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

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT at 21st August, 1933, showed a slight improvement as compared with a month before, and a marked improvement as compared with August, 1932.

Among workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed was 19·2 at 21st August, 1933, as compared with 19·6 at 24th July, 1933, and 23·0 at 22nd August, 1932. For males alone the percentage at 21st August, 1933, was 22·5, and for females 10·5. At 24th July, 1933, the corresponding percentages were 22·8 and 11·0.

Insured Persons in work in Great Britain.—It is estimated that at 21st August, 1933, there were approximately 9,857,000 insured persons aged 16–64 in employment in Great Britain. This was 57,000 more than a month before, and 648,000 more than a year before.

Numbers Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).—At 21st August, 1933, there were 1,843,517 persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 11,697 less than a month before, and 196,561 less than a year before. The total on 21st August, 1933, included 1,538,542 men, 53,091 boys, 213,072 women and 38,812 girls. It was made up of 508,675 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 1,003,558 applicants for transitional payments, 199,096 other insured persons not in receipt of benefit or transitional payments, and 132,188 uninsured persons.

Numbers Temporarily Stopped.—At 21st August, 1933, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 363,862 men, 9,179 boys, 106,035 women and 4,356 girls who were on short time or otherwise suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment. The total of 483,432 was 18,270 less than a month before, and 235,863 less than a year before. It included 417,661 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 33,356 applicants for transitional payments, and 32,415 persons not in receipt of benefit or transitional payments.

Numbers Unemployed normally in Casual Employment.—At 21st August, 1933, there were on the registers in Great Britain 82,526 men, 95 boys, 1,560 women and 7 girls who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration; these are largely employed in dock and harbour service. The total of 84,188 was 1,071 less than a month before, and 16,267 less than a year before. It included 54,729 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 28,689 applicants for transitional payments, and 770 persons not in receipt of benefit or transitional payments.

Industries in which Principal Variations occurred.—There was a further improvement in iron and steel manufacture, engineering, shipbuilding and ship repairing, the woollen, linen, hosiery and lace industries, and in the shipping, hotel and boarding-house services. Employment also improved in building, coal mining, the iron and steel tube, and electrical apparatus industries,

and cocoa, chocolate, etc., manufacture; while in the cotton and jute industries the termination of local holidays at certain centres led to a reduction of the numbers registered as unemployed.

On the other hand employment further declined in the tailoring, dressmaking, and boot and shoe industries, and there was also some decline in tinplate, pottery, and glass bottle manufacture.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in August resulted in an increase of about £4,500 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 99,000 workpeople, and in a decrease of about £700 in those of nearly 10,000 workpeople.

The changes included increases in the wages of workpeople employed in steel melting shops and steel rolling mills in various districts of England and Scotland, and in those of electrical cable makers, chain makers, and brush and broom workers.

The changes so far reported in the eight completed months of 1933 have resulted in a net increase of nearly £19,000 per week in the full-time rates of wages of about 138,000 workpeople, and in a net decrease of about £86,000 in those of about 944,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st September the average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 41 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 39 per cent. a month earlier and 41 per cent. a year earlier. For food alone the average increase was approximately 22 per cent., as compared with 19 per cent. a month earlier and 23 per cent. a year earlier.

The rise in the index-number at 1st September, as compared with that for a month earlier, was due mainly to increases in the prices of eggs, bacon and butter; the increases in prices were partly counterbalanced by reductions in the prices of potatoes.

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, the changes in the prices of the various articles included are combined proportionately to 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.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in August was 25. In addition, 11 disputes which began before August were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in August (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 29,200, and the aggregate duration of all disputes in August was about 142,000 working days.

for over 1,000 days in the eight-year period, as compared with 9.4 per cent. among men aged 45 to 64. It is highly probable that most of the young men in this category are to be found in the depressed areas. They have suffered from the extreme depression in the heavy industries and have had comparatively little opportunity of alternative employment.

A useful indication of the extent to which unemployment is persistent in individual cases is given by an analysis based on the number of claims made in a given period. It has already been explained that when the first claim is made, it is available for action at the Local Office during a period of twelve months. Thereafter a fresh claim must be made, if the applicant continues to be unemployed. Between 7th July, 1924, and 2nd December, 1932, it was thus possible for the record extracted for the purpose of the sample to have included nine separate claims of this kind.

Among those who were insured throughout the whole period, the maximum number of claims was made by only 0.8 per cent. of the men and 0.2 per cent. of the women; while those who made less than five claims included 72.5 per cent. of the men and 80.4 per cent. of the women.

Of those who made no claim, 60.8 per cent. of the men and 83.7 per cent. of the women were under 45 years of age. Of those who made eight or more claims, 54 per cent. of the men and 81 per cent. of the women were under 45. As shown by previous enquiries, those who made the greatest number of claims received, on the average, payment for a greater number of days on each claim than those who made few claims. For example, among the men in the sample, those who made only one claim in the period received payment thereon for 60 days on the average, whilst those who made nine claims received payment in each year for 157 days on the average. Between these two extremes, the amount received in each year covered by a claim shows a steady increase as the number of claims increases. The same point may be put in another way. Among the men who made only one claim, 77.8 per cent. drew not more than 100 days, while among those who made nine claims, only 12.8 per cent. drew not more than 100 days on the average on each claim. Of the 172 men in the sample who made nine claims, 100 were in receipt of transitional payments at 28th November, 1932.

Effect of recent depression on unemployment record.—Some idea of the effect of the industrial depression which began to develop towards the end of 1929 on the increase in unemployment, and on the unemployment experience of individual insured persons, may be gained from a comparison of the amounts drawn on claims made in 1930 and 1931, with the corresponding figures for each of the five preceding years. An analysis on this basis has been made in respect of those in the sample who proved unemployment on 28th November, 1932.

The following Table shows for this group the number who made claims in each year from 1925 to 1932, and the average number of days of benefit or transitional payments received on each claim:—

Insured Persons Unemployed on 28th November, 1932.

