LABOUR

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Barrens Frenda

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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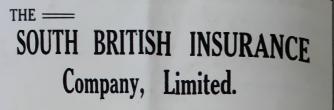
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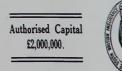
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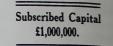
BOMBAY, MAY, 1922 [No. 9 CONTENTS PAGE PACE MONTH IN BRIEF .. 3 lapan 53 COST OF LIVING-Germany, Argentina 54 BOOKS RECEIVED (Official and Un-Cost of Living Index for April 1922 official Publications) PRICE STATISTICS-STATISTICAL TABLES-Wholesale Prices in April 1922 (Bombay) ... 10 Cost of Living Index (Bombay) .. 8-9 Retail Price Statistics (Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad and Sholapur) ... 11 Cost of Living Index Numbers for India and Foreign Countries Comparative Prices (Bombay, Karachi, Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay Ahmedabad and Sholapur) ... 12 Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi .. 40-42 Workmen's Budgets 12 Wholesale Prices Index Numbers in Bom-Wage Census 13 bay by groups from January 1920 43 THE LABOUR OFFICE 13 Retail Prices of articles of food in Bombay AGE COMPOSITION IN INDUSTRIAL in July 1914, March and April 1922 -43 CENTRES 16 Retail Prices of articles of food in March Mill-hands and other Labourers in Bombay. and April 1922 (Bombay, Karachi, Ahmed-16 INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES--abad and Sholapur) 44 Index Numbers of wholesale Prices in Industrial Disputes in the Presidency ... 17 India and Foreign Countries 45 Twelve Months of Industrial Disputes in 18 Retail Food Index for India and Foreign the Presidency East Indian Railway Strike 19 Countries 46 Principal Trade Disputes in Progress in INDIAN FACTORIES STATISTICS-April 1922 ...47---48 The Factories Act 20 Cotton Mill Production (yarn and woven THE COLLECTION OF STATISTICS BY goods) LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENT 21 CHARTS-LEGISLATION-Progress of the Monsoon, 1921. Labour Legislation-(Proceedings of the Associated Chambers of Commerce) 23 2 Cost of Living in Bombay, Logarithmic Chart. Workmen's Compensation Legislation Do. do. Natural Chart. 31 3 4 Retail Prices of Rice, Pulses, Cereals and HEALTH AND SANITATION IN other Articles of Food in Bombay. FACTORIES 28 .. ... 5 Cost of Living in Foreign Countries. THE WORK OF THE GENEVA CONFER-6 Imports and Exports of Merchandise-India. ENCE ... The International Labour Conference-7 Rate of Exchange in Bombay. Agenda for next session 8 Foods and Non-foods, Wholesale Prices. CURRENT NOTES FROM ABROAD-Bombay. United Kingdom. South Africa

... 52 9 & 10 Strikes in the Bombay Presidency.

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







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# THE MONTH IN BRIEF

#### Employment

N the cotton mill industry in May, the demand for labour was greater than the supply. There was a slight improvement in the attendance of workers at the mills, the percentage of absenteeism decreasing slightly by between 1 and 2 per cent. In the Railway Workshops there was no scarcity of labour, although, in Engineering concerns generally, there was a demand for fitters and blacksmiths. It is also reported that there has heen an unusual influx of labour from the Northwest Frontier. Many of the immigrants have not yet secured jobs. A number of these go to sea as firemen. The turnover, however, of labour is extremely rapid, the worker being always anxious to return to his native village, especially before the monsoon. For these reasons it is impossible, as has sometimes been suggested, to keep detailed labour records in factories in Bombay, and muster rolls and accident records contain practically all that is required. On the 13th of May wages were paid for April, and as usual absenteeism increased for three days very considerably.

The Cost of Living

The cost of living index, as described elsewhere in the "Labour Gazette," was in April 3 points below that of the preceding month. The average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the cost of living index for the City and Island of Bombay (100 represents the level in July 1914) was 162 for all articles and 157 for food only. The articles have been given the relative importance which each bears to the aggregate expenditure.

#### Wholesale Price Index

Since last September the wholesale price index has been moving downwards with the

exception of March. This index includes 28 non-food articles and 15 food articles. The index number for these 43 articles in April was 188, taking July 1914 to represent 100. This was 2 per cent. below the level of the previous month. Food articles stood at 193 and non-food articles at 185, showing a decrease of 3 and 2 per cent. respectively below the level of the previous month. As compared with the corresponding month of last year, prices have fallen by 5 per cent. The fall from the high-water mark (January 1920) was 19 per cent. in April. The twelvemonthly average ended April 1922 is about 16 per cent. below this level. The similar twelve-monthly average for the United Kingdom is 43 per cent. below the high-water mark reached in that country. It will be noticed that the price of wheat, notwithstanding the 42 per cent. increase in the last year's crop as referred to in the April "Labour Gazette," has not vet fallen to the extent anticipated. The cultivator is in no hurry to sell, and the future of the monsoon which is due next month is still an uncertain quantity.

#### Industrial Disputes

An article in this issue reviews the strikes that have occurred in the Bombay Presidency during the last twelve months. It will be noticed that no less than 71 per cent. of the strikes occurred in the textile industry. The results of the disputes were that 62 per cent. were settled in favour of the employees, 23 per cent. in favour of the employees, and 15 per cent. compromised. The total number of industrial disputes in progress, involving a stoppage of work, was 15 in April 1922, and the number of workpeople involved in all disputes was approximately 5,000 as compared with 22,000 in March 1922. The estimated LABOUR

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#### The Outlook

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The general feeling in business circles in Bombay is similar to that prevailing in many other countries. Confidence is strengthening. and 1922, if the monsoon proves normal, will be a far better year than 1921. An upward trend of production followed by a stronger banking position will be unquestioned. The Federal Reserve Bulletin for April sums up the position in America as follows :-- " The result is a nearer approach toward stability in international and industrial relations than has existed at any time in the recent past. The natural outcome of this more even and balanced state of things in our foreign trade has been reflected in the position of the exchanges." This, pari passu, applies to India. There is, however, a considerable leeway to be made up and to indulge in exchange heights is only to court disappointment. The Report of the Committee to collect information on Russia (Cmd 1240), which has recently been presented to the House of Commons, illustrates the difficulties in the way of an early restoration to normal conditions.

#### The Balance of Trade

The noticeable feature of the balance of trade for April is a favourable balance of 4 crores of rupees. There has again been a favourable balance of trade in merchandise, but owing to the large imports of treasure into Bombay the balance of transaction in treasure has been adverse.

India

	In lakhs of rupees						
	December 1921	Januarv 1922	February 1922	Marel 1922	April 1922		
Exports (private mer-	+21,73	+22,99	+22,20	+27,61	+ 23,86		
Imports do	-23,16	-27,62	-19.93	-21,48	-17,84		
Balance of Trade in merchandise.	-1,43	-4,63	+2,27	+6,13	+6.02		
alance of transactions in treasure.	-1.08	-2,48	-2,93	-4,68	- 3,85		
hible balance of trade including securities.*	-2.56	-7,12	59	+1,41	+4.17		

		Bon	nbay				
	In lakhs of rupses						
	Decem- ber 1921	January 1922	February 1922	March 1922	April 192		
Exports (private nier- chandise).	+ 7,65	+8,98	+7,11	+ 9,28	+6,46		
Imports do	-9.09	-9,86	-6,90	-9,95	-7,42		
Balance of Trade in merchandise.	-1,44	88	+21	-67	96		
Imports of treasure	-1,33	-2,65	-2,78	-4,58	-3.45		
Exports of treasure	+21	+ 23	+2	+1	+2		
Balance of transactions in treasure.	-1,12	-2,42	-2,76	-4,57	- 3.43		
	-	Kar	achi	19 . 17	10 493 B		
	-	In	lakhs of 1	upees			
	Decem- ber 1921	January 1922	February 1922	March 1922	April 1922		
Exports (private mer- chandise).	+ 68	+1,29	+1,51	+2.59	+ 1.69		
Ímports do	-2,57	-3,02	-2,22	-2,09	-1,28		
Balance of Trade in	-1,89	-1,73	-71	+ 50	+41		

-2 -2 -3

...

-2 -3

Nore-Plus (+) signifies net export and minus (-) signifies net

Signs of Recovery

..

astare	There are chief export	There are signs of recovery as the following chief exports and imports show :							
	Ex	ports of	Indian Mer	chandise					
			1913-14 Pr <del>o</del> -war year.	1920-21	1921-22				
922	Cotton, Raw Piece-goods	Tons Yards	531,000 89,234,000	371,000	534,000 160,967,000				

				1
Cotton, Raw	Tons	 531,000	371,000	534,000
Piece-goods	Yards	 89,234,000	146,365,000	160,967,000
Jute, Raw	Tons	 768,000	472,000	468,000
Gunny bags	Number	 368,759,000	533,908,000	386,711,000
Gunny cloth	Yards	 1,061,152,000	1,352,739,000	1,120,569,000
Hide and Skins, Raw Tanı		 82,000	31,000	48,000
	ed Tons	 15,000	7,000	10,000
Oilseeds	Tons	 1,581,000	624,000	735,000
Tea	Lbs.	 289,474,000	285,752,000	313,878,000
Grain, pulse and flour	Tons	 4,195,000	1,487,000	1,653,000
Shellac	Cwts.	 275,000	280,000	380,000

aggregate duration of all disputes during April 1922 was approximately 18,352 working days as compared with 300,829 in March 1922. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes from 1st April 1921 to the end of April 1922 was 1,657,019 days. Detailed information will be found on pages 17, 18 and 47. During the latter portion of the present month (May) there has been an amount of labour unrest among weavers in certain mills in Bombay, mainly owing to the demand for an increase in piece rates. The spinners, however, in this group of mills have continued to work peacefully. The number of weavers on strike was approximately 1,500, and this will be referred to in the next issue of the "Labour Gazette."

## Labour Legislation

The Government of India have decided to proceed with legislation on Workmen's Compensation, and a Committee is to meet in Simla at the end of June to discuss details. The Hon'ble Mr. Innes, Member in charge of the Industries Department, will be Chairman. A delegate of the Accident Office Association, London, is arriving in India, to confer with the Bombay Insurance Committee here at an early date. A committee, it is understood, has also been sitting in Calcutta. The views of the Bombay Committee will be found on page 31.

#### **Cotton Mill Production**

The year's figures published below are undoubtedly satisfactory.

#### (1) Month of March

		ions of 1 /arn spu		Millions of 1bs. of woven goods produced			
-	March			March			
	1920	1921	1922	1920	1921	1922	
Bombay Island Ahmedabad Other centres	 26 6 3	28 7 4	27 7 4	13 8 2	14 10 3	17	
Total, Presidency	 35	39	38	23	27	2	

	Millions of Ibs. of yarn spun	Millions of woven produc
--	----------------------------------	--------------------------------

(2) Twelve months ending March

		0	r yarn s	pun	P	roduce	d
: -		Twelve	months March	Twelve months ended March			
		1920	1921	1922	1920	1921	1922
bay Island		318	342	349	195	186	207
edabad		74	76	86	80	76	85
r centres		48	52	58	31	30	35
			470	100		-	-

Total, Presidency ... 440 470 493 306 292 327

In March 1922, the yarn spun in our mills in the Presidency was less than in the corresponding month of last year, but greater than in March two years ago. The goods woven in March this year show an advance as compared with those in March 1921 as well as 1920. The astonishing feature of the tables above is the increase both in yarn and in woven goods produced in the twelve months ended March 1922. Prices of Indian made yarn and piece-goods show an upward tendency as compared with the previous month.

The Lancashire cotton industrial develop-ments during April have been favourable. Buying on a healthy scale has taken place in varn and cloth, and in the weaving districts of North and North-East Lancashire looms that have been idle for months are being restarted. The monthly Review for April of the London County Westminister and Parr's Bank points out that "manufacturers of piecegoods during the last few weeks have met with a much larger demand for India. Healthy clearances have occurred in the bazaars, and dealers have placed substantial contracts with Lancashire firms. The bulk of the buying has been for Calcutta. but quite an encouraging turnover has taken place for Bombay, Madras and Karachi. This activity has had a considerable effect upon weavers in Blackburn and Great Harwood, and, in addition to clearing their stocks. some producers have very fair orders on their books, while sheds that have been closed down are now being reopened.

MAY, 1922

Imports of Foreign Merchandise

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	1913-14 Pre-war year.	1920-21	1921-22
Cotton-Piece-goods-Grey Yds	1,534,189,000	580,208,000	635,608,000
Twist & yarn Lbs	44,171,000	47,333,000	57,124,000
Raw Tons	3,000	9,000	24,000
Sugar 16 D. S. and above Tons	795,000	236,000	717,00
Galvanised sheets and plates of steel or iron Tons	278,000	67,000	<b>88. 0</b> 00
Railway plant and rolling stock Value Rs	. 10,03,00,000	14,13,00,000	18,91,00.000
Machinery and millwork Value Ra	7,76,00,000	22,38,00,000	34,26.00,000

These exports and imports are our main exports and imports. All the items except jute show an appreciable increase over the previous year's figures. The exports of cotton, raw and manufactured, of tea and shellac exceeded those of the prewar year. The large imports of raw cotton, twist and yarn, railway plant and rolling stock, and machinery and millwork are also noticeable from the statement above. More, however, is necessary to fan the flame of industrial and financial activity in order to dissipate the atmosphere of inertia and stagnation, which has clogged the wheels of the economic machine.

#### **Business Conditions**

The rates for telegraphic transfers in Bombay on London in the first week of each of the last seven months were as follows :--

1. d.

November 1921	 	1 4 9 16
December "	 	1 3 8
3rd January 1922	 	1 31
lst February "	 	1 3 8
1st March	 	1 33
lst April "	 	1 3 32
lst May "	 	1 33

The rates are supplied by the Deputy Controller of the Currency, Bombay. The rate for the first week of October was 1s.  $5\frac{15}{32}d$ . There was, from the third week of May, a great deal of strengthening in exchange, due, perhaps, to the influences at work outside India. The sinking of the "Egypt" (which is reported to have had on board over £1 million of gold and silver) on the 20th May, had a lullish effect on exchange. Bank clearings during April, in Bombay, Karachi and Rangoon were above the March level, but in Calcutta these were somewhat lower.

The rupee portion of the Paper Currency Reserve in Bombay has fallen from Rs. 26 crores on the 31st October 1921 to Rs. 24 crores at the end of November. On the 31st December the figure was Rs. 20 crores. On the 31st January 1922 the figure was the same (Rs. 20 crores) as on the 31st December 1921 On the 28th February, however, it rose to Rs. 22 crores. On the 31st March it increased to Rs. 23 crores and remained the same on the 30th April. The latest figures (15th May) show the rupee portion of the Reserve in Bombay as Rs. 23 crores. In addition there is in Bombay Rs. 14 crores in the form of gold. The average market quotation of 65 cotton mill companies, for which reports are available, was Rs. 1.621 at the end of April 1922, as against Rs. 1.612 at the end of March and Rs. 1.602 at the end of February. The average amount paid up was Rs. 374 per share.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

#### NOMINATION OF AN INDIAN OFFICIAL

The Director of the International Labour Office recently asked the Government of India to nominate an Indian official for appointment to his staff in Geneva. The Government of India have selected Rao Bahadur S. K. Sundaracharlu, who was until recently Assistant to the Commissioner of Labour in Madras. He will in no sense "represent" India or the Indian Government, but will be engaged in purely secretariat work, and paid by the International Labour Office. Mr. Sundaracharlu left Bombay *en route* to Geneva on the 6th May 1922. MAY, 1922

GAZETTE

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# THE COST OF LIVING INDEX FOR APRIL 1922

LABOUR

# Fall in food-grains

#### All articles .. 62 per cent.

In April 1922 the average level of retail prices for all the commodities taken into account in the statistics of a cost of living index for the working classes in Bombay, was three points below that in the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the index was about 165 in March and 162 in April. The general index is 16 per cent. below the high-water mark reached in October 1920 and 6 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1921.

With the exception of rice, bajri, and jowari, which remained stationary, there was a fall in the prices of food-grains varying from 5 to 10 points as compared with prices in March. The price of wheat fell 10 points, gram 8 points, and turdal 5 points. Since there has been after all no increase in the salt duty the proposal for the increase having been negatived by the Legislature—salt has fallen by 16 points. Raw sugar, beef, mutton, milk and tea remained at the level of the previous month. There was an increase of 12 and 5 points in the prices of refined sugar and ghee. A fall of 33 and 26 per cent. was observed in potatoes and onions respectively.

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

#### July 1914=100

April 1	919 (three y	ears ago)	167	September 1921	 18
	920 (two yes		17	October "	 18
	r 1920 🔴		193	November	 182
April	921 (a year	ago)	160	December "	 179
May			167	January 1922	 17
June	,,		173	February "	 16
July			177	March	 165
August			180	April	 162

d	only	 57	per	cent.	

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

 100 100 100 100 100	132 176 141 165 200	132 166 141 165	
 100 100	141 165	141	-10 -
 100	165		
 	1	165	-
 100	200		
	200	192	- 8
 100	177	* 172	- 5
 100	191	191	-
 100	207	219	+12
 100	127	127	- 10
 100	151	135	16
 100	200	200	-
 100	230	230	-
 100	191	191	-
 100	180	185	+ 5
 100	150	99	51
 100	223	164	59
 100	90	86	- 4
	100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100	100         191           100         207           100         127           100         151           100         230           100         230           100         191           100         151           100         230           100         191           100         150           100         150           100         150           100         150           100         99	100         191         191           100         207         219           100         127         127           100         151         135           100         200         200           100         230         230           100         191         191           100         230         230           100         191         191           100         160         185           100         150         99           100         223         164           100         90         86

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

				<u> </u>				MAY, I
		BOMBAY	COST O		G INDEX			
,		Annual	-	Price.	1. T	г	Total Expendit	ure.
, Articles.	Unit of quantity.	(Mass Units). (In crores.)	July 1914.	March 1922.	April 1922.	July 1914.	March 1922.	April 1922
realr Rice Ybeat Jowani Bajri	-	70 21 11 6	Rs. 5:59 5:59 4:35 4:31	Rs. 7*406 9*844 6*156 7*109	Rs. 7*406 9*302 6*156 7*109	Rs. 391:30 117:39 47:85 25:86	Ra. 518·42 206·72 67·72 42·65	Ra. 518-42 195-34 67-72 42-65
tal and Average—Cereals .		-	100	143	142	582.40	835-51	824-13
dee- Gram ' Turdal '	Maund	10	4*30 5*84	8*604 10*354	8°271 10°063	43.00 17.52	86°04 31°06	82.71 30.19
teal and Average Pulses		-	100	193	187	60.52	117-10	112-90
ther fixed articles— Sugar (szw) Sugar (refined) Tes	Maund	7 2	8*56 7*62 40*00	16°328 15°766 50°792	16*328 16*667 50*792	59°92 15°24 1°00	114°30 31°53 1°27	114°30 33°33 1°27
Salt Beel Mathon Milk Chee Pontoes Onions Cocoamut Oll	·· Seer ·· Maund	40 5 208 333 14 18 11 3 8	2*13 0*32 0*42 9*20 50*79 4*48 1*55 15*40	3:224 0:641 0:964 17:583 91:427 6:724 3:464 22:859	2:885 0:641 0:964 17:583 94:120 4:438 2:542 21:771	10°65 8°96 13°86 128°80 76°18 49°28 4°65 12°70	16*12 17*95 31*81 246*16 137*14 73*96 10*39 11*43	14:43 17:95 31:81 246:16 141:18 48:82 7:63 10:89
Iotal and Average—Other is articles	ed	-	100	182	175	381*24	692.06	667-77
fotal and Average—All fo articles	nod		100	161	157	1,024-16	1,644.67	1,604-80
Fael and lighting— Kerosene od Farewood Cael	Case Maund	5 48 1	4137 0179 0154	7*625 1*281 1*139	7*625 1*281 1*102	21 *85 37*92 0*54	38°13 61°49 1°14	38-13 61-49 1-10
Total and Average—Fuel : lighting	- ba		100	167	167	60*31	100°76	100-72
Clothing— Chudden Shirrings T. Cloth	Lb. 	17 25 36	0159 0164 0158	1:469 1:685 1:688	1*469 1*670 1*438	15*93 16*00 20*88	39°66 42°13 51°77	39°66 41.125 51.177
Total and Average—Clothin	e –	-	100	253	252	52-81	133*56	133-18
House rent	Per mont	A 90	11*30	18-70	18-70	1/5*00	187-00	187-00
Grand Total and General J		1 -	100	165	162	1,250-28	2.065-99	2,025-70

of 62 per cent. (Rs. 1,250-28 = 104

May, 1922		LABOU	JR	C	AZETTE			
i.	i anna i	BOMBAY	COST OF	LIV	ING INDE	K		9
		Altern	ative method of	prese	ntation.			
	Articles.		Approxit percent weight as to each a based propert	nate age ugned rticle cn		umber,	Weight × In	dex Number,
			in appre	gate	Mar. 1922.	Apr. 1922.	Mar. 1922,	Apr. 1922.
Cresslo Rice Wheat Jowan Bairi		  	••	9°4 9°4 3°8 2°1	132 176 141 165	132 166 141 165	4.144*8 1.654*4 535*8 346*5	4.144*8 1.560*4 535*8 346*5
	Total and A	verage Index No.		6.7	143	142	5-681-5	6,587.5
Pulaes Gram Turdal	: :			3·1 1·3	200 177	192 172	620°0 230°1	595-2
	Total and A	verage Index No.		4-4	193	187	850-1	81818
Other food erticles- Super (raw) Super (refined) Tes Salt Beef Matton Milk Cabe Position Ocides Coceanat cal	··· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ··	     		4.8 1.2 0.1 0.9 0.7 1.1 0.3 6.1 4.0 0.4 1.0	191 207 127 151 256 230 191 180 150 223 90	191 219 127 1355 2361 191 185 99 164 &	916-8 246-4 12-7 135-9 140-0 253-0 1.962-3 600-0 89-2 90-0	916-8 252-8 121-5 140-0 253-0 1.567-3 396-0 65-6 86-6
	Total and Av	erage Index No.	- 3	r6	181	175	5,551-3	5,350-2
Fact and lighting- Kerowene all Firewood Cai			3	-8 -0 -1	174 162 210	174 162 208	313-2 456-0 21-0	313-2 466-10 2673
	Total and Am	erage Index No.	4	9	167	167	825-2	819'5
Cistiling Discis Shirtings T. Clark	••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••		1	3377	245 263 247	247 261 247	32111 34119 41919	321°1 339°3 419°5
	Total and Ave	nage Index No.		3	253	252	1,082-9	1.080-3
House rent			- 0 9	1	165	165	1,501-5	1.501 *5
	Grand tot	d of weights	- 10	0		-	1	
General Average or Co	at of Living Index (Jul	y 1914 = 100			145	162	16,487-5	16,157 1

× ± 55---3

#### Scope of the Cost of Living Index

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The index refers to the working class population which is, of course, Indian. At the last census, taken in 1921, this was approximately five lakhs (5,00,000), mainly made up of 3.04.000 in industries, 75,000 transport and 44,000 domestic servants, out of a total population of about twelve lakhs (11,76,000). The index does not refer to the cost of living of Europeans (of whom there were at the last census 13,000 or 11 per cent. of the total population) and except generally it does not refer to the higher middle classes of Indians. Such classes spend a larger proportionate amount on housing than the working classes, and their range of expenditure is greater, including as it does, in the case of Europeans, family remittances, education, medical attendance, insurance, income-tax, and other expenses. A reference to these will be found on page 10 of the "Labour Gazette for March.

