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EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, COST OF LIVING, AND TRADE DISPUTES IN JULY.

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry showed a considerable recovery during July, but other industries continued on the whole to decline.

Among the 11,500,000 workpeople insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed at 27th July, 1925, was 11·5, as compared with 12·2 at 22nd June, 1925, and with 9·9 at 28th July, 1924. Among the members of those trade unions from which returns were received, the percentage unemployed was 11·2 at the end of July, 1925, compared with 12·3 at the end of June, and with 7·4 at the end of July, 1924. The total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as unemployed at 27th July, 1925, was approximately 1,262,000, of whom 948,000 were men and 246,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 29th June, 1925, it was 1,368,000, of whom 1,062,000 were men and 241,000 were women; and at 28th July, 1924, it was 1,089,000, of whom men numbered 826,000 and women 197,000.

The decrease, during July, in the total number unemployed was due mainly to the improvement in employment in the coal mining industry. There was increased unemployment in the pottery, iron and steel, cotton, wool textile, linen, jute, lace, textile bleaching and dyeing, and clothing industries.

Detailed information for the principal industries is given on pages 278–286.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported in July resulted in an aggregate reduction of over £42,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 790,000 workpeople, and in an aggregate increase of about £1,150 in the weekly wages of 9,500 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople whose wages were reduced were coal miners in Yorkshire and the East Midlands, where the percentage addition to base rates was reduced by the equivalent of nearly $2\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. on current rates; various classes of railway traffic workers whose wages were reduced by 1s. per week under a cost-of-living sliding scale; and workpeople employed in the textile bleaching, dyeing, etc., industry, for whom there were decreases under cost-of-living sliding scales, amounting to about 1 per cent. on current rates in Yorkshire and to 6d. or 7d. per week in the case of men and 3d. per week in that of women in Lancashire and Scotland. Other important bodies whose wages were reduced included coal miners in the Radstock district, iron miners in Cleveland and Cumberland, blastfurnacemen in most of the principal districts in England and Wales, iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England, bobbin makers, chain makers, woollen and worsted operatives at Leicester, workpeople employed in the seed crushing and oil milling industry, wholesale warehouse workers at Manchester, and the employees of waterworks and electricity supply undertakings in various districts.

The principal increase in wages affected workpeople employed in the explosives industry, in which wages were raised by 1d. and $\frac{3}{4}$d. per hour in the case of men and women respectively, and the bonuses previously granted were consolidated with wages.

During the seven completed months of 1925 the changes reported to the Department, in the industries for which statistics are compiled, have resulted in net reductions amounting to over £98,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 800,000 workpeople, and in net increases of £76,000 in those of 850,000 workpeople. In addition the wages of 165,000 workpeople have been changed at various dates during the above period, but stand at the same level as at the beginning of the year. In the corresponding period of 1924 there were net increases of nearly £580,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 2,600,000 workpeople, and net reductions of nearly £44,000 in those of 600,000 workpeople.

Further particulars as to the changes in wages during July will be found on pages 287–291.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st August the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel, light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 73 per cent. above that of July, 1914, or about the same as a month earlier. For food alone the average percentage increase was 68.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families. Accordingly, in making the calculations, the changes in the prices of the various items included are combined in proportions corresponding with the relative importance of those items in pre-war working-class family expenditure, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living.

For details of the statistics relating to 1st August, reference should be made to the article on page 275.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in July was 45. In addition, 33 disputes which began before July were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The principal dispute occurring in July was that involving workpeople in the wool textile industry in the West Riding of Yorkshire and part of Lancashire. The number of workpeople involved in this dispute cannot be stated at present, but, excluding this dispute, the number of workpeople involved in all disputes in July (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 51,000, as compared with 34,000 in the previous month. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during July (excluding the wool textile dispute) was about 732,000 wo king days, as compared with 281,000 days in June.

COAL MINING INDUSTRY DISPUTE.

THE Court of Inquiry appointed by the Minister of Labour to inquire into the causes and circumstances of the dispute in the coal-mining industry" (*see* LABOUR GAZETTE for July, page 227) held their first public sitting on 17th July. Representatives of the Mining Association were in attendance at the opening of the Court, but the Miners' Federation were not represented. The proceedings were accordingly adjourned until 20th July and, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Court, a formal request was directed to the President and Secretary of the Miners' Federation to attend on that date, but they both replied declining to attend. The Court accordingly proceeded to conduct their Inquiry in the absence of representatives of the Miners' Federation, representatives of the Mining Association alone being heard.

The Court issued their Report* on 28th July.

The Report first of all sets out the existing position as between the Mining Association and the Miners' Federation, the Court having in the first instance invited the mine owners to narrate the course of events leading up to the dispute. After describing the steps taken to appoint a Joint Sub-Committee of the Mining Association and the Miners' Federation to make a thorough investigation of the conditions of the industry in all its aspects, the mine owners explained the progress made by the Joint Committee, and the circumstances leading up to the notice given on 30th June by the Mining Association to the Miners' Federation terminating the existing Wages Agreement at 31st July, and the proposals of the Mining Association for a new Wages Agreement. These proposals were rejected by the Miners' Federation, who demanded their withdrawal.

Proceeding to consider the causes and circumstances of the dispute, the Court state that the origin of the trouble is to be found in the deplorable condition of the industry itself, due to the general depression and disturbance of trade consequent upon the war, the substitution of oil for coal in ships, the growth of hydro-electric power, and the great increase of coal production in countries which were formerly Great Britain's best customers.

The Court state that the high cost of production of coal, to which the Mining Association largely attributed the decline of the industry, was undoubtedly an important factor. Particularly as regards exports, the trade had been conducted on very narrow margins, so that small reductions in cost might make all the difference in securing contracts. A Table was put in showing the rise in the cost of production as between 1913 and the twelve months 1st May, 1924—30th April, 1925. The increase shown by this Table was 94·27 per cent. in wage costs, and 104·48 in costs other than wages, the total increase being about 9s. 2d. a ton, or 97·06 per cent. Proceeds, on the other hand, had increased by only 7s. 11¼d., or 72·21 per cent., so that the margin between proceeds and costs of production had been reduced from 1s. 6½d. a ton to 3½d. a ton, a reduction of 80·22 per cent. Moreover, this does not indicate the position in particular districts. If the Eastern area were eliminated there would be a *minus* general balance, instead of a small credit balance.

Much of the evidence of the Mining Association was devoted to demonstrating that the high cost of production could be reduced by increasing the output; and that, if the Coal Mines Act of 1919 were repealed, the output per shift would recover the diminution of nearly 12 per cent. attributed to the shortening of the working day. Upon this the Court remark that "coincidently with the shortening of hours of labour, there has been a diminution in the output per person per shift, although the output per person per hour has slightly increased," and that "we are prepared to agree that, if no other considerations were involved, a reversion to the former working day would result in a substantial increase of output and some diminution in working costs per ton, the extent or effect of which we do not find ourselves in a position to predict with assurance."

In their conclusions, the Court state—

"We are satisfied on one point, that the workers are justified in claiming that any Wages Agreement which they can be asked to accept should provide for a minimum wage. What that minimum should be is a matter for negotiation between the parties. We do not think that a method of fixing wages which allows of their indefinite diminution can be regarded as satisfactory. . . . The claim that wages must be a first charge on the proceeds of industry is a contentious and ambiguous one. If the meaning be that wages at some agreed minimum rate must in practice be a charge before profits are taken we concur in that view."

The conflict between the economic wage which the coal industry can afford to pay and the social wage which the worker can be asked to accept is, in the opinion of the Court, not the whole of the case. Apart from wages costs, which constitute the largest part of the outgoings of a colliery, there are other costs of a lesser but still important character. The Miners' Federation had indicated a number of directions in which they suggested that some measure of relief might be found apart from reductions in wages. Owing, however, to the abstention of the Miners' Federation from the proceedings, the Court were unable to examine their proposals in detail. The Court, however, expressed the opinion that there was considerable room for improving the efficiency of the industry, and indicated various directions in which such improvement might perhaps be possible.

One general conclusion forced upon the Court by their investigation was that

"the present crisis in the industry, unlike other crises which have arisen in the past, is to a large extent the creation of neither party to the dispute. It has arisen in the main from without, and is due to causes not within the control of either party. These causes are to be found in the operation of national and international disturbances and dislocations which are the inevitable sequel of the economic upheaval due to the war. They are causes which may continue to operate for a considerable time to come. In such a crisis it is, perhaps, natural that each party should seek to transfer to the other as much as possible of the consequences of the common calamity. But just because the calamity is a common one not primarily due to the fault of either, we venture to think that in taking common counsel together the parties are most likely to find a means of averting its worst consequences."

In an addendum to the Report, Sir Josiah Stamp deals with the effect on the coal-mining industry of the return to the gold standard, and states that, in his view, the recent improvement in the exchange or decline in the price level, whether or not compulsorily brought about by the anticipation and then the realisation of the gold standard, was sufficient in itself to account for the *special* plight of the industry since March, 1925. The state of affairs in the industry in the last few months must not be regarded as the *necessary* result either of normal trade movements or the present Agreement; the evil had been aggravated by currency policy.

* Cmd. 2478. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net.

Renewed efforts were made by Mr. Bridgeman to bring the parties together. On 24th July, following separate meetings with the two sides, Mr. Bridgeman, who was accompanied by Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland and Colonel Lane Fox, was successful in arranging a joint meeting under his chairmanship. Owing to the engagement of both sides in the country it was not possible to discuss more than future procedure, and it was agreed that the joint conference should meet again on 29th July, with Mr. Bridgeman again in the chair.

Meanwhile, on 27th July, the day preceding the issue of the Report of the Court of Inquiry, the Prime Minister received a deputation from a special committee of the Trades Union Congress General Council, and expressed his intention of using every effort to secure a peaceful settlement. On 29th July, he saw representatives of both parties separately, but no agreement was found possible. The negotiations continued throughout the following day, when the Prime Minister offered financial assistance to the industry until the spring of 1926 to allow of a full investigation being made, and asked the mine owners to suspend notices for a fortnight. These terms were accepted by the parties concerned on 31st July, and arrangements were made for work to be continued.

The terms on which the provisional agreement was made are explained in a Memorandum* dated the 4th August, of which the following is a summary :—

The Memorandum begins with a recital of the salient facts of the present situation. Throughout the past twelve months the state of trade in the coal-mining industry has become steadily worse, with the result that eventually wages in every district were on the minimum; that is to say, instead of the proceeds of the industry being divided between the coal owners and the miners in the manner primarily contemplated by the Agreement of the 18th June, 1924, the owners were under an obligation to pay the minimum rates, irrespective of the proportion of the proceeds which they represented.

In these circumstances the coal owners gave notice, on the 30th June, to terminate the Agreement; and on the 1st July they made proposals for a new Agreement. It is not disputed that these proposals would mean an actual or potential reduction of wages, in the great majority of cases an immediate and substantial reduction; and the Miners' Federation, while not disputing the serious position of the industry, protested, in view of the existing level of their wages, against being called upon to accept less favourable conditions of employment so long as other means of effecting economies had not been fully and impartially explored.

The Government have recognised that the coal-mining industry as a whole is, under existing conditions, financially unable to continue either to give employment or to produce coal on a scale which the interests of the country demand. At the same time they have before them the contention put forward by the Miners' Federation, and they desire to explore every possibility of obtaining a higher economic organisation of the industry.

They have therefore decided to institute a full inquiry, with the object of investigating methods of improving its productive efficiency and its competitive power in world markets. This inquiry should be completed in good time before May of next year; and in the meantime the Government have agreed to assist the industry by filling the gap that lies between the level of wages provided by the minimum provisions of the national wages Agreement of 1924 and the lower level of wages which would result from the colliery owners' proposals of the 1st July last.

During this period the level of wages which the owners in each district will be called upon themselves to bear will be that which results, month by month, from the application of the 87 : 13 formula; that is to say, they will only be called upon to pay as wages, from their own resources, so much as is estimated, month by month, to absorb 87 per cent. of the proceeds of the industry, after deducting costs other than wages. The remaining 13 per cent. is the estimated share of the owners. This, however, is subject to the proviso that, as between themselves and the Government, if the 13 per cent. share of the owners is estimated to represent more than 15d. per ton, the excess will be transferred to the payment of wages in relief of the Government subvention.

On the other hand, the wages actually paid to the men in each district will be at a level not less than the minimum provided under the 1924 Agreement. The Government will pay to the owners the amount by which their wages bill at this minimum level of wages exceeds the amount which, under the preceding paragraph, the owners are called upon to bear.

No subvention will be payable in any district if and so long as

* Cmd. 2488. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net.

the level of wages under the 87 : 13 formula may be raised by improved trade above the minimum level of the 1924 Agreement.

The question what proportion of the actual wages bill of any individual colliery is payable by the colliery owner will be determined monthly by calculating for the district as a whole the level of wages that would be payable under the 87 : 13 formula; and the Mines Department will pay to each individual colliery the difference between its wages bill at that level and at the minimum level under the 1924 Agreement.

It will thus be seen that, within each district, all collieries will be treated alike. Their relative economic positions will be left undisturbed, and the industry will continue in the same way as if no financial assistance were being provided from the Exchequer. The assistance given will, of course, enable more pits to work and more men to be employed than if the 1924 Agreement had been continued without Government assistance. It will enable the industry to work at the same costs, the same prices, and on the same scale as if the colliery owners' proposals of the 1st July had been put into operation. But it provides no guarantee that all pits will work, or that pits already closed will be re-opened. Where the economic conditions of a pit are such that it would have not been kept open under the Mining Association's own proposals, the Exchequer subvention will not enable it to work. Government assistance is limited during this temporary period to assuring the continued activity only of those pits which would have been not too far below the average economic standard of the district to have been able to continue at work under the Mining Association's proposals.

The Memorandum then discusses, in some detail, the safeguards provided by the new arrangement against the possibility of the amount of the subvention being improperly increased either (*a*) by an unwarranted lowering of prices, or (*b*) by improperly charging against the Exchequer expenditure upon equipment, development, etc. In regard to the first point, it repeats what has been already stated, *viz.*, that the principle of the subvention is that colliery owners, both individually and collectively, are placed in the same position as they would have been under their own proposals of the 1st July. In regard to the second point, the Memorandum refers to the rules which already exist under the 1924 Agreement for regulating what costs are admissible as costs of production. In addition, the Government reserve a power of audit.

Cost of the Settlement.—It is estimated in the Memorandum that if the proposed arrangement had been operative during the comparable period 1st August, 1924–1st May, 1925, the cost would have been about £7,500,000. If the conditions during its operation were the same as in the first quarter of 1925 the cost would be approximately the same. If the month of June, 1925 (the latest and worst figures available), were taken as the basis for the whole nine months, the cost would amount to about £24,000,000.

After surveying the whole position, and with all reserves for incalculable factors, the Government have decided to ask Parliament to authorise the expenditure of £10,000,000 at the present time. If this amount proves insufficient, further authority will be sought from Parliament.

In accordance with this decision the Prime Minister moved in the House of Commons, on the 6th August, a supplementary estimate for £10,000,000 to defray the charge for a subvention in aid of wages in the coal-mining industry. The Vote was passed, after a debate, by 351 votes to 16.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY DISPUTE.

THE agreement regulating wages in the wool textile industry of Yorkshire and the Rochdale area having expired on 31st May and no arrangements having been arrived at for the future regulation of wages, the great majority of the operatives concerned ceased work on 23rd–24th July.

Through the intervention of the Ministry of Labour, further meetings of the Joint Industrial Council took place on 7th and 10th August. Following this, both sides accepted the invitation of the Minister of Labour to meet him on 13th August, and an agreement was reached on 14th August, the terms of which were :—

(1) That a Court of Investigation be constituted to examine and report upon all facts material to the issues between the employers and the operatives, including the enginemen and firemen, with reference to wages arising out of the recent applications made by the operatives for an increase and by the employers for a reduction respectively in the rates of wages, and to make recommendations thereon to the Northern Counties District Council.

(2) That the Court shall consist of five persons appointed by the Minister, *i.e.*, a Chairman selected by the Minister, together with two representatives of employers' organisations and two representatives of workers' organisations selected by the respective sides of men who are not connected with the wool textile industry.

(3) That the proceedings of the Court shall be conducted in private.

(4) That the Minister shall appoint a clerk to the Court.

(5) That, other than the clerk appointed by the Minister and members of the Court, the proceedings shall be confined to members of the Northern Counties District Council, except that the representatives of the Union of Enginemen and Firemen shall be deemed to be members of the Northern Counties District Council for this purpose, and except that each side shall be allowed to call such witnesses as it thinks necessary.

(6) That the report and recommendations of the Court shall be accepted by both sides, and an Agreement in accordance with the recommendations shall be made by the Council, the date from which the Agreement shall operate to be determined by the Court.

(7) That each side shall be prepared to complete its evidence-in-chief within four weeks from the date of the appointment of the chairman of the Court.

(8) That a meeting of the Northern Counties District Council shall be convened by the joint secretaries within 48 hours of the receipt of the report and recommendations of the Court, and such meeting shall be held within seven days of the convening of that meeting. If the Council fails to arrive at an agreement within fourteen days of the receipt of the report and recommendations of the Court, then matters which remain unsettled shall be referred to the Chairman of the Court for his final decision, and such decision shall be recorded in the minutes of the Council as an Agreement made between the two sides of the Council.

(9) That work shall be resumed on Monday, 17th August, or, where that is not practicable, as soon as is practicable.

REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR FOR THE YEARS 1923 AND 1924.

THE Minister of Labour has issued a Report* on the work of the Ministry, dealing principally with the years 1923 and 1924.

This is the first complete Report of the Ministry. A number of Reports dealing with particular branches of the Ministry's work have been issued from time to time; in these cases the narrative has been continued from the points reached in those Reports. Where no such Reports have been issued, a brief introductory history of each branch of work has been given, in addition to a more detailed account for the years 1923 and 1924.

A short introductory section of the Report describes the formation and powers of the Ministry, and its principal functions, under six main heads :—(i) industrial relations (assistance in settlement of labour disputes, and in formation of Joint Industrial Councils, etc.); (ii) employment and unemployment insurance; (iii) Trade Boards; (iv) labour statistics; (v) matters connected with the International Labour Organisation; (vi) training and financial assistance for ex-Service men. Each of these main branches of the Ministry's work is then taken in detail, and the principal facts and figures relating thereto are given in the eight succeeding chapters and in twenty-seven appendices.

Industrial Relations.—The functions of the Ministry in this connection under various Acts of Parliament, under the Fair Wages Resolution of the House of Commons, and otherwise, are explained in detail. During the last four years 794 disputes have been settled with the assistance of the Ministry, of which 415 were referred to the Industrial Court for arbitration, 49 were referred to single arbitrators, 33 to *ad hoc* boards of arbitration, 10 were settled under the Conciliation Act, 1896, in 277 cases agreement was reached with the assistance of officers of the Ministry, and Courts of Inquiry (under Part II of the Industrial Courts Act) were appointed in 10 cases. Extracts from the decisions of the Industrial Court during the years 1921–24, together with some of the arguments submitted to the Court by the parties, are given in certain cases of special interest, relating to the following matters :—influence of cost of living on wages claims, wages of Government industrial employees, wages of employees of Local Authorities, railway shopmen, maintenance men in factories, definition of "area" or "district." A detailed account is also given of each of the disputes which have been referred to Courts of Inquiry during the last four years, and of the conclusions of the Courts thereupon.

Employment.—At the end of 1924 there were 382 employment exchanges and 772 branch employment offices in Great Britain. The total number of registrations in 1924 in Great Britain (including repeated registrations of the same individual) was 11,262,887. This is the first time that the number of registrations has exceeded nine millions, the figures for the three previous years having been 8,929,483 in 1921; 8,819,523 in 1922; and 8,774,644 in 1923.

The registrations of men in 1924 were highest in engineering (1,034,156); mining and quarrying (688,738); transport (687,027); general labourers (638,675); building (566,855, of which skilled occupations accounted for 307,976); shipbuilding (498,905); metal manufacture (482,912); and cotton (461,844). The figure for mining and quarrying was much higher in 1924 than in 1922 and 1923, in which years the mining group took only sixth and eighth place, respectively.

The following Table shows the number of vacancies notified and vacancies filled at Employment Exchanges during the last five years :—

	Vacancies Notified.	Vacancies Filled.
1920	1,285,716	920,979
1921	986,266	807,328
1922	839,633	697,036
1923	1,056,970	893,713
1924	1,345,394	1,143,742

The figures, both for vacancies notified and for vacancies filled, were higher in 1924 than in any previous year, except the war years and 1919.

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* Cmd. 2481. H.M. Stationery Office; price 4s. 6d. net.

Another section of the Report deals with the national scheme for the employment of disabled ex-service men, which was inaugurated by Royal Proclamation in August, 1919. Under this scheme employers were invited to join the King's National Roll, on giving a written undertaking to employ a stated percentage (normally 5 per cent.) of disabled ex-service men for a period of at least twelve months. At the end of 1922 steps were taken to set up local King's Roll Committees; and in January, 1923, the King's Roll National Council was set up by the Minister of Labour, under the chairmanship of Earl Haig. At the end of 1924 there were 260 local King's Roll Committees, or other special local committees dealing with this work.

Other subjects dealt with under the heading of employment include juvenile unemployment centres, and other matters specially relating to juveniles; apprenticeships interrupted by war service; oversea employment; duties under the Aliens Order; unemployment relief works, etc.

Unemployment Insurance.—An introductory section gives an account of the changes made by the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924, which came into force on the 1st August, 1924. The rest of the chapter describes, in detail, the central and local administration of the unemployment insurance scheme, under such headings as *contributions* (rates of contribution; amounts of contribution from employers, from workpeople, and from the State; methods of collecting contributions; issue and exchange of unemployment books; repayments at age 60, and compensatory payments in lieu thereof, etc.); the determination of *questions of insurability; benefit* (rates, periods, and conditions of benefit; determination of claims; prosecution of fraudulent claimants; special schemes; cost of administration; finance of the scheme, etc.). An appendix to the chapter on Unemployment Insurance gives the substance of certain specially important decisions of the Umpire, dealing with the trade dispute disqualification; with "voluntary leaving" (*i.e.*, leaving employment voluntarily without just cause); with refusal of suitable employment; with persons "ordinarily" following an additional occupation as well as the principal occupation, etc.

Trade Boards.—On the 31st December, 1924, there were 43 Trade Boards in existence, with 1,659 members, viz., 129 appointed members, 765 employers' representatives, and 765 workers' representatives. The Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Great Britain) had recently been dissolved, and separate Boards for England and Wales and for Scotland were in process of constitution. The Trade Boards Acts were not applied to any additional trades during 1923 and 1924. Following on consultations with representatives of employers and workers, however, investigations were undertaken into wages and conditions of employment in the *light refreshments and dining room* section of the catering trade; in the *meat distributive* trade; and in the *drapery and allied distributive* trades, and were in progress at the end of December, 1924.

Appendices to the Report contain a list of the minimum time-rates payable on the 31st December, 1922, 1923 and 1924 in each of the trades covered by Trade Boards, and other particulars of the administration of the Acts.

Labour Statistics.—This is the oldest of the functions of the Ministry, dating, as it does, from a resolution passed by the House of Commons on the 2nd March, 1886, which declares that "in the opinion of this House immediate steps should be taken to ensure in this country the full and accurate collection and publication of labour statistics."

Information is regularly collected, and statistics are compiled, with regard to the state of employment in the principal industries, the number and percentage of workpeople unemployed, etc.; wages, hours of labour, and other working conditions; changes in working-class cost of living; strikes and lock-outs; trade unions (membership, income, expenditure, etc.), employers' associations, and joint conciliation and arbitration boards; profit-sharing and labour co-partnership. Reports on these subjects, and an "Abstract of Labour Statistics," were published annually, or as occasion required, before the war, but have since been suspended for reasons of economy. It is hoped to resume the publication of the regular volumes as conditions become more normal; new editions of the "Abstract of Labour Statistics" and of the "Directory of Industrial Associations" are in preparation, and it is hoped to publish them during the present year.

International Labour Organisation.—An account is given of the constitution and functions of the International Labour Organisation established under the Treaty of Versailles, and of the relations of this country therewith. The principal events of 1923 and 1924, so far as the International Labour Organisation is concerned, were the quarterly meetings of the governing body, and the fifth and sixth sessions of the annual Conference; an account is given of the proceedings at each of the annual Conferences.

Temporary functions arising out of the War.—This section of the Report deals with the administration of certain schemes of training and financial assistance designed to help in the resettlement of ex-service men after their discharge from the Forces, viz., the industrial training scheme, the interrupted apprenticeship scheme, the scheme of professional and business training, and the civil liabilities (re-settlement) scheme. A final chapter deals briefly with the Joint Substitution Board, established in 1920 for finding employment for ex-service men in temporary posts in the Government service, and for other like purposes.

Appendices.—In addition to a large number of statistical tables in the body of the Report, there are 27 appendices (mainly statistical) dealing with industrial disputes, employment exchanges, unemployment, changes in rates of wages, changes in cost of living, membership of trade unions, position of Great Britain as regards draft conventions and recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference, etc.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

The Ministry of Health have issued their sixth Annual Report,* covering the year ended on the 31st March, 1925.

Administration of the Poor Law, Etc.

The average weekly number in receipt of relief† in England and Wales during the year 1924–5 was 1,113,015, a decrease of 172,833 compared with the average figure for 1923–4, which itself represented a reduction of 214,089 on the corresponding figure for 1922–3. These figures represented 287 per 10,000 of the population in 1924–5, as against 335 and 393 per 10,000 respectively in the two previous years.

At the end of March, 1924, the number of persons in receipt of relief was 1,225,768. In June, 1924, for the first time since September, 1921, the proportion of the population of the whole country in receipt of relief fell below 300 per 10,000. Thereafter the numbers fluctuated, minimum and maximum figures being reached on the following dates:—

5th July, 1924 ...	1,122,278	10th January, 1925	1,120,419
16th August, 1924	1,161,742	31st January, 1925	1,107,733
4th October, 1924...	1,036,086	7th March, 1925 ...	1,115,264
13th December, 1924	1,079,451	28th March, 1925 ...	1,105,119

On the 14th August, 1924, the increased benefits provided under the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924, began to be payable; and the reduction in the numbers to be noted after the 16th August is in part due to the removal from the relief lists of persons receiving the increased benefits.

The average number (including men, women and dependent children) of persons receiving domiciliary relief who were insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts was 461,839 in April, 1924; 422,320 in June; 328,151 in September; 332,402 in December; and 345,779 in March, 1925. The numbers in this class have fallen by 309,355, or 47 per cent., since April, 1923, when the average number was 655,134. A comparison of the average weekly numbers of the class during the two periods (*a*) prior to and (*b*) subsequent to the end of August shows a reduction in the latter period of 91,829, or 21 per cent.

The numbers of persons (including wives and dependent children) in receipt of outdoor relief who were ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation, but were not insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, showed, as in former years, a seasonal decline from April to September, followed by increases in the succeeding months. The number was 39,987 in March, 1925, as against 49,968 in March, 1924, and 66,314 in March, 1923. The Report observes that "it is a reasonable inference from these figures that the decline in the number of insured persons in receipt of relief is only in part a consequence of the changes as to payment of unemployment insurance benefits which took place on the 14th August."

Of the recipients of outdoor relief who were ordinarily employed (whether insured or uninsured), including their dependants, 25 per cent. were men, 24 per cent. women, and 51 per cent. children (under 16) in March, 1925. These proportions have been practically constant since March, 1922.

Figures relating to recipients of domiciliary relief other than persons ordinarily employed showed much less marked variation; and, in contrast to those ordinarily employed, showed a considerable increase, apart from a seasonal decline during the summer months. The figures were 468,519 in April, 1924; 466,073 in September; and 496,782 in March, 1925. The average for the year was 475,189, as against 419,693 in 1922–3 and 445,302 in 1923–4. It is explained in the Report that the increase was probably to some extent due to a transfer to the lists of persons who had formerly been counted as "persons ordinarily employed." Men numbered only about 13 to 14 per cent. of the persons not ordinarily employed, the remainder being about equally divided between women and children.

The number of persons in receipt of institutional relief was 220,312 on the 5th April, 1924; declined to 208,395 at the end of August; thence rose to 222,741 on the 14th February, 1925; and fell to 220,663 on the 28th March.

The reduction in the average weekly number of persons in receipt of relief in England and Wales during 1924–5, as compared with the previous year, was not consistently experienced in every Union; but, speaking generally, the conclusion stated in the Report is that "the feature of the year has been a gradual limitation of the number of Unions seriously affected by trade depression."

Finance.—The estimated total expenditure on Poor Law relief during the year was £36,500,000, of which it is estimated that £31,200,000 was met, or will be met, out of rates. The corresponding figures for 1923–4 were £37,883,260 and £32,571,000.

The total amount expended on out-relief (included above) during the year was £12,978,268, as compared with £14,664,802 in 1923–4, and with £17,473,155 in 1922–3. The reduction was due to a decline in the amount granted to persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the figures for these persons being £4,174,382 in 1924–5; £6,409,265 in 1923–4; and £9,414,708 in 1922–3. This reduction is attributed in the Report partly to the increased unemployment insurance benefit payable since August, 1924. On the other hand, the increased volume of what may be called normal pauperism is reflected in an *increase* in the cost of out-relief to persons

* Cmd. 2450. H.M. Stationery Office; price 3s. 6d. net.

† The figures given as the numbers of persons in receipt of relief exclude (*a*) lunatics in county and borough asylums, (*b*) casuals, and (*c*) persons in receipt of domiciliary medical relief only. The numbers of these classes were approximately 119 500 at the end of 1923–4, and 118,600 at the end of 1924–5.

not ordinarily employed, the figures being £8,157,833 in 1924–5, as against £7,461,832 in 1923–4, and £7,109,321 in 1922–3.

Only 24 Poor Law Authorities were, on the 1st April, 1925, authorised to borrow under the Local Authorities (Financial Provisions) Act, 1921, and subsequent amending Acts, as against 33 on the 1st April, 1924, and 54 on the 1st April, 1923. The total amounts represented by these authorisations, however, showed an increase; the figures for the three dates being £6,907,500; £6,676,500; and £5,714,000, respectively. More than £6,000,000 of the total on the 1st April, 1925, was attributable to eight Unions; so that "while the area affected by financial difficulties is being restricted, the intensity of these difficulties is not being reduced."

Housing.

On the 31st March, 1925, approval had been granted to schemes for the erection of 239,354 houses under the Housing Acts of 1923 and 1924; of which 99,620 were to be provided by Local Authorities themselves, 132,464 by private enterprise, and 7,270 by public utility societies, etc. 72,907 of these houses had been completed and 54,131 were under construction, at the date mentioned. At the same date, 211,614 houses had been completed under theHousing Acts of 1919, making a total of 284,521 houses erected with State assistance since the War.

Of the 72,907 houses above mentioned, 64,767 were completed during the year ended 31st March, 1925; and during the same period 2,902 houses were completed under the scheme authorised by the Act of 1919. In addition, 68,975 new houses built by private enterprise without State assistance were entered on the rate books between the 1st April, 1924, and the 31st March, 1925; and 35,693 other such houses were under construction or had been recently completed, but had not been entered on the rate books on the 31st March, 1925.

Altogether, about 137,000 houses were erected during the year with and without State assistance; and it is stated in the Report that "a rate of construction appears now to have been reached which provides not merely for the normal increase in population, but also in some degree for overtaking arrears."

Loans to Local Authorities for the purchase of houses or for advances to builders sanctioned by the Ministry of Health during the year amounted to £7,349,726, nearly double the amount sanctioned for the whole period from the passing of the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899, to the beginning of the year under review.

Old Age Pensions.

It is stated in the Report that a Circular was issued by the Ministry of Health to Pension Committees on the 8th August, 1924, (the day after the Old Age Pensions Act, 1924, came into operation), drawing attention to the new Act, which amended the provisions of previous Acts in regard to the calculation of yearly means.*

Other Subjects.

Other sections of the Report deal with Public Health (infectious diseases, maternity and child welfare, welfare of the blind, inspection and supervision of food, general health questions, sanitary administration, town planning, etc.); Local Government and Local Finance; and National Health Insurance. Various statistical and other appendices are added to the Report.

APPOINTMENT OF A FOOD COUNCIL.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Food Prices† a Food Council has been set up with the following terms of reference :—To investigate and from time to time report to the President of the Board of Trade on such questions as, by reason of complaints from persons interested or otherwise, appear to the Council to require investigation in the interests of consumers or traders, or are referred to them by the President of the Board of Trade, relating to the supply or price of articles of food of general consumption, and in particular to the following :—wheat, flour, bread, meat, bacon and ham, milk, butter, cheese, eggs, fish, fruit and vegetables, sugar, and tea.

The members of the Council are :—The Right Hon. Lord Bradbury of Winsford, G.C.B. (Chairman); Mr. G. A. Powell, C.B.E. (Vice-Chairman); Mr. F. W. Birchenough, J.P.; Alderman Charles H. Bird, C.B.E., J.P.; Mrs. B. M. Drapper, J.P.; Mr. W. E. Dudley, O.B.E., J.P.; Mr. A. E. Faulkner, C.B., C.B.E.; Sir Gilbert Francis Garnsey, K.B.E., F.C.A., F.S.S.; Sir John Lorne MacLeod, G.B.E., LL.D.; Mr. C. S. Orwin, M.A.; Mr. Isaac Stephenson, J.P.; and Mrs. Ada Wilson.

Mr. T. St. Q. Hill has been appointed Secretary of the Council; and all communications intended for the Council should be addressed to him at 3, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, S.W. 1.

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* In this connection it may be noted that, in answer to a question in the House of Commons on the 7th August, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury stated that the total number of old age pensions in payment in England, Wales, and Scotland on the 31st December, 1924, was 997,160 (men, 364,432; women, 632,728), as compared with 921,127 (men, 327,312; women, 593,815) on the 31st December, 1923. Pensions at the full rate of 10s. a week numbered 975,577, or 98 per cent. of the total, in 1924, as against 858,123, or 93 per cent., in 1923.

† *See* the May, 1925, issue of this Gazette, page 155.

ADJUSTMENT OF WAGES BY SLIDING-SCALE ARRANGEMENTS.

In an article which was published on pages 228 and 229 of the July issue of this Gazette, details were given of the collective agreements between employers and workpeople which provide for variations in wages in correspondence with fluctuations in the level of the cost of living. Other agreements which provide for the automatic adjustment of wages on a pre-arranged basis contain arrangements whereby wages are changed in accordance with movements in the selling price of specified products, or in some other factor. It is proposed, in the present article, to review such agreements of this nature as are known to the Department. These agreements, apart from that operating in the coal mining industry, are estimated to cover about 220,000 workers.

SELLING PRICE SLIDING SCALES.

The agreements which provide for the periodical adjustment of wages in correspondence with the selling price of certain products are almost entirely confined to the iron and steel industry, or such closely allied industries as iron mining, limestone quarrying, coke manufacture and tinplate manufacture. The products whose prices are used for this purpose are of various descriptions. In some cases they are the actual output of the workpeople concerned, as for example, pig iron, the price of which governs the wages of blastfurnacemen in certain districts. In other cases they are articles which are manufactured from the output of the workers concerned, as for instance, steel plates, the price of which regulates the wages of steel smelters. In a third type of case the product used is the output of a section of industry which provides the raw material for the workers concerned, as for example, steel tin bars, the price of which governs the wages of tinplate workers.

The principal sections of industry in which these sliding scale arrangements operate, together with a description of the products whose price is used for regulating wages, are shown below :—

Section of Industry and District.	Product on the selling price of which wages are based.
Pig-Iron Manufacture :—	
Cleveland and Durham ...	Cleveland pig iron No. 3.
Cumberland and North Lancs.	Cumberland hematite pig iron, mixed numbers.
North Staffs	North Staffs pig iron.
South Staffs	Northants pig iron.
Notts and Derbyshire ...	Notts and Derby pig iron.
North Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire pig iron.
Northants	Northants pig iron.
South Wales and Mon. ...	Steel rails and steel tin bars.
West Scotland	West Scotland pig iron.
Iron Puddling and Rolling :—	
West Scotland	Scottish finished iron.
Iron Puddling and Iron and Steel Rolling :—	
North of England*	North of England finished iron.
Midlands	Midlands finished iron.
Steel Smelting† :—	
Various districts in England and West Scotland.	Steel plates other than boiler plates, etc.
Steel Rolling :—	
North of England (certain firms), Lincs, Scotland and certain other districts.	Steel plates other than boiler plates, etc.
Siemens Steel Smelting :—	
South-west Wales	Steel tin bars.
Iron and Steel Rolling and Steel Smelting :—	
South Wales and Mon. (other than South-West Wales).	Steel rails and steel tin bars.
Steel Sheet Rolling :—	
England and Wales	Galvanised corrugated sheets (less the cost of spelter).
Coke and By-Products Manufacture :—	
Tees-side	Cleveland pig iron No. 3.
Durham	Durham coke.
West Yorkshire	Coke (prices fixed by the Sheffield Blastfurnace Coke Sales Association).
Lancs and Cheshire	
North Staffs	
Iron Mining and Quarrying :—	
Cumberland	Cumberland hematite pig iron, mixed numbers.
Furness	
Northants	Northants pig iron.
Leicester and Lincs (except North Lincs).	Notts and Derby pig iron.
North Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire pig iron.
Banbury District	Northants pig iron.

* As regards steel rolling this arrangement affects certain firms only.

† The wages of certain classes of semi-skilled and unskilled workers and maintenance workers in steel works are also regulated in accordance with movements under this agreement (*see* paragraphs on page 271).

Limestone Quarrying :—	
Cumberland	Cumberland hematite pig iron, mixed numbers.
Northants	Northants pig iron.
Tinplate Manufacture :—	
South Wales and Mon. ...	Steel tin bars.
Galvanising :—	
England and Wales	Galvanised corrugated sheets (less the cost of spelter).
Tube Manufacture :—	
Scotland	Screwed and coupled tubes.
Coal Delivery (Trolleymen) :—	
London	Coal (retail price in London).

Principal Agreements.

In the following paragraphs a summary is given of the provisions of the more important of the agreements :—

Pig-Iron Manufacture—Cleveland and Durham : The agreements between the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association and the Cleveland and Durham Blastfurnacemen and Cokemen's Association regulating the wages of all classes of men working blastfurnace shifts, numbering about 8,000, fix certain standard rates of wages and provide for the periodical variation of these rates in correspondence with changes in the selling price of No. 3 Cleveland pig iron, as ascertained by two accountants, one chosen by the employers and the other by the workpeople. The price ascertained is the net average invoice price at the works of certain agreed firms. The standard rates of wages, which in some cases are plain time rates and in others are time rates with bonus additions dependent on the output or input of the furnaces, are payable when the selling price is 67s. 6d. per ton. For each variation of 3d. per ton in the selling price from this amount ¼ per cent. is added to, or deducted from, the standard rates. The standard rates, which include 9s. 3d. per shift for keepers, 7s. 5d. for chargers, and 6s. for coke runners, with output bonus additions in each case, were related to the basic price of 67s. 6d. in January, 1924. As the ascertained price for the fourth quarter of 1923 was actually 95s. 0·99d., the standard rates became subject to an addition of 27½ per cent. for the first quarter of 1924.

