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PREFACE.

The first Labour Report issued by this Bureau was published in 1912. This Report is the twenty-ninth of the series and deals chiefly with the year 1938. The tabulations, however, include particulars relating to the first half of 1939 as well as for earlier years, in most cases back to 1934.

The synopsis immediately following shows the general arrangement of the work, while an index has been inserted at the end of the volume to facilitate reference.

The subject-matter in the Report has been divided into five Chapters, covering information in regard to Retail Prices and Price Indexes; Wholesale Prices and Price Indexes; Wages; Employment (Employment, Unemployment and Industrial Disputes), and Associations (Trade Unions and Employers' Associations). The Report follows the lines of its immediate predecessors in scope and arrangement.

For the purpose of tabulating the results of the investigations which have been made in regard to rates of wage, labour organizations, employers' associations, unemployment, industrial disputes, &c., the following classification of trades and occupations has been adopted:—

Classification of Industries and Occupations.

I.	Wood, Furniture, Sawmill, Timber-works, &c.	VIII.	Mining, Quarries, &c.
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, &c.	IX.	Railway and Tramway Services.
III.	Food, Drink, and Tobacco—Manufacture and Distribution.	X.	Other Land Transport.
IV.	Clothing, Textiles, &c.	XI.	Shipping, Wharf Labour, &c.
V.	Books, Printing, Bookbinding, &c.	XII.	Pastoral, Agricultural, Rural, Horticultural, &c.
VI.	Other Manufacturing.	XIII.	Domestic, Hotels, &c.
VII.	Building.	XIV.	Miscellaneous.

It is gratifying to record that secretaries of trade unions and of employers' associations, officials of Commonwealth and State Departments, private employers, retail dealers, house agents, and others have readily responded to the somewhat heavy demands made upon them.

Without the help so rendered, the investigations contained herein would have been impossible, and I take this opportunity of expressing my cordial thanks to all who have thus assisted.

The valuable assistance rendered to the Bureau by the Statistical Offices in the various States, especially in regard to the collection of retail prices, is acknowledged, and to the officers concerned I desire to express my sincere thanks.

I am specially indebted to Mr. S. H. Begley, the officer in charge of Labour Statistics in this Bureau, for the care and attention which he has bestowed on the compilation of this Report and for seeing the matter through the press. My thanks are also due to the staff under his control for their cordial co-operation and valuable services.

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Commonwealth Statistician.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,
Canberra, A.C.T., March, 1940.