#### WHOLESALE PRICES IN APRIL

#### BOMBAY

The continuous downward movement of the index number of wholesale prices in Bombay, since last September, was broken in March 1922, by an appreciable rise in prices. In April 1922, however, the prices fell again by about 2 per cent. As compared with the corresponding month of last year prices have fallen by five per cent., the fall from the twelve-monthly average of 1921 being about 4 per cent.

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

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

				Increase (+) () per co 1922 as con	
	Groups.		No. of items.	the preceding month (Mar. 1922).	the corre- sponding month of Last year (April 1921
1.	Cereals		7	+ 1	+ 3
2.	Pulses Sugar	**	7 2 3 3	-4 + 2	+ 7
	Other food		3	-12	31 +29
	Total food		15	- 3	-3
	Oilseeds		4	+ 3	- 1
	Raw cotton		- 5	+ 3	+60
•	Cotton manufactures		6235		- 6
•	Other textiles Hides and skins		3	-18	-15
	Metals	•••	5	-3	
	Other raw and manufactu	red		-	-24
	articles		3	- 3	-12
	Total non-food		28	- 2	- 7
	General average		43	- 2	-5

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Comparing with the previous month, there was a fall of 4 and 12 per cent. in the groups "Pulses" and "Other food", and a rise of one and two per cent. in those of "Cereals" and sugar respectively. The price of gram fell by 7 per cent., while those of rice, wheat, bajri and ghee remained at the same level. Since there has been after all no increase in the salt duty—the proposal for the increase having been negatived by the Legislature—salt has fallen by 34 per cent. Jowari and barley have increased by 2 and 11 per cent., respectively. The wholesale food index for April was about 193, which is 3 per cent. lower than those of March 1922 and April 1921.

The average index for non-food articles was about 4 per cent. lower than the food index and 2 per cent. below the level of the previous month. "Hides and Skins" which is still fluctuating has fallen by 18 per cent. A decrease to about 3 per cent. was observed in the groups "Metals" and "Other raw and manufactured articles". "Cotton manufactures" and "Other textiles" remained at the same level, while "Oilseeds" and "Raw cotton "rose by about 3 per cent.

The table on the next page compares April prices with those of the preceding months and

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of the corresponding month last year. The table expresses the price levels as percentages of the twelve-monthly average of 1921.

LABOUR

100 = average of 1921

Groupt	-	April 1921.	July 1921.	Oct. 1921.	Jan. 1922.	Mar. 1922	April 1922.
. Ceresla		95	102	105	99	97	98
II. Pulace		94	95	103	110	104	101
III. Sugar		124	88	78	79	85	86
IV. Otherfood		96	109	106	112	142	125
Totalfood		103	99	98	97	103	100
V, Oilseeds		101	119	90	92	97	100
VI. Raw cotton		78	96	118	116	122	125
UI. Cotton manufe tures		100	101	102	97	94	94
VIII. Other textiles		113	96	96	97	97	97
IX. Hides and Skins		106	98	114	104	105	86
X. Metals		106	105	90	86	83	81
XI. Other raw a manufact u r e articles	nd d	102	97	95	92	92	90
Total non-loo	d	100	103	101	96	95	93
General average— articles	all	101	102	99	97	98	96

The main fact which emerges from this table is that the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay is now below the average of 1921. No item is so far below the average as is "Metals". The level of "Raw Cotton" in April 1922 is 25 per cent. above the twelvemonthly average of 1921.

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

#### Annual wholesale prices

#### $\ln l_{\rm H} 1914 = 100$

 I	100		
	Food.	Non- food.	

		Food.	food.	All articles.
Twelve-monthly average	1918	 170	270	237
	1919	 202	233	222
	1920	 206	221	215
	1921	 193	198	196
Four-monthly average	1922	 192	187	189

			11		
Months.	nu fo	ndex mber r all ood.	Index number for all non-food.	Index number for all articles.	Increase (+) or decrease () per cent of index number for all articles.
anuary 1921		185	195	191	- 1
ebruary " March		188 189	193 190	191	
April		199	198	190	1 1
May "		196	200	199	
une		194	205	197	-1
July	10	191	203	199	+1
August September		205 202	202	203	
October		189	211	207	
November		193	192	193	
December "		189	191	19	
January 1922		188	190	19	
February "		189	185	184	
March		198	189	19	
April "		193	185	18	8   - 2

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other countries will be found on page 45.

#### **RETAIL PRICE STATISTICS**

#### Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad and Sholapur

On page 44 will be found statistics of food prices in March and April 1922 for Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad, and Sholapur. These are official prices supplied through the Director of Agriculture to the Labour Office, and are averages of prices taken eight times a month from retail shop-keepers patronised by the labouring classes. These towns are selected because they are the mainspring of industrial activity in the Presidency.

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

In April 1922 the unweighted food indexes for Bombay and Karachi show a fall from the previous month, while for Ahmedabad and Sholapur they show a rise. We find from these numbers that the price of cereals has risen only in Sholapur, while that of pulses has fallen in all the centres. "Other food" shows a slight rise in Ahmedabad and Sholapur, and a fall in Bombay and Karachi.

### COMPARATIVE PRICES

From the table below it will be seen that taking the retail food prices in Bombay in April 1922 as equal to 100, Karachi and Sholapur show a level below Bombay, while Ahmedabad shows one above it. But in March Ahmedabad also shows a level below Bombay.

Bombay	prices	in	March	1922	==	100	
--------	--------	----	-------	------	----	-----	--

Articles	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmed- abad	Sholapur
Cereals-				
Rice	100	135	108	94
Wheat	100	104	90	77
Jowari	100	94	93	67
Bajri	100	94	102	72
Average—Cereals	100	107	98	78
Pulses-				
Gram	100	101	88	85
Turdal	100	94	103	74
Average-Pulses	100	98	96	80
Other articles of food-				
Sugar (refined)	100	105	107	113
Jagri (Gul)	100	102	82	103
Tea	100	90	126	105
Salt	100	80	83	116
Beef	100	98	78	59
Mutton	100	78	78	65
Milk	100	57	70	76
Ghee	100	74	82	88
Potatoes	100	63	66	119
Onions	100	132	144	96
Cocoanut oil	. 100	133	140	117
Average-Other article	s			
of food .	. 100	92	96	96
Average-All foo				
articles	100	96	96	90

#### Bombay prices in April 1922 = 100

Cereals-				
Rice	100	135	108	100
Wheat	100	95	88	78
Jowari	100	91	93	69
Bajri	100	96	102	77
Average-Cereals	100	104	98	81
Pulses-				01
Gram	100	85	88	85
Turdal	100	94	99	75
• Average—Pulses	100	90	94	80
Other articles of food				00
Sugar (refined)	100	102	120	107
Jagri (Gul)	100	- 99	98	107
Tea	100	90	126	105
Salt	100	82	116	121
Beef	100	98	78	59
Mutton	100	78	78	65
Milk	100	57	70	76
Ghee	100	74	85	
Potatoes	100	112	106	97 180
Onions	100	128	150	131
Cocoanut oil	100	140	163	
Average-Other articles			.05	123
of food	100	96	108	106
Average-All food				100
articles	100	97	104	

### WORKMEN'S BUDGETS

#### PROGRESS OF THE INQUIRY

A description of the objects and method of the inquiry into working men's family budgets was given in the September issue of the " Labour Gazette ", and a note on the number of budgets collected appeared in the October issue. Up to May 10th, 2,532 family and 568 single" men's budgets, making a total of 3,100, have been collected by the Investigators of the Labour Office. By "single" is meant those men who have no families, or who live in Bombay in a mess away from their families. This type of worker is common in Bombay, and although the primary object of the budget inquiry is to ascertain the true facts relating to the income and expenditure of a working class family in Bombay, the case of the "single" man cannot be overlooked. In the collection of the budgets attention is paid to the industries in which the largest numbers of workers are engaged. For example, the cotton mill industry which gives employment to 123,140 persons, according to the last census, is considered first, and the remaining major industries are placed in order of importance. The budgets are, as far as possible, collected in proportion to the importance of these industries. The table below shows the number and percentage of budgets by industries collected so far :--

#### Proportion of budgets collected

	Industry		Number	Approximate percentinge	
(1)	Mill workers		1,530	49	
(2)	Railway workers		274	9	
(3)	Dock workers		385	» 12	
(4)	Municipal coolies 36 others 18	2	461	15	
(5)	Engineering workers		244	8	
(6)	Gas and electric workers		92	3	
(7)	Postal workers		32	1	
(8)	Miscellaneous workers		82	3	
	Tot	al	3,100	100	

The process of tabulation of these budgets according to income and occupation is now nearing completion. Averages for each group are being struck and typical budgets will be prepared from these averages. The final results will shortly be published. The next May, 1922

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issue of the "Labour Gazette" will contain a note on the general results of the family budget inquiry and an article on the scavengers' budgets.

LABOUR A

#### WAGE CENSUS

#### THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The final tabulation work connected with the cotton wage census in the Bombay Presidency has now been completed, and the report with the necessary comparative tables, explanatory notes, etc., will in the near future be published. The information deals with wages paid in May 1921 for over 250 occupations. Owing to the co-operation of the Bombay Millowners' Association, the whole of the mills in Bombay City and Island have supplied the required information. Individual returns are, of course, regarded as confidential, and only averages for groups of mills will be published, so that the returns of individual mills will in no way be shown. In addition to Bombay, detailed information will be published for Ahmedabad, Sholapur and elsewhere in the Presidency. The mills in the City and Island of Bombay have, as suggested by the Sub-Committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association appointed to work with the Labour Office in this connexion, been classified under six groups according to their location, viz. :- Jacob Circle, Tardeo, Chinchpoogli, Sewri, Parel and Worli. Some mills, however, very few in number-have been grouped under "Other centres" as they cannot be classified according to their location without disclosing their identity. The average daily earnings of workers men, women and children-are separately shown. In this connexion the remarks of the Chairman of the Millowners' Association in regard to the variation in rates paid in the Bombay mill industry (see "Labour Gazette" for March) may be noted. He said " obviously the work of dissection has been difficult and taken much time to tabulate, but I expect the (Wage Census) report will be issued in the near future, and I hope the figures and information collected will give us a 'nucleus' for standardisation of wages in the textile trade.

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## THE LABOUR OFFICE

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#### SCOPE OF ITS WORK

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A press note was issued in April of last year on the Labour Office. In view of the interest taken in the work of the office and the reference to it in the Industrial Disputes Committee's Report (see April "Labour Gazette," pages 29 and 30) and in the speech of the Chairman of the Millowners' Association at the annual meeting of the Bombay Millowners (see "Labour Gazette" for March, page 25) it has been thought necessary to republish the note.

"A Labour Office has now been established by Government, and it may be of general interest to employers and employed to have a brief statement showing why such an office has been found necessary and what will be the general scope of its work.

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

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

"While the cost of such a department is not productive in the sense that it earns interest, yet, in countries where such an organisation



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exists, it is not usually regarded as a purely unproductive investment; for it is pointed out that by helping to secure harmonious relations between employers and employed it saves the parties immediately concerned, and the country generally, a great deal of money that might otherwise be wasted in industrial disputes. It is not suggested that the setting up of the Bombay Office will overcome all labour difficulties. It is not intended that it should arbitrarily intervene in all disputes between capital and labour; but it is felt that it will be an advantage to the parties concerned to have all the available facts bearing on economic conditions readily accessible, and to have at the head of the new office a man to whom both employers and employed can look for advice and information, and who can bring to bear on each question full knowledge and unbiassed judgment.

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"His Excellency the Governor being convinced, after his experience of disputes in Bombay, of the need for such an office sought the assistance of the authorities at home in finding a man who could help to organise it. The Labour Department in the United Kingdom was started nearly thirty years ago and Mr. F. H. McLeod, C.B., who was largely concerned in organising that department, and afterwards served as the head of it, was accordingly appointed by the India Office to come out and give the Bombay Government the benefit of his advice and experience. He has now finished his part of the work and made plans which ensure to Bombay an efficient labour office.

"The whole-time staff of the office will consist of a Director who will be responsible for its management, for the conduct of enquiries and the preparation of reports. He will be assisted by investigators, by statistical clerks and by typists.

"In addition to this regular whole-time staff the active assistance of the various men and women now engaged in doing excellent social services of one king or another in Bombay and other parts of the Presidency, is being invited and many are already at work. These men and women will receive the title of Honorary Correspondents of the labour office. Most of them will only be able to give parttime assistance and many of them would not wish to be paid even their expenses. Where, however, duties are assigned to a correspondent involving regular monthly or weekly returns or where, in connection with special investigations, they may be continuously employed for some weeks in such a way as to involve some out-of-pocket expenses, it is proposed to offer suitable fees.

"Thus it is hoped to establish a net-work of unofficial correspondents, who will keep the office fully informed of labour matters in their respective districts, much in the same way as a well conducted newspaper keeps in touch with outlying areas by local correspondents. All persons who can assist by their special knowledge will be invited to communicate with the department, and if their services are accepted will be enrolled on the list of Honorary Correspondents. By establishing these friendly relations between the purely official staff and those who are doing such good work outside in various directions, there is very little doubt that all parties will benefit.

" It is not easy to delimit the functions of a labour office, for ultimately the workers who constitute the great mass of the people must be affected by nearly everything of importance that happens in the world, and a competent head of a labour office should therefore keep himself well informed on a great variety of subjects, although some of them, strictly speaking, be outside his personal work. Thus he will not compile the statistics of the rainfall in India, but he should take note of them, as there is probably nothing which has such an enormous effect on the condition of the people of this country as the abundance or otherwise of the rainfall. Similarly, reports on irrigation, on the mortality rates, should be carefully studied. In short, there is hardly any subject which is not related in some way to the work of a labour department in its widest aspect.

"The immediate functions of the office may, however, be briefly grouped under four main heads as under.

"(1) Statistics.—To obtain full and accurate information with regard to the conditions under which labour works, e.g., wages, hours of labour, retail prices, rents and generally any facts which will throw light on the economic and social conditions of the workers. May, 1922

Statistics of strikes also fall into this group and should be so analysed as to bring out the real causes of unrest. Information as to any trade unions now existing will also be obtained. Reports setting forth the facts obtained as to wages, etc., will be prepared and published.

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"(2) Intelligence.—Closely allied but distinct in character, is day-to-day information as to all labour movements and disputes. Information will be obtained from all available sources, and it is hoped that in the case of disputes, for instance, both the employers and the leaders of the workpeople concerned will furnish exact details. The newspapers, both in English and the vernacular, will be read, and extracts bearing on all labour questions will be made and classified.

"The intelligence officer will also keep in touch with all those private institutions and persons who publish from time to time information bearing on the condition of the people of India.

"Another kind of intelligence is contained in the numerous reports issued by the labour departments of other countries, and it will be the duty of the new office to form a library of these and other books dealing with economic questions affecting the general position of labour throughout the world. A collection of labour laws will also be made.

"(3) As experience and knowledge are gained and the activities of the labour office develop, it is anticipated that it will be of the greatest utility to Government in the practical measures which it may find it expedient or desirable to undertake, with a view to promote the settlement of industrial disputes when they arise.

"(4) Legislation and other measures.— To advise the Government from time to time as regards necessary new legislation of the amendment of old laws. In this connection the facilities afforded by the department for obtaining full and accurate information on social, economic and labour matters in this and other countries will be of the greatest assistance to private members or Government departments, whose duty it is to initiate legislation on social or industrial subjects."

Since the above note was written the Labour Office publishes monthly a "Labour Gazette"

containing detailed information regarding the cost of living, wages, industrial disputes and other matters of labour interest. It is a journal, as pointed out in the September issue of the Gazette, for the use of all interested in obtaining prompt and accurate information on matters specially affecting labour. In addition to statistics, other information regarding labour obtained from Indian sources and from abroad. is arranged, sifted and made accessible to the public. In short, official information bearing directly and indirectly on labour is made public in a concise and readable manner. With mere questions of opinion it is not concerned. Its aim is rather to provide a sound basis for the formation of opinions mainly by statistics compiled with meticulous carc and finish and not to supply opinions.

The cost of the Labour Office, owing to necessity for retrenchment, has been kept at a bare minimum. The budget allotment for the year 1922-23 is only Rs. 99,944. The original estimates were Rs. 1,22,500 which included the appointment of three Correspondents, one at Ahmedabad, one at Sholapur and one at Karachi. The salary proposed for these Correspondents is Rs. 275-15-350. Although this has been administratively approved by Government-the question of appointing such correspondents outside Bombay Čity and Island having been urged by more than one member of the Legislative Council-it has not been possible to allow for these in the present budget owing to the necessity for ruthless, relentless and remorseless retrenchment in the present year.

#### Meeting of the Honorary Correspondents

A meeting of the Honorary Correspondents of the Labour Office was held in the Secretariat on the 26th April. Among those present were Mr. J. A. Kay, Chairman, Bombay Millowners' Association, Mr. Joseph Baptista, President of the All-India Trade Union Congress, Mr. Kanji Dwarkadas, M.L.C., Dr. Mrs. Dadabhoy, Mr. S. S. Mehta, B.A., Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A., and Mr. S. K. Bole, M.L.C.

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# MAY, 1922

## AGE COMPOSITION IN INDUSTRIAL **CENTRES**

LABOUR

#### BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

## Bu

## L. J. Sedgwick, I.C.S., Provincial Superintendent of Census, Bombay Presidency.

The age composition of Indian cities is often highly abnormal, containing an excess of persons in the middle or wage-earning periods of life, and a deficiency in both children and aged. This can best be seen by taking the percentages contained in the three age-groups 0-14, 15-49 and 50 and over. The percentages in these three groups for the Presidency generally and for each of the seven cities is shown in the following table :--

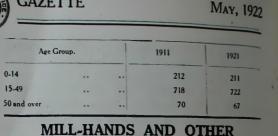
				Age Group.	
		C	-14	15-49	50 and over.
Presidency			39	50	11
Bombay			21	72	7
Ahmedabad	**		32	58	10
Karachi			33	60	7
Surat			36	53	11
Poona City Municipality			33	56	11
Sholapur			35	54	11
Hubli			35	54	11

It will be seen that Bombay is much the most disturbed by immigration, and Surat the least

This phenomenon in Bombay has grown gradually census by census. The following table shows the composition at each census since 1881:-

Age G	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921	
0-14	 	30	26	24	21	21
15-49	 	63	65	67	72	72
50 and over	 	7	9	9	7	7

The above would imply that the excess of wage-earning ages had not changed since 1911. But, as a matter of fact, there has been a slight enhancement of the inequality, as can be seen when the rates per thousand are taken instead of per cent.



