

payment of 94,000 rials (nearly £800) to a worker with 34 years' service.

The cost of living in Persia is extremely high by English standards because there is very little effective control of prices. The Company supply their employees with basic foods at below bazaar prices as will be seen by the following table:-

	<u>Rials per kilo.</u>	
	<u>Bazaar/Cvt.</u>	<u>A.I.O.C.</u>
Flour	5	4
Rice	10	7
Tea	80/100	40
Sugar	20 Cvt. ration 50/70 free market	13.50
Ghee (lard)	100	60
Pulses	20	8
Soap	15	15

In addition dependants can buy extra tea and flour from the Company shops, and soap, cigarettes, rice and clothing are obtained off a ration card. Overalls are supplied by the Company to the workers free of charge. The dependants of the workers do not share in all these privileges because of the Iranian habit based on tribal custom of having an indefinite number of brothers, sisters, cousins, etc., living with relatives. As housing accommodation is up to the present free, extension of the privileges of direct employees to all dependants would probably mean the depopulation of a large portion of Iran.

#### Housing.

One of the chief reasons of complaint by the workers is the inadequacy of the housing, and the housing problem is admittedly extremely difficult. In the first place, up to the present all housing materials have to be imported into the country - bricks from Iraq, as well as most of the sand and ballast, doors, and windows, toilet accessories, sewerage pipes, stoves, etc., from England and timber from India.

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