The ascertainments take place at intervals of three months, and the consequent wage changes operate as early as possible in the month following the end of the quarter to which the price relates. The agreement provides that any question of difference in regard to the arrangements shall be referred to a joint committee of employers and workpeople, who, if they cannot agree, are required to appoint an umpire to settle the question.

The principal classes of workers at the blastfurnaces whose wages are not regulated in accordance with the above arrangements are maintenance men, including bricklayers and their labourers, engineers, electrical workers, boilermakers and patternmakers. The wages of these men are regulated in accordance with variations under the steel smelters' sliding scale, a description of the arrangements being given in a subsequent paragraph.

Pig-Iron Manufacture—Cumberland and North Lancashire : The rates of wages of blastfurnace workers in this district are governed by the results of a periodical ascertainment by two public accountants mutually agreed upon, one representing the employers and the other the workpeople, who examine the books of associated firms and certify the average net amount per ton, as realised at the makers, works, for West Coast hematite pig-iron ("mixed numbers") delivered for sale in the open market. The ascertainments are made at intervals of two months, and the changes in wages take effect in the month following. The standard or basis rates of wages are payable when the selling price is 70s. per ton, and for each additional 2·4d. in the selling price ¼ per cent. is added to the standard rates. The standard rates, which include 8s. per shift for keepers, 6s. 4d. for slaggers, and 4s. 10d. or 5s. for labourers, subject to bonus additions, were fixed in 1919, when the ascertained selling price was 204s. 10·71d. per ton, and the addition to standard rates was accordingly 168½ per cent.

Any question of difference arising in carrying out the arrangements is to be submitted to a joint committee of employers and workpeople, who, if they cannot agree, are required to appoint arbitrators to settle the matter. A further agreement covering these workpeople, arrived at in January, 1925, provides that, in addition to the wages determined in accordance with the arrangements described above, a bonus is payable, varying in amount for men on differing base rates, which is adjusted at intervals of one month on the basis of variations in the Ministry of Labour cost-of-living index number.

The arrangements described above, cover the process workers and also mechanics' and bricklayers' labourers, platelayers and general labourers, numbering in all about 3,000 under normal conditions. The wages of bricklayers are subject to variation in accordance with the steel-smelters' sliding scale under arrangements identical with those which apply to similar workers in Cleveland, and which are described in a subsequent paragraph.

Pig-Iron Manufacture—Northamptonshire : An agreement of March, 1920, between the employers' association and the trade union concerned, provided that the basis or standard wages of blastfurnace workers other than day-men should be taken as 40/93rds of their earnings in December, 1919, and those of day-men as 80/187ths of their earnings in the same month, and that to the basis wages so ascertained should be added a percentage based on the average price at the makers' works of all qualities of Northamptonshire pig iron, other than basic iron. The addition was to be made at the rate of 1 per cent. for each variation of 2·4d. from a basis price of 47s. 6d. per ton. In 1922 the basis price was reduced to 40s. per ton, the other provisions remaining unchanged. The ascertainment is made quarterly by a firm of accountants specified in the agreement, or by some other firm mutually agreed upon, or, in default of agreement, to be nominated by the Board of Trade. Any changes in wages warranted by the selling price operate from the middle of the month following the end of the period to which the ascertainment relates. The arrangements also govern the wages of ironstone miners and limestone quarrymen in Northamptonshire. The total number of workers covered by the arrangements is about 3,000.

During recent months the arrangements have been temporarily modified. Reductions in wages of 9¾ per cent. and 3 per cent. respectively became due, under the sliding scale, in January and April, 1925, but it was agreed, instead, that wages should be reduced by three equal instalments each of 4¼ per cent. in April, July and October, 1925. A further reduction which became due in July was not enforced during the current quarter.

Pig-Iron Manufacture, Iron and Steel Smelting, etc.—South Wales and Monmouthshire : The rates of wages of blastfurnacemen and men employed in steel melting shops and in iron and steel rolling mills at the works affiliated to the South Wales and Monmouthshire Iron and Steel Manufacturers' Association are made up of basis rates plus percentage additions varying in accordance with the combined average net selling price per ton realised at the makers' works for steel rails, of 20 lbs. weight per yard and upwards, and steel tin-bars of all weights. The ascertainments of the selling price are made at intervals of three months by two public accountants, one appointed by the employers and the other by the operatives. Any necessary wage changes operate from the next month but one following the end of the period to which the ascertainment relates. The sliding scale is based on an average price of £4 5s. per ton, and for every advance or reduction of 3d. between £4 5s. and £6 10s., wages are advanced or reduced by 0·25 per cent. When the price exceeds £6 10s. wages are varied by 0·25 per cent. for each change of 6d. per ton in the selling price. In the event of any question of a general character arising in regard to the working of the agreement, a conference is to be assembled at the request of either party. Failing a settlement by the Conference, such steps are to be taken by the parties as they may deem desirable, but, failing agreement, the difference is submitted to arbitration.

The above arrangements cover upwards of 15,000 workpeople, including all clases of process workers, except steel smelters at the Dowlais–Cardiff works, whose wages are governed by the steel smelters' sliding scale. They also cover bricklayers' labourers, but not bricklayers, mechanics and roll turners, whose wages are adjusted by negotiation between the employers' association and the South Wales and Monmouthshire Allied Engineering Trades' Association.

In the Siemens steel works in South-West Wales, rates of wages are regulated under a separate arrangement. The percentage addition to basis rates is subject to a variation of 1¼ per cent. for each advance or reduction of 2s. 6d. per ton from a standard price of £5 per ton, in the ascertained average net selling price at makers' works of steel tin bars of all weights. The ascertainments are made at intervals of three months, and any necessary wage changes operate from the next month but one following the end of the ascertainment period. The above arrangements, which cover about 9,000 workpeople, do not apply to mechanics, patternmakers or electricians, whose wages are adjusted in accordance with movements in the engineering industry at Swansea and Llanelly, nor to bricklayers and masons.

The operation of the sliding scale has been modified by the granting of special bonuses, amounting to 30 per cent. on basis rates in the case of men receiving base rates up to 30s. a week and additional amounts ranging from 4d. to 6d. a shift in the case of men on base rates of 50s. to 30s. 1d. per week.

Iron Puddling and Iron and Steel Rolling—North of England : Prior to 1919 the wage rates of iron puddlers and millmen in Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland were to be 2s. per ton for puddling, together with 1s. for each £ in the average selling price of finished iron as ascertained by accountants, at intervals of two months, from the books of associated firms. The rates of wages of the millmen were varied by 2½ per cent. (calculated on the basic rates) for each change of 3d. per ton in the puddling rate. In 1919, however, when the hours of labour were reduced from 12 to 8 per shift, it was agreed that the rate for puddling should be 13s. 6d. per ton plus the total of the advances under the scale since the outbreak of war, expressed in the form of a percentage equivalent to 2½ per cent. for each advance of 3d. per ton in the puddling rate. Since that date variations have been made at the rate of 10 per cent. on the basis rate for each fluctuation of £1 in the selling price. This arrangement, which covers about 3,750 workers, does not apply to steel millmen employed by certain firms, in whose case wages are regulated under the steel smelters' scale.

The rates of wages of certain semi-skilled and unskilled workers are likewise subject to the fluctuations of the iron scale, while the rates of other such workers and of bricklayers and their labourers, engineers, boilermakers, electricians and patternmakers are regulated in accordance with variations under the steel smelters' sliding scale, details of these arrangements being given in subsequent paragraphs.

Iron Puddling and Iron and Steel Rolling—Midlands : An agreement of the Midland Iron and Steel Wages Board, which was in operation for many years before the war, provided that accountants should examine, every two months, the books of certain specified firms and should take out the weights and selling prices of all classes of iron, as rolled and delivered from the mills, sold and marketed, but excluding any which had been used in other departments, and

all steel. From these details the average net selling price was to be derived and notified by the accountants to the employers' and the operatives' secretaries. The wages of the iron puddlers were then determined on the basis of 2s. 3d. together with 1s. per ton for each pound sterling per ton in the selling price, with corresponding smaller amounts for fractions of one pound; and the wages of the millmen were varied by 2½ per cent. on standard rates for each variation of 3d. per ton in the puddling rate. In 1919 it was agreed that a standard rate of 13s. 6d. per ton should be adopted for puddling, subject to additions and subsequent variations under arrangements similar to those applicable in the North of England. The total number of workers under this arrangement is about 35,000 under normal conditions.

The rates of wages of certain of the unskilled workers and maintenance men, numbering about 8,000, are regulated under an arrangement whereby an adjustment of 3d. per week is made for each variation of 1¼ per cent. under the above scale, with a maximum adjustment in any one month of 3s. a week. It is understood that at some works the wages of mechanics and bricklayers correspond with those payable in the engineering and building industries respectively.

Steel Smelting: The level of wages of workers engaged in the production of Siemens open-hearth steel on the North-East coast, in Scotland and in Lincolnshire, and of those employed by certain firms in Cumberland, Lancashire, South and West Yorkshire and in the Midlands is subject to adjustment at intervals of three months. The basis or standard wages are those in operation at each works in the first three months of 1905. To these wages are added percentages based on the average net selling price per ton realised at the works of specified makers for steel plates for all purposes, ¼ inch thick and upwards, except boiler plates and others of a particularly special character, made by the Siemens open-hearth process. The price is ascertained quarterly by a public accountant mutually agreed upon, and the wage changes warranted by variations in the price operate in the month but one following the end of each quarter to which the ascertainment relates. Each complete pound in the average net selling price is divided into eight steps of 2s. 6d. each, and wages are calculated by adding to or deducting from the standard rates 1¼ per cent. for each step by which the selling price differs from the standard price of the first quarter of 1905. Any dispute arising out of the agreement is referred to a joint committee, who, if they fail to agree, are required to appoint an arbitrator, whose decision is binding on both parties. The above arrangements apply to melters, pitmen, slagmen, ladlemen, furnace helpers, gas producermen, charge wheelers, etc., numbering about 20,000. The arrangements applicable to several classes of semi-skilled and unskilled workers and to maintenance men are described in the following paragraphs.

Certain Classes of Semi-skilled and Unskilled Workers in the Iron and Steel Industry: Agreements between the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association and the various trade unions concerned provide for the regulation of wages of all workers whose wages at 26th June, 1921, were not subject to the full fluctuations of the steel smelters' sliding scale. As from this date the workers other than maintenance workers (respecting whom see the following paragraph), were divided into two sections, (i) those who do not, and (ii) those who do, receive "allowance hours" or extra payments for night shifts. For the former section, new base rates were arrived at by taking the total earnings of each man as at 26th June, 1921, inclusive of war advances, and deducting 2s. 10d. per week; to the sum remaining was added 5 per cent. in the case of those whose total war advances were less than 170 per cent., and 2½ per cent. in the case of those whose advances were 170 per cent. or over; the totals thus arrived at were regarded as consisting of 270 parts, of which 100 parts formed the new standard or base rates, to which the full percentages operating under the smelters' scale were to be added. For the latter section the total war advances were taken as representing 152 steps, and it was agreed that wages should be varied by the equivalent of one step for each variation of 1¼ per cent. under the smelters' scale. The operation of these two scales is modified by a further arrangement whereby an additional bonus has been paid since August, 1924, ranging from 1s. 2d. per shift to those in receipt of a base wage of 3s. 10d., to 2d. to those receiving a base wage of 6s. 6d. to 7s. a shift. The total number of workers under this arrangement is nearly 40,000.

Maintenance Workers at Blastfurnaces and Iron and Steel Works: The rates of wages of bricklayers, bricklayers' labourers, engineers, boilermakers, electricians, and patternmakers at blastfurnaces in Cleveland, in steel smelting shops in various districts except South Wales, and at iron and steel rolling mills in the North of England are regulated in accordance with agreements between representatives of the employers and the trade unions concerned, on the basis of variations under the steel smelters' sliding scale. In the case of bricklayers a basis rate of 1s. per hour, subject to a tonnage bonus varying according to output, has been fixed. To this basis rate is added the percentage addition payable from time to time to steel smelters. In the case of bricklayers' labourers, engineers, boilermakers, electricians and patternmakers the total of the war advances which had accumulated up to the beginning of 1921, and which more or less corresponded with the general advances granted in the engineering industry, was divided into 152 equal steps. For each variation of 1¼ per cent. under the steel smelters' sliding scale, the rates of wages of these workers are subject to a variation equivalent to one of the 152 steps.

Coke and By-product Works: The percentage addition to the basic rates of coke and by-product workers in Durham is subject to variation in accordance with changes in the selling price of by-product coke at the ovens in the County. The price, which represents the realised value at the ovens in the County of all such coke, exclusive of ballast and coke sent to makers' own works, or those of affiliated companies, is ascertained by accountants appointed by the owners. Accountants appointed by the workmen, however, have the right to attend at the offices of the works, along with the owners' accountants, for the purpose of examining the returns. When the price is 25s. or less per ton the addition to standard rates of wages is 40 per cent., and for each increase of 6d. or less in the price an additional 1 per cent. is payable. The ascertainments and any consequent wage changes are made at intervals of one month.

In West Yorkshire a similar arrangement operates. The price taken is that of coke and breeze, and the variations in wages are 3 per cent. for each advance of 1s. in the price above 15s. per ton. The latter price warrants an addition of 32 per cent. to the standard rates of 1911, which is the minimum payable under the current agreement. The ascertainments and wages changes take place at intervals of three months. In North Staffordshire and Lancashire the price taken is that fixed by the Sheffield Blastfurnace Coke Sales Association. A price of 24s. per ton warrants the addition of 45½ per cent. to basic rates, and for each variation of 6d. per ton the percentage is altered by 0·75 provided that wages are not to fall below standard rates, plus 32 per cent.

Iron-Ore Mining—Cumberland: An Agreement of August, 1919, fixed rates of wages for certain classes of workers, including 18s. 9d. per shift as the bargain price for underground miners, 14s. as the minimum wage for miners and 10s. 9d. for leading labourers, and granted advances of varying amounts to other classes. The new rates in the case of miners (bargain price), labourers and certain other underground workers, boys and surface workers, were related to an assumed price of 204s. 6d. per ton for Cumberland hematite pig-iron, mixed numbers 1, 2 and 3, and it was agreed that for each variation of 1s. per ton in the selling price from the assumed amount the rates for the higher-paid workers should be varied by 1d. per shift, those for the lower-paid workers by ½d. per shift, and those for boys by ¼d. per shift. The miners' minimum wage and the rates for underground shiftmen were to remain unchanged till the price of pig-iron fell to 180s. per ton, and then to be subject to a fall of 1d. per shift for each further fall of 1s. per ton. The Agreement also provided that wages should not fall below the equivalent of a selling price of 75s. per ton, and that the miners' minimum should not be lower than 6s. per shift, nor the rates for other workers lower than 5s. per shift. The ascertainments and consequent wage changes are now made at intervals of one month. The arrangements under the sliding scale have been modified by the payment, since January, 1925, for six months (and subsequently extended to August) of a cost-of-living bonus of 1s. per shift to underground labourers over 18 years of age, underground shiftmen, and surface workers over 18 years of age receiving less than 6s. a shift. This bonus is related to a cost-of-living index number of 80, and is varied by 1d. per shift for each point above or below this figure.

Tinplate Manufacture—South Wales and Monmouthshire: The wages of workers in this industry, numbering about 26,000, are adjusted at intervals of three months on the basis of variations in the average net selling price per ton at the makers' works of steel tin bars of all weights as ascertained from the books of members of the South Wales Siemens Steel Association. The ascertainments are made by a firm of accountants mutually agreed upon. The scale operates by advancing or reducing wages by 1¼ per cent. on the standard rates for each variation of 2s. 6d. per ton from a basic selling price of £7 10s. The wage changes operate from the month but one after the end of the period to which the ascertainment relates. Any disputes arising out of the Agreement are to be settled between the parties or submitted to arbitration. Since the sliding-scale arrangement was adopted there have been modifications in certain of the base rates, and a special advance of 7½ per cent. on base rates has been paid in addition to the percentage warranted by the selling price. The wages of maintenance men are not governed by the above arrangements.

Galvanising: The rates of wages of workpeople employed by members of the Galvanising Conciliation Board, mainly in South Wales and the Midlands and on the North-East Coast, are adjusted at intervals of two months in accordance with changes in the selling price of galvanised corrugated sheets less the cost of the spelter used in their manufacture. The cost of spelter is ascertained from the books of specified firms for the two months preceding the period to which the ascertained price of sheets relates. The deduction is made by allowing 2 cwt. of spelter to the ton of 24-gauge sheets. The basic price of the scale, after deducting the cost of spelter, is £7 10s. per ton, and wages are varied by 2½ per cent. on standard rates for each difference of 5s. from this price up to any amount above base. The ascertainments are made by a firm of accountants named in the Agreement.

Tube-Making—Scotland: For the purpose of adjusting the wages of workers in this industry a sales factor has been ascertained by taking the difference, as between March and April, 1921, and the eighteen months prior to 30th June, 1914, in the average net sale price per ton at the works of the companies of screwed and coupled tubes, black, up to 6 inches diameter. Similarly, a wages factor, representing the war advances up to July, 1921, has been taken as 42s. a week. The sales factor is divided into steps of 10s. each and the wages factor into an equal number of even steps. The price of tubes is ascertained quarterly, and for every complete step of variation from the maximum sales price (*i.e.*, the price for March and April, 1921) the wages fluctuate by one step of the wages factor. The ascertainments are made at intervals of three months, and the wages changes operate in the month but one following the end of the ascertainment period. The accountants are selected by mutual agreement between the parties; failure to agree on any matter

arising out of the agreement is to be followed by the appointment of an arbitrator, mutually selected, or appointed by the Sheriff of Lanarkshire. The agreement provides that when the selling factor has fallen three-quarters of the way from the maximum to the minimum price the future operation of the arrangement shall be considered, and that nothing in the agreement shall prevent negotiations for variations in basic rates at the instance of either party. Since 1922 reductions in wages due under the agreement have not been enforced, and in 1924 a special bonus of 2s. a week was granted.

Other Arrangements.

Apart from the agreements referred to above, there are two arrangements which warrant attention. The wages of ironstone miners in Cleveland are subject to adjustment at quarterly intervals following a joint conference of employers and workpeople. This conference takes into consideration, amongst other factors, the ascertainment of the price of Cleveland pig iron. The general tendency of wages, therefore, is in the same direction as that of the wages of the blast-furnace workers, though the amounts of change do not correspond precisely. The other arrangement covers marl workers in North Staffordshire. In July, 1924, a minimum rate of 1s. 0½d. per hour was fixed for these workers, with a provision that it should be subject to increases bearing a fixed relation to increases in the tonnage output of the members of the Marl Owners' Association. Thus, an increase of 20 per cent. in the output yields a rate of 1s. 1d. per hour, an increase of 35 per cent. 1s. 1½d., and so on. There are also a number of other arrangements in operation governing the wages of the employees of individual firms. These firms are mainly in the iron and steel industry, and the arrangements are generally similar in nature to those described above.

Coal Mining Industry.

The principle of regulating wages on a pre-arranged basis is also in operation in the coal mining industry. Under the agreement of 1924* the percentage addition to standard rates of wages is liable to variation at monthly intervals on the basis of the proceeds of the industry in each of thirteen districts, subject to provisions as to the minimum percentage payable and to minimum amounts of shift rates (*see* page 336 of the issue of this Gazette for July, 1921, and page 194 of that for June, 1924). The ascertainments of the proceeds cover periods of three months. They are compiled from returns made by the owners, and are subject to a check by a joint test audit by accountants appointed by the owners and the workers. A schedule to the National Agreement defines the activities the products of which are to be excluded from the ascertainments, and also the items in income and expenditure which are admissible or otherwise. The arrangement differs from the provisions of the agreements in the iron and steel and other industries in that it does not relate definite steps in wage rates above or below a specified level to steps in selling prices. Subject to certain qualifications as regards minimum rates and the carrying forward of deficiencies, it provides for the division of the proceeds in fixed proportions as between wages and profits, the proportion allocated to wages being expressed in the form of percentage additions to standard rates.

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS RECEIVING POOR LAW RELIEF.

A statement† has been issued by the Ministry of Health showing the number of persons in receipt of Poor Law Relief in England and Wales in the quarter ending in March, 1925 (excluding lunatics in county and borough asylums, persons in receipt of domiciliary medical relief only, and casuals), and giving some particulars as to the number of "unemployed" persons in receipt of relief. Of an average of 883,000 such persons in receipt of domiciliary relief in March, 1925, 386,000 (comprising 96,000 men, 94,000 women and 196,000 children) were persons ordinarily employed in some regular occupation, or wives and dependent children of such persons.

The following Table gives comparative figures for England and Wales for the months of March, 1925, and March, 1924 :—

Classes of Persons in receipt of Domiciliary Relief.	England and Wales.			
	Average Numbers.		Average Numbers per 10,000 of the Estimated Population.	
	March, 1925.	March, 1924.	March, 1925.	March, 1924.
1. Persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts (whether in receipt of unemployment benefit or not) and the wives and dependent children of those persons	346,000	506,000	89	132
2. Persons ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation, but not so insured, and the wives and dependent children of those persons	40,000	50,000	11	13
Totals of 1 and 2	386,000	556,000	100	145
3. All other persons in receipt of domiciliary relief	497,000	467,000	128	121
4. Total number of persons in receipt of domiciliary relief	883,000	1,023,000	228	266

Statistics relating to the numbers of persons receiving Poor Law Relief in certain districts in July are given on page 294 of this Gazette.

* As regards the conditions under which this Agreement continues to operate, *see* the article on pages 266–7 of this Gazette.

† H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net.

EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED EX-SERVICE MEN.

King's Roll.

The King's Roll National Council held its twelfth meeting on the 21st July. In the absence in Canada of Earl Haig, the Chairman of the Council, Major-General Sir John Davidson, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., M.P., was in the Chair.

It was reported to the Council that there are approximately 28,000 firms on the King's National Roll, and that these firms employ approximately 360,000 disabled ex-service men.

The Council have taken considerable interest in the enrolment of Local Authorities. 1,366 Local Authorities are now on the Roll. 2,445 Local Authorities are not yet enrolled, but this number includes 1,631 Authorities which employ too small a staff to be reasonably expected to enrol. All County Borough Councils are on the Roll, and only 9 County Councils and 23 Town Councils in England and Wales, which employ a sufficiently large staff, remain unenrolled.

Mention was made of the fact that a Bill promoted by an electric supply company in London was defeated in the House of Commons in February last, largely owing to the fact that the company was not on the King's Roll. It was reported to the Council that, since that date, the company in question and a number of similar companies had joined the Roll.

The Council have considered from time to time the question of enrolment of Royal Warrant holders, and it was reported at the meeting that there are now 627 holders of the Royal Warrant on the Roll, and that only 153 such firms who might reasonably be expected to enrol were not enrolled. The Council is taking further action in the matter.

The Government rule that, save in very exceptional circumstances, Government contracts should only be allocated to firms on the King's Roll, has been followed by a number of Local Authorities; and it was reported to the Council that there are now 522 Local Authorities who either restrict their contracts to firms on the Roll or give a preference to such firms.

The figures of unemployed disabled ex-Service men submitted to the Council showed that there are now approximately 35,000 unemployed, and that, in the opinion of the local King's Roll Committees, 15,000 of this number are handicapped from finding employment by reason of their war disability.

Industrial Training.

At 28th July, 1925, the number of men in training was 4,340 and the number awaiting training, 1,027. Since 1st August, 1919, 93,360 men have terminated training.

Interrupted Apprenticeships.

Up to 31st July, 1925, 44,719 apprentices have been accepted for training with 17,870 employers, this being the same as on 30th April, 1925.

The apprentices rejected up to 31st July, 1925, numbered 2,179, this being the same as on 30th April, 1925. Of those accepted, 43,834 had terminated their training and 885 were still in training. The corresponding numbers on 30th April, 1925, were 43,817 and 902.

The number of men who have received Institutional Training up to 31st July, 1925, is 2,313, this being the same as on 30th April, 1925.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1925.

The Unemployment Insurance Bill, 1925, received the Royal Assent on the 7th August.

The summary of the Bill given in last month's issue of this Gazette (p. 226) indicates the main provisions of the Act as passed. The more important amendments made in the Bill during its passage through Parliament are as follows :—

(i) In Section 2, the power of the Minister of Labour to waive compliance with the "first statutory condition" is extended to the 30th June, 1927 (instead of 30th June, 1926, as originally proposed in the Bill).

(ii) In Section 3, the operation of the six-day waiting period (instead of three days, as hitherto) has been postponed till the 1st October, 1925.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTIONS) ACT, 1925.

An Act has been passed to give effect to certain Draft Conventions adopted by two International Labour Conferences relating respectively to (i) an unemployment indemnity for seamen in the case of loss or foundering of their ship, (ii) the minimum age for the admission of young persons to employment as trimmers and stokers, and (iii) the compulsory medical examination of young persons employed at sea. The Act received the Royal Assent on the 31st July.

The text of the three draft Conventions to which effect is given by this Act is printed as a schedule to the Act.

WIDOWS', ORPHANS', AND OLD AGE CONTRIBUTORY PENSIONS ACT.

THE Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Bill* has been passed by both Houses of Parliament, and received the Royal Assent on the 7th August.

Numerous amendments were made in the Bill during its passage through Parliament, the most important of which are as follows :—

A new subsection to Section 1 provides that children's allowances (paid to the widow of an insured man in respect of her children) and orphans' pensions (paid in respect of the orphan children of insured men or of insured widows) shall be paid while the child is under 14, " or the age not exceeding 16 up to which the child remains under full-time instruction in a day school." Section 18 (under which an existing widow is entitled to a widow's pension provided, *inter alia*, she has a child under 14) has been amended to provide that, if there is a child over 14 but under 16 still at school, an additional allowance will be payable, although the widow is not eligible for a widow's pension.

An amendment to subsection 1 of Section 1 makes the orphan's pension 7s. 6d. for *each* orphan child, instead of 7s. 6d. for the first and 6s. for each other child.

Under the Bill as introduced, certain classes of persons engaged in employments " excepted " from health insurance were, nevertheless, required to be insured for pensions. This provision has now been amended to exclude teachers from the operation of the Act.

A new subsection has been added to Section 13, providing that, where a person is in receipt of a pension payable by the Ministry of Pensions, the Minister of Pensions may, with the consent of the pensioner, pay any contributions payable by the pensioner as a voluntary contributor, and deduct the amount so paid from his pension.

A further provision has been added whereby an uninsured man marrying a woman who has been insured under the scheme for at least two years may elect to become a voluntary contributor.

Section 24 (providing that no pension or additional allowance is payable under this Act to or in respect of any person drawing a " service dependant's " pension) has been amended so as to exclude a parent drawing a pension in respect of his or her son's service during the War.

A new section (Section 27) has been added, providing for the modification, where necessary, of existing private pension schemes.

The provision in the Bill as introduced whereby a widow in receipt of a pension was to be exempt from health and unemployment insurance has been withdrawn.

A new subsection (4) has been added to Section 44, bringing within the scheme a child legitimated by the subsequent marriage of his or her parents.

The remaining amendments generally deal with points of detail, matters of regulation, etc.

SUPERANNUATION OF OFFICERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES: APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE.

THE Minister of Health and the Secretary for Scotland have appointed a Committee to inquire and report whether any amendments are required in the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, and in particular (*a*) whether it is desirable that the scheme of superannuation established by that Act should now be made obligatory on all Local Authorities, and (*b*) whether that scheme should, with or without modification in respect of particular classes of officers, be made applicable to all persons in the employment of those Local Authorities, other than school teachers and police. Sir Amherst Selby-Bigge, Bart, K.C.B., J.P., has been appointed Chairman, and Mr. V. L. Harkness, of the Ministry of Health, Secretary of the Committee.

CENSUS REPORT ON WORKPLACES: ENGLAND AND WALES.

IN the Report on workplaces,† which has just been published, forming one of the Reports issued in connection with the Census of England and Wales, an attempt has been made to show to what extent the place of residence of the enumerated population differs from the place of working. It is stated that, so far as the Census Department are aware, this is the first occasion upon which statistics of workplaces have been obtained and presented by any country in the world.

The Report contains an explanatory preface and three Tables. Table I shows, for each county in England and Wales, and for each urban and rural district therein, the number of males and of females enumerated and working in the area; enumerated in the area, but with no fixed workplace; enumerated in the area but with workplace not stated; enumerated in the area, but with a workplace outside the area; and working in the area, but enumerated elsewhere in England and Wales.

Table II shows, in greater detail, for each borough, urban district, or rural district, the number of persons (i) enumerated in the area, but working elsewhere; and (ii) working in the area, but enumerated elsewhere. In each case the principal places to which the outward movement goes, and from which the inward movement comes, are shown.

Table III shows the night and day populations, and the daily movements, in counties, in county boroughs, and in boroughs and urban districts with enumerated populations of over 20,000; with the aggregate daily inward and outward movement, and the net movement (either inward or outward).

The following places show the largest daily *inward* movements, *i.e.*, excess of day population over night population :—

In administrative county of London :—

City of London	423,012*	Holborn ...	58,513
Westminster ...	244,406	St. Marylebone	51,500
Finsbury ...	65,334		

In other administrative counties :—

Manchester ...	74,944	Birmingham ...	33,525
Liverpool ...	38,007	Newcastle ...	22,683

The number of places with a net daily *outward* movement, *i.e.*, an excess of night population over day population, exceeds the number of places with a net daily inward movement in the proportion of about 4 : 3. The following summary gives all the places where the net outward movement exceeds 20,000 :—

In administrative county of London :—

Islington ...	57,820	Lewisham ...	35,622
Wandsworth ...	57,371	Fulham ...	31,106
Camberwell ...	53,585	Hackney ...	29,290
Lambeth ...	42,855	Battersea ...	26,969

Other places near London :—

East Ham ...	33,992	Willesden ...	28,039
Leyton	32,441	Croydon ...	26,476
Tottenham ...	28,878	Hornsey ...	21,703
Walthamstow ...	28,402		

The only other place with a net outward movement exceeding 20,000 was Salford, with 27,835.

THE CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES INVESTIGATION ACT.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS AND PRESENT POSITION.

THE Industrial Disputes Investigation Act was passed by the Canadian Parliament in 1907, after a strike in the coal mining industry in the province of Alberta and the consequent shortage of fuel which had emphasised the danger of disputes in certain industries. The law is limited in its main provisions to the mining industry, transport and communication, and public service utilities employing more than 10 persons, including railways, steamships, telegraph and telephone services, and the production of light, heat and power. It is declared illegal for an employer in these industries to declare or cause a lock-out of the workpeople employed by him or for workpeople to go on strike prior to or during a reference of the matter in dispute to a board of conciliation and investigation. An employer contravening the law is liable to a fine of from 100 to 1,000 dollars for each day or part of a day that a lock-out exists, and a worker on strike contrary to the Act is liable to a fine of from 10 to 50 dollars for each day or part of a day he is on strike. A penalty is also provided for anyone who incites or aids any person to declare a lock-out or to go on strike contrary to the law.

The statute is administered generally by the Minister of Labour. When a difference exists between an employer and any of his workers, and the parties are unable to adjust it, either of them may make application to the Minister for the appointment of a board of conciliation and investigation. Within fifteen days from the receipt of the application the Minister establishes a board. Each board consists of three members nominated by the Minister, one on the recommendation of the employer, one on the recommendation of the workpeople, and the third by agreement between the other two, or failing agreement, by the Minister. The original enactment provided that the machinery of the Act could be put into operation only on the application of one or other of the parties, but an amendment of 1918 empowered the Minister of Labour to appoint a board at the request of the municipality interested, or on his own motion. If a settlement is effected a memorandum to this effect is drawn up and signed by the parties, and forwarded to the Minister. Where the parties are unable to come to an agreement through a board of conciliation, the board reports to the Minister, with recommendations for the settlement, such report being made public.

Thirty days' notice must be given of an intended change in wages or hours of labour, and if a " dispute " ensues within the meaning of the Act no change may be made in such wages or hours of labour pending the delivery of the report of the board. The Act provides also that if the parties agree to be bound by the award of the board it may be made a rule of a court of record and enforceable at law.

As regards the results of the application of the Act, it is stated that between the date of its becoming law and the end of March, 1923, application was made to the Department for a board of conciliation and investigation in 597 cases, and that in 93·9 per cent. of these cases disputes were averted or ended. Provision is made under the law for the voluntary application of its machinery to differences otherwise outside its scope. In such cases the application may be

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* A summary of the Bill, as introduced, appeared in the May issue of this GAZETTE (page 152).

† H.M. Stationery Office; price 16s. net.

* The *night* population of the City of London at the date of the Census was only 13,709; the *day* population was 436,721. The details in Table II. show that 19,897 came in from Islington, 18,544 from Lambeth, 18,350 from Camberwell, and so on.

made by either party but the other party must also agree to the reference to a board of conciliation and investigation. The reports of the Department of Labour show (it is stated) an increasingly large number of disputes in which voluntary application was made for the application of the Act. In the first twelve years during which the law was in force, 6 per cent. of the disputes dealt with under the Act were in industries other than mines or public utilities, whereas in the four years 1920 to 1923 inclusive 19 per cent. were dealt with by joint consent.

Recently the question as to the right of the Dominion Parliament to enact this measure has been raised before the courts of law in consequence of the refusal of the Toronto Electrical Commissioners to recognise the authority of a board of conciliation and investigation established under the Act to deal with a dispute between the Commissioners and certain workpeople employed by them. The case eventually came before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in England. The judgment of the Lords of the Judicial Committee delivered on 20th January, 1925, was to the effect that the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act was not within the competence of the Dominion Parliament under the terms of section 91 of the British North America Act. Lord Haldane stated that their Lordships considered the subject-matter of the Canadian Industrial Disputes Investigation Act to be one affecting property and civil rights and therefore reserved exclusively to the provincial legislatures. The statute was accordingly declared *ultra vires* so far as the Dominion Parliament was concerned.

In consequence of this decision declaring the 1907 Act as it then stood to be invalid, two sections were added to the Act and certain amendments introduced with the object of making clearer the original intent of the Act in certain respects. The new sections are numbered 2A and 2B. The first of these (2A) states that the Act shall be restricted in application to the following disputes only :—

(1) Any dispute in relation to employment upon or in connection with any work, undertaking, or business which is within the legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada . . . .

(2) Any dispute which is not within the exclusive legislative authority of any provincial legislature to regulate in the manner provided by the Act.

(3) Any dispute which the Governor in Council may by reason of any real or apprehended national emergency declare to be subject to the provisions of the Act.

(4) Any dispute which is within the exclusive legislative jurisdiction of any province and which by the legislation of the province is made subject to the provisions of the Act.

The second section added (2B) states that the provisions of the Act shall not be so construed as to extend the meaning of the word "employer" as defined by section two, paragraph (*c*) of the Act.*

THE BASIC WAGE IN QUEENSLAND.†

REPORT OF COMMISSION.

While the main purpose of the Queensland Court of Arbitration established under the Act of 1916 is (in the words of the title to the Act constituting the Court) " to provide for the regulation of the conditions of industries by means of conciliation and arbitration," the Court is also empowered to prescribe a minimum standard of comfort for workpeople. As a means to this end the Court makes periodical declarations as to the basic wage for Queensland, the basis so adopted providing a standard by which wages in particular crafts and industries are fixed. The Economic Commission on the Basic Wage, appointed by the Court at the end of December last, considered that in effect it was invited by the Court to make recommendations which might be useful in forming an estimate of what such a wage should be.

The Commission presented its report on 21st February, 1925, the principal recommendations being as follows :—

(1) The chief guide to be followed by the Court in declaring a standard basic wage for industries of " average prosperity " should be the capacity of industry to pay wages. Cost of living should only be taken into account after capacity to pay has been ascertained.

(2) Capacity to pay should be determined from figures showing changes in income per head, past production per head, and future production per head, of Queensland.

(3) An index of capacity to pay so determined should be the principal guide, but reference should also be made to such matters as productive efficiency, unemployment, and rates of wages in neighbouring States.

(4) The method recommended for obtaining an index of capacity to pay is as follows. An index of the value of material production per head, for the year preceding the year in which the declaration of the standard basic wage is made, is added to an index of the prospective value of material production per head for the year in which the declaration is made. The average of the two will then give the required index. If, however, a satisfactory figure of income per head can be obtained, it should be used in conjunction with the first figure of the value of material production per head.

(5) Arrangements should be made for the collection, analysis and tabulation of the necessary information upon which to base the index of capacity to pay.

(6) The time for the annual declaration of the Standard Basic Wage should preferably be August or September, when material information is best available.

(7) In varying the standard basic wage for industries of more or less than average prosperity the Court might consider whether it is practicable to fix craft wages as a percentage upon general rates in each industry.

(8) In determining the differences between industries, the income derived from particular industries might be ascertained from the income-tax returns. Such amounts should be related to the growth of the industry and the variations in the general index.

(9) Consideration should be given to piece-rates as a method of maintaining or increasing capacity to pay.

As regards the considerations which have weighed with wage-fixing authorities generally in Australia, the report states that one of these is the " cost of living " according to some assumed or ascertained standard, while the other is summed up in the phrase " capacity to pay," *i.e.*, to pay the wage to be fixed. " Cost of living " as a principle of wage-fixing will depend primarily upon a minimum standard of comfort, and three such main standards have been put forward in Australia. The first was that laid down in 1907 by Mr. Justice Higgins, the President of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court in the Harvester Case (" the normal needs of the average employee regarded as a human being living in a civilised community "), which in application means that a minimum wage of 7s. per day was required to meet the needs of a family consisting of a wife and three children. The second standard was adopted by Mr. Justice Heydon of New South Wales, who took a man, wife and two children as a basis for the minimum living wage. This standard is followed by the New South Wales Board of Trade, which is empowered to declare periodically the " cost of living " of such a family as the basic wage for New South Wales. The third standard was that adopted by the Commonwealth Basic Wage Commission in its report of 1920,* when the family consisting of a man, wife and three children was taken and the Commission found that the cost of living was on an average 25 per cent. above the Harvester precedent. This last standard has nowhere been adopted by wage-fixing authorities and has in fact been rejected in Queensland on the ground that it is beyond the present capacity of industry.