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# LABOURERS IN BOMBAY

The following table shows the distribution of mill-hands and of labourers otherwise unspecified (dependants and workers of both sexes combined) in the various sections of municipal wards of Bombay Town and Island. The figures are furnished by the Provincial Superin-tendent of Census, Bombay Presidency :

			Total workers a under	
Name of Secti	on.		<ol> <li>Cotton ginning, cleaning and pressing.</li> <li>Cotton spinning.</li> <li>Cotton sizing and weaving.*</li> </ol>	Labourers and workmen other- wise unspeci- fied.
Upper Colaba Lower Colaba			15 3,633	17 2,948
A & Fort, South			• • • • •	2,000
Fort, North			221	6,784
Esplanade			15	3,697
Chakla			4	8,215
D) Mandvi			348	9,621
Umarkhadi			898	10,989
Dongri			268	8,987
Market			144	4,874
Dhobi Talao			811	3,747
IE P			348	6,236
C Bhuleshwar			245	7,581
Kumbharwada			1,117	9,925
Khara Talao			264	4,007
Khetwadi			916	2,546
Girgaon		•••		2,953
D{ Chaupati		•••	239	1,299
Walkeshwar			476	3,427
Mahalaxmi		•••	6,382	6.042
Tardeo	••	•••	3,976	6,022
Kamatipura		•••	3,550	9.338
Ist Nagpada		•••	540	384
E < 2nd Nagpada		•••	1,548	3,644
Byculla			21,333	14,892
Tadwadi		•••	8,508	6.249
Mazagaon		•••	4,452	8,600
Parel			26,936	7,493
F Sewri			5,416	14.239
Sion			12,306	8,260
Mahim			4,183	5.513
Worli			62,374	14.097
Customs, R. I	. M., Milit	ary.	637	23,943
Railways,		and		1
Homeless of	all kinds.			

\* Including all ranks. But excluding 55 persons who return emselves as home workers (hand-loom, etc.).



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# INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN THE PRESIDENCY

On pages 47 and 48 will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during April 1922, with the number of workpeople involved, the date when the dispute began and ended, the cause and the result. Detailed statistics have been collected since 1st April 1921, the date on which the Labour Office was instituted.

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

### L-Industrial Disputes classified by Trades

	in	progress	in	Number of workpeople involved	Aggregate duration in work- ing days
e.	Started before 1st April.	Started in April.	Total.	in all disputes in progress in April 1922.	of all disputes in pro- gress in April 1922.*
		13	13	4,448	17,974
		1	1	600	180
nus .		1	1	- 33	198
Apri	ı 	15	15	5,081	18,352
Marc.	h 1	7	8	22,095	300,829
	- 	e. Started before lst April.	e. Started before Ist April. Started in April. Started in April. 13 	Started before lst April. April. Total. 	e. Started before lst April 1922. 13 13 4,448 11 1 600 aus 15 15 5,081 March

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

There were 15 industrial disputes in April 1922, 13 of which were in cotton mills. The number of workpeople affected was about 5,000 and the working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days less workers replaced) 18,352, a considerable decrease on the March statistics.

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Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes. The number of disputes settled in favour of the employers is noticeable.

#### II.-Industrial Disputes-Results.

## December 1921 to April 1922

	Decem- ber 1921.	January 1922.	February 1924.	March 1922.	April 1922.
Number of strikes and lock-outs	. 9	17	12	8	15
Disputes in progres at beginning	s. 3		3	1	
Fresh disputes begun	. 6	17	9	7	15
Disputes ended .	. 9	. 14	11	8	13
Disputes in progres at end	s	3	1		2
Number of workpeople involved	6,943	15,863	9,999	22,095	5,081
Aggregate duration in working days	n 26,321	33,389	32,087	300,829	18,352
Demands-					
Pay .	. 2	8	6	3	9
Bonus .	. 3	3	. 1		
Personal	. 4			1	2
Leave and hours		2		1	
Others		4	5	3	4
Results		in	1		
In favour of Employ- ces	1	3	1		2
Compromised	1		- 2	2	3
In favour of Employ- ers	7	11	8	6	8

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

III.—Industrial	Dispute
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			Prop	ortion sett	led.	
Month.	Number of strikes and lock- outs.	Aggregate duration in working days.	of	In favour of employ- ecs. (Per cent.)	Com- pro- mised. (Per cent.)	In pro- gress. (Per- cent.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
April 1921	6	184,450	33	17	17	33
May 1921	11	227,115	27	9	18	46
June 1921	10	79,804	70	10		20
July 1921	10	12,268	60	10	10	20
August 1921	14	192,001	36	36	7	21
Beptember 1921	21	256,498	80	10		10
October 1921	15	231,896	27	13	27	33
November 1921	31	62,009	29	42	19	10
December 1921	9	26,321	78	11	11	
anuary 1922	17	33,389	65	18		17
ebruary 1922.	12	32,087	67	8	17	8
March 1922	8	300,829	75		25	
April 1922	15	18,352	54	13	20	13
fotal or (cols. 4 to 7) Average	179	1.657.019	54	15	13	18

#### TWELVE MONTHS OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN THE PRESIDENCY

#### ANALYSIS OF DISPUTES

#### From 1st April 1921 to 31st March 1922

Since the establishment of the Labour Office on the 1st of April 1921 detailed statistics regarding industrial disputes have been collected and tabulated. The word "dispute" in the official sense means an interruption of work and is used 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. The figures below relate to the twelve months from 1st April 1921 to 31st March 1922. During the period under review there were in all 136 disputes involving 230,004 work, people. The outstanding events of the year were the general strike of 33,000 men at Ahmedabad in October 1921 and the lock, out of 18,000 men at Sholapur in March 1922, both of which were in the cotton mill industry and these largely contributed to the number of working days lost. The table below shows the number of workpeople involved in each month.

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#### Table I.-Number of workpeople involved.

Mon	Month.		Number of workpeople involved.	Mont	Number of workpeople- involved.		
	1021		10.050	0.1	1921		50.000
April	1921		10,850	October	1921	•••	50,608.
May			12,290	November			8,291
June			9,277	December			6,943
July			2.516	January	1922		15,863
August			32,204	February			9,999
September	**		49,068	March			22,095

The total number of working days lost during the period was 1,638,667. March 1922 was, in respect of the number of working days lost, the worst month for industrial disputes, and this was due to the lock-out in the mills at Sholapur.

The following table shows the number of working days lost during each month.

Table II.—Number of working days lost.

Mont	h.	Days lost.	Mont	h.	Days lost.		
April	1921	 184,450	October	1921	 231,8%		
May		 227,115	November		 62,009		
June		 79,804	December		 26,321		
July		 12.268	January	1922	 33,389		
August		 192,001	February		 32 087		
September		 256,498	March		 300,829		

#### CAUSES OF THE DISPUTES

An analysis of the disputes shows that 30 per cent. were due to the question of pay, 20 per cent. to bonus, 16 per cent. to personal causes which include dismissals, re-instatement or similar causes, 8 per cent. to leave and hours and 26 per cent. to other causes. The number due to the question of pay is small compared with the number of disputes in other countries where many wage reductions, owing to the fall in the cost of living, have taken place. The MAY, 1922

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Industrial Disputes Committee in their report which was published in the April "Labour Gazette," state that the chief characteristics of the strikes which have taken place in this Presidency, were :—"(a) The frequency of the strike without notice. (b) The absence of any clearly-defined grievance before striking. (c) The multiplicity and sometimes the extravagance of the claims put forward after the strike has begun. (d) The absence of any effective organisation to formulate the claims of the operatives and to secure respect for any settlement which may he made. (e) The increasing solidarity of employers and employed and the capacity of the operatives to remain on strike for a considerable period despite the lack of any visible organisation.'

#### INDUSTRIES AFFECTED

As the cotton mill industry is the main industry of the Presidency, the number of disputes in the textile industry was, as is to be expected, by far the largest. Since April 1921, 71 per cent. of the disputes were in this industry. The percentages of the disputes in the other main industries were :- Transport 9, Engineering 8, Metal 2 and Miscellaneous 10.

#### RESULTS OF THE DISPUTES

Of all the disputes during the year the record shows that 62 per cent. were settled in favour of the employers, 23 per cent. in favour of the employees and 15 per cent. were compromised.

#### EAST INDIAN RAILWAY STRIKE

#### PROTRACTED DISPUTE ENDED

The railway strike which began at Tundla on February 2nd on the pretext that an Indian fireman had been assaulted by an engine driver ended after two and a half months. The strike spread along the line as far as Ambala, Jubbulpore, Mogulserai and Howrah. In spite of great difficulties the railway authorities were able to maintain essential services. In the Council of State, on the 13th February 1922, the Honourable Mr. Innes, Member in charge of Railways, stated, that the strike was not economic but purely political. A communique issued on the 8th February by the E. I. Railway authorities stated that "the cause of the strike was said to be an assault by an European driver on an Indian fireman. At the special request of the strikers an independent and open magisterial investigation had been held into the facts of the alleged assault. The Magistrate stated that in the face of the medical and other evidence, it was impossible to believe the Indian fireman's story, which he considered to be a fabrication."

It is estimated that when the strike commenced over 20,000 men were involved. The loss in earnings to the Company and to the State is calculated at nearly a crore and a quarter, while the strikers lost several lakhs of rupees in wages. The strike ended in favour of the railway. No wages were paid to the strikers for the days they were on strike, and new men were taken on in the strikers' places. Those employees who could not be taken back by the Company were permitted to resign with effect from the date when they ceased to work, thus obtaining the refund due to them of provident fund with the Company.

#### Manganese in the Panch Mahals

Manganese is the only mineral of importance mined in the Bombay Presidency. The two mines are situated in the Halol Taluka of the Panch Mahals. During the year ended 31st December 1921, one mine worked for 316 days, employed 1,153 workpeople, of whom 662 were males over 12 years of age, 389 females over 12 years of age, and 102 were children. There were 5 accidents during the year which resulted in serious injuries. The other mine worked for 311 days, and gave employment to 668 workpeople, of whom 348 workpeople were males over 12 years of age, 246 females over 12 years of age, and 74 were children. There were only two accidents resulting in serious injury during the year.

#### Appointment of Lady Investigator

Miss G. M. Pimpalkhare, Lady Investigator, has resigned her appointment on her receiving a full-time appointment under Messrs. Tata Sons & Co., in connexion with welfare work. Messrs. Tata Sons & Co. have recently decided to extend welfare work to all their mills in Bombay. A successor has not yet been appointed.

#### INDIAN FACTORIES STATISTICS

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#### FACTORIES AND OPERATIVES

In view of the passing of the Factories Amendment Act II of 1922 which comes into force from the 1st July 1922, it is interesting to compare the factory statistics of Bombay and other Provinces. The most recent year for which comparative figures are available is 1920. In this year there were 894 factories in the Bombay Presidency, 680 in Bengal, 617 in Burma and 511 in Madras. The total number of factories registered under the Act was 3,804, an increase of about 6 per cent. over the previous year. The average number of workers employed daily in the Bombay Presidency was 338,758 out of a total of 1,238,725 for all India. The total number employed in Bengal was 464.713. The highest increase in India during the year was in Bombay, an increase of 20.522, due to the large number of operatives being employed in cotton mills and presses and in railway workshops. Of the total number of factories 1,655 allowed a holiday invariably on Sunday during the year 1920, or 46 per cent. of the total number working and furnishing holiday returns in each year. The number which allowed a holiday on Sunday or on a substituted day was 1,436 or 40 per cent.

#### ACCIDENTS

The total number of accidents in the Bombay Presidency was 909, of which 33 were fatal accidents, 108 serious accidents, and 768 minor accidents. This total was considerably below the accidents in Bengal and slightly below those in Bihar and Orissa. The total number of accidents in Bengal was 1,441, in Bihar and Orissa 926, in the United Provinces 756 and in Madras 744. The total number of accidents in India in 1920 was 5,767 or an increase of 6 per cent. This total includes 199 fatal accidents, 1,197 serious accidents and 4,371 minor accidents.

#### CONVICTIONS

The number of persons convicted in India during the year was 468, of which 17 only were in Bombay as against 331 in the Punjab, 31 in the Central Provinces and Berar,  $29^*$  in Madras and 25 in Bengal. All the convictions in Bombay were under section 41 (a) (employment of persons in contravention of the Act). Of the convictions obtained, those that fall under section 41 (a) are by far the most common. The other sections of the Act under which a comparatively large number of convictions was obtained are 41 (f) (neglect to fence machinery), 41 (g) (non-compliance with the orders of the Inspector regarding ventilation, etc.), and 41 (j) (failure to send in the returns and notices prescribed by the Act)

The number of factories not inspected in India during the year was 1,098 or 29 per cent. of the total. The number of factories not inspected in the Bombay Presidency was 206 out of a total of 894. The corresponding figures of factories not inspected in Benga and Madras were 354 and 5 respectively. It is interesting to note that Bombay and Bengal employed no less than two-thirds of all the factory labour in India. Of the total number of adult operatives employed in factories in the Bombay Presidency (323,323), 258,489 or 80 per cent. were males and 64,834 or 20 per cent. were females. The total number of adults for all India was 1,171,289, of whom 986,367 were males and 184,922 females, or 84 per cent. males and 16 per cent. females. 67,436 children were employed in all India during 1920, of whom 55,503 were males and 11,933 females, or 82 per cent. males and 18 per cent. females. The proportion of adults employed was 95 per cent. of the total.

#### THE FACTORIES ACT

#### LIMITATION OF HOURS

The limitation of working hours (under the Act which comes into force on 1st July 1922) to 60 per week and 11 per day, does not apply to machinery, but only to workers. Factories may operate night and day provided that a suitable form of shift is arranged. The Bombay Millowners' Association (whose members mainly comprise the City and Island of Bombay) are, as an Association, against double

\*Though the number of convictions recorded is 129 in Madres, the number of persons involved is 29. MAY, 1922

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shifts, and are at present working a ten-hour day. The Association is not in favour of double shifts until the housing difficulty is nearer to a solution. There are, however, one or two mills in Bombay which work a double shift. These are not members of the Association. The working week and day apply to women as well as to men. Child labour is restricted to 6 hours per day. Further details on the new Act were given in the March (pages 27-31) and April (pages 20-22) issues of the "Labour Gazette."

#### THE EFFICIENCY OF LABOUR

The Labour Office has received the following data from a spinning and weaving mill in the Central Provinces.

The figures relate to the calendar year 1921. For every 1,000 spindles, 42 workers are employed and they turn out per day of 10 hours 463 lbs, of varn of average counts (17.2 s). For every 100 looms 130 workers are employed who produce 1.239 lbs. of unfinished cloth of an average width of 35.35 inches, using 22 s warp and 26 s weft per day of 10 hours. These figures of workers include every employee in the mill, and in the case of this particular mill, workers not directly in the spinning and weaving departments are taken in the proportion of two-thirds and one-third, this being the proportion of spinning to weaving in the mill. In this same mill absenteeism has been worked out

It is found that (1) absenteeism on an average was 8 per cent. previous to the increase in pay (of 50 per cent); (2) after the increase of pay 17 per cent. was the average absentee rate before the payment of bonus and (3) 22 per cent. has recently since been the figure after the payment of bonus.

If a particular department be taken-the spinning room only-the data are as below :--

Piecers per 1,000 spindles, 6<sup>•</sup>4 on muster, 5<sup>•</sup>5 on duty.

Doffers per 1,000 spindles, 4.9 on muster, 4.6 on duty.

Miscellaneous per 1,000 spindles, 2.9 on muster, 1.8 on duty.

Two half-timers are taken as one adult. H = 96-6

### THE COLLECTION OF STATISTICS BY LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENT

INTRODUCTORY

It is proposed to deal in this series of articles with the question of collecting statistics by legislative enactment. The purpose of these articles is to show that most countries have in one form or another legislation regarding the collection of statistics required by Government for administrative and other purposes. The information has been obtained from the British Ministry of Labour in regard to the United Kingdom, and from the Dominions. Special mention should also be made of the invaluable assistance given to the Labour Office by M. Thomas, Director of the International Labour Office, who addressed the various members of the League of Nations for the statistical Acts in their respective countries. The Census of Production Act, 1906, of the United Kingdom and the legislation obtaining in the Dominions. will be dealt with in the next issue of the " Labour Gazette."

#### OBJECT IN VIEW

Useful statistics have been collected by the Labour Office in regard to wages, the cost of living, etc., without any recourse to legislation. It was considered advisable and is still considered so, to try as far as possible to obtain the data voluntarily. The experiment has proved a success in regard to the premier industry of the Presidency-the cotton mill industryand special thanks are due to the Chairman and the Committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association for their ungrudging assistance in this matter. No individual returns are published and returns are never published in any way which would divulge the source or sources, i.e., the firms in regard to the data in question. As in other countries it is not

the large concerns which would refuse information. It is usually the small concern which does not wish to disclose the rates which it is paying to its employees. In most countries such statistics are collected by the Government which is empowered by the legislature, making the furnishing of returns compulsory. It is not intended that the study of these acts foreshadows legislation of this sort. It merely puts forward the facts which are available in regard to such legislative powers in other countries. The Labour Office will continue to try the voluntary system until compulsory powers are considered by Government to be necessary.

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#### THE CHIEF COUNTRIES WITH LEGISLATION

Mention has already been made of the Census of Production Act, 1906, in the case of the United Kingdom and the statistical acts of the Dominions. The legislation relating to the collection of statistics in the Dominions are contained in the statistical acts provided for the collection of statistics, or in the acts passed creating Departments. In Australia there are the following acts :- Act XV of 1905-an Act relating to the Census and Statistics of the Commonwealth and No. XXXIII of 1920an Act to amend the Census and Statistics Act, 1905. There are various regulations or statutory rules issued under the Act of 1905. In addition to the main act there are provincial acts, such as the Victoria Act of 1915, known as the Statistics Act, which relates to the collection of Statistics for the State of Victoria. There are also the Tasmanian Acts. Act XV of 1877, regarding the collection of Statistics, and the amending Act 30 of 1895. In Western Australia, Act III of 1907 (an Act to provide for the collection of statistics for public purposes) has been followed up by a series of regulations for the collection of statistics under the Act. In Oueensland, Act No. XVI of 1896 (an Act to facilitate the collection of statistical information) together with regulations known as the Statistical Returns Regulations of 1897 are on the Statute Book. In New Zealand, Act No. 64 of 1910 (an Act relating to the Census and Statistics of New Zealand) is the main Act by which statistics are supplied to Government. Detailed regulations under the main Act of 1910 have been issued from MAY, 1922

time to time. In South Africa, the main Act at present in force is the Statistics Act No. 38 of 1914. Regulations under section 10 of the Act have been passed from time to time. In Canada, the Statistics Act of 1918 and the amending Act of 1921 regarding the collection of statistics are at present in force. There are also provincial acts such as that establishing a Labour Department in British Columbia by an Act of 1917, which empowers the Department to obtain information respecting labour patters from labour organisations and employers. The act in question has penal clauses regarding persons who refuse to supply information or knowingly make false statements.

In the United States, certain compulsory powers for collecting statistics are granted to State Commissioners of Labour in Califor, nia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York State North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. They require employers to furnish statistics and information as demanded by the Bureaux of Labour and penalise those who fail to comply, usually by fines. The Colorado Law states that any person who "wilfully impedes or obstructs the Commissioner in the full and free performance of his duties" is liable to fine or imprisonment. The State laws of no less than 27 States give the authorities power to require employers to make returns as to conditions of labour, etc., in their undertakings. The Labour Laws of the United States in two parts (Bulletin No. 148 of the Bureau of Labour Statistics, U.S. Department of Labour, Washington) are of much interest in this connexion.

The main acts in the continental countries of Europe are, in the case of Germany, the 1907 Act, and the Order for securing the obtaining of wages statistics issued in March 1920. In France, statistics must be supplied under articles 33a, 86 and 87, Book No. I of the Labour Code. Sanctions with regard to these are provided for in articles 100, 159, 160, 161 of the Labour Code, Books I and II. There is also in existence a series of provisions permitting factory inspectors to verify wages. Further details on this will be given in a succeeding MAY, 1922

article. In Italy, according to Article 10 of the law of 1902 establishing an Office of Labour. persons who refuse to supply information required by the Office of Labour, or who knowingly furnish incorrect information are liable to a fine. In Hungary in order to further statistical enquiries, the law of 1897 made the supply of information by local authorities, trade unions, and private persons compulsory, and ensured the carrying out of the regulations by imposing various penalties for non-compliance. According to article 8 of the Law of November 1911 in Greece, and of September 1912 in the Argentine, statistical information required by the Department of Labour in these countries must be supplied and penalties are imposed for refusing to supply correct information. In Norway, according to the Act of 1907, the Act of 1919 and the Act of 1920, the furnishing of information to Government is provided for. In Sweden, according to the Act of 1913 (Royal Proclamation respecting the duty of certain persons engaged in business to make statistical returns) employers are under the obligation, on penalty of fines, to forward certain statistical returns. A reference to this will be given in a subsequent article. In Denmark, Law No. 143 of April 29, 1913, contains in section 3 the provision that the Director of Labour and Factory Superintendents is entitled to require information for statistical purposes regarding the number of labourers, their sex, age, sanitary conditions, wages, and the number of machines, their type and size, with the reservation that the publication of such statistics does neither mention names nor firms.

#### CONCLUSION

It will be seen from this survey that the collection of statistics by statutory enactment is common to most, if not all, of the chief industrial countries. In subsequent articles the exact nature of the legislation in vogue in the United Kingdom, the Dominions and other countries will be dealt with in detail.

