

CHAPTER III

Hours of Work, Intervals, Overtime, etc.

38. The form of the return used for the collection of the data regarding wage payments was drawn up on the basis of the muster-roll and, as such, did not procure any information regarding Hours of Work, Intervals, Overtime, etc. This information was, however, separately obtained from the mills selected for the Enquiry at each centre. Out of the 37 mills covered by the Enquiry, four mills—two in Bombay City and two in Ahmedabad—did not furnish data for the supplementary enquiry. In the case of two of these mills the managements had changed hands since 1926 and the new Agents of the mills stated that they were unable to supply the information called for.

HOURS OF WORK

39. The Indian Factories Act limits the maximum hours of work for men and women to 11 per day (section 28) or 60 per week (section 27), and for children to 6 per day [section 23 (c)]. In the Cotton Mills in Bombay City, daily hours of work were reduced from 12 to 10 for adults and from 6 or 7 to 5 for children after the strike of 1920. According to the information now furnished by the mills selected for the Enquiry the normal hours of work in the mills in Bombay City during the month of July 1926 were 10 per day for male operatives in all the seventeen mills which supplied information, while female operatives had a normal working day of 10 hours in nine mills, of $9\frac{1}{2}$ hours in one mill, 9 hours in three mills, $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours in two mills and 8 hours in one mill. No children were employed in any of these mills.

40. Four mills reported no variations from the normal. In one mill the hours of work for the Engine, Shafting and Boiler Departments exceeded the normal and amounted to 11 per day and in the same mill women in the Winding and the Reeling Departments worked $9\frac{1}{4}$ hours per day. Another mill stated that the normal daily hours varied to 9 but did not report the departments in which the variation occurred. The other mills reported variations of three kinds, *viz.*, 8 hours, $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours and 9 hours per day respectively in certain departments and occupations. The normal daily hours of work for the Reeling and the Winding Departments were 8 in the case of one mill, $8\frac{1}{2}$ in three mills, and 9 in the case of one mill. The Mechanics and the Electrical Departments and Departmental Fitters, Carpenters, Turners, Tinsmiths and other skilled workers as well as Roller Coverers, Sweepers, etc., were reported to have had a normal day of $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours in several mills. In some mills the normal hours were either $8\frac{1}{2}$ or 9 (mostly the latter) per day in the case of all or certain groups of operatives of the Mixing, Sizing, Warping, Folding, Dyeing, Bleaching, Calendering, Finishing, and Bundling and Baling Departments, and Cloth Godowns and Warehouses. The Carding and Spinning Sections were reported to have worked for $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours per day in one mill.