HOLIDAYS FOR WORKPEOPLE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.†

On 1st May a new Act came into force in Czechoslovakia making provision for annual holidays with pay for many classes of workers. Similar concessions had already been granted to commercial employees and miners under Acts dated 1910‡ and 1921, while in addition collective agreements in operation in the chief industries had contained provisions for annual holidays for workpeople. The new Act provides that every wage-earner in the permanent employment of an undertaking shall have the right to a holiday of six days with pay after one year's continuous employment, of seven days after ten years' service, and of eight days after fifteen years' service. Apprentices are to be entitled to a holiday of eight days after six months' service.

The wage-earner will receive payment for holidays corresponding to his average wages during the four weeks preceding the holidays.

Holidays are to be given as a general rule between 1st April and 30th September, the precise date to be fixed by the employer in agreement with the chairman of the works council, or with a representative of the workers.

The Act will not apply to workers for whom holidays have already been provided by special legislation, or to seasonal workers, day labourers in agriculture and forestry, domestic workers, or State employees.

As regards the importance of this measure it is stated, in an article by the General Secretary of the Federation of Czechoslovak Trade Unions, that the Act will benefit two-thirds of the total number of industrial workers who have hitherto had no annual holiday at all, and also those workers whose annual holiday under collective agreements was less than six days. At the last census of the population—in 1921—there were in Czechoslovakia 1,815,089 workers in industry, transport and commerce. It is estimated that the conditions of labour of about 520,000 were regulated in 1921 by collective agreements: there were thus about 1,300,000 not working under agreements and therefore not entitled to an annual holiday.

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* " Employer " means any person, company or corporation employing 10 or more persons and owning or operating any mining property, agency of transportation or communication, or public service utility, including, except as hereinafter provided, railways, whether operated by steam, electricity or other motive power, steamships, telegraph and telephone lines, gas, electric light, water and power works, or any number of such persons, companies or corporations, acting together, or who in the opinion of the Minister have interests in common.

† *Report of the Economic Commission on the Queensland Basic Wage. Queensland Industrial Gazette*, March 24th, 1925.

* *See* this Gazette for April, 1921, page 183.

† *Industrial and Labour Information*, 27th April, 1925, and 6th July, 1925. International Labour Office, Geneva.

‡ A former Austrian Act which remains in force in Czechoslovakia.

CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING: STATISTICS FOR 1st AUGUST.

Summary : Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included 73%

Food only 68%

FOOD.

At 1st August the average level of retail prices of the principal articles of food showed a slight upward movement as compared with 1st July. Eggs, butter, margarine, cheese and milk were all dearer than a month earlier, but these advances were largely counterbalanced by a seasonal decline in the prices of potatoes and by a slight reduction in the average prices of flour and of bread. The remaining articles included in the statistics showed no appreciable change in price.

As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was about 68 per cent. at 1st August, as compared with about 67 per cent. at 1st July and 64 per cent. at the corresponding date in 1924.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st July and 1st August, 1925 :—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated— to the nearest ½d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) at 1st August, 1925, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st July, 1925.	1st August, 1925.	July, 1914.	1st July, 1925.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Beef, British—					
Ribs	0 10	1 6	1 6	+ 0 8	...
Thin Flank ...	0 6½	0 10	0 10	+ 0 3½	...
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs	0 7½	0 10½	0 10½	+ 0 3½	...
Thin Flank ...	0 4¾	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 0¾	...
Mutton, British—					
Legs	0 10½	1 8½	1 8½	+ 0 10	...
Breast	0 6½	0 11½	0 11½	+ 0 5	...
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	0 6¾	1 0¾	1 0¾	+ 0 6	...
Breast	0 4	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 1½	...
Bacon (streaky)* ...	0 11½	1 6½	1 6½	+ 0 7¼	...
Flour ... per 7 lb.	0 10½	1 7	1 6¾	+ 0 8¼	− 0 0½
Bread ... per 4 lb.	0 5¾	0 10½	0 10¼	+ 0 4½	− 0 0½
Tea	1 6½	2 5¼	2 5¼	+ 0 11	...
Sugar (granulated) ...	0 2	0 3¾	0 3¾	+ 0 1¾	...
Milk ... per quart	0 3½	0 5½	0 5¾	+ 0 2¼	+ 0 0¼
Butter—					
Fresh	1 2½	1 11¾	2 1	+ 0 10½	+ 0 1¼
Salt	1 2¼	1 10¾	1 11¾	+ 0 9½	+ 0 1
Cheese†...	0 8¾	1 1¾	1 2¼	+ 0 5½	+ 0 0½
Margarine	0 7	0 7¼	0 7¾	+ 0 0¾	+ 0 0½
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 1½	0 1¾	0 2	+ 0 0¾	+ 0 0½
Potatoes per 7 lb.	0 4¾	0 11	0 9¾	+ 0 5	− 0 1¼

The following Table gives a percentage comparison of the level of retail prices at the same three dates :—

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st August 1925, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding figure for 1st July, 1925.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Beef, British—				
Ribs	83	77	80	80
Thin Flank	49	52	51	51
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	47	43	45	45
Thin Flank	14	18	16	16
Mutton, British—				
Legs	96	96	96	97
Breast	78	72	75	77
Mutton Frozen—				
Legs	88	80	84	85
Breast	33	33	33	33
Bacon (streaky)*	66	63	65	65
Fish	126	99	112	113
Flour	75	79	77	80
Bread	80	76	78	81
Tea	57	62	60	59
Sugar (granulated)	84	74	79	80
Milk	58	65	62	59
Butter—				
Fresh	71	74	72	63
Salt	68	67	68	61
Cheese†	62	65	63	58
Margarine	14	6	10	4
Eggs (fresh)	74	68	71	45
Potatoes	106	92	99	126
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase)	69	67	68	67

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

† The description of cheese specified for quotation is Canadian or American, but where such cheese is seldom sold in a locality the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards *rents*, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts indicate that the average increase in the rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st August, 1925, was approximately 47 per cent. Of the total increase, about two-fifths is accounted for by increases on account of rates and water charges and about two-fifths is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Acts falling within the remaining one-fifth.

As regards *clothing*, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an *exact* calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st August the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged between 125 and 130 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the *fuel and light* group the retail price of coal remained between 85 and 90 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. The retail price of gas was still between 50 and 55 per cent. above the pre-war level, and the prices of lamp oil, candles and matches also showed no appreciable change during the month. Taking the fuel and light group as a whole, the average increase at 1st August as compared with July, 1914, was about 80 per cent.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st August is, approximately, **73 per cent.*** over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 73 per cent. at 1st July and 71 per cent. at the corresponding date in 1924.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1925 as in 1914) is to show the *average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families* (*i.e.*, the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). Owing to the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or re-adjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, it is probable that the standard of living has been raised in some families in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1915 TO 1925.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase as compared with July, 1914, for all items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month since January, 1915 :—

Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items.

(Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.)

Month (beginning of)	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
January ...	10–15	35	65	85–90	120	125	165	92	78	77	80
February...	15	35	65–70	90	120	130	151	88	77	79	79
March ...	15–20	35–40	70	90	115	130	141	86	76	78	79
April ...	15–20	35–40	70–75	90–95	110	132	133	82	74	73	78
May ...	20	40–45	75	95–100	105	141	128	81	70	71	73
June ...	25	45	75–80	100	105	150	119	80	69	69	72
July ...	25	45–50	80	100–105	105–110	152	119	84	69	70	73
August ...	25	45–50	80	110	115	155	122	81	71	71	73
September	25	50	80–85	110	115	161	120	79	73	72	...
October ...	30	50–55	75–80	115–120	120	164	110	78	75	76	...
November	30–35	60	85	120–125	125	176	103	80	75	80	...
December	35	65	85	120	125	169	99	80	77	81	...

NOTE.

A brief Statement of the method of compiling these statistics was given on page 236 of the July, 1923, issue of this GAZETTE. *A more detailed account was given in the issue of February, 1921.*

* If allowance is made for the changes in taxation on commodities since July, 1914, the average increase is about 2 per cent. less.

EMPLOYMENT IN JULY.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

THERE was an improvement in employment during July in the coal mining industry. There was also some improvement in the tinplate and steel sheet and glass bottle industries; but in the pottery, iron and steel, cotton, wool textile, linen, jute, lace, textile bleaching and dyeing, and clothing industries there was a decline. On the whole employment was worse than in July last year.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 11,500,000, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 27th July, 1925, was 11·5, as compared with 12·2 at 22nd June, 1925, and with 9·9 at 28th July, 1924. For males alone, the percentage at 27th July was 12·1, as compared with 13·4 at 22nd June; for females, the figure at 27th July was 9·9, as compared with 9·0 at 22nd June. Among members of Trade Unions from which returns were received, the percentage unemployed was 11·2 at the end of July, 1925, compared with 12·3 at the end of June, and with 7·4 at the end of July, 1924. The total number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered* at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as unemployed at 27th July, 1925, was approximately 1,262,000, of whom 948,000 were men and 246,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 29th June, 1925, it was 1,368,000, of whom 1,062,000 were men and 241,000 were women; and at 28th July, 1924, it was 1,089,000, of whom men numbered 826,000 and women 197,000.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment at coal mines, though still bad, showed a marked improvement. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 25th July, 1925, was 1,048,270, a decrease of 1·0 per cent. as compared with June, 1925, and of 11·0 per cent. as compared with July, 1924, but there was an increase in the average number of days worked per week by the pits. In the fortnight ended 25th July, 1925, the average was 5·05 days as compared with 4·54 in June, 1925, and 4·61 in July, 1924.

At iron mines employment continued bad. At the mines covered by the returns there was an increase of 0·6 per cent. in the numbers employed compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 10·4 per cent. compared with July, 1924. The average number of days worked per week by the mines that were working was 5·30, as compared with 5·34 in June, 1925, and 5·46 in July, 1924. At shale mines employment continued fair. At limestone quarries it was fairly good in the Buxton and Clitheroe districts, and moderate in the Weardale district. At slate quarries it continued good, and at chalk quarries slack. At whinstone quarries in the East of Scotland, employment was reported as good in broken stone and bad in dressed stone. At the Cornish tin mines it continued good, and at the china clay quarries, fairly good.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment showed a further decline, and continued bad; of a total of 482 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of July was 136, as compared with 148 in June and 175 in July, 1924. At iron and steel works employment continued bad, and showed a further slight decline. Employment in the tinplate and steel sheet trades, though still bad, showed a marked improvement; the number of mills in operation at the end of the month was 499, as compared with 489 in June, 1925, and with 542 at the end of July, 1924.

Engineering, Shipbuilding, and Metal Trades.—In the engineering trade employment continued bad on the whole and showed a slight decline in practically all sections. It was again very bad in the marine engineering section, and bad in the heavy engineering section; whilst on railway engineering work it remained only fair with a continuance of short time at some centres. Employment remained fairly good on electrical work, but in the motor and cycle section a seasonal decline was experienced and employment was only fair. In the textile machinery section in Lancashire the improvement noted in the previous month was maintained. In the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades employment continued very bad and showed little general change compared with the previous month. Employment in the other metal trades remained moderate on the whole. It was fairly good in the stove and grate trade; fair in the hollowware, brasswork, needle and fishing tackle, sheet metal, nut and bolt and file trades; moderate in the metallic bedstead, tube, cutlery and farriery trades; and slack or bad in the wire, jewellery and plated ware, chain and anchor, and copper trades.

Textile Trades.—In the cotton trade employment continued slack, and showed a further slight decline. In the American spinning section the working hours were generally restricted to 39¼, and in the Egyptian section employment was moderate. In the weaving department there was little change on the whole. In the woollen and worsted trades employment continued bad; a stoppage of work owing to a trade dispute began towards the end of July in Yorkshire and part of Lancashire. In the hosiery trade employment was still bad; in the lace trade it also continued bad; in the silk trade it remained fairly good generally. Employment in the carpet trade showed a decline, but was fair on the whole; in the Irish linen trade employment continued bad, and showed little change from the previous month; in Scotland it remained slack. In the textile bleaching, jute trade it continued slack; in the printing, dyeing, etc., trades employment remained slack on the whole, short-time working still being fairly general; with silk dyers at Macclesfield, Leek and Congleton it continued fair.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the retail branch of the tailoring trade continued fairly good generally; in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke branch it remained fair on the whole, although a slight seasonal depression was reported in some districts. In the dressmaking and millinery trades employment remained good in most districts, but seasonal slackness was reported in certain areas. In the corset and shirt and collar trades employment was fair generally; in the felt hat trade it showed a further improvement and remained fairly good on the whole. In the boot and shoe trades employment showed a further decline in most districts, and on the whole was worse than in June.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the tanning and currying section was slack, and in some centres a decline was shown; in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather section it was fair on the whole, and at Birmingham it was generally good; with saddlery and harness makers it was again bad, except in London and Birmingham where some improvement was reported.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trades continued good in most districts with skilled operatives, other than painters, but was generally slack with unskilled workers. It remained very good generally with bricklayers and plasterers; good at most centres with masons, carpenters and joiners; fairly good on the whole with slaters and with painters in many districts; and fair with plumbers. With builders' labourers it continued slack on the whole. In the brick trade employment continued good.

In the furnishing trade employment remained fairly good on the whole. With coachbuilders, millsawyers and brushmakers it was fairly good; with coopers it showed an improvement and was good; with packing-case makers it continued slack.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper trade continued fair generally. With letterpress printers employment continued fairly good; at Birmingham it showed a slight decline, but in London, Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow there was an improvement. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment remained good. In the lithographic printing trade it was again fairly good, and was better than in June at Manchester and Glasgow, but was slightly worse at Birmingham. With lithographic artists employment was good in London, but slack and worse than in June at Manchester. With bookbinders employment was moderate on the whole.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery trade employment showed a further decline, and there was much unemployment and short-time working. In certain branches, however, it was reported as good. In the glass trade employment continued moderate on the whole.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In England and Wales the supply of labour has been sufficient in most districts, but occasionally local shortages have been felt. In Scotland the supply of skilled labour was generally sufficient, but scarcity of casual labour was reported in some districts. In the fishing industry employment continued fair.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—With dock labourers and seamen employment continued slack on the whole.

General.—The following Table shows, month by month since July, 1924, (*a*) the percentages unemployed among members of those Trade Unions from which returns are obtained, (*b*) the percentages unemployed among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and (*c*) the approximate number (to the nearest 1,000) registered as unemployed at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Date. (End of Month.)	Percentage Unemployed among				Number of Unemployed Registered at Exchanges.
	Trade Unions making Returns.	Insured Workpeople.			
		Males.	Females.	Total.	
1924.					
July	7·4	10·5	8·1	9·9	1,089,000
August	7·9	11·3	8·8	10·6	1,191,000
September	8·6	11·5	8·8	10·8	1,243,000
October	8·7	11·9	9·0	11·1	1,247,000
November	8·6	11·8	8·9	11·0	1,233,000
December*	9·2	11·7	9·0	10·9	1,319,000
1925.					
January	9·0	12·1	9·6	11·5	1,287,000
February	9·4	12·3	9·5	11·6	1,287,000
March	9·0	12·1	9·2	11·4	1,249,000
April...	9·4	12·0	9·1	11·2	1,251,000
May	10·1	12·1	8·9	11·2	1,253,000
June	12·3	13·4	9·0	12·2	1,368,000
July	11·2	12·1	9·9	11·5	1,262,000

* The figures for insured workers relate to 22nd December.

* It should be noted that some unemployed persons, *e.g.*, some of those who have not valid claims to unemployment benefit, or who are not insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, do not register at the Employment Exchanges.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE Unions with a net membership of 962,239 in branches covered by the returns received, reported 107,531 (or 11·2 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of July, 1925, compared with 12·3 per cent. at the end of June, 1925, and 7·4 per cent. at the end of July, 1924.

Trade.	Membership of Unions reporting at end of July, 1925.	Unemployed at end of July, 1925.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Number.	Percentage.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining	144,507	35,215	24·4	−10·7	+19·5
Engineering and Shipbuilding	343,322	52,136	15·2	+ 0·6	+ 2·3
Miscellaneous Metal ...	48,128	3,058	6·4	+ 0·5	+ 0·5
Textiles :—					
Cotton	58,994	3,472†	5·9	+ 0·4	− 0·6
Woollen and Worsted	...‡	...‡	...‡	...‡	...‡
Other	52,837	1,519	2·9	− 0·4	+ 0·9
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper	102,846	2,765	2·7	− 0·2	− 0·8
Furnishing	28,159	1,120	4·0	+ 0·2	− 2·6
Woodworking	41,785	1,769	4·2	+ 0·6	+ 0·2
Clothing :—					
Boot and Shoe ...	80,967	4,449	5·5	+ 0·9	+ 0·3
Other Clothing ...	48,888	250	0·5	− 0·1	...
Leather	5,875	799	13·6	+ 1·0	+ 6·4
Glass...	1,207	23	1·9	+ 0·1	− 2·1
Tobacco§	4,724	956	20·2	− 1·1	− 2·6
Total	962,239‡	107,531‡	11·2‡	− 1·1‡	+ 3·8‡

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 11·5 per cent. (males 12·1 per cent., females 9·9 per cent.) at 27th July, 1925, as compared with 12·2 per cent. (males 13·4 per cent., females 9·0 per cent.) at 22nd June, 1925, and 9·9 per cent. (males 10·5 per cent., females 8·1 per cent.) at 28th July, 1924. Tables showing the numbers unemployed in the principal industries appear on pages 284 and 285.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in July, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below. Further details are given on pages 278 to 283.

(*a*) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for July, 1925.	July, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
		Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.
Coal Mining	1,048,270	5·05	+ 0·51	+ 0·44
Iron „	7,163	5·30	− 0·04	− 0·16
Shale „	4,095	5·90	+ 0·04	+ 0·08
		Furnaces in Blast	Number.	Number.
Pig Iron	...	136	− 12	− 39
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	...	Mills Working 499	+ 10	− 43
		Shifts Worked (one week).	Per cent.	Per cent.
Iron and Steel	64,881	342,537	− 2·4	− 6·2

(*b*) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 25th July, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a		Week ended 25th July, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.‖	Year ago.‖
Textiles :—		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Cotton	80,930	− 0·8	− 0·3	145,631	− 3·7	+ 2·2
Woollen... ...	13,377	− 1·1	− 5·0	26,317	− 0·8	−11·5
Worsted... ...	26,749	− 0·6	− 6·6	47,376	+ 1·2	−11·4
Boot and Shoe ...	48,696	− 0·8	− 1·8	107,676	− 3·4	− 7·6
Pottery	11,580	− 0·6	+ 0·8	21,827	− 1·5	+ 0·1
Brick	8,998	+ 0·4	+10·3	24,340	− 2·3	+17·8
Total ...	190,330	− 0·8	− 1·5	373,167	− 2·6	− 3·0

* Short time and broken time are not reflected in the figures. In the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is generally met by short-time working. Persons on strike or locked out are also excluded.

† In addition to those shown, who were totally unemployed, a large number of the members of the unions reporting were "paid off part of each week, or alternate weeks or fortnights" or on "temporary stoppage benefit."

‡ Owing to a dispute in the woollen and worsted industry, figures for July, 1925, are not available. The percentages for June, 1925, and July, 1924, excluding these returns, would be 12·4 and 7·5 respectively.

§ The returns for the tobacco trade are supplied by unions whose members are mainly cigar makers.

‖ Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

(1) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH AMONG MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS :—

Thick Curve ——— = 1925.

Thin Curve ——— = 1924.

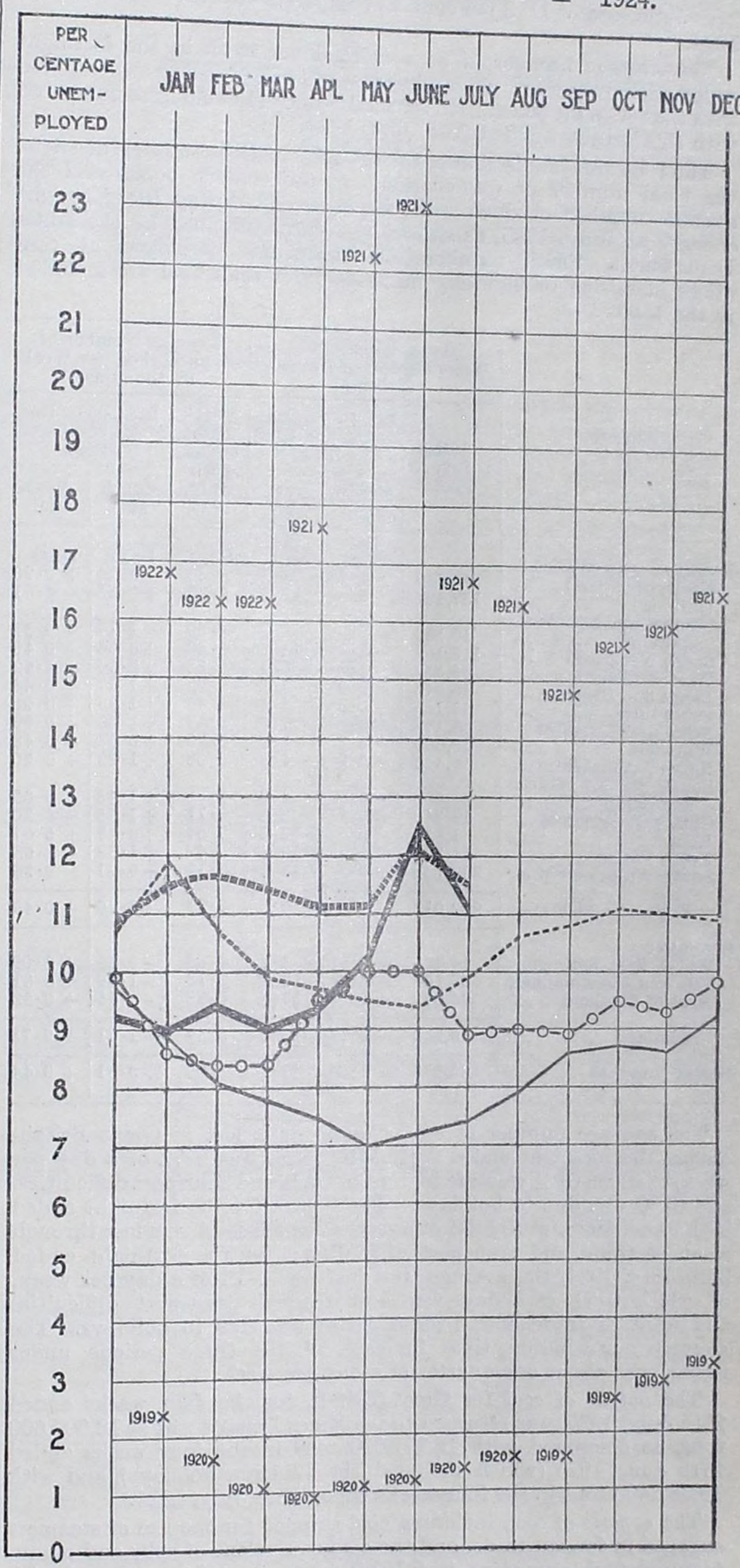
Chain Curve —o—o—o—o = *Mean of* 1919–24.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of Trade Union members unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1919–1924.

(2) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORKPEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT :—

Thick Dotted Curve - - - - - - - - = 1925.

Thin Dotted Curve - - - - - - - - = 1924.



NOTE.

The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Trade Union Returns are furnished by various Trade Unions which pay unemployment benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. Detailed figures are given in the previous column.

The figures for insured workpeople are briefly explained, and are analysed in detail, on pages 284 and 285.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

NOTE.—*The numbers of workpeople given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and (except as regards coal mining) not the total numbers employed in the various industries. The comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates relate to the same firms at each date, and cover all the wage-earners, irrespective of age, sex, or occupation, employed by these firms. In comparing the earnings in different industries, it should be remembered that any averages calculated from these figures will be affected not only by the variations in the state of employment and in rates of wages, but also by differences in the proportions of males to females, of adults to juveniles, and of skilled to unskilled workers in the respective industries.*

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during July, though still bad, showed a marked improvement in nearly every district as compared with the previous month. The decline in the Scottish districts was principally due to holidays.

The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 25th July, 1925, showed a decrease of 1·0 per cent., as compared with that at 27th June, and of 11·0 per cent. as compared with that at 26th July, 1924.

The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 25th July was 5·05, an increase of 0·51 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 27th June, and of 0·44 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 26th July, 1924.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal-mining districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked per week* during the fortnight ended 25th July, 1925, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals :—

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at			Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*		
	25th July, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with a		Fortnight ended 25th July, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.	Days.
ENGLAND AND WALES:						
Northumberland ...	46,559	− 1·6	−26·7	5·35	+1·14	+ 0·90
Durham	137,191	− 2·2	−19·4	4·76	+0·55	− 0·01
Cumberland and Westmorland	10,582	− 1·0	− 1·9	4·00	−1·14	− 0·31
South Yorkshire ...	118,162	− 1·5	+ 1·4	5·52	+0·66	+ 0·49
West Yorkshire ...	65,832	− 1·1	− 6·4	5 55	+2·09	+ 1·22
Lancs and Cheshire ...	96,045	− 0·9	− 8·9	5·22	+1·17	+ 0·48
Derbyshire	63,115	− 0·9	− 4·5	5·46	+1·28	+ 0·91
Notts and Leicester	66,172	− 0·7	− 1·6	5·47	+1·06	+ 0·99
Warwick	19,609	− 3·0	− 8·9	5·73	+0·68	+ 0·48
North Staffordshire ...	34,413	− 0·9	− 4·3	5·38	+1·22	+ 0·20
South Staffs,† Worcs. and Salop	34,502	− 0·8	− 4·9	5·85	+1·43	+ 0·65
Glos. and Somerset ...	13,740	− 0·8	− 8·6	5•71	+1·65	+ 0·80
Kent	1,639	− 0·5	−12·8	5·04	+0·49	+ 5·04
North Wales	14,720	− 1·2	−20·8	5·47	+1·59	+ 1·05
South Wales and Mon.	209,731	+ 0·2	−13·2	5·10	−0·21	− 0·26
England and Wales	932,012	− 1·0	−10·5	5·27	+0·76	+ 0·40
SCOTLAND:						
Mid & East Lothians	14,525	− 0·3	− 8·1	4·68	−0·16	+ 2·09
Fife and Clackmannan	26,756	− 0·9	−12·9	2·78	−1·99	+ 0·51
Rest of Scotland ...	74,977	− 0·6	−17·3	3·28	−1·45	+ 0·52
Scotland	116,258	− 0·6	−15·2	3·34	−1·41	+ 0·71
GREAT BRITAIN ...	1,048,270	− 1·0	−11·0	5·05	+0·51	+ 0·44

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 25th July, 1925, was 0·72 of a day per week, of which 0·21 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties, and 0·30 was due to holidays. The figures for the fortnight ended 27th June, 1925, were 1·23 of a day, of which 1·14 was lost through want of trade and transport difficulties; for the fortnight ended 26th July, 1924, the average time lost was 1·15 of a day per week, of which 0·71 of a day was lost through transport difficulties and want of trade and 0·39 of a day was due to holidays. The average non-winding time for each of the three periods under review was about one-quarter of a day per week.

The *output of coal* for Great Britain for the four weeks ended 25th July, 1925, was returned to the Mines Department at 18,907,600 tons, as compared with 16,171,000 tons in the four weeks ended 27th June, 1925 (which included the Whitsun holidays), and with 19,382,400 tons in the four weeks ended 26th July, 1924.

The *exports of coal*, including coal shipped for the use of steamers engaged in foreign trade, and the coal-equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 6,151,934 tons in July, compared with 5,269,478 tons in June.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 14·6 at 27th July, 1925, as compared with 25·0 at 22nd June, 1925, and 6·8 at 28th July, 1924. Details of the percentages for different areas are shown in the following Table :—

Area.	Percentage Unemployed at 27th July, 1925.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in percentage as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:			
Northumberland ...	22·3	− 11·4	+ 8·0
Durham	23·0	− 10·3	+ 14·5
Cumberland and Westmorland	23·1	+ 7·5	+ 7·5
Yorkshire	9·0	− 5·4	+ 6·4
Lancs and Cheshire ...	9·5	− 16·5	+ 4·1
Derbyshire	6·3	− 25·0	− 1·6
Notts and Leicester ...	7·6	− 17·7	+ 0·9
Warwick	2·2	− 1·5	+ 1·2
Staffs, Worcester and Salop	13·3	− 12·7	+ 9·0
Glos. and Somerset ...	9·0	− 18·4	− 5·6
Kent	3·7	− 10·3	− 30·3
Wales and Monmouth ...	14·5	− 7·4	+ 9·9
England and Wales ...	13·7	− 10·9	+ 7·5
SCOTLAND	21·0	− 6·7	+ 9·4
GREAT BRITAIN	14·6	− 10·4	+ 7·8

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

Iron Mining.

Although there was a slight improvement in the Cumberland and Lancashire district, employment on the whole continued bad.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in iron ore and ironstone mining and quarrying, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 27·7 at 27th July, 1925, as compared with 25·4 at 22nd June, 1925, and 17·6 at 28th July, 1924.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns :—

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.			Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.*		
	Fortnight ended 25th July, 1925	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with a		Fortnight ended 25th July, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland... ...	3,772	− 4·0	+ 3·2	5·33	+ 0·04	+ 0·13
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	2,486	+18·8	−15·2	5·46	− 0·51	− 0·20
Other Districts ...	905	−17·5	−35·7	4·74	+ 0·45	− 1·01
ALL DISTRICTS	7,163	+ 0·6	−10·4	5·30	− 0·04	− 0·16

Shale Mining.

At shale mines employment continued fair on the whole. At mines employing 4,095 workpeople during the fortnight ended 25th July, 1925, there was an increase of 0·2 per cent. in the number employed compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 1·2 per cent. compared with July, 1924. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines was 5·90 in July, 1925, compared with 5·86 in June, 1925, and 5·82 in July, 1924.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during July showed a further decline and was bad. The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 21·4 at 27th July, 1925, as compared with 19·4 at 22nd June, 1925, and 14·5 at 28th July, 1924. According to returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers from 83 firms, employing at the end of July 17,133 workpeople, a decrease is shown of 7·8 per cent. compared with June, and a decrease of 20·3 per cent. compared with July, 1924.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of the month as shown by the returns collected by the Federation was 136, a decrease of 12 since the beginning of the month and a decrease of 39 compared with July, 1924.

* The figures in this and the following article show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short time) on which coal, iron, etc., were got from the mines included in the returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the *persons* worked every day the mines were open. Mines not working are omitted in computing the average number of days worked.

† Including Cannock Chase.

* *See* note * in previous column.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in blast at the end of July, 1925, June, 1925, and July, 1924:—

Districts.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) in July, on a	
		July, 1925.	June, 1925.	July, 1924.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Durham and Cleveland	111	35	36	45	− 1	− 10
Cumberland and W. Lancs...	47	4	7	11	− 3	− 7
Other parts of Lancs and Yorks (including Sheffield)	35	15	16	16	− 1	− 1
Derby, Leicester, Notts and Northants ...	73	37	38	42	− 1	− 5
Lincolnshire	23	11	12	15	− 1	− 4
Staffs, Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick	60	10	10	10	...	...
South Wales	32	8	8	7	...	+ 1
Total, England and Wales	381	120	127	146	− 7	− 26
SCOTLAND	101	16	21	29	− 5	− 13
Total	482	136	148	175	− 12	− 39

The production of pig iron in July amounted to 492,700 tons, as compared with 510,300 tons in June, and 615,600 tons in July, 1924.

IRON AND STEEL TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued bad during July and showed a further slight decline as compared with the previous month. Short time was reported to have been worked in many districts.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 25·0 on 27th July, 1925, as compared with 24·7 on 22nd June, 1925, and 19·7 on 28th July, 1924.

According to returns received from firms employing 64,881 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 25th July, 1925 (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each department) decreased by 2·4 per cent. as compared with the previous month, and by 6·2 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The average number of shifts during which the works were open was 5·3 in each of the three periods under review.

The following Table summarises the information from those employers who furnished returns :—

—	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.			Aggregate Number of Shifts.*		
	Week ended 25th July, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with a		Week ended 25th July, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
DEPARTMENTS.		Per cent.	Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	7,504	+ 0·1	−14·0	41,585	− 0·8	−16·5
Puddling Forges ...	2,143	+ 1·9	−28·6	9,607	+12·9	−29·6
Rolling Mills	23,745	− 3·1	+ 0·6	116,731	− 3·3	− 0·8
Forging and Pressing...	3,242	− 2·6	− 3·5	17,049	− 2·4	− 1·9
Founding	7,896	− 1·2	− 1·8	43 861	− 1·7	− 2·6
Other Departments ...	6,644	− 4·0	+ 1·9	36,632	− 4·1	+ 2·1
Mechanics, Labourers...	13,707	− 3·2	− 9·7	77,072	− 3·2	−10·3
TOTAL	64,881	− 2·5	− 5·2	342,537	− 2·4	− 6·2
DISTRICTS.						
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland...	13,161	+ 1·4	− 1·8	73,616	+ 1·3	− 2·9
Sheffield and Rotherham	18,277	− 0·3	− 3·3	93,775	+ 0·4	− 4·9
Leeds, Bradford, etc. ...	2,054	+ 3·5	−10·2	11,148	+ 6·1	− 9·5
Cumberland, Lancs and Cheshire	6,729	−13·6	− 4·1	34,436	−13·6	+ 1·3
Staffordshire	6,470	− 0·9	−19·3	34,381	+ 1·6	−17·4
Other Midland Counties	3,793	− 3·9	− 3·8	19,771	− 6·1	− 5·7
Wales and Monmouth	8,101	+ 1·4	− 6·4	44,693	+ 3·2	− 5·5
Total, England and Wales	58,585	− 1·6	− 5·0	311,820	− 0·9	− 5·7
Scotland	6,296	− 9·8	− 7·2	30,717	−15.5	−11·7
TOTAL	64,881	− 2·5	− 5·2	342,537	− 2·4	− 6·2

The production of steel ingots and castings, as returned by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 590,400 tons in July, 1925, as compared with 585,400 tons in June, 1925, and 693,300 tons in July, 1924.

* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the *works* were in operation, allowance being made for the numbers of men employed. No account is taken of the time lost by *individuals* owing to absenteeism, etc., and it is not intended to imply that the number of shifts shown were actually worked by all the men employed.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT during July, though still bad, showed a marked improvement as compared with the previous month; a number of the mills were still idle. At the end of the month 499 tinplate and steel sheet mills were reported to be in operation at the works for which information is available, as compared with 489 at the end of June,* and with 542 a year ago.

The following Table shows the number of mills in operation at the end of July, 1925, at the works covered by the returns received, as compared with June, 1925, and with July, 1924:—

Works.	Number of Works Open			Number of Mills in Operation		
	At end of July, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a		At end of July, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate ...	70	...*	− 8	381	+ 11*	− 37
Steel Sheet	13	...	...	118	− 1	− 6
TOTAL ...	83	...*	− 8	499	+ 10*	− 43

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed on 27th July, 1925, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 13·2, as compared with 19·0 on 22nd June, 1925, and with 2·6 on 28th July, 1924. These percentages include persons working part-time and not actually employed on the dates mentioned.

The *exports* of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in July, 1925, amounted to 105,119 tons, or 13,422 tons more than in June, 1925, and 1,144 tons more than in July, 1924.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during July continued bad on the whole and showed a slight decline in practically all sections. It was again very bad in the marine engineering section and bad in the heavy engineering section, whilst on railway engineering work it remained fair with a continuance of short time at some centres. Conditions remained fairly good on electrical work, but in the motor and cycle section a seasonal decline was experienced and employment was only fair. In the textile machinery section in Lancashire the improvement noted in the previous month was maintained.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 27th July, 1925, and the increase or decrease compared with June and with a year ago :—

Divisions.	Numbers of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 27th July, 1925.							
	Engineering, Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) as compared with a	
							Month ago.	Year ago.†
London ...	6,622	400	109	89	1,816	9,036	− 364	− 2,528
South-Eastern	2,095	373	107	24	888	3,487	− 419	− 1,187
South-Western	1,693	119	432	73	756	3,073	+ 27	− 279
Midlands ...	8,067	1,265	54	538	6,779	16,703	+1,503	− 5,374
North-Eastern	21,006	500	8,051	1,071	711	31,339	+1,105	+ 4,526
North-Western	19,336	1,283	273	145	2,024	23,061	+ 543	− 6,445
Scotland ...	16,015	299	3,174	1,059	808	21,355	+ 809	− 265
Wales... ...	1,070	28	32	31	129	1,290	+ 119	+ 345
NorthernIreland	2,008	21	1,218	14	189	3,450	+ 297	− 18
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	77,912	4,288	13,450	3,044	14,100	112,794	+3,620	− 11,225
	Percentages Unemployed at 27th July, 1925.							
London ...	7·5	4·6	16·0	4·3	5·5	6·8	− 0·3	− 1·7
South-Eastern	5·0	4·4	3·4	4·5	3·9	4·5	− 0·6	− 1·6
South-Western	4·9	4·0	6·6	12·0	4·0	4·8	...	− 0·7
Midlands ...	9·1	5·4	3·5	8·9	8·0	8·2	+ 0·8	− 2·5
North-Eastern	16·2	7·0	31·0	15·8	6·9	17·4	+ 0·6	+ 3·6
North-Western	13·6	7·6	14·4	8·1	10·0	12·6	+ 0·3	− 2·7
Scotland ...	18·8	8·8	15·6	18·8	8·2	17·2	+ 0·7	+ 0·3
Wales... ...	13·3	8·0	17·8	5·8	6·9	11·8	+ 1·1	+ 2·8
NorthernIreland	25·5	17·5	21·4	70·0	12·2	22·6	+ 1·9	+ 0·4
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	12·4	6·0	20·3	12·7	6·9	11·4	+ 0·4	− 0·7

On the North-East Coast employment was again bad on the whole and showed a further decline both in general engineering and in the marine engineering section, which was very bad. Conditions were still moderate at Newcastle, but on the Tees and Wear employment continued to decline. In Yorkshire employment was still very moderate and rather worse than in the previous month, the very moderate and rather worse than in the previous month, the textile machinery section showing continued slackness. In Lincolnshire employment remained moderate but showed signs of continued improvement.

* The figures for June have been revised.

† In comparing the two sections of this Table it must be remembered that the numbers of insured workpeople, on which the percentages are calculated, were not the same a year ago as at present.

In Lancashire and Cheshire the improvement in the textile machinery section was maintained, but there was some decline in employment in the electrical and motor vehicle sections, while in the locomotive section short time was reported at more than one centre. In heavy engineering work employment remained bad and showed a further decline.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district a seasonal decline was experienced in the motor and cycle sections and employment was only fair on the whole, although still good at Coventry. A decline was also reported in the electrical engineering section, whilst on heavy engineering employment remained depressed. Employment at Nottingham continued moderate on the whole. At Derby conditions remained fairly good on general engineering and in the motor section, but short time continued in operation on railway work. At Leicester employment remained fair.

