Fascist Trade Unions. These offices should be divided into district branches, which in turn should be divided into sub-sections for different

classes of industries or workers. The branches should be under the direction of committees composed of representatives of employers and of workers.

Registers should be compiled for each class, containing information as to the character and capacity of each person entered. Employers should have the right to choose from among those entered for each class.

Sanctions

The standard contract should contain provisions for three kinds of disciplinary sanction:—

- (1) Fines rising to the equivalent of six hours' earnings;
- (2) Suspension for a period not exceeding three days;
- (3) Dismissal.

Sums collected as fines should be paid into the mutual sickness fund of the establishment concerned, or, failing such a fund, to some similar institution.

Hours of Work

The principle of the eight-hour day should be clearly affirmed, subject to the exceptions authorised by law. Overtime should not exceed on the average two hours a day, and should be paid for at a rate at least 10 per cent. above the regular rate.

In works engaged in continuous processes, an increased wage-rate should be fixed for the third shift.

Probation

The probation period for a worker should be fixed. During this period, each side should have the right to terminate the engagement, the worker being entitled to wages corresponding to the actual period of his service. The grading of the worker at the end of the probation period should be made by agreement between the employer and the worker, and the wage-rate assigned to the grade in which the worker is placed should be paid to him retrospectively as from his entry into the employer's service.

Wages

Minimum wages should be fixed for each class of worker, on the basis of the following factors: Ability of the establishment to pay, cost of living, market conditions and locality of the establishment.

The actual earnings of each worker should be determined by agreement, on the basis of the quality and quantity of his individual output.

The principle of a quarterly revision of wages according to the index number of the cost of living in the district should be adopted, on the demand of either of the contracting parties; the standard contract should indicate the means of giving effect to this principle.

The principle of periodical increments (at intervals not exceeding two years), according to merit and seniority, should also be adopted.

The rate of payment for piecework should be fixed on the basis of the hourly wage, in such a way as to make it possible to earn one-third more.

Revision of piece-rates should be permitted when at least nine-tenths of those concerned do not succeed in earning the amount fixed as the basic sum, or when their earnings exceed that sum by more than one-third.

Holidays

Holidays should be fixed at six days a year after one year's unbroken service. The standard contract should lay down other provisions relating to holidays, such as provisions for the exclusion, in calculating them, of public holidays and days of unjustified absence from work which has already been penalised, and provisions for the prohibition of the substitution for holidays of a money payment.

Sickness

In case of the illness of a worker, the employer should be compelled to retain him in employment for a prescribed period. The employer should be required to pay to the worker his full wage for a certain number of days, and half-wages for a further period, except where there is a sick fund which ensures to the worker at least equal benefits.

The contracting parties should undertake to establish, unless they have already done so, a mutual sickness fund, based on equal contributions from the employer and the worker, such fund to be administered by the representatives of the organisations which conclude the contract.

Military Service

A call to the colours should be a ground for the cancellation of the contract, but the indemnity prescribed for discharge under normal conditions should be paid in such cases. On his return, the worker should have a right of priority over other applicants when his former employer is engaging workers. In case of recall either to the regular army or to the national defence volunteer force, the worker should have a right to re-employment on his return, and the period spent in military service should be counted as time spent in employment for the purpose of reckoning seniority.

Notice of Discharge

In case of discharge for reasons other than those of discipline, a term of notice should be obligatory, or an indemnity should be paid in lieu of notice. This indemnity should be at least two days' pay for each year of service.

Preservation of Rights

If an undertaking changes hands or is altered in any way, the workers should retain their rights in full.

Disputes

The contracting organisations should enter into negotiations, through their direct representatives, with the management of the undertaking, in order, if possible, to find a solution for all differences, whether of a collective or an individual character, relating to the interpretation and application of the contract. The representatives should submit their conclusions to their respective organisations, and recourse should be had to the Industrial Courts ("Labour Magistracy") only in the event of failure by the trade unions to settle the dispute. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, January 31, 1927.)

The "Labour Charter" in Italy

A MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

The first meeting for the preparation of the proposed Italian "Labour Charter" was held on 13th February 1927 at the Ministry of Corporations, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Bottai, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Corporations.

There were present the General Secretary of the Fascist Party, the Presidents of the National Federation of Fascist Trade Unions, of the Free Fascist Federation of Workers and Salaried Employees in Maritime and Aerial Transport, and of the six Federations of Employers, together with representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of National Economy.

Guiding Principles

Mr. Bottai read a communication embodying the guiding principles laid down for the work of the Committee by the Head of the Government.

The fundamental principles of corporate organisation are summed up in this communication as follows:—

(1) The establishment of that equality of rights among social classes which liberal and democratic systems have never been able to secure, and the proclamation of solidarity between all citizens in support of the paramount interests of the country, which thus become the limiting factor and the criterion of all individual rights, whether those of property and profit or those of labour and wages;

(2) The promotion of the occupational association (i.e., the trade union) to the dignity of a public institution with the power of regulating the interests of the particular class of persons whom it represents, and endowed with social duties which make it an instrument of national economic and educational policy. In this the principle to be followed may be summarised in the slogan "All power for the State; no power against the State."

(3) The responsibility of members of associations to their associations for the strict observance of all rules governing labour and production;

(4) The responsibility of trade unions to the State for discipline among the occupational classes of which they are the organs, the controllers and the representatives; trade unions to be required to maintain such discipline among their members, if necessary by the revision of their constitution;

(5) Collaboration between the trade unions and the Ministry of Corporations, which is the instrument of the political and social restoration of Italy; such collaboration to secure for the State the effective direction of the social forces of the nation and to obtain the maximum amount of cohesion and discipline among all Italians, both in the social and in the economic sphere.

Under the Fascist system, which is a complete whole (continued the communication), the declaration of rights and duties refers either to citizens taken individually or to associations which group citizens in the corporate organisation, and constitute the fundamental elements of the system itself.

The first consequence of the above general principles is that the Fascist system stands out as the first which has allowed workers to take part in

the regulation of production through the medium of the central corporate organisations; that is to say, to take part in controlling the whole national economic system, not in controlling any given undertaking, which was the claim of anarchist trade unionism. Such control is at one and the same time the worker's right and the worker's duty, since it requires him to subordinate his personal claims to the efficiency of the national economy.

Further (added the communication), within the limits of these rights and duties, i.e., within the limits of the corporate Fascist State, a new economic constitution may be seen forming, the exact details of which cannot yet be defined, but traces of which are already to be found in the influence of the collective labour agreement and in the work of co-ordinating production which will be carried out by the trade unions and the corporations.

Questionnaire Adopted

After discussion, in which all those present took part, a questionnaire was drawn up which is to be considered at future meetings, and on which the Ministries and Federations concerned will base their reports.

The questionnaire deals with the following points:

- (1) Co-ordination and definition of the work to be done by the trade unions, the national institutes and the Ministry of Corporations in the field of social welfare and occupational education;
- (2) Extension of social insurance; work which may be done by the trade unions in this field; unification of insurance; possible reform of the system of industrial accident insurance;
- (3) Co-ordination and revision of legislation for the protection of labour;
- (4) Procedure for drawing up collective labour agreements; scope of such agreements and general conditions of labour;
- (5) General provisions of the labour agreement (i.e., period of probation, dismissal, holidays, hours of work, etc.); limits of State intervention in view of the new system of collective labour agreements;
- (6) Organisation of a judicial system to deal with individual labour disputes, taking account of the general rules concerning the labour agreement and of the sovereign right of the State to assume the legal guardianship of its citizens;
- (7) Relations of the co-operative societies with the State and with the Fascist trade union organisation. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, March 7, 1927.)

Forty-four Hour Week

ARBITRATION COURT'S DECISION—EMPLOYERS PERTURBED

The Federal Arbitration Court gave its decision last week on the claim by the Amalgamated Engineering Union for a shorter working week, and fixed the hours of employment at 44 per week. This was a test case, and the judgment will affect industries throughout Australia, establishing a standard working week for industrial activities which are similar in their conditions regarding leisure, or want of leisure, or the engineering trade. It does not, however, apply to other industries. The judges were not unanimous in their decision. Chief Judge Dethridge and Judge Beeby

favoured fixing the hours at 44 a week, but Judge Lukin expressed vigorous opposition to the reduction, contending that the reduction of standard hours, involving as it must a substantial diminution of output would have a serious effect upon the economic welfare of the country.

It is impossible to estimate the ultimate effect of the decision on industry as a whole. According to evidence tendered during the hearing of the case it was calculated that any change would involve halt a million workers, and cost the community £10,000,000 a year at least, with a still further continuously increasing amount when there was an increase in the number of persons employed for 44 hours who would otherwise be engaged for 48 hours. Immediately the change is stated by the Commonwealth Statistician to affect 75,000 workers, and assuming that the output decreased *pro rata* with the hours, he puts the cost at £1,625,000 per annum.

Manufacturers and commercial men expressed dismay at the curtailment of production which must inevitably result from the reduction in working hours, but a more hopeful view was taken of the situation following a statement by Chief Judge Dethridge on 25th February 1927, during the hearing of a claim by the Australian Glass Workers' Union for increased wages and better working conditions. His Honour declared that the 44-hour week was only possible in an industry if the workers in every way worked up to their limit, and pulled up to the collar all the time. No Court, no Parliament, and no power on earth could get the 44 hours for them if they did not work their best. It meant that payment by results would have to be recognised as a legitimate thing. It did not matter about union rules; payment by results must come, if not the 44 hours would have to go.

Employers, are unanimous that only by the wider adoption of piece work can the country maintain a 44-hour week. The overseas manufacturer produces cheaply, and if Australian industry is to meet his competition it is essential that production costs here should be reduced. However, for some obscure reason labour leaders are opposed to piecework, although some thousands of employees are working amicably under this system, and refuse to discard it in favour of a set maximum weekly wage. It may be presumed that a determined effort will be made by manufacturers to secure greater production by the introduction of piecework in their industries, and it will be interesting to note the effect of Chief Judge Dethridge's statement on further applications for a shorter working week which are expected from the employees of all activities which come under the category of normal industries, that is, those occupations involving unusual strain or fatigue, or more than the usual dirt and grime.

A Serious Position

Following a special meeting of the council of the Victorian Chamber of Manufacturers on Monday the 28th February 1927, the following statement was made on behalf of the chamber by the president, Mr. P. Lewis:—

"So far-reaching may become the majority decision of the Full Arbitration Court to apply a working week of 44 hours to normal industries that manufacturers are considerably perturbed as to the future conduct of their businesses. For many years, men with enterprise have been struggling to build up productive works that might fulfil the national requirements.

With the aid of the tariff some have achieved a measure of success ; have no more than a fair living ; while others again have failed. It has to be admitted that progress has been very slow and uncertain. According to Judge Beeby, not more than 30 per cent. of engineering work in Australia appears to be subject to overseas competition. He indicated that the remaining 70 per cent. consisted of either repairs or renewals, or of manufacturing which was not menaced. Now, if only 30 per cent. of the trade in the engineering industry in the Commonwealth is governed by competition abroad, why is this so ? How is it that we are not manufacturing to a larger extent than is the case ? What is the reason that the value of imports is so great and is expanding to an alarming extent ? This is shown by the fact that they now reach the tremendous amount of £150,000,000 a year. Metals and machinery account for £45,000,000 having risen to this figure from £25,000,000 in 1921-22. It is also indicated by the loss of extensive contracts to overseas firms during the last few years—work which could, and should have been performed here. The fact is that, notwithstanding the protection afforded by the customs tariff, our production costs were too high. Now they are to be increased. For what reason ? To enable employees whom the court freely admits are suffering no physical hardship from working 48 hours a week, but may be engaged in processes that require particular concentration of mind and actions or are monotonous to have more leisure. It would be assumed that if disabilities were experienced through monotonous work or extra concentration of mind, daily leisure would be sought. The fact is that where 44 hours have been obtained, the demand of the employees has been generally to limit work to five days, making the daily stretch eight hours 48 minutes.

" If manufacturers in Australia do not adequately fulfil national needs, what is the reason ? In regard to the engineering industry, the advocate for that union at one stage of the proceedings in court reflected on the efficiency of the plant used. On the testimony of the three judges, our manufacturing plants are efficient. Moreover, it was not proved that profits were unreasonable. Well, what is wrong that we cannot get a greater share of the manufacturing work that is needed by the community ? The answer plainly is that our costs of production are far too high. Were the 44-hour week introduced in the working of the railways in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia, and the tramways in New South Wales at the present time, it would mean that the people would have to bear a burden of nearly £2,000,000. No account is taken of the costs that would be involved in respect of other public utilities in the States mentioned.

" Plainly, the decrease of four hours in a week's work is an industry tax. This is undeniable—in effect, the judgments of the three members of the court confirm such a statement. No other country in the world has such repressive measures against the maintenance and development of industry as those to which Australian manufacturers are subjected. According to the Tariff Board, which is composed of men with special knowledge of industrial and commercial life, the general position is critical.

" The hope was expressed by the court that with the granting of 44 hours in particular industries discontent will be cured and production

consequently be increased. Manufacturers would be delighted if such a result followed the reduction of working hours. But experience does not give any support to such a hope. Can machines that are now run on top speed be run any faster ? Payment by results is the most likely method of achieving increased output from factories ; but trades unions are opposed to such a system, though it does operate to some extent. Will they, in the circumstances, consent to acknowledge such a method of work ? And will the court encourage the manufacturers to obtain increased production and lower operating costs.

" Looking at the whole matter, we are compelled to the conclusion of Judge Lukin that the reduction of the standard hours will spell retrogression, or, at the best, stagnation, and not progression. Even the assenting judges, as has been pointed out in press criticisms, share the doubts of citizens generally as to the wisdom of making any change in standard working hours at this juncture. Their judgments are wholly speculative on a matter that is of vital interest to the whole community. Manufacturers will naturally do their best where reduced hours are enforced. All the same, they feel that the efforts which they are making to meet national needs and be independent of outsiders, receive scanty encouragement in the Arbitration Court." (From "*Industrial Australian and Mining Standard*" Melbourne, March 3, 1927.)

Technical Education in Germany

The *Borsig Zeitung* recently published an article by Mr. Karl Reich analysing and commenting on the results of an enquiry made among employees and shop foremen in the Borsig works in Berlin, to discover whether the modern methods of training applied to apprentices have resulted in an increase in their efficiency, or whether the old methods of training skilled workers should be preferred.

The enquiry brought out two points : (1) The influence of gymnastics and sports on the apprentice ; and (2) the advantages and disadvantages of theoretical education.

Mr. Reich draws from the results of the enquiry the conclusion that gymnastics and sports, properly organised and reasonably undertaken, do undoubtedly exercise an excellent influence on the development of the apprentice.

Theoretical education, he proceeds, is becoming ever more necessary in view of the evolution of the several crafts and of industry as a whole. What appears to be most necessary is a close collaboration between the occupational school and the workshop.

If the apprentice is to be kept in touch with modern practice, he must be trained from the outset to work under conditions less easy than those which he normally finds in the occupational school, though at the same time he must be given all the technical education necessary for the proper exercise of his craft. The danger of a training carried out exclusively in a model school is that it may accustom young persons to work under ideal conditions, and thus make it hard for them to adapt themselves subsequently to work under actual factory conditions.

Most agree that it should be taken into serious consideration in the training of apprentices, having regard to the tendency which is frequently noticeable among young persons, some of whom are in claim an undue degree of freedom from control. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," *Canadian Month* 7, 1927)

Hours of Work in the United States

THE FIVE-DAY WEEK

In view of the discussion recently aroused by the decision of Mr. Henry Ford to institute the five-day week in his enterprises, it may be of interest to note the extent to which the five-day week is at present in operation in various working practices in the United States. Some light is thrown on this subject by an article published in the December 1926 number of the *Monthly Labor Review*, Washington, based on enquiries made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and on information obtained from various other sources.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics, it is explained, makes an annual survey of hours and hours earning wage-earners in various industrial occupations. The study is limited to work in which payment is by time rates, as opposed to piece-rates, by some simple means such as "time in the case of printers.

The 1926 survey covered 66,000 and 824,313 trade union members, for 764,546 in whom regular working hours were ascertainable. The trades covered were: bakery, brewing, distilling, teamsters and drivers, granite and stone, laundry workers, linemen, longshoremen, printers and publishing—book and job, and newspaper.

Of this total of 764,546 workers, 15,689, or 2.1 per cent, had a working week of five days throughout the year.

3,670, or 0.5 per cent had a working week of five days for a part of the year; and

1,061, or 0.2 per cent, had a working week of six days but not more than forty hours.

Thus, in the aggregate, there were 40,422 workers, or 5.3 per cent, who worked five days or forty hours or less for the whole or a part of the year.

Clothing Trades

Of the larger industries, that in which the regular full-time five-day week is most prevalent is the manufacture of men's clothing, in which 45 per cent of the establishments and almost one-third of the workers covered by a recent enquiry of the Bureau were working a five-day week. The forty-hour week, however, was not common, the average hours being 44 per week.

Under recent agreements, most of the furworkers (an industry employing about 11,000 persons) are working on a five-day forty-hour week, but with provision for some Saturday work during the busy seasons.

The organized workers in the cloth, hat and cap industry in New York and Philadelphia have agreements providing for a five-day forty-hour week, to be reduced to a forty-hour week in 1927.

The organized workers in the following branches of the clothing industry have a five-day week, and in most cases a forty-hour week: cloak, skirt and dress makers, Boston; waterproof garment workers, cloak, skirt and dress makers, New York; cloak, skirt, dress makers, penance and buttonhole makers, New York; cloak, skirt, dress and underwear makers, New York; ladies' tailors and custom dressmakers, New York.

Building Trades

More than 6 per cent of the union members in the building trades covered by the Bureau's 1926 study—mainly, lathers, painters and plasterers—have a five-day week, and it is not infrequent among the granite and stone trades for part of the year.

Printing Trades

About 5 per cent of all the newspaper printing trades covered by the 1926 study worked not more than forty hours a week, but variously in five or six days.

In the book and job branch of the printing industry, the five-day forty-hour week was found to occur only in a few cities.

Bakery and Laundry

1.4 per cent of the bakers covered by the study, and 7.8 per cent of the laundry workers, have the five-day week.

Food and Beverage Industries

A study made by the Bureau early in 1925 showed that in 50 per cent of the power house and establishments employing about two-thirds of the total working force covered, the production hours were working on a regular five-day week basis.

Foundries and Machine Shops

In foundries and machine shops, according to a 1925 enquiry, 7.8 per cent of the plants, employing 5.3 per cent of the workers covered by the enquiry, had a regular five-day week.

Iron and Steel Industry

The iron and steel industry as a whole still has many workers on rather long hours, but the five-day week exists in certain occupations in certain plants. A survey by the Bureau in 1926 showed that 2.1 per cent of all the workers covered worked a regular five-day or five-eight week. Most of them were in the hot mills (1.1 per cent of the total workers covered) and in the puddling mills (1.0 per cent of the total workers covered).

Other Occupations

In addition to the adoption of the five-day week as a regular practice in various industrial establishments, there has been of recent years a significant extension of the practice of Saturday closing in the Summer

months. The practice is most extensive in retail stores and offices, but known to exist also in other lines of business, although no very satisfactory data are available on this subject. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, February 14, 1927.)

Quebec Employers' Insurance Organization

The Workmen's Compensation Act of the province of Quebec enacted in 1926, which becomes effective on 1st April, requires employers to guarantee the payment of compensation to their injured workmen either by means of insurance, or by depositing with the Provincial government cash bonds sufficient to answer for their solvency. Manufacturers desiring to insure themselves in accordance with this provision found that advances had been made by insurance companies in casualty insurance premiums. They decided therefore to organize their own mutual insurance company. This action was taken at a joint meeting of the Quebec division and Montreal branch of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association held at Montreal on 17th January, when it was decided to apply for a mutual insurance company charter. The members of the provincial cabinet later heard the argument of the manufacturers and also of the underwriters. (From "Labour Gazette," Canada, February 1927.)

Wages and Prices in Japan

Both the wholesale and retail prices of commodities have fallen in Japan since 1925, and are still showing signs of a further decline. The effect on wages is shown below:

The index numbers of wholesale and retail prices, published by the Bank of Japan (*Nippon Ginko*), and those of wages, published by the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, are given in the following table:—

		Index of Wholesale prices	Index of retail prices	Index of wages
1923	August	100·00	100·00	100·00
1924	January	110·77	103·73	105·19
	June	104·81	99·87	104·56
	December	112·26	106·37	101·52
1925	June	105·00	98·80	97·41
	January	100·95	97·50	97·05
1926	June	93·21	92·21	94·10
	November	90·08	87·99	98·75

The fall in wholesale prices since 1925, as shown in the table, is regarded as attributable to the recovery of the Japanese currency in the foreign market. The fall in retail prices is considered to be due largely to the decrease of the purchasing power of the nation. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, March 14, 1927.)

Membership of German Trade Unions

The *Reichsarbeitsblatt* of 1st January 1927 contained a survey of the situation of the German trade unions in 1925, based on the Trade Union Year Book recently issued.

At the end of 1925 the German trade unions comprised 5,212,797 members, divided as follows:—

	Men	Women	Percentage
"Free" trade unions (<i>Allgemeiner Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund</i>)	4,182,511	720,825	69·9
Christian unions (<i>Gesamtverband der christlichen Gewerkschaften Deutschlands</i>)	582,319	148,736	15·1
Liberal (<i>Hirsch-Dunker</i>) unions (<i>Verband der deutschen Gewerkschaften</i>)	157,571	12,061	7·2
Miscellaneous			7·8

No regular figures are available for the "anarchic-syndicalist" and Communist unions. At the Fifteenth Congress of the Anarchic-Syndicalist Union (*Freie Arbeiter-Union Deutschlands*), which was held from 10th to 13th April 1925, the number of members was calculated at 21,000.

