

(3) whether the sampling method could be used and the mills grouped in such a way as to ensure really representative returns being received.

The Millowners' Association referred the whole question to the Technical Advisory Sub-Committee of the Association for consideration and report. The Director of the Labour Office attended a meeting of the Sub-Committee on the 7th June 1926 when the whole question was discussed in detail. The Sub-Committee accepted the principle of using Muster Rolls as the basis of the enquiry. They, however, laid great stress on the necessity of obtaining accurate figures for absenteeism. It was pointed out that the muster-rolls of many mills would not show individual absenteeism because they did not differentiate between the regular worker and the *Badli* (substitute). An individual was shown as present if he provided a substitute to work for him and not only would this not accurately reflect absenteeism, but would also affect the question of rates of wages. As it would be necessary for the mills selected for the Enquiry to keep an accurate record of attendance for the month for which the Census was to be taken, it was agreed that June could not be taken as the month for the Enquiry and July was eventually agreed upon. The Sub-Committee then considered the question of grouping the mills. This was done both by localities and according to the rates of wages paid. The greatest possible care was taken to ensure that the sample was thoroughly representative of all kinds of conditions of work and pay. Fifteen mills were selected originally, but this was increased later to nineteen in order to give better representation to the Worli Group. One mill doing fine spinning was also included. A muster-roll on approved lines on which the information required could be so entered that it should be the same for all mills was also drawn up. The main Committee of the Association unanimously approved the report of the Technical Sub-Committee regarding the manner in which the Enquiry should be conducted. The list of mills selected was shown to Messrs. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A., and R. R. Bakhale, President and Secretary respectively of the Bombay Textile Labour Union by the Director of the Labour Office. These gentlemen had no comments to make on the list itself, but they expressed their doubts as to the possibility of obtaining sufficiently fair and accurate statistics by the sample method.

4. Two separate forms—following closely the ordinary mill muster roll—were drawn up: (1) for Weavers, and (2) for All Mill Operatives (excluding Weavers). For Weavers, columns were provided for detailed information for each individual worker under the following heads:—

- (1) Ticket number of operative ;
- (2) Number of looms in charge and width of looms ;
- (3) Actual number of days worked by regular worker *himself* ;
- (4) Number of days worked by single *badli* (substitute), if any ;
- (5) Description of cloth produced ;
- (6) Width of cloth produced (in inches) ;