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#### LABOUR LEGISLATION PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS

OF COMMERCE

" I rise in full sympathy with the representative of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce who has moved this resolution. I have had the opportunity of seeing a copy of the Bombay Chamber's letter about the registration and protection of trade unions in India, and if I may read one or two sentences from that letter, it will show the spirit which prompted this resolution. The committee when dealing with this question of trade unions, stated that they were 'in entire agreement with the general principle that, in the interests of employers and employees alike, every facility should be offered for the development of organised labour in this country along healthy lines '. That is a sentence with which we are all in sympathy. Then, they go on to say that 'legislation in England had been gradually developed as the result of over a century of trade unionism in one form or another, and while the Bombay Committee are most anxious to see the development of Trade Unionism in this country encouraged on healthy lines, they do not consider that the problem can be solved by merely copying the latest legislation of England. The problem should be approached from the entirely different standpoint of Indian conditions, and legislation should aim at the gradual development of India rather than at an attempt to bring India into a line with Europe '. I am quite sure that here again we would find ourselves in sympathy with the views of the Bombay Chamber on the subject of this resolution if we had them before us. Indeed, I am almost prepared to accept the resolution as it stands, but after going carefully into the question I would prefer to modify and slightly alter its terms. The amendment I propose to make is : 'That this

Association expresses its fullest sympathy with any proposals of a practical nature designed to improve the conditions of labour in India, but, while recognising that full advantage should be taken of the experience gained elsewhere. considers that all legislation undertaken in India should be framed primarily with regard to the special conditions obtaining in this country'. I should like to give some reasons for suggesting why this alteration should be made. For instance, the Bombay Chamber definitely made the statement that the present proposals of the Government of India follow too closely the practice obtaining in England without due regard to the peculiar conditions obtaining in India. Now, there are many problems in connection with labour under discussion in India at the present moment. and at the time when this resolution was drafted, including the registration and protection of Trade Unions, Workmen's Compensation, Conciliation Boards, the Indian Factories Act and the Workman's Breach of Contract Act. Some of the problems belong peculiarly to India and not to any other country. The question of repealing certain sections of the Indian Penal Code, which apply to workmen, is certainly different from anything in any of the English Acts.

#### SURVEY OF LABOUR LEGISLATION IN INDIA -

There are two ways of looking at this subject. One is, are we following too closely the practice obtaining in other countries, and secondly, are we adopting that practice with too great speed? May I go over the position as we have it in India to-day as compared with other countries. Unlike similar legislation at home, labour legislation in India does not go very far back, but it does go as far back as 1859 when the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act was introduced for the first time. Since then that Act has been considerably modified. This was followed in 1860 by the Employers and Workmen (Disputes) Act of that year, and by the chapter in the Indian Penal Code, which made provision for the fining or imprisonment of workmen who deliberately broke their contracts. Later on came the Emigration laws and special legislation in connection chiefly with Tea Garden labour, some of which exist in modified form to-day.

#### FACTORY LEGISLATION

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"The other type of legislation that we have been accustomed to, especially in industrial places like Calcutta, Bombay and Cawnpore is factory legislation. Now, factory legislation certainly received its first impetus. I think from the interest which was taken in the industrial development of India at home, by the cotton and jute mill people of Manchester and Dundee. As far back as 1874-75 questions were being asked in the House of Commons and in the House of Lords indicating a desire that something should be done in the way of factory legislation. In 1875 a Commission was appointed to deal with this question, and in particular with the conditions under which children worked in factories, but it was in 1881 before the first Factory Act was passed. Ten years elapsed before we had an amendment of that Act in 1891. Then in 1906 there was a small Commission appointed to see whether any further improvements could be suggested. In 1908 we had the Factories Commission, and three years elapsed before their recommendations were embodied in a Bill which was eventually passed into law in 1911. A great deal, if not all, of that legislation was prompted from home. Since then we have had several International Labour Conferences, and have international obligations that we have been asked to agree to on the strength of our being members of the League of Nations. In 1919 the Government of India, I suppose in anticipation of the Conference which was to meet at Washington, issued a circular letter to local Governments asking whether they could suggest any amendments. The impetus to India's latest factory legislation did not come from home, because in the early part of that year Mr. Montagu in the House of Commons, replying to a question asked by some member of Parliament, specially said they had no intention of amending the Indian Factories Act. Therefore the legislation lately enacted has been due not so much to pressure put on by anybody in the United Kingdom, as to the feeling in India that we have got to keep in line with other countries to some extent in factory legislation. Since 1919 there have been several conferences, one at Washington, another at Genoa and another at Geneva, and sooner or

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later we shall have further legislation of some description. I personally all along, have held to the opinion that in this question of factory legislation, the Government of India have been influenced largely, I think too largely, by Western conditions. They certainly have gone further in some of the latest amendments of the Factories Act than the interests of India demand. All the same these amendments are now on the Statute book and we shall have to make the best of them. So much for factory legislation.

#### LABOUR IN MADRAS

"There is another phase of labour development in India that has been in evidence for the past two or three years, chiefly in Madras, and about which perhaps Sir James Simpson will have something to say later on. In 1918 the Madras Labour Union was formed and I think Mr. B. P. Wadia was appointed President. In October 1918 there were strikes in Madras at the Buckingham Mills; in November 1919 there were similar strikes, and again in the following year in October there was a repetition of those strikes. I do not know why these strikes in Madras always take place in autumn. In other areas they generally take place in spring, but you have the undoubted fact that for three successive years there have been labour strikes in Madras in October/November. As a result of the strike in 1920 and of the intervention of the Labour Union, an interim injunction was granted by the Madras High Court, restraining Mr. Wadia and others from doing anything calculated to bring about a breach of contract between the mill-hands and their employers. There are special circumstances connected with that injunction, which I am not going to remark upon now. But I think that no Government could ignore the fact that an injunction had been issued against members of a properly constituted union. Previous to that the Government of India had issued a circular to all local Governments and to the leading public bodies inviting an expression of opinion as to whether All-India legislation on the lines of the English Industrial Courts Act of 1919 would be of any value and should be undertaken. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce considered this matter and after н 96—7

consideration, Mr. Haywood, the Secretary, put up what I consider to be one of the best of his letters on the subject of labour legislation. With your permission I should like to read one or two sentences of that letter because in fact it practically says the same thing as the Bombay Chamber is saying in different words: Labour problems are becoming of increasing importance as industries develop in this country; and they, i.e., the Committee of the Bengal Chamber, feel that the slavish copying of the labour legislation of other countries should be avoided. They entirely agree that full advantage should be taken of the experience gained elsewhere. But, in the determination of policy in Indian labour matters, the special conditions of India ought obviously to receive the fullest consideration and to be the governing factor. It is for this reason that the committee have treated the subject so fully. And, having done so, they conclude by expressing, without hesitation, their considered opinion that All-India legislation on the lines of the English statute of last year would be of no value and should not be undertaken. At the same time they recommend that early steps be taken to test the possibility of developing in this country a system of Works Joint Committees. These bodies would provide suitable machinery for the immediate ventilation of grievances, for the speedy settlement of disputes, and for the steady maintenance of a good understanding between workers and their employers."

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#### GOVERNMENT'S ACTION

"Now, that seems to be the position regarding labour legislation as we would like to have it in India to-day. I do not know whether the Government of India agreed entirely with that point of view—they certainly acted largely on it because, in connection with this question of Arbitration Courts they called a meeting in Delhi last March of representatives of Industrial concerns and of Labour interests who were present at the Legislative Assembly and discussed the problem. Government then explained that they had not before them sufficient information to enable them to make any recommendations regarding the establishment of Industrial Boards. But they undertook to get further information regarding the

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laws and practice in force in other countries. They thereupon addressed communications to all the leading countries of the world on the subject of conciliation and arbitration boards. I may say that as the result of these enquiries the Department of Industries has prepared a most interesting bulletin consisting of over two hundred pages, a first proof of which I have here in my hand. This bulletin\* is a most interesting contribution to this question of industrial labour. You will find that the law and practice which prevail in every country of any im-portance are discussed fully, and I am sure it is well worth the careful study of all the delegates present here. I hope when we return this time next year that most of those present will have made themselves familiar with the points which have been discussed in this bulletin. So much for what the Government of India have been doing. I should perhaps explain that, under the Devolution Rules of the new Government of India Act, industrial matters including settlement of labour disputes are provincial subjects, although legislation in connection with these matters is reserved to the Indian Legislature. Local Governments. therefore, have been devising machinery for the study of labour questions and for the settlement of labour disputes.

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#### CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION

" In this connection we know that in March 1921 the Bengal Government took a leading part. They took the lead in appointing a committee on which your President, Sir Robert Watson-Smyth, and myself had the privilege of serving, and considering whether something ought not to be done by way of setting up conciliation boards and arbitration boards to settle these disputes. As the result of several meetings and the reading of a great deal of literature on the subject, we came to the conclusion that arbitration-compulsory arbitration-was impracticable. This Committee therefore recommended Conciliation Boards and the appointment of a panel on which the local Government could draw when constituting a Board to enquire into any dispute. A Conciliation Board has already functioned in Bengal

\* Bulletins of Indian Industries and Labour, No. 23-Conciliation and Arbitration, by R. N. Gilchrist.

## MAY, 1922

under the presidency of Mr. Rhodes and ended. strike very effectively. On another occasion the workers came out and insisted that there ought to be a reference to a conciliation board, but this request was turned down on the ground that the particular points at issue were not such as ought to be considered by a Concilia. tion Board. At any rate we have got these boards working in Bengal, and I think I may say with great success. I would strongly recommend other provinces to adopt the same policy. On the Bombay side a committee have been sitting for two or three months, to decide what form their legislation should take. They have already discarded the suggestion of compulsory arbitration boards or courts and at the present moment I think they are concentrating on the possibility of having voluntary conciliation boards also.

#### TRADE UNIONS

"As regards trade unions, Mr. Joshi introduced an important resolution in the Legislative Assembly at Delhi last March, regarding early legislation for the registration and protection of trade unions, and after a very interesting debate it was decided that circular letters should be issued to all local Governments, to ascertain the opinions of the various bodies, with a view to legislation being enacted. It is in connection with that letter that the Bombay Chamber of Commerce have written the letter from which I have quoted extracts.

#### WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

"The next step that the Government of India have been thinking of taking is in connection with the question of workmen's compensation. Here again questions were asked in the Legislative Assembly as to what steps Government proposed taking for the provision of compensation for injuries to workmen, and ultimately the Government of India issued a communication to all local Governments and other bodies inviting their views on the subject. Here, in Bengal, we devoted a good deal of attention to this matter, and the Chamber's views on this important subject are contained in a letter to the local Government from which I may be allowed to quote : ' In concluding what must be of necessity an incomplete survey of

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the subject, the Committee of the Chamber urge that, before a Bill is actually framed, the replies that may be received from the local Governments to the Government of India's letter should be remitted, for examination and consideration, to a specially appointed Committee. The legislation will be of a far-reaching character, and it will deal with questions of signal importance in the industrial development of India. Its subject-matter ought, therefore, to be thoroughly explored and discussed by those familiar with the industrial conditions of the country before the provisions of the Bill are drafted.' Here again, the Chamber took the same point that they endeavoured to make previously, namely, that special conditions in India require special consideration in the light of the experience gained in other countries.

#### WORKMAN'S BREACH OF CONTRACT ACT

"Another matter that came up for consideration at Simla last year was the Workman's Breach of Contract Act, and the Government of India practically gave an assurance that if. after consulting the local Government and public bodies they found the general consensus of opinion was in favour of repeal of this Act, they would be prepared to bring in legislation giving effect to that. As regards the amendment of the particular sections of the Indian Penal Code which affect workmen, the Government have made no promises, but here also they have invited public opinion. In addition to all the matters which I have referred to, other questions regarding labour have been under discussion, I think, in the Bengal Legislative Council, where a resolution was moved by a local member suggesting that a minimum wage and trade boards ought to be established in Bengal. After a full debate, this proposal was turned down on the ground that it was premature.

"I have taken up a good deal of your time in explaining what the position is with regard to labour legislation in this country. I feel the Government have no option but to turn to the literature and the experience gained in other countries and to more or less model their proposed legislation on those lines. But it seems to me wrong to say that they are model-

ling them too much on the lines of the existing English Acts because as a matter of fact the proposal of the Government of India for a Workmen's Compensation Act does not closely follow the English Act. It is different from it and it is modelled more on the American Acts. All the same there is good deal to be said in favour of the suggestion of the Bengal Chamber, that before legislation of any description is put into the form of a Bill, the Government of India should carefully consider the opinions of the public bodies; and after having collated all the different opinions, call together the principal representatives of employers and of workers from the leading industrial centres, such as Madras, Cawnpore, Bombay and Calcutta, to digest all the evidence, and if possible recommend the lines on which legislation should be introduced. But this point comes up more in connection with the second and third resolutions appearing on the agenda under the heading of industrial guestions. So far as the present resolution is concerned, I think we would really be making a better case if we were to frame the resolution to read as follows :

'That this Association expresses its fullest sympathy with any proposals of a practical nature designed to improve the conditions of labour in India but, while recognising that full advantage should be taken of the experience gained elsewhere, considers that all legislation undertaken in India should be framed primarily with regard to the special conditions obtaining in this country.'"

The Honourable Mr. Innes spoke as follows :-

"Sir Alexander Murray's speech has left me very little to say, for he has put what I venture to call the Government's case far better than I could do. It is important to remember that when the Government of India took up this question of Registration of Trade Unions and Workmen's Compensation Act, they took up a very difficult subject, a subject which was novel to India, if not to the rest of the world. What more natural was it then that we should, as the best way to approach the subject, carefully study corresponding legislation in other countries. Our object of course was to bring

the discussion of this most novel and difficult subject within manageable proportions, put together the main principles into formulæ and then circulate these formulæ throughout India to local Governments, and through local Governments to industrial and commercial organisations, in order that they may be criticised from every point of view, and that was the object of our two letters on the subject. They were intended not so much as incorporating an official pronouncement of the Government of India on the very difficult issues involved but as a basis of discussion. At the same time I think I entirely agree with the sentence in the resolution which has been moved by Sir Alexander Murray that full advantage should be taken of the experience gained elsewhere. After all we know that many battles have been lost and won in other countries, and though we need not necessarily adopt the decisions which have been arrived at in those countries and must indeed adapt them to Indian conditions, yet I do not think that trade unions in India can be necessarily expected to go through all the processes and vicissitudes through which they have had to go in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. I do not wish to be misunderstood. I have no intention to follow slavishly the decisions arrived at in other countries, but I would say this that we must take these decisions into consideration. The actual points which I understand that the Bombay Chamber wish to make are such points as the following : the registration of trade unions should be compulsory. I am correct in saving, I believe, that the registration of trade unions is nowhere compulsory, and even if they did pass a law to that effect in any part of the world, I do not see how they could make it effective. Another suggestion that they have made is that trade unions accounts should be audited and inspected by Government Officers. I agree that provision should be made in our Act for the audit and inspection of trade unions accounts, but I must confess that I am very doubtful whether the Government should interfere to that extent with trade unions in this country.

"Our whole object in this matter is this. We have these trade unions existing in this country. They have their defects, they have their faults: His Excellency in his speech yesterday mentioned one of them. He said that too often MAY, 1922

trade unions were managed by politicians for their own purposes. That of course is a misfortune. But probably it is only a phase. Nor is it a phase peculiar to this country. Continental countries have passed through the same phase. But sooner or later trade unions will find that it does not pay them to have outsiders, and that they will carry more weight, if they are represented by men from their own institutions. The whole object of this legislation is to try to induce progress along healthy and sound lines and the criticisms that we are receiving to-day are just the sort of criticisms that we want. We are not stiff-necked in this matter-we do not wish to force our views on industrial concerns and labour in this country. The whole object of our reference to local Governments on these questions was to obtain advice which would assist us in coming to a final conclusion. As regards the suggestion of Sir Alexander Murray that when the replies to these two important letters are received, a committee should be formed to go into the whole matter and help us in arriving at a sound conclusion, all I can say at the moment, is that when we receive the resolution which I expect will be passed by this meeting, and the letter which has been addressed to us by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce embodying these proposals, the matter will be most carefully considered by us." The resolution as proposed by Sir Alexander Murray was declared carried unanimously.

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#### HEALTH AND SANITATION IN FACTORIES

#### PROGRESS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The general reduction in working hours which has taken place in a majority of factories and workshops in the United Kingdom, and the introduction of welfare provisions into industry, which has been a marked feature of recent years, have had a decided effect on the health of the workers. Public opinion, which has been instrumental in bringing about this reform, has not carried the hygienic condition of factories beyond the requirements of law. Miss Martindale (H. M. Senior Lady Inspector of Factories), writing MAY, 1922

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on this subject in the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for 1920, says that there is still much to be done by both occupiers, workers and others to bring workplaces up to the standard laid down by legislation, and that really clean workrooms, well ventilated and lighted, reasonably heated. and above all, with adequate means of removing dust or fumes, will only become the normal after many more years of work on the part of Inspectors supported by strong public opinion. "An interesting indication of the working of public opinion is given in a comparison of the observance of the requirements as to annual limewashing in different towns. It is reported that in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire there is practically no difficulty in getting limewashing done regularly (in spite of the fact that the staple trades of the district are 'clean "trades), while the inspectors who work among the dirtier industries of Birmingham and the Black Country find that instructions and cautions have constantly to be given on this head.'

#### CLEANLINESS OF WORKPLACES

The cleanliness of workplaces depends not only on the annual limewashing of the walls and ceilings of the workrooms and stairs, but on the daily sweeping and cleaning of the floors, stairs and work-benches. The former, which is the more easily checked, has been more systematically carried out in 1920 than in the previous year. The salutary effect of clean walls is being appreciated and occupiers, realising the brighter effect of colour wash in contrast to dead white, have attempted to carry out effective colour schemes by colouring walls or painting iron work (pillars, beams, girders, frames of machines) in pleasant shades of colour. But reports show that the regular and thorough cleansing of the floors and work-benches is being neglected. Prosecution was found necessary in some cases. "Proceedings were taken against the occupier of a lock factory where very foul carpets and other textile material were being manipulated. The accumulation of material and dust from the tearing machines had covered the floor knee deep in places-limewashing had not been done for years and the walls were covered with dust.' н 96—8

Thus, the cleanliness of floors especially, left much to be desired, and accumulations of rubbish were found in corners of rooms and staircases. This was largely due to the storage of materials and even of fuel in workrooms. overcrowding of machinery, and to allowing scrap of all kinds to litter the floors, through the absence of the provision of proper receptacles. In this connexion, it is interesting to note that large retail shops, where the floors are washed weekly with disinfectants by cleaners engaged for the purpose, maintain a high standard. The comparatively low standard found in factories and workshops is probably due to the fact that in many of them it has been the custom to expect the workers themselves to clean the floors ; and workers becoming disinclined to do this work, the occupiers are obliged to engage cleaners for the purpose. Ultimately, it is found that more attention should be given to the construction of floors to ensure a smooth surface and efficient drainage. Where this is done good results have followed.

#### VENTILATION

Reports from all over the country indicate that on the whole great progress has been made in the installation of systems of mechanical ventilation for the removal of dust and fumes.

Cotton Mills : Gassing Rooms .- "An interesting example of a common mistake in propeller fan ventilation is provided in the many gassing rooms in which the cotton thread is passed rapidly over gas flames. The method of ventilation formerly in universal use, and still in use to a large extent, is that of propeller fans in the upper part of the side walls or in the roof. The only air inlets provided were ducts under the frames with perforated sides and tops. The total air inlet when reckoned up usually formed a very small proportion of the air inlet which we know to be required if such propeller fans are to do their duty, with the result that the output of the fans must be very small compared with their capacity. In such cases, air locks had to be placed at the doors, viz., a double door with a space between, otherwise the direct opening of a door produced a terrific draught. It is difficult to persuade

occupiers of the faults of this system. The area of air inlet would require to be so much increased in order to correspond with the exhaust, and the expense of heating such large volumes of air would be so great that the system is not really worth improving, but needs scrapping.

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A better system of ventilation for these frames is by means of local exhaust. Trunks are provided above the gas flames connecting with a centrifugal fan exhaust, and the smoke, dust and products of combustion are thus directly extracted without intermingling with the atmosphere. The volume of air to be moved is very much less than under the general ventilation system and comparatively small air inlets will suffice. In one mill, where such local ventilation replaced the old style, conditions are infinitely better. There is much less draught, and consequently steadier flames. The air locks at the doors with their attendant inconveniences are now unnecessary, whilst the atmosphere is almost as clean as that of an ordinary winding room. In fact the firm have actually placed two of these locally ventilated gas frames in an ordinary winding room without comment or complaint from any of the workers.'

#### TEMPERATURE

The reports during the year 1920 regarding temperature deal chiefly with industries in which excessively high temperatures are experienced. "The reduction of high temperatures needed for industrial purposes is a far more difficult matter than securing a reasonably high temperature for work rooms. From the inspectors' reports it is evident that progress had been made in some industries, while in others there is still much to be done. The Lace Dressing factories in Nottingham are a case in point . . . . . . . . Temperatures were taken in 23 factories : in three factories over 100°F. were found; in ten the temperature was over 90°F. and in ten more it ranged from 70° to 90°F. Some difference of opinion exists as to the healthiness or otherwise of work carried on in these high temperatures, but the workers endure no little discomfort. As a result of inspectors' visits more attention is being given

by occupiers to the regulation of temperature The reports from inspectors mention several interesting experiments to reduce temperature

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### SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Great diversity exists in the sanitary accommodation in different parts of the country, and some of the Inspectors emphasize the necessity for a uniform standard. Most of the reports indicate the absence of proper care and maintenance of the sanitary conveniences, the question resolving itself into one of strict supervision. "It is evident that the maintenance and care of sanitary conveniences may well be in the charge of Works Committees where these exist, and where this is impossible workers should be consulted regarding the matter, and persons appointed to undertake this responsibility, the actual cleaning being, of course, carried out by a person paid for the purpose.