Among the unions having communist leanings may be mentioned the Union of Workers in the Clothing Trade (5,000 members), the Union of Building Workers (20,000 members), the Union of Workers in the Printing and Allied Trades (1,000 members) and the Union of Ships' Carpenters (486 members). These four unions have formed a Federation of Independent Revolutionary Unions (*Reichskonferenz der selbständigen revolutionären Verbände*). In addition to this Federation, there are, in this group the Industrial Union (formerly the Union of Manual and Intellectual Workers) with 16,100 members, and a Union of Transport Workers which has 63,586 members.

The chief association of non-partisan workers is the Federation of German Workers, which has 187,720 members.

There are also one or two sectarian associations, such as the Association of Catholic Domestic Servants (Munich, 6,589 members), the Association of Catholic Women Workers and Domestic Servants (Berlin, 18,000 members) and the Nurses' Association (23,389 members). (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, February 14, 1927.)

Trade Union Membership in Switzerland

The *Revue Syndicale Suisse*, the organ of the Swiss Federation of Trade Unions, gave in its number of December 1926 a statistical survey of the present proportion of trade unionists in Switzerland to the total number of workers in the country who could be organised, as ascertained by an enquiry made in 1919.

The following table shows the general result of the comparison.

Industry	Possible trade unionists (1919 figures)	Trade unionists	
		Number	Percentage
Food and drink trades, tobacco, etc. . .	42,931	5,790	13.49
Clothing and leather industries	54,397	2,688	4.94
Wood and building trades	112,320	17,468	15.55
Textile industry and chemical industry	119,736	11,520	9.62
Printing and allied trades	16,224	6,713	41.38
Metal work and clock-making	154,940	43,993	28.39
Public administration, etc.	43,931	8,330	18.96
Transport and communication	80,757	46,105	57.09
Miscellaneous	7,992	1,081	23.33
Total . .	633,228	143,688	22.69

(From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, February 14, 1927.)

Apprenticeship in China

Most Peking factories employ apprentices who learn their trade in three or more years. They are all young boys who have no chance to go to school, but have to be satisfied with the "rule of thumb" training that these factories offer.

To give them some school education, the Boys' Department of the Peking Y. M. C. A. is holding classes in two rug factories, Yenching and Lin Chu.

These classes are for three years. The apprentices are taught reading, writing and arithmetic in the first year; simple letter writing, geography, drawing and more arithmetic in the second; and book-keeping and sociology in the third, when geography, arithmetic and drawing lessons are also continued. The aim is to fit apprentices to be better workmen. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, March 7, 1927.)

Cost of Living in Italy

GOVERNMENT ACTION

The Italian Government, having considered the proposals submitted by the Superior National Economic Council for bringing about a reduction in the cost of living, has decided to take the following measures:

(1) All persons engaged or intending to engage in trading are to be required to obtain a special licence from the municipal authority, and to deposit a security of between 500 and 5,000 *lire* according to the volume of trade done;

(2) The issue of the licence is to be dependent on the advice of a committee composed of the *podestat* (the chief municipal official, appointed by the Government), two representatives of the traders' associations and two representatives of the workers' associations. The licence may be withheld if the applicant does not furnish adequate guarantees as to character and financial standing or if the committee is of opinion that the number of shops engaged in the branch of trade in question is in excess of public requirements;

(3) The municipal authorities are to be empowered, at their discretion and by agreement with the provincial economic councils and the associations concerned, to fix the retail prices of the principal foodstuffs. Traders dealing in foodstuffs are to be required to post in their shop-windows both the wholesale and the retail prices, even when the retail prices have been fixed by the municipal authority.

(4) In the event of refusal to grant a licence, the trader concerned may appeal to the provincial administration control committee (*Giunta provinciale amministrativa*). A licence may be revoked on various grounds; for example, if the trader conceals or destroys goods, or sells at prices higher than those fixed by the municipal authority or at prices which are excessive in the opinion of the committee, or if he is found guilty three times in succession of an offence against the provisions in force against fraudulent trading, selling under weight, and adulteration of food, etc.

The above measures were promulgated by a Legislative Decree dated 16th December 1926 and a Ministerial Decree dated 31st December 1926.

The Minister of National Economy has given supplementary instructions, to prefects by two circulars, in which he explains among other things, that these Decrees are intended to be of general application; chemists, hotel-keepers who conduct restaurant business, restaurant-keepers, opticians, watchmakers, goldsmiths, photographers, dealers in electrical and hydraulic appliances, tailors, etc., are subject to their provisions, in so far as they do not confine themselves to the exercise of a craft but engage in the sale of goods. Similarly, hairdressers are subject to these provisions, in so far as they sell articles of toilet. Persons engaged only in production, and wholesale dealers who do not sell direct to the public, are exempt.

A trader must apply for as many licences and deposit as many securities as he has shops. The amount of the security is to be fixed according to the amount of income-tax payable but there will be no exemption from the obligation to deposit the security when the income of the trader concerned is below the income-tax exemption limit.

The Decrees do not apply to holders of concessions for dealing in goods which are the subject of a public monopoly, to dealers in cinematographic requisites, or to exporters and importers who have no retail shops. They do apply, however, to co-operative retail establishments and kindred undertakings, and to landowners and farmers who sell their agricultural produce in shops open to the public.

The Cabinet gave further consideration to the question of the cost of living at its meeting on 9th February 1927.

It was observed that, while the index number for wholesale prices had fallen by 90 points since last September, only a very slight drop was noticeable in retail prices.

The Ministers of National Economy, Corporations, and the Interior were requested to re-examine the position, and authority was given to the Ministers of Finance and National Economy to take all necessary steps for the enforcement of the Decree of 16th December 1926, with a view to remedying this situation. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, February 21, 1927.)

Handbook of American Trade Unions

A "Handbook of American Trade Unions" has been published lately by the Bureau of Labour Statistics, United States Department of Labour, containing lists of all the important labour organizations functioning in June, 1926, with details on the following subjects: the relation of the organization to the American Federation of Labour; a brief account of its origin and history; jurisdiction, both trade and territorial; form of government; qualifications for membership; apprentice system (as intended by the organization and provided for in its constitution); method of negotiating agreements; benefits paid; official organ; location of headquarters; extent of organization; and total membership.

One hundred and fifty-six organizations are included in the handbook. Of these 107 are affiliated to the American Federation of Labour. Many of those outside the Federation have never been identified with it, among them being most of the railroad organizations, including the "Big four" brotherhoods, and practically all of the organizations in the United States Post Office. The purely craft or industrial organizations outside the American Federation of Labour have been formed chiefly as the result of secession from the American Federation of Labour unions, and are sometimes described as "duel" or "outlaw" unions. They are found principally in the clothing, textile, and shoe industries.

The total membership of the international organizations affiliated to the American Federation of Labour, as shown in their reports to the Bureau of Labour Statistics, is 3,333,597. This, together with 50,400 additional in directly affiliated local unions, gives the American Federation of Labour a total membership of 3,383,997. Membership of organizations outside the Federation, including the Industrial Workers of the World, is 1,059,526. (From "Labour Gazette," Canada, February 1927.)

The Elimination of Unnecessary Fatigue in Industry

The International Association for the Study and Improvement of Human Relations and Conditions in Industry (Secretariat Headquarters Goethestrasse 10, Zurich) has organized a Summer School on the "Elimination of Unnecessary Fatigue in Industry" to take place this year at the Italian Lakes (Baveno, Hotel Bellevue) from June 19th—25th.

The Summer School has been arranged in conjunction with the yearly Meeting of the Council and is thrown open to all Members of the Association.

The interest and value of this gathering may be estimated from the fact that the Association at present includes members from 22 different countries, membership being open to the following groups connected with industry: Directors, Engineers, Personnel (Welfare) Workers, Managers, Forepeople, General Employees, Trade Union Officials, Factory Inspectors, Members of Industrial Boards and Councils, Industrial Research Workers, Educationalists, and Industrial Social Workers generally.

The distinguishing feature of the Association from all other international industrial bodies of a progressive nature being the inclusion of all sections of the industrial community in individual and voluntary membership, the Association is particularly free to enter into the field of industrial research of which the subject for study at the forthcoming Summer School furnishes an example.

The programme of lectures indicates an illuminating treatment of this important subject, as may be seen from the following selection of titles: "Work and Temperament," "Work and Self-expression," "Different Industries and Different Fatigues," "The Length of the Working Day and Rest Periods," "Consideration of the Influence of Indirect Causes of Fatigue arising from the whole Twenty-four Hour Situation," "The Elimination of Eye-Fatigue," "The Elimination of Ear-Fatigue," "The Influence of Posture on the Elimination of Fatigue," "The Elimination of Fatigue caused by Extremes of Temperature, Dust, Damp, Vibration, etc."

The Chairman of the School is Mrs. Lillian M. Gilbreth, Ph.D., Consulting Engineer, Montclair N. J., United States of America, wife and collaborator of the late Frank B. Gilbreth, distinguished in the whole field of industrial management, particularly on the subject of motion study and fatigue. Miss M. L. Fledderus, Consultant on Industrial Relations, Honorary Secretary of the Association, is acting as Secretary of the School, and Dr. A. Correggiari, Organisateur d'Oeuvres Sociales, Milan, is acting as Host.

Among the lecturers are Professor T. H. Pear, M.A., B.Sc., Professor of Psychology, University of Manchester; Dr. L. Carozzi, Chief of Industrial Health Service, International Labour Office, Geneva; Dr. Phil. Otto Lipmann, Direktor des Instituts für angewandte Psychologie in Berlin; Comm. Prof. G. Loriga, Medecin en chef du Service d'inspection des Usines, Rome.

The languages used will be English, French and German.

The formal part of the programme has been confined to the mornings, the rest of the day being left free for the organization of discussion circles, where desired, and for the many beautiful excursions available from the meeting place. Visits to factories are also included in the programme, both during the time of the School and in the days immediately following.

"Educated Idlers" in Japan

The scarcity of employment for intellectual workers seems to be attracting widespread attention in Japan.

According to statements in the press, 20 per cent. of the graduates of higher technical schools, technical colleges and universities failed to find work of any kind in 1922; 24 per cent. in 1923; 25 per cent. in 1924; 26 per cent. in 1925; and, so far as can be estimated, a still higher percentage in 1926. This increase in what the newspapers call "educated idlers" constitutes a serious problem.

The Social Affairs Department of the City of Tokyo, which investigated the state of employment among the educated classes last Summer, obtained the following results :—

Graduates of	Total covered by enquiry	Demands registered	Employment found
Secondary technical schools	4,870	2,715	3,029
Technical colleges	5,583	3,660	3,610
Universities ..	3,638	1,220	2,233
Total ..	14,091	7,595	8,872

Most of the graduates found employment in offices (including government and municipal departments), banks and the teaching profession.

The initial monthly salaries received ranged from 34 or 35 yen to 50 yen for graduates of secondary technical schools, and from 40 to 56 yen for graduates of technical colleges, while university graduates received starting salaries varying between 50 and 60 yen per month.

Graduates of medical colleges started at 100 yen, or even 160 yen ; graduates of science courses in universities, between 75 and 120 yen ; those of economics and commercial courses, 60 to 100 yen ; those of arts and literature, 70 to 97 yen ; those of the agricultural college, 60 to 86 yen ; and those of the law college, 65 to 80 yen . (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, February 14, 1927.)

Unemployment of Teachers

With widespread unemployment among manual workers, Great Britain is suffering also from unemployment in certain branches of non-manual work. At the annual conference of the London Teachers' Association, held in London on 12th February 1927 the question of unemployment of teachers was discussed.

It was stated that last year there were 29,000 applications for 5,000 vacancies in the training colleges. There being no means of limiting the number of candidates, the competition was naturally feverish, and the spectacle of highly trained men and women seeking employment is not of a nature to add to the dignity and prestige of the profession.

The declining birth-rate, it was added, seemed likely to be a permanent factor in regulating the demand of teachers. At the present moment there are 300,000 fewer children in the elementary schools than there were five years ago. In 1925 there were 1,822,000 children in the schools between 11 and 14 years of age. It was estimated that the number of 1930 would be only 1,431,000.

The number of teachers unsuccessful in securing employment on leaving college is increasing, and the supply has quite definitely overtaken the demand. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, March 14, 1927.)

Workmen's Compensation

We give below an interesting judgment delivered in the High Court in an appeal from an order made by the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, Bombay. The facts of the case are given in their Lordships' judgment.

Appeal No. 162 of 1926 from Original Decree.

The Ahmedabad Cotton Spinning and Manufacturing Company, Ltd. (Original Opposite party). *Appellant*.

Bai Budhian Rajaram, widow of deceased workman Kalicharan Nanu (Original Applicant). *Respondent*.

Appeal against the order of N. M. Patvardhan, Esquire, Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, Bombay, in an Application No. 22—B-5 of 1926.

Mr. H. V. Divatia for the appellant.

Counsel : Mr. Ambedkar with Mr. B. G. Modak for the respondent.

17th December 1926.

(Coram :—Patkar and Baker, JJ.)

Judgment (per Patkar, J.).—In this case one Kalicharan Nanu was employed as a jobber in the Ahmedabad Cotton Spinning and Manufacturing Company, Limited, and died on the 30th November 1925 as a result of an accident while employed in the Weaving Department.

Some time before the date of the accident the Mill authorities had commenced the work of replacing the corrugated iron sheets on the roof of the Weaving Department by wooden planks and in order to protect the cloth that was being manufactured from the dust that would fall from the roof, a temporary hessian cover was put over that portion of the weaving shed when the work of replacing was actually being done. Two theories were advanced before the lower Court as how the accident happened. One was that while the jobber was putting the belt on the pulley a piece of the hessian cloth got entangled in the belt and in trying to remove that piece the deceased himself got entangled. And the other theory was that he went to cut a portion of the hessian cover in order to admit more light and the accident happened. The Commissioner has accepted the latter theory, and in his judgment he says :—

"The jobber in question having discovered want of light tried to remove it or cut it so as to let light in. This work was really simple not involving any danger. Unfortunately, however, a portion of the cover got entangled in the belt (as the weaver says) and in trying to remove it the poor man was killed. A jobber in the weaving department is there to supervise the weavers and to help them in carrying on their work and to remove impediments in their way. I do not at all see how it could be said that if he tried to get more light for the weavers by cutting or removing the cover he was doing some thing which he was not employed to do."

Under proviso to section 30 of the Workmen's Compensation Act VIII of 1923, we have to take the finding of the lower Court as correct, and to see whether there is any substantial question of law involved in the case.

It is argued on behalf of the appellant that the injury which was caused to the workman in this case did not arise out of and in the course of his employment within the meaning of section 3 of the Workmen's Compensation Act. It is urged that the work of removing the hessian cloth belonged to the engineering department and not to the weaving department, and if the workman meddled with the work which was entrusted to the engineering department, the injury which was caused to the workman while removing the hessian cloth did not arise out of and in the course of his employment. If the words were strictly construed, it might be said that the removal of the hessian cloth did not arise out of and in the course of his employment, for that was the work entrusted to the engineering department. But if the Act was liberally construed, the injury caused to the workman can be said to have arisen out of and in the course of his employment.

In Willis's Workmen's Compensation, page 40, it is stated :—

"An act, though strictly not one which the workman is required by his employment to perform, may still be regarded as within the sphere of his employment if it is a reasonable or necessary thing to do under all the circumstances, unless it has been expressly or impliedly excluded from his employment, or is such as to constitute an added peril."

According to the evidence the removal of the hessian cloth was not attended by any peril. Erackshaw Kaikuboo Dastur says in his evidence:—

"Beyond telling the carpenters under me that to protect the cloth which was being manufactured on the looms from the dust falling they should put hessian covers, I did not give any orders. No necessity of detailed orders was seen by me as that work of putting and removing the covers was done at a time when the Mill was not working. The work was so simple that I did not think it necessary to entrust it to a particular man so that he may be held responsible for it."

In Ruegg's Workmen's Compensation, page 115, it is said :—

"If a workman is injured whilst doing his work which although not strictly the work required of him by the terms of his contract, is yet such as a reasonable employer had he been present would reasonably be expected to acquiesce in the workman performing in the special circumstances (although strictly not an emergency) and if such work is for the employer's benefit, and such as the workman is competent to perform, then the workman in such a case is not outside the scope or sphere of his employment and is within the protection of the Act."

In this case we have to consider whether the action of the workman was reasonable, necessary and incidental to the work which was entrusted to him. Some liberty must be left to the workman in order to perform his work efficiently. He was a jobber and was paid by piece-work, and it was both his interest and duty to see that the work was done efficiently, and if want of light interfered with the efficiency of the work and the production of the cloth, it was his duty, if there was any impediment in the way, to remove it. If he thought that the existence of the hessian cloth interfered with the necessary light, it follows that the removal of the cloth was reasonable, necessary and incidental to the work entrusted to him. And the learned Commissioner has found that the jobber in the weaving department had to supervise the weavers and to help them in carrying on

work and to remove the impediments in their way. We think that the act of the workman in removing the hessian cloth in order to admit more light was incidental to his work and was done in the performance of his duty, and arose out of and in the course of his employment.

In Butterworth's Workmen's Compensation Cases, volume VIII, page 56, the Court accepted the view of the County Court Judge who said :—

"I find it was done in order to get over a difficulty which he encountered in carrying out the work which he was employed to do, viz., the driving of the motor-van, and that what he did was required to be done, and was honestly done in furtherance of the object which he was instructed to effect and I hold that, in doing it, he was not acting outside the sphere of his employment."

We think that in this case the act of the workman in removing the hessian cloth was done for the purpose of removing the impediment in the way of the work with which he was entrusted, and that the injury which was caused to the workman arose out of and in the course of his employment.

We, therefore, confirm the decree of the lower Court and dismiss this appeal with costs.

* * * * *

We give below two judgments by the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation in cases which came before him.

TRAVELLING WITH RAILWAY PASS

LIABILITY OF EMPLOYER

(1) Bhika Mavji. Father, residing at Kurla .. Petitioner.

versus

Agent, G. I. P. Railway, Bombay .. Opposite party.

Claim—Rs. 750

The Petitioner prays for an order against the opposite party to deposit compensation on account of the death of one Mavji Bhika on the 22nd of July 1926.

The said Mavji was a gangman under the permanent way inspector, Byculla, and his sphere of duty was the section between Victoria Terminus to Mile No. 7 of the permanent way. He used to live at Kurla and as is the practice of the Railway Company a weekly badge used to be given to him to enable him to travel between Kurla and Bombay to join his duty. No doubt, the badge was available between Bombay and Kalyan. But this is merely because the Railway do not issue out any special badge according to the needs of every individual but as they know that a number of their coolies are living along the suburban line they give them these badges irrespective of the place where they live. It is admitted that this man was not injured while he was working on the permanent way but as stated in the petition, in paragraph 2, while he was returning to Kurla by one of the electric trains of the Company, after the daily work was over at 5 p.m. he was injured and killed. The question to be decided therefore

is whether the accident arose out of and in the course of his employment I find on that question in the negative for the following reasons :—

First it has to be remembered that it was not during the course of employment that the accident took place but afterwards while he was returning home. It is however argued by the counsel for applicant relying on 18 B.W.C.C. 427, 18 B.W.C.C. 1 that it was the duty of the workman to travel by the Company's train while going to and returning from his work or at least if not his duty it was at least a matter of proved necessity for the workman to travel by the Company's train. They further argue that as the badge was for use between Victoria Terminus and Kalyan, the sphere of his employment extended between these two stations. As noted above it was only a matter of convenience that the badge was given to him. There was no contract express or implied between the Railway Company and the workman making it obligatory on the Company to provide the workman with the badge or on the workman to travel by the Company's train. If only because the Company afforded a certain facility to the workman it does not therefore render them liable. The case of *Hewitson v. St. Helen's Colliery Co.* 1924, A.C.59 is a clear authority on this point. I therefore dismiss the application. I make no order as to costs.

* * * * *

CAUSE OF DEATH

ACCIDENT OR NATURAL CAUSES?

Indra Kom Bapu Bhise minor by guardian Genu Tukaram
Dhone at Barsi Petitioner.

versus

The Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd., Sholapur .. . Opposite party.

Claim—Rs. 600

The Petitioner prays for an order against the opposite party to deposit compensation on account of the death of one Bapu Narayan on 2nd June 1926 in the course of his employment as a weaver with the opposite party.

The petitioner is the minor widow of the deceased and applies by her father as her natural guardian.

The defence of the opposite party is that the death was due to natural causes.

The question to decide is whether the death of the deceased was due to an accident arising out of his employment.

The opposite party in support of their case have cited Lieutenant-Colonel Gharpuray, I.M.S., Civil Surgeon, Sholapur. He produces a copy of the certificate that he gave to the police after the post mortem examination. According to Lieutenant-Colonel Gharpuray death was due to suffocation caused by regurgitation of food from the stomach into the trachea and bronchi of both the lungs.

The applicant contends that the death was due to the deceased having received an electric shock. The deceased was working on a loom worked by electric power and it is contended the electric current must have been taken in the vicinity where he was working and he happened to touch that place which was charged by the leakage. The electrician of the mill says that immediately after the falling down of the deceased he was sent for to find if there was any leakage and found there was none. The Government Electric Inspector, Sholapur, also inspected the installation and could trace no leakage.

As against this evidence the applicant relies on the testimony of two employees in that department. One has simply to read it to find that it does not help the applicant against the positive evidence cited above. I find therefore that death was due to natural causes as certified by the Civil Surgeon. The result is that the petition is dismissed. Taking the peculiar circumstances into consideration I make no order as to costs.

