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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIES,  
OLD CUSTOM HOUSE :  
Bombay, 25th May 1931.

From

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Director of Industries, Bombay ;

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,  
General Department,  
Bombay.

*Subject.*—Annual Report of the Department of Industries, 1930-31.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Department of Industries for the year 1930-31.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,

P. B. ADVANI,  
Director of Industries.

**Annual Report of the Department of Industries, Bombay  
Presidency, for the year 1930-31**

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## CHAPTER I

## GENERAL INDUSTRIAL OUTLOOK DURING THE YEAR

During the year under review there was a widespread propaganda for the use of Swadeshi articles. Apart from the activities in this direction of political bodies like the Congress a number of Swadeshi Associations such as the Bombay Swadeshi League were formed for the purpose in different places. Swadeshi shops and commercial museums were opened in different towns. Various institutions such as Chambers of Commerce took an active and live interest in the Swadeshi propaganda. There were no serious strikes in factories. These factors should have given a fillip to the local industries. But owing to world economic causes commodity prices declined very considerably. The price of a candy of cotton went down to Rs. 180 which is almost half the highest attained in the previous year. Price of wheat went down lower than the prewar figure. The purchasing power of the people was thus greatly reduced. This was aggravated by local political causes; there were frequent hartals and business was generally disorganised. During the period under review there was, therefore, an acute commercial and industrial depression.

## STATE OF SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT EXISTING INDUSTRIES

2. **Cotton Textile Industry.**—The Cotton Industry in this Presidency has been in recent years passing through trying times. This specially applies to the Mills in the Island of Bombay. So far as the year under report is concerned, out of 39 Bombay Island Mills, annual reports of which have been received in this office up to the time of writing, no less than 27 showed a loss in working, the total loss being some Rs. 98 lakhs. The remaining 12 made a profit of Rs. 17·66 lakhs. The annual reports of most of the Ahmedabad Mills will not be available till later in the year. It is, therefore, not possible to give any figures for them. It is reported, however, that Ahmedabad did fairly well during the year. According to the President of the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association, the profits of Ahmedabad Mills in 1929 amounted to Rs. 67 lakhs while the losses were only Rs. 1·33 lakhs. In Sholapur five mills showed a profit of Rs. 3·92 lakhs and three lost about Rs. 2·69 lakhs. In Khandesh four of the mills worked at a profit, the total profit being Rs. 8·45 lakhs.

The Mills, specially those of the Bombay Island, steadily expanded their direct sales system during the year by opening their own retail shops and they advertised their goods to a larger extent than before. The question of reduction in operating costs has engaged the attention of the owners. And in Bombay Island 7 groups of leading Companies comprising 31 mills considered a scheme for a merger and appointed a strong committee to go into the matter. Two experts were brought out from Lancashire to help and advise the Committee. Unfortunately, owing to some difficulties the idea was ultimately abandoned. It is hoped,

however, that small groupings will take place and other steps will be taken to reduce operating costs and increase efficiency.

In the year under report increased tariff sanctioned by the 1930 Budget Session of the Legislative Assembly came into operation and the 1931 Budget Session of the Assembly has sanctioned a further additional duty of 5 per cent. The Textile Industry has, therefore, got a higher degree of protection than expected. This coupled with the widespread desire for the purchase of Swadeshi goods ought to enable the Industry to do well in the near future in spite of the reduced purchasing power of the people.

The following statistical tables covering cotton mills in the Presidency will be of interest :—

For year ending 31st August	Number of mills	Number of spindles	Number of looms	Average number of hands employed daily	Cotton consumed	Paid up Capital
					Cwts.	Rs.
1929 ..	219	5,951,198	132,707	214,215	4,451,419	23,99,57,539
1930 ..	220	6,172,792	135,808	252,488	5,511,184	23,92,02,145
Percentage increase ..	..	3.7	2.3	18	24	...

*Production in and Imports of Yarn and Piece-goods into Bombay Presidency*

Year ending 31st March	Yarn (in million pounds)			Piece-goods (in million yards)			
	Presidency production	Imports into the Presidency	Percentage of imports to production	Presidency production	Imports into the presidency	Percentage of imports to production	
1928-29 ..	..	330	21	6.4	1,294	869	67.2
1929-30 ..	..	467	19	4.1	1,725	789	45.7
1930-31 ..	..	393*	10†	2.5	1,499*	347	23.1

\* For 10 months ending January 1931.

† Represents gross imports as re-exports are not available.