Year in which claims were made.	Men.		Women.	
	Number who made claims.	Average number of days for which payment was received on each claim.	Number who made claims.	Average number of days for which payment was received on each claim.
1925	2,289	93	225	57
1926	2,558	96	359	54
1927	2,586	87	287	52
1928	2,970	109	347	62
1929	3,070	123	382	99
1930	4,417	167	625	140
1931	5,305	193	702	138

As compared with those for 1927, the figures for 1931 show that, while the number who made claims had rather more than doubled, the average amount received on each claim had also more than doubled. The proportion who received payment for 300 days or more in the year covered by the claims rose for men from 3.0 per cent. in the case of claims made in 1926 to 24.2 per cent. in the case of claims made in 1931. The corresponding figures for women are 0.0 per cent. and 10.0 per cent. respectively. On the other hand, the percentage who received payment for less than 50 days on each claim fell for men from 44.1 in 1927 to 9.8 in 1931, the corresponding figures for women being 59.6 per cent. and 17.7 per cent. respectively. These results are consistent with the evidence from other sources, tending to show that when a large increase in the numbers unemployed occurs, the increase is due not merely to an increase in the numbers becoming unemployed, but also to a decrease in the proportion returning to work. Each person unemployed is thus out of work for a longer period.

A point of interest brought out by separate analysis in respect of those on insurance benefit and on transitional payments at 28th November, 1932, is that even in the earlier years covered by the foregoing Table, the number of days for which payment was received by those now in the transitional class was at least 50 per cent. greater than the corresponding figure for those now on insurance benefit. Earlier enquiries on this subject have also tended to bring out the somewhat lower level of employability of the great majority of those on transitional payments. The disparity in the benefit record of the two sections is greater, however, in more recent years, when the competition for employment has been more intense. Of the men who were in receipt of transitional payments at 28th November, 1932, who made claims in 1931, no less than 43.5 per

cent. received payment either of insurance benefit or transitional payments on such claims for 300 days or more in the year, while 66.5 per cent. received such payment for 250 days or more. Only 4.1 per cent. of the men received payment for less than 100 days. The figures in respect of women are similar. The corresponding figures for those on insurance benefit at 28th November, 1932, on the other hand, show that only 0.8 per cent. had received payment for 300 days or more, and 3.8 per cent. for 250 days or more. For the years 1925 to 1929, inclusive, the figures for the men on insurance benefit at the end of November, 1932, show that two-thirds or more drew less than 100 days of benefit in each year.

The foregoing summary gives an analysis of the sample from the point of view mainly of the record for the last eight years taken together. In a subsequent article the analysis will be continued with reference chiefly to the contribution and unemployment experience of the years 1931 and 1932.

TRAINING FOR THE UNEMPLOYED: SOME RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.

In the last nine months, following upon the recommendations contained in the Report of the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance (published in November, 1932) important developments in the Department's schemes of training for unemployed men and women in the depressed industrial areas have taken place.

Instructional Centres.—The training given at the Department's Instructional Centres takes the form of a three months' course on unskilled work, designed to restore men who have been long unemployed to the physical condition necessary to obtain and hold a job. While it is, of course, desirable that the training should be followed as soon as possible by employment, it is not a necessary condition of success, as it is with the specialised instruction given at Government Training Centres (see below), that a suitable job should be in prospect on completion of the course. In May, 1932, therefore, the Department decided not to relate this form of training strictly to the absorption capacity of the labour market. This policy was endorsed by the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance [Final Report, Cmd. 4135, para. 648] who added a strong recommendation that this service should be extended and retained under the control of the Minister of Labour. In carrying out this last recommendation three main lines of development have been followed.

In the first place, five tented camps were set up during this summer as annexes to certain Instructional Centres already in existence, and in this way it has been possible to give some 1,500 additional men a 12 weeks' course upon work similar to that at Instructional Centres proper. The men admitted to the tented camps were as a rule first accommodated in the hutsments of the parent Instructional Centre, and only passed out to the tents when they had become sufficiently hardened to live under canvas. The weather this summer has been uniformly favourable, and it is believed that the provision of these tented camps (all of which will be closed by the first week in October) has been much appreciated by the men.

In the second place, arrangements were initiated to set up further Instructional Centres in new areas. The sites of the first of these are Glenbranter (Argyllshire), Kielder (Northumberland), Kershope Foot (Cumberland), Hamsterley (Co. Durham), Allerston (North Yorks), and Brechfa (Carmarthenshire). The Kielder and Glenbranter Centres were opened in August, and it is hoped that the remainder will be open by the end of the year or shortly after.

Owing to the nature of the work undertaken (mainly upon the national estates of the Forestry Commission), Instructional Centres have hitherto been set up in districts remote from the depressed industrial areas from which the men are drawn, and it has been necessary to accommodate the men either in hutsments or in lodgings nearby. The setting up of local Instructional Centres in close proximity to the depressed areas, which constitutes the third line of recent development, marks, therefore, a new departure. The first of these local Centres, that at Bilston in Staffordshire (where the main work will be the levelling of slag heaps), opened at the beginning of September: a further such Centre at Rheola on Forestry Commission land is planned to open in October.

Physical Training Classes.—In April, 1932, it was decided that the Department should undertake an experiment in the provision of physical training classes in selected areas of unemployment. Four such classes were accordingly opened, and the Royal Commission, in commenting upon this development (Final Report, para. 648), recommended its extension. It was hoped that if these Centres proved successful they would not only be valuable in themselves, but would stimulate the provision of similar facilities by voluntary agencies throughout the country. Thirteen such Centres in all have now been opened; five of them have been taken over by voluntary agencies at the expiration of their six months' terms, and seven are now in existence, with 1,597 men in training. The classes are everywhere well attended. The considerably increased provision of physical training for unemployed men by voluntary agencies, which has been noticeable recently, may be attributed in part to the success of these experiments and the publicity which they have received. The courses are limited to 12 weeks for each man. Four one-hour classes are provided for 30 men on each day, and the men attend on alternate days, so that it is possible to deal with about 200 men at a time at each Centre. The total number of men who have taken advantage of the facilities offered at these Centres up to 31st July was approximately 6,500.

Government Training Centres.—As regards Government Training Centres, where young men from the depressed areas are given a six months' intensive course in skilled trades, the Royal Commission endorsed the Department's policy of relating the number of places available at such centres very closely to the prospects of employment for the trainees on conclusion of the course (Final Report, para. 641). Any development in this direction is, therefore, conditioned by the position of trade and industry, and until a material improvement sets in, it is improbable that the number of places available at these Centres will be appreciably augmented. There are now eight such Centres, at which 2,027 training places are at present provided.