Conditions of Labour in the Carpet Industry in the Punjab

All the persons employed in the industry are Mahomedans. In Amritsar they are Kashmiris by caste, while in Multan they claim to belong to higher castes, such as Pathans, Khawajas and Chishtis. The Kashmiri weavers in Amritsar have now begun taking apprentices of other castes of Mahomedans such as Mochis, Rajputs, Sheikhs, Kakazai, Barwalas, Morasis, etc.

Wages of all workers, except the weaver, are fixed and are paid monthly. The dyer earns from Rs. 30 to Rs. 60 according to qualifications, and the designers and the *talimnavis* are about on the same scale. The weaver always works on contract. In Amritsar the manufacturer contracts for the weaving of the carpet with a master-weaver and the latter engages other hands, usually boys, to assist him in the work. A weaver may earn from Re. 1 to Rs. 2 per day according to the number of stitches he weaves.

The general condition of the factory labour is good. All the labour is local and most of the workers have got their own houses to live in. The weaver is by habit and tradition lazy, and in spite of the good wages he earns he has always to depend upon his employers for occasional advances to meet his needs; so much so that it has now become a custom with him to start work in a factory only after getting an advance. These advances are not very often returned by him since he can leave his work to find a ready job in another factory without much fear of molestation on the part of his former employer. Large balances from the employer thus remain outstanding towards these workmen and there is no suitable law enabling him to recover these. This is one of the great drawbacks in the way of the development of this industry on an extensive scale. No efforts have as yet succeeded to make the weaver realise his responsibility in the matter and little hope can be cherished for the future. (From "Indian Textile Journal," Bombay, March 1927.)

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in Foreign Countries

It is proposed to deal in this article with the recent movements of the official price index numbers for certain countries for which latest information is available. It must at the outset be pointed out that the index numbers are not strictly comparable owing to the employment of different base periods, selection and grouping of commodities and methods of construction and also because of the inclusion of varying numbers of "representative" items and localities, which show considerable differences in different countries. Nor is any attempt made here to "change" the basis uniformly to some prewar year owing to the obvious difficulties and inconsistencies in some of the methods* adopted for this purpose. The presentation of the figures is however intended to show only the relative movements of prices in various countries.

UNITED KINGDOM

The Board of Trade Wholesale Prices Index Number (which has for its basis average 1913 prices = 100) is a geometric mean of 150 monthly price quotations arranged in eight different groups as follows:—Cereals (17 items), meat and fish (17 items), other foods (19 items), iron and steel (24 items), other metals and minerals (20 items), cotton (16 items), other textiles (15 items), and miscellaneous (22 items). The following table compares the group index numbers for the different months in the year 1926:—

Index numbers of wholesale prices in the United Kingdom for the year 1926

(Average for 1913 = 100)

Groups	Average for 1925	January	February	March	April	May
Cereals	163.5	154.1	148.2	144.1	148.3	150.0
Meat and fish	161.7	164.9	156.3	150.5	148.8	157.1
Other foods	173.2	166.9	170.1	156.0	157.3	166.1
Total food	166.5	162.1	158.5	150.5	151.7	158.0
Iron and steel	126.0	118.8	118.0	117.6	117.2	117.0
Other metals and minerals	133.3	131.0	130.7	129.5	129.5	128.8
Cotton	209.8	175.0	173.6	165.0	162.2	164.2
Other Textiles	186.4	176.4	172.1	167.8	162.1	160.0
Miscellaneous	157.4	153.0	148.9	146.8	144.2	140.3
Total non-food	154.9	145.6	143.6	141.0	139.0	138.0
All articles	159.1	151.3	148.8	144.4	143.6	144.9

* The method most commonly used for reducing index numbers to a uniform basis is to take the pre-war index as equal to 100 and then to transform the original series into new series having the fixed pre-war year as base. This method is obviously not quite correct in cases where arithmetical averages are used in the construction of indexes.

Index numbers of wholesale prices in the United Kingdom for the year 1926—contd.

(Average for 1913 = 100)

Groups	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Cereals	149.7	150.8	152.1	148.3	151.9	156.1	
Meat and fish	154.1	151.5	153.3	151.5	154.8	152.7	
Other foods	161.4	157.9	156.4	157.9	162.8	160.6	
Total food	155.2	153.4	154.0	152.8	156.8	156.7	155.0
Iron and steel	119.8	124.5	125.0	126.5	132.0	134.5	
Other metals and minerals	144.5	159.6	160.7	171.2	176.0	185.1	
Cotton	161.1	158.3	159.5	162.9	147.2	140.6	
Other Textiles	157.6	157.4	154.5	156.3	155.7	152.9	
Miscellaneous	140.9	143.3	144.4	144.8	144.7	144.4	
Total non-food	141.5	145.8	146.2	149.6	149.3	150.0	141.2
All articles	146.4	148.7	149.1	150.9	152.1	152.4	146.1

During 1926, the Board of Trade index number declined from 151.3 in January to 143.6 in April and afterwards rose steadily to 152.4 in November 1926, recording a decrease of 6.3 points in December. The food index varied between 162.1 in January and 150.5 in March and stood at 155.0 in December. The non-food index moved more or less in conformity with the general average reaching its lowest level (138) in May and its maximum (150) in November. The food, non-food and general index numbers for 1925 were 166.5, 154.9 and 159.1 respectively.

FRANCE

The wholesale prices index numbers are compiled by the Statistique Generale de la France (Paris) and relate to the end of the month prices of 45 commodities (20 food-stuffs and 25 industrial raw and manufactured materials). The 20 food-stuffs are divided into three sub-groups, viz., vegetable products (8 items), animal products (8 items) and sugar, coffee and cocoa (4 items), whilst the industrial materials comprise minerals and metals (7 items), textiles (6 items) and miscellaneous (12 items). The base periods are 1901-1910 = 100 and also July 1914 = 100. Group index numbers on base July 1914 are set out in the following table:—

Index numbers of wholesale prices in France for the year 1926

(July 1914 = 100)

Groups of Commodities	Average for 1925	January	February	March	April	May
Vegetable products	496	538	534	539	583	637
Animal products	476	511	515	516	514	525
Sugar, coffee, and cocoa	482	562	582	580	624	673
Food-stuffs (general)	479	531	535	537	561	597
Minerals and metals	571	698	719	718	726	757
Textiles	763	887	872	862	876	933
Miscellaneous	594	695	693	680	696	971
Industrial materials (general)	634	748	749	740	753	794
General Index (all goods)	561	647	649	645	664	702

Index numbers of wholesale prices in France for the year 1926—contd.
(July 1914 = 100)

Groups of Commodities	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Vegetable products	731	788	745	801	790	687	603
Animal products	533	552	544	554	568	570	550
Sugar, coffee and cacao	717	861	804	846	773	714	697
Food-stuffs (general)	646	703	672	706	695	643	597
Minerals and metals	837	1,025	919	941	855	788	726
Textiles	971	1,147	940	939	823	706	626
Miscellaneous	781	863	831	827	822	747	680
Industrial materials (general)	848	985	885	889	831	747	678
General Index (all goods)	754	854	785	804	768	698	640

The wholesale prices index number was 647 in January, 664 in April, 854 in July, 768 in October and 640 in December 1926 as compared with the annual average of 561 for 1925. The all foods index showed a continuous rise from 531 in January to 703 in July reaching its maximum (706) in September and then dropped to 597 in December. In the case of industrial materials, the index was highest (985) in July and lowest (678) in December.

BELGIUM

The index numbers are computed by the Ministry of Industry and Labour (Ministere de L'Industrie du Travail, Bruxelles) and published monthly in the "Revue du Travail." One hundred and twenty-eight articles are included and arranged in 17 groups. The prices collected relate to the second half of the month. The base period is April 1914 = 100. The group and general index numbers are arrived at by taking the geometric mean of the price relatives. The system of weighting is indirect. The following table gives the index numbers by groups for the year 1926:—

Index numbers of wholesale prices in Belgium for the year 1926
(April 1914 = 100)

Groups of Commodities	Average for 1925	January	February	March	April	May
Foodstuffs	591	580	570	585	638	736
Fuel	510	505	526	528	536	596
Coal tar and derivatives	593	707	759	1,024	1,071	1,147
Metallurgical products	514	515	511	530	561	659
Petroleum	591	607	605	667	722	857
Pottery	600	603	616	621	617	640
Glass	450	457	457	457	457	501
Chemicals	451	470	469	472	517	579
Chemical fertilisers	444	476	467	495	523	566
Fats	567	566	561	619	700	800
Textiles	773	719	706	752	817	892
Building materials	494	498	496	504	518	545
Resinous products	828	1,006	982	1,030	1,063	1,330
Skins and Leather	424	425	418	435	482	526

Index numbers of wholesale prices in Belgium for the year 1926—contd.
(April 1914 = 100)

Groups of Commodities	Average for 1925	January	February	March	April	May
Tobacco	472	455	455	455	455	545
Paper	671	707	707	846	934	994
Rubber (Raw)	414	428	349	415	358	395
General Index (all goods)	558	560	556	583	621	692

Groups of Commodities	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Foodstuffs	826	953	822	881	918	933	945
Fuel	716	837	899	1,007	1,142	1,294	1,238
Coal tar and derivatives	1,319	1,713	1,626	2,028	2,287	2,402	2,102
Metallurgical products	714	840	859	887	885	900	893
Petroleum	1,048	1,234	1,180	1,194	1,174	1,162	1,168
Pottery	686	778	794	788	783	791	790
Glass	501	501	501	501	501	501	501
Chemicals	615	715	678	703	702	700	705
Chemical fertilisers	643	713	681	681	682	682	682
Fats	956	1,098	977	989	976	935	916
Textiles	973	1,080	1,112	993	914	922	916
Building materials	579	638	636	640	645	662	664
Resinous products	1,388	1,681	1,557	1,516	1,400	1,422	1,482
Skins and Leather	561	680	668	677	699	695	686
Tobacco	682	773	773	773	773	773	773
Paper	994	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,252
Rubber (Raw)	397	467	401	421	413	394	353
General Index (all goods)	761	876	836	859	856	865	860

The general level of wholesale prices in Belgium showed a steady rise from 560 in January to 876 in July and thereafter fluctuated somewhat being 860 in December. The movements of the food-stuffs index were also similar, standing as it did at 580 in January, 953 in July and 945 in December. The index number for fuel advanced from 505 in January to 1294 in November and was 1238 in December. Most of the groups showed a tendency to rise till July and thereafter fluctuated within narrow limits.

POLAND

The index number is compiled by the Central Statistical Bureau (L'Office Central de Statistique), Warsaw, and published in Wiadomosci Statystyczne. The 57 items included in the index are classified in 8 groups, viz. (1) cereals and vegetable foods (2) animal foods (3) groceries and sugar (4) hides and leather (5) raw materials for textiles (6) metals and coal (7) building materials and (8) chemicals and miscellaneous. The base period is 1914 = 100 and the prices collected are for the last week of the month. The general index numbers are shown in the following table:—

Index numbers of wholesale prices in Poland for the year 1926

(1914 = 100)

	December 1925	January	February	March	April	May
General Index	154.8	142.1	146.1	145.7	166.6	181.2

	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
General Index	174.6	166.6	173.2	177.2	177.2	178.6	176.9

The general index of wholesale prices which stood at 142.1 in January rose to 181.2 in May and then with slight fluctuations, went down to 176.9 in December.

NETHERLANDS

The index numbers of wholesale prices are published in *Maandschrift* issued by the Dutch Statistical Office (Central Bureau voor de Statistiek). The index covers 48 articles of which 28 are food articles and is constructed on the basis of prices in 1913 = 100. The index is the simple arithmetic average of the price relatives of different commodities included in it. The table below gives the index numbers for the food group and for all articles:—

Wholesale prices index numbers in the Netherlands for the year 1926

(1913 = 100)

	December 1925	January	February	March	April	May
Food Index	160	156	152	145	142	142
General Index	155	153	149	145	143	143

	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Food Index	145	139	134	135	142	150	150
General Index	144	141	139	140	143	147	147

The general index on base 1913 = 100 declined from 153 in January to 139 in August and then rose to 147 in November and December. The changes in the food index conformed to those of the general average.

GERMANY

The index numbers of wholesale prices are published in *Wirtschaft und Statistik* issued by the Federal Labour Office. The food-stuffs

and industrial materials included are divided into 7 groups, and potatoes; fats, sugar, meat and fish; provisions and hops; leather; textiles; metals and petroleum; and coal and iron. Separate index numbers are also published for German goods and for imported goods. The base is average for 1913 = 100. The index numbers refer to the averages for the month. The table below gives the index numbers for individual groups:—

Index numbers of wholesale prices in Germany for the year 1926

(1913 = 100)

Groups of Commodities	Average for 1925	January	February	March	April	May
Cereals and Potatoes	118.6	101.0	98.2	99.4	112.1	113.8
Fat, Sugar, Meat & Fish	138.5	133.6	133.8	134.3	132.2	132.8
Provisions and hops	179.1	185.2	182.9	179.7	179.6	178.6
Skins and leather	126.2	112.9	109.6	106.9	106.5	105.5
Textiles	195.1	176.3	172.4	165.1	158.4	153.3
Metals and Petroleum	131.2	127.8	127.0	126.6	124.1	124.0
Coal and Iron	121.6	119.8	119.9	119.8	117.4	117.4
Foodstuffs (general)	127.5	114.5	112.4	113.1	121.5	122.8
Industrial materials (general)	135.8	130.4	129.5	128.0	124.9	124.0
German goods	123.0	112.1	110.6	111.3	117.2	118.2
Imported goods	167.1	159.7	157.2	153.3	150.1	147.9
General Index (all goods)	130.4	120.0	118.4	118.3	122.7	123.2

Groups of Commodities	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Cereals and Potatoes	117.4	123.6	121.8	120.5	129.4	132.7	
Fat, Sugar, Meat & Fish	132.4	132.3	136.5	135.9	134.1	135.1	
Provisions and hops	176.7	175.6	174.1	174.8	178.1	176.9	
Skins and leather	105.7	106.3	112.7	116.0	114.4	114.4	
Textiles	151.9	147.9	142.4	144.5	136.9	133.4	
Metals and Petroleum	123.8	125.3	126.4	126.5	126.2	126.2	
Coal and Iron	117.4	118.5	118.5	119.7	119.7	119.9	
Foodstuffs (general)	125.0	129.2	128.9	127.9	133.9	136.3	135.0
Industrial materials (general)	123.7	124.0	123.5	124.7	123.3	122.9	123.2
German goods	120.1	123.8	123.6	123.1	127.6	129.6	
Imported goods	146.8	145.5	144.0	145.3	143.2	141.6	
General Index (all goods)	124.6	127.4	127.0	126.8	130.2	131.6	130.9

The index number of the Federal Statistical Office rose from 120.0 in January to 130.9 in December. The all-food index also increased from 114.5 in January to 135.0 in December, but the index number for industrial materials recorded a decrease from 130.4 to 123.2 during the same period. The index numbers for German goods and imported goods were 112.1 and 159.7 in January as against 129.6 and 141.6 respectively in November.

UNITED STATES

The wholesale prices index numbers are published in the Monthly Labor Review of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The 404 commodities included are arranged in 9 groups as under:—Farm products (57 items); foods (83 items); clothing materials (65 items); fuels (19 items); and metal products (37 items); building materials (48 items); chemicals and drugs (39 items); house furnishing goods (31 items) and miscellaneous (25 items). The weights used are based on the quantities marketed 1919 and the basis of the index is 1913 prices 100. Individual group index numbers for the various months of the year 1926 can be seen the following table:—

Index numbers of wholesale prices in the U. S. A. for the year 1926
(1913 = 100)

Groups	December 1925	January	February	March	April	May
Farm products	152.2	151.8	149.9	144.0	144.9	144.2
Foods	157.1	156.2	153.2	151.4	153.2	153.8
Clothing materials	187.1	185.5	183.9	180.5	176.8	176.1
Fuels	174.8	176.5	179.4	175.1	174.0	178.7
Metals and metal products	129.5	128.9	128.4	127.7	126.5	125.2
Building materials	177.0	177.9	177.1	175.5	173.2	171.6
Chemicals and drugs	134.5	133.2	132.3	131.6	130.3	130.7
House furnishing goods	165.9	164.9	163.9	163.9	163.4	162.2
Miscellaneous	138.2	135.3	132.9	128.3	126.5	124.7
All commodities	156.2	156.0	155.0	151.5	151.1	151.7

Groups	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Farm products	143.7	140.8	137.9	141.1	139.4	134.6	134.9
Foods	156.6	153.6	150.8	152.0	152.0	151.1	151.0
Clothing materials	175.1	173.3	174.7	175.2	171.5	169.9	168.6
Fuels	179.2	177.0	179.5	182.0	184.4	190.2	192.9
Metals and metal products	125.1	126.2	126.6	127.0	126.7	126.5	125.7
Building materials	171.2	171.5	171.8	172.4	172.1	174.0	172.7
Chemicals and drugs	131.1	130.9	130.8	130.8	129.3	128.5	128.2
House furnishing goods	161.7	161.1	160.8	160.4	160.3	159.9	159.4
Miscellaneous	122.5	122.5	121.8	120.4	118.6	117.7	117.8
All commodities	152.3	150.7	149.2	150.5	149.7	148.1	147.2

The Bureau of Labor Statistics index of wholesale prices decreased from 156 in January to 147.2 in December. The fall in the food index, though similar, was less pronounced. Farm products declined from 151.8 to 134.9 and clothing materials from 185.5 to 168.6 during the period. Fuels was the only group which registered a rise towards the close of the year.

CHINA (SHANGHAI)

The Ministry of Finance, Bureau of Markets publishes index numbers of wholesale prices in Shanghai in their monthly report on prices. The

147 commodities included in the index are arranged in five different groups:—foods (14 items), other food products (26 items), textiles (27 items), metals (11 items) and miscellaneous goods (69 items). The last group is again sub-divided into four groups, viz., fuels (12 items), building materials (14 items), industrial materials (21 items) and sundries (22 items). The prices used are in Shanghai taels as quoted on the 15th of each month and the basic period is February 1913 100. The following table shows the changes in the group index numbers in the year 1926.

Index numbers of wholesale prices in China (Shanghai) for the year 1926

(February 1913 = 100)

Groups	Average for 1925	January	February	March	April	May
Cereals	154.0	156.1	160.6	165.9	166.2	164.5
Other food products	154.9	158.6	163.5	162.2	162.6	155.6
Textiles	155.4	146.8	147.5	144.6	144.3	139.5
Metals	184.7	214.6	199.4	204.7	195.1	191.7
Miscellaneous—						
(i) Fuels	155.4	141.2	137.9	144.4	144.7	147.6
(ii) Building materials	141.0	144.8	149.8	144.9	148.2	152.4
(iii) Industrial materials	158.2	153.3	153.6	152.8	153.3	152.1
(iv) Sundries	137.9	135.6	134.9	137.2	137.6	136.5
All Miscellaneous	148.1	143.7	144.0	144.8	145.9	147.1
General Average	159.4	164.0	163.0	164.4	162.8	159.7

Groups	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Cereals	162.5	162.3	163.4	168.9	183.4	176.3	173.6
Other food products	165.9	162.4	165.8	166.4	171.7	179.6	177.8
Textiles	139.9	139.6	139.2	140.6	142.5	143.2	141.9
Metals	165.5	174.1	190.1	199.6	208.1	218.1	208.9
Miscellaneous—							
(i) Fuels	145.9	149.4	144.5	148.7	150.0	157.3	165.1
(ii) Building materials	150.3	151.2	148.8	151.8	153.5	159.2	163.0
(iii) Industrial materials	151.1	151.7	151.6	151.5	158.4	162.9	161.7
(iv) Sundries	133.5	131.3	130.3	130.7	136.7	139.2	141.3
All Miscellaneous	145.2	145.9	143.8	145.7	149.6	154.6	157.8
General Average	155.8	156.9	160.5	164.2	171.1	174.4	172.0

The wholesale prices index number in Shanghai showed a decrease from 164 in January to 155.8 in June and subsequently rose to 172.0 in December. The index number for cereals was lowest (156.1) in January and highest (183.4) in October. Other food products rose from 158.6 in January to 177.8 in December whilst textiles declined from 146.8 to 141.9 during the interval. Fuels and Building materials stood at 141.2 and 144.8 respectively in January, but were 165.1 and 163.0 in December.

The industrial materials advanced by 8.4 points to 161.7 during twelve months ended December 1926.

JAPAN

The index numbers of average monthly wholesale prices for Japan, those compiled by the Bank of Japan, Tokyo, and include 56 items, of which are food articles and 37 non-food articles, i.e., raw materials and manufactured goods. The prices are supplied by merchants and associations in Tokyo and Yokohama. The base taken is October 1900 = 100 and the index is a simple arithmetic average of the price relatives of individual commodities. The general index numbers for the year 1926 are given below:—

The Index numbers of wholesale prices in Japan for the year 1926

(Base: October 1900 = 100)

Month and Year	General Index
Average for 1925	266.7
January 1926	254.2
February ..	249.2
March ..	243.9
April ..	238.9
May ..	234.6
June ..	234.8
July ..	236.5
August ..	234.0
September ..	232.2
October ..	230.4
November ..	226.9
December ..	224.3

Taking October 1900 prices as equal to 100, the wholesale prices index number declined with some slight fluctuations from 254.2 in January to 224.3 in December 1926. The annual average for 1925 was 266.7, the average for 1913 being 132.3.

