

particular occupation at one centre are higher or lower than the averages for the same occupation at another centre, nor is this Report concerned with the various factors that industrial employers have to contend with in wage fixation. The object of a wage census report is primarily to present the statistical results of the tabulations of various sets of figures, obtained in a particular manner and dealt with in a particular way. But when figures are given for three centres it is inevitable that comparisons will be made and it is therefore desirable to make a few observations on this point. With regard to the figures for Sholapur, it may be said at once that there is no basis of comparison whatsoever between Bombay and Sholapur or as between Ahmedabad and Sholapur. Wages in Sholapur are on an all-round definitely lower level in comparison with Bombay and Ahmedabad; and quite apart from any questions of the limitations of the 1921 and 1923 enquiries, the Reports of both those enquiries bring out this fact in an unmistakable manner.

92. The figures for Bombay and Ahmedabad approximate more closely in some occupations and the following facts need to be borne in mind. In the Ahmedabad Cotton Mills work in several departments is given out on contract. Thus, out of the sixteen mills covered by the Enquiry at that centre, work in the Mixing Department was given out on contract in four mills, that in the Yarn Bundling Department in eight mills and in the Baling Section of this Department in seven mills. In the Drawing-In Department work was given out on contract in seven mills. In three other mills men for this Department are engaged by the contractors and boys by the mills. Beam carrying was done by contract in nine mills. For the results of the average earnings of the workers in the various occupations in these departments to be absolutely representative, the figures for the workers engaged by the contractors should also be included. This could not be obtained. The personal enquiries of the Investigators of the Labour Office go to show that, speaking generally, workers engaged directly by the mills receive higher rates of wages than those who are engaged by the contractors. Efforts to secure figures for the numbers and earnings of workers engaged by the contractors proved nugatory because the mills concerned had no information or knowledge either as to the number of men engaged by the contractors or the rates of wages paid by them. As the contractors are frequently changed from time to time and as they maintain no proper records no information could be procured from them. As far as the actual averages of the workers in the occupations in those Departments where the work is given out on contract by some mills are concerned, the results of the Census may be considered as representative of the earnings of those operatives in such Departments as are engaged by the mills, because the distribution of this work between the mills and by contract will have a ratio for the whole industry similar to the ratio in the mills covered by the Enquiry. But as the operatives for work in all these Departments in the Bombay Mills are engaged and paid by the mills themselves without the intervention of contractors, the fact that the contractors' men were not included in Ahmedabad must be borne in mind when a comparison is made for the