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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT showed little general change during the first three weeks of December. After Christmas, however, there was a seasonal decline, and in many cases the usual holiday stoppages were extended.

Among the 11,500,000 workpeople insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed at 22nd December, 1924, was 10.9, compared with 11.0 at 24th November, and with 10.7 at 21st December, 1923. Among the members of those Trade Unions from which returns were received the percentage unemployed was 9.2 at the end of December, 1924, compared with 8.6 at the end of November, 1924. The total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as unemployed at 29th December, 1924, was approximately 1,319,000, of whom 1,003,000, were men and 250,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 22nd December it was 1,213,000 and at 1st December, 1924, the total was 1,233,000, of whom 942,000 were men and 231,000 were women; at 31st December, 1923, it was 1,327,000.

Employment was good, on the whole, in the brick and jute trades, in some branches of the cotton trade, and with mill sawyers and most of the skilled operatives in the building trades; it was fairly good in the carpet, silk and furniture trades, with printers and bookbinders, with coopers, and in certain branches of the metal trades. In coal mining, and in the wool textile industry, it was slack on the whole; at blastfurnaces, at iron and steel works, and in the engineering and shipbuilding trades it continued bad. There was a further improvement in the cotton trade, but a decline in the tinplate and pottery industries.

WAGES.

The gradual increase in rates of wages continued in December. In the industries for which statistics are available the changes in rates of wages reported resulted in an aggregate increase of £29,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 500,000 workpeople, and in an aggregate reduction of £300 in the weekly wages of nearly 9,000 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople whose rates of wages were increased were coal miners in the Yorkshire and East Midland Area, who obtained an advance equivalent to about 1½ per cent. on current rates, and hosiery workers in the Midlands, whose wages (including bonus) were raised by 5 per cent. Other bodies of workpeople whose wages were increased included coal miners in the Radstock district, steel sheet millmen and galvanisers, penmakers at Birmingham, hosiery bleachers, dyers, etc., in the Midlands, dyers and dry cleaners, men employed at electricity supply undertakings in the West Midlands, and workpeople in the non-trading services of local authorities in the East Midlands.

The principal reduction in rates of wages affected iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England, whose wages were reduced by about 1½ per cent.

The changes in wages reported to the Department during 1924 resulted in net increases equivalent to over £600,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 3,000,000 workpeople, and in net reductions of over £60,000 in those of nearly 500,000 workpeople. During 1923 there were net reductions of £490,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 3,000,000 workpeople and net increases of £170,000 in the weekly wages of 1,200,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

The increase in working-class cost of living, which had been in progress since June last, was checked in December, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the 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) being approximately 80 per cent. at 1st January, 1925, as compared with 81 per cent. a month earlier and with 69 per cent. at the end of May, 1924. At 1st January, 1924, the corresponding percentage was 77. For food alone the average increase over the pre-war level was 78 per cent. at 1st January, as compared with 80 per cent. a month ago, 60 per cent. at the end of May, 1924, and 75 per cent. a year ago. The decline in the percentage between 1st December and 1st January was due to reductions in the prices of eggs and sugar.

The 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 these 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 December was 41. In addition, 24 disputes which began before December were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in December (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 16,000; the estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during December was about 92,000 working days.

The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes reported as in progress during 1924 was about 8,312,000 working days. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 613,000. In the previous year 407,000 workpeople were involved in disputes having an aggregate duration of 10,672,000 working days.

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

Summary : Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included 80%
Food only 78%

FOOD.

At 1st January the average level of retail prices of food was slightly lower than at 1st December, owing to reductions in the prices of eggs and sugar.

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 fell to about 78 per cent. at 1st January, as compared with approximately 80 per cent. at 1st December.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st December, 1924 and 1st January, 1925:—

Table with columns: Article, Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated— to the nearest ¼d.), Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st Jan., 1925, as compared with July, 1914, 1st Dec., 1924, 1st Jan., 1925.

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

Table with columns: Article, Average Percentage Increase at 1st Jan., 1925, as compared with July, 1914, Large Towns (Populations over 50,000), Small Towns and Villages, General Average, Corresponding figure for 1st Dec., 1924.

* 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.
‡ Decrease.