JAVA (BATAVIA)

The wholesale price indexes for Batavia are compiled by the Central Kantoor Voor De Statistiek, Weltevreden and consist of 72 import and 20 export articles. The import articles are sub-divided into five groups, viz., food stuffs (12 items), textiles (20 items), metals (12 items), chemicals (15 items), and miscellaneous (13 items). The number of articles in both the import and export groups has been revised (1913-1921=48 articles; 1922-24=68 articles) from time to time and the latest extensive series contains 92 articles. The basis of the index is average 1913 prices=100. The index numbers for the different groups are set out in the following table:—

Wholesale prices index numbers* in Batavia (Cairo) for the year 1926

(1913 = 100)

Groups	Average for 1925	January	February	March	April	May
Textiles	208	196	195	194	191	188
Foodstuffs	161	170	166	164	158	155
Metals	161	168	168	168	168	155
Chemicals	150	177	175	176	158	158
Miscellaneous	165	193	196	191	160	160
Import Articles	172	182	181	180	167	167
Export Articles	146	149	144	138	133	133
General Index	166	172	170	167	160	158

Groups	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Textiles	183	183	182	181	178	177	175
Foodstuffs	160	160	159	157	156	151	152
Metals	149	149	149	151	150	151	150
Chemicals	156	153	155	154	154	153	151
Miscellaneous	157	156	156	157	175	175	173
Import Articles	164	162	162	162	164	163	162
Export Articles	134	132	131	132	133	135	135
General Index	157	156	155	156	158	157	158

The wholesale prices index number for a series of 92 articles in Batavia stood at 160 in April, steadily declined to 155 in August and was 158 in October and 156 in December. The food index was 158 in April and May, 160 in June and July and then declined to 152 in December. Textiles also declined by 16 points to 175 during the nine months ended December.

EGYPT

The Statistical Department of Cairo publishes wholesale prices index numbers in the Monthly Agricultural and Economic Statistics. Twenty-six commodities are included in the index number and the base period is 1st January 1913 to 31st July 1914 = 100. Index numbers are worked out by taking the geometric mean of the percentages without reference to the importance of each article. The prices used are the averages for the month. The general index numbers for the different months in the year 1926 are as follows:—

Index numbers of wholesale prices in Egypt (Cairo) for the year 1926

(Base: average prices from 1st January 1913 to 31st July 1914 = 100)

	December 1925	January	February	March	April	May
General Index number	140	134	134	134	134	128

* The figures from January to March relate to 71 articles and the subsequent figures to 92 articles.

Index numbers of wholesale prices in Egypt (Cairo) for the year 1926—contd.

(Base : average prices from 1st January 1913 to 31st July 1914 = 100)

	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
General Index number...	129	129	129	129	129	130	130

The general index number which stood at 134 from January to March declined to 128 in May, was 129 from June to October and 130 in November and December.

SOUTH AFRICA

The quarterly index numbers are published by the Census and Statistics Office, Pretoria, in the Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics. The list of commodities comprises 187 articles divided in 11 groups, viz., metals (18 items), jute, leather, hides and skins (20 items), grains, meals, etc. (23 items), dairy produce (6 items), groceries (37 items), meat (5 items), building materials (28 items), chemicals (14 items), fuel and lighting (6 items), soft goods (17 items), and miscellaneous (13 items). Direct weighting by the aggregate expenditure method is used. Separate index numbers for South African goods and imported goods are also published. The base is 1910=1000. The various group indexes are shown in the following table—

Index numbers of wholesale prices in South Africa for the year 1926

(1910 = 1000)

Groups	Average for 1925	January	April	July	October
Metals	1,402	1,386	1,344	1,314	1,306
Jute, Leather, Hides and Skins.	1,947	1,951	1,881	1,739	1,672
Grains, metals, etc.	1,395	1,388	1,303	1,365	1,520
Dairy Produce	1,304	1,175	1,212	1,217	1,179
Groceries	1,364	1,300	1,293	1,281	1,288
Meat	1,394	1,235	1,194	1,200	1,300
Building Materials	1,299	1,281	1,282	1,278	1,279
Chemicals	936	911	925	953	968
Fuel and Light	1,229	1,265	1,254	1,256	1,243
Soft Goods	2,169	2,142	2,050	2,033	1,985
Miscellaneous	1,698	1,690	1,689	1,679	1,678
All Groups	1,436	1,397	1,355	1,368	1,423
South African Goods	1,309	1,257	1,210	1,240	1,333
Imported Goods	1,730	1,705	1,663	1,648	1,629

The all-groups index varied between 1355 in April and 1423 in October. Metals declined from 1386 in January to 1306 in October and jute, leather, etc., from 1951 to 1672. Grains, meals, etc., and meat were lowest in April and highest in October. Dairy produce, groceries and fuel and light showed slight fluctuations. South African goods and imported goods stood at 1257 and 1705 respectively in January and were 1333 and 1629 in October.

AUSTRALIA (MELBOURNE)

The Melbourne wholesale prices index numbers are based on 92 commodities arranged in 8 different groups as follows:—Metals and coal (14 items), jute, leather, etc. (10 items), agricultural produce, etc. (16 items), dairy produce (9 items), groceries (21 items), meat (5 items), building materials (10 items) and chemicals (7 items). The data are based mainly on reports of Melbourne market prices. In calculating the index number the method of direct weighting based on the aggregate expenditure on 92 commodities is used. The base period is 1911 = 1000. The following table shows the index numbers for the different groups for the year 1926 :—

Index numbers of wholesale prices in Australia for the year 1926

(1911 = 1000)

Groups	Average for 1925	January	February	March	April	May
Metals and coal	1,852	1,908	1,910	1,907	1,909	2,035
Jute, Leather, etc.	1,967	1,743	1,711	1,661	1,649	1,642
Agricultural produce, etc.	1,797	1,999	1,978	2,001	1,998	1,965
Dairy produce	1,636	1,693	1,782	1,862	2,000	1,968
Groceries	1,723	1,725	1,735	1,731	1,732	1,732
Meat	2,212	1,879	1,774	2,025	2,481	2,365
Building materials	1,711	1,663	1,634	1,622	1,617	1,611
Chemicals	1,790	1,784	1,784	1,784	1,776	1,776
All Groups	1,844	1,840	1,826	1,856	1,912	1,904

Groups	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Metals and coal	1,908	1,917	1,930	1,943	1,932	1,966	1,993
Jute, Leather, etc.	1,598	1,586	1,622	1,574	1,424	1,391	1,386
Agricultural produce, etc.	1,971	1,988	2,039	2,017	2,004	2,040	2,017
Dairy produce	1,927	1,822	1,747	1,687	1,627	1,605	1,690
Groceries	1,727	1,739	1,728	1,743	1,728	1,731	1,715
Meat	2,201	2,023	1,914	1,679	1,599	1,640	1,591
Building materials	1,638	1,705	1,761	1,691	1,692	1,670	1,670
Chemicals	1,828	1,843	1,843	1,843	1,843	1,843	1,843
All Groups	1,861	1,843	1,848	1,805	1,758	1,768	1,765

The Melbourne all groups index number rose from 1840 in January to a maximum of 1912 in April and then declined with some fluctuations to 1765 in December. Jute, leather, etc., registered a decrease, being 1743 in January and 1386 in December. Agricultural produce, etc., and groceries showed but slight fluctuations. Meat stood at 1879 in January, 2481 in April, 2023 in July and 1599 in October. In the case of the dairy produce, the maximum (2,000) was reached in April followed by a decline.

NEW ZEALAND

The index number is compiled by the Census and Statistics Office, Wellington, and published in the Monthly Abstract of Statistics. The base is the average annual aggregate expenditure of four chief centres during

1870-13 and is taken 1000. The prices used relate to the middle of the month. The index numbers for the individual groups can be seen from the following table:

Index numbers of wholesale prices in New Zealand for the year 1926

(Average annual expenditure for four chief centres, 1914-1915 = 1000)

Groups	Average for the year 1925	January	February	March	April	May
Foodstuffs, etc., of vegetable origin	1,714	1,780	1,775	1,730	1,739	1,719
Textile manufactures	2,182	2,135	2,134	2,133	2,144	2,144
Wood and wood products	2,145	2,101	2,087	2,088	2,094	2,094
Animal products	1,568	1,480	1,493	1,454	1,420	1,433
Metals and their products	1,175	1,150	1,145	1,144	1,139	1,135
Non-metallic minerals and their products	1,512	1,475	1,470	1,469	1,461	1,461
Chemicals and manures	1,296	1,245	1,243	1,224	1,231	1,221
All groups	1,697	1,677	1,676	1,656	1,650	1,641

Groups	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Foodstuffs, etc., of vegetable origin	1,727	1,731	1,766	1,739	1,715	1,710	1,757
Textile manufactures	2,100	2,091	2,052	2,055	2,026	2,075	2,075
Wood and wood products	2,089	2,087	2,085	2,085	2,090	2,079	1,991
Animal products	1,433	1,433	1,372	1,345	1,370	1,261	1,364
Metals and their products	1,123	1,125	1,100	1,106	1,109	1,111	1,110
Non-metallic minerals and their products	1,445	1,485	1,461	1,464	1,451	1,468	1,435
Chemicals and manures	1,198	1,225	1,225	1,231	1,226	1,218	1,195
All groups	1,636	1,644	1,628	1,618	1,611	1,597	1,615

The all groups index number of the Census and Statistics Office gradually declined from 1677 in the beginning to 1615 towards the close of the year. The index number for foodstuffs, etc., was 1780 in January, 1739 in April, 1731 in July, 1715 in October and 1757 in December; while the corresponding figures for the animal products were 1480, 1420, 1433, 1370 and 1364 respectively.

CANADA

The index number calculated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, on base 1913 = 100 comprises 236 commodities weighted according to their commercial importance. The sub-groups are classified according to (i) chief component materials (vegetable, animal, wood, iron, etc.), (ii) origin (farm, forest, mineral, marine, etc.) and (iii) purpose (food, clothing, producers' goods, etc.). Group index numbers according to the first classification are set out in the following table:—

Index numbers of wholesale prices in Canada for the year 1926

(Average prices in 1913 = 100)

Groups	December 1925	January	February	March	April	May
Vegetable products (grains, fruits, etc.)	139.8	142.7	140.6	140.7	140.6	140.7
Animals and their products	153.9	140.5	140.4	145.4	137.2	133.5
Fibres, textiles and textile products	187.3	188.7	187.9	182.6	182.9	174.0
Wood and wood products	179.9	159.7	159.8	156.8	156.9	151.4
Iron and its products	147.3	147.5	147.2	145.7	145.9	144.1
Non-ferrous metals and their products	106.0	106.8	106.0	105.7	104.4	103.5
Non-metallic minerals and their products	177.2	177.2	177.6	170.7	177.0	174.6
Chemicals and manures	158.8	157.6	157.2	157.2	158.8	157.2
All groups	163.5	163.8	162.2	160.1	160.6	157.0

Groups	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Vegetable products	139.8	175.8	160.6	160.9	160.8	162.3	150.5
Animals and their products	140.7	135.5	135.8	141.0	142.1	143.8	141.2
Fibres, textiles and textile products	182.9	173.0	172.0	169.4	156.5	155.8	155.3
Wood and wood products	155.5	155.5	156.0	155.1	155.5	155.5	155.7
Iron and its products	143.7	143.7	144.2	144.8	145.1	145.7	146.0
Non-ferrous metals and their products	104.1	104.6	101.2	101.2	98.1	97.7	96.7
Non-metallic minerals and their products	175.8	175.8	175.8	175.8	175.8	174.5	174.5
Chemicals and manures	157.9	159.0	157.9	157.7	154.7	157.0	157.0
All groups	155.7	156.2	153.9	152.5	151.1	151.5	150.5

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics wholesale prices index declined from 163.8 in January to 150.5 in December. Vegetable products declined from 183.9 to 158.5 during the period whilst animals and their products stood at 148.5 in January, 137.2 in April, 135.5 in July, 142.1 in October and 143.2 in December. The index number for Fibres, textiles and textile products averaged 188 in January, 172 in June, and 155.3 in December. Non-ferrous metals and their products stood at 105.9 in January, 104.1 in June and 96.7 in December. The fluctuations in the remaining groups were within narrow limits.

Cost of Living Index Numbers in various countries

A brief description of the scope and methods of construction of the group and general index numbers regarding cost of living in different countries is given below, from which it will be seen that neither the group nor the general index numbers for various countries are strictly comparable owing to differences in the number of items included, the methods of price collection and the methods of compilation especially in regard to weighting. The two principal methods of assigning weights to the various commodities included in a cost of living index are (a) the family budget method and (b) the aggregate expenditure method. The family budget method implies the collection of information regarding the quantities consumed and the expenditure incurred by a standard or theoretical family representative of the class or community for which the index is compiled. Thus the standard budget weights are based on the average actual consumption or expenditure by a number of families for a certain period; and the theoretical budget method is based partly on family budgets and partly on theoretical considerations. The aggregate expenditure method assumes the possibility of determining the importance of various commodities according to their uses as obtained by adding production and imports and deducting exports.

Owing to the difficulty of getting comparable price-data for the same or nearly the same varieties from month to month and also because of other obvious difficulties, it is not possible to include all the items entering into a family budget when either method is followed and therefore in most countries the best possible selection is made of the so-called "representative" items. The table at the end of the Gazette gives the cost of living index numbers for the different countries whilst the numbers of items included in each group are shown in the notes that follow.

Scope and Methods of construction of Cost of Living Index Numbers in various countries

UNITED KINGDOM

The cost of living index number compiled by the Ministry of Labour comprises 5 groups, viz., food (20 items), clothing (8 items), fuel and light (5 items), rent (1 item), and sundries (8 items). The index is based on July 1914 prices which are taken as 100. Prices are collected at the beginning of each month from representative retailers in about 630 localities for food articles and in 97 towns for clothing.

Both the group and general index numbers are arrived at by weighting the items according to their relative importance in the average expenditure of 1944 working class family budgets collected by the Board of Trade in 1904, the data being supplemented by those obtained in an enquiry into rents, retail prices, etc., in 1912.

The index numbers for food are calculated separately for large towns and also for smaller towns taken together.

IRELAND
The Department of Labour publishes monthly in the Labour Gazette the cost per week of 36 articles, viz., 25 items of food, 1 piece of fuel and light, laundry, starch and rent, weighted according to the requirements of a normal family of 5 persons with an income of £14 per week in 1913. The expenditure on the items included is estimated to represent about 65 per cent. of the total weekly requirements in 1913. The Irish index is worked out in terms of the averages of prices collected at the beginning of each month in about 60 cities on the basis of July 1914 prices = 100.

AUSTRALIA

The cost of living index which is quarterly is constructed by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics and contains two groups, viz., (i) food and groceries including 46 articles, 41 of which are items of food, 2 of lighting and 3 of laundry and (ii) house-rent. The items included represent about 60 per cent. of the total expenditure of a normal family. The index is weighted according to the quinquennial average expenditure in 30 towns during the period 1907-1910. The basis of the index is 1911 = 1,000.

NEW ZEALAND

The "all groups" index numbers are compiled twice a year (1 February and 1 August) by the Census and Statistics Office, Wellington, and are published in the Monthly Abstract of Statistics. The index includes three main groups, rent, fuel and light, clothing, drapery and footwear, and miscellaneous items and covers 86.55 per cent. of the household expenditure. The remaining 13.45 per cent. miscellaneous items are omitted for want of reliable information. The basis of the index is the weighted average of prices in July 1914 for 25 towns for food and rent and the average for 4 towns for the remaining groups = 1,000. The group weights are based on the average expenditure of household budgets collected by the Labour Department in 1910-11. The weights for individual items are those based on the average annual aggregate consumption or expenditure during the period 1909-1913.

ITALY

The Statistical Offices of the Chief Municipalities construct cost of living indexes for large towns. In the case of Milan the cost of food, fuel and light, clothing, rent and sundries is shown separately for manual and non-manual workers. The group and general index numbers are expressed as percentages of corresponding average costs for the first half of 1914.

BELGIUM

Five sets of cost of living index numbers—four for working classes and one for lower middle class—are compiled monthly by the Ministry of Industry, Labour and Social Welfare and published in *Revue du Travail*. Prices are collected in 59 different localities for food (33 items), fuel and light (7 items), clothing (25 items), furnished accommodation (14 items) and miscellaneous commodities (9 items). The working class series are for the four income groups, with intervals of 10 francs, of

fortnightly incomes of below 20 francs to 40 francs and over. The weights used are the average consumption quantities for families in the base period 1913-1914.

Another index—the retail prices index—is also published in the *Revue du Travail* and it includes 56 items, viz., 34 of food, 12 of clothing, 1 of fuel and light and 5 of miscellaneous commodities. The index is unweighted and the base period is April 1914.

NORWAY

The cost of living statistics compiled by the Central Statistical Office cover food, fuel and light, clothing, housing, taxation and miscellaneous items. Price-data are obtained in about 30 towns, monthly for food and fuel and quarterly for the other groups. The index numbers are calculated on the basis of July 1914 = 100. Weights based on the consumption quantities of a working class family of 5 persons with an annual income of about 1,500 kroner are used, these having been ascertained in 1912-13.

A second series for families of six persons with annual incomes of about 3,000 kroner is also published on the basis of 1914 consumption figures.

SWITZERLAND

The cost of living index constructed by the Federal Labour Office covers food (50 items), fuel and light (9 items) and clothing and linen (25 items). Price-data are obtained in 33 towns monthly for the first two groups and quarterly for clothing. Separate sets of index numbers are compiled for skilled and unskilled manual workers and also for non-manual workers, the weights being based on family consumption in 1920. The base period is June 1914 = 100.

SOUTH AFRICA

The Office of Census and Statistics publishes every month in the *Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics* a cost of living index for Europeans and coloured persons living in European style. The price-data are collected in 9 principal towns of the Union for food (20 items), fuel and light (3 items), rent and sundries (including clothing, boots, hardware, etc.). Two series of index numbers on bases 1910 and 1914 are published. The weights are based on the aggregate consumption of various commodities during the years 1917-19.

FRANCE

The cost of living index number for Paris is quarterly and is compiled by the French General Statistical Office. Items of food, rent, clothing, heating, lighting and sundries are included and the index is weighted according to the average annual consumption of a working class family of 4 persons. The base prices are the averages for the year 1914 which are taken as 100.

UNITED STATES

The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes every 6 months in the *Monthly Labor Review* a cost of living index which includes food (43 items), clothing (54 to 57 items), housing, furniture and furnishings (22 items), fuel and light (6 items) and miscellaneous articles (43 items). The

of "food" and "fuel and lighting" are secured from the Bureau of Census and for clothing, furniture and miscellaneous items from about 100 towns. The base of the index is 1913 = 100 and the weights are based on the consumption quantities for an average family in the year 1913.

FREE STATE

The cost of living index number compiled by the Department of Industry and Commerce, Dublin, covers food articles, boots and other clothing, soap and rent. The retail prices are collected in about 200 towns while the data for rent are secured from about 70 towns only. The index is quarterly and has for its basis July 1914 = 100. The weights used are based on the family budget enquiry conducted in 1922.

GERMANY

The Federal Statistical Office publishes in *Wirtschaft und Statistik* a cost of living index which includes food (17 items), heat and light (4 items), clothing (13 items) rent and sundries. The base period is 1913-14 = 100.

POLAND

The Central Statistical Office compiles a cost of living index for Warsaw which covers food, clothing, heating, lighting, rent and sundries. The weights are based on a theoretical budget of a working class family of 4 persons in Warsaw. The base period is 1914 = 100. The prices collected are for the end of the month.

JAVA

The cost of living index of the native peasant population of Java and Madura compiled by the Central Bureau of Statistics, Batavia, covers food (12 items) and fuel and lighting (2 items). The average aggregate expenditure for the period 1920-24 for all food-stuffs, kerosene oil and matches are utilised for fixing the different group weights. The base period is 1913 average = 100.

Another weighted index number relating to the cost of living of a European "normal" family in one of the towns of West Java is also published and it includes 24 food items, sunlight soap, toilet soap, gas petroleum and matches. The basis of this index also is the average for 1913 = 100.

UNITED KINGDOM

It will be seen from the tables on pages 771 and 773 at the end of the *Gazette* that during 1926, the cost of living index number for the United Kingdom (base: July 1914 = 100) declined from 175 in January to 167 in May and then rose steadily to 179 in December. The food group also showed more or less a similar movement, with this difference that the index number was 171 in January, 158 in May and June, and 169 in December. The index number for rent rose by 2 points to 150, but the clothing group decreased from 225 to 215-220 during the 12 months ended December 1926. Fuel and light was the only group which showed a marked increase from 180-185 in January to 250 in December. The following table gives the group index numbers during the year 1926:—

Index numbers of cost of living in Great Britain for the year 1926
July 1914 = 100

	January	February	March	April	May	June
Food	171	168	165	159	158	158
Rent (including rates)	148	148	148	148	149	149
Clothing	225	225	225	220-225	220-225	220-225
Fuel and Light	180-185	185	185	185	185	190
Other items included	180	180	180	180	180	180
All items	175	173	172	168	167	166

	July	August	September	October	November	December
Food	161	161	162	163	169	169
Rent (including rates)	150	150	150	150	150	150
Clothing	220	220	220	220	215-220	215-220
Fuel and Light	195	200	210-215	230	255	250
Other items included	180	180	180	180	180	180
All Items	170	170	172	174	179	179

CANADA

The weekly cost of a family budget of staple foods, fuel and lighting and rent in terms of the average retail prices in some sixty cities in Canada was \$21.96 in January, \$21.64 in April, \$21.30 in July, \$21.14 in October and \$21.41 in December. Of this, the cost on account of the 29 food items amounted to \$11.63, \$11.36, \$11.07, \$10.93 and \$11.18 for the respective months. The corresponding cost in July 1914 was \$14.17 for all articles and \$7.42 for food articles only. The following table shows the changes in the weekly budget during the year under review :—

Cost per week of a family budget of staple foods, fuel and lighting and rent in terms of the average retail prices in sixty cities in Canada for the year 1926

	January	February	March	April	May	June
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
All foods	11.63	11.50	11.46	11.36	11.29	11.06
Fuel and Lighting	3.43	3.47	3.41	3.39	3.36	3.34
Rent	6.86	6.86	6.86	6.86	6.85	6.87
Grand Total*	21.96	21.87	21.77	21.64	21.54	21.30

	July	August	September	October	November	December
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
All Foods	11.07	11.10	10.94	10.93	11.01	11.18
Fuel and Lighting	3.32	3.31	3.31	3.31	3.33	3.34
Rent	6.87	6.87	6.85	6.85	6.85	6.85
Grand Total*	21.30	21.32	21.15	21.14	21.24	21.41

* Includes the cost of Laundry starch also.