In the Eastern Counties employment was still fair and continued to improve. In the London district, also, continued improvement was shown on the whole and employment remained fair, although some slight falling off was experienced in the electrical and motor sections. Practically no change was noted in the Southern Counties, employment remaining fair on the whole, and good, with a little falling off, in the locomotive, motor and electrical sections. In South Wales employment was again bad and showed a decline.

In Scotland employment remained bad and was worse than in June, except at sewing-machine works in the Glasgow district, where activity continued. At Belfast conditions were again bad and worse than in the previous month.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT continued very bad during July, and showed little general change compared with the previous month. In comparison with a year ago there was again a considerable decline.

On the North-East Coast employment remained very bad on the whole. A decline was experienced on the Tyne, although with joiners employment was fair. On the East Coast it continued generally slack, showing an improvement on repair work at Hull, but a decline at Grimsby. On the Thames and South Coast it was again slack, but showed, on the whole, a further improvement, particularly on repair work at Southampton. At the Bristol Channel ports employment remained bad on the whole; an improvement was reported at Cardiff and Swansea, but a decline was experienced at Barry. On the Mersey it was still slack.

In Scotland a further decline was experienced and employment was very bad on the whole; it was moderate, however, with joiners on the Clyde. At Belfast it was again bad.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 27th July, 1925, and the increase or decrease as compared with 22nd June, 1925, and with a year ago :—

Divisions.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 27th July, 1925.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) as compared with a		Percentage Unemployed at 27th July, 1925.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in percentage as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
London... ...	2,768	− 304	− 1,169	19·4	− 2·1	− 8·4
South-Eastern...	702	+ 134	− 564	7·4	+ 1·4	− 6·0
South-Western...	3,335	− 1,056	− 94	11·8	− 3·8	+ 0·8
Midlands ...	48	− 7	− 61	9·4	− 1·4	−12·4
North-Eastern...	32,685	+ 670	+ 9,890	46·5	+ 0·9	+15·0
North-Western	10,608	+ 193	+ 1,866	31·2	+ 0·6	+ 6·8
Scotland ...	24,082	+ 1,272	+ 5,455	36·7	+ 1·9	+10·7
Wales	3,737	+ 58	− 152	33·1	+ 0·5	+ 2·6
Northern Ireland	6,355	− 302	− 2,863	29·6	− 1·4	− 8·1
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.	84,320	+ 658	+ 12,308	33·1	+ 0·3	+ 6·7

COTTON TRADE.

DURING July employment continued slack, and showed a further slight decline. The working hours in the American spinning section were very generally restricted to 39¼, the amount recommended by the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations; and, in addition, spinners in this section have been recommended by the Federation to stop a full week between the end of July and the end of August, over and above the ordinary trade holidays. In the Egyptian spinning section employment was moderate; there was no organised short time in this section. In the weaving department there was on the whole little change.

Compared with a year ago there was a decline in the Egyptian spinning section, but an improvement in the American spinning section; there was little change in the weaving department.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 11·6 on the 27th July, 1925, as compared with 8·7 on the 22nd June, 1925, and with 15·8 on the 28th July, 1924.

In the Oldham, Ashton, Stalybridge, and Stockport districts employment with spinners continued slack, organised short time, as mentioned above, being in force in the American section. With weavers in the Oldham district employment was worse than a month earlier, especially in the velvet section; it also showed a marked decline with warpers. In the Bolton district employment was moderate with spinners: there was no organised short time, but some mills were running short time or stopping their machinery in sections; and the holiday stoppage at the beginning of the month was extended by some firms. Employment with weavers in the Bolton district was poor, and worse than in June; a large number of looms were stopped owing to lack of orders. In the Leigh district employment in the spinning section was reported as good, most mills being on full time; at Bury it was worse than in June. In the Rochdale district employment continued slack, and showed a further decline.

Employment in the principal weaving centres showed little change on the whole during July. In the Burnley district some firms extended the holiday, and many weavers were minding less than their full complement of looms. In the Blackburn district employment was bad; the number of idle looms was increasing, and the holiday stoppage at the end of the month was extended by many firms. At Darwen a large number of looms were still idle, and there was a marked decline in employment. At Accrington, Farnworth, and Nelson, full time was maintained; and there was an unsatisfied demand for weavers of certain classes of goods at the two last-named places. At Todmorden there was no material change, about 25 per cent. of the operatives being on short time or otherwise under-employed.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three periods under review :—

—	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 25th July, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a		Week ended 25th July, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
DEPARTMENTS.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	11,066	− 1·3	+ 0·8	17,668	− 7·1	+ 3·5
Spinning...	20,729	− 1·0	− 2·6	34,280	− 5·6	− 4·1
Weaving...	33,123	− 1·3	+ 0·3	59,192	− 2·0	+ 3·6
Other	7,460	+ 0·9	+ 2·4	18,323	− 1·1	+ 7·4
Not Specified	8,552	+ 0·5	− 0·7	16,168	− 5·1	+ 4·6
Total	80,930	− 0·8	− 0·3	145,631	− 3·7	+ 2·2
DISTRICTS.						
Ashton	4,222	+ 3·1	+ 3·9	7,318	− 0·6	+ 8·0
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	8,065	+ 0·0	+17·6	14,188	− 2·6	+ 25·3
Oldham	10,346	− 0·8	+ 0·2	18,143	−11·8	+ 8·6
Bolton and Leigh ...	13,916	− 0·2	− 4·5	23,459	− 4·3	− 6·0
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden	8,511	+ 0·1	+ 6·3	14,721	− 3·3	+ 28·9
Manchester	3,932	−10·4	− 7·9	6,832	− 5·2	− 2·2
Preston and Chorley ...	5,553	+ 2·0	− 3·9	9,659	+ 3·6	− 7·2
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen	8,536	− 3·0	− 6·1	16,886	− 1·3	− 2·8
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson	9,111	+ 0·2	+ 1·0	20,393	− 3·0	+ 1·5
Other Lancashire Towns	2,273	− 6·2	− 1·9	3,878	− 2·8	− 6·2
Yorkshire Towns ...	4,086	− 1·3	− 4·0	6,568	− 5·1	− 16·3
Other Districts	2,379	+ 3·6	− 9·3	3,586	+ 2·6	− 19·6
Total	80,930	− 0·8	− 0·3	145,631	− 3·7	+ 2·2

Returns from firms employing 74,694 workpeople showed that 30 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time, to the extent of 13½ hours on the average, in the week ended 25th July.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 6th July, 1925, in the principal centres, at which approximately 87 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the cotton trade were registered :—

Department.	Number of Applicants for Employment at 6th July, 1925.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with 1st June, 1925.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Card and Blowing Room	1,234	8,007	9,241	+ 110	+ 1,810	+ 1,920
Spinning	7,862	7,580	15,442	+ 1,740	+ 1,003	+ 2,743
Beaming, Warping and Winding	1,540	12,495	14,035	− 1	+ 1,916	+ 1,915
Weaving	1,425	4,990	6,415	− 612	− 1,713	− 2,325
Other Processes ...	609	522	1,131	− 152	− 52	− 204
Total ...	12,670	33,594	46,264	+ 1,085	+ 2,964	+ 4,049

The *imports* (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 51,000,800 lbs. in July 1925, compared with 61,715,200 lbs. in June, 1925, and with 64,387,000 lbs. in July, 1924.

The *exports* of cotton yarn were 14,044,700 lbs. in July, 1925, compared with 13,272,800 lbs. in June, 1925, and with 12,665,000 lbs. in July, 1924.

The *exports* of cotton piece goods were 370,841,700 square yards, as compared with 337,963,300 square yards in the previous month, and with 383,760,900 square yards in July, 1924.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT during July continued bad and was considerably worse than a year ago. A stoppage of work owing to a trade dispute began towards the end of July in Yorkshire and part of Lancashire (*see* page 267).

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 21·3 on 27th July, 1925, as compared with 19·7 on 22nd June, 1925, and 7·0 on 28th July, 1924. The figure for 27th July, 1925, is affected by the dispute, which was in progress at that date.

In Yorkshire generally, prior to the dispute, employment was bad. In the Stockport district employment continued poor and showed a considerable decline as compared with June. With blanket manufacturers at Witney an improvement was reported. At Trowbridge employment was described as fair.

In Wales a slight improvement was reported at Newtown during the last two weeks of July. At Aberystwyth there was little improvement, while in the Llanidloes district trade was reported to be virtually at a standstill.

In Scotland employment on the whole continued slack, although some improvement was reported at Greenock and Ayr.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to the numbers of workpeople employed and the total amount of wages paid in the three periods under review :—

—	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 25th July, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a		Week ended 25th July, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*

WOOLLEN INDUSTRY.

Departments.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool sorting ...	312	− 0·6	− 9·8	684	− 1·0	−11·4
Spinning	3,090	− 3·2	− 8·8	5,931	− 4·9	−18·7
Weaving	5,219	− 0·3	− 5·2	8,969	− 2·1	−11·6
Other Departments	3,779	− 0·7	− 2·3	8,675	+ 3·4	− 7·0
Not specified ...	977	− 0·9	− 0·4	2,058	...	− 5·6
TOTAL ...	13,377	− 1·1	− 5·0	26,317	− 0·8	−11·5
Districts.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Huddersfield District	1,488	− 2·7	− 5·2	3,147	− 6·3	−19·2
Leeds District ...	1,548	− 0·3	− 4·4	3,199	+ 4·2	−15·9
Dewsbury and Batley District ...	1,162	− 0·4	− 7·2	2,440	+ 3·5	−16·3
Other Parts of West Riding	2,045	+ 1·8	− 1·1	4,514	+ 1·7	− 7·0
Total, West Riding	6,243	− 0·2	− 4·1	13,300	+ 0·6	−14·0
Scotland	3,241	− 3·1	− 6·7	6,053	− 1·5	−17·0
Other Districts ...	3,893	− 0·9	− 5·2	6,964	− 2·8	+ 0·0
TOTAL ...	13,377	− 1·1	− 5·0	26,317	− 0·8	−11·5

WORSTED INDUSTRY.

Departments.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool sorting and combing ...	3,567	− 5·1	−16·9	8,195	− 0·5	−20·5
Spinning	13,591	+ 0·6	− 5·3	20,092	− 5·5	− 7·9
Weaving	5,228	− 0·9	− 2·7	9,638	− 7·6	−12·8
Other Departments	2,784	− 0·9	− 3·8	6,880	+ 4·0	− 5·6
Not specified ...	1,579	+ 0·5	− 8·5	2,571	+ 3·0	−15·0
TOTAL ...	26,749	− 0·6	− 6·6	47,376	+ 1·2	−11·4
Districts.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bradford District	13,206	− 2·4	− 8·0	24,071	− 4·5	−13·3
Keighley District	4,294	− 0·6	− 6·5	7,400	+ 5·9	−15·6
Halifax District ...	2,259	− 2·2	− 7·2	3,792	+ 3·3	− 8·0
Huddersfield District	2,647	+ 0·3	− 4·3	4,873	+ 3·3	− 5·7
Other Parts of West Riding	3,224	+ 6·7	− 3·9	5,717	+20·5	− 5·2
Total, West Riding	25,630	− 0·8	− 6·8	45,853	+ 1·2	−11·6
Other Districts ...	1,119	+ 2·1	− 1·2	1,523	+ 1·5	− 6·3
TOTAL ...	26,749	− 0·6	− 6·6	47,376	+ 1·2	−11·4

Returns from firms in the *woollen* section, employing 12,405 workpeople, showed that about 49 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in the week ended 25th July, to the extent on the average of about 10 hours. In the *worsted* section returns from firms employing 25,687 workpeople in the same week showed that about 38 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time, to the extent of about 9 hours on the average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 6th July, 1925, in the principal centres, at which approximately 67 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the woollen and worsted industries were registered :—

Departments.	Number of Applicants for Employment at 6th July, 1925.			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) as compared with 1st June, 1925.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Wool sorting ...	1,119	8	1,127	+ 30	− 24	+ 6
Wool washing and preparing	1,268	604	1,872	+ 8	+ 72	+ 80
Wool combing ...	1,360	1,517	2,877	− 200	− 37	− 237
Wool carding ...	1,502	248	1,750	− 108	− 90	− 198
Woollen spinning ...	849	397	1,246	+ 10	− 37	− 27
Worsted drawing and spinning	938	5,121	6,059	− 127	− 798	− 925
Wool winding and warping	295	323	618	+ 40	+ 72	+ 112
Worsted winding and warping	190	2,003	2,193	− 4	+ 473	+ 469
Woollen weaving ...	668	3,042	3,710	+ 102	+ 64	+ 166
Worsted weaving ...	243	3,348	3,591	+ 46	+1,428	+1,474
Other processes ...	1,495	406	1,901	− 93	+ 12	− 81
TOTAL	9,927	17,017	26,944	− 296	+1,135	+ 839

The *imports* (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 20,148,700 lbs. in July, 1925, compared with 40,060,900 lbs. in June, 1925, and with 26,191,700 lbs. in July, 1924.

The *exports* of woollen and worsted yarns were 3,460,700 lbs., compared with 2,923,500 lbs. in June, 1925, and with 4,642,800 lbs. in July, 1924.

The *exports* of woollen and worsted tissues were 19,163,100 square yards, compared with 15,507,200 square yards in June, 1925, and 26,643,600 square yards in July, 1924.

The *exports* of blankets were 76,135 pairs, 66,452 pairs and 172,195 pairs in July, 1925, June, 1925, and July, 1924.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further decline in most districts, and on the whole was worse than in June, and worse also than a year ago. An increased amount of short time was worked during the month. As has been the case for many months, employment was worse in the heavy boot trade than in the light trade.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 11·8 on 27th July, 1925, as compared with 10·2 on 22nd June, 1925, and 7·5 on 28th July, 1924.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three periods under review :—

—	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 25th July, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a		Week ended 25th July, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
England and Wales:						
London	1,895	− 1·5	− 9·5	4,152	− 5·6	− 14·1
Leicester	7,180	− 2·0	− 1·3	16,060	− 7·7	− 9·9
Leicester Country District	1,994	− 1·3	− 4·4	3,979	− 4·9	− 17·3
Northampton... ...	6,841	− 1·2	− 3·1	16,110	− 3·9	− 11·4
Northampton Country District	7,649	+ 0·1	+ 1·3	16,962	− 1·2	− 3·6
Kettering	3,171	− 0·8	− 0·8	7,924	+ 0·3	− 5·9
Stafford and District	2,493	+ 0·3	+ 0·8	5,832	− 1·9	+ 5·4
Norwich and District	3,969	− 0·3	− 4·3	8,141	− 3·8	− 11·7
Bristol, Kingswood and District	1,976	+ 0·3	− 8·6	4,021	+ 2·2	− 12·0
Leeds and District ...	1,847	− 1·7	− 2·9	3,934	− 7·5	− 5·7
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley)	4,925	− 0·2	+ 3·2	11,094	− 3·9	− 1·0
Birmingham and District	1,052	− 0·9	− 0·8	1,855	−10·3	− 19·0
Other parts of England and Wales	1,134	− 4·5	− 2·8	1,980	− 7·0	− 17·1
England and Wales.	46,126	− 0·9	− 1·7	102,044	− 3·9	− 8·1
Scotland	2,570	+ 0·7	− 2·9	5,632	+ 5·6	+ 1·3
Great Britain ...	48,696	− 0·8	− 1·8	107,676	− 3·4	− 7·6

Returns from firms employing 36,000 operatives in the week ended 25th July, 1925, showed that about 38 per cent. of these operatives worked short time in that week, to the extent of about 12 hours each, on an average.

In London employment was quiet and slightly worse than in June. At both Leicester and Northampton a decline was reported, and employment was generally depressed, with much short-time working, though there was a slight recovery at Northampton in the last week of the month in consequence of holiday orders. Employment was bad, and worse than in the previous month, at Hinckley; few firms were on full time. At Raunds employment remained fairly good, as a result of work on Government contracts; but in the Rushden district it declined, a large number of women being unemployed. Practically all operatives at Wellingborough were on short time, and employment continued bad. At Kettering less than three-quarter time was worked on an average, though here, also, as at Northampton, there was a slight recovery in the last week of the month; although women were fairly well employed, there was considerable unemployment among male operatives.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages in some districts.

Employment was poor, and worse than in June, at Leeds, though, as in previous months, factories making light footwear remained fairly busy. At Stafford employment was slack, and showed a decline, short time again being prevalent; at Norwich there was a decline, nearly all firms being on short time. A slight improvement was reported in the heavy boot trade of Kingswood, many firms reverting to full-time working; but at Bristol employment remained poor. At Street employment remained slack; in the Rossendale Valley it continued fairly good, and showed a marked improvement in the last week of the month.

At Aberdeen, Glasgow and Maybole employment was fair; it was quiet at Edinburgh, and slack at Dundee and Ayr.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 6th July, 1925, in the principal centres, at which approximately 77 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the boot and shoe industry were registered :—

Department.	Number of Applicants for Employment at 6th July, 1925.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with 1st June, 1925.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Boot and Shoe Manufacture:						
Preparing Department	167	47	214	+ 23	+ 9	+ 32
Rough Stuff Department	504	26	530	+ 34	+ 4	+ 38
Clicking Department ...	1,510	15	1,525	+ 63	− 13	+ 50
Closing Department ...	24	1,870	1,894	...	+168	+ 168
Making Department ...	2,901	48	2,949	+ 86	− 4	+ 82
Finishing Department	1,566	527	2,093	+ 231	+207	+ 438
Slipper Making	474	191	665	− 128	− 74	− 202
Clog Making	51	4	55	+ 9	− 1	+ 8
Repairing and Hand Sewn Work...	690	7	697	+ 71	− 3	+ 68
Total	7,887	2,735	10,622	+ 389	+293	+ 682

The *exports* of boots and shoes in July, 1925, amounted to 127,926 dozen pairs, or 25,339 dozen pairs more than June, 1925, but 23,079 dozen pairs less than in July, 1924.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

In the paper trade employment generally continued fair. Short time was reported in a few districts, particularly in the brown paper and hand-made sections.

With letterpress printers employment continued fairly good; in Birmingham it was slightly worse compared with the previous month, but in London, Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow there was an improvement. Employment with electrotypers and stereotypers continued good.

Employment in the lithographic printing trade was again fairly good; it was better than in June at Manchester and Glasgow, but was slightly worse at Birmingham. With lithographic artists employment was good in London, but slack, and worse than in June, at Manchester.

In the bookbinding trade employment on the whole was moderate and remained about the same as during the previous month; some short time was reported at several centres, including London and Edinburgh.

The percentage of unemployed among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and bookbinding trades was 4·6 at 27th July, compared with 4·9 at 22nd June and 4·9 at 28th July, 1924. In the paper and paper board industry, the percentage was 6·9 at 27th July, compared with 6·7 at 22nd June and 6·6 at 28th July, 1924. In the cardboard box, paper bag and stationery trades the percentage was 5·8 at 27th July, compared with 6·2 at 22nd June and 6·6 at 28th July, 1924.

The following Table summarises the returns received from Trade Unions :—

—	No. of Members of Unions at end of July, 1925.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) on a	
		July, 1925.	June, 1925.	July, 1924.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Letterpress Printing :						
London	34,928	1·6	1·7	2·2	− 0·1	− 0·6
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	13,874	3·1	3·3	3·6	− 0·2	− 0·5
Midlands and Eastern Counties	8,056	2·9	2·7	3·2	+ 0·2	− 0·3
Scotland	5,797	2·1	2·7	2·8	− 0·6	− 0·7
Other Districts ...	6,516	3·1	2·7	2·6	+ 0·4	+ 0·5
Total	69,171	2·2	2·3	2·7	− 0·1	− 0·5
Lithographic Printing	10,312	2·2	2·2	2·7	...	− 0·5
Bookbinding	14,675	3·6	3·6	4·3	...	− 0·7

BUILDING TRADE.

Employment during July, although failing to maintain fully the standard of the previous two months, remained good in most districts with skilled operatives, other than painters, but generally slack with unskilled workers; it was rather better, on the whole, than at the beginning of July, 1924 (prior to the national dispute), particularly in the London Division.

As regards individual occupations, employment continued very good generally with bricklayers and plasterers, and good, at most centres, with carpenters and joiners and with masons. A shortage of one or more of the foregoing classes of skilled operatives, chiefly bricklayers and plasterers, was again reported in a considerable number of districts. Employment with slaters and tilers varied in different districts but was fairly good on the whole; it was generally fair with plumbers. Painters experienced a further slight decline, but employment was still fairly good in many districts with skilled men; it remained slack, on the whole, with builders' labourers, although reported as good in a few districts.

The following Table shows the numbers and approximate percentages* of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 27th July, and the increase or decrease in the percentages as compared with June, 1925, and July, 1924 :—

Occupations.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 27th July, 1925.	Approximate Percentage* Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in percentage as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
Carpenters	2,505	2·0	+ 0·2	− 0·9
Bricklayers	715	1·2	+ 0·2	− 1·1
Masons	529	2·4	+ 0·2	− 0·1
Slaters	237	4·6	+ 0·7	− 1·5
Plasterers	221	1·4	+ 0·3	− 1·8
Painters	9,286	8·6	+ 2·3	− 1·1
Plumbers...	2,023	5·9	+ 0·3	− 0·7
Labourers of above ...	22,630	8·9	+ 0·3	− 2·1
All other occupations ...	21,080	21·3	+ 1·7	− 3·9
Total	59,226	8·2	+ 0·7	− 1·7
Divisions.				
London	13,886	8·9	...	− 4·3
South-Eastern	5,067	4·6	+ 1·2	− 1·8
South-Western	5,082	5·7	+ 0·8	− 1·6
Midlands...	6,196	7·8	+ 0·5	− 1·8
North-Eastern	8,429	9·6	+ 1·3	+ 1·1
North-Western	8,811	9·5	+ 0·6	− 2·0
Scotland	5,731	8·6	+ 0·9	+ 0·2
Wales	2,840	11·0	+ 1·2	+ 1·3
Northern Ireland ...	3,184	25·0	+ 2·2	+ 1·1
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	59,226	8·2	+ 0·7	− 1·7

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 137 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 14,820,000, show that in July, 1925, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £5,266,800, as compared with £4,377,400 in June, 1925, and £4,975,300 in July, 1924. Of the total for July, 1925, dwelling-houses accounted for £3,491,100; factories and workshops for £202,500; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £422,200; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,151,000.

BRICK TRADE.

Employment during July continued good on the whole and showed little change as compared with the previous month. Full time was worked in most districts.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 27th July, 1925, was 6·4, as compared with 6·2 at 22nd June, 1925, and with 6·4 at 28th July, 1924.

The following Table summarises the information received from

* Figures are not available as to the exact number of insured workpeople in each of the occupations shown in the first column of the Table in the building industry. For the purpose of computing the percentages given in the third column, the total numbers insured, in each occupation, have been roughly estimated by applying ratios derived from the exchange of unemployment books which took place in 1922 to the total number of insured workers engaged in the building industry as shown by the 1924 exchange of books. In view of the probability that changes have taken place since 1922 in the ratios referred to, the percentages of unemployed, as given in the third column, should not be regarded as more than approximate indications of the actual proportions unemployed in the different occupations.

those employers who furnished returns for the three periods under consideration :—

Districts.	Number of Workpeople. Week ended 25th July, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a Year ago.	Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. Week ended 25th July, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	1,967	− 2·6	+ 6·7	5,302	− 0·1	+ 15·0
Midlands and Eastern Counties.	5,142	+ 1·4	+13·3	13,749	− 4·4	+ 20·6
South and South-West Counties and Wales.	1,658	+ 0·5	+ 8·2	4,670	+ 0·7	+ 15·3
Scotland	231	+ 2·7	− 3·3	619	+ 6·9	+ 3·7
TOTAL	8,998	+ 0·4	+10·3	24,340	− 2·3	+ 17·8

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed a further decline during July, and there was much unemployment and short-time working. In the sanitary ware, tile and fireclay section, and in the first-class chinaware trade at Stoke-on-Trent, it continued good.

Employment was reported to be good at Worcester, fair at Bristol and moderate at Glasgow.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 19·1 at 27th July, 1925, as compared with 17·4 at 22nd June, 1925, and 11·6 at 28th July, 1924.

The following Table summarises the information received from employers who furnished returns for the three periods under review :—

—	Number of Workpeople. Week ended 25th July, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a Year ago.	Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. Week ended 25th July, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
BRANCHES.						
China Manufacture ...	1,461	− 0·3	+ 1·5	2,643	− 5·0	− 7·6
Earthenware Manufacture	8,296	− 0·8	+ 0·6	15,666	− 1·6	+ 1·0
Other Branches (including unspecified)	1,823	− 0·3	+ 1·3	3,518	+ 1·7	+ 2·5
TOTAL	11,580	− 0·6	+ 0·8	21,827	− 1·5	+ 0·1
DISTRICTS.						
North Staffordshire ...	8,709	− 0·4	+ 2·3	15,393	− 0·7	+ 0·4
Other Districts	2,871	− 1·3	− 3·6	6,434	− 3·6	− 0·5
TOTAL	11,580	− 0·6	+ 0·8	21,827	− 1·5	+ 0·1

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that of 10,494 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, 4,348, or 41 per cent., were working on an average 11 hours less than full time in the week ended 25th July, 1925.

SEAMEN.

DURING July employment continued slack on the whole. Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 27th July was 20·5, compared with 20·0 at 22nd June, and 18·2 at 28th July, 1924.

On the Thames the demand for men was fairly brisk in the first half of July, but declined somewhat later. It was quiet on the Tyne, but improved a little towards the end of the month. The demand on the Wear improved, being described as brisk at the end of the month. It was quiet to moderate on the Tees, and fair on the whole at Hull. The demand was quiet throughout the month at Southampton, and quiet to moderate at Bristol. At Avonmouth and at Newport it was generally fair. The demand at Cardiff was moderate until the latter part of the month, when a substantial improvement occurred. At Swansea it was quiet at the beginning of July, and improved subsequently, being reported to be very good at the close of the month. In the foreign-going trade on the Mersey the demand was very fair on the whole. At Manchester it was generally fair.

The demand on the Clyde fluctuated, being described as quiet at the end of the month. It was somewhat quiet at Leith, and remained very slack at Belfast.

The following Table shows the number of seamen shipped in British registered foreign-going vessels at the undermentioned ports of Great Britain and Northern Ireland during July :—

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in July, 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a Year ago.	Seven Months ended July, 1925.	Seven Months ended July, 1924.
ENGLAND & WALES:					
Liverpool†	14,185	+ 67	+ 1,627	84,992	78,979
Manchester	869	+ 130	+ 181	5,974	5,438
London	8,811	+ 197	− 1,809	56,140	57,750
Southampton ...	10,506	− 1,676	+ 2,209	65,894	55,756
Tyne Ports	2,469	+ 681	+ 283	13,942	12,015
Sunderland	418	+ 262	+ 147	1,900	1,339
Middlesbrough ...	436	+ 215	− 165	2,653	3,087
Hull	1,934	+ 612	− 11	10,695	10,781
Grimsby	24	+ 15	+ 3	52	136
Bristol‡	1,395	+ 110	+ 342	7,575	6,305
Newport, Mon. ...	1,404	+ 845	+ 214	6,020	6,013
Cardiff§	3,375	+ 1,081	+ 185	17,903	20,538
Swansea	685	− 46	− 501	4,803	5,553
SCOTLAND:					
Leith	361	− 25	− 58	2,404	2,491
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	543	+ 231	− 61	2,392	1,964
Glasgow	3,462	− 403	− 241	21,019	21,316
NORTHERN IRELAND:					
Belfast	314	+ 275	...	1,181	1,531
TOTAL	51,191	+ 2,571	+ 2,345	305,539	290,992

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during July was still slack generally.

Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, harbour and dock service 29·6 per cent. were unemployed at 27th July, 1925, as compared with 30·7 per cent. at 22nd June, 1925, and with 25·0 at 28th July, 1924.

London.—The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at docks and wharves in respect of which returns were received for each week of the month :—

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London. In Docks. By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	In Docks. By Shipowners, etc.	In Docks. Total.	At Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
Week ended—					
4th July 1925 ...	4,680	2,068	6,748	7,315	14,063
11th ,, ...	5,269	2,341	7,610	7,356	14,966
18th ,, ...	5,475	2,215	7,690	7,527	15,217
25th ,, ...	5,301	1,935	7,236	7,417	14,653
Average for 4 weeks ended 25th July, 1925	5,181	2,140	7,321	7,404	14,725
Average for June, 1925	*4,425*	*2,604*	*7,029*	*7,808*	*14,837*
Average for July, 1924	*4,872*	*2,288*	*7,160*	*7,353*	*14,513*

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in July was 1,153, as compared with 1,045 in the previous month, and with 754 in July, 1924.

East Coast.—Employment with coal trimmers and teemers on the North-East Coast continued bad. With other classes of workers it was fair and somewhat better than in June on the Tyne, but on the Wear and at Blyth it continued slack. At Hull and Middlesbrough employment was still slack, but showed a tendency to improve. At most of the East Anglian ports it was fair.

Liverpool.—Employment was fair and showed a slight improvement on the previous month. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing-houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 27th July was 15,905, compared with 15,457 in the four weeks ended 29th June, and with 14,914 in the four week ended 28th July. 1924. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £43,839 in the four weeks ended 27th July, compared with £40,174 in the four weeks ended 29th June, and with £41,003 in the four weeks ended 28th July, 1924.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—At Manchester employment was fair but worse than in June. At the South Wales ports it was still very slack generally. Slightly improved conditions were reported from Bristol and Avonmouth, but at Southampton there was a decline in consequence of a slackening in the fruit and potato traffic from the Channel Islands. At Plymouth and other South-Western ports employment continued to be fair on the whole.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment continued good at Greenock, moderate at Glasgow, and slack at Leith. At Dundee it improved, but was still described as slack. At Belfast employment improved and was good.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages.

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals.
† Including Birkenhead and Garston.
‡ Including Avonmouth and Portishead.
§ Including Barry and Penarth.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, and the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on the 27th July, 1925.

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed persons. The principal classes of persons who are excepted from such compulsory insurance are juveniles under 16 years of age, persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum, persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, and outworkers. Persons employed by local public authorities, railways and certain other public utility undertakings, members of the police forces, and persons with rights under a statutory superannuation scheme may, in certain circumstances, also be excepted.

An unemployment book, on which is recorded, *inter alia*, the industry in which he is employed, is issued to every insured person, and this book must be "lodged" at an Employment Exchange whenever the insured person to whom it relates makes a claim for unemployment benefit, or ceases to be employed in an insured trade without claiming benefit. The book must be removed and deposited with the employer for stamping as soon as employment in an insured trade is resumed.

Insured persons who are disqualified for the receipt of unemployment benefit under the trade dispute disqualification are not included in the numbers unemployed, unless they are definitely maintaining registration for other employment.

The files of "lodged" books at the Employment Exchanges thus furnish for each industrial group a record of the unemployment of insured persons. In arriving at this figure the books of those persons who are known to be working in an uninsured trade, or to be sick or deceased, or who are known to have emigrated or gone abroad, are of course excluded. In cases where information on these points is lacking the books remain in the "lodged" files, and are included in the statistics of unemployment, for a period of two months from the date on which the insured person was last in touch with the Employment Exchange.

This last item determines in the main the difference between the total number of unemployed persons given in the following table and the figure given on page 286 showing the total number of persons *registered* at Employment Exchanges as unemployed. The difference would be greater were it not that this latter figure includes uninsured persons who are maintaining registration. These do not appear in the figures of "books lodged," which relate solely to insured persons.

The term "unemployed" as used in these statistics does not necessarily mean that the person is definitely without a job. Persons who on 27th July, 1925, were not at work because they were suspended, "stood off," "furloughed," or on short time, and whose unemployment books were lodged at Exchanges, are counted in the statistics as "unemployed."

The number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland is estimated at approximately 11,514,000. This figure is computed annually, and is estimated from a count of the unemployment books which are exchanged annually. This annual exchange begins in the first week of July, but it is not until the end of September that the exchange of books is sufficiently near completion to allow of a satisfactory estimate being made. In making this annual estimate consideration is given not only to the actual number of books exchanged, but also to the number likely to be exchanged in the course of the insurance year.

In order to enable a comparison of the unemployment position to be made over a longer period than hitherto, there are given in this issue, figures showing the increase or decrease at 27th July, 1925, in the percentages unemployed, not only as compared with those of a month earlier, but also as compared with those of a year ago and two years ago respectively. The subdivision, as between males and females, of the changes in the percentages, given in previous issues, has not, however, been continued.

INDUSTRY.	Estimated Number of Insured Persons at July, 1924. (Great Britain and Northern Ireland.)			Numbers and Percentages Unemployed.								
				Number of Unemployment Books Remaining Lodged at 27th July, 1925. (Great Britain and Northern Ireland.)			Percentage Unemployed at 27th July, 1925.				Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Total Percentages (Great Britain and Northern Ireland) as compared with		
							Great Britain and Northern Ireland.			*Great Britain only.*			
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	(*Totals.*)	22nd June 1925.	28th July 1924.	23rd July 1923.
Fishing	25,150	600	25,750	2,846	87	2,933	11·3	14·5	11·4	*11·5*	− 1·1	+ 0·3	− 0·9
Mining:—													
Coal Mining	1,252,430	7,920	1,260,350	183,217	1,226	184,443	14·6	15·5	14·6	*14·6*	− 10·4	+ 7·8	+ 11·6
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	17,050	40	17,090	4,735	6	4,741	27·8	15·0	27·7	*27·8*	+ 2·3	+ 10·1	+ 4·5
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	4,950	50	5,000	820	1	821	16·6	2·0	16·4	*16·4*	+ 2·2	+ 0·4	− 5·8
Stone Quarrying and Mining	35,840	300	36,140	2,519	10	2,529	7·0	3·3	7·0	*6·2*	+ 1·0	+ 2·4	+ 2·8
Slate Quarrying and Mining	10,120	10	10,130	285	...	285	2·8	...	2·8	*2·8*	+ 1·4	+ 1·8	+ 0·3
Other Mining and Quarrying	20,550	1,610	22,160	1,171	145	1,316	5·7	9·0	5·9	*5·7*	− 1·5	+ 1·3	− 0·9
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	13,270	270	13,540	415	29	444	3·1	10·7	3·3	*3·2*	+ 0·2	− 0·7	− 1·6
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products:—													
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	13,230	260	13,490	2,207	22	2,229	16·7	8·5	16·5	*16·5*	+ 2·8	+ 8·7	+ 9·6
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manufacture	11,110	690	11,800	1,640	64	1,704	14·8	9·3	14·4	*14·4*	+ 1·1	...	+ 0·2
Cement Limekilns and Whiting Works	15,330	690	16,020	567	27	594	3·7	3·9	3·7	*3·6*	− 1·1	− 3·7	− 7·0
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	62,770	7,720	70,490	3,563	923	4,486	5·7	12·0	6·4	*6·2*	+ 0·2	...	− 1·1
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	37,960	35,290	73,250	5,194	8,824	14,018	13·7	25·0	19·1	*19·1*	+ 1·7	+ 7·5	+ 5·9
Glass Trades :—													
Glass (excluding Bottles, Optical and Scientific Glass) Manufacture	21,750	5,230	26,980	2,566	392	2,958	11·8	7·5	11·0	*10·9*	...	− 1·5	− 4·4
Glass Bottle Making	16,260	1,780	18,040	2,765	152	2,917	17·0	8·5	16·2	*16·1*	− 1·3	− 1·3	− 6·5
Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, &c.													
Chemicals Manufacture	76,010	21,630	97,640	7,377	1,206	8,583	9·7	5·6	8·8	*8·6*	+ 0·2	...	− 2·9
Explosives Manufacture	13,820	5,440	19,260	840	407	1,247	6·1	7·5	6·5	*6·5*	− 0·5	− 1·5	− 6·1
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture	12,910	3,530	16,440	618	166	784	4·8	4·7	4·8	*4·8*	+ 0·1	+ 0·1	+ 0·6
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture	58,070	21,630	79,700	4,994	1,577	6,571	8·6	7·3	8·2	*8·1*	+ 0·3	+ 0·5	− 1·4
Metal Manufacture :—													
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	29,880	310	30,190	6,427	27	6,454	21·5	8·7	21·4	*21·4*	+ 2·0	+ 6·9	+ 11·5
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges	203,150	4,120	207,270	51,564	278	51,842	25·4	6·7	25·0	*25·0*	+ 0·3	+ 5·3	+ 4·1
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	36,500	3,530	40,030	4,644	292	4,936	12·7	8·3	12·3	*12·4*	+ 0·2	+ 1·5	− 3·6
Manufacture of Tin Plates	24,960	4,300	29,260	3,524	342	3,866	14·1	8·0	13·2	*13·2*	− 5·8	+ 10·6	+ 9·7
Iron and Steel Tube Making	25,690	1,530	27,220	5,106	175	5,281	19·9	11·4	19·4	*19·4*	+ 1·1	+ 6·1	− 0·5
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manufacture	20,480	4,010	24,490	3,173	467	3,640	15·5	11·6	14·9	*14·8*	+ 0·7	+ 2·8	+ 5·1
Engineering, etc. :—													
Engineering: Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	588,500	38,880	627,380	75,920	1,992	77,912	12·9	5·1	12·4	*12·3*	+ 0·1	− 1·1	− 7·9
Electrical Engineering	58,080	13,450	71,530	3,358	930	4,288	5·8	6·9	6·0	*6·0*	+ 0·4	+ 0·4	− 1·2
Marine Engineering, etc.	64,860	1,250	66,110	13,386	64	13,450	20·6	5·1	20·3	*20·2*	+ 0·9	+ 4·2	− 1·9
Constructional Engineering	23,120	890	24,010	3,000	44	3,044	13·0	4·9	12·7	*12·6*	+ 0·2	+ 0·8	+ 2·8
Construction and Repair of Vehicles :—													
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	184,500	18,840	203,340	12,805	1,295	14,100	6·9	6·9	6·9	*6·9*	+ 0·9	− 1·4	− 2·7
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc.	22,090	2,460	24,550	2,327	234	2,561	10·5	9·5	10·4	*10·2*	+ 0·6	− 0·3	− 3·0
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tramcar Building	51,000	1,180	52,180	3,499	39	3,538	6·9	3·3	6·8	*6·8*	+ 0·1	+ 1·4	+ 2·0