Domestic Training Centres for Women.—In the case of women, resident domestic work continues to afford varied possibilities of employment, and, accordingly, the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment, by whom the training of unemployed women is carried out on behalf of the Ministry, have continued to concentrate their efforts almost entirely on training for this employment. There are at the present time 26 non-residential centres, located in or near the distressed mining and cotton trade areas in South Wales, North-East England, Lancashire and Scotland; and six residential centres situated in areas where the opportunities for placing are good. Provision has been made in these centres for training some 4,400 women and girls during the current financial year. During the week ended 26th August, 1933, 310 adults and 577 juveniles (under 18 years) were in training.

A new non-residential centre will shortly be opened at Whitehaven, and the Central Committee hope in the near future to open two new residential centres.

Certain other forms of training are given under the Individual Vocational Training Scheme; but owing to the need for economy the number of grants made under this scheme has been considerably reduced, and at the end of July only 17 women were undergoing such training.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT (SCOTLAND).

THE National Advisory Council for Juvenile Employment (Scotland) was invited by the Minister of Labour on 15th February, 1932, (i) to consider the prospective supply of and demand for juvenile labour in different parts of Scotland during the next eight or ten years, and at the same time to advise as to any measures which should be taken for the purpose of adjusting the relation between the supply and the demand; and (ii) to conduct an enquiry into the employment of young persons under the age of eighteen in occupations whose hours of employment are not at present limited by statute.

The Council have now issued Reports on each of these matters.

I.—SUPPLY OF, DEMAND FOR, AND REDISTRIBUTION OF JUVENILE LABOUR IN SCOTLAND DURING 1932-1940.*

The Council conducted the enquiry by means of a questionnaire, issued to all Juvenile Advisory Committees in Scotland (covering all the important industrial portions of the country) and also to a number of Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour in areas not covered by the Advisory Committees. In compiling their replies, the Committees were asked to co-operate with Education Authorities and to seek the assistance of local industrial organisations. The National Confederation of Employers' Organisations and the Scottish Trades Union Congress General Council asked their constituent bodies to give the local Committees all possible help in the matter.

The most important question which the Committees were asked to consider was what effect fluctuations in the numbers of juveniles available for employment, due to changes in the birth rate during and after the War, would have upon the local position in future years. Committees were asked to assume, for the purpose of their estimates, that the employment demand for juveniles under 18 would continue to be the same during the coming years as it was in May, 1932, when the survey was made. On 2nd May, 1932, the total demand (i.e., the number in employment) for labour in the area covered by the survey amounted to 79,432 boys and 77,410 girls; while the summary of the Committees' estimates showed that 92,512 boys and 87,355 girls would be available for employment in 1933, the excess of supply over demand thus being 13,080 boys and 9,945 girls. The Table below shows the result of similar calculations for each of the years ended 31st March, 1934 to 1940:—

Estimated net surplus of juvenile labour in survey area.							
Years ended 31st March—	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
Boys	18,797	25,435	33,128	37,573	34,254	30,980	27,736
Girls	15,309	21,634	28,213	31,891	28,921	25,658	22,449

To deal with the problem of what is in effect an all-round surplus of juvenile labour, the Council recommend:—

- (i) that the possibilities of industrial transference be further examined,
- (ii) that the school-leaving age be raised and further provision made for the training of unemployed juveniles,
- (iii) that the employment of children outside school-hours be reduced to a minimum and that, to that end, local authorities be asked to make the fullest use of their powers of regulation under the Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act, 1932.

* National Advisory Council for Juvenile Employment (Scotland): Fifth Report. H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net (3½d. post free).

II.—HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT OF BOYS AND GIRLS IN "UNREGULATED OCCUPATIONS."*

In this enquiry also the Council decided to seek the assistance of the Juvenile Advisory Committees and, in the case of a few smaller areas not covered by a Committee, of the Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour. The area covered accounted for approximately 71 per cent. of the total number of juveniles in Scotland, calculated on the basis of those leaving school. It is stated in the Report that probably a rather higher percentage of juveniles in "unregulated" occupations came within the scope of the enquiry, as the reports were mainly from industrial areas, and the proportion of juveniles employed in such occupations in the rural areas is below the average. Particulars were obtained of the normal weekly working hours of 23,350 boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 18. The following Table gives particulars of the normal weekly hours worked, excluding meal times and/or rest periods, in occupations absorbing the largest numbers of boys and girls:—

Occupation.	Number covered by enquiry.	Percentage whose normal weekly hours were—		
		Up to and including 48.	Over 48 and up to and including 54.	Over 54.
Errand and Messenger Boys	13,697	20.4	42.8	36.8
Errand and Messenger Girls	4,865	21.6	48.5	29.9
Van Boys	2,971	28.3	34.8	36.9
Warehouse Boys	348	31.0	45.4	23.6
Warehouse Girls	382	33.8	45.8	20.4
Other Occupations	1,087	50.8	25.4	23.8

The hours including meal times and/or rest periods were, of course, considerably higher. The proportion whose over-all hours did not exceed 48 was only 9.5 per cent.; at 48-54 hours the percentage was 16.9; at 54-60 hours, 38.7; at 60-66 hours, 26.7; over 66 hours, 8.2. For some occupations the hours were much higher than the average; for example, 76 per cent. of the ice cream sellers (boys) had a week of more than 54 hours excluding meal times and/or rest periods.

It is stated in the Report that the general tendency is for the hours worked by juveniles under the age of 16 to be somewhat less than those worked by juveniles over that age, but that there is no very marked difference between the two age-groups.

A Table is published in the Report indicating the extent to which the attendance of juveniles at evening classes or clubs is rendered impossible or very difficult in view of the incidence of the hours of work. Nearly 30 per cent. of the juveniles, taking all occupations together, are thus affected; some occupations are not affected at all, but, on the other hand, practically all the cinema workers are precluded by their hours of work from attending clubs or evening classes. The Report also gives particulars of occupations in which the prospects of progressive employment are, on the whole, favourable or the reverse; and of those which are likely to prejudice, or otherwise, the chances of juveniles obtaining employment in other trades.

The replies were, on the whole, against the conclusion that any of the occupations could be regarded as definitely unhealthy. The only occupation in which a weekly half-holiday on a weekday is not normally taken is that of ice-cream seller. The occupations in which Sunday work is notably frequent are those of petrol pump boy, ice-cream seller, and, in a few areas, errand boys and girls engaged in the delivery of newspapers and milk.