AUSTRALIA

In Australia, the retail food index on base July 1914 = 100 increased from 155 in January to 163 in April and May, declined to 153 in October and was 158 in December. The cost of living index on base 1911 = 1000 was 1748 for the first quarter, 1797 for the second, 1758 for the third and 1749 for the fourth, the corresponding figures for the first three quarters with the 1914 average equated to 100 being 156, 161 and 158 respectively.

NEW ZEALAND

In New Zealand, the Census and Statistics Office all-groups index number on base July 1914 = 1,000 showed very little change during the year being 1,624 in February and 1,633 in August 1926. The decreases in the "food" and "clothing" groups were offset somewhat by the increases in the Rent, Fuel and light and Miscellaneous groups. The changes in the different groups during the twelve months ended August 1926 can be seen from the following table :—

Index numbers of cost of living in New Zealand
July 1914 = 1,000

Group or Item	August 1925	February 1926	August 1926
Food	1,520	1,527	1,492
Rent	709	1,742	1,821
Fuel and Light	733	1,763	1,770
Clothing, Drapery and Footwear	646*	1,573	1,541
Miscellaneous	743*	1,688	1,747
All Groups	1,631	1,624	1,633

ITALY

The cost of living index number for Milan, Italy, declined from 665 in January to 642 in April and with some fluctuations reached 657 in December, the highest point (672) being touched in October. The food group also fluctuated between 681 in January and 630 in November. On the whole, both the food and the general index numbers were much higher as compared with the preceding years inspite of the above mentioned tendency towards decline.

BELGIUM

In Belgium, the steady rise in the retail prices index on base April 1914 = 100 continued during the year, the general index having increased from 527 in January to 741 in December. The lowest point (521) was, however, reached in March, followed by a rapid rise in the cost of living index. A similar tendency was also noticeable in the retail food index, which, with 1921 prices taken as 100, advanced from 142 in January to 208 in December the minimum being 138 for the month of March.

NORWAY

The cost of living index number in Norway on base July 1914 = 100 stood at 225 in March and at 218 both in June and in October 1926. The

* July figure.

retail food index, also having the same basis, declined from 216 in January to 184 in December.

SWITZERLAND

In Switzerland, both the retail food and cost of living index numbers did not show any very marked change during the last eight months of the year, these two sets of index numbers being more or less in the proximity of 159 and 161 respectively throughout the period.

SOUTH AFRICA

As in the case of Switzerland, both the retail food and the cost of living index numbers in South Africa on base 1914 100 were practically unchanged at about 118 and 131 respectively in the year under review.

FRANCE

According to the French General Statistical Office, the movement of the cost of living index continued upwards during 1926. Taking the average prices for the year 1914 as equal to 100, the general index increased from 451 in the first quarter to 545 in the fourth quarter. With the exception of rent which remained stationary at 250 since the second quarter and showed but a small rise when compared with the first quarter, all the other groups contributed to the rise in the general index. The retail food index having for its basis July 1914 prices 100 also soared very high and advanced from 480 in January to 628 in November, but was 599 in December. The following table shows the group index numbers for the four quarters in 1926—

Index numbers of cost of living in France for the year 1926
(1914 = 100)

Group	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter
Food	473	507	562	574
Heat and Light	447	452	541	577
Rent	220	250	250	250
Clothing	524	577	635	616
Sundries	495	520	620	620
All Groups	451	485	539	545

UNITED STATES

The Bureau of Labor Statistics cost of living index number on base 1913 average 100 was 174·8 in June and 175·6 in December, thus showing a slight rise in the interval. The change in the fuel and lighting group was noticeable, the index having increased from 180·7 in June to 188·3 in December. Food and miscellaneous items showed a slight rise whilst clothing, housing and furniture declined during the interval. The retail food index on base July 1914=100 fluctuated between 154 in July and 164 in November, the opening index for the year being 161. The index numbers for the different groups included in the cost of living index can be seen from the table below—

Index numbers of cost of living in the United States of America

(1913 = 100)

Group	January 1926	July 1926	December 1926
Food	165·5	159·7	161·8
Clothing	169·4	165·2	165·7
Housing	167·1	165·4	164·2
Furniture	166·8	160·7	160·5
Sundries	214·5	210·4	207·7
Miscellaneous	203·5	203·5	203·9
All Commodities	177·9	174·8	175·6

IRISH FREE STATE

The Irish Free State cost of living index numbers "being mainly dependent on food prices, usually show regular seasonal changes, decreasing from January to July and increasing from July to January."* The food index number in October 1926 was 10 points lower and the cost of living index one point higher as compared with October 1925 figures, though both the food and the cost of living indexes for the first three quarters were appreciably lower than the corresponding figures in 1925. The two sets of index numbers for the four quarters ended October 1926 and also for October 1925 are given in the table below:—

Index numbers of cost of living in the Irish Free State for the year 1926

(July 1914 = 100)

	October 1925	January	April	July	October
Food index	188	187	175	174	178
Cost of Living index	188	188	180	182	189

GERMANY

The cost of living index of the Federal Statistical Office in Germany showed a tendency to rise in 1926. The all-groups index rose from 139·8 in January to a maximum of 144·3 in December, the low point (138·3) being reached in March. Food, Clothing and Sundries were above the general average throughout. The table below shows the changes in the group index numbers during 1926:—

* From page 21 of the November 1926 issue (Vol. II No. 2) of the Irish Trade Journal.

APR. 1927

Index numbers of cost of living in Germany for the year 1926
(1913-14 = 100)

Item	January	February	March	April	May	June
Food	143.3	141.8	141.0	141.6	142.3	143.2
Heat and Light	142.5	142.7	142.7	141.7	140.4	140.3
Rent	91.1	91.4	91.4	97.4	98.6	99.9
Clothing	171.1	169.3	168.1	167.0	165.2	164.2
Sundries	189.1	188.8	189.0	188.8	188.0	187.5
All items	139.8	138.8	138.3	139.6	139.9	140.5

Item	July	August	September	October	November	December
Food	145.3	145.7	144.9	145.4	148.2	149.6
Heat and Light	141.1	141.3	142.8	143.5	144.0	144.3
Rent	104.4	104.9	104.9	104.9	104.9	104.9
Clothing	162.7	160.8	159.6	159.6	158.4	157.5
Sundries	186.8	186.3	185.9	185.1	184.7	184.7
All items	142.4	142.5	142.0	142.2	143.6	144.3

POLAND

The index number of the cost of living in Warsaw recorded a sharp rise during the year, the index being 170.0 in January and 196.0 in December. The food group also registered a marked increase from 191.1 in January to 247.0 in December. The following table shows the changes in the food and general index numbers :—

Index numbers of cost of living in Poland (Warsaw)
(1914 = 100)

—	January	February	March	April	May	June
Food Index ..	191.1	194.6	188.8	203.9	214.4	213.3
General Index	170.0	170.7	168.5	175.6	183.2	182.6

—	July	August	September	October	November	December
Food Index ..	207.0	213.2	227.1	231.6	243.8	247.0
General Index	177.2	181.0	187.6	190.4	195.0	196.9

JAVA

The cost of living index number for the native population of Java and Madura which opened the year with 194 declined during the first five months and after the turning point rose steadily to 171 towards the end

APR. 1927

LABOUR GAZETTE

The cost of living index number for a European normal family in Java and Madura showed a decrease from 164 in January to 158 in July with a slight recovery towards the end of the year, the index number being 162 in December. Both the food and the general index numbers are set out in the table below :—

Index numbers of cost of living of the native population of Java and Madura for the year 1926
(1913 = 100)

—	Average for 1925	January	February	March	April	May
Food Index ..	165	195	..	..	180	172
General Index	166	194	..	..	180	172

—	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Food Index ..	163	165	169	171	171	172	171
General Index	164	166	169	171	171	173	171

Index numbers of cost of living of a European normal family for the year 1926
(1913 = 100)

—	Average for 1925	January	February	March	April	May
Food Index ..	162	169	172	168	170	169
General Index	166	164	166	162	165	164

—	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Food Index ..	167	163	166	166	167	166	168
General Index	162	158	160	161	161	160	162

The new Japanese Act on the Conciliation of Labour Disputes

In the February 1927 issue of the *International Labour Review* there appears an interesting article on the above subject. The new Japanese Act on Conciliation has been discussed both historically and analytically and the subject has been treated exhaustively from the point of view of the whole Japanese Labour problem.

It is pointed out that with the introduction of machinery and the capitalistic organization of industry, the number of 'labour disputes' has also increased. The following table gives the number of strikes ('ca' canny' and others) during the years 1916 to 1925.

Year	Number	Workers involved
1916	108	8,413
1917	398	57,309
1918	417	66,457
1919	497	63,137
1920	282	36,371
1921	246	58,225
1922	250	41,503
1923	270	36,259
1924	333	54,526
1925	292	39,412

The aggregate number of days lost by the disputes was 1,173,177 in 1921 447,016 in 1922; 421,873 in 1923 and 638,363 in 1924. Only in 1925 did the number fall to 351,055.

The spread of disputes in Japan has not been confined to industry. For many years the question of agricultural tenancy had been growing more acute; the number of disputes on tenancy conditions in agricultural districts began to assume such serious dimensions towards 1920 that the Government appointed a commission to investigate the agricultural tenancy system. A bill was afterwards presented by the Government to the Extraordinary Session of the Diet in 1924. The Bill was adopted and the Conciliation of Tenancy Disputes Act came into force on 1st December 1924.

The idea of legislation on conciliation in industrial disputes was mooted by the Bureau of Social Affairs, even prior to the enactment of the Conciliation of Tenancy Disputes Act. The Bill was however adopted finally by the 1926 Session (Spring) of the Diet which became the Labour Disputes Conciliation Act and came into operation on 1st July 1926.

The enactment of the Conciliation law has been rendered particularly significant from the point of view of labour legislation in Japan by the repeal, at the date of the coming into force of the Conciliation Act, of all the parts of the Public Peace Police Act which had been alleged by critics to constitute obstacles to the exercise of the workers' right to strike. The repeal of the objectionable parts of the Police Act removes the cause of complaint as to the legal hindrances to strike action and the Conciliation Act places the worker on an equal footing with the employer in disputes.

And this "combined legislation" thus amounts virtually to the workers' rights in disputes.

The scope of the new Conciliation Act is defined in Section 1 which states that: "If a labour dispute occurs in any of the undertakings specified by the Act the administrative authority may set up a conciliation board in accordance with the request of any of the parties concerned. If a labour dispute occurs in an undertaking other than those specified in the Act, the administrative authority may set up a conciliation board at the request of both the parties concerned."

A "labour dispute" has been defined by the Bureau of Social Affairs as "a collective dispute concerning conditions of work between workers and their employer or employers." It was necessary to frame such a definition because the word "labour dispute" suggests immediately a strike or a lockout. But there are numerous disputes which do not result in either. Statistics show that in Japan a very large number of cases terminate without giving rise to a strike or a lockout. Such cases are even more numerous than actual strikes or lockouts, and yet, according to the definition of the Bureau of Social Affairs, if a dispute occurs the Act will apply to it equally even if neither strike nor lockout has actually begun.

The Act applies to collective and not to individual disputes. It also does not take cognizance of disputes arising from a difference of opinion on a political issue. A labour dispute within the meaning of the Act must be a dispute between workers and their own employers. A sympathetic strike will therefore not be considered a labour dispute within the meaning of the Act.

The conciliation board is set up specially for each separate case. In this respect it differs from the permanent boards often found in European countries. It also differs from many others in this that its findings are not binding upon the parties concerned. The parties in Japan are free either to accept or to reject the findings of the board which are not in the nature of a "decision" but amount merely to an "opinion," at least in form. The Board is to make enquiries and investigations necessary for the solution of a labour dispute in order to bring about conciliation. It is a public and not a private organ and is set up by the administrative authority for a specific purpose, in compliance with the Act. The setting up of a conciliation board under the Act is either compulsory or voluntary according to the nature of the undertaking in which the dispute occurs. Roughly speaking, the establishment of a conciliation board is compulsory if the dispute is in an undertaking which affects the public welfare; otherwise it is voluntary.

The board consists of nine members. The parties to the dispute choose six members, each party selecting three, and these six members then select three other members from among persons who have no direct connection with the dispute. Membership of the board has to be confirmed by the administrative authority by formal "appointment."

The method of selection of the members is laid down in Section 4 of the Act. When the administrative authority proposes to set up a conciliation board, it has to notify the fact to the parties concerned. Upon receipt

of this notice, the parties to the dispute must report to the authority within three days, the names of the members of the board whom they have chosen; in default of such report, the administrative authority itself appoints the members in place of the defaulting party. When this procedure is completed, the administrative authority demands the selection of the three neutral members by the six members representing the parties in dispute. Here again in case of failure to select the three neutral members within four days and to report thereon, the administrative authority is empowered to appoint them. As soon as all the members are duly appointed, the board must be immediately convoked and the work must be commenced at once.

The board has a chairman and a vice-chairman. They are selected by the neutral members from among themselves. The quorum of the board is of five members and must include two members representing one party, two members representing the other party and either the chairman or the vice-chairman. The sittings of the board are not open to the public. The board has powers to demand the presence of any person who can give them any required information and has also powers of inspection. The board is required to complete its work within fifteen days after being setup. This period can be extended only with the unanimous approval of the members of the board representing the two parties to the dispute. Upon terminating the conciliation procedure the board must at once submit a report of the proceedings to the administrative authority. Should the board fail to reach a settlement of a given dispute, the report submitted to the administrative authority must show a draft proposal for the conciliation of the dispute which was voted upon by the board, as well as the opinion of the minority on the matter.

The findings of the board are not binding on the parties but the Act requires that the administrative authority "shall publish the gist of the report." The publication of the main points of the report serves in effect as an appeal to public opinion.

With a view to checking the spread of a dispute pending the completion of the conciliation procedure, the Act imposes certain restrictions on persons not directly connected with the dispute. When a dispute occurs in an undertaking affecting public welfare or in the manufacture of munitions, etc., under the management of the Army or the Navy, the restriction begins to apply as soon as the administrative authority has notified the parties in dispute that a conciliation board is to be set up. The acts prohibited are: "to instigate or incite either the employers or the workers concerned in the dispute" in order (1) to cause the employer to close down the work-place, stop the work, terminate the employment of workers, or refuse a request for their continuation in employment in connection with the labour dispute and (2) to cause a body of workers to stop work, impede the progress of work, terminate their employment, or refuse a request for their continuation in employment, in connection with the labour dispute. An infringement of this provision of the Act is punishable either by fine not exceeding 200 yen or by imprisonment not exceeding three months.

It is believed that if the law is effectively applied with tact and fairness it would tend to minimise the losses occasioned by labour disputes and may even actually lessen their number.

Fines in Industry

RESULTS OF LABOUR OFFICE ENQUIRY

In the issue of the *Labour Gazette* for November 1926, we published full details in connection with the Labour Office enquiry into the question of Deductions made by Employers from Wages or Payments in Respect of Fines. The results of this Enquiry have now been completed and a full Report will be published in due course. In the meanwhile, the Labour Office, has circulated a Summary of the Report with a covering letter to the various interests concerned asking for their views on the several questions raised by the Government of India letter*. The circular letter is published below together with a summary of the Report:

I

The Circular letter :

No.

LABOUR OFFICE,
SECRETARIAT, BOMBAY,
The 14th April 1927.

From J. F. GENNINGS, ESQ., BAR.-AT-LAW, J. P.,
Director of Information and Labour Intelligence,
(Labour Office), Secretariat, Bombay.

To

SUBJECT.—Deductions from Wages or Payments in respect of Fines.

SIR,

In September of last year I sent you a letter enclosing a copy of a letter from the Government of India and the draft of a Questionnaire on the subject noted above prepared by this office.

The questionnaire and schedule were submitted to you amongst others for criticism before it was issued and both were slightly modified before issue in the light of the criticisms received. I am enclosing a copy of the questionnaire and schedule used for the Textile Industry. These were used with slight variations in minor particulars for factories and other establishments. It was decided to take the first ten months of the year 1926 for the Textile Industry and the year 1925 for all the other groups of factories and establishments to be covered.

In my letter under reference, I also suggested that you might prefer to defer your comment on the Government of India letter, until the Labour Office had made its enquiry and was able to give some definite information regarding the subject of deductions from wages or payments in respect of fines. The enquiry has now been completed and I attach a summary hereto.

The enquiry was designed to cover as many of the industrial wage earners of the Bombay Presidency as possible. Every known factory in the Bombay Presidency was addressed together with all Railway organisations, Government, Local Fund and non-factory establishments, public utility companies, and steam-ship companies. All the Municipalities in the

* See p. 253 of the November 1926 issue of the *Labour Gazette*.

Presidency were asked to furnish information. The questionnaire and schedule were also sent to the big shops and stores, hotels, theatres, cinemas and clubs in so far as lists of these establishments were available. It was also considered desirable to approach offices employing clerical labour such as Banks, Government offices, Railway and public utility administrations, and the larger commercial firms, Solicitors' offices, Insurance Companies, etc. Altogether about 2250 letters were issued and replies were received from about 1300. Almost all the large labour employing organisations furnished information, those who did not being chiefly small factories and gins and presses and small offices employing clerical labour.

The table below gives particulars of the returns received from the different groups :—

Groups of Establishments covered	Number addressed	Number of Returns
I Textile Mills—		
(a) In Bombay	83	76
(b) „ Ahmedabad	63	49
(c) „ Sholapur and Other Centres	30	19
II Factories (excluding Textile Mills)—		
(a) Government and Local Fund	54	32
(b) Ordinary Factories	484	277
(c) Gins and Presses	600	400
III Public Utility Establishments	24	18
IV Municipalities	157	68
V Government and Other Non-factory Establishments	25	15
VI Offices of Steamship Lines	47	12
VII Offices	350	180
VIII Miscellaneous Establishments (Shops, Stores, Hotels, Restaurants, Clubs, Theatres, etc.)	325	85
Nil Returns and Returns not received in time		75
Total	2,242	1,306

The table below shows the number of establishments among those sending in returns in which fines are stated to be inflicted :—

Groups of Establishments covered	Number of Returns	Number of Concerns in which fines were inflicted
I Textile Mills—		
(a) In Bombay	76	76
(b) „ Ahmedabad	49	49
(c) „ Sholapur and Other Centres	19	19
II Factories (excluding Textile Mills)—		
(a) Government and Local Fund	32	23
(b) Ordinary Factories	277	75
(c) Gins and Presses	400	30
III Public Utility Establishments	18	18
IV Municipalities	68	57
V Government and Other Non-factory Establishments	15	11
VI Offices of Steamship Lines	12	12
VII Offices	180	48
VIII Miscellaneous Establishments (Shops, Stores, Hotels, Restaurants, Clubs, Theatres, etc.)	85	23
Total	1,231	441

The question of inflicting fines on seamen is adequately governed by the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923. All fines inflicted on seamen are deducted from wages paid on discharge and are handed over to the Government Shipping Master at the Port of Discharge. Statistics regarding the amounts of such deductions were not available.

It will, I think, be agreed that the enquiry was sufficiently comprehensive and the information received appears to be adequate for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the question under reference.

I enclose a copy of the Government of India letter upon which the enquiry was based, and I should be glad to have your views on this and more particularly upon the following points :—

(a) Whether, in your opinion, the system of inflicting fines on industrial workers is so prevalent as to constitute an evil of such proportions as to require penal legislation to deal with it; and

(b) If your reply to (a) is in the affirmative, (i) in what respects and under what heads do you suggest legislation should be initiated, and (ii) what should be the scope of the legislation and the authority who should enforce it? and

(c) If your reply to (a) is in the negative do you consider that any other action is desirable?

The summary attached to this letter gives the information required under different headings in order that criticisms on particular points may be facilitated.

The information given in the summary is closely compressed and the Labour Office proposes to publish, at a later date, a full report covering, in detail, all the points raised in the questionnaire and the schedule.

I should be glad if you could give this matter your very early attention and let me have your reply by May 31st, at latest.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

i/c Labour Office.

II

Summary of the Report :

Deductions from Wages or Payments in Respect of Fines

Summary of the results of the Labour Office Enquiry

SYSTEM OF FINING

The system of making deductions from wages or payments in respect of fines is general in the Textile Industry in all parts of the Bombay Presidency. With regard to factories, the system exists in almost all Government and Local Fund Factories and in the majority of the more organised and larger workshops. It is also associated with Municipalities,

factories and establishments regularly working throughout the year. It does not appear to be the general practice in seasonal establishments such as Gins and Presses. In Offices the system is almost wholly limited to the fining of peons and menials in the establishments where the system exists, although a few cases are reported where clerks were also occasionally fined. Among the classes of concerns included in the group Miscellaneous Establishments fining is general in the larger Hotels, Clubs and Restaurants but is absent in most of the larger commercial organisations such as Shops, Stores, etc.