#### COTTON CLOTH REGULATIONS

"These regulations are reported to be well observed except Regulation 4 with respect to the joint reading of hygrometers by representatives of employers and operatives and the use made of cloakrooms (Regulation 10). The cool summer enabled compliance with the regulations to be more generally secured, and reduced the number of complaints made about their non-observance. There has been very little chance in the method of producing artificial humidity since the regulations came into force. The majority of firms still blow live steam into the sheds, but at a reduced pressure. A number of firms have installed various systems of humidification by means of atomised water, but the latter have not generally been regarded with favour. It is said that they frequently get out of order, and that water is formed and drops on the weaver's clothing. The further objection is raised that atomised water does not humidify the warps as thoroughly as steam. Several firms after installing atomised water systems have discarded them and reverted to the use of steam jets. Although the method of using live steam still obtains, Mr. Clarke (Blackburn) states that the conditions of work are much better than was the case 10 or 15 years ago."

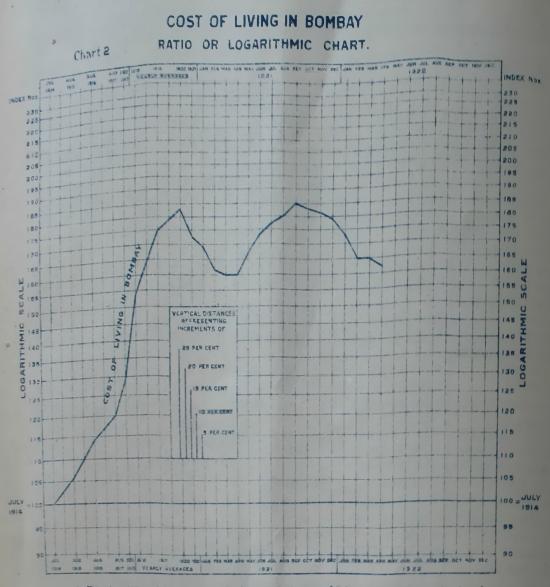
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- The whiter the chart the better the season. Red areas indicate deficient, and black areas excessive rains;
   Excess More than 120 per cent of the normal. Normal 80-120 per cent of the normal. Fair 40-79 per cent of the normal. Normals for Divisions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

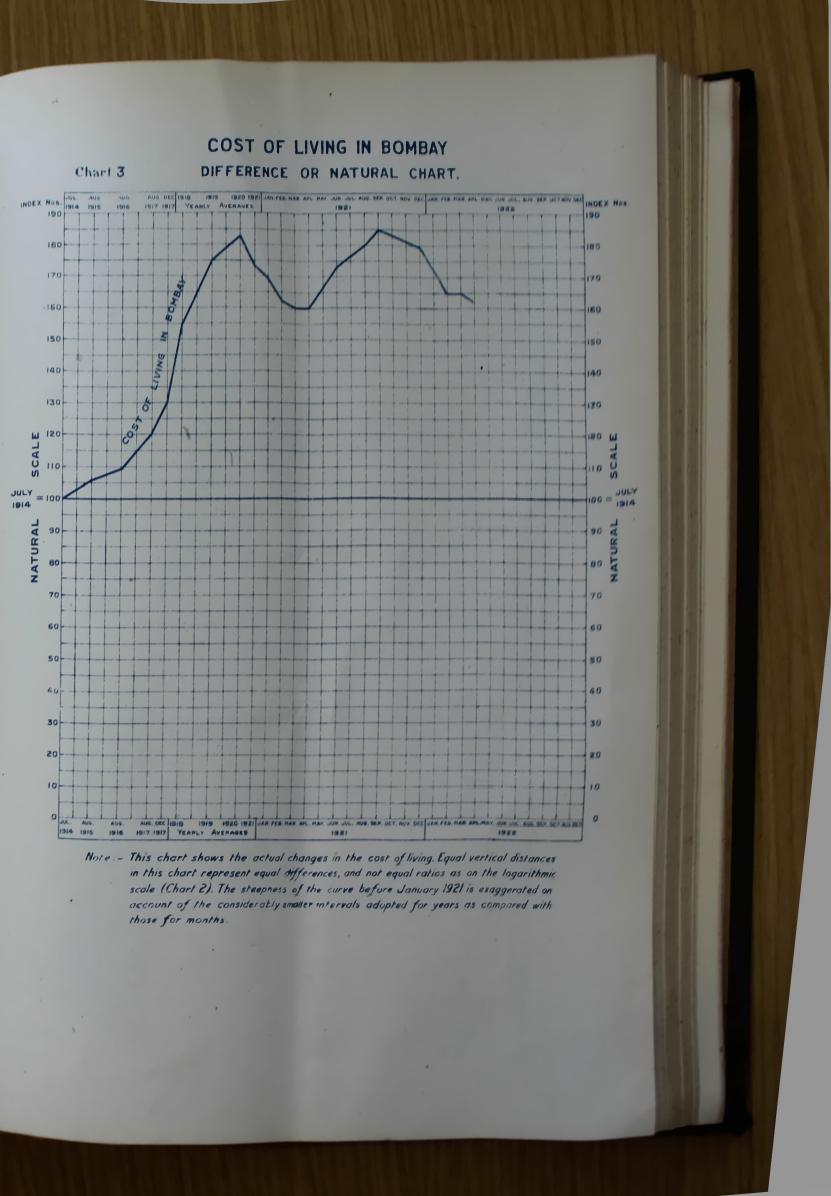
## PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON IN

CHART Nº 1

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



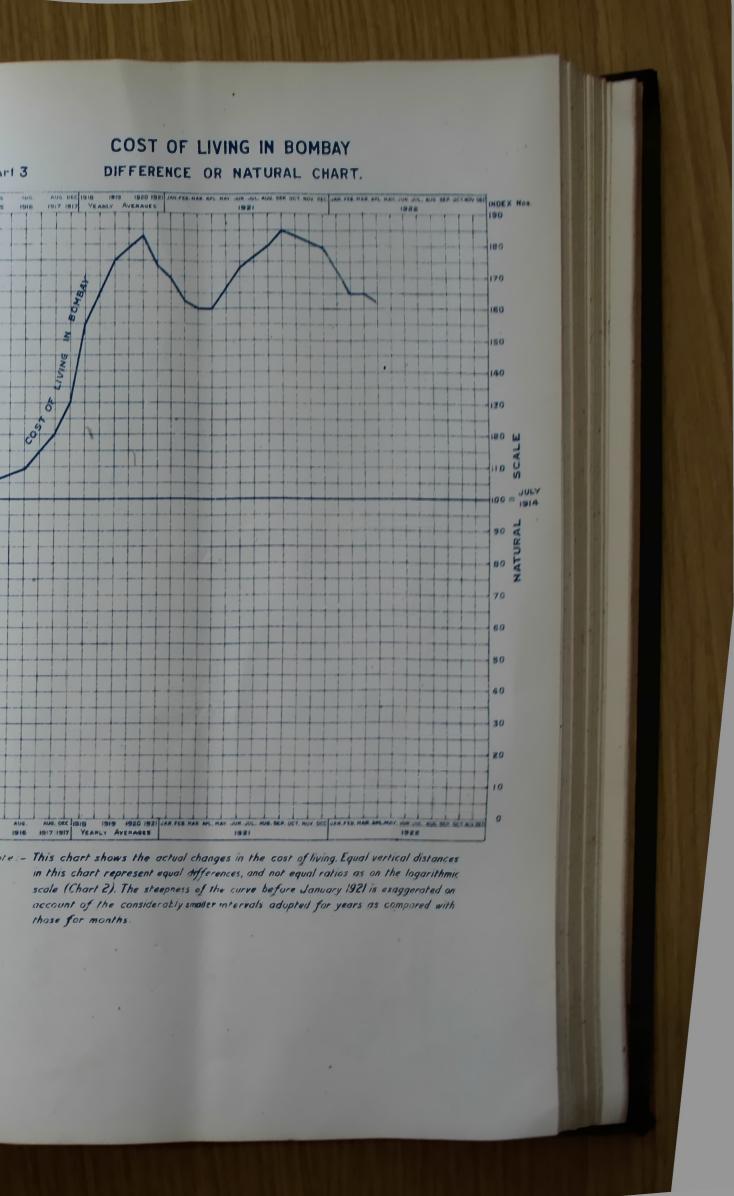
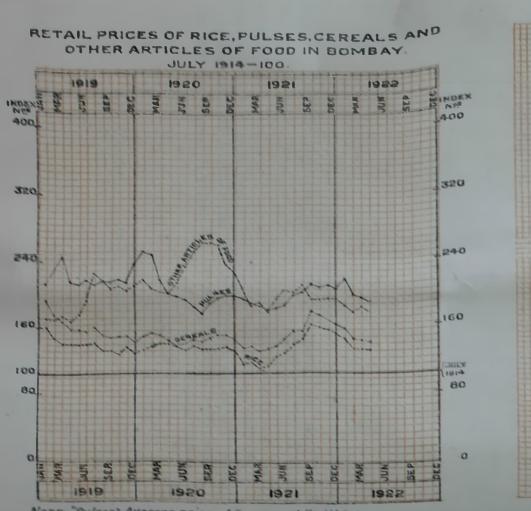


CHART Nº 5.

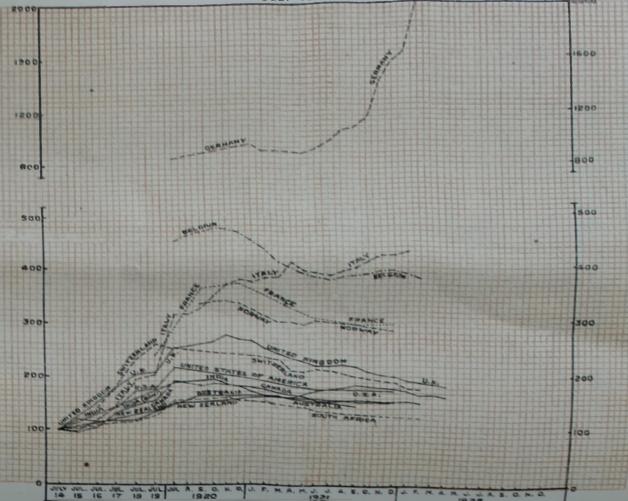




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Note: "Pulses: Average price of Gram and Kuithin

Rice+ Clean. Rice+ Clean. "Cereals Average price of rice, wheat Jawar and Bajri. "Dher articles of faud-Avrage price of sugar tea sall, beef. multan milk gh. potatoes, anions, coconut oil &c

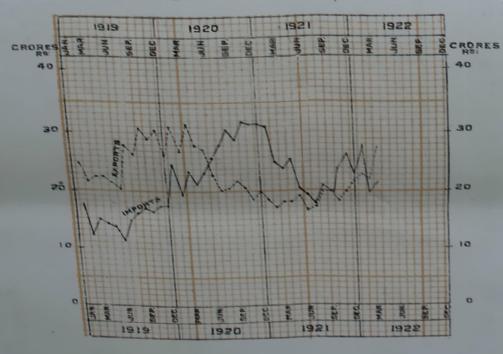


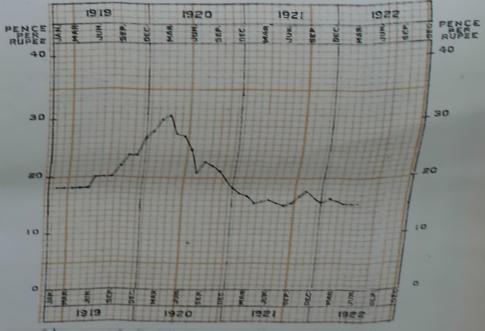
3561 Note: - Each small square = 10 points except for Germany for which a small square + 40 points.

CHART NO 6.

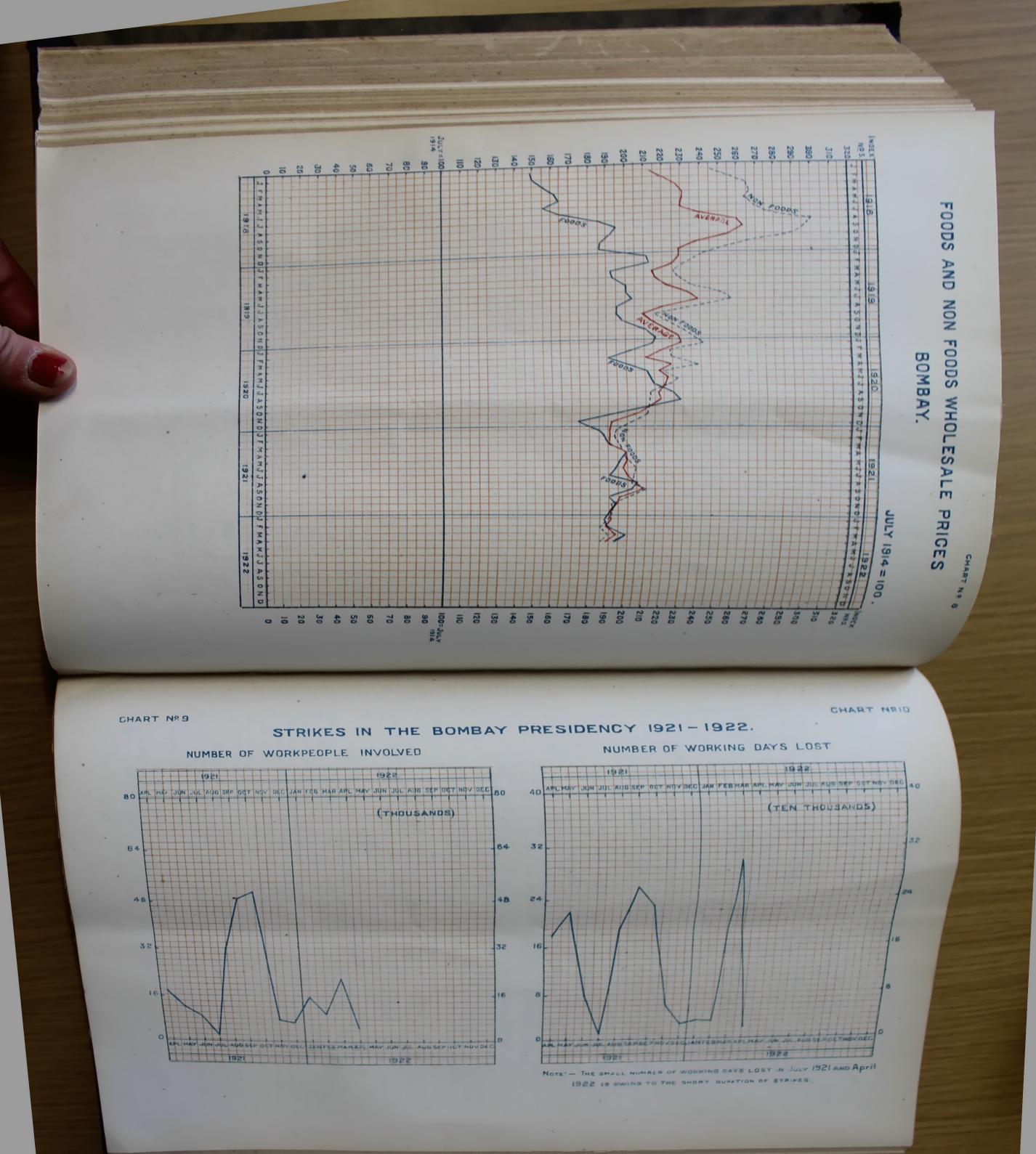
IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE-INDIA.

RATE OF EXCHANGE IN BOMBAY.





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# THE PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON, 1921

(See Chart No. 1.)

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

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

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

Station-	Rainfall in inches.	Departure from normal.	Station.		Rainfall in inches.	Departure from normal.
Ahmednagar Sholapur	(1st June to 31st October.) 86-02 17-11 21-08 14-82 18-64	+ 16-22 - 2-56 - 4-27 - 2-15 - 5-72	Surat Ahmedabad Rajkot Bhavnagar	::::	(list June to 31st October.) 53-51 40-75 27-43 29-45	+ 13 · 07 + 12 · 12 + 2 · 14 + 7 · 77

#### WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION LEGISLATION

LABOUR

VIEWS OF THE PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE FOR WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE

The Government of Bombay requested the views of the Provisional Committee for Workmen's Compensation Insurance, Bombay, in addition to those of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and the Bombay Millowners' Association, etc., on the question of workmen's compensation. The views of the Provisional Committee for Workmen's compensation Insurance, are as follows :--

1. Is it desirable to affirm in general terms the principle of Employers' Liability 2—Yes.

2. If so, should the necessary legislation follow the English Employers' Liability Act of 1880 and the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906 ?-Our committee consider that prior to giving a definite answer to this question, the particular requirements of labour should be carefully examined and that such investigation would show that the English Acts could not be adopted in India without some material modification.

3. Should there be provision for compensatory benefits and should this be limited to industrial workers 2—Our committee are of opinion that provision for compensatory benefits should be limited to industrial workers, but the amount payable by way of compensation should be restricted.

4. What provisions should regulate the inclusion of workers in (a) Factories, (b) Mines, (c) Railways, (d) Ships and (e) Docks >----Provision should be made for workers in industrial concerns comprised in classes (a), (b) and (c) which come under the supervision of Government. Our committee are of opinion that for the present no provision should be made for workers in classes (d) and (e).

5. Is the principle of limitation to manual workers as a general rule approved 2—Yes, but the Act should clearly define when an employee is engaged in manual labour.

6. Should the compensatory provisions cover :—(a) Building Trades, (b) Telegraph and Telephone services 2—Yes. 7. What further classes should be included; are there any dangerous or unhealthy trades for which provision should be specially made  $\geq$ — Our committee are of opinion that the Act should be restricted to classes enumerated in our answer to Nos. 4 and 6.

GAZETTE

8. What should be the necessary circumstances antecedent to the injury to bring it within the scope of the Act >--Compensation should only be paid for accident arising out of, and in the course of, the employment and not wilfully incurred.

9. What exception should be made in this connexion 2-(a) Injuries incurred as a result of serious and wilful misconduct or intoxication or drugs. (b) Injuries which did not arise out of and in the course of employment, e.g., during a visit for his own personal needs to another part of the works.

10. For what injuries should compensation be provided 2—To commence with, our committee are of opinion that compensation should be restricted to fatal injuries or injuries involving the actual loss of limb or limbs or serious permanent disablement.

11. How should the cost of compensation be met?—Our committee consider that the whole of the cost should fall for the present upon the employer.

12. What type of scales should be adopted for compensation 2-Our committee consider that a scale should be laid down governing compensation in various accidents, but are very strongly of opinion that in the event of the employer and employee electing to settle the compensation by the payment of a lump sum, they should be allowed to do so. In this connexion, our committee would draw Covernment's attention to the Report of the Departmental Committee on Workmen's Compensation which sat in England in 1920 to discuss the whole question of the working of the Act in England. The Home Committee after hearing all sides decided : "Upon consideration, we do not recommend the prohibition of lump sum settlements"—vide page 53 of the Report Part VIII, paragraph 83. Our committee is of opinion that compensation should be limited to half wages or a maximum of Rs. 50 per mensem.

- 31

13. Should the award of lump sums be avoided 2-No. On the contrary they should be encouraged.

LABOUR

14. Are the scales suggested suitable ?- To commence with they appear satisfactory.

15. Is the principle of special scales for minors approved — Yes, but our committee are of opinion that no compensation be given to parents in the event of death of minors.

16. Should refusal to receive medical attention debar an employee from claiming compensation — Our committee consider that refusal on the part of an employee to accept qualified medical attention provided by the employer should debar such employee from claiming compensation. Apart from medical attention, there should be a provision in the Act that a workman must submit himself at reasonable intervals to examination by a doctor appointed by the employer if, and when, required.

17. How should the Act be administered ?-Our committee are of opinion that Government should arrange that the Act be administered in the most economical fashion consistent with the effectiveness of the Act. Provision should undoubtedly be made for the ready settlement of disputes between employer and workman on the simplest possible lines and at the least possible cost. Employer and workman should be encouraged to come to mutual agreement without recourse to litigation, and if an employer is permitted to settle with the workman for a lump sum, litigation will be reduced to a minimum. When a case is so settled for a lump sum a memorandum of the agreement could be lodged with the local court. Whatever form the court of first instance may take, we consider provision should be made for a right of appeal on questions of law to a higher court, in the interests of both employers and workmen. It is the experience in England, the higher courts are not often used but they give the necessary safeguard and protection. The Act should provide that an injured workman should give immediate notice to his employer of his injury so that the employer is in a position to immediately investigate the causes and extent of the injury and its effect upon the earning capacity of the employee.

18. Should special penalties be provided for deliberate evasion of the Act  $\rightarrow$  Yes.

# THE WORK OF THE GENEVA

MAY, 1922

GAZETTE

CONFERENCE REGULATION OF AGRICULTURAL LABOUR

Mr. Léon Jouhaux (General Secretary of the French General Confederation of Labour, Workers' Delegate from France, Vice-President, Third International Labour Conference, Geneva) has contributed the following interesting article on "The Work of the Geneva Conference," to the March number of the "International Labour Review":-

"Following on the Washington and Genoa Conferences, a further important stage in the life and development of the International Labour Organisation was marked by the Conference held at Geneva. He would undoubtedly be a bold man who would attempt to estimate its full results three months after the Sessions have taken place. The precise bearing of the decisions which were taken cannot immediately be summed up, but it is at least possible to state the views of the workers' delegates on this Third Conference.