The Council recommend: (i) that action should be taken to regulate the occupation of ice-cream sellers, as being hawkers within the meaning of sections 46 and 54 of the Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act, 1932, when these sections are brought into force; (ii) that further steps should be taken to regulate the hours of employment of boys and girls in unregulated occupations; (iii) that a maximum working week of 54 hours, including meals, for boys and girls in unregulated occupations should be fixed by Parliament; and (iv) that, within the limits set by statute, powers should be given to Local Authorities to make by-laws prescribing shorter hours and additional conditions.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DRAFT ANOMALIES (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS.

THE Advisory Committee appointed under the Unemployment Insurance (No. 3) Act, 1931,† to be consulted with regard to Regulations made under section 1 of that Act (dealing with certain anomalies), have presented a Report‡ on draft Regulations submitted to them by the Minister of Labour.

The draft Regulations embodied certain amendments to the principal Regulations, as regards seasonal workers and as regards married women. The modifications in the draft suggested by the Advisory Committee have been adopted by the Minister; and the new Regulations have been published, and came into force on 7th September. They are published in full on pages 350-1 of this issue of the GAZETTE.

* National Advisory Council for Juvenile Employment (Scotland): Sixth Report. H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net (3½d. post free).

† One of the employer's representatives makes the reservation that in his opinion this recommendation should not specify the maximum number of hours in the working week for boys and girls in occupations which are not at present regulated by statute.

‡ 21 and 22 Geo. 5, ch. 35. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. (2½d. post free).
§ Cmd. 4407. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net (2½d. post free).

improvement at a number of centres. In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district employment showed a further slight improvement in general engineering, but was still very slack; employment continued fair in electrical engineering; in motor vehicle manufacture there was little change and employment was very slack; it continued fairly good in the cycle section. Employment in the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district continued fair or moderate on the whole. There was a slight improvement in London and the Southern Counties, and employment was fairly good on the whole; it was good at most of the principal centres of aircraft manufacture. There was a slight improvement in general and marine engineering in Scotland, but employment was still very bad; it remained very bad also in Wales and in Northern Ireland, though there was some improvement in the latter area in general and marine engineering.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT remained very bad during August, though there was an improvement in most districts as compared with July. The improvement was most pronounced in Northern Ireland. There was a slight decline in the South-Western Division.

As compared with a year ago, employment was better in all districts. The improvement was relatively greatest in Scotland, North-East England and Northern Ireland; but unemployment in these areas still remained at a very high level.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 21st August, 1933, and the increase or decrease as compared with 24th July, 1933, and 22nd August, 1932. These percentages have been calculated with reference to the estimated numbers of insured persons in the industry at July, 1932, for all the dates referred to.

Table with columns: Divisions, Total Numbers of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 21st August, 1933, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers Unemployed as compared with a, Percentages Unemployed at 21st August, 1933, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage Unemployed as compared with a. Rows include London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT on the whole showed little change compared with July, and continued depressed in all departments. A considerable number of firms extended the usual week's holiday on account of the state of trade.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the industry as a whole, including those temporarily stopped, was 24.5 at 21st August, 1933, as compared with 25.4 at 24th July, 1933, and with 35.6 at 22nd August, 1932. In the preparing and spinning department the percentages were 24.0 at 21st August, 1933, 24.5 at 24th July, 1933, and 39.5 at 22nd August, 1932; in the manufacturing department the corresponding percentages were 25.1, 26.2, and 31.8.

At Ashton-under-Lyne employment was slightly better both in the American and in the Egyptian spinning sections, and the mills were working fairly regularly; a slight decline was reported in the doubling mills, while the position in the weaving department was fairly steady. At Stalybridge the recent improvement was maintained, and the mills were running fairly steadily. At Stockport employment continued very slack, and short time was largely worked both in the spinning and in the doubling mills. At Glossop extended holiday stoppages were reported. At Hyde there was a decided improvement, and a scarcity of juvenile labour was reported.

At Oldham employment in the spinning department continued very bad. In the manufacturing department employment continued bad, and was worse than a year ago; all classes of workers were seriously affected by short-time working, and many operatives usually engaged in the manufacture of fustians and velvets were stopped indefinitely. At Shaw there was a marked improvement with spinners both of American and of Egyptian cotton. At Middleton firms in the Egyptian section continued to work full time throughout the month; in the American section intermittent short time was worked. There was a slight improvement at Royton.

At Bolton employment was reported as bad with spinners and moderate with card-room workers; with both classes it was worse than in July. At Leigh employment with spinners was moderate. At Bury much under-employment was reported in the spinning department, and much slackness in the weaving department. At Rochdale employment both with spinners and with weavers was slightly worse than in July.

At Preston employment was fairly regular, with approximately 60 per cent. of the available machinery running; with one or two exceptions employment in the spinning department was somewhat better than for the last two or three years. In the manufacturing department, firms engaged in the manufacture of fine and fancy goods were fairly well employed. At Chorley also weavers of fine and fancy fabrics were busy, but employment was poor with those engaged in the production of coarse cloths.

At Blackburn the position became gradually worse during the

month; most of the mills were working with approximately half the usual number of workpeople, and in a large number of cases weavers remained in employment with only one loom running. At Darwen there was a decline in the weaving department; under-employment was very prevalent, and the preparatory departments continued to work very irregularly. At Burnley and at Padiham there was no general improvement, but a few mills at Burnley were rather better employed.

At Colne employment continued very bad; at Nelson employment showed little change. In the Rossendale Valley employment was still very bad; it was slightly better than a month earlier, but much worse than a year ago.

In Yorkshire employment generally continued bad; more than half the workpeople covered by the employers' returns were on short time in the week ended 26th August. At Todmorden, however, employment on the whole remained fairly good, although a good deal of under-employment was reported in the manufacturing department.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns. Comparison with a year ago is affected by the dispute which took place in Burnley and other districts during the period July to September, 1932.*

Table with columns: DEPARTMENTS, DISTRICTS, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a, etc. Rows include Preparing, Spinning, Weaving, Other, and various districts like Ashton, Stockport, Hyde, Oldham, Bolton and Leigh, etc.