RULES

All Textile Mills in Bombay City have printed rules and regulations governing conditions of employment, dismissal with or without forfeiture of wages, fines, etc. Only 3 mills in Ahmedabad City reported the existence of such rules. In the mills in the remaining centres of the Bombay Presidency rules are occasionally found to exist. All Municipalities and Government and Local Fund factories have properly drawn up rules which, among other things, lay down the conditions under which fines may be imposed. The infliction of fines is also governed by prescribed rules in Railway Workshops, the larger and the better organised factories, in large Public Utility Companies and in some of the larger non-factory establishments. If the results of the Enquiry as a whole are considered, it would appear that outside the Textile Mills in Bombay and the larger workshops rules setting out the conditions of fining are the exception and not the rule.

DELEGATION OF POWER TO FINE

The object of the insertion of this question in the Questionnaire was to ascertain the extent to which fines could be inflicted in industrial establishments by persons in the position of Foremen, Jobbers, Mukadams, etc. Only one or two Textile Mills in Bombay reported that the power was delegated to Jobbers. In many of the Ahmedabad Mills, this power rests with special employees who are called "Detectors." With the exception of these cases, all the remaining factories and concerns reported that the power to fine rests with the Heads of Departments. In some cases a confirmation is required by the Manager or Superintendent in charge of the whole establishment. In the smaller concerns, the Proprietors who act also as Managers reserve the power to themselves.

THE MANNER IN WHICH THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH FINES ARE INFLICTED ARE MADE KNOWN TO THE EMPLOYEES

With the exception of a few workshops and factories which give employment tickets or check cards with the main rules under which fines are inflicted printed on their reverse, no endeavours appear to have been made to communicate to employees the conditions under which fines are imposed beyond posting the rules, where they exist, in prominent positions. In the majority of cases, the reporting concerns stated that such rules and conditions were known by custom or usage,—the few notable exceptions being the few mills and factories which maintain records of signatures or thumb impressions signifying that the rules have been made known to the signatories.

PRESCRIPTION OF LIMITS WITHIN WHICH FINES MAY BE IMPOSED

With the exception of the Railway Workshops, the larger Public Utility Municipalities, some of the larger Government and Non-Government factories and Non-Factory establishments, no limits appear to have been prescribed with regard to the extent to which fines may be inflicted.

OFFENCES FOR WHICH FINES ARE INFLICTED

The offences for which fines are inflicted are generally Breaches of Discipline, Insubordination, Disobedience, Bad or Negligent work, Careless or negligent loss of or damage to tools or machinery, etc. In some cases, special lists of further offences connected with the nature of the work undertaken are drawn up. Deductions made from wages in respect of actual fines for bad or negligent work do not appear to cover the loss sustained by the employer with regard to the spoilt or damaged article, but appear to be, in most cases, (to quote the Government of India's letter), "bona fide fines inflicted as correctives".

DISPOSAL OF FINES

A few Textile Mills in the Presidency utilise all amounts collected through the infliction of fines for Welfare Work. In almost all departments connected with the larger Railway organisations, fines collections are credited to Special Fines Funds which are utilised for the general well-being of Railway employees. Similar Funds are found to exist in a few Government and Non-Government establishments. In some Clubs and Offices, fines are utilised for giving annual bonuses to employees who do good work. With the exception of these and the few concerns who utilise fines for donations to various charities, the great majority of the establishments covered by this Enquiry appropriate all fines to "Revenue."

SUPPLY OF PARTICULARS REGARDING FINES AND TIME OF INTIMATION

Speaking generally, the employee fined is given full particulars relating to the fine at the time of the occurrence necessitating it. In the case of some Municipalities and a few of the larger workshops, the procedure is more elaborate. The offence for which a fine is intended to be inflicted is put down on a "Charge Sheet" and the worker is asked to record his explanation—a fine being imposed only if the explanation tendered is unsatisfactory. In some cases, appeals against fines inflicted by subordinate officers in the position of Heads of Departments lie to the controlling authority.

DEDUCTIONS MADE FOR SPOILT OR DAMAGED MATERIAL HANDED OVER TO THE WORKERS

Out of the 144 Textile Mills in the Presidency which furnished information on this subject, 84 mills or 58.3 per cent. reported that deductions were made from wages in respect of material spoilt or damaged during manufacture and handed over to the workers concerned. In most cases, the deduction is made at the price at which the article would have been sold had it not been spoilt or damaged and only in a few cases at actual manufacturing cost or at a price intermediate between the cost and the selling value of the undamaged article. This practice is very rare in factories and establishments outside the Textile Industry.

All amounts realised in respect of these deductions are generally credited to the "Sales Account" except in the case of a few mills in Ahmedabad where a certain percentage of such deductions is handed over to detecting folders.

DEDUCTIONS FROM WAGES FOR SUPPLY OF TOOLS AND MATERIALS

Speaking generally, there are few deductions made from wages in the Bombay Presidency on account of charges for supply of tools or materials to workers. In cases where such deductions were reported they appeared to be on account of the supply of special tools to special workers. In the Textile Industry, some mills require weavers to provide themselves with their own reed hooks and combs and in cases where these are supplied by the mill, their cost is recovered in cash or by deductions from the Wages Bill. The conditions governing such deductions, where they exist, are made known to the workers concerned prior to engagement.

EXPERIENCE OF WORKER PREFERRING RESIGNATION TO BEING FINED

A few cases were reported where a worker preferred to resign rather than be fined, but the evidence with regard to this question is overwhelming that workers generally prefer to be fined rather than to forfeit their service instead.

SUSPENSION

The punishment of suspension is general in Municipalities and in Government establishments. A few of the larger workshops inflict no fines at all and only punish offenders by suspending them from work for some days. This form of punishment is also found to exist in Railways, other Public Utility Companies and some of the larger non-factory organisations in addition to a few concerns in all the other groups.

FINES FOR LATENESS AND NON-ATTENDANCE

Speaking generally, some sort of punishment for late attendance is universal except in the case of the majority of the seasonal factories such as Gins and Presses. In some cases employees are not admitted to work after a period of grace has expired. In some others, "pay for work" is the rule; i.e., employees only receive pay for the actual number of hours worked. But in the majority of cases where late attendance is punished by the infliction of a fine, the fine is either a fixed amount or it is graded according to the number of minutes late.

Non-attendance is similarly punished in various ways. In the mills in Sholapur City, the "double khada" rule is observed—loss of two days' wages for each day's absence without leave. This practice is also followed in various mills and factories in all parts of the Presidency. In some cases, the penalty for continued absence without leave over a number of days (prescribed in most cases), is dismissal with or without forfeiture of wages. In some other cases, absence without leave is punished by set fines. In almost all cases, wages are not given for the days of absence.

REWARDS OR BONUSES FOR BETTER WORK

Out of the 144 reporting Textile Mills in the Presidency, 76 mills or 52.8 per cent. stated that bonuses were given for turning out work better

than specified standards. Several Gins and Presses also reported that such bonuses are granted but in the majority of such cases, these rewards take the form of annual bonuses given on the result of a season's working. Thirty-one ordinary factories reported that such bonuses are given. In establishments which do not follow this practice, better work is rewarded by accelerated promotion. Speaking generally, bonuses for better work are not granted in Railways, Public Utility Companies, Municipalities, Commercial Offices and Government and other Non-factory organisations.

BONUSES FOR REGULAR ATTENDANCE

Bonuses for regular attendance are generally given in the Textile Industry, no fewer than 110 or 76.4 per cent. of the reporting mills stating that such bonuses were granted. Similar bonuses are also given in several factories and other establishments covered in the enquiry.

ADVANCES, INTEREST AND CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

Advances against wages due are granted in the majority of instances in all groups of establishments with the exception of Municipalities and Government concerns. Outside the Textile Mills, no interest is charged for advances given except in three factories. The charging of interest is, however, only found to exist to any appreciable extent in the case of the Ahmedabad mills where the rates charged vary from 18 per cent. per annum to 150 per cent. per annum. In many cases, advances are permitted to be granted by privileged pedhiwallas or grain-dealers at similar rates of interest.

The Co-operative Credit Movement has not penetrated to any appreciable extent among industrial workers. Out of 76 reporting mills in Bombay, only 23 mills stated that Co-operative Credit Societies existed. In Ahmedabad no Co-operative Credit Societies were reported as attached to any particular mill. In the mills in other centres, six out of the 19 reporting mills stated that this provision had been made. Outside the Textile Industry, Co-operative Credit Societies only appear to be attached to some of the larger Municipalities, Railway Organisations and other Government factory and non-factory establishments and to a few of the larger non-Government organisations.

Results of the Tabulations from the Schedules

GROUP I—DEDUCTIONS IN RESPECT OF FINES

It is not necessary for the purposes of this Summary to combine the various types of figures returned for the enquiry by different groups of establishments, nor would it be advisable to collate figures for different groups of establishments together, principally on account of the fact that the enquiry for the Textile Industry related to the first ten months of the year 1926 and for the remaining establishments covered the calendar year 1925; Summary tables are given below, separately, (a) for Textile Mills and (b) all other factories put together for those concerns which gave properly classified data under Group I of the schedule.

APR. 1927

The Textile Industry

The following table shows the deductions made in respect of fines under each sub-head under group I together with the numbers of instances in which fines were inflicted in 45 Textile Mills in all parts of the Bombay Presidency employing an average daily number of 90,819 comprising 68,754 men, 20,568 women and 1,497 children, with a total Wages Bill of Rs. 2,63,89,592-14-8. Only 45 mills correctly gave the information in the detailed manner in which it is set out here.

Subject of Deduction	Number of instances in which fines were inflicted during the first ten months of the year 1926			Total amount of deductions in respect of fines		
	Men	Women	Children	Men	Women	Children
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Fines for—						
(a) Breaches of Discipline or Rules	14,782	6,332	44	4,259 3 6	1,101 14 3	11 10 4
(b) Bad or negligent work	284,951	15,334	11	68,223 6 3	2,585 6 6	1 5 8
(c) Loss of and injury or damage to materials, tools, machinery or plant belonging to the employer	11,568	1,077	236	4,371 13 6	225 12 0	19 15 0
(d) Fines for any other purposes than those enumerated in (a), (b) or (c)	6,928	1,911	932	1,432 12 9	185 6 6	115 13 8
Total ..	318,229	24,654	1,223	78,287 4 0	4,158 7 3	148 13 3

An examination of the above table shows that fines for offences connected with bad and negligent work predominated both in the case of men and women operatives, the proportions of instances under this head to the total number of offences for which fines were inflicted being 89·54 per cent. in the case of men and 62·20 per cent. in the case of women. The incidence of fines for bad or negligent work works out to 3 annas and 10 pies for offences committed by men and 2 annas and 8 pies for offences committed by women. This suggests that fines of this nature are, generally, *bona fide* fines inflicted as correctives and not with a view to recompense the employer for damage sustained. An important caveat

to this statement, however, is the fact that in the Textile Industry, nearly 60 per cent. of the reporting mills hand over spoilt or damaged material to the workers concerned and recover the cost—generally at the selling price of the undamaged materials—from the workers' wages. This practice is dealt with in a subsequent paragraph; but it will be obvious that the real extent of the worker's financial loss depends upon the price he obtains for the article and on that point no information is available.

In the case of children, fines were inflicted in 76·20 per cent. of the instances for reasons other than Breaches of Discipline, Bad or negligent work and Loss of or injury to materials, tools, etc. Fines, in the case of children, are generally for loss of identification tokens. The incidence of fines under this head works out at 2 annas per offence. If all offences are considered together, the incidence of fining works out at 3 annas and 11 pies per offence in the case of men, 2 annas and 8 pies per offence in the case of women and one anna and 11 pies in the case of children. The proportion of total fines to the total Wages Bill for the 45 Textile Mills covered by the statistics contained in the above table works out at '313 per cent.

Many mills did not give particulars under the separate heads (a), (b), (c) and (d) of group I of the schedule but gave combined figures for one or more of the four sections. It has been possible, however, to obtain from these returns figures showing (a) the Wages Bill; (b) the numbers of workers employed; and, (c) the total amount of fines inflicted. Grouping these figures, it is found that in the case of 66 Textile Mills in Bombay City employing 146,753 workpeople—comprising 113,506 men, 33,192 women and 55 children,—with a total Wages Bill of Rs. 4,73,83,399-5-3 for the first ten months of the year 1926, the total fines inflicted amounted to Rs. 1,18,707-1-0, or '25 per cent. of the Wages Bill.

In the 30 mills in Ahmedabad, which supplied similar information, the total amount of fines inflicted was Rs. 1,02,488-3-9, as against a total Wages Bill of Rs. 1,01,66,873-0-9 for 31,396 workers comprising 24,170 men, 6087 women and 1139 children. The proportion of fines to wages in this case amounts to 1·01 per cent.

For 16 mills in Sholapur and Other Centres, employing 26,134 workers, comprising 18,390 men, 5732 women and 2012 children, with a total Wages Bill of Rs. 49,80,528-7-0, the total amount inflicted in fines during the period covered was Rs. 21,268-3-9 or '43 per cent. of the Wages Bill.

If the above figures are combined for all the Textile Mills in the Bombay Presidency, it is found that in 112 mills employing 204,283 workers comprising 156,066 men, 45,011 women and 3,206 children, with a total Wages Bill of Rs. 6,25,30,800-13-0, the total amount of fines inflicted was Rs. 2,42,463-8-6 or '39 per cent. of the Wages Bill.

Factories (Excluding Textile Mills only)

The following table presents statistics in respect of 25 factories and workshops employing 25,359 workpeople, comprising 25,031 men, 251 women and 77 children with a total Wages Bill of Rs. 88,17,523-2-1 for

the year 1925 who furnished detailed information under group I (a), (c) and (d):—

Subject of Deduction	Numbers of instances in which fines were inflicted during the year 1925			Total amount of fines inflicted in respect of fines inflicted		
	Men	Women	Children	Men	Women	Children
Fines for—				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
(a) Breaches of Discipline or establishment rules	6,785			1,774 1 1		
(b) Bad or negligent work	2,678			4,818 0 4	1 0 0	
(c) Loss of and injury or damage to materials, tools, machinery or plant belonging to the employer	1,659	1	20	1,787 14 1	5 0 0	10 0 0
(d) Fines for any other purposes than those enumerated in (a), (b) or (c)	2,799			3,407 1 6		
Total ..	13,921	2	20	15,933 5 8	6 0 0	10 0 0

An examination of the above table shows that fines are inflicted in factories for breaches of discipline to a greater extent than for bad or negligent work, the proportion of instances under this head to total instances amounting to 48·74 per cent. Women operatives were only fined in 2 cases—Rs. 5 in one case and Re. 1 in the other. The incidence of fining per offence works out at Rs. 1-2-4 for men, Rs. 3 for women and 8 annas for children, and the proportion of total fines to the total Wages Bill amounts to 18 per cent.

GROUPS II, III AND IV—OTHER DEDUCTIONS

In view of the fact that the figures returned on account of deductions made from wages under the various other heads included in the schedule were not capable of tabulation in summary form, no attempt has been made to collate the different sets of figures—which will, however, be given in the main report—for the purposes of this summary. Short notes are, however, given with regard to each head of deduction.

DEDUCTIONS FOR MATERIALS, ETC., PROVIDED BY EMPLOYER

The returns under this head were negligible—the general practice appearing to be to make no deductions from wages for the supply of tools, materials, etc., provided by employers.

SUPPLY OF WATER

Deductions under this head are fairly frequent but appear to be confined to charges made in special cases only, e.g., for the wages to be paid to Brahmins for keeping and serving out water to Brahmin employees.

MEDICINES AND MEDICAL ATTENDANCE

Deductions from wages for the supply of medicines and medical attendance appear to be confined to a small percentage of mills in the Textile Industry.

RENT FOR LODGING

Almost all establishments which provide housing for their employees recover rents from the house holders by deductions from their wages. In most cases, as the results of the "Welfare Work" enquiry showed, the rents charged are below economic rent and the deductions made do not show that any employers penalise their workmen in this matter.

SUPPLY OF FOOD

Deductions on this account are mostly for the supply of food grains from the cheap grain shops attached to the establishments concerned. The grain is sold either at cost-price or at a price sufficient to cover overhead charges as well. In the Sholapur Mills, good attendance bonuses take the form of the right to purchase 18 seers of Jowari and 2 seers of Turdal at a price which works out at about 60 per cent. of the actual cost. Factories which produce consumable articles of food, often give their workers the article produced at cost-price and deduct its value from wages earned.

EDUCATION

No deductions of any importance were shown under this head—the few cases reported being amounts collected from the better-paid employees for the school fees of their children in the institutes attached to the organisations concerned.

PROVIDENT FUND

Deductions under this head are generally confined to Government organisations, Public Utility concerns and to the larger non-factory establishments such as the Port Trusts, etc., and in a very few cases to private factories and establishments. These deductions take the form of percentages of the wages earned by contributors who elect to subscribe to the funds concerned.

ACCIDENT COMPENSATION

These deductions were only shown in four cases where employees not covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, desired to be protected against accidents.

PROVISION OF CRECHES

No deductions of any kind under this head were shown in any of the schedules returned.

READING ROOM AND LIBRARY

Deductions on this account were returned by establishments mainly connected with Railways for subscriptions from the better-paid employees for the use of the Institutes provided.

INTEREST ON ADVANCES

All the Textile Mills in Bombay and Ahmedabad which charge interest on advances granted to their employees did not furnish figures in the schedules in respect of actual deductions made. The evidence collected however, goes to show that such deductions are frequently made.

ANY OTHER SERVICES

Deductions shown under this head related, in the case of one or two Textile Mills in Ahmedabad, to the charges made against weavers for employing Beam Carriers, and in some other cases for entertainments, etc provided by the employer.

COMPULSORY CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHARITY

Although this system does not appear to be practised in the greater majority of cases, a few returns show deductions on this account.

DEDUCTIONS FOR ARTICLES SPOILT OR DAMAGED BY WORKERS DURING MANUFACTURE AND SUBSEQUENTLY MADE OVER TO THE WORKERS CONCERNED

Deductions of this type are almost entirely confined to Textile Mills. In summarising the results of the returns as shown by the questionnaire it was stated that 84 mills or 58·3 per cent. of the reporting mills in the Bombay Presidency adopted this practice. In the 46 mills which gave statistics regarding both the amounts realised for such deductions and the number of instances in which they were effected it was found that these deductions amounted to Rs. 1,60,326-5-4 and were deducted in 50,981 instances. The incidence per deduction works out at Rs. 3-2-4. It is not necessary in this case to compare these figures either with the total Wages Bill or with the total number of workers employed because such deductions are mainly confined to weavers only. Moreover, as indicated in a previous paragraph, the net loss to the worker cannot be determined.

Holidays with Pay for Workers and Collective Agreements

Collective agreements often play an important part in the matter of holidays with pay, by completing national legislation and settling points that have been left open. The last number of the *International Labour Review*, the monthly publication of the International Labour Office, examines the subject matter of collective agreements. It states that while there are countries such as Austria, Finland, Poland, Russia and Czechoslovakia which have a general law on holidays with pay, there are others in which, in spite of the absence of any definite legislation of this kind, the right to holidays is recognised for certain categories of workers.

In Germany, Italy, Sweden and Norway, for instance, the right to paid holidays is generally provided for by collective agreement, while in the Netherlands, Great Britain, Roumania, Denmark and Switzerland a large number of workers do, in fact, have similar rights. At the moment there are, in Europe, about 19 million workers (approximately 40 per cent. of the total workers employed) who are entitled to annual holidays with pay, either in virtue of legislation or through collective agreements. (From "*International Labour Office Weekly News Service*," Geneva, No. 10 of 1927.)

Current Periodicals

Summary of titles and contents of special articles

INDUSTRIAL WELFARE—VOL. IX, NO. 99. (Industrial Welfare Society, London.)

Special Articles: (1) *Stock-Taking in Welfare Work*, by Gerald B. Lloyd.—The relation of the welfare worker to the management; the firm's attitude to the welfare department; the welfare worker's code of conduct; what does "welfare" stand for?; the employees' attitude to welfare; welfare and labour fundamentals; welfare workers and the community; welfare and training; pp. 78-80.

(2) *Food in Staff Canteens*, by A. D. Muncaster (Somerville College, Oxford). pp. 80-84.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR REVIEW—VOL. XV, NO. 3. (International Labour Office, Geneva.)

Special Articles: (1) *The Labour Movement in China*, by Ta Chen, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor of Sociology, Tsing Hua College, Peking).—The awakening of labour; labour organisations; national labour conferences; the movement for labour legislation; strikes; the May-day celebrations; labour's demand for international representation; conclusion. pp. 339-363.

(2) *The Austrian Works Councils Act in Practice: I.*, by Dr. Emanuel Adler (Professor in the University of Vienna).—Opinions on the act and its results; settlement of disputes by the conciliation boards; field of application of the act; change in the number employed in the works; the functions of the works council; pp. 364-378.

(3) *The Science of Farm Labour: Scientific Management and German Agriculture*. pp. 379-413.

(4) *The Trade Union Movement among Salaried Employees*. pp. 414-430.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR REVIEW—VOL. XV, NO. 2. (International Labour Office, Geneva.)

Special Articles: (1) *The New German Labour Protection Bill*, by Dr. Johannes Feig (Ministerial Councillor in the Federal Ministry of Labour).—Historical survey; the basis of revision; the extent of revision; fundamental principles of the bill; contents of the bill: industrial safety, hours of work, protection of women, young persons and children, prohibition of night work in bakeries, Sunday rest, closing of undertakings and shops, labour inspection, date of operation. pp. 175-196.