"Its primary characteristic to our minds was that of being the logical continuation of the two previous Conferences. Washington was the opening. There we had to define general lines for the international regulation of labour, from the point of view both of essential labour demands and of their application to workers in industry. The importance of this initial task was considerable, but its difficulties were to some degree alleviated by the fact that the state of labour legislation in various modern countries lent itself to the generalisation of reforms already achieved, while, on the other hand, the power acquired by organised labour was such as to ensure their application.

"At Genoa this principle of the general regulation of labour was extended to workers at sea. But in 1920 we were already being forced to recognise the increasing difficulty of our task. It was not so much that labour is less powerful among seamen than among workers in industry, as that the problems to be solved were becoming more complex, and above all that the Conference was required to interfere more markedly than at Washington with current conditions prevailing in the different countries.

#### MAY, 1922

#### DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED

LABOUR

"The Geneva Conference was confronted with an even more arduous task, in that it sought means to confer on agricultural labour the benefits granted to other groups of workers. It was impossible not to realise the difficulties involved even before the Conference opened. Again, the actual state of legislation in each country, in the case of the agricultural wage-earner, obviously left a much wider gap between what was being aimed at and what had already been attained than confronted the worker in industry, in commerce, or at sea. Finally, the organisation of agricultural labour is mostly of recent date, and almost always inadequate.

"These factors have to be taken into account in estimating the value of the work done at Geneva. There may perhaps also be a tendency to forget that neither the Washington nor the Genoa discussions were conducted without conflict or friction ; but those who have followed the work of the International Labour Organisation from its start cannot forget the sometimes sharp disagreements experienced at those two Conferences. The realisation of the proposals of Part XIII of the Treaty has not been, nor should it rightly have been, easy. Nothing is won without a struggle, and it is this continuous effort and the trouble devoted to & chieving an end that very largely give the latter its value. All these general considerations are to the point if the work of the Third International Labour Conference is to be justly appraised.

"Some reservations must certainly be made, if this is to be interpreted in the sense of saying that the workers' expectations were fully realised. We did not get all we wanted, all we felt to be just and necessary, on the many subjects on the agenda. But having made our reservations, having taken into account the general conditions under which the Conference worked, we cannot, in the face of the decisions finally reached, fail to recognise the value of its results. It is of considerable importance to us that the Geneva Conference marked a step in advance, even though one smaller than we had demanded. of the International Labour Organisation. That step in advance was taken when the attempt to withdraw agricultural labour н 96-9

problems from the competence of the Organisation failed.

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"We have no desire to reopen this controversy here, but we can forget neither the energy with which this attempt was made nor the arguments and pretexts brought forward in its support ; still less can we forget the object pursued, which was both to reduce the authority of the Organisation and to get the Conference to declare the existence of two distinct classes of wage-earners-one with the right to receive that minimum of social justice essential-to quote the words of the Treaty-to peace, the other deprived of those rights and guarantees. A little reflection has already brought out the paradoxical character of so strange a theory, of claims so untenable. The Conference rejected them. It did not indeed pursue the matter to the logical conclusion demanded by the workers: but a way has been opened up, and what has already been done on behalf of agricultural labour justifies the belief that the work will be completed.

" It is obvious that this first result might be a guide in judging certain other difficulties confronting us at Geneva, all of them the outcome of the general conditions of society. Representatives of the working classes could not fail to realise that they were about to be faced, in the international sphere, with the same attacks as had confronted them in their own countries. We have been told that the time is past for the sort of illusions that followed the war, that the need for international labour legislation no longer presses on governments with the urgency of three years ago. We have seen capitalism once more take the offensive, and have noted every attempt to revert to a state of affairs existing before the war. Nor can we any longer shut our eyes to the fact that in certain countries labour has gone through an internal crisis detrimental to its power and to the interest it represents and defends. But the Geneva Conference has no more adopted the view of those who imagined these passing difficulties sufficient cause for driving the International Labour Conference to retrograde action, than of those who sought to make it forget that its duty is, not to look after individual interests, but to protect general interests and to defend a human ideal. The Conference

LABOUR GAZETTE

was not to be persuaded that its work must simply be that of measuring opposing forces and of making a pronouncement in favour of those momentarily superior. This we feel to be of happy augury, showing that the Third Conference has continued the work begun two years ago.

"The world of labour will not magnify these temporary difficulties, or think them a reason for withdrawing the trust it placed in the International Labour Organisation. All past experience teaches the worker what laborious and unremitting effort is needed to obtain that social justice which is his aim. There is no royal road to progress. These difficulties, which we do well to recall here, are themselves indicative of the importance of the task in which the worker is taking a hand. If it were of no value, leading to no real results, there would be nothing to excite the hostility displayed by the two extremes of society, who meet here equally determined to take refuge in denial.

#### RESULTS ACHIEVED

"Nor are the workers willing to admit that results achieved can be compromised because of any temporary difficulties. They have already passed through many crises, and have emerged from all with increased power, armed for fresh attack. The like will happen this time too; witness the power maintained by their international organisation. We are profoundly convinced that those are mistaken who count on passing difficulties to effect a permanent set-back. It is a serious miscalculation to suppose that these difficulties will lead the workers to forget the promises made to them during the war; for that is not the problem at all. It is not a case of knowing whether the sacrifices made by the masses during the world struggle are to be compensated by the recognition of some of their legitimate rights : it is a question of understanding that the masses must needs take their part in the world re-organisation on which alone peace can be established. This work is to-day indispensable ; to-morrow its urgency will be even greater than it was immediately after the Armistice, precisely because the blunders made since then, because the policy of ignoring how indispensable it really is, have aggravated the situation to such a point that we are now forced to return to it as the sole means of restoring the world's normal activities, of re-establishing equilibrium, as the sole possibility of repairing

the grievous effects of the war, or even of

continuing to exist.

To our mind another result of the Geneva Conference should here be emphasised. The Conference did not merely refuse to follow those who wished to restrict the competence and action of the International Labour Organisation; on the contrary, it actually extended the duties of the latter substantially by falling in with labour views. It may be recalled that at Washington a very small majority rejected the resolution on the distribution of raw materials proposed by our colleague Baldesi and supported by us on behalf of the workers' group. This same resolution, when brought forward at Geneva, was passed. Why should no emphasis be laid on this decision, which anticipated the concern which was shown by various governments at Cannes, and suggests how much the solution demanded by us is forcing itself upon them, if the abnormal economic situation of the world is to be remedied? We may also mention the passing of our own resolution on unemployment, supplementing that of our colleague Schurch, instructing the International Labour Office to convene an international conference. We showed at the time that the problems raised by the regulation of labour could not be considered apart from general economic problems, and that in these questions no national solutions can be adequate. As soon as any attempt is made to discover the conditions for that reconstruction which the world requires, if it is to be saved from paralysis and want, the very nature of the problems attacked forces us to admit the urgency of a world re-organisation which would constitute a 'solidarity of nations' and for which the collaboration of the workers must be asked. Nor can it be denied that it was these considerations which prompted the Allied Governments to convene the International Conference of Genoa.

" It would be easy to demonstrate in the light of recent events the real character of these resolutions of the Conference and the new May, 1922

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perspective which they open up to the International Labour Organisation. They have at least already shown the efficacy of the work begun less than two years ago, the importance and place it has already won, and the hopes it has raised. The workers, far from withdrawing their confidence, will continue to give their support, so as to secure, in their unremitting pursuit of the general interest, that peace and progress which they desire above all other things."

#### THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

#### AGENDA FOR NEXT SESSION

The Governing Body of the International Labour Office\* has decided the subjects to be included in the agenda of the Fourth Session of the General Conference of the Members of the International Labour Organisation, which will open at Geneva on the 18th October 1922. The agenda as finally settled is as follows :---

I. Revision of Part XIII of the Treaty of Versailles and the corresponding parts of the other Treaties of Peace; (a) with a view to the reform of the constitution of the Governing Body; (b) with a view as to modification as regards the periodicity of the Sessions of the Conference.

II. Communication to the International Labour Office of statistical and other information regarding emigration and immigration, and the repatriation and transport of emigrants.

With regard to Item I of the above agenda (revision of Part XIII of the Treaty) it may be recalled that the reform of the constitution of the Governing Body referred to in paragraph (a) of this Item, was included in the Agenda of the Third Session of the Conference,

\*Article 396 of the Treaty states that " the functions of the International Labour Office shall include the collection and distribution of information and subjects relating to the international adjustment of conditions of industrial life and labour, and particularly the examination of subjects which it is proposed to bring before the Conference with a view to the conclusion of international conventions, and the conduct of such special investigations as may be ordered by the Conference ".

#### GAZETTE

LABOUR

and that it is in conformity with the desire expressed by the Conference itself, that this question has been re-included in the agenda of the Fourth Session.

The Governing Body decided to include Item II in the agenda, in order to give effect to a resolution in this connection adopted by the International Emigration Commission during its Meeting at Geneva from the 2nd to the 11th August 1921, and contained in the Report of the Commission which was laid before the Conference at its last Session. The Governing Body was of opinion that it was not desirable to attempt to deal, without still further preparation, with all the complex and delicate questions on which resolutions were adopted by that Commission, but that the question of the communication by the Governments of statistical and other information relating to emigration, might be usefully considered by the Conference, as a preliminary to the consideration at a later date of other emigration problems.

It was suggested to reduce the number and importance of the Sessions of the Conference, both in order to facilitate the functioning of the International Labour Organisation, and to reduce the expenses incurred by the Member-States by their participation in the Sessions of the Conference. The agenda of the Conference comprises only two items with regard to which the Conference will be called upon to decide by a majority of two-thirds of the votes. The number of advisers who may accompany each delegate to the Conference may not exceed four.

Further, the Conference will deal with certain questions affecting the general working and activity of the International Labour Organisation. This will not require the adoption of Draft Conventions and Recommendations. Firstly, the Conference, in accordance with the desire expressed at its Third Session, will have to deal with the question of the revision of its Standing Orders. Secondly, the Conference will be required to proceed to the election of the Governing Body, in the light of the suggestions contained in the resolutions adopted by the last Session of the Conference. Thirdly, the Reports on the

## GAZETTE LABOUR (

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with Article 408 of the Peace Treaty on the application of the Conventions to which they are parties, and also a statement of the

negotiations undertaken by the Director with certain Governments, regarding the difficulties

which have arisen in the ratification of certain Draft Conventions adopted by the previous

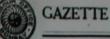
In view of the need for economy, the Government of India have decided that the

Government representatives, two in number, should not be accompanied by advisers at the forthcoming Session of the Conference.

Sessions of the Conference.

May, 1922

LABOUR



# Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Foods)

	Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	April 1921.	March 1922.	April 1922.
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Ra. a. p.	Ra. a. p.
reuls Rice Do. Do. Jowari Barley Bajri		 Delhi No. 1 Khandwa Seoni Jubbulpore Rangoon	Md. Cwt. Candy Md.	4 11 3 5 9 6 45 0 0 40 0 0 3 2 6 3 4 6 3 4 6	5 14 3 10 3 0 82 8 0 64 8 0 5 8 1 5 3 0 7 6 6	6 8 9 9 12 0 105 0 0 80 0 0 4 12 2 4 12 2 6 5 7	6 8 9 9 12 0 107 8 0 77 8 0 4 13 11 5 4 8 6 5 7
iram Turdal		 Punjab yellow (2nd sort) Cawnpore		4 3 9 5 10 5	657 867	6 14 1 9 9 10	6 5 7 9 9 10
ar— Do. Raw (Gul)		Java white	Cwt. Md.	9 3 0 10 3 0 7 14 3	39 6 0 39 4 0 13 9 8	22 8 0 24 0 0 14 15 5	23 10 0 24 0 0 14 15 5
her food Furmeric Ghee Salt		 Deshi Rombou (black)		5 9 3 45 11 5 1 7 6	11 2 6 74 4 7 1 14 0	16 9 7 91 6 10 3 5 0	16 0 10 91 6 10 2 3 0

## Expressed as percentages of July 1914 Prices in July 1914 = 100

Cereals— Rice Do. Do. Jowari Barley Bajri			Delhi No. 1 Khandwa Seoni Jubbulpore Rangoon		  	100 100 100 100 100 100 100	125 182 183 161 174 158 226	139 174 233 200 151 145 194	139 174 239 194 154 161 194
	Average—Cereals					100	173	177	179
Pulses— Gram Turdal	::		Punjab yellow (2nd ac Cawnpore	ort).	::	100 100	150 149	162 170	150 170
	AveragePulses	• •				100	149	166	160
Sugar— Sugar Do. Raw (Gul)			Mauritius No. 1 Java white Sangli		::	100 100 100	429 385 172	245 236 190	257 236 190
-	Average—Sugar					100	329	224	228
Other food — Turmeric Ghee Salt			Rajapuri Deshi Bombay (black)			100 100 100	200 163 128	298 200 226	288 200 149
		•••	oombay (black)			100	164	241	212
	Average—All food					100	199	198	193

Cost of living index numbers for India and foreign countries

Name of country.	(1)	India lombay.)	United Kingdom.	Canada.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Italy (Rome) (c).	Belgium.	Norway.	Switzerland	South Africa.	France (Paris).	Germary.	U.S. of America,
Items included in the index.		Food, fuel, light, clothing and rent.	Food, rent, fuel, light, clothing, atc.	Food, fuel, light, rent, household utensils and fur- nishing.	Food and Rent.	Food, fuel, light and rent.	Food, clothing, heat, light, rent and miscel- laneous.	Food, clothing, light, fuel, and house- hold utensile.	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent, tax, etc.	Food, heating and lighting	Food, fuel, light and rent.	(g)	Food, heating and lighting and rent.	Food, clothing, heating and lighting, rent and miscel- laneous items.
1914 July	1	100	100	100	(a) 100	100	(6) 100	(d) 100	100	() 100	100	100	100	(/)100
1915			125	97	119	107	99		(e) 117	119	103			105
1916		·	148	102	115	113	116		146	140	106			118
1917			180	130	116	119	146		190	180	114			142
1918	.	÷	203	146	118	128	197		253	229	118			174
1919			208	155	132	133	205		275	261	126	238		- 177
1920		189	252	190		149	313	453		253	155		842	217
1921 January		169	265	179		159	374	450		237	153		944	
February		162	251	175		160	379	434	311	234	149		901	
March		160	241	169	161	160	384	411	301	231	147	338	901	
April		160	233	165		159	411	399	301	212	144		894	
" May		16	7 228	161		159	396	389	297	210	141		880	180
June		17	3 219	153	152	158	390	384	302	214	136	307	896	
July		17	7 219	152		157	387	379		209	133		963	
August		18	0 222	2 155		156	391	384		206	130		1,045	
" September	••	18	5 22	0 158	145	155	400	386	296	200	130	295	1,062	177
October	••	18	3 21	0 155		155	415	391		198	128		1,146	
November		18	2 20	3 15	3	154	423	394		192	127		1,397	
December	•••	17	19 15	99 15	2 140	152	423	393	283	189	124	297	1.550	174
1922 January	۰.	17		92 15	2	151	430	\$87		179	122		1,640	
February	•••	16				150	426	380		177	120		1,989	
., March	•••	16			8				257				2,302	
April	•••	10	52 18	82	1									

(a) From 1914 to 1919 figures relate to 2nd quarter. (b) First half of 1914. (c) Unofficial (d) April 1914. (e) From 1915 to 1919 June figures are given. (1) June 1914 100. (a) Expenditure of a family of four persons. (b) Average 1913 is the base. Note.—The absolute maxima for the different countries are indicated in heavier type.

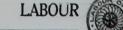
unemployment crisis and on the question of the distribution of raw materials, prepared by the

Office in accordance with the resolutions

adopted at the last Session, will come up for consideration. *Fourthly*, the Conference will also consider the proposal to insert in the general articles of future Draft Conventions, provisions which would render possible their amendment as regards details of application.

Lastly, the Conference will consider the General Report of the Director, which will

contain a summary of the annual reports furnished by the various States in accordance



LABOUR GAZETTE

May, 1922

# Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	April 1921.	March 1922.	April 1922
Oil seeds— Linseed Rapeseed Poppyseed Gingily Textiles—Cotton—	Bold Cawnpore (brown) Do White	:	Rs. ap. 8 14 6 8 0 0 10 14 0 11 4 0	Rs. a. p. 14 4 0 11 8 0 14 4 0 17 0 0	Rs. a. p. 13 8 0 11 0 0 14 0 0 15 10 0	Rs. a. p. 14 8 0 11 4 0 15 12 0
<ul> <li>(a) Cotton-raw- Broach</li> <li>Oomra</li> <li>Dharwar</li> <li>Khandesh</li> <li>Bengal</li> <li>(b) Cotton manufactures- Twist</li> <li>Grey shirtings</li> <li>White mulls</li> <li>Shirtings</li> <li>Long doth</li> <li>Chudders</li> </ul>	Good Fully good Saw-ginned Machine ginned Do 40S Fari 2,000 6,600 Liepman's 1,500 Local made 36''×37½ yds 54''×6 yds.	Lb. Piece	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	380 0 0 349 0 0 1 9 6 15 0 0 11 4 0 27 0 0 1 10 0 1 7 6	468 0 0 377 0 0 360 0 0 1 10 0 15 0 0 11 4 0 27 0 0 1 10 0 1 7 6

# Expressed as percentages of July 1914

		Prices in	July 1914	4 = 100			
til seeds Linseed Rapeseed Poppyseed Gingily	Bold Cawnpore ( H Do. White	orown)	  	100 100 100 100	160 144 131 151	152 138 129 139	163 141 131 140
Average—Oilseeds			1 miles	100	146	140	144
Textiles—Cotton— (a) Cotton—raw Broach Oomra Dharwar Khandesh Bengal	Good     Good     Saw-ginned     Machine gin     Do.		  	100 100 100 100 100	108 114  105 120	171  176	186 170  182
Average-Cotton-ray	«			100	112	174	179
(b) Cotton manufactures— Twist Grey shirtings White mulls Shirtings Long cloth Chudders	405 Fari 2,000 Liepman Local ma 54"×6 y	s 1,500 de 36''×37½ vds		100 100 100 100 100 100	235 269 281 318 258 242	200 253 269 260 274 247	204 253 269 260 274 247
Average—Cotton manufact	штез			100	267	251	251
Average—Textiles—Cot	tton			100	. 205	231	227

May, 1922	LAROUD A
WAY, 1722	 LABOUR

Wholesa	ale	Market Pri	ices in	n Bomba	y (Non-fo	ods)—conti	nued	
Article.	-	Grade.		Rate per	July 1914.	April 1921.	March 1922.	April 1922.
					Rs. s. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Other textiles— Silk Do.		Canton No. 5 Nankin	::	Pucca seer	5 4 0 17 12 0	10 3 0 23 8 0	580 3080	5 8 0 30 8 0
Hides and Skins— Hides, Cow Do. Buffalo Skins, Goat		Tanned Do. Do.		Lb. 	1 2 6 1 1 3 1 4 0	2 0 0 1 1 4 2 14 8	1 12 2 1 4 3 2 14 9	1 10 8 0 14 0 2 5 1
Metals— Copper braziers Iron bars Steel hoops Galvanized sheets Tin plates	··· ·· ··	Ξ		Cwt. " Box	60 8 0 <sup>-</sup> 4 0 0 7 12 0 9 0 0 8 12 0	94 0 0 15 0 0 17 8 0 25 0 0 17 8 0	87 0 0 11 0 0 16 8 0 16 0 0 13 0 0	86 0 0 11 0 0 15 8 0 15 0 0 13 0 0
Other raw and manufactured articles Coal Kerosene Do.		Bengal Elephant brand Chester brand		Ton 2 Tins Case	14 12 0 4 6 0 5 2 0	36 0 0 8 7 0 10 12 0	31 0 0 7 10 0 10 7 0	29 0 0 7 10 0 10 3 0
				percentage July 1914	s of July 19 4 = 100	14		
Other tex tiles		Canton No. 5 Nankin			100 100	194 132	105 172	105 172
					100	163	139	139
Average—Other textiles Hides and Skins— Hides, Cow Do. Buffalo		Tanned Do.			100 100 100	173 100 233	152 117 234	144 81 185
Skins. Goat		Do.			100	169	168	137
Average—Hides and Skins Metals— Copper brazier Iron bare		-			100	155 375 226	144 275 213 178	142 275 200 167 149

			the second division in which the second division is not the second division of the second d		
0.1					
Other textiles-		~ · · · ·			
Silk		Canton No. 5			
Do.		Nankin			
0.1					
Average-Other textiles	••				
Hides and Skins—					
Hides, Cow		Tanned			
Do. Buffalo		Do.			
Skins, Goat		Do.			
Skins, Goat	•••	D0.			
Average-Hides and Skins		_			
Metals-	1				-
Copper brazier		-		**	
Iron bars		-			
Steel hoops		_			
Galvanized sheets		_			
Tin plates					
2 m plates					
Average—Metals					
1					
Other raw and manufactured articles					
Coal		Bengal			
Kerosene		Electron Law 1			
Do.		Elephant brand			
Do.	••	Chester brand			
Average—Other raw and ma	anu		1000		
factured articles		-			1.0
Toctal co articico					
Total-Food			1000		
Total—Non-food			1000		10 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
I otal-INOR-Tood	•••				
			100		
					1.1
General Average					and the second