Returns from firms employing about 61,900 workpeople in the week ended 26th August showed that nearly 11 per cent. were on short time in that week, losing about 1 1/2 hours each on the average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 56 Employment Exchanges in the principal cotton trade centres in Lancashire and Cheshire:-

Table with columns: Department, Numbers (excluding casuals) on the Registers at 21st August, 1933, Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, Total. Rows include Card and Blowing Room, Spinning, Weaving, etc.

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 24th July, 1933:-

Table with columns: Department, Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, Total. Rows include Card and Blowing Room, Spinning, Weaving, etc.

* The comparisons are affected by the exclusion from the figures for 27th August, 1932, of workpeople directly involved in the trade dispute at that date. Owing to the dispute comparative figures for the Burnley area cannot usually be given.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 114,033,800 lbs. in August, 1933, compared with 128,893,300 lbs. in July, 1933, and with 93,305,100 lbs. in August, 1932.

The exports of cotton yarn were 11,033,200 lbs. in August, 1933, compared with 10,412,800 lbs. in July, 1933, and with 9,132,400 lbs. in August, 1932.

The exports of cotton piece-goods in August, 1933, were 148,964,500 square yards, compared with 154,678,100 square yards in the previous month, and 180,906,300 square yards in August, 1932.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during August showed a slight decline in the worsted section, but a slight improvement in the woollen section, as compared with the previous month. As compared with a year ago there was a decided improvement in both sections. In the carpet section employment continued fairly good, and was slightly better than a year ago.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the woollen and worsted industries, including those temporarily stopped, was 12.3 at 21st August, 1933, as compared with 12.9 at 24th July, 1933, and with 27.4 at 22nd August, 1932. The August figure was the lowest that had been recorded since May, 1929. In the carpet industry the corresponding figures were 10.6, 10.5, and 12.3.

Worsted Section.—Employment in this section continued good in some departments, and fairly good as a whole; it was not quite so good as in July. A considerable amount of overtime was worked in the preparing and spinning departments; in the weaving department, short time working greatly exceeded overtime. At Bradford and at Halifax employment continued fairly good, though there was a slight decline at Bradford. At Shipley (apart from holidays in the early part of the month) there was a general slight improvement; most of the operatives in the combing section resumed full-time working, and a shortage of skilled operatives was reported in the spinning and weaving branches. At Keighley some spinning firms resumed full-time working, and conditions in the weaving department were reported to be good. At Leeds there was little general change. At Huddersfield the majority of the worsted mills were not fully employed.

Returns from employers for the week ended 26th August, 1933, showed that, in the worsted section as a whole, 19 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time* in that week, losing about 10 hours each on the average; while 18 per cent. were on overtime, to the extent of 6 hours each on the average.

With woollers employment continued fair and was better than a year ago. With woolcombers employment was fairly good, but there was a decline in the activity of all sections, and some short time was worked in all sections. In the sorting, combing, and preparing departments, taken as a whole, the amount of overtime worked was still considerable, although less than in July; returns from employers for the week ended 26th August showed that more than 17 1/2 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were on short time, losing 14 1/2 hours each on the average; while 19 per cent. were on overtime, to the extent of 8 1/2 hours each on the average.

In the worsted spinning department employment continued good. Some spinners at Bradford were reported to be better employed than they had been for many years at this season. About 13 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns for the week ended 26th August were on short time, losing 9 1/2 hours each on the average; while 23 per cent. were on overtime, to the extent of 5 1/2 hours each on the average.

In the worsted weaving department there was a further slight decline; short time greatly exceeded overtime in all the principal districts, except Bradford and Keighley. Taking all the districts together, nearly 24 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns were on short time in the week ended 26th August, losing 10 hours each on the average; while between 9 and 10 per cent. were on overtime, to the extent of 6 hours each on the average.

Woollen Section.—In this section employment on the whole showed a further slight improvement. Employers' returns for the week ended 26th August showed that 16 1/2 per cent. of the workers in the spinning department, and 19 1/2 per cent. of those in the weaving department, were on short time* in that week, losing 8 and 13 hours each respectively, on the average; in the spinning department 32 per cent. were on overtime, to the extent of 8 1/2 hours each, while the corresponding figures for the weaving department were 20 per cent. and 6 1/2 hours. In the woollen section as a whole, 18 per cent. of the operatives were on short time, losing nearly 11 hours each on the average; while overtime was worked by 23 per cent., to the extent of 8 hours each, on the average.

At Huddersfield and in the Colne Valley employment continued fairly good; overtime and night-work were reported at a few firms. A general shortage of skilled operatives was reported. In the Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) there was a further improvement, and employment was described as fair or good; night shifts were worked at many mills in Dewsbury. At Morley the general improvement of the last few months was maintained. The

improvement reported last month in the Otley district continued, and there was a further improvement at Guiseley. Employment in the rag and shoddy sections of the industry was described as fair or good. In the blanket and rug trade full time was maintained at Hebden Bridge; there was a slight improvement in Yorkshire generally, and employment was described as fair. At Witney employment in the blanket trade continued very good.

Employment with woollen workers at Stockport showed little change and continued moderate; it was not so good as a year ago. At Rochdale the general position was fairly good, but there continued to be a good deal of short time working.

In the West of England employment continued good or fair at the principal centres.

In Scotland there was a slight further improvement in the tweed trade, although much machinery was still more or less idle. At Alloa employment remained quiet.

Carpet Section.—Employment showed little change as compared with the previous month, and was slightly better than a year ago. At Kidderminster employment was described as fair; while at most of the other principal centres it was either good or fair. A slight improvement was reported in Yorkshire. Returns from employers for the week ended 26th August showed that there was very little either of short time or of overtime worked in that week.

The following Table summarises the returns received from employers:-

Table with columns: Departments, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-), Index figure. Rows include Worsted Section, Woollen Section, Carpet Section, and various districts like Bradford, Huddersfield, Halifax, etc.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages which have been made by certain firms at various dates since February, 1929.

† Most of the districts are indicated by the names of their principal towns, but neighbouring towns and areas are included in each case.

* The figures given in this article as to short time do not take into account, in the case of the weaving departments, other forms of under-employment, such as "playing for warps," and tending one instead of two looms.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1932 (Males, Females, Total), PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AT 21ST AUGUST, 1933 (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES* AS COMPARED WITH (24TH JULY, 1933, 22ND AUG., 1932, 24TH AUG., 1931), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 21ST AUGUST, 1933.