INDUSTRY.	Estimated Number of Insured Persons at July, 1924. (Great Britain and Northern Ireland.)			Numbers and Percentages Unemployed.									
				Number of Unemployment Books Remaining Lodged at 27th July, 1925. (Great Britain and Northern Ireland.)			Percentage Unemployed at 27th July, 1925.				Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Total Percentages (Great Britain and Northern Ireland) as compared with		
							Great Britain and Northern Ireland.			*Great Britain only.*			
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	(*Totals.*)	22nd June 1925.	28th July 1924.	23rd July 1923.
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ...	251,610	3,480	255,090	84,068	252	84,320	33·4	7·2	33·1	*33·4*	+ 0·3	+ 6·7	− 10·1
Metal Trades :—													
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding	74,780	7,090	81,870	8,473	668	9,141	11·3	9·4	11·2	*11·0*	+ 0·5	+ 0·8	− 6·3
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ...	11,970	880	12,850	1,086	29	1,115	9·1	3·3	8·7	*8·6*	+ 0·6	− 1·4	− 8·0
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture	48,700	26,240	74,940	3,355	2,071	5,426	6·9	7·9	7·2	*7·2*	− 0·5	...	− 2·9
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making	23,540	8,140	31,680	3,260	863	4,123	13·8	10·6	13·0	*13·0*	+ 0·5	− 0·8	− 4·5
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture	15,630	11,860	27,490	2,159	1,459	3,618	13·8	12·3	13·2	*13·2*	− 0·4	+ 1·5	− 3·7
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture	18,600	11,210	29,810	2,286	1,409	3,695	12·3	12·6	12·4	*12·4*	+ 0·3	− 2·7	− 8·2
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	5,330	430	5,760	496	8	504	9·3	1·9	8·8	*8·6*	+ 2·2	+ 4·3	+ 2·2
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture	27,420	19,940	47,360	3,321	1,964	5,285	12·1	9·8	11·2	*11·1*	+ 0·5	− 0·7	− 2·4
Other Metal Industries	112,180	63,370	175,550	10,943	7,208	18,151	9·8	11·4	10·3	*10·3*	− 0·1	− 0·8	− 1·0
Textile Trades :—													
Cotton	201,450	360,940	562,390	19,530	45,589	65,119	9·7	12·6	11·6	*11·6*	+ 2·9	− 4·2	− 9·7
Woollen and Worsted	110,650	150,240	260,890	21,413	34,082	55,495	19·4	22·7	21·3	*21·2*	+ 1·6	+ 14·3	+ 12·0
Silk	15,880	25,840	41,720	897	1,989	2,886	5·6	7·7	6·9	*6·9*	− 0·2	+ 2·7	+ 0·2
Linen	25,620	57,510	83,130	8,348	24,598	32,946	32·6	42·8	39·6	*30·5*	+ 2·2	+ 27·6	+ 19·9
Jute	13,150	28,070	41,220	4,111	9,853	13,964	31·3	35·1	33·9	*33·9*	+ 18·0	+ 24·7	+ 23·0
Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making	7,620	12,980	20,600	888	2,974	3,862	11·7	22·9	18·7	*15·4*	+ 1·2	+ 4·8	+ 3·9
Hosiery	20,330	73,080	93,410	1,652	8,096	9,748	8·1	11·1	10·4	*10·2*	+ 1·0	+ 4·5	+ 2·7
Lace	8,440	11,890	20,330	1,949	1,863	3,812	23·1	15·7	18·8	*18·8*	+ 2·2	+ 1·2	− 6·3
Carpet Manufacture	11,810	15,150	26,960	763	2,166	2,929	6·5	14·3	10·9	*10·8*	+ 0·3	+ 4·3	+ 5·8
Other Textile Industries	13,230	30,650	43,880	1,212	4,034	5,246	9·2	13·2	12·0	*11·4*	− 0·5	+ 1·2	− 2·3
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	83,920	33,600	117,520	11,878	5,173	17,051	14·2	15·4	14·5	*13·8*	+ 2·3	+ 2·3	+ 2·8
Leather and Leather Goods :—													
Tanning, Currying and Dressing ...	34,020	8,580	42,600	4,151	1,196	5,347	12·2	13·9	12·6	*12·5*	+ 0·3	+ 2·1	+ 1·2
Saddlery, Harness and other Leather Goods Manufacture	15,020	12,760	27,780	1,538	1,270	2,808	10·2	10·0	10·1	*10·0*	− 0·1	+ 0·1	− 1·2
Clothing Trades :—													
Tailoring	66,200	123,250	189,450	6,545	11,208	17,753	9·9	9·1	9·4	*9·3*	+ 4·0	+ 3·0	+ 2·7
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery	11,610	94,780	106,390	886	5,521	6,407	7·6	5·8	6·0	*5·6*	+ 1·5	+ 0·7	− 0·3
Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait) Manufacture	14,190	19,440	33,630	869	2,119	2,988	6·1	10·9	8·9	*8·9*	+ 3·0	+ 0·6	+ 0·7
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Making	7,340	64,740	72,080	410	5,361	5,771	5·6	8·3	8·0	*6·5*	+ 1·0	+ 2·3	+ 0·6
Other Dress Industries	10,790	18,920	29,710	947	1,644	2,591	8·8	8·7	8·7	*8·7*	+ 0·4	...	− 3·2
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades	92,220	50,270	142,490	12,103	4,687	16,790	13·1	9·3	11·8	*11·6*	+ 1·6	+ 4·3	+ 1·3
Food, Drink and Tobacco :—													
Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making ...	94,580	49,960	144,540	7,993	3,243	11,236	8·5	6·5	7·8	*7·5*	− 0·5	− 0·2	− 2·2
Grain Milling	28,010	3,520	31,530	1,278	179	1,457	4·6	5·1	4·6	*4·4*	− 0·6	− 0·8	− 1·6
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery	25,160	47,010	72,170	1,644	5,333	6,977	6·5	11·3	9·7	*9·6*	− 1·9	+ 1·2	− 1·6
Other Food Industries	50,670	57,810	108,480	4,139	5,469	9,608	8·2	9·5	8·9	*8·8*	− 1·0	− 0·5	− 0·3
Drink Industries	85,890	23,010	108,900	4,860	2,167	7,027	5·7	9·4	6·5	*6·1*	+ 0·4	− 0·2	+ 0·2
Tobacco, Cigar, Cigarette and Snuff Manufacture	13,760	30,090	43,850	705	1,764	2,469	5·1	5·9	5·6	*4·9*	− 1·2	− 2·0	− 1·3
Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork :—													
Sawmilling and Machined Woodwork	54,690	2,990	57,680	4,959	236	5,195	9·1	7·9	9·0	*8·7*	− 0·2	...	− 2·4
Wood Box and Packing Case Making	10,700	1,840	12,540	1,545	292	1,837	14·4	15·9	14·6	*14·4*	+ 0·9	+ 1·5	− 2·6
Furniture Making, Upholstering, etc.	79,410	17,350	96,760	5,027	1,185	6,212	6·3	6·8	6·4	*6·3*	+ 0·7	− 0·6	− 1·3
Other Woodworking	20,070	6,430	26,500	2,046	1,005	3,051	10·2	15·6	11·5	*10·9*	+ 0·2	− 0·4	− 2·7
Printing and Paper Trades :—													
Paper and Paper Board Making ...	39,920	14,690	54,610	2,684	1,081	3,765	6·7	7·4	6·9	*6·9*	+ 0·2	+ 0·3	− 1·3
Cardboard Boxes, Paper Bags and Stationery	19,360	35,490	54,850	941	2,238	3,179	4·9	6·3	5·8	*5·8*	− 0·4	− 0·8	− 1·8
Wall Paper Making and Paper Staining	4,100	1,380	5,480	124	43	167	3·0	3·1	3·0	*3·1*	− 0·8	− 0·9	− 1·4
Stationery and Typewriting Requisites (not paper)	1,980	2,480	4,460	159	120	279	8·0	4·8	6·3	*6·2*	+ 0·7	+ 1·9	+ 0·9
Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding	155,650	84,490	240,140	6,612	4,396	11,008	4·2	5·2	4·6	*4·6*	− 0·3	− 0·3	− 1·0
Building and Construction of Works :—													
Building	713,030	8,530	721,560	58,995	231	59,226	8·3	2·7	8·2	*7·9*	+ 0·7	− 1·7	− 4·0
Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	133,770	810	134,580	22,386	20	22,406	16·7	2·5	16·7	*16·2*	+ 1·2	...	− 1·8
Other Manufacturing Industries :—													
Rubber Manufacture	33,070	25,150	58,220	3,128	2,902	6,030	9·5	11·5	10·4	*10·4*	+ 1·7	+ 0·8	− 0·6
Oilcloth, Linoleum, etc., Manufacture	11,820	2,380	14,200	520	121	641	4·4	5·1	4·5	*4·5*	+ 0·4	− 1·9	− 2·1
Brush and Broom Making	5,450	4,360	9,810	696	549	1,245	12·8	12·6	12·7	*12·3*	− 0·4	+ 0·7	+ 1·5
Scientific and Photographic Instrument and Apparatus Manufacture	12,700	7,000	19,700	554	336	890	4·4	4·8	4·5	*4·5*	+ 0·3	+ 0·1	− 0·7
Musical Instrument Making	16,330	3,550	19,880	1,191	331	1,522	7·3	9·3	7·7	*7·6*	+ 1·3	− 3·9	+ 0·4
Toys, Games, and Sports Requisites Manufacture	5,940	5,100	11,040	503	346	849	8·5	6·8	7·7	*7·7*	− 1·1	− 1·1	− 2·3
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply Industries	165,660	5,890	171,550	9,576	174	9,750	5·8	3·0	5·7	*5·5*	− 0·2	...	− 1·4
Transport and Communication :—													
Railway Service	163,940	9,270	173,210	9,443	248	9,691	5·8	2·7	5·6	*5·5*	+ 0·1	+ 0·9	− 0·4
Tramway and Omnibus Service ...	115,110	4,210	119,320	3,662	153	3,815	3·2	3·6	3·2	*3·2*	− 0·2	+ 0·5	+ 0·1
Other Road Transport	146,050	4,380	150,430	18,776	144	18,920	12·9	3·3	12·6	*12·2*	− 0·6	− 2·3	− 4·9
Shipping Service	113,880	5,240	119,120	24,042	372	24,414	21·1	7·1	20·5	*20·4*	+ 0·5	+ 2·3	+ 1·9
Canal, River, Dock and Harbour Service	193,570	1,900	195,470	57,672	90	57,762	29·8	4·7	29·6	*29·3*	− 1·1	+ 4·6	+ 2·5
Other Transport and Communication and Storage	21,030	2,220	23,250	3,195	281	3,476	15·2	12·7	15·0	*14·9*	+ 0·7	− 0·4	− 5·1
Distributive Trades	807,880	544,230	1,352,110	57,205	27,123	84,328	7·1	5·0	6·2	*6·0*	− 0·1	+ 0·1	+ 0·3
Commercial, Banking, Insurance and Finance	64,080	36,660	100,740	4,076	804	4,880	6·4	2·2	4·8	*4·8*	− 0·1	+ 0·8	− 0·2
Miscellaneous Trades and Services :—													
National Government	129,040	31,930	160,970	10,102	899	11,001	7·8	2·8	6·8	*6·8*	− 0·2	− 1·2	− 4·3
Local Government	224,310	19,400	243,710	18,811	405	19,216	8·4	2·1	7·9	*7·5*	+ 0·1	+ 1·4	+ 2·0
Professional Services	65,580	45,100	110,680	2,632	970	3,602	4·0	2·2	3·3	*3·2*	...	− 0·5	− 0·8
Entertainments and Sports	42,550	23,400	65,950	5,029	2,224	7,253	11·8	9·5	11·0	*10·8*	− 0·5	− 1·9	− 3·1
Hotel, Boarding House, Club Services	101,150	188,770	289,520	9,388	14,103	23,491	9·3	7·5	8·1	*8·0*	− 0·6	− 1·4	− 1·8
Laundries, Dyeing and Dry Cleaning	21,360	91,510	112,870	1,145	4,647	5,792	5·4	5·1	5·1	*4·9*	− 0·1	− 0·3	+ 0·1
Other Industries and Services ...	84,710	29,100	113,810	23,177	2,660	25,837	27·4	9·1	22·7	*22·1*	− 0·9	− 4·2	− 3·6
TOTAL	8,480,600	3,033,400	11514,000	1,027,229	299,681	1,326,910	12·1	9·9	11·5	*11·2*	− 0·7	+ 1·6	...

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

Number of Claims to Benefit.

During the four weeks ended 27th July, 1925, 799,390 fresh claims were added to the register, while 911,711 claims were removed from the register. At 27th July the number of claims current was 1,133,535, as compared with 1,245,856 at 29th June.

Claims to Extended Benefit.

Claims to "extended" benefit—*i.e.*, benefit beyond that to which the claimant is entitled in respect of contributions paid—are submitted for decision to the Local Employment Committees, composed, in the main, of representatives of employers and workpeople. The following Table shows the number of claims dealt with by these Committees in Great Britain during the period 9th June to 13th July, 1925 :—

Applications referred to Committees during period ...	325,118
Applications admitted by Committees during period :—	
(*a*) For 12 weeks	92,851
(*b*) For less than 12 weeks	183,557
Applications rejected during period	50,723

Of the total number of applications rejected during the period, 4,185 were rejected as not normally insurable and not seeking to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment, 2,332 were rejected on the ground that insurable employment was not likely to be available, 14,370 were rejected as not having served a reasonable period of insurable employment during the preceding two years, and 13,877 were rejected as not making every reasonable effort to obtain suitable employment, or not willing to accept suitable employment.

Unemployment Fund.

During the four weeks ended 25th July, 1925, the receipts and payments of the Unemployment Fund were approximately as shown in the following Table; figures for the four weeks ended 27th June, 1925, and for the four weeks ended 26th July, 1924, are also given for purposes of comparison :—

	Four weeks ended 25th July, 1925.	Four weeks ended 27th June, 1925.	Four weeks ended 26th July, 1924.
	£	£	£
Contributions (Receipts) :—			
By Employers	1,660,000	1,580,000	1,600,000
„ Employed Persons	1,490,000	1,420,000	1,440,000
„ Service Departments (Admiralty, War Office, Air Ministry) ...	30,000	20,000	10,000
„ Exchequer	1,130,000	1,010,000	1,090,000
Total	4,310,000	4,030,000	4,140,000
Payments :—			
Benefit	3,500,000	3,530,000	2,350,000
Other payments*	570,000	400,000	600,000
Total	4,070,000	3,930,000	2,950,000
Treasury Advances outstanding at end of period	8,010,000	8,100,000	5,930,000

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.†

The number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as unemployed on 27th July, 1925, was 1,262,328. Of this number, 948,407 were men, 34,630 boys, 246,411 women and 32,880 girls. Compared with 29th June, there was a decrease of 105,798. In the men's department there was a decrease of 113,176, while in the cases of women and juveniles there were increases of 5,132 and 2,246 respectively.

During the four weeks ended 27th July, the number of vacancies filled by Employment Exchanges was 105,041, of which 56,686 were for men, 31,736 for women, and 16,619 for juveniles.

Week ended	Applications from Employers. During Week.	Applications from Employers. Outstanding at end of Week.	Vacancies Filled.	Number of Workpeople Registered as Unemployed.
29th June, 1925... ...	31,483	25,889	28,223	1,368,126
6th July, 1925 ...	30,553	25,302	26,581	1,362,105
13th „ „ ...	29,617	25,040	25,729	1,316,744
20th „ „ ...	29,389	24,450	25,811	1,287,283
27th „ „ ...	31,582	24,522	26,920	1,262,328
Total (4 weeks) ...	121,141	...	105,041‡	...

* Includes refunds at age 60 and compensation for the abolition thereof, cost of administration, etc.

† The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and refer to all workpeople on the "Registers" of Exchanges, including persons "suspended" or "stood off," and those who, although employed on a basis of systematic short time, were not actually at work on the date in question. For Great Britain alone, the corresponding figures, as published in the Press, show that on 27th July, 1925, the numbers registered as unemployed were 912,500 men, 220,400 women, and 64,700 juveniles, as compared with 970,000 men, 239,000 women, and 65,000 juveniles at 29th December, 1924.

‡ This figure includes a weekly average of about 800 placings of casual workers, such as dock labourers and coal porters.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as unemployed on 27th July, 1925. In certain cases—*e.g.*, Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.—the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Area.	Number of Persons registered as Unemployed on 27th July, 1925. Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with 29th June, 1925.
London Division ...	*102,050*	*25,490*	*8,105*	*135,645*	− *4,684*
South-Eastern Division	*26,982*	*5,589*	*2,472*	*35,043*	− *1,617*
Brighton	1,460	223	79	1,762	+ 14
Chatham	1,788	244	453	2,485	− 137
Ipswich	1,061	168	81	1,310	− 322
Norwich	2,585	570	102	3,257	+ 237
Rest of South-Eastern	20,088	4,384	1,757	26,229	− 1,409
South-Western Division	*41,505*	*8,163*	*3,439*	*53,107*	− *4,172*
Bristol	10,171	2,270	770	13,211	− 1,923
Plymouth	3,921	470	416	4,807	− 193
Portsmouth ...	4,348	636	285	5,269	− 127
Reading	915	65	91	1,071	− 145
Southampton ...	4,645	335	409	5,389	− 54
Swindon	249	60	111	420	+ 8
Rest of South-Western	17,256	4,327	1,357	22,940	− 1,738
Midlands Division ...	*104,416*	*37,148*	*8,175*	*149,739*	− *39,116*
Birmingham ...	17,712	7,472	3,305	28,489	+ 3,030
Coventry	1,652	232	27	1,911	+ 599
Cradley Heath ...	3,088	566	178	3,832	− 1,187
Derby	856	435	158	1,449	− 11
Leicester	3,974	3,202	160	7,336	+ 1,898
Northampton ...	1,387	730	102	2,219	+ 503
Nottingham ...	6,221	2,066	323	8,610	− 4,901
Smethwick	2,354	1,057	97	3,508	− 336
Stoke-on-Trent ...	13,358	7,317	710	21,385	− 1,895
Walsall	4,211	851	207	5,269	− 2,114
West Bromwich ...	2,334	494	91	2,919	− 186
Wolverhampton ...	3,653	820	158	4,631	+ 133
Rest of Midlands ...	43,616	11,906	2,659	58,181	− 34,649
North-Eastern Division	*250,962*	*42,886*	*15,876*	*309,724*	− *20,469*
Barnsley	1,690	174	84	1,948	− 923
Bradford	10,037	6,861	929	17,827	+ 1,188
Darlington	2,225	151	80	2,456	− 104
Dewsbury	1,341	915	67	2,323	− 628
Doncaster	749	50	54	853	− 1,885
Gateshead	10,001	681	1,078	11,760	+ 1,906
Grimsby	2,114	200	358	2,672	+ 43
Halifax	2,447	1,843	155	4,445	− 802
Hartlepools ...	6,671	165	304	7,140	− 105
Huddersfield ...	3,363	2,574	225	6,162	− 958
Hull	8,987	729	785	10,501	− 186
Leeds	11,569	5,384	267	17,220	− 25
Lincoln	1,953	376	158	2,487	+ 32
Middlesbrough ...	10,450	336	722	11,508	− 249
Newcastle-on-Tyne...	15,299	1,181	1,086	17,566	− 1,806
Rotherham	2,007	239	183	2,429	− 1,079
Sheffield	20,024	2,596	1,130	23,750	− 634
South Shields ...	6,766	313	482	7,561	+ 179
Stockton-on-Tees ...	7,891	215	398	8,504	− 53
Sunderland	17,233	657	845	18,735	+ 120
York	1,272	216	163	1,651	− 151
Rest of North-Eastern	106,873	17,030	6,323	130,226	− 14,349
North-Western Division	*158,033*	*61,553*	*12,731*	*232,317*	− *11,508*
Accrington	783	496	32	1,311	− 22
Ashton-under-Lyne	2,391	1,933	200	4,524	+ 832
Barrow	4,878	161	152	5,191	+ 206
Birkenhead	4,919	254	269	5,442	+ 221
Blackburn	2,932	3,097	329	6,358	+ 508
Blackpool	564	100	22	686	− 211
Bolton	4,422	3,018	485	7,925	− 170
Burnley	1,797	1,137	105	3,039	− 71
Bury	894	638	34	1,566	− 330
Chorley	1,074	843	101	2,018	− 1,710
Liverpool	44,408	5,447	4,122	53,977	− 701
Manchester	19,420	7,872	916	28,208	+ 880
Nelson	491	220	4	715	− 300
Oldham	6,591	4,304	333	11,228	+ 3,046
Preston	2,666	1,765	144	4,575	− 2,276
Rochdale	2,756	1,800	193	4,749	− 393
St. Helens	2,350	147	206	2,703	− 4,453
Salford	7,189	3,125	771	11,085	− 810
Stockport	3,110	2,606	404	6,120	+ 981
Warrington	1,712	585	113	2,410	− 63
Wigan	4,896	3,558	659	9,113	− 1,611
Rest of North-Western	37,790	18,447	3,137	59,374	− 5,061
Scotland Division ...	*153,210*	*36,986*	*10,339*	*200,535*	− *5,879*
Aberdeen	4,195	1,178	249	5,622	− 133
Clydebank	3,012	177	205	3,394	+ 230
Dundee	8,021	8,356	938	17,315	+ 7,395
Edinburgh	9,249	1,596	499	11,344	− 1,704
Glasgow	55,823	10,700	3,109	69,632	− 1,695
Greenock	7,058	776	458	8,292	− 464
Motherwell	4,772	234	189	5,195	+ 598
Paisley	4,086	881	252	5,219	− 280
Rest of Scotland ...	56,994	13,088	4,440	74,522	− 9,826
Wales Division ...	*75,408*	*2,599*	*3,514*	*81,521*	− *19,167*
Cardiff	5,940	441	439	6,820	− 636
Llanelly	2,444	109	98	2,651	− 263
Newport	2,538	177	221	2,936	− 131
Swansea	4,833	185	388	5,406	− 282
Rest of Wales ...	59,653	1,687	2,368	63,708	− 17,855
Northern Ireland ...	*35,841*	*25,997*	*2,859*	*64,697*	+ *814*
Belfast	24,267	17,389	1,928	43,584	+ 1,087
Londonderry ...	2,406	1,038	135	3,579	+ 20
Lurgan	664	1,244	83	1,991	+ 131
Lisburn	521	889	109	1,519	+ 530
Newry	841	524	48	1,413	+ 72
Rest of Northern Ireland	7,142	4,913	556	12,611	− 1,026
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	*948,407*	*246,411*	*67,510*	*1,262,328*	− *105,798*

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in July, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, resulted in an aggregate reduction of over £42,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 790,000 workpeople, and in an increase of about £1,150 in the weekly wages of 9,500 workpeople.

The groups of industries principally affected were as shown below :—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
			£	£
Mining and Quarrying ...	350	387,000	5	21,900
Metal	100	47,000	15	2,800
Textile	1,100	83,000	230	1,500
Transport	350	200,000	50	9,900
Public Utility Services ...	1,100	36,000	50	3,400
Other	6,500	35,000	800	2,700
Total	9,500	788,000	1,150	42,200

The principal reduction in the mining group affected coal miners in Yorkshire and the East Midlands, where the percentage addition to basis rates was reduced by nearly 4 per cent., equivalent to nearly $2\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. on current rates. A reduction of about $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on current rates also occurred in the wages of coal miners in the Radstock district. Ironstone miners in Cleveland had their wages reduced by over $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on current rates, and iron ore miners in Cumberland and Furness by amounts varying from 1d. to 3d. per shift.

In the metal group there were reductions in the wages of blast-furnace workers in most of the principal centres in England and Wales, the reductions varying from under 1 per cent. on current rates in South Wales and Monmouthshire to over 3 per cent. on current rates in Cleveland and in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England sustained a reduction equivalent to over $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on current rates. There were reductions in the bobbin-making industry amounting to 2s. and 1s. per week for men and women respectively. Under the Trade Boards Acts there was a decrease of 5 per cent. on basis rates in the minimum rates of wages of chain makers.

In the textile group there were decreases in the cost-of-living wages of workpeople employed in the textile bleaching, dyeing, etc., trades, amounting to about 1 per cent. on current rates in Yorkshire, and to 6d. or 7d. per week and 3d. per week in the case of men and women respectively in Lancashire and Scotland. The bonus of woollen and worsted operatives at Leicester was reduced from 4d. to $3\frac{1}{2}$d. on each shilling earned.

The reductions in the transport group mainly affected railway traffic workers, a considerable number of whom (including most of the lower-rated men) sustained a decrease of 1s. per week under a cost-of-living sliding scale.

In the public utility services there was a reduction of $\frac{1}{2}$d. per hour under cost-of-living sliding scales in the wages of men employed in waterworks undertakings in London, Yorkshire and the North-Eastern and Midland Counties, and in those of men employed in the electricity supply industry, with the exception of London, the North-East Coast and Yorkshire.

In the other industrial groups the principal changes were increases in the wages of workpeople employed in the explosives industry, and decreases in the wages of those employed in the seed crushing and oil milling industry and of wholesale warehouse workers at Manchester.

Of the total decrease of £42,200 per week in July, over £23,000 took effect under sliding scales based on the proceeds of the industry or on selling prices; £18,500 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales; £5,000 took effect under arrangements made by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople (nearly the whole of which is included in the above amount for cost-of-living scales); and the remainder, amounting to less than £500, took effect after direct negotiations between employers and workpeople.

Of the increases, totalling £1,150 per week, £1,000 took effect after direct negotiation between the parties; £100 was the result of the operation of cost-of-living sliding scales; and the remainder was mainly the result of arbitration or mediation. Changes preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work amounted to less than £20 per week.

Summary of Changes reported in January–July, 1925.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople in Great Britain and Northern Ireland affected by changes in rates of wages reported to the Department during the seven completed months of 1925, and the net aggregate amounts of such changes :—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople† affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
			£	£
Mining and Quarrying...	4,000	396,000	600	65,700
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ...	27,000	1,000	4,100	160
Iron and Steel	14,000	176,000	750	16,200
Engineering and Shipbuilding	6,000	600	900	55
Other Metal	31,000	57,000	4,600	5,800
Textile	60,000	137,000	4,200	6,500
Clothing...	218,000	250	21,900	15
Food, Drink and Tobacco	20,000	6,700	1,200	650
Woodworking, etc. ...	4,000	7,500	350	700
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	10,000	...	1,400	...
Building and Allied Trades	43,000	...	4,900	...
Transport	209,000	450	12,600	20
Public Utility Services	171,000	20,000	16,300	1,700
Other	35,000	5,500	2,300	800
Total	852,000	808,000	76,100	98,300

In the corresponding seven months of 1924 there were net increases of nearly £580,000 in the weekly wages of over 2,600,000 workpeople, and net reductions of nearly £44,000 in the weekly wages of 600,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes in hours of labour were reported during July.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JULY, 1925.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (*Decreases in italics.*)
			AGRICULTURE.	
Agriculture	Suffolk	20 July	Male workers	Rates previously fixed (viz., 7d. per hour for adult workers 21 years and over, with lower rates for those under 21) extended for a further period,‡ subject to the condition that where the weekly hours are less than those stipulated (viz., 50 in summer and 48 in winter) the rate of wages shall be adjusted so as to yield the same wages as would be payable for a week of 50 or 48 hours as the case may be.§
	Dorset	26 July	Male and female workers	Rates previously fixed‖ extended up to 27 February, 1926.‡
			MINING AND QUARRYING.	
Coal Mining	Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Cannock Chase and Warwickshire.	1 July	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other trades.	*Decrease of* 3·96 *per cent. on the standard base rate of* 1911, *leaving wages at the minimum of* 46·66¶ *per cent. above the standard of* 1911,** *subject to lower paid men receiving a subsistence allowance up to a maximum of* 6*d. per shift, provided that the gross daily wage does not exceed* 8*s.* 9*d. per shift.*††
	Radstock	25 June		*Decrease of* 3·52 *per cent. on standard base rate of* 1918, *leaving wages* 52·24 *per cent. above the standard of* 1918.

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, police, agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of changes in the current rates of wages of agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks are included in the list of principal changes recorded. The statistics relate to full-time rates of wages, and do not take into account the effect of short-time working.

† In addition to the numbers quoted, wages stand at the same level as at the beginning of the year in the case of about 165,000 workpeople, whose wages have been increased and reduced by equal amounts during the year.

‡ The minimum rates of wages referred to took effect under Orders of the Agricultural Wages Board, in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924.

§ A clause in the previous Order under which a week of 50 hours in summer and 48 in winter was guaranteed to workers who presented themselves at the place of employment ready to work was omitted from the new Order referred to above.

‖ For particulars of the actual rates, *see* the issues of this GAZETTE for February (p. 55) and April (p. 134).

¶ In the case of West Yorkshire the surface workers' percentage addition to the 1911 standard from 1 July was 45 for the Eastern Area and 41·66 for the Western Area (subject to the conditions described in footnote ** below).

** In accordance with the terms of the National Agreement of June, 1924, the above change was subject to the condition that the wages of an adult day-wage workman should not fall below a sum represented by adding 40 per cent. to the standard wages of the lowest-paid class of day-wage workmen in the district.

†† The subsistence allowance quoted took effect under an Arbitration Award dated 17 March, and applied generally to men 21 years of age and over, except in West Yorkshire, where the allowance was paid to underground men, 21 years and over, and to surfacemen, 22 years and over. The allowance was generally effective from 17 March, but in Derbyshire (except South Derbyshire) it was made retrospective to November, 1924. In the case of Warwickshire, surfacemen are not to fall below a minimum of 8s. per shift, and underground men 8s. 6d. per shift.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JULY, 1925 (*continued*).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (*Decreases in italics.*)
			MINING AND QUARRYING (*continued*).	
Coke and By-products	South Yorkshire ...	1 July	Cokemen and by-product workers	*Decrease of 3·96 per cent. on standard base rates, leaving wages at the minimum of 46·66 per cent. above standard, subject to labourers receiving a subsistence allowance up to a maximum of 6d. per shift, provided that the gross daily wage does not exceed 8s. 9d. per shift.*
Iron Mining	Cleveland	27 July	Ironstone miners	*Decrease of 2·7 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 65·5 per cent. above the standard. Rates after change for labourers: underground, 3s. 4d. to 3s. 8d. per shift; surface, 3s. 4d. to 3s. 6d.; plus in each case 65·5 per cent., plus amounts varying according to basis rate from 5d. to 1d. per shift.*
	Cumberland... ...	20 July	Workpeople employed at iron-ore mines.	*Decrease* of 2d. per shift in the bargain price for iron-ore miners (8s. 10d. to 8s. 8d.), of 2d. per shift in the minimum wage (6s. 2d. to 6s.), of 1½d. per shift for winding enginemen (7s. 10¼d. to 7s. 8¾d.), of 1d. per shift for other underground and surface workers, and of ½d. per shift for boys under 16 years; also bonus reduced for certain classes† from 5d. to 4d. per shift. Rate after change for 1st class or leading labourers, 5s. 8½d. per shift, plus a bonus of 4d. per shift.*
	Furness District ...	12 July	Iron-ore miners and surfacemen (except blacksmiths and fitters whose wages are not regulated by sliding-scale arrangements).	*Decrease* of 3d. per shift in the bargain price (8s. to 7s. 9d.), of 3d. per shift in the minimum wage (7s. 3d. to 7s.), of 2d. per shift for surfacemen, and of 1d. per shift for boys under 16 years.*
	Leicestershire and Lincolnshire.	27 or 29 July	Ironstone quarrymen	*Decrease* of 4 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 16 per cent. above the standard of 1920.*
	Northamptonshire ...	22 July	Ironstone miners and quarrymen...	*Decrease* of 4¼ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 45 per cent. above the standard of 1920.‡*
	Banbury District ...	29 July	Ironstone miners and quarrymen...	*Decrease* of 4¼ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 45 per cent. above the standard.‡*
Lead Mining	Wearhead and Allendale.	6 July	Underground and surface workers	Bonus* increased from 5s. 9d. to 6s. per week.
Quarrying	West Cumberland ...	13 July	Limestone quarryworkers	*Decrease* of 1d. per shift for blacksmiths and joiners, of 1½d. per shift for other men, and of ¾d. per shift for boys under 16 years. Rate after change for day labourers, 6s. 5½d., plus a bonus of 7½d. per shift.*
	South and West Durham.	27 July	Limestone quarryworkers	*Decrease of 2·7 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 65·5 per cent. above the standard.*
	Northamptonshire ...	22 July	Limestone quarryworkers	*Decrease* of 4¼ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 45 per cent. above the standard of 1920.‡*
	Cornwall	1 May	Granite quarryworkers	Increase of ½d. per hour for masons and cutters, and of ⅛d. per hour for labourers. Rates after change: masons and cutters, 1s. 4½d. per hour; quarry labourers, 1s. 0⅜d.
			BRICK, POTTERY, GLASS, CHEMICAL, ETC., TRADES.	
Cement	Thames District ...	4 June	Skilled engineering artisans employed in the cement industry.	Bonus of 1d. per hour granted.
	Medway District ...			Increase of ½d. per hour in the basic rate, and bonus of 1d. per hour granted.
Explosives Manufacture	Great Britain§ ...	§	Timeworkers and pieceworkers:— Adult male workers	Increase of 1d. per hour, and war bonus of 17s. per week previously granted consolidated into wages. Minimum time rate after change: 38s. per week, plus 1d. per hour.
			Youths between 18 years and adult age.	Increase of ¾d. per hour, and war bonus consolidated into wages.
			Youths under 18 years, and female workers.	Increase of ½d. per hour, and war bonus consolidated into wages.
			Pieceworkers	Piece rates fixed so as to yield 33⅓ per cent. above the rates for timeworkers.
			IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE.	
Pig Iron Manufacture	Cleveland and Durham.	5 July	Blastfurnacemen	*Decrease* of 3½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 8¾ per cent. above the standard of 1919. Minimum rate for scale labourers, 6s. per shift, plus 8¾ per cent.*
	Tees-side	5 July	Cokemen and by-product workers	
	West Cumberland and North Lancashire.	2nd full pay in July	Blastfurnacemen	*Decrease* of 3¼ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 18½ per cent.‖ above the standard, also decreases in bonuses¶ of amounts varying, according to base rates, from 1·3d. to 3·5d. per week. Rate after change for labourers: 4s. 10d. or 5s. per shift, plus 18½ per cent., plus 4s. 11·7d. per week.*
	Nottinghamshire and parts of Derbyshire.	27 or 29 July	Blastfurnacemen	*Decrease* of 4 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 16 per cent. above the standard. Minimum rate for labourers, 5s. 8½d. to 6s. 1½d. per shift, plus 16 per cent.*
	North Staffordshire	1st making-up day in July.	Blastfurnacemen	*Decrease* of 3½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 62 per cent. above the standard. Rate after change for yard labourers, 3s. 8d. per shift, plus 62 per cent.*
	South Staffordshire	1st full pay after 13 July.	Blastfurnacemen	*Decrease* of 3 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 16 per cent. above the standard. Rate after change for labourers: 5s. 1d. or 5s. 3d. per shift, plus 16 per cent.*
	Northamptonshire ...	22 July	Blastfurnacemen	*Decrease* of 4¼ per cent.‡ on standard rates, leaving wages 45 per cent. above the standard of 1920.*
	South Wales and Monmouthshire.	1 July	Blastfurnacemen	*Decrease* of 1¼ per cent., leaving wages 53¼ per cent. above the standard. Minimum rate for labourers, 4s. 5½d. per shift, plus 53¼ per cent.*
Iron and Steel Manufacture	North of England ...	27 July	Iron puddlers	*Decrease* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 57½ per cent. above the standard.*
			Iron millmen	*Decrease* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 55 per cent. above the standard.*
	Barrow-in-Furness ...	27 July	Merchant millmen	*Decrease* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates of 1919, leaving wages 55 per cent. above the standard.*
	South Wales and Monmouthshire.	1 July	Men employed in steel melting shops and in iron and steel rolling mills.	*Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change: Dowlais-Cardiff Works, 68s. 2d.; other works, 66s. 6d. per week.*
			Engineers and other skilled craftsmen employed in iron and steel works.	
			MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.	
Electrical Cable Manufacture	South Coast Area ...	Pay period following 14 May.	Plumber-jointers, jointers and jointers' mates.	Increase of 2s. per week.
	Various districts in Great Britain.**	1 July		*Decrease¶ of 1s. 11½d. per week.*
Cutlery	Sheffield	6 July	Stainless table and dessert knife-blade grinders.	Piece prices adopted for second quality grinding (straight work) of 1s. 5d. per dozen for 4¾-inch blades, and of 1s. 7d. per dozen for 5¾-inch blades, such prices to be subject to the current bonus of 45 per cent. and poundage of 25 per cent.

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices.

† The reduction in bonus took effect under a cost-of-living sliding scale, and applied to underground shiftmen, underground day-work labourers over 3 years of age, and surface workers over 18 with a shift rate of less than 6s.

‡ This is the second instalment of the reduction of 12¾ per cent. due under the ascertainments from October, 1924, to March, 1925. A further reduction of 4 per cent. was due under the ascertainment for April–June, but it was agreed between employers and workpeople that this should not operate during the current quarter.

§ The change took effect under an agreement arrived at during July between the Explosives Trades Employers' Association and the Trade Unions concerned. It was agreed that the increases granted should take effect from 7 June, and the consolidation of bonus into wages from 26 July.

‖ The scale percentage on bonus earnings paid to keepers, slaggers, fillers, enginemen, etc., is 56 in the Workington Area and 51 in the Furness Area.

¶ This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour cost-of-living index number.