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185

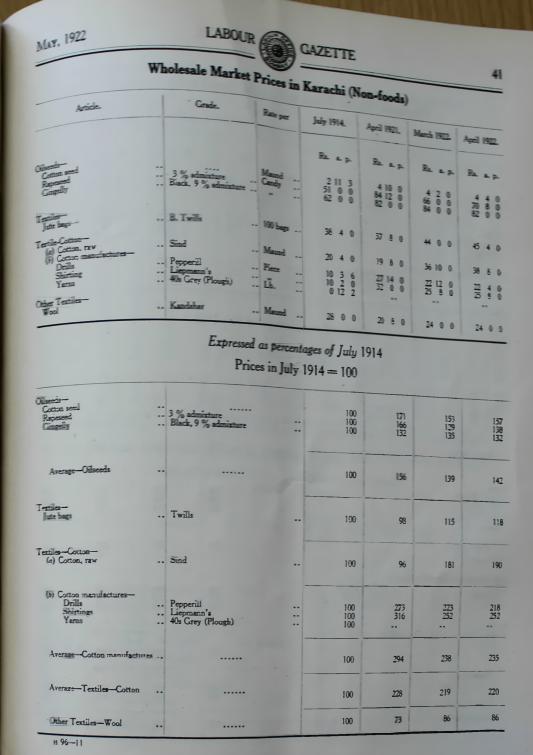
189

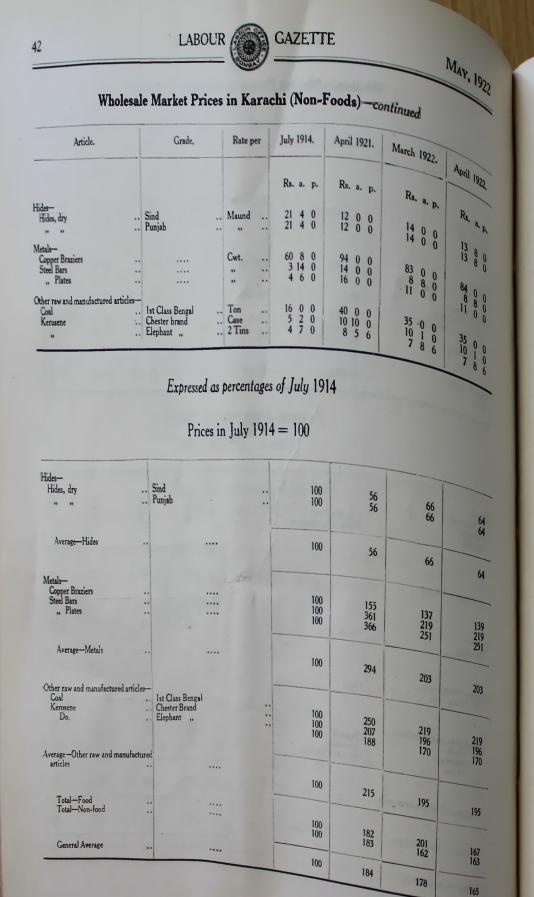
198

100 100



						Mer
	Wholesale	Market Pri	ces in Kara	chi (Foods)		May,
Article.	Grade	Rate p	er July 1914.	April 1921,	Manch 1922.	-
Cereals-			Raap	Ra a p.	RLER	April 1
Rice Wheat, white	Larkans No. 3 5 % badey 3 % dirt.	·· Candy	39 0 0 31 8 0	60 0 0 55 0 0	65 0 0 77 0 0	Re
- red	Larkgara No. 3 5 % backey 3 % det. 30 % end. 5 % backey 2 % backey		3140	54 8 0	76 8 0	65 ( 33 (
_ sed	2 % balley 13 % dir. 2 % balley 13 % dir.		32 8 0 32 4 0	56100 5620	79 5 0	52 14 55 1
Jovani Barley Palaes—	3 % dirt		25 8 0 25 8 0	48 0 0 37 12 0	78 13 0 43 0 0 40 0 0	54 8
Gram Sugar- Sugar Do.	1 % diet	··· Cwt.	2980	51 0 0	57 0 0	41 0 36 0 44 0
Ds. Mer food— Salt	" brows		920 816	37 6 0	22 8 0 20 4 0	22 3 19 14
		Bengal Maund.	474	250	268	2 5
	Express	ed as percenta ces in July 1	ges of July 19	914		
Cereals- Rice			914 = 100	1		
Wheat, white	Larkana No. 3	-				
red	5 % barley, 3 % 5 % barley, 3 % 92 % red.	án án	·· 100 ·· 100 ·· 100	175	167 244	16
	30 % red. 5 % barley, 3 % 92 % red. 2 % barley, 11 %	वेत वेत वेत वेत	·· 100 ·· 100 ·· 100 ·· 100	124 175 174 174	244 245	14 14 16
- red - white		, चंत वेंत ६ वेंत ७ वेंत	100 100 100	174 175 174 174 174 174	244	
" red " white Joverni Barley Averages-Cercels	3% šin *	, कत केंग 5 केंग	·· 100 ·· 100 ·· 100 ·· 100 ·· 100 ·· 100	174 175 174 174 174 188	244 245 244 244 169	16 16 16 13
- red - white Jowari Barley Averages-Cercals ulses- Grass	3% Zin  1% dir:		100 100 100 100 100 100	174 175 174 174 174 188 142	244 245 244 169 151	16
<ul> <li>red</li> <li>white</li> <li>red</li> <li>Jowari</li> <li>Barley</li> <li>Averages-Cereals</li> <li>ulses- Grass</li> <li>sugar- Sugar</li> <li>"</li> </ul>	3% šin *		100 100 100 100 100 100 100	175 175 174 174 174 188 142 169	244 245 244 169 151 209 193	14 16 16
" ted " white ted Journal Barley Amerages—Cerculs	3% 241		100 100 100 100 100 100 100	174 175 174 174 174 188 142 169 173 410	244 245 244 169 151 209	14 14 16 13





W	holesal	le prie	ces inc	lex nu	mber	s in B	omba	y by g	groups	from	Janu	ary 19	20	
				1	Prices	in July	y 1914	= 100	)					
Months.	Cereals.	Pulsee.	Sugar.	Other food.	Total food,	Oil- seeds.	Raw cotton.	Cotton manu- factures.	Other textiles.	Hides and skins.	Metals.	Other raw and manu- factured articles.	Total non- food.	Genera
1920 anuary - April - May - August - September - November - November - 1921 -	. 162 . 166 . 161 . 151 . 163 . 164 . 167 . 166	178 178 171 152 145 155 156 156 160 160	323 329 397 420 452 456 <b>470</b> 385 312 255	<b>202</b> 178 173 170 181 184 184 163 158 141	215 201 211 213 216 225 <b>228</b> 208 193 173	<b>210</b> 173 179 173 171 173 189 178 164 148	<b>202</b> 149 168 159 144 132 139 135 134 122	312 314 305 310 318 306 295 293 287 284	153 <b>270</b> 175 178 179 183 186 186 186 184 181	196 <b>214</b> 113 172 164 133 119 145 188 175	<b>297</b> 279 284 294 288 257 257 247 240 239	200 191 204 198 208 209 209 209 216 202 204	241 238 220 227 222 212 212 212 212 211 209 203	231 224 217 222 220 217 218 210 204 192
lanuary . February . April . June . July . August . September . October . November .	. 159 . 156 . 173 . 173 . 184 . 186 . 216 . 212 . 192 . 196 . 188	160 145 139 149 151 158 151 166 169 164 175 180	306 324 338 329 314 267 234 229 230 207 203 200	146 149 150 164 162 169 185 181 174 180 490 185	185 188 189 199 196 194 191 205 202 189 193 189	138 133 129 146 150 161 171 160 150 130 129 136	120 110 108 112 115 126 137 137 217 169 170 198	274 265 256 267 272 270 269 267 265 273 263 259	163 163 163 163 142 109 138 138 138 138 138 138 138	148 172 152 169 166 141 156 160 180 182 163 136	233 234 246 247 248 239 244 242 240 209 204 200	216 216 216 216 232 222 206 210 206 202 198 198	195 193 190 198 200 205 203 202 211 199 192 191	191 191 190 198 199 197 199 203 207 195 193 190
January . February . March .	. 182 . 179 . 177 . 179	175 168 166 160	* 210 203 224 228	190 211 <b>241</b> 212	188 189 198 193	132 136 140 144	166 156 174 179	258 244 251 251	139 139 139 139	167 148 168 137	199 192 192 187	196 208 196 190	190 185 189 185	190 186 192 188

Retail prices of articles of food in Bombay in July 1914, March and April 1922

# The prices quoted are for local weights and measures

Articles.		Grade.	Rate per	Equiva- lent in	July 1914.	March 1922.	April 1922.	decrease	ue + or — in Apri or below
				tolas.				July 1914.	March 1922,
					As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.
Rice Wheat Jowari Bajri Gram Turda Sugar (raw) Sugar (refined) Tea Salt Beef Mutton Milk Ghi Potatoes Onions Coccenut oil		Ghati Punjab red Cawnpore Java, white Java, white Ceylon, middle quality Bombay, black Crawford Market , Average for sheep and goat	Paylee	216 212 208 200 208 204 28 28 39 39 39 56 28 28 28 28 28 28 28	5 10 5 10 4 3 4 7 4 4 5 11 1 2 1 1 2 6 3 0 2 9 7 1 0 8 3 7	8 0 10 4 6 5 7 1 8 11 10 7 2 3 2 2 9 11 3 0 5 0 7 6 4 11 12 10 0 11 0 6 3 2	8 0 9 10 6 5 7 1 8 7 10 3 2 3 2 4 9 11 2 9 5 0 7 6 4 11 13 2 0 7 0 4 3 1	$\begin{array}{c} +2 & 2 \\ +4 & 0 \\ +2 & 2 \\ +2 & 6 \\ +4 & 4 \\ +1 & 1 \\ +1 & 1 \\ +1 & 0 \\ +4 & 4 \\ +1 & 1 \\ +1 & 0 \\ +4 & 6 \\ +4 & 2 \\ 2 \\ +6 & 1 \\ +0 & 1 \\ +0 & 6 \\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} -0.6 \\ -0.4 \\ -0.4 \\ +0.2 \\ -0.3 \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\$

4				LABO	UR	GAZ	ETTE			
					_	$\mathcal{I} =$			1	MAY, 19
	Reta	ail pr	ices of	Articl	es of foo	d in M	arch an	d April	1922	
Articles.	F	nice per	Bombey.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad	
			March 1922.	March 1922.	March 1922.	March 1922.	April 1922.	April 1922.	April 1922	Students And And And Students
lesen's-			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
Rice Wheat Jowari Bajri	N	faund  	7 6 6 9 13 6 6 2 6 7 1 9	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	8 0 0 8 14 3 5 11 5 7 4 4	6 15 7 7 9 0 4 2 4 5 1 11	7 6 6 9 4 10 6 2 6 7 1 9	9 14 9 8 13 3 5 9 10 6 12 11	8 0 0 8 3 3 5 11 5 7 4 4	Ra a p 7 7 4 4 3 1 5 7
ulses— Graza Turdal ther articles of for			898 1058	8 11 4 9 11 2	7 8 6 10 10 8	7 5 8 7 10 9	$\begin{smallmatrix}8&4&4\\10&1&0\end{smallmatrix}$	7 1 1 9 7 8	744	7 1 0 7 8 2
Sugar (refined) Jasti (gul) Tea Sult Bee' Minton Milk Ghee Potatoes Onions Coconnet al		laund eer laund 	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	20 0 0 16 0 0 0 12 5 3 5 4 0 80 0 12 4 11 80 0 0 4 11 4 3 12 11 35 8 11	17 12 5 16 13 6 0 10 5 3 7 11 0 10 0 13 5 1 91 6 10 3 5 4 26 10 8
ereals Rice Wheat Jowari Bajri	  	pressed   	as pero 132 176 141 165	centages 150 243 159 158	$ \begin{array}{c} : 1 \text{ scer} = 2\frac{2}{3} \\ of July 1 \\ 130 \\ 189 \\ 150 \\ 154 \\ 154 \end{array} $	1914 Price	s = 1 seer ; 4 s (July 1 132 166 141 165	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \text{ seers} = 1 \text{ In} \\ 914 = 100 \\ \hline \\ 149 \\ 210 \\ 154 \\ 162 \end{array}$	dian maund. ) 130 174 150 154	141 141 148 155
Average-cere	i¦s		154	178	156	142	151	169	152	
Gram Turdal		::	200 177	229 145	188 173	171 131	192 172	186 142	182 163	146 164 129
Average-puls			187	187	181	151	182	164	173	
Jagri (gul) Tea Salt Beef Mutton Milk Ghee Potatoes Onions Coccanut oil		··· ··· ··· ···	207 191 127 151 200 230 191 180 150 223 90	229 239 129 196 200 200 225 158 79 252 124	187 150 160 177 133 200 246 169 117 250 160	178 217 100 168 240 167 183 142 200 133 100	219 191 127 200 230 191 185 99 164 86	235 232 129 179 200 200 225 163 92 180 124	222 180 160 221 133 200 246 180 124 190 178	147 178 217 100 157 240 167 183 163 200 133 100
verage all food a	rticles		176	185	177	166	166	178	185	167
(unweighted)				182						

May, 1922					ABO	_		GAZE	ΓTE				
	Inde	ex Nu	mber	s of W	hole	sale	Prices	in India	and For				45
	India		Unit	ed Kingd	om,			- mons	and For	eign C	ountries		
Country.	(Bomba	iy) (	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Canada.	South Africa.	Australia	New Zcaland	United		
No. of articles.	43	1	45	44 1	50	60	272	1		Zealand.	(5)	(6)	(7)
			00 1	00 1	00	100		188	92	140	96	325	
	100	12	20 27 1	99 23			100	(6) 100	(6)	100	100		88
1915		2	50 1 06 2	60 104 125			100 109 134	111	100	104	100	100	100
1917 19	237	2	26 2 42 2	25 35			1/5	147	1	134 151	**	101 124 126 235 255 255 250 250 250 250 250 250 250 25	
1919	211	3	08 3	10 3	26	353	205 216 258 261 256 248 299 194 189 182 179	166 187		175		176	
" May .	. 217	3	06 3 99 2 98 2 32 2	06 04 92 88 09 92 89 89 84 82 79 78	332 333 324	353 353 348 333 325 211 203	261	250	209 217 225 234 <b>236</b> 196 192		25	212	206 248 263 284 150 154 150 154 150 142 139 141
huly .	217	2	98 2	88	320	333 325	256	261	225	219	225 216 204 195 134 129 124 117 115	265	263
1071 January	191 191 190	2	15 1	92	320 251 230 215	229	208	206	236	219	195	262	250 234
" March ·	. 190 . 198 . 199	2	08 1	84	2019	203 198	194		192 181 171	210	129	177	163
May ·	199	R	91 1 83 1	82 79	206	193	182	170	171	205	124	162	150
" July .	. 199	18	86   1 83   1	78 79	198 194 191	198 193 187 186 184	179	155	162 159	200	117	151	142
" September .	207	17	76   1	83	191 184	181	176 174 172		160	219 216 210 208 205 201 200 200 197 197 197 199 199 189	120	148	141 143
October November	193	16		66	76	168	169 168 170		156	197	120	152 150 149	143
December .	190 190 186	15	6 1	59 1	67	162 159	170 168 169		148	190	123	149	141 140 138 138
February .	192	1.	. 1		65 63	156	169			181	120 120 122 123 123 123 123 124 124	148	138
" April .	188	1	•								126		::
	U		tates of A	merica	1	[			-		1		
Country.	1	(8)	ontd. (9)	(10)	Fra	nce.	Italy. (a)	Japan.	Germany.	Nether- lands. (d)	Norway.	Sweden.	Denmark.
No. of articles.		25	200	22	1	45		56	77	(a) 	93	47	33
1913 Average		100	100	100	1	100	100	100	100	100			
1914						102	95	95	105	105	(e) 100	100	100
1915 » 1916 »					1	188	201	117	142	145	(f) 159 (f) 233	145	138 164
1917 1918						330	95 133 201 299 409 366	148	142 153 179 217	286 392	(f) 159 (f) 233 341 345 322	145 185 244 339	228 293 294
1919 1920 March		213 229 <b>230</b> 227	213 217 <b>222</b> 221	230	-	356 554 587 553	366	95 97 117 148 196 239 <b>321</b> 300 248 255 201 195	415	297	351	330 354	294
" April " May		229 230	217 222	230 254 <b>267</b> 266		587 553		300 248			354 368	354 361	
, June 1921 January		227	221 167	266 141		493 407 378 361 345 330	642	255 201	1.439		382 344	366 267	341
" February " March		140 133 140	157	136 139		378	012	195	1,439 1,376 1,338	197 188	319 312	250 237	290 280
" April		137 123	153 147 140	129		345	584	190	1 3 2 6	176	297 294	229 218	270 257
" le c		117	140	120 120 123 125	1	326	509	192	1,308 1,368 1,428 1,917	182 182 176	294 300	330 354 354 361 <b>366</b> 267 250 237 229 218 218 218 211	254 254
" August		120 126	135 138 137	125		331 332	542	199	1,917 2,067	180	297 287	196	224 202
» September » October		125 120	137 136 138	118		332 344 331	599	219	2,460 3,416	180 169 165	286 276	175	186 186
" November December			139	107 109		332 526 514	604 584 547 509 520 542 580 599 595 595 595 562	191 190 191 192 196 199 207 219 207 214 210 206 204	3,487 3,665	165	354 368 382 319 312 297 294 300 297 286 200 297 286 200 203	172	341 290 280 257 254 224 202 186 188 188 188 177
1922 January February			139 139	111 121	3	814 606	562	206 204	4,103	162	253	166	177 182
" March						1			5,433	(a) August	Dec 1913	to June 19	4 = 100.

July 1914=100. (a) New index numbers. (b) 1914=100. (c) 1920 = 100. (d) Revised figures. (e) Average Dec. 1913 to June 1914 = 100.
 (f) The figures from 1915-19 are for December. Note.—The absolute and secondary maxima are indicated in heavier type. (l) Statist. (2) Economist. (3) Board of Trade. (4) Times. (5) Bradstreet. (6) Bureau of Labour. (7) Federal Reserve Board.
 (i) Annalist. (9) Dun. (10) Gibson. B 96-12

E MA

	1	-	ALCL		1004					and	IUICI	511 0	ount		1		_	
Name of country.	India	United Kingdor	n Canad		outh Au rica. li	a. Zei	iew land.	United States of America.	France (b)	Italy. (c)	Belgium.	Fin- land.	Germany	Holland.	Norway.	Sweden (6)	Den- co	R.H.
No. of articles.	17	20	25		18	46	59	22 till Dec. 1920; 43 from Jan. 1921.	13	9	22	37		27		51	:	:
No. of stations.	Bor bay			0	9	30	25	45 till Dec. 1920; 51 from Jan. 1921.		Rome.	1,028 budgets.	20	47	Amster- dam	30	44	100	23
14 July	. 10	0 10	0 1	00 0	(a)100	100	100	100	100	(d) 100	(e)100	100	100	100	(a) 100	100	100	-
15		13	2 1	05	107	131	112	98	120	95				114		124	128	- 1
16 "		16	1 1	14	116	130	119	109	129	111				117	160	142	146	
17 "		20	4 1	57	128	126	127	143	183	137				146	214	181	166	
918 "		2	10 1	75	134	131	139	164	206	203				176	279	268	187	
919 "			09	186	139	147	144	186	261	206				204	289	310	212	
920 "			58	227	197	194	167	215	373	318	459	982	1:156	210	319	297	253	-
921 January		163 2	78	195	172	186	178	169	410	367	493	1,174	1,265	193	334	283	276	
February		156 2	63	190	165	184	175	155	382	376	482	1,107	1,191	194	308	262		
" March		154 2	249	175	160	181	169	153	358	386	434	1,137	1,138	193	300	253	••	
" April		154	238	171	156	173	169	149	328	432	417	1,107	1,171	188	300	248		
" May		162	232	165	152	168	16	1 142	317	421	407	1,119	1,152	184	292	237	••	
" June		169	218	150	144	165	16	6 141	312	409	419	1,147	1,175	180	290	234		
" July		174	220	148	139	161	16	4 14	5 306	402	410	1,278	1,274	180	295	232	236	
" August		177	226	154	134	154	16	3 15	2 317	417	427	1,324	1,399	179	297	234		
"September		183	225	159	133	154	1	51 15	0 329	430	423	1,359	1,418	179	290	228		
" October		. 180	210	155	131	150	1	56 15	0 33	46	1 434	1,357	1,532	168	288	218		
"November		. 179	200	149	129	147	1	52 14	49 32	6 459	442	1,286	1:914	154	281	211		
" December		. 176	195	148	125	143	1	50 1	47 32	3 45	8 438	1,198	3 2,088	150	268	202		
1922 January		169	185	149	121	14	2 1	47 1	39 31	9 46	9 417	1,12	3 2,219	148	-	190	197	
., February		160	179	143	119	9 14	0	145 1	36 30	7 46	3 399	1,11	5 2,727			189		
March		161	177	14	2 .	.   .	-	141	2	94 .		.   •	. 3, 152		238	185		

LABOUR GAZETTE

(a) Average for the year 1914. (b) Includes fuel and lighting. (c) Unofficial. (d) January to June 1914. (e) 15th April 1914. (g) Figures from 1 averages. Note.-The absolute maxima for the different countries are indicated in heavier type.