For notes see page 339.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1932 (Males, Females, Total), PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AT 21ST AUGUST, 1933 (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES* AS COMPARED WITH (24TH JULY, 1933, 22ND AUG., 1932, 24TH AUG., 1931), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 21ST AUGUST, 1933.

* See last paragraph of text on page 336.

† For 24th August, 1931, separate figures for each of the two sections are not available.

See note * on page 63 of the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1932, regarding the change, introduced on 25th January, 1932, in the basis on which the numbers of registered dock workers unemployed are counted. On a comparable basis the percentage rate of unemployment at 21st August, 1933, in dock, harbour, river and canal service was less by 3.2 than at 24th August, 1931.

NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE UNEMPLOYED. PROPORTIONS IN VARIOUS INDUSTRY GROUPS.

Table with columns: Industry Group, Males (Number Wholly Unemployed, Percentage of Total, Number Temporarily Unemployed, Percentage of Total), Females (Number Wholly Unemployed, Percentage of Total, Number Temporarily Unemployed, Percentage of Total).

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS IN NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED.

The following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 21st August, 1933, differed from the figures for 24th July, 1933, to the extent of 1,000 or more:-

Table with columns: Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 21st August, 1933, as compared with 24th July, 1933 (Males, Females, Total).

JUVENILE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

NUMBERS OF JUVENILES AGED 14 AND UNDER 18 ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES AND JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX AT 21ST AUGUST, 1933.

Table showing numbers of juveniles aged 14 and under 18 by division and insurance status (Insured 16 and under 18, Uninsured 14 and under 18, Total).

JUVENILES PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT. FOUR WEEKS ENDED 21ST AUGUST, 1933.

Table showing juveniles placed in employment by division, number of vacancies filled, and juveniles placed in first situation since leaving school.

PERCENTAGE RATES OF UNEMPLOYMENT* AMONG INSURED JUVENILES AGED 16 AND 17.

Table showing percentage rates of unemployment among insured juveniles aged 16 and 17 by division and insurance status.

JUVENILES IN ATTENDANCE AT APPROVED COURSES OF INSTRUCTION.

Table showing juveniles in attendance at approved courses of instruction by division, average daily attendance, and total number of separate individuals.

There were 46 Junior Instruction Centres for boys, 25 for girls, and 14 mixed Centres open in Great Britain during the week.

* Based on the numbers of Juvenile Unemployment Books lodged at Local Offices, which exceed the numbers of insured juveniles on the Register.

PERIODS OF REGISTERED UNEMPLOYMENT.

ANALYSIS IN RESPECT OF PERSONS APPLYING FOR INSURANCE BENEFIT OR TRANSITIONAL PAYMENTS.

The following Table gives an analysis, according to the length of their last spell of registered unemployment, of persons applying for insurance benefit or transitional payments who were on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 21st August, 1933.

Table showing persons who had been on the Register by duration of unemployment (Less than 3 months, 3 months but less than 6 months, etc.).

Table showing numbers of persons by sex and duration of unemployment.

Table showing percentages of persons by sex and duration of unemployment.

INSURED UNEMPLOYED.

POSITION UNDER PROVISIONS AS TO INSURANCE BENEFIT AND TRANSITIONAL PAYMENTS.

The following Table gives an analysis of the numbers of insured persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 21st August, 1933, relative to their title to insurance benefit and the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance (National Economy) (No. 2) Order, 1931, which deals with transitional payments.

The First Statutory Condition requires the payment of not less than 30 contributions in the preceding two years. In cases where this condition is satisfied, insured persons may receive insurance benefit, subject to the fulfilment of the statutory conditions, for not more than 156 days in a benefit year; but in cases where benefit has been drawn for 156 days in a benefit year ending on or after the 12th November, 1931, insurance benefit does not become payable until 10 contributions have been paid after the 156th day of benefit.

In item 4 in the Table relating to adults, the term "insured non-claimants" includes all those adults on the register whose claims had been disallowed on the ground that they were not normally insurable and would not normally seek to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment, together with those who had not made claims for insurance benefit or transitional payments.

The Table shows that of the 1,494,742 wholly unemployed insured men on the register at 21st August, 1933, there were 412,973 with claims to insurance benefit, and 946,313 with applications for transitional payments; while 135,456 were either not entitled to benefit or payments, or had claims under consideration.

Among the 185,446 wholly unemployed insured women, 82,793 had claims for insurance benefit, 57,245 were applicants for transitional payments, and 45,408 either were not entitled to benefit or payments or had claims under consideration.

ADJUDICATIONS UNDER STATUTORY CONDITIONS FOR INSURANCE BENEFIT AND TRANSITIONAL PAYMENTS.

PERIOD 1ST TO 31ST AUGUST, 1933. GREAT BRITAIN.

The following Table gives, for the period from 1st to 31st August, 1933, inclusive, an analysis of the decisions of Courts of Referees and of the Umpire on claims for insurance benefit and transitional payments, the number of cases disallowed by Insurance Officers under the trade dispute disqualification, and the number of appeals against such disallowances dealt with by Courts of Referees:—

A.—Decisions of Courts of Referees.

Table showing adjudications under statutory conditions for insurance benefit and transitional payments, including decisions of Courts of Referees and the Umpire.

B.—Trade Dispute Cases.†

Table showing trade dispute cases, including cases dealt with by Insurance Officers and appeals against disallowances.

C.—Decisions by Umpire.‡

Table showing decisions by the Umpire, including appeals by Insurance Officers, Associations, and Claimants.

* In the case of juveniles the condition in question was the full first statutory condition, viz., the payment of 30 contributions in the preceding two years. For men and women the figures relate mainly to applications for transitional payments, referred on the ground that less than 3 contributions had been paid in the past two years and less than 30 at any time.

† See note * in first column on page 342. There were no cases under Class (d).

‡ See note † in first column on page 342.

ADULTS (AGES 18 TO 64, INCLUSIVE).

Table showing adults (ages 18 to 64, inclusive) by sex and category (Claims for Insurance Benefit, Applications for Transitional Payments, etc.).

JUVENILES (AGES 16 AND 17 YEARS).

Table showing juveniles (ages 16 and 17 years) by sex and category (Claims for Insurance Benefit, Not entitled to Insurance Benefit, etc.).

APPLICATIONS FOR TRANSITIONAL PAYMENTS.

DETERMINATIONS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AUTHORITIES.