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 rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st January, 1925, was approximately 47 per cent.

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 January 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 about 125 to 130 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group the average retail price of coal was about the same as a month earlier, and approximately 100 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, and the prices of lamp oil, candles and matches also showed no appreciable change during the month.

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 January is approximately 80 per cent.* over the pre-war level, as compared with 81 per cent. a month earlier.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1924-5 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 page 4, a summary is given of the changes in working-class cost of living in 1924.

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:—

Table with columns: Month (beginning of), 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925. Rows: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December.

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 DECEMBER.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT showed little general change during the first three weeks of December. Employment was good, on the whole, in the brick and jute trades, in some branches of the cotton trade, and with mill-sawyers and most of the skilled operatives in the building trades; it was fairly good in the carpet, silk and furniture trades, with printers and bookbinders and coopers, and in certain branches of the metal trades.

After Christmas there was a seasonal decline in employment, and the usual holiday stoppages were extended in many cases.

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 22nd December, 1924, was 10·9, as compared with 11·0 at 24th November, and 10·7 at December, 1923.

The number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered† at Employment Exchanges as unemployed at 22nd December was approximately 1,213,000, of whom men numbered 930,000, and women 226,000, as compared with 1,233,000 at 1st December, 1924 (men 942,000 and women 231,000), and with 1,214,000 at 17th December, 1923 (men 911,000 and women 240,000).

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment at coal mines showed a further slight improvement in December. It was fairly good in Cumberland and Westmorland, South Yorkshire and Mid and East Lothians, and slack in most other districts.

At iron mines employment was again very bad in the Cleveland district, fair in the Cumberland and Lancashire district, and moderate in other districts.

At slate quarries in the Clitheroe and Weardale districts, and fair at Buxton. At slate quarries in North Wales employment was good. At whinstone quarries in the East of Scotland an improvement was reported and employment was fair.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment continued bad. Of a total of 482 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of December was 167, compared with 173 in November, and with 204 in December, 1923.

Engineering, Shipbuilding, and Other Metal Trades.—In the engineering trades employment continued fairly good in the electrical section, and fair in the motor section.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—Employment with dock labourers and seamen continued slack on the whole.

depressed. Employment in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades continued very bad and showed no general change as compared with the previous month.

Textile Trades.—In the cotton trade employment showed a further improvement; in the Egyptian spinning section full time continued to be generally worked; in the American spinning section a working week of 39½ hours was generally observed.

Employment in the hosiery trade continued slack, and much short time was worked; in the lace trade it continued bad. In the silk trade employment was fairly good on the whole.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the tailoring trade continued generally slack, but a slight improvement was reported in some districts, particularly in the wholesale branch of the trade.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the tanning and currying section was fair; in the portmanteau, trunk, and fancy leather section it showed a seasonal decline during the latter half of the month.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trade showed a slight seasonal decline but continued good, on the whole, with skilled operatives (except painters) and generally slack with unskilled workers.

In the furnishing trades employment was fairly good; at Birmingham and High Wycombe it was good. With mill-sawyers it continued good; with coopers it was fairly good, and with coach-builders it was fair.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper trade continued moderate generally. With letterpress printers employment continued fairly good on the whole.

Pottery and Glass.—There was a seasonal decline after the first week in December in the pottery trade in North Staffordshire owing to the completion of Christmas trade work.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture the supply of labour was generally sufficient for requirements, but a shortage of skilled men and young farm hands was reported in some districts.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—Employment with dock labourers and seamen continued slack on the whole.

On page 2 an article appears giving a general review of the course of employment in 1924, with a summary of the monthly statistics (a) of unemployment among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, and among members of certain Trade Unions which make returns to the Department; and (b) of the numbers of workpeople registered at Employment Exchanges.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep's or lamb's) were 38,985,000 lb. in December, 1924, compared with 18,360,800 lb. in November, 1924, and with 27,081,600 lb. in December, 1923.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 4,955,800 lb., compared with 4,638,500 lb. in November, 1924, and with 3,246,600 lb. in December, 1924.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 19,726,600 square yards, compared with 17,881,800 square yards in November, 1924, and with 19,134,300 square yards in December, 1923.