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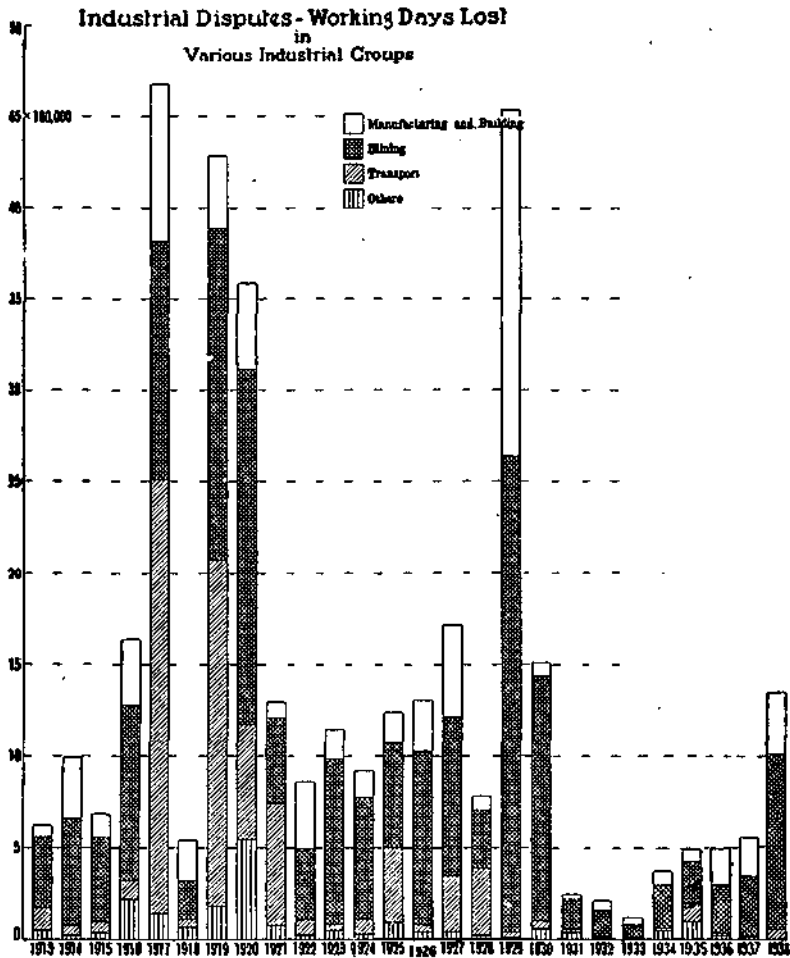
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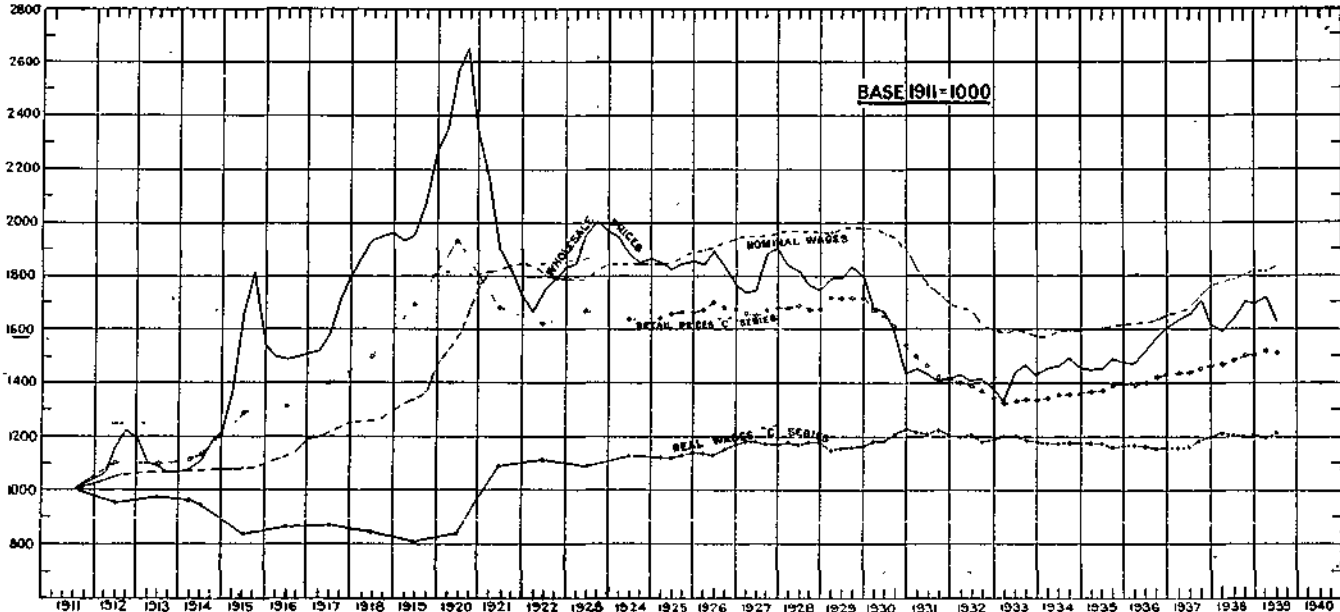
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EXPLANATION.—The scale refers to working days lost in hundred thousands. Thus, taking the year 1917, and comparing the shaded and blank sections with the scale, it will be observed that about 870,000 working days were lost in Manufacturing and Building, over 7,300,000 in Mining, over 2,300,000 in Transport, and about 150,000 in other industries.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.—AUSTRALIA, 1911 TO 1939.



EXPLANATION.—The index-numbers in the above graph are for the Six Capital Cities as a whole, with the exception of those for Wholesale Prices which are for Melbourne. They are all calculated to the common base 1911 = 1,000, the scale for which appears on the left of the graph. They are shown *quarterly* from the year 1912 in the case of the Wholesale Prices (Melbourne). The "C" Series Retail Prices (food, groceries, rent of 4 and 5 rooms, clothing and miscellaneous household expenditure) are shown *quarterly* from the year 1925. Nominal Wages are shown *quarterly* from 1914, and Real Wages *quarterly* from 1925 for the "C" Series.