The following Table gives the number of determinations made by Public Assistance Authorities (and, in the case of Rotherham County Borough and the Administrative County of Durham, the Commissioners appointed by the Minister of Labour) on applications for transitional payments submitted to them during the period 3rd July to 5th August, 1933, analysed so as to show separately the determinations given on initial applications on the one hand and renewed and revised determinations on the other:—

Table showing determinations of public assistance authorities, categorized by nature of determination (Initial Applications, Renewals and Revisions, Transitional payment allowed at: Maximum benefit rates, Lower rates, Needs of applicants held not to justify payment) and sex (Men, Women, Total).

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN AUGUST.

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 August in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate increase of about £4,500 in the weekly full-time wages of 98,850 workpeople and in a decrease of £700 in those of 9,650 workpeople.

The largest group of workpeople affected by an increase in wages consisted of those employed in steel melting shops and in steel rolling mills in various districts of England and Scotland, whose wages were advanced, in accordance with a sliding scale based on selling prices, to the extent of about 1 per cent. on current rates.

The workpeople whose wages were reduced included the higher-paid men employed in steel sheet rolling and in galvanising processes, and building trade operatives in the Grays, Purfleet and Tilbury district.

Of the estimated total increase of £4,500 per week, over £2,400 took effect under sliding scales based upon the cost of living, including about £1,850 under scales arranged by Trade Boards or other joint bodies, and about £2,000 was due to sliding scales based upon selling prices.

Of the estimated total decrease of £700 per week, about £350 was due to the operation of cost-of-living sliding scales, about £150 to selling-price sliding scales, and the remainder mainly to direct negotiations between employers and workpeople.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY-AUGUST, 1933.

Table with 5 columns: Industry Group, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by Net, Estimated Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages (Increases/Decreases), and a sub-table for £/\$.

In the corresponding eight months of 1932, there were net increases of £1,725 in the weekly full-time wages of 31,100 workpeople, and net decreases of £174,000 in those of 1,468,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No changes were reported in August apart from those affecting employees of certain individual firms.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1933.

Main table on page 344 detailing principal changes in rates of wages, including columns for Industry, District, Date, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change.

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks... † In addition to the numbers quoted, wages stand at the same level as at the beginning of the year in the case of 23,500 workpeople...

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST, 1933 (continued).

Main table on page 345 detailing principal changes in rates of wages, continuing from page 344 with columns for Industry, District, Date, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change.

* This reduction affected mainly the employees of firms who are members of the Galvanising Conciliation Board. † Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements. ‡ Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.

TRADE DISPUTES IN AUGUST.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in August in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 25, as compared with 23 in the previous month, and 37 in August, 1932.

In the following Table is given an analysis of the disputes in progress in August, showing by groups of industries the number of workpeople involved at the establishments concerned, and the approximate time lost during the month; corresponding totals for a month earlier and the previous year are shown for comparison:—

Table with 5 columns: Industry Group, Started before beginning of Month, Started in Month, Total, Number of Disputes in progress in Month, and Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month.

Causes.—Of the 25 disputes beginning in August, 3, directly involving 2,400 workpeople, arose out of proposed wage reductions; 4, directly involving 300 workpeople, on other wage questions; 10, directly involving 19,400 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 3, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, on other questions respecting working arrangements; 3, directly involving 200 workpeople, on questions of trade union principle; and 2 stoppages, directly involving 100 workpeople, were due to sympathetic action.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 16 new disputes, directly involving 8,900 workpeople, and 4 old disputes, directly involving 1,100 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 4, directly involving 2,500 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 11, directly involving 7,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 5, directly involving 500 workpeople, were settled by compromise. In the case of two disputes, directly involving 15,100 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY–AUGUST, 1933 AND 1932.† The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first eight months of 1933, as compared with the corresponding period of 1932:—

Table comparing industry groups for January to August, 1933 and 1932. Columns include No. of Disputes, No. of Workpeople involved, and Aggregate Duration.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING AUGUST, 1933.

Table with 6 columns: Occupations and Locality, Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved, Date when Dispute, Cause or Object, Result, and Estimated number.

* 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.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

Summary table showing average increases since July, 1914: All items included (41%), Food only (22%).

FOOD.

At 1st September the average level of retail prices of food in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was again higher than a month earlier. Eggs, bacon and butter accounted for most of the upward movement in prices; potatoes were appreciably cheaper.

As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices of the articles of food included in these statistics was 22 per cent. at 1st September, 1933, as compared with 19 per cent. at 1st August, 1933, and 23 per cent. at 1st September, 1932.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st August, 1933, and 1st September, 1933:—

Table comparing prices of food items (Beef, Mutton, Flour, Bread, Tea, Sugar, Milk, Butter, Eggs, Potatoes) across different months and locations.

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

Table showing percentage comparison of retail prices for various food items across different population groups (Large Towns, Small Towns and Villages, General Average) for 1914 and 1933.

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the prices 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 controlled rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st September, 1933, was approximately 49 per cent. When decontrolled rents are also included, the combined average increase, as compared with July, 1914, in controlled and decontrolled working-class rents (including rates) is approximately 56 per cent. This latter figure has been utilised in calculating the final percentage increase shown below for "all items."

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, woollen and cotton materials, underclothing and hosiery, boots and shoes, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st September 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, was between 80 and 85 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group the prices of coal at 1st September were on the average between 75 and 80 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The average price of gas remained between 45 and 50 per cent. above the pre-war level. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches) the average increase at 1st September, as compared with July, 1914, was about 70 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 between 70 and 75 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st September, 1933, is approximately 41 per cent. over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 39 per cent. at 1st August, 1933, and 41 per cent. at 1st September, 1932.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1933 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). In view of the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or readjustments 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, the standard of living has doubtless risen in many cases 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: 1920 to 1933.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month, 1920 to 1933:—

Summary table showing average percentage increase since July, 1914 for all items from 1920 to 1933, by month.

NOTE.

A detailed account of the method of compilation of these statistics, "The Cost of Living Index Number: Method of Compilation," has been published, and may be purchased, price 3d. net (3½d. post free), from H.M. Stationery Office, at any of the addresses shown on the cover of this GAZETTE.

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.

I.—FOOD.

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

Table showing percentage increase in retail food prices for various countries from 1929 to 1933, compared to July 1914. Columns include Country, Year, and Percentage increase.