The exports of blankets were 160,280 pairs, 173,902 pairs, and 180,857 pairs in December, 1924, November, 1924, and December, 1923, respectively.

COTTON TRADE.

DURING December employment in the cotton trade showed a further improvement, and was considerably better than a year ago.

In the American spinning section a working week of 39½ hours (instead of 32, as in November) was generally observed, in accordance with a recommendation issued by the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations; but the holidays at Christmas and the New Year were slightly extended by some firms. In the Egyptian spinning section full time continued to be generally worked.

In the weaving department employment was described, with some exceptions, as good. A shortage of weavers, especially of those accustomed to weaving fine and fancy cloths, was again reported in several districts.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 7.0 on the 22nd December, as compared with 8.6 on the 24th November and 12.0 on the 21st December, 1923.

In the Oldham, Ashton and Stockport districts employment continued to improve, but a large number of extended stoppages took place at Christmas and the New Year; the 39½-hour week was generally observed in the American branch. In the manufacturing section in the Oldham district employment was described as slack, but there was an improvement in the velvet section. In the Bolton, Chorley and Leigh districts employment with spinners continued good; in the Bolton district it continued fairly good with weavers, and very fair with card-room workers. At Bury employment in the spinning department was fair, and showed an improvement; in the Rochdale district a further improvement was reported, very few spinners being unemployed.

In all the principal weaving districts employment was satisfactory. In the Burnley district the improvement previously reported was well maintained. At Blackburn it was reported that well over 85 per cent. of the looms in the borough were running in the middle of the month, and employment was much better than in December, 1923; some mills were still closed, but there was nevertheless a considerable demand for weavers. At Darwen employment was reported to be better than at any time since October, 1921. Four mills were still closed, and a considerable number of operatives were running two or three looms instead of the usual four; but this form of under-employment was lessening. At Preston employment was reported to be more regular than in any month during the last two or three years; weavers were working full time, and generally with their full complement of looms.

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

Table with 11 columns: DEPARTMENTS, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, and various percentage and change indicators for different months and years.

Returns from firms employing 72,345 workpeople showed that 13 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time, to the extent of 10 hours on the average, in the week ended 20th December.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 1st December, 1924, in the principal centres, at which approximately 84 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the cotton trade were registered :-

Table showing the number of men and women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges, categorized by department and total counts.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 271,269,500 lb. in December, 1924, compared with 197,067,500 lb. in November, 1924, and with 234,889,000 lb. in December, 1923.

The exports of cotton yarn were 13,525,700 lb. in December, 1924, compared with 12,792,400 lb. in November, 1924, and with 11,136,500 lb. in December, 1923.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 409,566,400 square yards, as compared with 329,455,300 square yards in the previous month and with 323,100,000 square yards in December, 1923.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during the major part of December was still only moderate. In some centres employment was good immediately before Christmas, in consequence of pressure to complete orders; but many factories were closed for extended holidays after Christmas.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 11.8 on the 22nd December, as compared with 9.7 on the 24th November and 9.8 on the 21st December, 1923.

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

Table with 11 columns: Region, Workpeople, Earnings, and various percentage and change indicators for different months and years.

Returns from firms employing 38,500 workpeople in the week ended 20th December, 1924, showed that about 25 per cent. of these workpeople worked short time in that week, to the extent of about 1½ hours each, on an average.

Employment at Leicester again showed a slight improvement, and was moderate. At Northampton conditions were fair on the whole. Employment was fair at Wellingborough before Christmas but extended holidays were given by nearly all firms. There was some pressure on the factories at Kettering, before Christmas, to complete orders, and more than half the factories were then reported to be working full time; but a number of firms closed down for an extended holiday after Christmas. Employment was fair at Hinckley, but in the Higham and Rushden district it was poor on the whole.

At Stafford an improvement was reported, less short time being worked; but there was still much slackness. Conditions at Norwich were described as fair for the time of year; employment was much better than in December, 1923. Employment declined further at Bristol and Kingswood, and was worse than in December, 1923;

there was much short time, and the factories generally closed for extended holidays. At Street, employment remained fair.