** Including Yorkshire, North-Western Counties, West Midlands, West of England, East Midlands, East Coast, Home Counties, South Coast, Devon and Cornwall, South Wales and Monmouthshire, and Scotland.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JULY, 1925 (*continued*).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (*Decreases in italics.*)
			MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES (*continued*).	
Heating and Domestic Engineering	Scotland	1 June	Heating and domestic engineers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: pipe fitters, 1s. 7d.; charge hands—Glasgow and Paisley, 1s. 8d., Edinburgh, 1s. 7¾d.
Bobbin and Shuttle Manufacture	England and Wales	1st pay day in July.	Workpeople employed in the bobbin-making industry; also shuttle-makers employed by certain firms at Blackburn and Garston:—	
			Men 21 years and over ...	*Decrease* of 2s. per week. Rates after change: higher skilled men, 63s. 6d.; lesser skilled men, 54s.; labourers, 44s.*
			Women 18 years and over ...	*Decrease* of 1s. per week. Rate after change, 25s. 6d.*
			Boys and girls	*Decreases* of amounts varying, according to age and sex, from 4d. to 9d. per week.*
	Lancashire†... ...	1st pay day in July.	Shuttlemakers	*Addition to basis rate of 59 per cent. previously paid, reduced to 55 per cent. Minimum daywork rate after change: 1s. per hour, plus 55 per cent. (or 1s. 6·60d.).*
	Yorkshire			*Addition to basis rate of 59 per cent. previously paid, reduced to 55 per cent. Minimum daywork rate after change: 10½d. per hour, plus 55 per cent. (or 1s. 4·275d.).*
Chain, etc., Making	Great Britain ...	1 July	Workpeople employed in making hand-hammered chain from iron up to and including 11/32 inch diameter.	*Decrease* of 5 per cent. on the general minimum time rates as fixed under Trade Boards Acts at 1 November, 1923, and on piecework rates as amended under Trade Boards Acts at 26 February, 1925.* (*See* also p. 260 of July GAZETTE.)
			Workpeople employed in making dollied and tommied chain from iron No. 6 I.S.W.G. up to and including 15/16 inch diameter, and hand-hammered chain from iron 3/8 inch up to and including 17/32 inch diameter.	*Decrease* of 5 per cent. on general minimum time rates and piecework rates as varied under Trade Boards Acts at 1 February, 1924.* (*See* also p. 260 of July GAZETTE.)
	Cradley Heath and District and Pontypridd.	6 July	Commercial endwelded dollied and tommied chain makers (except those whose wages are regulated by the Chain Trade Board) and cable shackle makers.	*Decrease* of 5 per cent. on list prices.*
			Side-welded chain makers	*Decrease* of amounts varying from 2d. to 4½d. per cwt. according to size.*
			Anchor and grapnel makers ...	*Decrease* of 3d. per cwt.*
			TEXTILE TRADES.	
Cotton Manufacture	Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire and West Riding of Yorkshire.	Pay day in week ending 1 Aug.	Weavers	Addition made to standard prices for extra runners in a plain dhooty of 2½ per cent. each up to and including 2 inches and 3¾ per cent. over 2 inches.
Woollen and Worsted	Leicester	1st pay day in July.	Workpeople employed in the lamb's wool and worsted yarn-spinning industry (excluding workpeople such as engineers, etc., belonging to unions other than the Workers' Union).	*Bonus reduced‡ from 4d. to 3½d. in the shilling on earnings. Minimum weekly rates after change: timeworkers, men, 42s. 6d., women, 25s. 6d., plus, in each case, 3½d. in the shilling; piece-workers, 25 per cent. above time rates.*
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	Yorkshire (majority of firms) and certain firms in Lancashire.§	1st pay day in Aug.‖	Workpeople employed in the dyeing and finishing trades.	*Cost-of-living wage reduced* from 79 per cent. to 77¼ per cent. for timeworkers, from 63¼ per cent. to 61¾ per cent. for pieceworkers (except pressers), and from 47¼ per cent. to 46¼ per cent. for pressers.*
	Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire (majority of firms) and certain firms in Yorkshire;¶ also Scotland.	1st pay day in Aug.‖	Workpeople employed in the bleaching, dyeing, calico printing and finishing trades (except waste bleachers, machine calico printers, engineers and mechanics, etc., in certain districts employed in repair and maintenance of plant).	MALES: *Cost-of-living wage reduced* from 23s. 10d. to 23s. 4d. per week in Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire and from 23s. 11d. to 23s. 4d. per week in Scotland for workers 21 years and over, and by smaller amounts for those under 21.* FEMALES: *Cost-of-living wage reduced* from 14s. 2d. to 13s. 11d. for workers 18 years and over in Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire and for workers 21 years and over in Scotland, and by smaller amounts for workers under these age limits in the respective districts.*
	Middleton	1st pay day in Aug.‖	Workpeople employed in the textile dyeing, bleaching, etc., trades.	*Cost-of-living wage reduced* from 24s. to 23s. 6d. per week for male workers 21 years and over and from 14s. 10d. to 14s. 6d. for female workers 18 years and over, with corresponding reductions for junior workers.*
	West Riding of Yorkshire.	1st pay day in Aug.‖	Mechanics employed in dyeworks	*Decrease* of 6d. per week. Rates after change: Bradford, Leeds and Shipley, 65s. 7d.; other towns, 64s. 7d.*
	Bolton and Bury Districts.	1st pay day in Aug.‖	Mechanics employed in the textile dyeing, bleaching, etc., industry.	*Cost-of-living wage reduced* from 23s. 10d. to 23s. 4d. per week. Total rate after change, 63s. 4d.*
	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	1st pay day in July.‖	Machine calico printers	Flat-rate bonuses of 10s. per week for journeymen and 9s. per week for apprentices increased to 20s. and 14s. respectively, and method of computing supplementary cost-of-living wage revised, the percentage payable on basic rates being reduced from 62·05 to 51·10.
	Lancashire. Cheshire, Derbyshire, and Scotland.	1st pay day in Aug.‖	Engravers, etc., employed in calico print works.	*Cost-of-living wage reduced* from 32s. 6d. to 31s. 11d. per week for engravers and from 23s. 10d. to 23s. 4d. for turners, polishers and varnishers.*
	Various towns in Lancashire.**	1st pay day in Aug.‖	Mechanics employed in calico print works.	*Cost-of-living wage reduced* from 23s. 10d. to 23s. 4d. per week. Total rate after change: 63s. 4d.*
	Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Scotland and Belfast.	1st pay day in Aug.‖	Engravers employed in engraving works.	*Cost-of-living wage reduced* from 29s. 6d. to 28s. 11d. per week for men, from 17s. 4d. to 17s. per week for women, and by smaller amounts for youths under 21.*
			FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES.	
Baking	Liverpool, Birkenhead and Wallasey.	20 July	Bakers and confectioners	Increase* of 2s. per week for adult male workers and 1s. per week for juniors. Rates after change for daywork: forehands and ovensmen, 72s.; tablehands, 66s.
Seed Crushing and Oil Milling	Great Britain†† ...	1st full pay week in July.	Workpeople employed in the seed-crushing and oil-milling industry (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in the engineering and other trades).	*Decreases* of 2s. per week for men 21 years and over and of 1s. per week for youths and women. Minimum rates after change: Liverpool—men: Grade I, 58s. 6d.; Grade II, 56s.; Grade III, 51s. 6d.; women 20 years and over, 36s. 6d.; Hull—labourers, 51s.*
Brewing	Certain towns in North-East Lancashire.‡‡	3 July	Brewery workers	*Decrease* of 2s. per week for men 19 years and over, 1s. per week for women, and 6d. to 1s. per week for youths. Rates after change: men 19 and over, 56s.; women, 38s.; youths, 18s. at 14 to 15 years, increasing to 29s. at 18 to 19.*

* This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour cost-of-living index number.
† Excluding certain workpeople employed at Blackburn and Garston.
‡ The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of food prices.
§ The change applied to workers employed by firms who are members of the British Cotton and Wool Dyers' Association, Ltd. (Slubbing Section), the Leeds Dyers' and Finishers' Federation, the Yorkshire Indigo, Scarlet, and Colour Dyers, Ltd., the Leeds and District Worsted Dyers' and Finishers' Association, Ltd., the Huddersfield and District Master Dyers' Association, the Yorkshire Dyers' Federation, the West Riding of Yorkshire Master Slubbing Dyers' Association, The Bradford Dyers' Association, Ltd., and the Employers' Federation of Cotton Yarn Bleachers, Dyers and Sizers (certain firms).
‖ In respect of the preceding pay period.
¶ The change applied to workpeople employed by firms who are members of the Federation of Calico Printers, the Employers' Federation of Dyers and Finishers, the Employers' Federation of Bleachers, and the Employers' Federation of Cotton Yarn Bleachers, Dyers and Sizers (certain firms). At Hebden Bridge the decreases for timeworkers were similar to those in Lancashire (*see* above). For pieceworkers the cost-of-living wage was reduced from 68 per cent. to 66 per cent. for netherwood cutters, from 61 per cent. to 60 per cent. for hand cutters, from 52 per cent. to 50 per cent. for menders, and from 58 per cent. to 57 per cent. for all other pieceworkers
** Viz., Tottington, Whitefield, Radcliffe, Walmersley, Entwistle, Ramsbottom, Accrington, and Westhoughton.
†† The reduction took effect under an agreement arrived at by the Joint Industrial Council for the Seed Crushing, etc., Industry.
‡‡ Viz., Accrington, Blackburn, Burnley, Brierfield, Barrow-in-Furness, Cloughfold, Haslingden, Waterfoot, and Whittle Springs (certain firms).

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JULY, 1925 (*continued*).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (*Decreases in italics.*)
			WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE TRADES.	
Vehicle Building	Norwich	2 July	Workpeople employed in the vehicle building and wheelwright trades.	Increase of ½d. per hour. Minimum rate after change for skilled men, 1s. 5½d.
	Lowestoft	15 July	Male workers 19 years and over ...	Increase of 1s. per week. Rates after change: single-bench sawyers, 66s. 6d.; double-bench sawyers and saw sharpers, 63s. 6d.; drawers-off, 59s.; mill loaders, mill and motor cross cutters and tallymen, 58s.; labourers, 57s.
Mill-sawing (Pit Props)	Bo'ness and South Alloa.	31 July	Male workers under 19 years ...	Increase of 6d. per week. Rates after change: 17s. at 14 years increasing to 30s. at 18 years.
			Female workers	Increase of 1s. per week for those 19 years and over and 6d. per week for those under 19 years. Rates after change: 16s. at 14 years increasing to 28s. at 19 and over.
Packing Case Making	London	1 May	Adult male workers	*Decrease* of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: case makers, 1s. 6d.; labourers, 1s. 2½d.*
			Female workers	*Decrease* of ¼d. or ½d. per hour (except for those 17 and under 19 years, for whom there was no change). Rate after change for those 21 years and over, 10½d.*
			Apprentices and improvers ...	*Decrease* of ¼d. or ½d. per hour.*
			BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES.	
Building	Frome	31 July	Building trade operatives	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: painters 1s. 3½d.; other craftsmen, 1s. 4½d.; labourers, 1s. 0½d.
	Pwllheli	23 June	Building trade operatives	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 5d.; labourers, 1s. 1d.
	Elgin	11 July	Masons and joiners	Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 5d. to 1s. 5½d.).
			Plumbers	Increase of 1½d. per hour (1s. 4d. to 1s. 5½d.).
Public Works Contracting	London (Metropolitan Police Area).	1st pay in July.	Men employed by public works' contractors.	*Decrease* of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: City and County of London—granite masons, 1s. 9d.; blacksmiths, fitters, granite sett dressers, kerb fixers, paviors, street masons and flag dressers, 1s. 8d.; steam-roller drivers, 1s. 7½d.; scaffolders, 1s. 6½d.; pipe jointers and platelayers, 1s. 4½d. to 1s. 5½d.; petrol locomotive, roller and air compressor plant drivers, 1s. 5½d.; duct or earthenware drainlayers, jointers, pneumatic pick operators, rammermen, screeders, timbermen, and wood block layers, 1s. 4½d.; concrete levellers, tarpot men and labourers, 1s. 3½d.; Rest of District—not more than 1d. less than above rates.*
			TRANSPORT TRADES.	
Railway Service	Great Britain ...	1 July	Certain classes in traffic grades:— Male workers†	*Decreases* amounting in most cases to 1s. per week.†*
			Female workers	*Decrease* of 1s. per week for women in receipt of a war wage of 17s. per week, and of 6d. per week for girls in receipt of a war wage of 8s. 6d. per week.*
			Certain other classes of workers:— Men in receipt of a war wage of 29s. per week (canal workers, etc.).	*Decrease* of 1s. per week.*
			Female part-timers (charwomen, cleaners, etc.).	*Bonuses previously paid decreased by 6d. per week on base rates up to 9s. 11d., and by 9d. per week on base rates of 10s. and over, subject to maximum bonuses varying with base rates from 3s. to 11s. 3d.‡*
			Gatekeepers (wives of companies' servants).	*War wage decreased from 4s. to 3s. 6d. per week.*
			Certain classes of workpeople at docks (including men on hydraulic and steam pumping plant), on dredgers and hopper barges, tug-boats, small passenger and lake steamers, tenders and ferry boats.	*Decrease* amounting in most cases to 1s. per week.§*
			Railway police (except uniform or detective inspectors).	*Decrease* of 1s. per week. Rates after change: constables, 62s. per week in the first year, rising to 72s. after 10 years' service (plus 3s. if working in London).*
			Station masters, goods agents, supervising and technical staffs, and clerks, employed by Railway Companies.	*Residuary bonus, where still applicable, decreased* by £5 per annum, or 2s. per week, for adult males 18 years of age and over, by £2 10s. per annum, or 1s. per week, for male juniors under 18, by 1s. 6d. per week for women clerks, and by 9d. per week for girl clerks.*
Canal Service	Midlands‖	1st pay day in July.	Canal boatmen employed in the transport of coal, iron, glass, chemicals, etc.	*Decrease* of 2½ per cent.*
Road Transport	Principal towns in Scotland.¶	1 July	Carters employed by railway contractors.	*Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change: one-horse carters, 52s.; two-horse carters, 54s.*
	Forfarshire	6 July	Road transport workers	*Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change at Dundee: one-horse carters, 52s. per week; two-horse carters, 54s. per week.*
	Isle of Man (Eastern Area).	1st pay day in April.	Carters and labourers	*Decrease* of 1s. per week (44s. to 43s.).*
			PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.	
Waterworks Undertakings	Certain Undertakings in the North-Eastern, Yorkshire and Midland Areas.**	1st full pay in July.	Adult male workers	*Decrease* of ½d. per hour. Rates after change for labourers: North-Eastern Counties, majority rate, 1s. 1¾d. per hour; Yorkshire Area, 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 3d.; Midlands, minimum rates, Zone A, 1s. 1d.; Zone B, 1s.; Zone C, 10½d.; Zone D, 9½d.*
	London	4 July	Able-bodied male manual workers (excluding fitters, turners, smiths and boiler makers).	*Decrease* of 1s. 11½d. per week, making the bonus 23s. 6d. per week for men 21 years of age and over; 17s. 6d. for youths 18 to 21 years of age doing full men's work; and 11s. 9d. for youths 18 to 21 years of age not doing full men's work. Rates after change: stokers, 36s. 6d. per week; labourers, 31s. 6d.; plus in each case bonuses as above.*
	Certain Undertakings in the South Midlands Area.††	1st full pay week in July.	Adult male workers	*Decrease* of 1s. 9d. per week for Grades D and C, of 1s. 8d. per week for Grade B, and of 1s. 5d. per week for Grade A. Scheduled minimum weekly rates after change for labourers: Grade D Area, 50s. 6d.; Grade C, 49s. 7d.; Grade B, 48s.; Grade A, 41s. 7d.*
Electricity Supply Undertakings	Various districts in Great Britain (excluding London).‡‡	1 July	Adult male workers employed in electricity supply undertakings (except electrical wiremen and fitters in certain districts).§§	*Decrease* of ½d. per hour.*

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour cost-of-living index number.

† The decrease of 1s. per week applied to all lower-rated men (porters, permanent-way men, labourers, etc.) who were in receipt of 1s. or more per week cost-of-living bonus. No decrease took place in the case of engine drivers and firemen, most classes of guards and shunters, cloakroom attendants, shed enginemen and their mates, ticket and excess luggage collectors, station and yard foremen, carriage and wagon examiners, hydraulic enginemen and chargemen-cleaners in loco sheds, and fire brigade men. Traffic regulators and signalmen still in receipt of amounts granted under the National Wages Board Award of June, 1920, had, in addition to the reduction of 1s. or less under the cost-of-living sliding scale, an additional reduction of 1s. per week from such amounts (or the whole withdrawn, where it was 1s. or under).

‡ Women in receipt of a bonus less than the above scale sustained no reduction.

§ In accordance with the terms of the arrangement made in 1922, a further reduction of 6d. or 1s. per week applied to such classes of workpeople as were still in receipt of amounts (varying from 6d. to 1s. 6d. per week) under the National Wages Board Award, in addition to the decrease of 1s. per week under the sliding scale. Such classes of workpeople include certain masters and engineers on dredgers and steam hoppers.

‖ Including Aston, Bilston, Birmingham, Kidderminster, Netherton, Oldbury, Oldhill, Tamworth, Tipton, Walsall, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton.

¶ Including Glasgow, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Leith, Dundee, Paisley, Barrhead, Greenock, Dumbarton, Coatbridge, Airdrie, Hamilton, Falkirk, Alloa and Stirling.

** The decrease affected those undertakings in the areas mentioned which follow the wages agreements of the National Joint Industrial Council.

†† The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the South Midlands Joint Industrial Council. In some cases the actual reduction was less than that stated above, *e.g.*, Portsmouth 1s. (from 5 August) Bristol, town 1s., rural 9d. The Grade D reduction also applied to Plymouth.

‡‡ The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the National Joint Industrial Council in the following areas:—North-Western, East and West Midlands, East Coast, Home Counties, South Coast, West of England, Devon and Cornwall, South Wales and Monmouthshire, and Scotland. The change did not apply to the North-East Coast and Yorkshire, while in London the decrease was postponed until August.

§§ The change did not generally apply to electrical fitters and wiremen in the West of England and East Coast Areas.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JULY, 1925 (*continued*).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (*Decreases in italics.*)
			PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES (*continued*).	
Electricity Supply Undertakings (*contd.*)	Certain Undertakings in the West Midlands.	1st pay after 1 July.	Youths under 21 years of age employed in electricity supply undertakings.	*Decrease* of 9d. per week for those 16 to 17, and of 1s. 4d. per week for those 18 to 20.*
	Great Britain ...	1 July	Adult male workers (excluding electrical fitters, etc., engaged on installation work, and other craftsmen whose wages are regulated by movements in their respective trades) employed in electricity generating stations and substations of railway companies.	*Decrease* of ½d. per hour. Rates after change in London : switchboard attendants (up to 5,000 K.W.), 1s. 7¼d. per hour ; (5,000 K.W. and over), 1s. 10¾d. ; turbine mechanics, 1s. 7½d. ; drivers, 1s. 6d. ; stokers, leading, 1s. 7d. ; others, 1s. 5½d. ; trimmers, 1s. 3¾d. ; plus, in each case, 1d. per hour for shift workers.*
	Belfast	1 July	Manual workers (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other trades).	*Decrease* of ½d. per hour. Rates after change : labourers (indoor), 1s. 0¾d. per hour ; (outdoor), 1s. 1d.*
	Cumberland... ...	1 July	Workpeople (excluding masons) employed in Highways and Bridges Department of County Council.	*Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week for workpeople over 18 years of age and of 9d. per week for those under 18. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 44s. 6d.*
	West Hartlepool ...	1 July	Manual workers	*Decrease* of ½d. per hour. Rates after change : street sweepers, 11½d. per hour ; general labourers 1s. 2d. ; roadmen, 1s. 3d.*
	Manchester	1 July	Paviors, labourers, etc., employed in Paving and Tramways Departments.	*Decrease* of ½d. per hour. Rates after change : pavoirs, 1s. 7½d. ; labourers, 1s. 2¾d.*
	Ipswich	2 July	General labourers, horse drivers and roadmen.	*Decrease* of 1s. 4d. per week (49s. 4d. to 48s.).*
	Certain Authorities in the South Midland Area.†	1st pay in July.	Able-bodied male manual workers...	*Decrease* of $\frac{1}{60}$th of the minimum basic rates recommended by the Provincial Joint Industrial Council in November, 1921, making the reduction now applicable to such rates $\frac{13}{60}$ths. Scheduled mimimum weekly rates after change : Grade A1 Areas, 46s. 3d. ; Grade A2, 44s. 8d. ; Grade B1, 43s. 1d. ; Grade B2, 39s. 2d. ; Grade C1, 37s. 8d. ; Grade C2, 36s.†*
	Bournemouth ...	2 July	Manual workers	Increase of 2s. per week.‡ Rate after change for road and general labourers, 8s. 0½d. per day.
Non-Trading Departments of Local Authorities	Certain Authorities in Kent, Surrey and Sussex.§	1st pay day after 1 July.	Able-bodied manual workers :— Unskilled and semi-skilled men	*Decrease* of 2s. per week for Grades V., IV., III., and I. Minimum rates after change : Grade V., 55s. ; IV., 52s. 6d. ; III., 46s. 8d. ; I., 38s. 11d.*
			Skilled men	*Decrease* of 2s. 6d. per week for Grades V., IV., III., and I. Minimum rates after change : Grade V., 66s. ; IV., 64s. ; III., 58s. 8d. ; I., 51s. 11d.*
			Women	*Decrease* of ½d. per hour. Minimum rates after change : Grade V. 7½d. ; IV. and IIIa., 7d. ; III. and II., 6½d. ; I., 5½d.*
			Tar boilermen, tar sprayers, park keepers, stokers and certain other classes.	Certain occupations reclassified under grading scheme of Joint Industrial Council, resulting in increases of 2s. per week for tarboilermen, tar paviors, tar sprayers, park keepers and labourers on heavy road work, and of 6s. per week for stokers ; also new rates fixed for park gardeners, drivers' mates employed as steerers and watchmen.
	Gillingham	10 June	Manual workers in Works' Department.	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change : roadmen and skilled labourers, 57s. ; semi-skilled labourers, 55s. ; ordinary labourers, 52s. ; refuse collectors, 51s. ; scavengers, 48s. and 50s.
	Poplar	4 July	Certain classes of manual workers...	*Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Rates after change : loading sweepers and assistant gardeners, 78s. 11d. per week ; sweepers, gulleymen, watchmen, roadmen, labourers, dustmen and carmen, 75s.‖*
	Gloucester	1 May 1 July	Manual workers	*Decrease* of 1s. per week.* Increase of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 51s.
	Swindon	1 July	Manual workers	Increase of 1s. per week. Rates after change : general labourers, sweepers, etc., 53s. 11d. per week ; refuse collectors (horse drivers), 54s. 11d. ; (others), 53s. 11d.
	Certain Authorities in Devon, Dorset, and Cornwall.¶	1st full pay in July.	Able-bodied male manual workers	*Decrease* of 2s. per week. Scheduled minimum rates after change : Grade A, 53s. ; Grade B, 45s. (Torquay and Paignton, 47s. 6d.) ; Grade C, 38s. (Seaton, 36s.) ; Grade D, 33s.¶*
	Edinburgh	1 July	Adult able-bodied unskilled and semi-skilled workers in waterworks and non-trading departments, also paviors and settbeaters.	*Decrease* of 2s. per week. Rates after change : road labourers, scavengers and water-works labourers 53s. per week ; pipe jointers, 56s. 3d. to 60s. 3d. ; settbeaters, 57s. 6d. ; paviors, 1s. 5¾d. per hour.*
	Londonderry ...	3 July	Manual workers	*Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates after change : scavengers, 44s. per week ; roadmen, 46s. ; ashpitmen, 48s.*
			MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.	
Roller Leather	Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales.	1st pay day in July	Workpeople employed in roller leather manufacture.	*Cost-of-living wage reduced* from 75 per cent. to 70 per cent. on basic rates. Minimum rates after change : men—skilled, 9d. per hour ; semi-skilled, 6d. to 7½d. per hour ; women—5d. per hour ; plus, in each case, 70 per cent.*
Warehousing	Manchester ...	1st pay day in April. 1st pay day in July.	Workpeople employed in wholesale warehouses (clothing, millinery, cotton, etc.).	*Decreases* of from 3d. to 1s. 3d. per week for male workers, and of from 3d. to 7d. per week for female workers.*
				Decreases of from 3d. to 1s. 3d. per week for male workers, and of from 3d. to 8d. per week for female workers. Minimum rates after change : male workers—10s. 6d. at 14 years, increasing to 22s. 6d. at 18, 38s. 6d. at 21, and to 51s. 6d. at 23 and over ; female workers—10s. at 14 years, increasing to 20s. 6d. at 18, and to 29s. at 21 and over.*

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour cost-of-living index number.

† The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Provincial Council for the South Midland Division for Local Authorities' Non-trading Services, and include : *Grade B1, Grade A1 towns*, Bournemouth (*see also* separate entry above), Oxford (pays higher rates), Southampton. *Grade B1*, Winchester, Farnborough (pays higher rates). *Grade B2*, Marlow (pays higher rates). *Grade C1*, Southampton C.C.

‡ The decrease taking effect at the same date under the South Midlands Joint Industrial Council's cost-of-living sliding scale (*see* separate entry above) is merged into this increase.

§ The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services, and include :—*Grade V :* Croydon ; *Grade IV :* Barnes, Beckenham, Bromley, Carshalton, Chislehurst, Epsom (made change from 17 July), Mitcham, Northfleet, Sidcup, Bromley R.D.C. (partly) ; *Grade IIIA* (women only) : Brighton, Dartford R.D.C. (partly) ; *Grade III :* Ashford, Bexhill, Maidstone, Margate, Woking, Dartford R.D.C. (partly) ; *Grade II* (women only) : R.D.C.'s of Bromley (partly), Dartford (partly), Epsom ; *Grade I :* Godstone R.D.C. The rates for men in Grade IIIA and II areas remained unchanged at 50s. 7d. and 44s. 9d. unskilled, and 62s. 7d. and 57s. 3d. skilled, respectively.

‖ This is the second instalment of a decrease arranged in June. A further decrease of 2s. 6d. has been arranged for certain classes from 1st August.

¶ The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Provincial Joint Industrial Council for Cornwall, Devon and Dorset Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services, and include :—*Grade B :* Bideford, Exeter, Ilfracombe (made decrease of 1s. only), Poole, Newton Abbot, Weymouth (pays 9d. per week above minimum rate) ; *Grade C :* Tiverton (pays higher rates), Launceston.

CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN AUGUST, 1925.

The following groups of workpeople are among those affected by changes in wages already reported as having been arranged to take effect in August, all the changes mentioned being reductions :—Steel smelters and millmen in various districts in England and Scotland ; blastfurnacemen in Scotland ; iron puddlers and millmen in the Midlands ; Siemens steel and tinplate workers in South Wales ; seamen ; men employed by electricity supply undertakings in London ; workpeople employed in the non-trading services of local authorities in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work reported to the Department as beginning in July in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 45, as compared with 48 in the previous month and 57 in July, 1924. In addition, 33 disputes which began before July were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of new and old disputes in July was thus 78.

Information as to the total number of workpeople involved in the principal dispute, involving workpeople employed in the wool textile industry in the West Riding of Yorkshire and part of Lancashire, is not at present available. Excluding this dispute, however, the number of workpeople who went on strike or were locked out or were thrown out of work at establishments where disputes occurred, in consequence of the disputes, in the disputes in progress in July was about 51,000, and the aggregate number of working days lost in disputes during the month was about 732,000.

The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in July in Great Britain and Northern Ireland by groups of industries and indicates the number of workpeople involved at the establishments concerned and the approximate time lost during the month in all disputes in progress :—

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in July.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in July.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in July.
	Started before 1st July.	Started in July.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying ...	10	10	20	44,000	680,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding.	6	5	11	1,000	9,000
Textile	4	6	10	†	†
Building, Decorating, Contracting, &c.	7	5	12	2 000	21,000
Transport	1	6	7	2,000	4,000
Other	5	13	18	1,000	12,000
Total, July, 1925 ...	33	45	78	51,000†	732,000†
Total, June, 1925 ...	*31*	*48*	*79*	*34,000*	*281,000*
Total, July, 1924 ...	*38*	*57*	*95*	*136,000‡*	*2,030,000‡*

Causes.—Of the 45 disputes beginning in July, 11 arose out of proposed reductions in wages, 12 on other wages questions, 9 on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons, 6 on questions of Trade Union principle, and 7 on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 28 new disputes, directly involving 6,000 workpeople, and 12 old disputes, directly involving 500 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 6, directly involving 300 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 13, directly involving 1,300 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 21, directly involving 4,900 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 3 disputes, directly involving 1,200 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1924 AND 1925.§

The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first seven months of 1925, as compared with the corresponding period of 1924 :—

Groups of Industries.	January to July, 1924.			January to July, 1925.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Mining and Quarrying.	123	93,000	1,031,000	98	92,000	1,227,000
Engineering ...	18	9,500	73,000	11	6,000	32,000
Shipbuilding ...	27	32,000	508,000	16	4,000	26,000
Other Metal ...	39	11,000	132,000	28	4,000	41,000
Textile	25	5,000	109,000	41	†	†
Clothing	21	3,000	22,000	18	3,000	20,000
Food, Drink, and Tobacco.	10	4,000	21,000	16	3,000	14,000
Woodworking and Furnishing.	14	2,000	67,000	17	2,000	32,000
Paper, Printing, etc.	3	500	5,000	7	16,000	59,000
Building, Decorating, Contracting, etc.	32	111,000	1,785,000	34	4,000	61,000
Transport ...	45	236,000	1,413,000	29	14,000	32,000
Public Administration Services.	16	4,000	107,000	16	2,000	13,000
Other	44	8,000	105,000	32	18,000	101,000
Total ...	417	519,000	5,378,000	363	174,000†	1,713,000†

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS DURING JULY, 1925.

Occupations and Locality.‖	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object.‖	Result.‖
	Directly.	Indirectly.‖	Began.	Ended.		
			1925.	1925.		
MINING AND QUARRYING :—						
Coal miners, etc.—South Shields (near).	3,389		24 April	...	Against proposed reduction in piece-work rates, and against concessions as to payment of minimum wage.	No settlement reported.
Hewers, *day-wagemen and surface workers*—Wrexham (near).	874	1,377	15 June	...	Against proposed reduction in wages.	No settlement reported.
Coal miners, etc.—Durham (near)	7,000		22 June–6 July	...	Against proposed increase in working hours, revision of piece-work rates of wages, etc.	No settlement reported.
Coal miners, etc.—Anthracite District of South Wales.	2,000		22–24 June	...	Dispute arising out of dismissal of a collier's helper, in alleged breach of a seniority rule.	No settlement reported.
	18,000		13 July	...		
TEXTILE INDUSTRIES :—						
Wool textile operatives, enginemen, firemen, etc.—West Riding of Yorkshire and Part of Lancashire.	Not yet available.		23–24 July	14 August	(*See* article on page 267.)	
BUILDING, DECORATING, CONTRACTING, ETC. :—						
Bricklayers, plasterers, slaters and others *and labourers*—Liverpool.	300	70	11 June	4 August	Refusal to work with plumbers and painters who were members of local Trade Unions not recognised by the national organisations, and grievances as to alleged non-observance of recognised local working conditions, etc.	Only members of national organisations to be employed, and recognised local working conditions to be observed.
Building operatives—Eastbourne	700	...	7 July	14 July	Lock-out following strike at one firm against employment of non-unionists.	Employers to remain free to engage operatives without restraint, but a joint committee of the parties to explore all avenues for providing reasonable facilities for the augmentation of Trade Union membership.
Joiners, labourers, etc. (employed on water power scheme)—Fort William (near).	1,000	...	14 July	15 July	For reinstatement of three dismissed shop stewards, and grievances respecting labourers' rates of wages, etc.	Shop stewards reinstated, some other concessions made, and question of rates of wages promised further consideration.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics except when the aggregate duration (*i.e.*, number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.

† Particulars are not yet available as regards the numbers of workpeople involved in the dispute in the wool textile industry in the West Riding of Yorkshire and part of Lancashire. The totals given for the numbers of workpeople involved and the aggregate duration of the disputes are, therefore, exclusive of figures relating to this dispute.

‡ A dispute involving about 100,000 building operatives in Great Britain accounted for most of the loss of time in July, 1924.

§ In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. Workpeople involved in more than one dispute are counted more than once in the totals; the amount of such duplication is, however, very slight.

‖ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved," *i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON AND STEEL TRADE.

In continuation of the particulars published in previous issues of this GAZETTE, the following Table shows the results of recent ascertainments of selling prices of pig iron, manufactured iron, and steel in certain districts :—

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) of last Audit* on	
	Period covered by last Audit.	Average Selling Price Per Ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
Pig Iron :	1925.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Cleveland (No. 3) ...	Apl.–June	76 5¼	− 2 1¾	− 12 11
Cumberland ... (*Hematite mixed numbers*).	Mar.–Apl.	87 5¾	− 0 8¾	− 14 3½
	Mar.	88 0½	+ 0 2¼	− 13 9¼
	Apl.	86 9¾	− 1 2¾	− 14 10½
	May–June	84 10¾	− 2 7	− 15 0½
	May	85 10¼	− 0 11½	− 14 11½
	June	83 11	− 1 11¼	− 15 1¾
North Staffordshire	Apl.–June	81 8	− 2 9¾	− 13 8¾
Nottinghamshire ...	Apl.–June	77 3¾	− 2 4¼	− 14 1
Northamptonshire...	Apl.–June	69 6¼	− 3 2¾	− 18 0½
Lincolnshire ...	Jan.–Mar.	80 10	+ 1 8	− 11 3¼
West of Scotland ...	Apl.–June	88 4	− 3 3	− 11 7
Manufactured Iron :				
North of England ... (*Bars and angles*).	Mar.–Apl.	253 9¾	+ 1 8¼	+ 10 9
	May–June	249 2½	− 4 7½	+ 4 3
West of Scotland ... (*Rounds, flats, tees, angles, hoops, and rods*).	Mar.–Apl.	239 4¼	− 7 4	− 8 7¾
	May–June	238 4¾	− 0 11½	− 12 7¼
Steel :				
South-West Wales... (*Steel tin bars*).	Jan.–Mar.	158 11½	− 6 3¼	− 15 0½
	Apl.–June	141 5	− 17 6½	− 31 5¾
South Wales and Monmouthshire ... (*Steel rails and steel tin bars*).	Mar.–May	146 10¼	− 2 5	− 15 10¼

The principal changes in wages resulting from the above variations in prices, in accordance with the arrangements described on pages 269–272 of this GAZETTE, are shown below.

Variations in the price of pig iron resulted in the following reductions in wages:—Iron-ore miners in Cumberland, 1d. per shift in May, 1d. per shift in June, and 2d. per shift in July; limestone quarrymen in Cumberland, ½d. or ¾d. per shift in May, ½d. or ¾d. per shift in June, and 1d. or 1½d. per shift in July; blastfurnacemen in Cumberland, 1 per cent. on standard rates in May, and 3¼ per cent. in July; blastfurnacemen in Cleveland, 3½ per cent. on standard rates in July; blastfurnacemen in North Staffordshire, 3½ per cent. on standard rates in July; blastfurnacemen in Nottinghamshire and ironstone quarrymen in Leicestershire, 4 per cent. on standard rates in July, although the sliding scale justified a greater reduction; blastfurnacemen in Scotland, 3 per cent. on standard rates in August. The ascertainment for Northamptonshire warranted a decrease of 4 per cent. in July for blastfurnacemen and ironstone miners, but it was agreed that the decrease should not be applied during the quarter July–September. The Lincolnshire ascertainment resulted in an increase of 2¼ per cent. on the standard rates of blastfurnace workers in May. The ascertainments for manufactured iron resulted in an increase of 2½ per cent. in June and a decrease of 2½ per cent. in July, on standard rates for iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England, while in West of Scotland the ascertainments resulted in a decrease of 2½ per cent. in June and no change in July. The steel ascertainments resulted in decreases of 3¾ per cent. in May and 8¾ per cent. in August on the standard rates of Siemens steel workers in South-West Wales, and in a decrease of 1¼ per cent. in July on the standard rates of workpeople in steel-melting shops and iron and steel-rolling mills in South Wales and Monmouthshire.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE number of assisted passages granted during July, 1925, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act, and the total number of such passages granted from the inception of these schemes, together with the number of departures during the same periods, are shown in the following Table :—

Assisted Passage Schemes.	Assisted Passages Granted in July, 1925.	Total Assisted Passages Granted.		Departures in July, 1925.	Total Departures.	
		1922 to 1924.	Jan.–July, 1925.		1922 to 1924.	Jan.–July, 1925.
To Australia	2,620	56,082	14,134†	1,991	55,281	14,474
„ New Zealand	887	16,466†	4,722†	939	14,575	5,331
„ Canada :						
Dominion of Canada...	552	12,169	6,430†	1,033	11,623	6,705
Province of Ontario ...	...	1,367	...	...	1,356	...
Minor Schemes	254	3,308	929	246	3,105	781
Total	4,313	89,392†	26,215†	4,209	85,940	27,291

The figures given include both applicants and dependants of applicants to whom assisted passages have been granted.

* Stated to the nearest farthing.
† Revised figures.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

THE total number of *cases* of poisoning, etc., in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during July, 1925, was 63. Six *deaths* were reported during the month, three due to epitheliomatous ulceration, one to lead poisoning, one to toxic jaundice, and one to anthrax. In addition, eleven cases of lead poisoning (including two deaths) among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during July, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

(*a*) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.

Among Operatives engaged in—	
Smelting of Metals ...	2
Plumbing and Soldering	1
Shipbreaking	
Printing	2
Tinning of Metals ...	1
Other Contact with Molten Lead	1
White and Red Lead Works	
Pottery*	7
Vitreous Enamelling ...	2
Electric Accumulator Works	8
Paint and Colour Works ...	
Indiarubber Works	
Coach and Car Painting	1
Shipbuilding	
Paint used in Other Industries	2
Other Industries ...	4
TOTAL OF ABOVE	31
HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING...	11

(*b*) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING.

Aniline Poisoning ...	7
Toxic Jaundice	2
TOTAL, OTHER FORMS OF POISONING	9

(*c*) CASES OF ANTHRAX.

Wool	4
Handling of Horsehair ...	1
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins ...	1
Other Industries	
TOTAL, ANTHRAX	6

(*d*) CASES OF EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION.

Pitch	4
Tar	3
Paraffin	1
Oil	6
TOTAL, EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION	14

(*e*) CASES OF CHROME ULCERATION.

Dyeing and Finishing ...	3
TOTAL, CHROME ULCERATION	3

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.†

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during July, 1925, was 204, as compared with 196 in the previous month and with 208 a year ago.

Arrangements have been made to resume the collection and publication of monthly statistics of fatal accidents among seamen, beginning with the current month. The number of seamen belonging to vessels registered in Great Britain and Northern Ireland under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, who were reported during July, 1925, to have met with fatal accidents, was 31. Comparable figures for June, 1925, and July, 1924, are not available.