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.*

Table showing percentage increase in all items for various countries from 1929 to 1933, compared to July 1914. Columns include Country, Year, and Percentage increase.

* Exceptions to this are: Egypt, January 1913 to July 1914; France (other towns), August, 1914; Italy (all items), Milan and Rome, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, France (Paris, all items), Poland, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Amsterdam, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; Italy (food), United States Canada, 1913; Australia (all items), November, 1914. The Australian percentages for all items are a weighted average for the six capital cities.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during August, 1933, as killed in the course of their employment was 141, as compared with 139 in the previous month and with 133* in August, 1932.

Table showing fatal industrial accidents by sector: Railway Service, Factories and Workshops, and Mines.

Table showing fatal industrial accidents by sector: Quarries over 20 feet deep, Factories and Workshops, and Seamen.

Table showing fatal industrial accidents by sector: Factories and Workshops, Seamen, and Industrial Diseases.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

THE total number of cases† of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during August, 1933, under the Factory and Workshop Act, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, was 34; the total number of deaths† reported was 3.

Table showing industrial diseases: I. Cases (Lead Poisoning, Epitheliomatous Ulceration, Chrome Ulceration), II. Deaths (Lead Poisoning, Epitheliomatous Ulceration).

* Revised figure. † Cases include all attacks reported during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES.

THE following Table shows the result of recent ascertainment of selling prices of pig iron and of manufactured iron and steel upon which are based changes in the rates of wages of certain classes of iron and steel and other workers in particular districts:—

Table showing prices and wages in the iron and steel industries, including product and district, period covered by last audit, average selling price per ton, and income/expense on audit.

In accordance with the provisions of the agreements under which wages are regulated† the ascertainment for West Cumberland and North Lancashire resulted in an increase in the wages of higher-paid blastfurnacemen in that area.

The ascertainment did not warrant a change in the wages of iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England, iron puddlers and millmen and sheet millmen in the West of Scotland, and Siemens steel workers in South-West Wales.

For details of the changes referred to see page 302 of the August issue of this GAZETTE.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR

Table showing legal cases affecting labour: Trade Boards Acts, 1909-1918; Milk Distributive Trade (England and Wales); Wholesale Mantle and Costume Trade (Great Britain).

* Stated to the nearest farthing. † See the article on the Adjustment of Wages by Sliding Scale Arrangements (Selling Price Sliding Scales) in the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1933, page 122.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS

1920-33.

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.

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 decisions are of general interest:—

Case No. 10153/33 (revised). (18.8.33.) SECTION 7 (1) (ii) OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT (AS AMENDED)—NOT UNEMPLOYED—CLAIMANT PERFORMED CASUAL ADDITIONAL OCCUPATION DURING ORDINARY WORKING HOURS OF USUAL EMPLOYMENT—PERMITTED BY TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT TO ARRANGE HOURS OF WORK TO SUIT HIS OWN CONVENIENCE—BENEFIT ALLOWED PROVIDED WORK COULD ORDINARILY HAVE BEEN DONE OUTSIDE WORKING HOURS OF CLAIMANT'S USUAL EMPLOYMENT.

The material circumstances of this case are as stated in the following decision given by the Deputy Umpire:—

Decision.—“On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be allowed in respect of the 8th, 9th and 10th June, 1933.

“The claimant's usual employment is that of the driver of a steam wagon, and the ordinary working hours of that employment are from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“On the 8th, 9th and 10th June, 1933, the claimant was employed for remuneration to do some work of paperhanging and distemping, and he did the work on the first day between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.; on the second day between the hours of 10.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.; and on the third day between the hours of 1.30 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. For this work he received a payment of 10s.

“In these circumstances, and in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, the only inference to be drawn was that the claimant was required to do the work during those hours in which it was usually performed by artisans in the trade, and within the ordinary working hours of his usual employment.

“By section 7 (2) (a) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, as amended by section 5 (1) (c) of the Act of 1927, it is provided that:—

“A person shall not be deemed to be unemployed on any day on which he is following any occupation from which he derives any remuneration or profit, unless that occupation could ordinarily have been followed by him in addition to his usual employment and outside the ordinary working hours of that employment, and the remuneration or profit received therefrom in respect of that day does not exceed three shillings and fourpence, or, where the remuneration or profit is payable or is earned in respect of a period longer than a day, the remuneration does not on the daily average exceed that amount.”

“The words ‘that occupation’ refer to the occupation which is alleged to be additional to the usual employment, and the question whether the occupation is one which could ordinarily have been followed in addition to, and outside, the ordinary working hours of the claimant's usual employment must be answered by having regard to the manner in which the claimant is following or has engaged to follow the occupation (Decision 3555/28).† When, as in the present case, the occupation takes the form of employment under a contract, the question can only be answered by looking at the terms of the contract (Decisions 1807/28,† 1391/29,§ 1783/28, 9326/33, the two last not printed).

“The onus of proving that the occupation is of the character described in the subsection is cast by the statute upon the claimant, and in the present case the Court of Referees held, upon the evidence before them, that the claimant had failed to prove that the occupation he was following on the days in question was one which satisfied the conditions of the statute, and their decision was upheld on appeal as being within the principles of the Decisions above cited.

“Since that Decision was given, it has been alleged that there was a term in the claimant's contract which, so far as any of the records show, had not been previously disclosed. It is now stated that the claimant was engaged to distemper a ceiling upon the terms that he could do the work whenever he pleased, and that he could take as long over it as he liked.

“The statutory tribunals under the Unemployment Insurance Acts are entitled to expect and to assume that the cases before them are being fully and accurately presented. The failure to make clear

* Volumes containing selected decisions of the Umpire are published annually by H.M. Stationery Office, the latest being a volume of selected decisions given during the year 1932 (price 7s. 6d. net). A volume containing a special selection of important decisions given by the Umpire prior to 19th April, 1928 (price 15s. net), and a volume containing selected decisions given from 19th April, 1928, to 12th March, 1930 (price 6s. net), have also been issued; also an analytical guide to decisions given before 13th March, 1930 (price 2s. 6d. net) and Supplement No. 1 thereto (price 1s. net). Selected decisions are also issued monthly in pamphlet form, and may be obtained, as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription, the latest pamphlet being that for July, 1933. † See Vol. VII Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 205 (Pamphlet No. 10/1928). § See U.I. Code 8a, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 103. ¶ See U.I. Code 8a, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 223.

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