## TRADE UNIONISM IN RUSSIA

Ever since the month of August 1921 when the Council of the People's Commis-saries established the bases of trade union action, the one point that is frequently debated action, the one point that is frequently debated upon is the question of compulsory member-ship of trade unions. In the majority of Russian unions, membership has become practically compulsory since 1921. In December last, the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party appointed Lenin, Roudzoutak (Secretary of the All-Russian Trade Union Council) and Andreev (member of the Central Russian Trade Union Council) to draw up theses on the function and duty of trade unions under the new economic policy. These theses were approved by the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party and by the C ntral All-Russian Trade Union Council. '9 It advocates a return to voluntary membership whether individual or collective.

The question is widely discussed in the Soviet Press. Voluntary membership, it is generally considered, will strengthen the authority of the unions and enhance their constructive work and the interest of the working classes will be better cared for.

May, 1922

MAN

GAZETTE

# Principal Trade Disputes in progress in April 1922

LABOUR

Name of concern and locality.	Approximate nu workpeople in		Date	when dispute		
	Directly.	Indirectly.	Began.	Ended.	Cause.	Result.
Textile Trade.			1922.	1922.		
1. The Fazulbhoy Mills, Ld., Parel, Bombay.	100 (Frame Depart- ment).		2 April	3 April	Dissatisfaction with the present rates of wages.	Work resumed pend- ing consideration of the demands by the authorities.
2. The Ahmedabad Industrial Mill Co., Ld., Gomtipur, Ahmedabad.	150 (weavers).		4 April	11 April	Alleged supply of bad yarn	New hands engaged.
3. The Ahmedabad Swadeshi Spinning and Weaving Mills Co., Ld., Asarwa Road, Ahmedabad.	300 (weavers).		7 April	II April	Alleged supply of bad yarn	Work resumed un- conditionally.
4. The Ahmedabad National Mills Co., Ld., Gomtipur, Ahmedabad.	50 (Frame Depart- ment).		8 April	10 April	Demand for the reinstatement of a labourer dismissed from the mill as a result of a quarrel with a certain Mukadam.	conditionally.
5. The Ahmedabad Swadeshi Spinning and Weaving Co., Ld., Asarwa Road, Ahmed- abad.	300 (weavers).		14 April	16 April	Demand for three rupees eight annas per pair of looms in- stead of three rupees for the stoppage of work on account of the shortage of warping beams.	
6. The Ahmedabad Cotton Manufacturing Co., Ld., Sarangpur Road, Ahmedabad.	(weavers).		16 April	21 April	<ul> <li>(1) Supply of bad yarn</li> <li>(2) Demand for the reinstatement of a dismissed jobber.</li> </ul>	
7. The Crescent Mill, Ld., Fergusson Road, Parel, Bombay.			17 April	19 April	Substitutes for absentees from outside the mill received 10 annas per day whereas the workers in the mill received only 7 annas. The strikers demanded 10 annas instead of 7 annas.	conditionally.
8. The Presidency Mills, Ld., Fergusso Road, Parel, Bombay.			17 April	22 April	General increase in the rates of wages.	New men were en- gaged and the old ones were paid off.
9. The Birla Mil Sewn, Bombay.	l, 100 (Ring Depart- ment).		19 April	20 April	The strikers alleged that their rates of wages were lower than those in other mills in Bombay.	Work resumed on the Agent's promise to examine the rates.
10. The Maneklal Har lal Spinning and Weav ing Mills Co., Ld Saraspur Road Ahmedabad.	(weavers).		20 April	22 April	Demand for higher piece rates.	An increase of 21 pies per pair of Dhoties granted.

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47

Prin	ncipal Tra	ade Dis	putes in P	rogress i	n April 1922 continued	MAY, 1972 M	<sub>AY</sub> , 1922				ABOUR		AZETTE				
lame of concern and locality.	Approximate n workpeople in			en dispute	Cause		Detail	led staten	nent of th	e quan	quantity (in pounds) and the counts (o Bombay Presidency				or numbers) of yarn spun		
	Directly.	Indirectly.	. Began.	Ended.		Reade		unt or Numb		_		Month of March					
etile T <del>rade - cons</del> el.			1922.	1922.							1920	1921	1922		conths ended M	arch	
The Jacob Sassoon ills, Superi Beug ( ad, Parel, Bombay.	(Weavers, Shed No. 1).	400 (Wervers, Shed	22 April	• ••••	Reinstatement of a jobber whose resignation was wrong- ly taken to be dismissal.						(99)			1920	1921	1922	
		Shed No. 2).			(1) Demand for the disminal of the Assistant Weaving Master. (2) Men working in the mill	- Nor Nor Nor	1 to 10 11 to 20 21 to 30 31 to 40 Above 40 Weste, etc.	Pounds " " "			5,089 17,486 11,553 967 131 4	(559) 5,528 20,145 12,592 927 96 7	(000) 6,361 18,091 12,175 1,300 148 6	(900) 60,975 221,679 141,677 13,685 2,178 95	(100) 63,637 238,636 153,723 12,638 1,2272 1,272 199	(000 78,75 241,41 157,20 12,85 2,01 38	
					<ul> <li>of engaging outsiders.</li> <li>(3) (a) 50a. yarn should be paid at the rate of 28 pies.</li> <li>(b) 20a. yarn should be paid at one pie more.</li> </ul>				Total		35,230	39,295	38,081	439,800	469,945	492,63	
					(c) for over 20s. counts 11						Bo	mbay <u>klan</u>	d		-		
					(4) reavy sorts should be worked. (5) Higher rates for lighter	1. A. A. A.		count or Num			A	Aouth of March		Twelv	months ended		
					(6) Moderate working of		L	John of Lenn	Del.		1920	1921	1922	1920	1921		
					(7) Notice should be put up after considering the demands.						(000)		_		- 740	1922	
			-		Additional demands. (1) An all-round increase of ½ pie per pound. (2) Rates of wages should be entered on the tally boards. (3) Pay sheets should be shown 10 days before the pay day. (4) If the demands were not	Na	L 1 to 10 L 11 to 20 L 21 to 30 L 31 to 40 Above 40 Waste, etc.	Pounds ~ ~	   		4,842 14,099 6,918 352 97 2	(000) 4,998 14,899 7,729 427 68 2	(000) 5,969 13,346 7,385 519 72 2	(950) 56,406 173,465 81,274 5,161 1,406 37	(1565) 58,241 185,539 54,134 5,178 921 143	(99 71,22 175,59 94,75 6,00 94,75	
lane.	24				granted two months wages should be paid in lieu of notice.				Total		26,301	28,123	27,294	317,719	342,456	348,9	
Manu- Lid., Road,	240) (weavers).		25 April		Increase in the piece rates by one pie per yard.						ł	Ahmedabad					
Birla Mill, mbey,	(Ring Depart-		29 April 📜	I May	Demand for general increase For	-				1	1	Month of March		Twels	e months ended	March	
rade.	ment).				DE MARCE DE MAZOS. DE	id off. Othern sumed work us- aditionally.	C	Count or Num	iber.	T	1920	1921	1922	1920	1921	1922	
P. Railway and Wagon mt, Victoria	600 (Carriage and Wagon De- ment).		8 April	8 April .	Delay in the summer of al W.	rk resumed on the		2.8			(000)	(900)	(900)	(309)	(000)	(00)	
esus. ey Muni- tmen in artment),		G	20 April	27 April ,	Demand for Rupees forty-five Wo per month.	norance that pa- th of wages would No expedited. No No No No resumed on No No	at. 1 to 10 at. 11 to 20 at. 21 to 30 at. 31 to 40 Above 40 Tente, etc.	Pounds " "	  	1111	148 1,788 3,830 530 24	150 2,439 3,595 438 3	95 2,525 3,732 667 63	1,594 19,626 44,969 6,830 535	1,507 23,516 44,617 6,068 194 3	2,431 31,599 45,999 5,540 724 110	
						etation containing elemends of the	States and and						7777				

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# LABOUR GAZETTE



# MAY, 1922 LABOUR CAZETTE

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

# Bombay Presidency

		1		Month of March		Twelve	Twelve months ended March		
Description.			1920	1921	1922	1920	1921	1922	
Grey and bleached piece-goods-			(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)		
Chadars Dhotis Drills and jeans Cambrics and lawns Printers Shirtines and long cloth T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings Tent cloth Other sorts	Founds 		1,233 4,924 979 76 217 7,210 1,659 27 541	1,304 8,040 876 79 376 8,573 1,280 95 713	923 7,930 596 141 618 8,534 1,032 61 1,512	18,817 59,405 14,062 905 3,918 89,953 20,734 1,930 8,491	15,833 59,299 12,268 639 3,225 90,163 16,533 1,745 7,318	(00 15,6: 79,5; 8,8; 99,2; 14,2; 14,2; 14,5;	
To	tal "		16,866	21,336	21,347	218,215	207,023	239,29	
Coloured piece-goods Grey and coloured goods, oth than piece-goods Hosiery Miscellaneous Cotton goods mixed with silk or we	77 77 77		6,025 170 8 55 6	5,496 127 17 64 4	6,074 140 20 78 7	84,525 2,416 186 838 68	81,665 2,319 277 963 123	83,98 2,00 20 1,06 7	
Grand To	ital "		23,130	27,044	27,666	306.248	292,370	326,61	

# Bombay Island

			M	lonth of March		Twelve months ended March			
Description.			1920	1921	1922	1920	1921	1922	
Grey and bleached piece-goods-			(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000	
Chadars Dhotis Drills and jeans Cambrics and lawns Printers Shirtings and long cloth T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	Pound ,, ,, ,, ,,	s	497 949 910 28 4,232 1,392	526 1,906 757 58 16 5,308 1,005	459 2,068 566 85 6 6,308 821	10,415 15,907 13,118 589 83 56,574 17,750	-8,769 15,073 11,435 404 70 58,113 13,924	9,71 23,91 8,38 68 30 69,21 11,39 1.09	
Tent cloth Other sorts		••	25 287	80 335	48 1,059	1,540 4,768	1,479 3,447	1,099 8,65	
	Total "		8,320	9,991	11,420	120,744	112,714	133,37	

Detailed statement of the quantity		Island con			THE REP RES	
Description	1920	1921	1922	1920	tonths ended Ma	nch
aloured piece-goods Pounds irey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods baiery fiscellaneous otton goods mixed with silk or wool	(000) 4,970 169 6 56 5	(000) 4,274 123 10 64 3	(000) 5,084 134 16 76 7	(000) 71,289 2,358 124 839 58	(000) 69,395 2,290 127 962 113	1922 (000 70,85 1,90 12 1,05 6
Grand Total "	13,526	14,465	16.737	195,412	185,601	207,38

# Ahmedabad

	N	fonth of March	-	
Description.	1920	1921	1922	
Grey and bleached piece-goods-	 (000)	(000)	(000)	
Chains Pounds Chains Pounds Dhotis and jeans " Cambrics and lawns " Printers " Shirtings and long cloth " T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings " Tent cloth " Other sorts "	 3,416 38 24 131 2,392 239  147	696 5,173 76 11 302 2,517 260 236	4,25 4,760 28 39 458 1,733 179  261	
Total	 7,059	9,271	7,883	
Coloured piece-goods Grey and coloured goods other than piece-goods Hosiery Miscellaneous Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	 676 2 	543 1 7	479 4 1 	
Grand Total "	 7,737	9,822	8,367	

Twelve m	onths ended M	arch
920	1921	1922
(000) 7,456 34,133 446 179 2,660 23,961 2,696 23 1,906	(000) 6.041 34,591 363 108 2.081 23,114 23,114 2,356 31 2,087	(000) 4,587 43,815 310 149 3,320 22,005 24 3,067
73,480	70,772	79,783
6,407 4 62 9	5,153 4 149 9	4,795 21 78 1 8
79,962	76,087	84,686

#### CURRENT NOTES FROM ABROAD

LABOUR

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

United Kingdom.—A slight improvement in employment was noticeable in February 1922 in the coal-mining, the iron and steel manufacture, the woollen and worsted industry, the ready-made clothing trades, boot and shoe manufacture, and the pottery trade. The percentage of unemployed among members of trade unions from which returns are received was 163 at the end of February as compared with 168 at the end of January. The total number of workpeople registered at the Employment Exchanges was approximately 1,837,000 at the end of January.

The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work reported as beginning in February was 66. 49 other disputes which began before February were still in progress during the month. The most important dispute was that of 4,000 waggon builders. The total number of workpeople involved in all these disputes was about 33,000 as compared with 18,500 in the previous month and 44,000 in February 1921. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during February was about 316,000 working days, as compared with 184,000 days in January 1921 and 758,000 in February 1921.

The changes in rates of wages as having taken effect in February resulted in a net reduction of over £390,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 2,400,000 workpeople. The wages of building trade operatives, except painters and plumbers in certain districts, were reduced by 1d. per hour in nearly all centres. Other important reductions were those ranging from 2 per cent. to over 8 per cent. in the coal-mining industry, a reduction of 4s. and 2s. a week in the rates of adult males and females in the boot and shoe industry, a reduction of  $33\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. on standard rates in the steel melting industry, and a reduction of 3s. and 1s. 6d. per week in the wages of tramway employees in the case of workers 18 years of age and over and those under 18 respectively.

In the cotton industry, wages are now about 105 per cent. above the pre-war level, and compared with 171 per cent. at the end of 1991.

GAZETTE

South Africa. The Labour Office has received from Pretoria documents connected with the South African strike. One of these The Crisis on the Rand Goldfields states the case of the Chamber of Mines prepared, it is understood, by the Chamber's Actuary. Another is a statement published in the press by the South African Federation which was in nominal control of the strike The rapid fall in the price of gold, especially during the last few weeks of 1920, brought the gold mining industry face to face with the long expected crisis, and the efforts made to meet the situation by securing a substantial reduction of working costs produced an industrial conflict of unusual gravity in which other industries were involved. After the outbreak of war the price of gold remained stationary for nearly five years, while the costs of production rose enormously. Low prices for gold and high expenditure for its production created an acute position. In the first half of 1915 the working costs of these mines, it is stated, averaged 17s. 5d. per ton; in the last quarter of 1919 the working costs per ton averaged 23s. 9d. and the latest figure given in the Chamber of Mines statement is 24s. 11d. According to the Chamber of Mines the question became one of reduced costs or bankruptcy. The Chamber decided upon reduction in the cost of production as it was certain that the price of gold depended upon economic circumstances which none could possibly control, European wages, which in 1920 had risen by 57 per cent. as compared with the pre-war year, formed the only item which could possibly be curtailed.

In June 1919 it will be remembered that the Government appointed a Commission which reported in May 1920. This Commission suggested (1) the increase in the number of native labourers, (2) the rearrangement of underground work in order to secure greater efficiency and (3) the removal of the colour bar which excludes the African native from many classes of work on the mines and the extension of the native's sphere after consultation and in agreement with the trade unions. The

#### MAY, 1922

MAY, 1922

Commission was unanimous in recommending (1) and (2), but the trade union representatives opposed the removal of the colour bar, so long as the gold premium stood at a figure high enough to enable the great majority of the low grade mines to continue working. The difficult task of taking measures to meet the crisis which would arise when the premium fell was postponed. It became necessary therefore to adjust staffs. Negotiations which led to the present strike were opened by a letter from the Chambers to the South African Federation, which was published on December 9th. In this letter attention was drawn to the further fall in the gold premium; and it was pointed out that if the price of gold fell to 85s., 24 out of 39 gold mines on the Rand would be making a loss, and ten thousand Europeans would be thrown out of employment.

LABOUR

GAZETTE

The Chamber proposed three ways of alleviating the position : (1) by an alteration in the system of underground contracts, (2) the modification of the status quo agreementan agreement between the Chamber and the unions which regulates the proportion of whites to coloured employees, and (3) rearrangement of underground work. The conference held between the parties on December 15th was infructuous and the further meeting of the Conference was postponed until January 9th. In the meantime events occurred which went far to destroy any prospect of the peaceful settlement. Negotiations had for some time been going on between the Transvaal Coal Mines and their employees as to a reduction of wages which the employers held to be due on account of the fall in the cost of living. The employees held that a reduction in prices was necessary if the coal export trade of South Africa was to continue. An effort was made to submit the whole question to arbitration, but this was declined by the employees who held that the reduction was a question of life or death to the coal export trade, and they were not prepared to hand over the fate of the coal mines to arbitration. No suggestion was made at the time for the application of the Transvaal Industrial Disputes Act, and the strike was declared in the Coal Mines from January 2nd, the date on which the employers' reduction of wages became operative. After the coal н 96—14

mining employers had refused arbitration, the gold mining employers issued a notice terminating the status quo agreement. This notice was given in order to comply with the Transvaal Industrial Disputes Act which requires a month's formal notice of proposed changes in the conditions of employment. The notice was stated to be without prejudice to negotiations then pending. The Mines representatives, however, regarded this as an ultimatum and a ballot was taken which was in favour of a strike. On January 13th the owners and employees agreed to meet in conference for the purpose of arriving at a settlement. The conference of all parties to the disputes assembled in Johannesburg on January 15th under the chairmanship of Justice Curlewis. At the end of January the conference ended without any result. On January 28th the employers offered an average ratio of 1 European to 10.5 African natives for the whole of the gold mining industry. This, however, was rejected by the South African Industrial Federation.

The strike was brought to an end by the quick decision of Government and by the loyal assistance of the citizens of the country. Production of gold in the quarter was only about equal to one month's ordinary production. Considerable disorder and tremendous loss resulted to the employers, the employees and the general public. Some authorities hold that the direct cause of the strike was the somewhat unfortunate way in which the notice of reduction in wages was given by the Chamber of Mines, simultaneously with the notice issued by the Coal Mines on the one hand and by the Victoria Falls Power Station, a concern which supplies a large amount of power utilised on the mines, on the other.

Japan.—According to the *Tokyo Asahi* the Prime Minister at the opening of Parliament in January last, said that the measures required by the rapidly changing situation throughout the world must be adapted to the social system prevailing in each country, and this was particularly true in the case of labour questions. The Government intended to bring forward legislative proposals embodying those schemes which have been thoroughly investigated and, in particular, a Social Insurance Bill.

The period for which the members of the Federation of Japanese Spinners had agreed between themselves to reduce the output by 40 per cent., ended on the 15th December 1921. During this period many factories shortened the hours of work, increased the number of rest days and a few abolished night work. The new regulation of hours of work, if the Washington Convention were adopted. would come into force as from 1st July 1922. In the meantime the employers in cotton mills are availing themselves of the trade depression to prepare for the introduction of the new system. The number of spindles has increased from 3,227,678 at the end of January 1920 to 3,959,402 at the end of November 1921. As the demand in India for foreign cotton varn has fallen off, and since China is also developing its spinning industry, it is felt that the factories will be confronted with a crisis of over-production and the difficulty of maintaining the price of cotton yarn, if they resume their former rate of output and increased production competitively.

LABOUR A

In view of these circumstances, the four most important cotton spinning companies, Kanegafuchi, Fuji, Dainihon, and Toyo, are reported to have decided that the work of the factory shall be done in a day and night shift of 10 hours each with four entire rest days in a month which corresponds to a reduction of 16 per cent. in output as compared with normal times. Some of the other factories find it difficult to reduce hours of work and workers are said to be willing to work longer hours on account of their low wages. It remains to be seen whether the large companies with their reduced hours will be able to withstand the competition of the smaller companies.

Germany.—Before the Revolution, public officials in Germany were denied the right either to form regular trade unions or to seek to redress grievances by means of a strike. By the new Constitution they were granted freedom to form associations (*Vereinigungsfreiheit*) and now the question of whether this implied also the right to strike has been raised in connexion with the strike—in February last—of the railway officials, who, in Germany, are established, pensionable civil servants. The Berlin Police President issued a proclamation stating that strike leaders would be liable to arrest and all moneys intended for use as strike pay would be confiscated. The question whether public officials have the right to strike remains undetermined, but it has been answered categorically in the negative by the Chancellor in his speech on the vote of confidence in the Government on its conduct of the strike.

GAZETTE

Argentina.—On the initiative of the Government, the "Guemes Act" was passed by the legislature of the province of Salta on the 7th May 1921. This Act is practically a complete labour code in which the following questions are dealt with : engagement of workers, mutual rights and obligations, the statutory working days, minimum wages, industrial accidents compensation, insurance, employment of women and children. Section I of the Act provides as follows:—

"The Provincial Labour Department shall assist the workers in the protection of their rights, particularly in regard to labour questions. It shall intervene in regard to labour agreements and shall deal with questions relating to payment of wages, industrial accidents, insurance, and all matters directly or indirectly affecting workers."

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Return showing the quantity of certain selected articles imported into and exported from the Calcutta block by all routes, during the months April 1921 to January 1922.

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Return showing the total gross Indian sea and land customs revenues from 1st April 1921 to 31st March 1922. MAY, 1922

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Returns showing the imports into and exports from the chief ports of India, of wheat, jute, cotton and rice for weeks ending 18th and 25th March and 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd April 1922.

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The Indian Trade Journal from 20th April to 4th May 1922. (Issued weekly by the Commercial Intelligence Department, Calcutta.)

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#### EGYPT : Alexandria, Alexandria Docks, Cairo, Port Said

BANKING AND EXCHANGE BUSINESS of every description transacted. CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened and FIXED DEPOSITS received.

DRAFTS, TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFERS and LETTERS OF CREDIT issued (in Sterling or Currency) for all parts of the World.

COLLECTION AND NEGOTIATION or BILLS drawn against Imports and Exports, and all other classes of COLONIAL and FOREIGN BANKING business undertaken.

SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR BUSINESS WITH FRANCE AND EGYPT.

E. H. CURLING, Bombay Office : Manager.

Hornby Roed. Fort. Bomber

#### NETHERLANDS