The heavy boot industry was again extremely depressed at Leeds, and general short time prevailed in this section; at factories producing light footwear, work was fairly plentiful. The seasonal depression in the Rosendale Valley continued, and employment showed a slight further decline; but it was better than in December, 1923.

At Kilmarnock employment was again fairly good, but there was a further slight decline at most of the remaining Scottish centres; short time working was fairly general, and employment was generally reported as quiet or bad; it was worse than in December, 1923.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 1st December, 1924, in the principal centres, at which approximately 75 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the boot and shoe industry were registered :-

Table showing the number of men and women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges, categorized by department and total counts.

The exports of boots and shoes in December, 1924, amounted to 92,433 dozen pairs, or 43,889 dozen pairs less than in November, 1924, and 7,330 dozen pairs less than in December, 1923.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper trade during December, although showing a slight improvement in some districts, continued moderate generally.

With letterpress printers employment, on the whole, continued fairly good; it was, however, reported to have declined in London, also at Leeds and Bristol, while at Manchester and Glasgow there was an improvement. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment was generally good, and was better than in November in London and Manchester.

In the lithographic printing trade employment remained fairly good, and it was fair with lithographic artists in London and Manchester.

With bookbinders, employment, on the whole, was fairly good, although there was some decline on the previous month in London.

The percentage of unemployed among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and bookbinding trades was 5.0 at 22nd December, compared with 5.2 at 24th November and 5.1 at 21st December, 1923. In the paper and paper-board making industry the percentage was 7.7 at 22nd December, compared with 7.3 at 24th November and 8.6 at 21st December, 1923. In the cardboard box, paper bag, and stationery trades the percentage was 6.4 at 22nd December, the same percentage as at 24th November and 21st December, 1923.

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

Table with 6 columns: No. of Members of Unions at end of December, 1924, Percentage Unemployed at end of month, and Increase or Decrease on a month.

It will be seen that there was a decline in employment in the letterpress printing trade in London, but a slight improvement in the North of England and in Scotland, as compared with the previous month. In the lithographic printing and bookbinding trade the figures show little change as compared with November.

BUILDING TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the building trade showed a slight seasonal decline during December, but it continued good, on the whole, with skilled operatives (except painters) and generally slack with unskilled workers; it was better than in December, 1923, in most districts. Some short-time working was occasioned on outside work owing to bad weather conditions, and, in a few districts, a little overtime was worked by certain classes of skilled operatives.

As regards individual occupations, employment continued very good generally with bricklayers and plasterers, and good in most districts with carpenters and joiners; in a considerable number of districts a shortage of one or more of the foregoing classes of skilled operatives, especially of bricklayers and plasterers, was again reported. There was a slight decline, on the whole, with masons and slaters, but employment with these classes, and with plumbers, was fairly good in most districts. With painters there was a further seasonal decline and employment was bad at most centres; it continued slack, on the whole, with builders' labourers.

The following Table shows the numbers and approximate percentages* of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 22nd December, and the increase or decrease in the percentages as compared with November, 1924, and December, 1923. The figures are analysed according to the principal occupations and also by districts :-

Table with 5 columns: Occupations, Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 22nd Dec., 1924, Approximate Percentage Unemployed, and Increase or Decrease in percentage as compared with a month ago and a year ago.

Table with 5 columns: DIVISIONS, Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 22nd Dec., 1924, Approximate Percentage Unemployed, and Increase or Decrease in percentage as compared with a month ago and a year ago.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from local authorities in 148 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 16,476,000, show that in December, 1924, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £4,680,000, as compared with £4,308,600 in November, 1924, and £4,727,800 in December, 1923. Of the total for December, 1924, dwelling-houses accounted for £2,964,000; factories and workshops for £431,600; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £250,200; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,034,200.

(For figures for the quarter ended December, 1924, in comparison with the corresponding quarter of 1923, see page 26.)

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the brick trade during December was good generally and showed little change as compared with the previous month. In some districts, however, it was adversely affected by bad weather. Employment was better than a year ago.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 22nd December, 1924, was 7.8, as compared with 8.0 at 24th November and with 8.4 at 21st December, 1923.

The following Table summarises the information received as to the number of workpeople employed and the amount of wages paid by those employers who furnished returns for the three periods under consideration.

* Figures are not available as to the exact numbers 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.