RAILWAY SERVICE.	
Brakesmen and Goods Guards	1
Engine Drivers	1
Firemen	
Guards (Passenger)	
Permanent Way Men ...	9
Porters	1
Shunters	1
Mechanics	1
Labourers	
Miscellaneous	7
Contractors' Servants	
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	21
MINES.	
Underground	88
Surface	3
TOTAL, MINES	91
QUARRIES over 20 feet deep	8
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.	
Cotton	3
Wool, Worsted and Shoddy	1
Other Textiles	1
Textile Bleaching & Dyeing	2
Metal Extracting and Refining	1
Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making	8
Metal Founding	4
Engineering and Machine Making	5
Boiler Making and Constructional Engineering...	1

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (*continued*) :	
Locomotives, Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft	5
Other Metal Trades ...	4
Shipbuilding	11
Wood	3
Gas	1
Electric Generating Stations	2
Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ...	5
Chemicals, etc.	3
Food and Drink	4
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	2
PLACES UNDER SS. 104–106, FACTORY ACT, 1901.	
Docks, Wharves, etc. ...	4
Buildings	13
Warehouses and Railway Sidings	
TOTAL, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, AND PLACES UNDER SS. 104–106 ...	83
Construction or repair of Bridges	1
Total (excluding Seamen)	**204**
SEAMEN.	
Trading Vessels, Sailing	
„ „ Steam ...	28
Fishing Vessels, Sailing	
„ „ Steam ...	3
TOTAL, SEAMEN ...	31
Total (including Seamen)	**235**

* Of the seven persons affected in the Pottery industry three were females.
† Based on Returns from the Home Office, the Board of Trade, the Mines Department, the Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

(Data supplied by the Ministry of Health in England and Wales and by the Board of Health in Scotland.)

THE number of persons* relieved on one day† in July, 1925, in the thirty-one selected areas named below was 702,523, or 1·0 per cent. more than in the previous month, but 8·5 per cent. less than in July, 1924. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 393, 389, and 431 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

In the twenty-five selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in July, 1925, was 581,343, or 368 per 10,000 of the estimated population. In the six areas in Scotland the number relieved was 121,180, or 582 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Recipients of indoor relief in the thirty-one districts in July numbered 122,189, or 0·4 per cent. more than in the previous month, and 1·9 per cent. more than in July, 1924. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 580,334, or 1·2 per cent. more than in the previous month, but 10·4 per cent. less than a year ago.

Twenty-two areas showed small increases, and seven areas showed small decreases in the number per 10,000 relieved in July, 1925, as compared with the previous month. Compared with July, 1924, eighteen areas showed decreases, including Stockton and Tees District (193 per 10,000), West Ham (175 per 10,000), Birmingham (141 per 10,000), Sheffield (129 per 10,000), and Glasgow District (110 per 10,000); and twelve areas showed small increases.

Selected Urban Areas.	Number of Persons* in receipt of Poor Law Relief on one day† in July, 1925.				Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	
	Indoor.	Out-door.	Total.	Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Metropolis.						
West District... ...	8,711	6,478	15,189	183	...	− 8
North District ...	10,181	16,802	26,983	263	− 1	− 35
Central District ...	2,253	2,586	4,839	361	+ 2	− 26
East District ...	10,168	51,645	61,813	955	+ 28	+ 42
South District ...	19,142	65,677	84,819	435	− 3	− 35
TOTAL, Metropolis ...	50,455	143,188	193,643	422	+ 3	− 19
West Ham	4,410	57,095	61,505	803	− 35	−175
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District	2,552	28,540	31,092	617	+ 59	+ 52
Stockton and Tees District	1,155	12,210	13,365	482	+ 3	−193
Bolton, Oldham, etc.	4,032	7,464	11,496	144	...	− 11
Wigan District ...	1,727	10,382	12,109	267	− 1	− 10
Manchester District	8,594	25,723	34,317	328	+ 4	− 6
Liverpool District...	9,436	44,814	54,250	435	+ 1	− 76
Bradford District ...	1,714	4,136	5,850	157	+ 5	+ 15
Halifax and Huddersfield	1,310	2,990	4,300	113	+ 2	+ 8
Leeds‡	2,407	8,882	11,289	238	+ 4	+ 20‡
Barnsley District ...	877	8,441	9,318	283	− 1	+ 31
Sheffield	2,562	23,619	26,181	507	+ 2	−129
Hull District ...	1,736	11,617	13,353	417	+ 12	+ 12
North Staffordshire	2,129	5,857	7,986	191	+ 1	+ 17
Nottingham District	2,117	10,223	12,340	262	+ 3	+ 8
Leicester	1,151	2,648	3,799	157	+ 5	...
WolverhamptonDistrict	3,233	16,336	19,569	263	+ 4	− 37
Birmingham ...	7,023	17,982	25,005	264	+ 1	−141
Bristol District ...	2,384	11,026	13,410	323	+ 2	− 51
Cardiff and Swansea	2,414	14,752	17,166	359	+ 11	+ 37
TOTAL,"OtherDistricts"	58,553	267,642	326,195	313	+ 6	− 31
TOTAL, Districts in England and Wales ...	113,418	467,925	581,343	368	+ 2	− 35
SCOTLAND.						
Glasgow District ...	4,942	73,115	78,057	800	+ 25	−110
Paisley and Greenock District	752	12,926	13,678	706	− 3	− 52
Edinburgh	1,403	13,765	15,168	355	+ 6	− 73
Dundee and Dunfermline	745	3,657	4,402	198	+ 14	+ 35
Aberdeen	514	2,682	3,196	200	− 1	− 25
Coatbridge and Airdrie	415	6,264	6,679	653	+ 11	+ 60
TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts ...	8,771	112,409	121,180	582	+ 14	− 67
TOTAL for above 31 Districts	122,189	580,334	702,523	393	+ 4	− 38

* The figures include dependants but exclude casuals, lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses, and persons receiving out-door medical relief only.

† The figures for England and Wales relate to 25th July, and those for Scotland to 15th July.

‡ The numbers in receipt of relief at Leeds relate to the Leeds Union as constituted on 1st April, 1925, after alteration of area. Comparison with a year ago is approximate only.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—*While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the periods for which the rise is measured, suggest the need for caution in drawing conclusions from a comparison between the figures for any two countries or cities. It is also to be observed that in every case the percentage calculation is based on the assumption that the standard of living is identical at the various periods compared.*]

I.—FOOD.

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES AS COMPARED WITH JULY, 1914.*

Country.	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*					
	July, 1921.	July, 1922.	July, 1923.	July, 1924.	Latest figures available. Rise.	Latest figures available. Date.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
UNITED KINGDOM ...	120	80	62	62	68	1925. Aug.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.						
Austria (Vienna) ...	9,700†	328,600	1,291,000	1436100	1,582,900	Apr.
Czechoslovakia ...	...	...	...	...	814	June
Denmark	136	84	88	100	110	July
Finland	1,178	1,005	868	916	962	June
France (Paris)‡ ...	206	197	221	260	321	July
,, (other towns)‡	250§	212§	249§	300§	334	May
Holland (The Hague)	...	...	...	67	72	May
,, (Amsterdam)	80	40	36	38	50	Apr.
Italy (Milan) ...	406	392	396	408	498	June
Norway	195	133	118	148	160	July
Sweden‡	132	79	60	59	69	July
Switzerland ...	110	57	64	68	67	June
United States ...	45	39	44	40	52	June
BRITISH DOMINIONS,&C.						
Australia	61	48	64	49†	52	Apr.
Canada	48	38	37	34	41	June
India (Bombay) ...	74	60	48	51	52	July
Irish Free State ...	...	85†	82	85	91	Apr.
New Zealand ...	64	44	42	48	51	July
South Africa ...	39	16	16	17	22	June

II.—ALL ITEMS.

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN THE COST OF FOOD, TOGETHER WITH (SO FAR AS POSSIBLE) HOUSE-RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD REQUIREMENTS, AS COMPARED WITH JULY, 1914.¶

Country.	Items on which Computation is based.‖	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.¶					
		July, 1921.	July, 1922.	July, 1923.	July, 1924.	Latest figures available. Rise.	Latest figures available. Date.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
UNITED KINGDOM	A,B,C,D,E	119	84	69	70	73	1925 Aug.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							
Austria (Vienna)	A,B,C,D	9,872	263600	1090200	1239000	1343100	Apr.
Belgium ...	A,C,D,E	279	266	329	393	405	June
Chile	A,C,D,E	...	...	...	90	94	Mar.
Denmark ...	A,B,C,D,E	137	99	104	114	119	July
Egypt (Cairo)	A,D	93	72	52	48	61	May
Finland ...	A,B,C,D,E	1,039	1,018	990	1,032	1,068	June
France (Paris)	A,B,C,D,E	195**	189**	231**	267**	290	2nd Qr.
Germany ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	...	...	38§§	June
Greece (Athens)	A,B,C,D,E	...	516	933	1,225	1,349	Mar.
Hungary ...	A,B,C,D,E	3,661	15,579	225,167	1635900	1622900	Mar.
Italy (Milan) ...	A,B,C,D,E	394	388	387	412	496	June
Luxemburg ...	A,C,D	284	259	340	381	415	June
Norway ...	A,B,C,D,E	202††	165††	139††	151††	161	June
Poland(W'rsaw)	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	...	27§§	48§§	June
Spain (Madrid)	A,D	84	79	72	82	89	Apr.
,, (Barcelona)	A,D	78	73	65	72	74	Apr.
Sweden ...	A,B,C,D,E	136	90	74	71	76	July
Switzerland ...	A,C,D	110	63	67	70	69	June
United States	A,B,C,D,E	80‡‡	67††	70††	69††	73	Dec.'24
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &C.							
Australia ...	A,B	46**	43**	56**	48**	50	1st Qr.
Canada ...	A,B,D	52	46	46	44	46	June
India (Bombay)	A,B,C,D	77	65	53	57	57	July
Irish Free State	A,B,C,D,E	...	85**	80	83	88	Apr.
South Africa ...	A,B,D,E	...	35	30	32	34	May.

* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), August, 1914; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Milan, January to June 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Amsterdam, South Africa, average, 1914. † Figure for June. ‡ Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. § Figure for August. ‖ A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and Light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items. ¶ Exceptions to this are: France, Spain, Australia and South Africa, in which comparison is with the average for 1914; Belgium, April, 1914; Greece, March, 1914; Milan, January to June, 1914; Germany, Egypt, Hungary, average, 1913–1914; Switzerland and Luxemburg, June, 1914; United States and Chile, 1913; Poland, January, 1914. ** Figure for 3rd Quarter. †† Figure for June. ‡‡ Figure for May. §§ Based on prices calculated on a gold standard.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—*The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the United Kingdom statistics, and therefore the figures quoted below* cannot properly be used with those on pp. 276–277 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that of other countries. *For details as to the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries see Report issued by the International Labour Office under the title "Methods of Statistics of Unemployment." (Studies and Reports, Series N (Statistics) No. 7.).*]

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in July.—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of the Exchanges at the end of the last week in July (1st August) was 10,548 (7,032 men and 3,516 women). At the end of June the corresponding total was 10,185 and in July, 1924, 8,592. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 9,897 (5,867 for men and 4,030 for women), as compared with 11,029 at the end of June and 10,791 in July, 1924. During the last week of July the Exchanges succeeded in placing 28,405 persons in situations, including 8,514 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 1,540 foreign immigrants.

GERMANY.†

Employment in June.—Indications that the improvement in the state of the labour market had been arrested increased in June. The returns from health insurance societies showed a decline in women's employment and employment exchanges reported fewer vacancies offered by employers. But inasmuch as the demand for workers still continued in agriculture and handicrafts and in the building trades, the number of applicants for work fell to a greater extent than that of vacancies offered, particularly in the case of men, so that it was only in the case of women that employment showed an actual falling-off.

Returns from trade unions showed a further slight decline in unemployment. Forty unions with an aggregate membership of 3,659,215 had 130,249, or 3·5 per cent. of this total, out of work on 27th June, as against 3·6 per cent. of those reporting in May and 10·5 per cent. in June, 1924.

The following Table gives percentages for the principal Unions included in the foregoing totals :—

UNIONS. S.D. = Social-Democratic. H.D. = Hirsch-Duncker (non-Social-Democratic). C. = Christian.	Membership reported on at end of June, 1925.	Percentage Unemployed at end of Month.		
		June, 1925.	May, 1925.	June, 1924.
All Unions making Returns ...	3,659,215	3·5	3·6	10·5
Building (S.D.)	363 878	3·2	3·5	...
Metal (S.D.)	788,020	3·2	3·6	16·5
„ (H.D.)	80 077	4·6	4·7	7·7
Textile (S.D.)	323,762	3·4	3·2	4·3
„ (C.)	85,149	1·1	0·8	5·0
Clothing (S.D.)	88,758	3·1	1·3	7·5
Boot and shoe (S.D.)	87,938	5·3	4·6	11·9
Transport (S.D.)	294,458	3·9	6·1	9·2
Printing (S.D.)	75,000	0·8	0·3	3·8
Bookbinding (S.D.)	56,450	2·3	2·2	7·5
Woodworking (S.D.)	309,107	3·2	2·9	12·0
Food, tobacco, etc. (S.D.) ...	53,295	7·5	7·2	11·4
Food and drinks (S.D.) ...	67,875	1·6	1·6	2·7
Tobacco (S.D.)	66,224	8·6	8·7	12·1
Factory workers (trades not specified) (S.D.)	362,842	4·1	4·3	8·9
Engine drivers and firemen (S.D.)	51,100	5·1	5·6	13·2
Factory and transport (C.) ...	66,961	2·8	2·9	27·2
Municipal and State workers (S.D.)	197,874	0·6	0·7	2·8
Porcelain (S.D.)	51,456	2·1	2·5	...

The foregoing figures relate solely to persons entirely without work. In addition statistics as to the prevalence of short time are given by 35 unions with 3,153,981 members, among whom 5·2 per cent. were suffering from this form of unemployment; in the preceding month the corresponding percentage was 5·0, and in June, 1924, 19·4.

The number of unemployed in receipt of benefit from public funds was 198,067 on 15th June, as compared with 214,210 on 15th May. (It is pointed out that this figure does not indicate the total number of persons unemployed; it shows the number of those who have fulfilled the conditions entitling them to benefit.)

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in June.—According to the issue of *Statistische Nachrichten* (the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics) for 25th July, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in Austria was 113,379 at the end of June, as compared with 130,786 at the end of the preceding month and 63,556 at the end of June, 1924. In Vienna alone there were 69,042 persons in receipt of benefit at the middle of July and 68,417 at the end of June.

* *Bulletin du Marché du Travail*, 7th August, 1925. Paris.
† *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt*, 8th August, 1925. Berlin.

ITALY.

Unemployment in May.—According to a report issued by the Italian Unemployment Insurance Department,* 101,405 workpeople were totally unemployed on 31st May, as compared with 126,521 at the end of April and 155,935 at the end of May, 1924. In addition, 11,647 were partially unemployed at the latest date, 16,284 on 30th April, and 22,619 on 31st May, 1924. On 31st May last the number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of benefit, under the statutory unemployment insurance scheme, was 19,352, as compared with 21,520 on 30th April, and 37,014 on 31st May, 1924.

HOLLAND.

Unemployment in June.—The issue of the *Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek* (the journal of the Dutch Statistical Office) for 31st July, publishes preliminary figures compiled by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchanges, which show that out of 248,050 members of unemployment funds making returns for the week ended 27th June, 14,479 (5·8 per cent.) were unemployed during the whole week, and 4,661 (1·9 per cent.) for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 30th May) the percentages were respectively 6·0 and 1·9, and in the week ended 30th June, 1924, 5·7 and 1·4.

DENMARK.†

Unemployment in July.—Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange show that out of 259,458 workpeople, 8·3 per cent. were unemployed on 31st July, as against 9·3 per cent. at the end of the preceding month, and 5·4 per cent. at the end of July, 1924.

NORWAY.

Unemployment in May.—According to information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics the members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed at the end of May formed 8·1 per cent. of the total, as compared with 9·5 per cent. at the end of the preceding month and 6·1 per cent. on 31st May, 1924.

SWEDEN.‡

Unemployment in May.—Trade unions with an aggregate membership of 215,599 reported 16,920, or 7·8 per cent., as out of work on the last day of May, as against 10·9 per cent. at the end of April and 7·6 per cent. at the end of May, 1924.

CANADA.

Employment in July.§—For 1st July, 1925, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 5,940 firms, with an aggregate of 797,463 upon their pay-rolls. On 1st June the same firms reported 777,939 employed, and the total for 1st July thus shows an increase of 19,524 persons. If employment in the week ended 17th January, 1920, be represented by 100, the index number of employment for 1st July, 1925, is 96·8, as compared with 94·5 for 1st June, 1925, and 95·9 on 1st July, 1924.

Trade Union Employment in June.||—At the end of June (1st July) 6·1 per cent. of the aggregate membership of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 7·0 per cent. at the end of May and 5·8 per cent. in June, 1924.

UNITED STATES.

Employment in June.—Figures relating to the volume of employment in June, based on returns from 9,204 establishments in 52 manufacturing industries, covering 2,753,478 workpeople, are published by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics. These establishments in May reported 2,783,221 persons employed, and the June figures consequently indicate a decrease of 1·1 per cent. The aggregate wages paid show, for June, a decrease of 3·1 per cent., and the average weekly earnings a decrease of 2·1 per cent. Twenty industries showed increases in the number of workpeople employed in June, the greatest increases being in ice cream, men's clothing, baking, slaughtering and meat packing, flour, structural ironwork, and petroleum refining. Decreases in the number employed were greatest in the fertiliser, women's clothing, carriage, and boot and shoe industries. The automobile industry reports a decrease of 4·4 per cent. in the number employed, the iron and steel industry 2·8 per cent., and the cotton goods industry 2 per cent., and as these are the three industries with the greatest number of employees, the effect upon total employment for the month is especially marked.

As regards comparison between the month under review and the corresponding month of 1924, returns from 8,088 identical establishments in the two periods show a net increase of 5 per cent. in the number of persons employed, and an increase of 9 per cent. in aggregate wages. Among individual industries the greatest gains in employment are shown in agricultural implements, automobile tyres, and automobiles. Cotton goods gained 7·5 per cent., and iron and steel 5·3 per cent. The number employed in the food industries showed a considerable reduction.

* *La Disoccupazione in Italia*, 31st May, 1925. Rome.
† *Statistiske Efterretninger*, 12th August, 1925. Copenhagen.
‡ *Sociala Meddelanden*, No. 7, 1925. Stockholm.
§ *The July Employment Situation*, 1925. Ottawa.
|| Information supplied by the Canadian Department of Labour, Ottawa.

LEGAL CASES; UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS; CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES; TRADE BOARDS ACTS, Etc.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1906—1923.

ACCIDENT—SUDDEN EMERGENCY—DOING SOMETHING OUTSIDE AND UNCONNECTED WITH THE EMPLOYMENT.

THIS was an appeal by the employer from an award in favour of the daughter of a workman (Jones) killed in an accident. The deceased was employed by the respondent, the owner of one of several small and shallow coal-pits in the district, to brick in the inset of a shaft about 8 yards deep. Two others were working with him on a slung scaffold—a man named Smith and a lad named Gears.

In June, 1924, when working in the shaft, Jones found that he had omitted to bring with him a "bricking hammer," one of the tools supplied by the employer; and sent Gears and Smith to an adjoining pit, belonging to one Harriman, to look for and bring back a hammer belonging to Jones's brother, which he (Jones) believed was in the pit. The hammer was seen at the bottom of a shallow shaft, and Gears was let down for it in a bucket; he got the hammer, and was being brought up again by Smith, when, being overcome with after-damp, he fell out of the bucket. Smith ran back to Jones, who returned with him, and was let down to rescue Gears; but before he could bring out Gears's body he was overcome by after-damp and was asphyxiated. Both lives were lost.

The County Court Judge was of opinion that Section 7 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, and Section 110 of the Coal Mines Act, 1911, applied, notwithstanding the action of the deceased being without orders from his employer, as the deceased was acting in sudden emergency, and acting in the interests of his employer when he sent his fellow workmen to borrow the hammer, which was done with the object of furthering his employer's business. The sections referred to above are as follows :—

> (*a*) *Workmen's Compensation Act*, 1923 (Sec. 7).—"For the purposes of the principal Act, an accident resulting in the death or serious and permanent disablement of a workman shall be deemed to arise out of and in the course of his employment, notwithstanding that the workman was at the time when the accident happened acting in contravention of any statutory or other regulation applicable to his employment, or of any orders given by or on behalf of his employer, or that he was acting without instructions from his employer, if such act was done by the workman for the purposes of and in connection with his employer's trade or business."
>
> (*b*) *Coal Mines Act*, 1911 [Sec. 110 (2)].—"Any workman engaged in any rescue work or ambulance work at a mine shall, for the purposes of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, be deemed while so engaged to be employed by the owner of the mine."

The Master of the Rolls, in his judgment, said that Section 7 of the Act of 1923 was passed to bring back within the ambit of the Act certain cases which had been held to fall outside the sphere of the workman's employment by reason of disobedience to regulations or other statutory prohibitions or the orders of the employers. Section 7 was, in his Lordship's judgment, ancillary to Section 1 of the Act of 1906; but this case did not require the use of Section 7, because the applicant was not entitled to recover compensation under Section 1 of the Act of 1906, as the deceased by his own unauthorised act sent Gears to a place not within the scope of the employment, and, further, the doctrine of sudden emergency was not applicable, as when Gears went to Harriman's pit he passed out of his employment and was not a fellow workman of the deceased at the time of the attempted rescue; and, with regard to subsection (2) of Section 110 of the Coal Mines Act, 1911, as the rescue must be at the mine of his employer, that section was not applicable. The accident, therefore, did not arise out of and in the course of the employment, and the appeal was allowed.—*Court of Appeal.*—*Jones* v. *Tarr*, 14th and 15th July, 1925.

CONTRACT OF SERVICE—"WORKMAN"—GIFTS NOT THE EQUIVALENT OF WAGES.

In this case a farm labourer named Parker claimed full compensation from a farmer named Gillard for injury sustained through falling from a hay cart whilst saving hay in the latter's field. The applicant stated that he was in the employ of a Mr. Toop during the day, and worked for Mr. Gillard in the evening. In July, 1923, Mr. Gillard asked him to jump on to the top of a cart which was half loaded with hay. The applicant at first refused, but afterwards consented. When he got into the cart the horse jumped and threw him backwards to the ground, with the result that he was injured and could not go to his work. The applicant stated that the employer Gillard often went to see him, and had taken him fruit, vegetables and fowls. He also stated that when the hay harvest was on, it was customary for the villagers to help the farmers to save the hay, getting in return beer and cider to drink, and also supper. The respondent stated that after the accident he called on Parker in a friendly way, and confirmed that it was the practice for villagers to go into the harvest field in the evening and help, but that they got no pay for their work. The respondent agreed that beer, cider and supper were supplied. For the applicant, it was contended that beer, cider, supper, etc., were the equivalent of money. His Honour said that there was no contract or obligation on the part of the respondent to the applicant, who had merely rendered service for which he did not expect payment, but only what other workmen would receive, in the shape of beer or cider. He had come to the conclusion that there had been no contract of service in any sense of the word, and found that the applicant was not a workman within the meaning of the Act, and therefore not entitled to receive any compensation. The application was refused.—*Tavistock County Court.*—*Parker* v. *Gillard*. 18th July, 1925.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920–24.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

THE Umpire is a judicial authority, independent of the Ministry of Labour, appointed by the Crown under Section 12 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, for the purpose of determining disputed claims to benefit. His decisions* are final and conclusive.

Appeals to the Umpire may be made by the Insurance Officer or by an Association of which the claimant is a member, or, with the permission of the Court of Referees, by the claimant himself.

The following are recent decisions of general interest :—

Case No. 852/25. Section 7 (1) (iv) of the Principal Act (as Amended).—Suitable Employment Unable to Obtain—

Applicant Refused Offer of Arterial Road Work—Alleged Wages Offered Lower than the Standard Rate Applicable to Builder's Labourer and Less than Generally Observed in the District—No Particular Rate Applicable to District.

The applicant, a navvy, who had been last employed on the 19th December, 1924, failed to accept an offer of work on the 7th February, 1925, as a navvy on an arterial road near London. The wages offered were 1s. 1½d. per hour, plus train fares to and from the work. The work was expected to last for several months. His claim for benefit was disallowed under the provisions of Section 7 (1) (iv) (as amended).

It appeared that the rate offered was agreed to between the Ministry of Transport and the London County Council. The applicant, however, contended that he was a public works employee and entitled to the full rate of 1s. 4½d. per hour. On the advice of his Association he refused the offer of work at the lower rate.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed. The Court were of the opinion that the applicant was not entitled to claim 1s. 4½d. per hour. He had previously been employed for 19 months as a navvy, and in the circumstances they considered that he was only entitled to 1s. 1½d. per hour as an ordinary navvy on arterial relief work.

The applicant's Association appealed to the Umpire against the Court's disallowance of the claim. They stated that the applicant was a bona fide building trade labourer, whose rate of pay as a member of their organisation was 1s. 4½d. per hour. The Association were not parties to the Agreement relating to the rate of pay for work on arterial roads.

An Association representative subsequently attended an oral hearing of the case before the Umpire.

It was contended by the trade union that at least 1s. 2½d. per hour should be paid for civil engineering work in the district in question. It was explained by the Ministry of Transport that the rate for arterial roads round London was arranged in 1921, when it was decided to pay a uniform rate, based on grade 2 of the grading of districts by the Civil Engineering Conciliation Board. The roads would pass through districts some of which would be grade 3 or 4 and parts in grade 1, but a uniform rate was better. The men had their fares paid to the jobs, and for London men this was worth more than another penny per hour.

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be disallowed.

"I am of opinion that the applicant fails to show that on the 7th of February last he was unable to obtain suitable employment.

"He is a navvy and was offered employment on an arterial road at Bexley at a rate of wages of 1s. 1½d. per hour with payment of railway fares daily from and to London.

"I have no doubt that the employment was suitable for the applicant unless I am bound by paragraph (*c*) to the Proviso to Section 7 (1) of the Act of 1920 to hold that it is unsuitable on the

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* Volumes containing the collected decisions of the Umpire are published by His Majesty's Stationery Office.

Decisions given after March, 1922, are not published in volume form, but summaries of the cases are printed in pamphlets issued at approximately fortnightly intervals. The pamphlets will be supplied post free, as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription. All applications should be made to His Majesty's Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

ground that it was at a rate of wages lower than that generally observed in the district by agreement between Associations of Employers and of Employees or, failing such agreement, than that generally recognised in the district by good employers.

"The rate offered was not an agreed rate for the district in question. It was fixed by the Ministry of Transport and the London County Council, but not by agreement with any Association of Employees. It is a rate which by agreement is payable for work of the kind in certain districts, but there was no agreement that that or any other rate should be applicable to the district in question. I cannot, therefore, say that it was lower than the rate generally observed in the district by agreement between employers and employees. Nor can I say that the rate was lower than that generally recognised by good employers in the district. The only other employer doing work of the kind in the district appears to be the Urban District Council and I am informed that they pay a lower rate.

"One firm of contractors is said to have paid a somewhat higher rate recently, but that is not sufficient to show that a higher rate is generally recognised by good employers in the district."

Case No. 942/25. Section 7 (1) (iv) of the Principal Act (as Amended) —Genuinely Seeking Work—

Women Left Employment to Get Married and Subsequently Lodged Claims for Benefit—Had Registered for Day Work, but such Work Difficult to Obtain.

A number of young women, who had been employed as factory hands, left their employment on various dates in March, 1925, in order to get married, and shortly afterwards lodged claims for benefit. Their claims were disallowed under the provisions of Section 7 (1) (iv) (as amended).

It was reported that the employers in question did not allow women to remain in employment after marriage, and the applicants were, therefore, obliged to seek other work. They contended that they were genuinely seeking daily employment, for which they had registered. They had answered advertisements in the newspapers and made personal applications at various places. Their husbands' average weekly earnings were very small, and they had, therefore, a strong incentive to find work. On the other hand, the prospects of daily work for married women in the district were very poor.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims for benefit should be allowed. The Court were of the opinion that the applicants were genuinely seeking work and unable to obtain suitable employment.

The Insurance Officer disagreed with the Court's recommendation. He did not think that the applicants could be held to have satisfied the statutory conditions as to genuinely seeking work. He thought that where it was known that the employer did not employ married women, a woman who intended to get married should first seek other employment, and if she could not obtain such she would leave her employment without hope of being able to obtain unemployment benefit. In his opinion the unemployment fund should not be resorted to by women as a means of enabling them to get married to men whose earnings are not sufficient to support them.

Decision.—"On the facts before me, my decision is that the claim for benefit should be allowed.

"These applicants, by reason of their getting married, lost employment which they had had for several years. They were all willing to continue in their employment, but unable to do so after marriage, as their former employers do not employ married women. They were, therefore, in effect discharged, and the only possible ground for disallowance of their claims for benefit is that they are not genuinely seeking work. It is not disputed that they are available, and there is no ground for disqualification under Section 7.

"It is obvious that it cannot be laid down as a universal rule that recently married women are not genuinely seeking work, although it may also be the fact that some are not seeking work and are merely signing on in order to get benefit. It is well known that in some industrial circles married women expect to go to work, and do, in fact, whenever they can get employment, work as regularly as unmarried women, especially when the husbands' earnings are not large. In such cases it cannot be assumed that a recently married woman does not want work and is not trying to get it, but rather the contrary.

"There are, however, some industrial circles in which married women do not ordinarily go out to work, especially if their husbands are earning good wages. In cases of that kind a Court of Referees might reasonably require more definite evidence that an applicant is genuinely seeking work and is not merely treating the unemployment fund as a marriage endowment fund. But in every case it is a question of fact to be determined by a review of all the circumstances whether or not the applicant is genuinely seeking work.

"It may be that many employers now do not employ married women (either because they think that their husbands should support them or for some other reason), and that consequently a woman by marrying diminishes her chances of getting work. But this does not show that married women, who have before marriage worked for such employers, are not genuinely seeking work or are not available for work.

"The Chief Insurance Officer also suggests that women should remain at their employment until their prospective husbands are earning enough to support them. It may be that in some cases it would be wiser to do so. I am not competent to express an opinion on that point. It is enough to say that, if it be so, that is a matter for the Legislature to consider. The Unemployment Insurance Acts do not impose any disqualification for unthrifty marriage.

"In the case under consideration the Court of Referees were satisfied after careful inquiry and review of all the circumstances that the applicants were genuinely seeking work, and I cannot say that their recommendation is wrong."

Case No. 962/25. Section 1 (4) of the No. 2 Act, 1924.—Whether Applicant Continued to Receive Wages—

Dock Workers Employed in Gangs under Pooling Scheme Shared Earnings Weekly with Gang Idle one Week in every seven—Question as to whether Members of Idle Gang "Continued to Receive Wages, etc."

The applicant was one of a number of dock workers who worked in seven gangs. Owing to slackness of work the employers deemed it necessary to dispense with the services of one gang, but by an arrangement made between the workers, a scheme was adopted whereby each gang in turn was idle one week in every seven. Under the scheme the total weekly earnings were shared equally amongst all gangs so that the idle gang received a pooled wage for the week during which they did not work. The applicant's claim lodged on the 16th February, 1925, was taken as a test case, and the question arose as to whether under the provisions of Section 1 (4) of the No. 2 Act, 1924, an applicant who received a pooled wage during the week he did no work, could be deemed to be unemployed.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be allowed. The Court had in view the decision given on case No. 4362.

The Insurance Officer disagreed with the Court's recommendation. He was of the opinion that the applicant's employment terminated every recurrent seventh week, and that during that week he continued to receive wages or alternatively to receive payment by way of compensation for the loss of, and substantially equivalent to, the remuneration he would have obtained if the employment had not terminated.

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be allowed.

"I agree with the recommendation of the Court of Referees. By an arrangement between the applicant and his fellow workmen the men who were in work contributed a sum equivalent to one-sixth of their wages to the men who were out of work.

"The applicant did not, in the week when he received contributions from his fellow workmen, 'continue to receive wages.' Wages are payments made by an employer to an employee under a contract of service. The sums received by the applicant were payments made by employees to men who were out of work either voluntarily or under a contract of mutual insurance.

"Nor did the applicant 'receive payment by way of compensation for the loss of employment and substantially equivalent to the remuneration which he would have received if the employment had not terminated.' In amount the payment was only six sevenths of the remuneration he would have received if he had been at work and it was not paid 'by way of compensation for loss of employment.' That phrase means primarily a payment in the nature of damages for loss of employment paid by the person who would have been bound to pay wages if the employment had continued."

Case No. 1271/25. Section 7 (1) (iv) of the Principal Act as Amended).—Suitable Employment Unable to Obtain—Proviso B.

Miners Refused Employers' Offer for Resumption of Work—Extension of one shift from 6½ to 7 hours a Condition of Re-Employment—Shift of 7 hours Common in District.

The applicants, who had previously been employed as hewers at a colliery which closed down in July, 1924, were offered re-engagement at the same colliery on the 11th March, 1925. They failed to accept the offer of work and their claims for benefit were disallowed under the provisions of Section 7 (1) (iv) (as amended).

It appeared that the employers had closed the mines in July, 1924, owing to slackness of trade and high cost of production. In March, 1925, they considered re-opening the mines, and with a view to the reduction of the financial loss sustained through working the mine, offered their previous employees re-employment upon the condition among others, of working 7 hours instead of 6½ in the second shift. The offer was considered by the applicants' Association, which was unable to accept it.

Representatives of the Association attended the hearing of the case before the Court of Referees. They stated that if a colliery had been closed down for any reason and subsequently re-opened, it was the custom to conform to any agreement which existed at the colliery before it was closed down. The shifts in operation at the closure of the colliery were 1st shift, 7 hours; 2nd shift, 6½ hours; and 3rd shift, 6½ hours, and the employers offer to the men on the condition of a 2nd shift of 7 hours was a violation of an agreement made under the Sankey Award in July, 1919. It was contended that the offer made was on conditions less favourable than those which the applicants might reasonably have expected to obtain having regard to those which they had habitually obtained at the colliery.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims for benefit should be allowed. The Court were of the opinion that the offer of work was not suitable in view of the changed conditions of employ-

ment entailed by the alteration of the hours fixed by a previous agreement.

The Insurance Officer disagreed with the Court's recommendation. He was of the opinion that the offer made by the employers for a resumption of work was an offer of suitable employment within the meaning of the Act.

The applicants' Association appealed to the Umpire, but no fresh facts were adduced on appeal.

A hearing subsequently took place before the Umpire, and both the Association and the employers were represented. It was suggested that as the men were only in receipt of the County average wages they would, in effect, have to work longer hours for the same pay, but it was pointed out that the proposed change would only apply to pieceworkers and there was no justification for the Association's fear that any increase in earnings would be followed by a demand for a downward revision of piece prices.

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claims for benefit should be disallowed.

"The applicants do not satisfy me that they were unable to find suitable employment.

"The colliery company for which they had previously worked offered them re-employment upon the condition of working 7 hours instead of 6½ in the second shift, but it is contended that this was an offer of employment upon conditions less favourable than those which they might reasonably expect to have obtained having regard to the conditions which they habitually obtained in the district, or would have obtained had they continued to be so employed.

"It is stated that a second shift of seven hours is not uncommonly worked in the district, and this must be taken into account in considering what conditions it may reasonably be supposed that the applicants would have obtained had they continued to be employed as hewers in the district. They might have been employed in a colliery which worked a 7 hours second shift or on one which worked a 6½ hours second shift. I am bound to have regard to the usual conditions of employment in the district and not merely to the practice at the colliery at which the applicants had been last employed."

BANKING INDUSTRY SPECIAL SCHEME (VARIATION AND AMENDMENT) SPECIAL ORDER, 1925.

The Unemployment Insurance (Banking Industry Special Scheme) (Variation and Amendment) Special Order, 1925, dated July 8, 1925, made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 (10 & 11 Geo. 5, c. 30).*

WHEREAS the Minister of Labour (hereinafter referred to as "the Minister") by the Unemployment Insurance (Banking Industry Special Scheme) Order, 1924, approved for the purposes of Section 18 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, a Special Scheme for the Banking Industry:

And whereas the Minister has, by the Unemployment Insurance (Banking Industry Special Scheme) (Amendment) Order, 1925, varied and amended the said Scheme:

And whereas application has been made to the Minister for the further variation and amendment of the provisions of the said Scheme:

Now, therefore, the Minister, by virtue of the powers conferred on him by the said Section 18 and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following Special Order:—

1. The following amendment shall be made in the Second Schedule to the said Scheme:—

In Paragraph 1, after the words "or such other weekly rates as may be prescribed by the Board with the approval of the Minister" there shall be inserted the words "Provided that where a person is in receipt of a pension, annuity, or retiring allowance amounting to, or in excess of, 25 shillings a week in the case of a man or 20 shillings a week in the case of a woman, derived wholly or partly from the Banking Industry (whether such pension, annuity, or retiring allowance is, or has been, paid in pursuance of a legal obligation or not) such person shall not be entitled to unemployment benefit, and where the amount of any such pension, annuity, or retiring allowance is less than 25 shillings a week in the case of a man or 20 shillings a week in the case of a woman the weekly rate of unemployment benefit payable to such person shall be reduced by the amount by which the weekly amount of such pension, annuity or retiring allowance exceeds five shillings."

2. This Order may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Banking Industry Special Scheme) (Variation and Amendment) Special Order, 1925.

Signed by order of the Minister of Labour this eighth day of July, 1925.

H. J. WILSON,
Secretary to the Ministry of Labour.

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* This Order having lain before both Houses of Parliament for 20 days in accordance with Section 36 (2) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, came into force on 30th July, 1925.

INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919, AND CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.

Recent Proceedings.

(A.)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

RAILWAY SHOPMEN—MEN ON OUTSIDE MACHINERY, AND ON DOCKS AT HULL AND MIDDLESBROUGH.—The National Union of Railwaymen *v.* The London and North Eastern Railway. *Difference.*—Claim for differential payment for dirty or dangerous work. *Decision.*—The work as a whole does not come within the category of "exceptionally dirty or dangerous work," regard being had to the ordinary and customary duties of the men concerned, nor are the exceptionally dirty or dangerous jobs of such frequent occurrence as to render it impracticable or inconvenient to assess the extra payment on each exceptional or dangerous job as it occurs. The question of extra payment on any job on which any of the men concerned may be employed at Hull or Middlesbrough is one which may properly be dealt with by assessing the amount of the extra payment according to the merits of the job as and when it is undertaken. Issued 8th July, 1925. (1097.)

ROYAL NAVAL ARMAMENT SUPPLY DEPOTS.—The Trade Union Side of the Shipbuilding Trade Joint Council for Government Departments *v.* The Official Side. *Difference.*—Claim for an increase in wages of 5s. per week after twelve months' service in the laboratories, R.A.S. Depot, Priddy's Hard. *Decision.*—The nature of the work of the men covered by the application is not in general of such a character as to warrant the payment of higher rates than those prevailing for similar classes of workpeople in other sections or departments of Admiralty establishments. In so far, however, as any section of the work upon which the men concerned are employed is of an exceptional character, the Court take the view that the question of the payment of an extra rate for such work is one for consideration on the merits of each particular case. Issued 24th July, 1925. (1103.)