(2) *Collective Bargaining in the United States of America*, by Lindley D. Clark, L.L.M. of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics.—The background; the problem; practical recognition and development; construction and enforcement; doctrine of usage, doctrine of legal validity; conclusion. pp. 197-229.

(3) *The Protection of the Workers against Unfair Dismissal in Continental Legislation*, by Dr. Erich Molitor (Professor of the University of Leipzig).—General survey of the problem; compensation in the French system of law for unjustified dismissal; the period of notice; the amount of compensation; justifiable dismissal. pp. 230-244.

(4) *The Employment of Children in the Production of Cinematograph Films*.—Conditions of employment; regulation of employment. pp. 245-256.

(5) *The New Japanese Act on the Conciliation of Labour Disputes*.—The origin of the act; the significance of the act; the scope of the act; the conciliation board: characteristics, composition, organisation and functions; the decisions of the board, restrictions imposed by the act; administrative preparation; conclusion. pp. 257-271.

Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR REVIEW—VOL. XV, NO. 1. JANUARY 1927 (International Labour Office, Geneva.)

Special Articles: (1) *The Third International Conference of Labour Statisticians*.—Methods of family budget enquiries; statistics of collective agreements; statistics of industrial disputes; the classification of industries; conclusion. pp. 1-17.

(2) *Some Aspects of the Labour Problem in China*, by P. Henry.—The regulation of labour condition; labour conditions; future prospects. pp. 24-50.

(3) *Collective Labour Agreements in Italian Agriculture: II*.—The provisions of agreements—the placing of labour, hours of work, work of women and children, the employment of old men, wages; collective agreements for share-farming; conclusion. pp. 51-77.

(4) *The Conciliation and Arbitration of Industrial Disputes: III Successful Measures applied in Various Countries*.—Measures for dealing with especial types of disputes—unorganised trades, public utilities, justiciable disputes and disputes of great social and economic importance; measures for dealing with disputes in general—optional measures, compulsory measures; wage determination; conclusion. pp. 78-97.

- (5) *Wages and Hours of Work in Italian Industry in 1925.*—pp. 98-103.
 (6) *The Work of the British Ministry of Labour in 1925.*—Employment and unemployment; juvenile unemployment; training of the unemployed; assistance to workers; unemployment insurance; long-standing claims to benefit; supervision and enforcement; settlement of industrial disputes; trade boards; pp. 98-115.
 (7) *Child Labour in Queensland.*—pp. 115-118.
Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

MONTHLY LABOUR REVIEW—VOL. XXIII, NO. 6. (U. S. Department of Labor, Washington.)

- Special Articles:* (1) *Prevalence of the 5-Day Week in American Industry.*—Summary; building trades, laundries, and printing and publishing; men's clothing industry; iron and steel industry; paper box board industry; foundries and machine shops; other trades and optional 5-day week; five-day week without reduction in total hours; the 5-day week in pp. 1-10.
 (2) *The Municipal Market System of Norfolk Va.*—Cost and construction of market building; special conveniences of market building; services rendered by market men; regulations of municipal market; variety and prices of produce offered; farmers' markets; prices quoted in farmers' markets; regulations of farmers' markets. pp. 17-27.
 (3) *Consumers' Co-operative Congress of 1926.*—Direct leagues and wholesale societies; co-operation in co-operation; uniformity in accounting; relations between the consumers' and the co-operative marketing movements; other matters before the congress; resolutions; pp. 83-87.
 (4) *Co-operation in Foreign Countries.*—Austria; Czechoslovakia; Denmark; Russia; Sweden pp. 87-90.
 (5) *Convention of the American Federation of Labor, 1926.* Company unions; reduction of the hours of labor; education; organization work and allied action; civil service employees; international relations; wages; union-management co-operation; labour banking; employee stock ownership; improvement of Federation's services; Watson-Parker Act; other action of the convention. pp. 91-96.
 (6) *Wages and Hours in the English Pottery Industry.*—Agreements; productivity of labor; processes, occupations, and methods of payment; slip house, clay shops; bisque kiln; warehouse dipping; glaze kiln; glaze warehouse; decorating; decorating kiln; packing. pp. 114-129.
 (7) *Wages in the German Pottery Industry.*—Employment; wage adjustments; hours; production and kiln losses; National collective agreement for the German fine ceramic industry, effective February 1, 1926. pp. 129-143.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE—VOL. XXVII, NO. 2. FEBRUARY 1927. (The Department of Labour, Canada.)

- Special Articles:* (1) *General Review of the Industrial Situation.*—Employers' reports; trade union reports; employment office reports; production in certain industries; external trade; building permits and contracts awarded; strikes and lockouts; prices. pp. 133-138.
 (2) *Strikes and Lockouts in Canada and Other Countries, 1926.*—Logging; mining; manufacturing; construction; transportation and public utilities; service. pp. 143-160.
 (3) *Annual Report of Labour Department of Quebec.* pp. 161 and 162.
 (4) *Legislative Demands of Organized Labour: Proposals Submitted to the Provincial Legislature by Various Labour Organizations.*—Ontario executive, trades and labour congress; Manitoba executive, trades and labour congress; British Columbia executive, trades and labour congress; Quebec executive, trades and labour congress; railway brotherhoods in Quebec; locomotive engineers of Alberta; legislative committee of the railway brotherhoods; railway brotherhoods in Ontario; Alberta civil service association; district 18, united mine workers of America; British Columbia civic employees. pp. 167-172.
 (5) *League of Nations International Labour Organization.*—Canada and International affairs; Lead paint protection act in Great Britain; ratification of draft conventions; Japan and the draft convention relating to children's employment. pp. 187-190.
Routine Matter.—As in previous issues.

Current Notes From Abroad

UNITED KINGDOM

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in February was 15. In addition, 13 disputes which began before February were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in February (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 5,700, and the estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during February was about 65,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of approximately 15,300 workpeople involved and 130,000 days lost in the previous month. The number of workpeople involved in disputes in February was smaller than in any month since December 1914. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, March 1927.)

Throughout February there was a continuous and substantial improvement in employment, which affected most of the principal industries. The improvement was most marked in iron mining and quarrying; ship-building and ship-repairing; iron and steel manufacture; general, marine and constructional engineering; the cotton, wool and linen textile industries; the clothing trades; and building and public works contracting. In the industries named, which include 34 million insured workpeople, the numbers recorded as unemployed showed at 21st February a decrease of 96,000 as compared with 24th January.

Among the workpeople (numbering approximately 12,000,000) insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together at 21st February 1927 was 10.9 as compared with 12.1 at 24th January 1927, and 10.4 at 22nd February 1926. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 28th February 1927 was approximately 1,208,000 of whom 970,000 were men and 172,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 31st January 1927, it was 1,375,000 of whom 1,083,000 were men and 213,000 were women; and at 1st March 1926, it was 1,169,000 of whom 911,000 were men and 194,000 were women. (From "Ministry of Labour Gazette," London, March 1927.)

* * *

OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

By letter of 23rd February 1927, the German Federal Government informed the International Labour Office that it had submitted to the Provisional Economic Council and to the Reichsrat a Bill for the ratification of the Washington Convention concerning the employment of women before and after childbirth, together with a Bill for the purpose of bringing German legislation into harmony with the Convention. (From "Industrial and Labour Information," Geneva, March 14, 1927.)

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS IN MARCH 1927

Name of concern and locality	Approximate number of workpeople involved		Date when dispute		Cause	Result
	Directly	Indirectly	Began	Ended		
<i>Textile Trades</i>			1927	1927		
1. The Bhagurath Ramchandra Cloth Mill, Jalgaon, East Khandesh.	150	..	28 Feb.	3 Mar.	Reduction of 50 per cent. in dearness allowance.	The strike ended in favour of employers.
2. Sir Shapurji Broacha Mills, DeLisle Road, Bombay.	275	..	28 Feb.	12 Mar.	Demand for higher wages.	The strike ended in favour of employers.
3. The Bhagurath Ramchandra Cloth Mill, Jalgaon, East Khandesh.	388	..	7 Mar.	14 Mar.	Protest against reduction of compensation allowance.	The strike ended in favour of employers.
4. The Jacob Sassoon Mill, Suparibag Road, Bombay.	24	..	9 Mar.	11 Mar.	Demand for reinstatement of dismissed operatives.	The strike ended in favour of employers.
5. The Bomanji Petit Mill, Clerk Road, Jacob Circle, Bombay.	50	..	9 Mar.	14 Mar.	Refusal to promote a spinner to the post of a jobber.	The strike ended in favour of employers.
6. The Madhavi Dharamsi Mill, Foras Road, Bombay.	506	..	10 Mar.	14 Mar.	Demand for reinstatement of dismissed line jobbers.	The strike ended in favour of employers.
7. The Shri Ambika Mills, Ltd., Kankaria, Ahmedabad.	128	..	30 Mar.	..	Sympathy with a dismissed jobber and protest against the system of giving damaged cloth in lieu of wages.	No settlement reported.

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

Count in Numbers			Month of February			11 months ended February		
			1925	1926	1927	1925	1926	1927
		Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10	..	..	5,813	6,961	6,316	44,778	59,301	76,156
Nos. 11 to 20	..	..	20,223	18,433	18,345	306,474	176,476	307,346
Nos. 21 to 30	..	..	12,549	12,856	14,699	146,018	125,804	156,418
Nos. 31 to 40	..	..	960	1,395	1,469	13,070	12,858	18,055
Above 40	..	..	419	594	861	5,281	6,776	9,702
Waste, etc.	..	..	9	84	106	115	535	1,158
Total			39,973	40,323	41,796	433,846	360,970	468,739

BOMBAY CITY

Count in Numbers			Month of February			11 months ended February		
			1925	1926	1927	1925	1926	1927
		Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10	..	..	5,237	6,236	5,527	55,833	50,695	67,155
Nos. 11 to 20	..	..	14,350	12,536	12,212	142,458	104,486	140,545
Nos. 21 to 30	..	..	7,959	7,924	9,041	90,664	70,255	94,807
Nos. 31 to 40	..	..	522	631	718	7,476	1,259	8,437
Above 40	..	..	268	284	387	2,971	2,269	3,852
Waste, etc.	..	..	1	80	97	29	44	1,054
Total			28,337	27,691	27,982	299,360	233,380	315,850

AHMEDABAD

Count in Numbers			Month of February			11 months ended February		
			1925	1926	1927	1925	1926	1927
		Pounds	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10	..	..	157	211	192	2,202	2,804	2,369
Nos. 11 to 20	..	..	3,053	3,383	3,606	33,976	41,256	36,522
Nos. 21 to 30	..	..	3,608	3,713	4,293	42,117	42,684	45,532
Nos. 31 to 40	..	..	346	583	569	4,519	5,119	7,651
Above 40	..	..	98	243	356	1,476	1,821	4,452
Waste, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total			7,262	8,133	9,016	84,290	93,684	96,526

764
DETAILED STATEMENT OF THE QUANTITY (IN POUNDS) AND DESCRIPTION
OF WOVEN GOODS PRODUCED
BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

Description	Month of February			11 months ended February		
	1925	1926	1927	1925	1926	1927
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey & bleached piece-goods—Pounds	917	1,129	1,356	14,376	12,505	20,258
Khadi	864	1,129	935	14,655	15,533	16,157
Chudders	5,663	8,692	7,319	65,391	73,532	82,682
Dhoties	1,275	1,673	1,411	11,056	9,386	12,024
Drills and jeans	27	32	31	555	504	329
Cambrics and lawns	309	272	202	3,823	2,613	1,852
Printers	7,668	9,883	8,588	89,924	88,535	99,888
Shirtings and long cloth						
T. cloth, domestics, and	923	1,124	1,641	10,990	11,015	15,465
sheetings	154	112	67	1,976	1,447	1,252
Tent cloth	541	612	609	5,833	5,533	4,997
Other sorts						
Total	18,341	24,658	22,161	218,579	220,603	254,904
	7,086	9,336	10,944	94,298	86,157	111,178
Coloured piece-goods						
Grey and coloured goods,	129	212	201	1,716	2,245	2,453
other than piece-goods	15	20	29	175	227	247
Hosiery	85	72	245	1,577	1,543	2,655
Miscellaneous						
Cotton goods mixed with	20	82	149	119	565	1,782
silk or wool						
Grand Total	25,676	34,380	33,729	316,464	311,340	373,219

BOMBAY CITY

Description	Month of February			11 months ended February		
	1925	1926	1927	1925	1926	1927
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey & bleached piece-goods—Pounds	690	884	1,103	10,037	8,989	17,421
Khadi	430	619	597	9,067	9,756	11,073
Chudders	1,587	2,217	2,390	19,148	19,700	23,879
Dhotis	1,162	1,454	1,294	9,965	7,874	10,907
Drills and jeans	18	4	10	427	214	60
Cambrics and lawns				33	19	
Printers	5,521	6,935	6,855	64,157	62,122	72,242
Shirtings and long cloth						
T. cloth, domestics, and	721	776	1,342	8,811	7,499	11,700
sheetings	107	90	63	835	892	1,071
Tent cloth	264	277	367	2,588	2,299	2,636
Other sorts						
Total	10,500	13,258	14,021	125,068	119,364	157,969
	4,941	5,932	7,491	72,547	58,194	79,394
Coloured piece-goods						
Grey and coloured goods	127	205	198	1,654	2,146	2,364
other than piece-goods	7	8	6	85	70	60
Hosiery	63	67	204	1,271	1,223	2,164
Miscellaneous						
Cotton goods mixed with	19	56	105	99	440	1,219
silk or wool						
Grand Total	15,657	19,526	22,025	200,724	181,437	243,190

APR. 1927
DETAILED STATEMENT OF THE QUANTITY (IN POUNDS) AND DESCRIPTION
OF WOVEN GOODS PRODUCED—contd
AHMEDABAD

Description	Month of February			11 months ended February		
	1925	1926	1927	1925	1926	1927
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey & bleached piece-goods—Pounds	134	84	47	3,101	1,071	732
Khadi	344	416	273	4,331	4,501	3,949
Chudders	3,025	5,478	4,071	36,162	42,780	46,497
Dhotis	23	141	41	243	633	285
Drills and jeans	8	26	20	110	214	263
Cambrics and lawns	164	164	95	2,624	1,714	948
Printers	1,682	2,380	1,307	20,797	20,901	16,846
Shirtings and long cloth						
T. cloth, domestics and	176	282	220	1,970	3,101	3,342
sheetings	42	16	3	1,042	469	21
Tent cloth	174	229	169	2,113	2,248	1,240
Other sorts						
Total	5,772	9,216	6,246	72,493	77,632	74,123
	1,364	2,303	2,314	12,419	17,858	20,283
Coloured piece-goods						
Grey and coloured goods,	1	1	1	8	11	17
other than piece-goods	8	13	22	90	156	185
Hosiery	21	4	38	256	272	438
Miscellaneous						
Cotton goods mixed with		26	43	8	115	528
silk or wool						
Grand Total	7,166	11,563	8,664	85,274	96,044	95,574

WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN BOMBAY

Article	Grade	Rate per	Prices in the month of				Index numbers			
			July 1914	Mar. 1926	Feb. 1927	Mar. 1927	July 1914	Mar. 1926	Feb. 1927	Mar. 1927
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.				
Cereals—										
Rice ..	Rangoon Small-mill	Md	4 11 3	6 4 11	6 3 1	6 4 11	100	134	132	134
Wheat ..	Delhi No. 1	Cwt.	5 9 6	7 5 0	7 12 0	7 12 0	100	139	139	139
Do. ..	Khandwa Seoni	Candy	45 0 0	75 8 0	87 8 0	91 0 0	100	168	194	202
Do. ..	Jubbulpore	"	40 0 0	65 0 0	57 0 0	54 8 0	100	163	143	136
Jowari ..	Cawnpore	Maund	3 2 6	4 2 0	4 7 1 (1)	4 5 5 (1)	100	131	141	137
Barley ..	"	"	3 4 6	4 3 9	4 7 1	4 7 1	100	129	135	135
Bajri ..	Ghati	"	3 4 6	5 4 8	5 4 8	4 15 7	100	161	161	152
Index No.—Cereals ..							100	148	149	148
Pulses—										
Gram ..	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	Maund	4 3 9	4 12 2	5 3 0	4 13 11	100	112	123	115
Turdal ..	Cawnpore	"	5 10 5	6 14 1	8 7 5	8 7 5	100	122	150	150
Index No.—Pulses ..							100	117	137	133
Index No.—Food grains ..							100	140	146	144
Sugar—										
Sugar ..	Mauritius	Cwt.	9 3 0	15 8 0	17 6 0	17 0 0	100	169	171	167
Do. ..	Java, white	"	10 3 0	15 6 0	17 6 0	17 0 0	100	151	171	167
Raw (Gul) ..	Sangli or Poona	Maund	7 14 3	9 4 0	8 7 0	8 2 7	100	117	107	103
Index No.—Sugar ..							100	146	139	135
Other Food—										
Turmeric ..	Rajapuri	Maund	5 9 3	8 2 7	8 13 6	8 11 4	100	146	159	156
Ghee ..	Deshi	"	45 11 5	80 0 0	74 4 7	74 4 7	100	175	163	163
Salt ..	Bombay (black)	"	1 7 6	2 0 0	1 14 0	1 14 0	100	136	128	128
Index No.—Other food ..							100	152	150	149
Index No.—All Food ..							100	144	146	144
Oilseeds—										
Linseed ..	Bold	Cwt.	8 14 6	10 5 0	10 15 0	10 10 0	100	116	123	119
Rapeseed ..	Cawnpore (brown)	"	8 0 0	10 7 0	11 1 0	11 2 0	100	130	138	139
Poppy seed ..	"	"	10 14 0	13 2 0	12 8 0	12 8 0	100	121	161	161
Gingelly seed ..	White	"	11 4 0	15 10 0	17 0 0	17 12 0	100	139	151	158
Index No.—Oilseeds ..							100	127	143	144
Cotton—										
(a) Cotton, raw—										
Broach ..	Fully good	Candy	251 0 0	367 0 0	269 0 0 (2)	307 0 0 (2)	100	146	121	122
Oomra ..	Do.	"	222 0 0	332 0 0	250 0 0	291 0 0	100	150	121	131
Dharwar ..	Saw-ginned	"	230 0 0	298 0 0	250 0 0	283 0 0	100	145	126	138
Khandesh ..	Machine-ginned	"	205 0 0	268 0 0	254 0 0	274 0 0	100	135	128	138
Bengal ..	Do.	"	198 0 0	268 0 0	254 0 0	274 0 0	100	135	128	138
Index No.—Cotton, raw ..							100	144	125	132
(b) Cotton manufactures—										
Twist ..	40 S	Lb.	0 12 9	1 3 0	1 1 6	1 1 6	100	149	137	137
Grey shirtings ..	Farl 2,000	Piece	5 15 0	10 0 0	8 14 0	8 14 0	100	168	149	149
White mulls ..	5,000	"	4 3 0	9 10 0	9 0 0	9 0 0	100	230	215	215
Shirtings ..	Liepmann's 1,500	"	10 6 0	20 12 0	18 8 0	18 8 0	100	200	178	178
Long Cloth ..	Local made 36" x 37 1/2 yds.	Lb.	0 9 6	1 2 3	0 14 9	0 14 9	100	192	155	155
Chudders ..	54" x 6 yds.	"	0 9 6	1 1 0	0 13 6	0 13 6	100	179	142	142
Index No.—Cotton manufactures ..							100	186	163	163
Index No.—Textile—Cotton ..							100	169	150	151
Other Textiles—										
Silk ..	Manchow	Lb.	5 2 6	6 11 6	6 0 3	6 0 9	100	130	117	117
Do. ..	Mathow Lari	"	2 15 1	4 11 3	4 8 1	4 7 0	100	160	153	151
Index No.—Other Textiles ..							100	145	135	134
Hides and Skins—										
Hides, Cow ..	Tanned	Lb.	1 2 6	1 10 4	1 8 7	1 8 2	100	142	133	131
Do. Buffalo ..	Do.	"	1 1 3	0 15 5	0 12 0	0 13 7	100	89	70	79
Skins, Goat ..	Do.	"	1 4 0	2 10 1	2 8 8	2 8 3	100	2 0	203	201
Index No.—Hides and Skins ..							100	147	140	119
Metals—										
Copper braziers ..		Cwt.	60 8 0	58 8 0	58 0 0	58 8 0	100	171	96	97
Iron bars ..		"	4 0 0	7 0 0	6 12 0	6 12 0	100	175	169	169
Steel hoops ..		"	7 12 0	10 0 0	10 2 0	10 2 0	100	129	131	131
Galvanised sheets ..		"	9 0 0	14 6 0	13 8 0	13 5 0	100	160	150	148
Tin plates ..		Box	8 12 0	17 0 0	21 8 0	20 8 0	100	194	246	234
Index No.—Metals ..							100	151	158	156
Other raw and manufactured articles—										
Coal ..	Bengal, 1st Class Jheria	Ton	14 12 0	22 10 0	21 0 0	21 0 0	100	153	142	142
Do. ..	Imported	"	19 11 6	20 10 9	25 3 8	26 10 4	100	105	128	135
Kerosene ..	Elephant Brand	2 Tins	4 6 0	7 7 0	7 10 6	7 10 6	100	170	175	175
Do. ..	Chester Brand	Case	5 2 0	9 8 0	9 12 6	9 12 6	100	185	191	191
Index No.—Other raw and manfd. articles ..							100	141	159	161
Index No.—Food ..							100	144	146	144
Index No.—Non-food ..							100	154	149	149
General Index No. ..							100	150	148	148

(1) Quotation for Sholapur quality. (2) Quotation for Oomra, Fine.

WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES IN KARACHI*

Article	Grade	Rate per	Prices in the month of							
			July 1914				Index Numbers			
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	July 1914	Mar. 1926	Feb. 1927	Mar. 1927
Cereals—										
Rice ..	Larkana No. 3	Candy	39 0 0	60 4 0 ⁽¹⁾	60 4 0 ⁽²⁾	60 4 0 ⁽³⁾	100	154	154	154
Wheat, white ..	5% barley, 3% dirt, 30% red	"	31 8 0	48 8 0	44 0 0	42 0 0	100	154	140	133
Wheat, red ..	5% barley, 3% dirt, 92% red	"	31 4 0	47 8 0	39 10 0	39 10 0	100	152	127	127
Wheat, white ..	2% barley, 14% dirt	"	32 8 0	50 0 0	45 6 0	43 4 0	100	154	140	133
Wheat, red ..	2% barley, 14% dirt	"	32 4 0	49 0 0	40 14 0	40 14 0	100	152	127	127
Jowari ..	Export quality	"	25 8 0	41 8 0	37 0 0	37 0 0	100	163	145	145
Barley ..	3% dirt	"	26 8 0	31 0 0	36 0 0	34 8 0	100	117	136	130
Index No.—Cereals ..			....	....	....	..	100	149	138	136
Pulses—										
Gram ..	1% dirt	Candy	29 8 0	38 0 0	43 8 0 ⁽²⁾	40 0 0 ⁽²⁾	100	129	147	136
Sugar—										
Sugar ..	Java, white	Cwt.	9 2 0	15 0 0	16 3 0	15 4 0	100	185	177	167
" ..	" brown	"	8 1 6	15 0 0	15 0 0	14 8 0	100	185	185	179
Index No.—Sugar ..			....	....	....	..	100	185	181	173
Other food—										
Salt ..		Bengal Maund	2 2 0	1 10 6	1 12 0	1 11 0	100	78	82	79
Oilseeds—										
Cotton seed ..	3% admixture	Maund	2 11 3	3 5 0	4 5 0	3 12 0	100	125	160	139
Rapeseed, bold ..	Black 9% admixture	Candy	51 0 0	91 8 0	98 0 0	99 0 0	100	148	158	160
Gingelly ..		"	62 0 0	91 8 0	98 0 0	99 0 0	100	148	158	160
Index No.—Oilseeds ..			....	....	....	..	100	136	159	156
Textiles—										
Jute bags ..	11. Twills	100 bags	38 4 0	58 0 0	52 4 0	52 8 0	100	182	157	137

Textiles—Cotton	Sind	Maund.	20 4 0	29 5 0	29 4 0	29 6 0	100	145	144	145
(a) Cotton, raw ..										
(b) Cotton manufactures	Pepperill	Piers.	10 3 6	19 15 0	14 12 0	14 0 0	100	195	144	137
Drills ..	Liepmann's	"	10 2 0	21 0 0	17 4 0	17 8 0	100	207	170	173
Shirtings ..										
Index No.—Cotton manufactures ..			....	....	....	..	100	201	157	155
Index No.—Textiles—Cotton ..			....	....	....	..	100	182	153	152
Other Textiles—Wool	Kandahar	Maund.	28 0 0	36 0 0	35 8 0	34 8 0	100	129	127	125
Hides—										
Hides, dry ..	Sind	Maund.	21 4 0	13 0 0	14 12 0	14 8 0	100	61	69	68
" ..	Punjab	"	21 4 0	13 0 0	14 12 0	14 8 0	100	61	69	68
Index No.—Hides ..			....	....	....	..	100	61	69	68
Metals—										
Copper Braziers ..		Cwt.	60 8 0	60 8 0	58 0 0	58 0 0	100	100	96	96
Steel Bars ..		"	3 14 0	6 4 0	6 0 0	6 2 0	100	161	150	150
" Plates ..		"	4 6 0	6 2 0	6 12 0	6 12 0	100	140	154	154
Index No.—Metals ..			....	....	....	..	100	144	155	156
Other raw and manufactured articles										
Coal ..	1st class Benga.	100	16 0 0	21 0 0	22 0 0	22 0 0	100	131	138	138
Kerosene ..	Chester Brand	Case	5 2 0	9 6 0	9 10 0	9 10 0	100	183	188	188
" ..	Elephant	2 Tins.	4 7 0	7 5 0	7 8 0	7 8 0	100	165	169	169
Index No.—Other raw and manufactured articles ..			....	....	....	..	100	160	165	165
Index No.—Food ..			....	....	....	..	100	144	142	137
Index No.—Non-food ..			....	....	....	..	100	140	139	137
General Index No. ..			....	....	....	..	100	142	140	137

* Yarn (40 Grey, Plough) has been omitted from the index for want of quotation. (1) Quotation for Larkana, white. (2) Quotation for 3 per cent. mutial. (3) Quotation for Sukkur, white.

WHOLESALE PRICES INDEX NUMBERS IN BOMBAY BY GROUPS

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Month	Cereals	Pulses	Sugar	Other food	Index No. food	Oil-seeds	Raw cotton	Cotton manufactures	Other textiles	Hides and skins	Metals	Other raw materials	Index No. non-food	General Index No.
1914														
March	123	84	220	263	165	129	244	238	235	140	171	164	190	181
1915														
March	154	99	175	219	164	136	209	212	160	145	162	166	174	171
April	140	104	177	193	157	132	196	211	156	146	160	159	165	161
May	149	104	179	176	155	144	187	215	153	151	163	157	170	164
June	141	102	180	181	148	142	199	209	144	152	157	155	162	160
July	141	102	189	184	148	140	182	208	144	152	157	155	162	160
August	146	100	186	185	149	140	184	205	152	151	155	159	164	163
September	143	104	199	176	146	136	184	205	151	151	155	159	162	160
October	147	111	151	178	149	130	191	203	155	151	154	159	162	160
November	155	128	161	175	155	133	199	195	152	155	153	159	162	160
December	149	132	141	168	149	129	159	191	148	149	150	155	157	154
1916														
January	147	119	148	172	149	127	154	186	149	155	151	158	157	154
February	143	117	148	158	143	129	150	186	147	155	152	158	157	151
March	148	117	146	152	144	127	150	186	147	155	152	158	157	151
April	144	119	150	156	144	127	150	186	145	147	151	153	156	150
May	149	123	156	153	148	131	150	183	143	151	156	155	151	151
June	150	128	152	148	148	137	150	182	143	155	151	149	152	151
July	146	128	144	146	145	142	141	182	131	144	149	147	151	150
August	148	133	146	146	145	140	144	190	130	147	153	146	152	149
September	150	130	146	146	145	144	149	178	130	146	147	148	149	148
October	145	129	146	146	144	140	149	173	133	134	146	151	150	149
November	144	133	144	146	143	132	147	165	134	147	148	152	149	147
December	143	131	152	146	144	131	118	157	131	144	150	160	147	146
1917														
January	153	133	140	140	147	138	113	154	135	142	158	160	146	146
February	149	137	139	150	146	142	125	163	119	132	158	161	149	145
March	142	135	135	149	144	144	132	163	134	137	150	161	149	145

(a) Revised figures from October 1920 to March 1926.

COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS FOR INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Name of country	India (Bombay)	United Kingdom	Canada	Australia	New Zealand	Italy (Rome)	Belgium	Norway	Switzerland	South Africa	France (Paris)	U. S. of America
Items included in the index	Food, fuel, light, clothing and rent	Food, rent, fuel, light, clothing and miscellaneous	Food, fuel, light, and rent	Food and rent	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous	Food, rent, light and miscellaneous	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent and miscellaneous
1914 July	100	100	100	(a) 100 (f)	(d) 100	(g) 100	(e) 100	100	(a) 100	100 (f)	100 (f)	(a) 100
1915	104	125	97	119	(f) 108	99	100	100	(b) 117	119	103	105 (a)
1916	108	148	102	115	117	116	100	100	146	140	106	110
1917	118	180	116	128	146	146	100	100	190	180	114	142
1918	140	203	146	148	144	197	223	223	223	223	126	174
1919	186	208	155	132	157	205	205	205	205	205	136	200
1920	190	222	160	154	182	313	455	301	253	253	141	199
1921	192	219	152	152	178	382	379	382	382	382	151	174
1922	195	184	147	140	159	429	366	366	366	366	155	170
1923	169	169	146	151	158	(b) 487	429	399	166	180	(c) 154	173
1924	157	120	144	(a) 149	(d) 160	512	469	(d) 251	169	132	(a) 166	175 (a)
1925	157	123	149	149	149	508	469	508	169	132	169	175
October	153	126	149	149	149	513	469	513	169	132	169	175
November	153	126	149	149	149	513	469	513	169	132	169	175
December	155	127	154	156	156	549	514	549	169	131	169	178
1926	154	125	154	156	156	549	514	549	169	131	169	178
January	154	125	154	156	156	549	514	549	169	131	169	178
February	155	125	154	156	156	549	514	549	169	131	169	178
March	155	125	154	156	156	549	514	549	169	131	169	178
April	155	125	154	156	156	549	514	549	169	131	169	178
May	155	125	154	156	156	549	514	549	169	131	169	178
June	155	125	154	156	156	549	514	549	169	131	169	178
July	157	130	150	150	150	650	579	650	162	131	162	175
August	155	120	150	150	150	650	579	650	162	131	162	175
September	155	122	149	158	158	652	681	652	161	130	161	175
October	155	124	148	158	158	657	684	657	161	130	161	175
November	155	124	148	158	158	657	684	657	161	130	161	175
December	156	129	151	158	158	657	684	657	161	130	161	175
1927	156	129	151	158	158	657	684	657	161	130	161	175
January	156	129	151	158	158	657	684	657	161	130	161	175
February	156	129	151	158	158	657	684	657	161	130	161	175
March	156	129	151	158	158	657	684	657	161	130	161	175
April	156	129	151	158	158	657	684	657	161	130	161	175

(a) From 1914 to 1924 figures refer to second quarter. (b) First half of 1914. (c) April 1914. (d) From 1915 to 1924 June figures are given. (e) June 1914 = 100. (f) Average for 1914 = 100. (g) Average for 1914 = 100. (h) Average for 1914 = 100. (i) The figures for July 1923 are for Milan. (j) Revised series from March 1922. (k) Revised figures. (l) Figures from 1915 to 1924 refer to August. (m) Figures from 1915 to 1924 refer to December. (n) First half of the year. (o) June figures.

LABOUR GAZETTE

APR. 1926

APR. 1927

LABOUR GAZETTE

INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Country	India (Bombay)	Japan	China (Shanghai)	Java (Batavia)	Australia	Egypt (Cairo)	United Kingdom (1)	France	Holland	Norway	Sweden	Canada (b)	United States of America (3)
No. of articles	44	56	147	†	92	26	150	45	48	100	47	236	404
1913 Average	100	100	(d) 100	100	100	100	100	100	100	(a) 100	(f) 100	100	100
1914 ..	96	96	96	96	106	(e) 100	102	102	102	(c) 115	116	102	98
1915 ..	97	97	97	97	107	102	103	103	103	115	116	102	98
1916 ..	117	117	117	117	147	102	104	104	104	115	116	102	98
1917 ..	149	149	149	149	138	124	105	105	105	115	116	102	98
1918 ..	236	196	196	196	178	207	106	106	106	115	116	102	98
1919 ..	222	236	236	236	189	226	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
1920 ..	216	259	259	259	228	299	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
1921 ..	199	200	200	200	175	180	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
1922 ..	187	196	196	196	162	146	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
1923 ..	181	199	199	199	179	131	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
1924 ..	182	207	207	207	173	143	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
1925 ..	163	202	202	202	170	152	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. April ..	165	202	202	202	175	154	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. May ..	164	199	199	199	167	151	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. June ..	160	200	200	200	170	150	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. July ..	158	198	198	198	170	151	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. August ..	160	200	200	200	170	151	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. September ..	157	201	201	201	170	152	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. October ..	(b) 158	200	200	200	171	153	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. November ..	(b) 160	197	197	197	171	153	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. December ..	(b) 154	194	194	194	173	145	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
1926 January ..	(b) 154	192	192	192	168	140	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. February ..	(b) 151	188	188	188	169	134	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. March ..	(b) 150	184	184	184	168	134	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. April ..	151	181	181	181	171	134	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. May ..	151	177	177	177	166	129	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. June ..	150	177	177	177	163	130	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. July ..	149	179	179	179	162	130	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. August ..	148	177	177	177	162	130	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. September ..	149	176	176	176	166	129	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. October ..	147	174	174	174	162	129	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. November ..	146	172	172	172	163	130	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. December ..	146	170	170	170	162	130	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
1927 January ..	146	170	170	170	162	130	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. February ..	148	172	172	172	159	126	107	107	107	115	116	102	98
.. March ..	148	175	175	175	159	126	107	107	107	115	116	102	98

* July 1914 = 100. (a) Average for half year ended June 1914 = 100. (b) Revised figures. (c) The figures from 1914-1920 are for December. 1913 = 100. (d) Average January to July 1914 = 100. (1) Board of Trade. (2) Dominion Bureau of Statistics. (3) Bureau of Labor Statistics. (f) Average for year ended June 1914 = 100. † The number of articles has increased from 67 in September 1924 to 74 since June 1926.

RETAIL FOOD INDEX NUMBERS FOR INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Name of country	India	United King- dom	Canada	South Africa	Austra- lia	New Zealand	United States of America	France (b)	Italy	Belgium	Finland	Holland	Norway	Sweden (b)	Den- mark	Switzer- land
No. of articles	17	20	29	18	46	59	51	13	9	..	37	27	..	51	..	..
No. of stations	Bom- bay	630	60	9	30	25	51	Paris	Rome	59	21	Amster- dam	30	49	100	23
1914 July ..	100	100	100	(a) 100	100	100	100	100	(c) 100	(d) ..	100	(a) 100	100	100	100	100 (b)
1915 ..	105	132	105	107	131	112	98	122	95	..	..	..	..	124	128	119 (d)
1916 ..	105	161	114	116	130	119	109	132	111	..	..	..	160	142	146	141
1917 ..	114	204	157	128	126	127	143	183	137	..	..	142	214 (e)	181	166	178
1918 ..	142	210	175	134	131	139	164	206	203	..	..	176	279	268	187	222
1919 ..	187	209	186	139	147	144	186	261	206	..	..	210	289	310	212	250 (f)
1920 ..	147	188	258	227	197	194	167	373	318	..	982	211	319	297	253	245
1921 ..	174	220	148	139	161	164	145	306	402	100	1,278	180	295	232	236	210
1922 ..	160	180	138	116	148	144	139	297	459	87	1,105	140	233	179	(c) 184	166
1923 ..	148	162	137	116	164	142	144	321	(f) 496	105	968	136	218	160	(c) 188	170
1924 ..	151	162	134	117	149 (g)	148	140	360	508	124	1,016	138	248	159	(c) 200	167
1925 ..	152	167	141	120	156	151	159	421	602	133	1,107	152	260	169	..	165
.. September ..	146	170	146	118	156	153	156	431	643	141	1,149	148	241	168	..	163
.. October ..	148	172	147	118	157	155	158	433	646	144	1,129	148	228	166	..	163
.. November ..	149	172	151	117	156	156	164	444	649	144	1,130	148	223	165	..	163
.. December ..	151	174	161	116	156	154	162	463	660	147	1,108	145	221	164	177	167
1926 January ..	151	171	157	116	155	154	161	480	681	142	1,062	(f) 175	216	162	..	163
.. February ..	150	168	155	117	154	153	158	495	676	142	1,076	..	212	160	..	..
.. March ..	151	165	154	118	159	152	157	497	654	138	1,069	172	205	159	..	..
.. April ..	150	159	153	119	163	151	159	503	645	142	1,049	..	198	158	..	159
.. May ..	150	158	152	119	163	151	158	522	664	152	1,041	163	195	157	..	159
.. June ..	152	158	149	118	162	151	157	544	657	161	1,052	168	194	157	159	159
.. July ..	155	161	149	116	159	149	154	574	654	185	1,067	168	198	156	..	157
.. August ..	153	161	150	117	157	149	154	587	660	193	1,116	164	196	156	..	158
.. September ..	152	162	147	117	155	148	155	590	652	186	1,110	164	193	157	..	160
.. October ..	153	163	147	120	153	147	157	624	654	197	1,091	..	191	157	..	159
.. November ..	152	169	148	119	155	146	164	628	630	206	1,081	164	186	158	..	159
.. December ..	154	169	151	117	158	149	159	599	631	204	1,081	..	184	157	156	158
1927 January ..	155	167	151	116	148	146	156	592	625	208	1,063	..	180	156	..	147
.. February ..	152	161	151	..	146	..	..	585	..	..	..	..	177	153	..	146
.. March ..	152	162	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
.. April ..	151	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(a) Average for the year 1914. (b) Includes fuel and lighting. (c) January to June 1914. (d) Revised series—1921 = 100. (e) Figure for June. (f) The figures for Italy from July 1923 are for Milan. (g) Figure for August. (h) June 1914 = 100. (i) Figures from 1915 to 1919 are for June. (j) The figures from January 1926 are for the Hague base, January to July 1914 = 100.

RETAIL PRICES OF ARTICLES OF FOOD IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1927

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

Articles	Price per	Bombay	Karschi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona	Bombay	Karschi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
		Feb. 1927	Feb. 1927	Feb. 1927	Feb. 1927	Feb. 1927	Mar. 1927	Mar. 1927	Mar. 1927	Mar. 1927	Mar. 1927
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
<i>Cereals—</i>											
Rice	Maund	7 7 6 134	8 0 0 120	8 0 0 130	8 6 9 159	7 11 1 133	7 7 6 134	8 0 0 120	8 0 0 130	8 6 9 159	7 11 1 133
Wheat	"	7 9 7 136	6 3 5 148	6 15 4 148	6 12 6 131	8 1 11 151	7 10 11 137	6 3 5 148	7 4 4 154	7 1 0 137	8 6 5 156
Jowari	"	5 15 3 137	4 9 2 126	5 1 3 133	4 1 2 142	5 8 11 162	5 12 6 133	4 11 4 130	5 5 4 140	4 4 2 148	5 3 10 153
Bajri	"	5 12 4 134	5 8 3 131	6 2 6 131	4 3 7 120	5 1 11 149	5 14 10 137	5 7 6 130	6 2 6 131	4 5 2 123	5 9 10 157
<i>Index No.—Cereals</i>		135	131	136	138	149	135	132	139	142	145
<i>Pulses—</i>											
Gram	Maund	6 10 11 155	5 11 5 150	5 11 5 143	5 4 11 124	5 13 11 131	6 15 1 161	5 14 10 156	5 5 4 133	5 10 2 131	6 3 5 158
Turdal	"	8 13 2 151	9 4 5 139	8 14 3 144	8 5 0 142	10 2 6 154	8 14 6 152	10 0 0 150	8 14 3 144	8 7 10 145	9 2 8 159
<i>Index No.—Pulses</i>		153	145	144	133	158	157	153	150	150	159

<i>Other articles of food—</i>											
Sugar (refined) ..	Maund	14 4 7 187	12 12 10 176	13 14 7 174	14 8 9 145	14 0 7 180	14 4 7 187	12 12 10 176	13 14 7 174	14 8 9 145	14 0 7 180
Jagri (gul)	"	14 4 7 167	11 6 10 168	11 6 10 129	10 3 0 123	8 6 9 120	13 11 1 160	11 6 10 164	11 6 10 129	9 3 8 116	8 0 4 114
Tea	Lb.	0 15 2 194	0 15 7 200	0 15 7 200	1 1 10 171	1 0 5 200	0 15 3 196	0 15 7 223	0 15 7 200	1 1 10 171	1 0 5 200
Salt	Maund	3 3 6 151	2 0 0 152	2 4 7 151	3 5 9 151	2 13 5 111	3 5 0 156	2 0 0 152	2 4 7 151	3 5 9 151	2 13 5 151
Beef	Seer	0 8 2 158	0 9 0 180	0 4 5 74	0 5 0 201	0 6 0 141	0 8 0 155	0 9 0 180	0 4 1 68	0 4 6 140	0 6 0 141
Mutton	"	0 13 4 200	0 10 0 167	0 10 0 167	0 10 0 167	0 9 6 149	0 13 0 191	0 10 0 167	0 10 0 167	0 9 0 150	0 9 0 150
Milk	Maund	17 9 4 191	9 1 7 182	10 0 0 200	13 5 4 183	13 5 4 193	17 9 4 191	7 9 11 172	10 0 0 200	13 5 4 183	13 5 4 193
Ghee	"	94 0 9 185	69 9 0 163	71 1 9 160	71 1 9 127	66 10 8 129	94 10 3 186	71 1 9 167	71 1 9 160	71 1 9 127	66 10 8 130
Potatoes	"	7 2 3 159	4 0 5 74	4 5 2 114	6 2 6 154	5 4 2 196	7 2 1 181	4 11 4 89	5 6 6 89	6 10 8 167	5 4 2 180
Onions	"	5 15 3 184	5 7 6 101	5 0 0 230	5 0 0 200	3 8 2 175	5 5 9 145	4 0 1 248	5 0 0 230	4 7 1 170	5 0 0 170
Cocoanut oil	"	28 9 2 113	25 9 7 104	32 0 0 160	32 0 0 120	28 1 1 100	28 9 2 113	25 9 7 104	32 0 0 160	32 0 0 120	28 1 1 100
<i>Index No.—Other articles of food</i>		190	172	162	199	147	186	162	190	194	143
<i>Index No.—All food articles (average)</i>		173	159	153	151	146	170	157	191	160	164