PAINT, COLOUR AND VARNISH TRADE—LONDON.—The Trade Union Side of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Paint, Colour and Varnish Industry *v.* The Employers' Side. *Difference.*—Claim for a differential rate for London. *Decision.*—The Court decide that having regard to the conditions of trade at present existing and to other considerations, no alteration in wages in the London district as compared with those outside London should be made for the time being. Issued 24th July, 1925. (1104.)

SHORTHAND TYPISTS.—Civil Service Clerical Association *v.* The Treasury. *Difference.*—Temporary officers recruited to established posts—initial salaries. *Decision.*—A temporary officer who was or is, at the date of her appointment as an established shorthand typist, in receipt of a salary in excess of the commencing rate (inclusive of cost-of-living bonus) for the established shorthand typist class shall, subject to certain specified conditions, receive the higher salary paid to her as a temporary officer at the date of her appointment to the established class until such time as she would become entitled to that salary in the established shorthand typists' scale, assuming that on appointment she entered at the commencing rate. Thereafter she will receive the normal advances applicable under the established shorthand typists' scale. The Decision shall become operative as on and after 1st July, 1925. (1105.)

EX-REGISTRY ASSISTANTS, POST OFFICE—CIVIL SERVICE CLERICAL ASSOCIATION *v.* POST OFFICE. *Difference.*—That Ex-Registry Assistants transferred to the clerical class shall receive the same initial salary as the normal Lytton entrants, ex-temporary clerks, Grade III, of the same amount of established service in the clerical class. *Decision.*—The Court find that the claim has not been established. (1106.)

EXTRA AND ACCOUNTANT CLERKS, ADMIRALTY.—Civil Service Clerical Association *v.* Admiralty. *Difference.*—Assimilation into clerical class—initial salaries. *Decision.*—Extra and Accountant Clerks transferred to the clerical class shall, subject to certain specified conditions, receive an advance of £20 per annum on basic salaries. The Decision shall become operative as on and after 1st July, 1925. (1107.)

AUDIT CLERKS AND CLERKS TO GENERAL INSPECTORS, MINISTRY OF HEALTH.—Civil Service Clerical Association *v.* Ministry of Health. *Difference.*—Assimilation into clerical class—initial salaries. *Decision.*—The Audit Clerks shall receive an advance of £10 per annum on basic salaries and Clerks to General Inspectors an advance of £20 per annum on basic salaries. This Decision shall become operative as on and after 1st July, 1925. (1108.)

AUDIT CLERKS, NATIONAL INSURANCE AUDIT DEPARTMENT.—Civil Service Clerical Association *v.* National Insurance Audit Department. *Difference.*—Assimilation into clerical class—initial salaries. *Decision.*—In the opinion of the Court the Agreement of the Departmental Whitley Council in August, 1921, was subject to the conditions that the question might be re-opened should similar classes be more favourably dealt with on assimilation, but no case was brought forward where any similar class had been more favourably dealt with on assimilation since that date. The Court find that

in the absence of such case, the application has not been established. (1109.)

WRITING ASSISTANTS.—Civil Service Clerical Association *v.* Treasury. *Difference.*—Basic rates—application for increase—temporary officers appointed to established posts—initial salaries. *Decision.*—

(1) That the claim for an increase in the scale had not been established.

(2) That the claim that existing Writing Assistants be given an increase of 7s. per week basic had not been established, but a temporary officer who, at the date of her appointment was or is in receipt of a salary in excess of the rate (inclusive of cost-of-living bonus) payable in accordance with the Treasury Circular E. 7526 of the 27th March, 1924, shall, subject to certain specified conditions, receive the higher salary which was paid to her as a temporary officer at the date of her appointment to the established class, until such time as she would become entitled to that salary in the scale, assuming that on appointment she entered at the rate payable under the above mentioned circular. Thereafter she shall receive the normal advances applicable under the scale. This Decision shall become operative on and after the 1st July, 1925. (1110.)

(B.)—CONCILIATORS, SINGLE ARBITRATORS, AND *AD HOC* BOARDS OF ARBITRATION APPOINTED BY THE MINISTER OF LABOUR.

QUARRYING INDUSTRY: YORKSHIRE.—Trade Union Side *v.* Employers' Side of the *Freestone* Section of the Yorkshire Area Joint Industrial Council for the *Quarrying Industry*. *Difference.*—Claim for advance in wages. Mr. W. Addington Willis, C.B.E., appointed under Section 2 (1) (b) of the Conciliation Act, 1896 to act as Independent Chairman of a Panel of Arbitration set up in accordance with the Constitution of the National Joint Industrial Council for the *Quarrying Industry*. *Award.*—Certain specified fully skilled operatives granted increases to bring wages up to local building trade rates. Claims not established in respect of all other grades or classes of operatives or workmen. Issued 18th July, 1925.

(C.)—OTHER SETTLEMENTS.

LOCKMAKERS: WILLENHALL.—National Amalgamated Lockmakers' and Metal Workers' Society *v.* Fergusson Secure Lock Company. *Difference.*—As to distribution of work during slack period. *Agreement.*—Certain measures agreed upon. Agreed 8th July, 1925.

FOUNDRY WORKERS: THORNABY-ON-TEES.—Central Iron Moulders' Association *v.* Messrs. C. P. Kinnell and Company. *Difference.*—As to payment for faulty castings. *Agreement.*—One half the piecework prices to be paid, without prejudice to future cases. Agreed 11th July, 1925.

BRICKWORK CONSTRUCTION: PONTHIR.—Altogether Builders' Labourers' and Constructional Workers' Society and the National Union of General and Municipal Workers *v.* Star Brick and Tile Company, Limited, Cwmbran. *Difference.*—Claim for building trade rates. *Agreement.*—Boiler fireman, mortar mill man and stone crusher to receive building trade rate; the remainder to receive civil engineering rate. Signed 14th July, 1925.

COTTON OPERATIVES: SKIPTON.—Skipton and District Weavers and Winders' Association *v.* Messrs. Firth and Moorhouse, Limited, Sackville Mills, Skipton. *Difference.*—Alleged refusal of firm to receive a deputation to discuss certain grievances. *Agreement.*—Joint conference arranged to consider grievances and formulate agreement for the prevention and settlement of disputes. Agreed 31st July, 1925.

NATIONAL WAGES BOARD (RAILWAYS ACT, 1921).

RECENT DECISIONS.

THE National Wages Board, under the Chairmanship of Sir William Mackenzie, K.C., have recently issued a series of decisions dated the 31st July, 1925, on cases submitted to them by the National Union of Railwaymen, viz. :—

Signalmen: Special Duty.—The question submitted was in respect to certain signalmen employed by the London and North Eastern Railway in the Malton and Scarborough district, who are rostered to book off duty at 10 p.m., but are, on occasions, required to return to their cabins later for about twenty minutes for the purpose of passing an excursion train. The Company have treated this additional turn of duty as a "special" turn, and have accordingly paid the men under the "Emergency" clause of the National Agreement.

The Board's decision was that if a man is required to return to duty within a period not exceeding two hours of the completion of his rostered turn, the additional duty shall be treated as continuous with the rostered turn. If required to return beyond this period, the additional duty shall be treated as "special duty" under the "Emergency" clause.

Leading Cloak-Room Attendants, King's Cross: Application for Re-Grading.—The Union submitted that the leading cloak-room attendants employed at King's Cross by the London and North Eastern Railway should be dealt with under the agreement for male supervisory staff.

The Board's decision was that a case had not been made out for placing these men under the agreement for male supervisory staff.

Fish and Parcels Foremen, York, and Parcels Foremen, Leeds: Application to be Re-Graded as Inspectors.—The question submitted was that fish and parcels foremen at York and parcels foremen at Leeds New Station, should be re-graded as inspectors. As it appeared from the evidence that the major portion of the men's time was taken up with manual duties, the Board decided that the claim had not been made out.

Rostering of Guards up to Nine Hours: Short Trips.—The Union submitted a question of interpretation of the Board's finding dated 24th January, 1922, arising out of the rostering of certain guards by the Southern Railway.

The Board's finding is that it appears that the turns of duty of the men concerned have from time to time been rearranged, and that at the present time the turns in excess of 8 hours are one of 8 hours and 7 minutes, one of 8 hours and 11 minutes and one of 8 hours and 5 minutes. These turns do not contravene the Board's finding of the 24th January, 1922, as applied to the English railways.

Cost of Living Bonus: Signalmen.—The Union raised the question of the cost-of-living bonus of certain signalmen.

The Board's decision was that the men concerned should have restored to them as on and from 1st January, 1925, the amount of the bonus which was deducted under the cost-of-living sliding scale on 1st July, 1923.

Guaranteed Day: Guaranteed Week: Goods Porter.—This case concerned the guaranteed week of a goods porter at Truro.

The finding of the Board was that they had a somewhat similar case under consideration in July, 1923. In that case the Board came to the conclusion that a strict construction of the Agreement relative to the Guaranteed Day which should at the same time be reasonable, appeared to be impossible, and they took the view that the matter should be taken into consideration by the parties and that in the meantime the existing practice should remain undisturbed. The parties do not appear to have considered the matter, and pending such consideration the Court are of opinion that in the present case the existing practice should remain undisturbed.

Goods Guards, Great Western Railway: Payment for Good Friday.—The Union requested a ruling upon a claim for payment for Good Friday, made on behalf of certain goods guards employed by the Great Western Railway.

The Board's decision was that the Agreement in regard to the guaranteed day provides that trainmen are to be granted a standard day's pay for each time of signing on duty. The Board find on the evidence that there has been no violation of this Agreement in the case before them.

Meal Times for Carters and Motormen.—The Union, with the approval of the Board, withdrew their claim in respect to meal times for carters and motormen at the hearing on the 28th July, as the Companies' representative drew attention to the fact that the claim as presented had not in terms been before the Central Wages Board.

Electrical Examiners, Great Western Railway. Alteration of grading or classification of posts: Conciliation grades.—The Board have reserved their decision in both these cases for further consideration.

Hull West Shunting Yard.—The Board resumed consideration of the claim by the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen which had been before them in December, 1924, and was left over pending inquiries by the repesentatives of the Society and of the Company concerned into the facts. The Board appointed certain of their number to visit Hull at an early date and inspect the shunting area, the method of train working, and generally, and report to the Board.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.

I.—NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

Rope, Twine and Net Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal No. R.41, dated 17th July, 1925, to fix and vary minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male and female workers.

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.W.D. (N.13), dated 16th July, 1925, to vary general minimum time-rates, piecework basis time-rates, and general overtime rates for female workers engaged in the retail bespoke dressmaking branch of the trade.

Brush and Broom Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposals N.I.B.B. (N.34) and (N.35), dated 18th July, 1925, to vary general minimum time-rates, piecework basis time-rates, certain general minimum piece-rates, and general overtime rates for male and female workers, and to cancel certain general minimum piece-rates for male and female workers.

II.—CHANGES IN MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES DUE TO AN ALTERATION IN THE COST-OF-LIVING FIGURE.

Chain Trade Board.

Higher wage rates have become operative in this trade as from 1st August, 1925. The minimum rates now applicable are those appropriate to the cost-of-living figure of 73 and are set out in Schedule II (without reduction or addition) of Confirming Orders Nos. C17 and C19.

III.—SPECIAL ORDER.

ROPE, TWINE AND NET TRADE BOARD.

The Trade Boards (Rope, Twine and Net and Drift Nets) Order, 1925. Special Order, dated 27th July, 1925, made by the Minister of Labour under Sections 1 and 2 of the Trade Boards Act, 1918 (8 & 9 Geo. 5. c. 32) altering the description of the Rope, Twine and Net Trade contained in the Appendix to the Trade Boards (Rope, Twine and Net) Order, 1919.

Whereas the Minister of Labour (hereinafter referred to as "the Minister") by a Special Order called the Trade Board (Rope, Twine and Net) Order, 1919, dated the 11th day of July, 1919, applied the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, to the trade specified in the Appendix to the said Special Order:

And whereas it is provided by Subsection 1 of Section 2 of the Trade Boards Act, 1918, that every Special Order may be varied or revoked by a subsequent Special Order:

And whereas the Minister is of opinion that it is desirable to vary the said Special Order by altering the description of the trade specified in the Appendix thereto:

Now, therefore, the Minister, by virtue of the powers conferred on him by the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, and of any other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes a Special Order varying the said Special Order:—

1. The following new paragraph shall be inserted in the Appendix to the Trade Boards (Rope, Twine and Net) Order, 1919, after paragraph 4 and immediately preceding paragraph 5, that is to say—

> "4. (*a*) The mending, refitting and reconditioning of drift seine or similar nets, including all processes (whether similar to the foregoing or not) incidental thereto."

2. This Order may be cited as the Trade Boards (Rope, Twine and Net and Drift Nets) Order, 1925.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Labour this twenty-seventh day of July in the year one thousand nine hundred and twenty-five.

H. J. Wilson,
Secretary, Ministry of Labour.

IV.—REGULATIONS.

Regulations, dated 28th July, 1925, have been made by the Minister of Labour under Section 11 of the Trade Boards Act, 1909, amending the Regulations dated 20th November, 1919, with respect to the constitution and proceedings of the Trade Board for the Rope Twine and Net Trade (Great Britain) and establishing the Drift Nets Mending Trade Board (Great Britain).

TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT IN FARM WORK.

The following notice has been issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, at the suggestion of the Minister of Labour:—

Employment in Farm Work.

Farmers requiring additional temporary labour for any type of work for which no great skill or experience is required are urged to apply to the nearest Employment Exchange in cases where no local men are available. It frequently happens that men on the register of an Employment Exchange, though not skilled agricultural labourers, have at one time or another had some agricultural experience and should be quite able to do unskilled work on a farm.

It is essential that full particulars of the labour required should be given, and that the wages and conditions of work and the accommodation available should be stated. As long notice as possible should be given to the Exchange.

It is sometimes thought that temporary employment on farm work makes a man ineligible for benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Act when the work comes to an end, but this is not the case. Indeed, the acceptance of work on a farm for a short period is a definite indication that a man is genuinely seeking work, and would be regarded as such by the Ministry of Labour when next he makes a claim to benefit.

HOME OFFICE WELFARE ORDER.

CLEANING AND REPAIRING OF SACKS.

The Home Secretary has issued a notice, dated 28th July, 1925, that, in pursuance of the powers conferred on him by Section 7 of the Police, Factories, etc. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1916, he proposes to make an Order, to apply to all factories and workshops, or parts thereof, in which the cleaning or repairing of sacks is carried on.

Copies of the draft Order and of the notice may be obtained on application to the Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Regulations for the Grinding or Glazing of Metals and the Cleaning of Castings.

The Home Secretary has issued a notice, dated 21st July, 1925, that he has amended the draft Regulations for the grinding or glazing of metals and the cleaning of castings, issued on the 8th February, 1924,* to which numerous objections were made; and that he proposes to make Regulations in accordance with the revised draft. The revised draft embodies the substance of an agreement which has been reached after prolonged negotiations with the associations of employers and workpeople concerned, and has been accepted by the Engineering and Allied Employers' National Federation and by the various other organisations affected.

Copies of the revised draft Regulations may be obtained on application to the Chief Inspector of Factories, Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

Woollen and Worsted Textiles (Lifting of Heavy Weights) Regulations.

The Home Secretary has made Regulations† dated 27th July, 1925, under Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, fixing the maximum weights of yarn, cloth, tool, or appliance, which may be lifted by hand by any person employed in the manufacture, dyeing or finishing of woollen or worsted textiles, or in any process ancillary or incidental thereto. The Regulations, which may be cited as the Woollen and Worsted Textiles (Lifting of Heavy Weights) Regulations, 1925, come into force on 1st October, 1925.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Aliens.—*Aliens Order*, 1920. *A return of alien passengers, excluding transmigrants, landed, embarked, and refused leave to land, in the United Kingdom during the three months ending 30th June*, 1925. Home Office. (Cmd. 2410–1; price 1d.)

Census.—*Census of England and Wales*, 1921. *Workplaces*. (S.O. publication; price 16s.) (*See* page 273.)

Friendly Societies.—(1) *Friendly Societies, Orders and Branches: statistical summaries showing the operations of friendly societies in the years* 1914–1923, *and of orders and branches in the years* 1910, 1916–1918, 1920 *and* 1922. (2) *Registered provident societies in Great Britain. General summary*, 1922–1923. Registry of Friendly Societies. (S.O. publications; price 6d. and 4d. respectively.)

Health Services.—*Sixth Annual Report of the Ministry of Health*, 1924–1925. (Cmd. 2450: price 3s. 6d.) (*See* page 268.)

Industrial Assurance.—*Report of the Industrial Assurance Commissioner for the year ended* 31st December, 1924. (H.C. 106; price 2s.)

Mining.—(1) *Industrial Courts Act*, 1919. *Report by a Court of Inquiry concerning the coal mining industry dispute*, 1925. Ministry of Labour. (Cmd. 2478; price 6d.) (*See* page 266.) (2) *Explanatory memorandum of the terms of settlement of the dispute in the coal mining industry.* (Cmd. 2488; price 2d.) (*See* page 266.) (3) *Output and employment at metalliferous mines, quarries, etc., during the quarter ended* 31*st March*, 1925. Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication; price 4d.) (4) *Safety in Mines Research Board. Third Annual Report*, 1924. (S.O. publication; price 1s.) (5) *The lag on ignition of firedamp. Firedamp explosions within closed vessels: the effects of turbulence.* Safety in Mines Research Board. Papers No. 9 and 10, respectively. (S.O. publications; price 6d. and 4d., respectively.)

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* *See* the March, 1924, issue of this Gazette, page 112.

† *Statutory Rules and Orders*, 1925, No. 752. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, JULY, 1925.

ADMIRALTY.

(Civil Engineer-in-Chief's Department.)

Devonport : **Portland Stone Dressings :** Ham, Hill & Doulting Stone Co., Ltd., Yeovil.—**Baulk Timber :** Plymouth & Oreston Timber Co., Ltd., Plymouth.—**Steel Rails, etc. :** The Ebbw Vale Steel Iron & Coal Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Steel Material :** Cammell, Laird & Co., Ltd., Cyclops Works, Sheffield. *Pembroke:* **Crushed Limestone :** T. W. Colley & Sons, Pembroke.—**Portland Cement :** Smeed, Dean & Co., Ltd., Sittingbourne, Kent. *Portsmouth:* **Roofing Slates :** Manod Slate Quarries, Ltd., Portmadoc, North Wales.—**Bricks :** Light Bros. & Flowers, Ltd., Portsmouth. **Creosoted Timber (R.N. Barracks, Warrant Officers' Mess) :** W. Crundall & Co., Ltd., Dover.—**Oak Panelling, etc. :** John Croad, Portsea. *Shotley:* **Re-surfacing Roads :** E. J. Edwards, Norwich. *H.M. Naval Establishments Abroad:* **Rails, etc. :** Isca Foundry Co., Ltd., Newport, Mon.—**Electric Cable :** British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.

(Contract and Purchase Department.)

Anchors, Mooring: John Rogerson & Co., Ltd., Wolsingham.—**Anchors, Stockless:** W. L. Byers & Co., Ltd., Sunderland; R. Sykes & Sons, Ltd., Cradley Heath.—**Bacon (in tins) :** C. & T. Harris (Calne), Ltd., Calne.—**Bags, Kit :** Cranfield & Carter, Burnham-on-Crouch; Gowen & Co., West Mersea, Essex; S. B. Sadler & Sons, Burnham-on-Crouch.—**Batteries :** Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester; D. P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell; Tudor Accumulator Co., Ltd., Dukinfield.—**Boards, Distributing :** Dorman & Smith, Ltd., Manchester.—**Boats, 35-ft. Motor :** The Rowhedge Ironworks, Ltd., Rowhedge; Thomas White, Itchen, Southampton; Short Bros. (Rochester & Bedford), Ltd., Rochester; Wm. Hill, Ltd., Tyne Dock.—**Bolts and Nuts, Wrought Iron :** Wilkes, Ltd., Darlaston; Stones Bros., Ltd., West Bromwich; C. Richards & Sons, Ltd., Darlaston.—**Bolts, Holding down :** C. Richards & Sons Ltd., Darlaston.; J. C. Prestwich, Ltd., Manchester.—**Boxes, Ammunition :** D. M. Davies, London, N.—**Brass Tubes :** J. Wilkes, Sons & Mapplebeck, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Brushes, Rammer and Sponge, Staves End, Cleaners Piasaba, and Spindle Cleaners :** Chadwick & Shapcott, Ltd., London, W.C.; S. D. Warren & Co., London, N.W.—**Calico :** Fothergill & Harvey, Ltd., Manchester; G. I. Sidebottom & Co., Manchester; Hugh Spencer & Co., Manchester.—**Chain, Cable and Gear :** J. G. Walker & Son, Ltd., Old Hill, Staffs; Brown, Lenox & Co., Ltd., Pontypridd; Laird & Son, Ltd., Irvine.—**Chain, Mooring and Shackles :** H. Wood & Co., Ltd., Saltney; Brown, Lenox & Co., Ltd., Pontypridd.—**Clasp Knives :** Harrison Bros. & Howson, Sheffield.—**Cloth, Blue :** John Halliday & Co., Ltd., Pudsey; Wm. Lupton & Co., Leeds; Samuel Salter & Co., Ltd., Trowbridge.—**Conduits :** Talbot Stead Tube Co., Ltd., Birchills, Walsall.—**CO_2 Plant :** J. & E. Hall, Ltd., Dartford.—**Coolers, Air :** Reavell & Co., Ltd., Ipswich.—**Cooling Tower :** Davenport Engineering Co., Ltd., Bradford.—**Copper Tubes :** J. Wilkes, Sons & Mapplebeck, Ltd., Birmingham; Birmingham Battery & Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Doors, Watertight :** Mechans, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Files :** Thos. Firth & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; Sanderson Bros. & Newbould, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Flour :** R. T. Smyth & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; J. Rank, Ltd., London, E.C.; J. Herdman & Sons, Ltd., Edinburgh; E. Marriage & Son, Ltd., Felixstowe; Spillers & Bakers, Ltd., Bristol.—**Forging Press, 300 tons Hydraulic :** Fielding & Platt, Ltd., Gloucester.—**Frames, Wall, Cast Steel :** The Carntyne Steel Castings Co., Renfrew.—**Glycerine, Dynamite :** Lever Bros., Ltd., London, E.C.; J. Crosfield & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Gowns, Operation :** Hobson & Sons (London), Ltd., London, S.E.—**Jam (Blackcurrant and Gooseberry) :** Barnes & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Chivers & Sons, Ltd., Cambridge; C. Southwell & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; E. & T. Pink Ltd., London, S.E.—**Jam (Raspberry and Red Currant) :** Chivers & Sons, Ltd., Cambridge.—**Keys, Morse :** Baird & Tatlock, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Lanyards, Knife :** Wm. Edwards & Son, Bridport.—**Lard :** C. & T. Harris (Calne), Ltd., Calne.—**Lift, Electric :** W. Wadsworth & Sons, Ltd., Bolton.—**Linen, Black :** Ulster Weaving Co., Ltd., Belfast.—**Linen, Table :** William Ewart & Son, Ltd., Belfast.—M'Crum, Watson & Merser, Ltd., Belfast; Ulster Weaving Co., Ltd., Belfast.—**Liners, Cast Steel :** Barrow Hæmatite Steel Co., Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness; F. H. Lloyd & Co., Ltd., Wednesbury.—**Machine, Band Re-Sawing :** T. Robinson & Son, Ltd., Rochdale.—**Machine, Drilling, Surfacing, Boring and Milling :** H. W. Kearns & Co., Ltd., Broadheath, Manchester.—**Machine, Internal Cylinder Grinding :** Churchill Machine Tool Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Machine, Milling :** Cunliffe & Croom, Ltd., Manchester.—**Monel Metal Rod :** G. & J. Weir, Ltd., Cathcart.—**Motors, Control Gear and Spares :** Laurence Scott & Co., Ltd., Norwich.—**Oil, Linseed :** Dixon & Cardus, Ltd., Southampton; Younghusband, Barnes & Co., London, S.E.; G. Armstrong & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Smith Bros., & Co., London, E.—**Oil, Mineral Vaporising :** British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Oil, Scotch Power :** The Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Panels, Transmitting :** H. W. Sullivan, Ltd, London, E.C.—**Plates, Chequered Steel :** South Durham Steel & Iron Co., Ltd., West Hartlepool; The Park Gate Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham; The Port Talbot Steel Co., Ltd., Port Talbot.—**Pump and Casing :** W. H. Allen, Sons & Co., Ltd., Bedford.—**Radio Goniometers :** Gambrell Bros., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Riveter, Hydraulic :** Henry Berry & Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Screws and Slips :** Carron Co., Falkirk; Douglass Bros., Ltd., Blaydon-on-Tyne.—**Shoes, Gymnasium :** North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Steel, Bar :** Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough; The Frodingham Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Scunthorpe; The Park Gate Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham; United Strip & Bar Mills, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Steel, High Speed Tool :** Henry Rossell & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Thos. Firth & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth & Co., Ltd., Openshaw.—**Steel Sections :** The Frodingham Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Scunthorpe.—**Steel Sheets :** Wm. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Steel Wire Hawsers :** Binks Bros., Ltd., London, E.; Edwin Ellis & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Craven & Speeding Bros., Sunderland.—**Switches, D.P.—5 and 15 amp. :** Hawkers, Ltd., Birmingham; Barr & Stroud, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Tape :** The Bole Hall Mill Co., Tamworth; E. B. Hamel & Son, Tamworth; G. H. Wheatcroft & Co., Wirksworth.—**Travelling Cranes (2 tons and 3 tons, Electric Overhead) :** T. Smith & Sons (Rodley), Ltd., Leeds.—**Trousers, Fearnought :** Redman Bros., Hebden Bridge.—**Tubing, Canvas Hose :** Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen.—**Voice Pipes and Fittings :** The Power Flexible Tubing Co.. Ltd., London, N.—**Watchcoats :** Milnes, Cartwright, Reynolds, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Winches, Loading :** MacTaggart, Scott & Co., Ltd., Loanhead, Edinburgh.—**Wire Line and Strand :** Warrington Wire Rope Works, Ltd., Liverpool; Edwin Ellis & Co., Ltd., London, E.; R. S. Newall & Son, Ltd., Liverpool.

WAR OFFICE.

Barrows, Stable, and parts : East & Son, Ltd., Berkhamsted.—**Bicycles and parts :** The B.S.A. Cycles, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Boilers :** National Radiator Co., Ltd., Hull; Smith & Wellstead, Ltd., Bonnybridge.—**Boots, Mosquito :** R. Coggins & Sons, Raunds.—**Brass Sheet :** Allen, Everitt & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; The British Copper Mfrs., Ltd., Swansea; D. F. Taylor & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Brushes, Brass :** Beechwood, Ltd., Chesham.—**Cable, Electric :** W. T. Henleys Telegraph Works, Ltd., London, E.C.; Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton; Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Caps, Forage :** L. Silberston, London, E.—**Caps, R.T.C. :** M. & A. Currie, Ltd., Kilmarnock.—**Casks, Vat :** Edwards & Co., London, S.E.—**Chairs, Arm, Oak :** Atkinson & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Maple & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Chassis, 30 cwt. :** The Albion Motor Car Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Halleys Industrial Motors, Ltd., Glasgow; J. I. Thornycroft & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; The Vulcan & Engineering Co., Ltd., Southport.—**Cloth, Blue-Grey :** J. Hainsworth & Sons, Farsley, nr. Leeds; J. Watkinson & Sons, Ltd., Holmfirth, nr. Huddersfield.—**Clutch Rings :** Weybridge Motor Eng. Co., Ltd., Weybridge.—**Collars, Head, Stable and Girths, Leather :** Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, London, S.E.—**Cylinders, Iron :** F. Francis & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Drawers, Cotton :** J. Clarke & Co., Ltd., Arnold, Notts.—**Feltwork :** F. McNeill & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Flaps, Universal and Seats, Saddlery :** Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.; D. Mason & Sons, Birmingham.—**Foundation, Block and Anvil :** Davy Bros., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Frames, Aerial, Windings :** Fullers United Electric Co., Ltd., Chadwell Heath.—**Gas Holder—Repair of :** Samuel Cutler & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Generators :** The Small Electric Motors, Ltd., Beckenham.—**Helmet Bodies :** Helmets, Ltd., St. Albans.—**Lead alloyed with Antimony :** Locke, Lancaster and W. W. & R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Lead, Sheet :** Stock, Sons & Taylors, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Linseed Oil, Raw :** Union Oil & Cake Mills, Branch of the British Oil & Cake Mills, Ltd., Rotherhithe.—**Liquor, Cresoli Saponatus Fortis :** Newton Chambers & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Lockers, Metal:** Waddell & Wilson, London, E.—**Nickel :** Mond Nickel Co., Ltd., Clydach, Mon.—**Oil, Extra Heavy :** Liberty Oils, Ltd., London, E.—**Pig Iron :** The Ebbw Vale Steel Iron & Coal Co., Ltd., Ebbw Vale.—**Power Units, Pipes and Couplings :** Douglas Motors, Ltd., Kingswood.—**Presses, Hydraulic, Various :** The Leeds Engineering & Hydraulic Co., Ltd., Leeds; The West Hydraulic Engineering Co., Ltd., Luton.—**Rags, Cotton :** A. Armitage, Dewsbury.—**Rope, Tarred :** The Belfast Ropework Co., Ltd., Belfast.—**Salt Cellars and Basins (Enamelled) :** Welsh Tinplate & Metal Stamping Co., Ltd., Llanelly.—**Sheets, Barrack :** J. Gunning & Son., Ltd., Belfast; T. McLaren & Sons, Kirkcaldy.—**Springs :** West Bromwich Spring Co., West Bromwich.—**Steel Billets :** Darlington Forge, Ltd., Darlington.—**Steel, Nickel Billets :** The Darlington Forge, Ltd., Darlington.—**Steel Sheds :** W. Bain & Co., Ltd., Coatbridge.—**Stoves, Soyers :** Orme, Evans & Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Tinplates, Various :** Brooker, Dore & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Transformers, Rotary :** W. Mackie & Co., London, S.E.—**Tweed, Blue, No. 2 :** Colbeck Bros., Ltd., Wakefield.—**Wheels, Grinding, Various :** McEwen, Denby & Hart Briggs, Ltd., London.—**Wire, Steel, Flat :** Latch & Batchelor, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Works Services :** *Building Works and Services*: Blackdown (Reconstruction and New Work): Ashford Builders Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Southsea Castle (Repairs to Piling on Foreshore): F. Bevis, Ltd., Portsmouth. Canterbury (Single Storey Barrack Block): G. Browning, Canterbury. Londonderry (Erection of Married Officers' Quarters): R. Colhoun, Londonderry. Lower Chatham Barracks (Alterations to Roofs of Soldiers' Quarters): Geo. Gates & Sons, Rochester, Kent. Beverley (Construction of Miniature Range): Jaram & Son, Scarborough. Feltham (Erection of Two W.O.'s Quarters): R. Mansell, Croydon. York Cavalry Barracks (Repair to Mangers): J. W. Maw & Sons, Ltd., York. Blenheim Barracks, Aldershot (Detached W.O.'s

Quarters): C. Morgan & Son, Ash Vale, Surrey. Ashton-under-Lyne (Gymnasium Extension): J. Ridyard & Sons, Ltd., Ashton-under-Lyne. Beachley Camp (Erection of Married Officers', W.O.'s and Married Soldiers' Quarters): J. Stephens, Cardiff. Catterick Camp (Reconditioning of Roads): Tarslag (1923), Ltd., Stockton-on-Tees. Colchester (Repair of Roads): J. Tovell, Ltd., Colchester. Topsham Barracks, Exeter (Erection of Married Soldiers' Quarters): Woodman & Son, Exeter. Redford Barracks, Edinburgh (Erection of Married Officers' Quarters): W. & E. R. Watson, Ltd., Edinburgh. *Maintenance Works*: South Aldershot: A. Bagnall & Sons, Ltd., Shipley. Lichfield (Whittington Barracks): C. J. Else & Co., Matlock. Bordon: A. A. McDermott, Bradford. Devonport, Stonehouse, Plymouth, etc.: F. J. Stanbury, Plymouth. *Painting*: Sheerness and Isle of Grain: C. J. Else & Co., Matlock. Hounslow Barracks: S. Lupton & Sons, Bradford, Yorks. Longmoor Camp: C. Morgan & Son, Ash Vale, Surrey. *Installations*: Royal Army Ordnance General and Mob. Stores, Chatham (of Hot Water): E. Dean & Beal, Ltd., London, E.C.

AIR MINISTRY.

Air Bottles and Tanks: Armstrong Whitworth & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Aircraft:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; Supermarine Aviation Works, Ltd., Southampton.—**Aircraft Floats:** Short Bros., Rochester.—**Aircraft, Metal Wings:** Steel Wing Co., London, S.E.—**Aircraft, Reconditioning of:** A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Blackburn Aeroplane & Motor Co., Ltd., Leeds; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes; Gloucestershire Aircraft Co., Ltd., Cheltenham.—**Aircraft, Repairs to:** Gloucestershire Aircraft Co., Ltd., Cheltenham.—**Aircraft Spares:** Blackburn Aeroplane & Motor Co., Ltd., Leeds; De Havilland Aircraft Co., Ltd., Edgware; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes; H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames; Short Bros. (Rochester and Bedford), Ltd., Rochester; Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge.—**Aircraft Wheels, Inner Tubes:** Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Aircraft Wheels and Tyres:** Palmer Tyres, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Airscrews:** D. M. Davies, London, N.; Airscrew Co., Weybridge; Metal Propellors, Ltd., Croydon.—**Airscrew Metal Boss Spares:** Metal Propellors, Ltd., Croydon.—**Ash:** C. R. Claridge, Exeter.—**Bombs, Practice:** Trojan, Ltd., Croydon.—**Buildings and Works Services:** Artificers' Work (Donibristle): A. Kinnear, Lundin Links, Fife. (Milton): W. E. Chivers & Son, Ltd., Devizes. Fans, Ceiling (Palestine): Veritys, Ltd., London, W.C. Fans, Desk (Palestine): Metro Vick Supplies, Ltd., London, S.W. Filter, Rain Water (Ismalia): Kestner Evaporator & Engineering Co., London, S.W. Hair Belting (Hinaidi): Turner Bros., Asbestos Co., London, E.C. Machinery House, etc. (Egypt and Cardington): Braithwaite & Co. (Engineers), Ltd., London, S.W. Officers' Mess, Quarters, etc. (Spittlegate): J. Laing & Sons, London, W.C. Plates for D.H. Type Cells (Malta): Pritchett & Gold, London, S.W. Portland Cement (Middle East): Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Pump House, etc. (Felixstowe): F. R. Hipperson, London, E.C. (Martlesham Heath): Bennett & Snare, Ipswich. Sewage Ejectors, etc. (Wittering): Adams Hydraulics, Ltd., London, S.W. Sheets, Galvanised Corrugated (Iraq): F. Braby & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Buttons, Push:** Pinnacle Switchgear, Ltd., Weybridge.—**Caps, Blue:** L. Silberston, London, E.—**Carriers, Bomb:** Vickers, Ltd., Dartford; Trojan, Ltd., Croydon.—**Cartridges, Signal, 1½ in.:** Nobel Industries, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Coal, House:** (Bircham Newton and Calshot): J. H. Gilman & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. (Digby): A. Blackman & Co., London, E.C. (Duxford): Peake, Oliver & Peake, Ltd., London, E.C. (Eastchurch): J. H. Gilman & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. (Flowerdown, Henlow, Kenley, and Northolt): Peake, Oliver & Peake, Ltd., London, E.C. (Old Sarum): F. Bird & Co., Salisbury. (Ruislip): J. H. Gilman & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. (Upavon and Netheravon, Uxbridge, and Worthy Down): Peake, Oliver & Peake, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Crossley Spares:** Crossley Motors, Ltd., Gorton, Manchester.—**Desks, School, Single:** North of England School Furnishing Co., Darlington.—**Drives, Flexible:** Flexible Shaft Manufacturing Co., London, E.; S. Smith & Sons (M.A.), Ltd., London, N.W.—**Duralumin:** James Booth & Co. (1915), Ltd., Nechells, Birmingham.—**Engines, Aircraft:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.; Ricardo & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Rolls-Royce, Ltd., Derby; W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Engine, Aircraft (Accessories for Bonding and Screening):** Birkbys, Liversedge, Yorks; D. H. Bonnella & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W.; The Pyne Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Teddington.—**Engine, Aircraft, Ignition Spares:** Delco, Remy & Hyatt, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Engine, Aircraft, Jigs and Tools for:** Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; Rolls-Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engine, Aircraft, Overhaul of:** Rolls-Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engines, Aircraft, Rectification of:** D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engines, Aircraft, Repair of:** Rolls-Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engines, Aircraft, Spares:** Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.; Gillett, Stephen & Co., Ltd., Bookham, Surrey.—**Engines, Aircraft, Spares, Repair of:** Rolls-Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engine, Aircraft, Superchargers:** D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Film:** Wellington & Ward, Ltd., Elstree.—**Forms and Tables, Airmen's:** Educational Supply Association, London, W.C.—**Gardner Marine Spares:** Norris, Henty & Gardner, Ltd., Patricroft. **Gas, Acetylene:** Allen Liversidge, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Generators, Motor:** Small Electric Motors, Ltd., Beckenham.—**Generators and Spares:** W. Mackie & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Jackets, Blue:** H. Lotery & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Lamps, Identification:** Howes-Burley, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Leathers, Chamois:** Pavlova Leather Co., Ltd., Abingdon.—**Magnetos and Spares:** British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Mahogany, Aircraft:** R. M. Turner & Hunters, Ltd., London, E.; W. Oliver & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Metal, White:** Phosphor Bronze Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Hoyt Metal Co. of Great Britain, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Observer's Gun, ·5 in.:** B.S.A. Guns, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Oil, Linseed:** Younghusband, Barnes & Co., London, S.E.—**Plates, Enamelled:** McFarlane & Robinson, Ltd., Bushbury. Wolverhampton.—**Radiators:** Excelsior Motor Radiator Co., Ltd., Elstree; Serck Radiators, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Soap, Soft:** Peter Lunt & Co., Aintree, Liverpool.—**Soda, Caustic:** Electro Bleach and By-Products, Ltd., Middlewich.—**Solder, Soft:** G. A. Harvey & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.E.—**Training Arms:** Adamant Engineering Co., Ltd., Luton.—**Tops, Table, Repair of:** East & Son, Ltd., Great Berkhamsted.—**Tubes, Deflector:** Rapson Tyre & Jack Co., Ltd., New Malden.—**Valves, W/T:** Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Mullard Radio Valve Co., Ltd. London, S.W.; British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Voltmeters, Thermo-Ammeters and Milliammeters:** Ernest Turner, High Wycombe.—**Wheels, Aircraft, Inner Tubes:** D. Moseley & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.

POST OFFICE.

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