Table showing Districts, Number of Workpeople, and Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. Includes data for Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Cheshire, Midlands and Eastern Counties, South and South-West Counties and Wales, and Scotland.

POTTERY TRADES.

THERE was a seasonal decline in employment in the pottery trades in North Staffordshire after the first week in December, owing to the completion of Christmas trade work.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 19.4 at 22nd December, 1924, as compared with 11.1 at 24th November, 1924, and 14.6 at 21st December, 1923.

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

Table showing BRANCHES, DISTRICTS, and Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London. Includes data for China Manufacture, Earthenware Manufacture, and other branches.

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that of 10,011 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, 1,837, or 18 per cent., were working on an average 13 hours less than full time in the week ended 20th December, 1924.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT with seamen during December remained slack on the whole. Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 22nd December was 25.1, compared with 22.0 at 24th November, and 21.1 on 21st December, 1923.

On the Thames the demand for men was moderate, and showed a substantial improvement following the Christmas holidays. On the Tyne it was generally fair. Employment on the Wear was quiet, except for an improvement in the middle of the month.

Employment on the Clyde was generally quiet. At Leith it fluctuated from quiet to fair, and at Belfast it was moderate, showing a decline at the end of the month.

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 December.

Table showing Principal Ports, Number of Seamen* shipped in, and Dec. 1924. Includes data for ENGLAND & WALES, SCOTLAND, and NORTHERN IRELAND.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT among dock labourers during December varied at different ports, but was still slack on the whole.

Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, harbour and dock service 25.1 per cent. were unemployed at 22nd December, compared with 26.7 per cent. at 24th November and 22.5 at 21st December, 1923.

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:—

Table showing Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London. Includes columns for Period, By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors, By Ship-owners, etc., At Wharves making Returns, and Total Docks and Principal Wharves.

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in December was 1,036, as compared with 971 in the previous month and with 1,022 in December, 1923.

East Coast.—Employment with coal trimmers on the Tyne and Wear and at Blyth was bad, and worse than in the previous month. It was slack with other classes of workers on the Wear and at Blyth, but on the Tyne it was generally fair.

Western and Southern Section.—At Liverpool employment was fair. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the five weeks ended 29th December was 15,534, compared with 15,917 in the four weeks ended 24th November and with 15,773 in the four weeks ended 24th December, 1923.

At the South Wales ports employment continued slack, while it remained good at Bristol and Avonmouth and fair at Southampton. At Plymouth and other South Western ports it was moderate.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Leith and Dundee employment was good, and better than in November. At Belfast it was good.

* 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 INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

CHANGES IN PERSONNEL OF UNEMPLOYED.

DURING the four weeks ended 29th December, 1924, 704,000 fresh claims were added to the register, while 620,000 claims were removed from the register. As the number of fresh claims may include those of a number of claimants who make a further claim after a short period of unemployment, it cannot be assumed that the change-over during the month is as great as the statistics below appear to show at first glance, but the figures indicate considerable fluctuation in the personnel of the unemployed.

Insurance Claims current at 1st December, 1924 ... 1,129,040 Fresh Claims made between 1st Dec. and 29th Dec., 1924 ... 704,428

Total ... 1,833,468

Insurance Claims current at 29th December, 1924 ... 1,213,579

AMOUNTS PAID IN UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT.

The following Table shows approximately the amounts which have been paid during the four weeks ended 26th December:—

Table showing Amount paid by Exchanges, Through Trade Unions, and Total. Includes data for Week ending 5th December, 12th, 19th, and 26th, 1924.

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 11th November to 8th December, 1924:—

Applications referred to Committees during period ... 293,986 Applications admitted by Committees during period:— (a) For 12 weeks ... 127,115 (b) For less than 12 weeks ... 128,805 Applications rejected during period ... 38,066

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

THE number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as unemployed on 29th December, 1924, was 1,319,271. Of this number, 1,003,224 were men, 36,005 boys, 249,518 women and 30,524 girls. Compared with 24th November, there was an increase of 86,603, which was distributed as follows:—Men, 61,723; women, 19,134; juveniles, 5,746.

During the five weeks ended 29th December, the number of vacancies filled by Employment Exchanges was 111,458, of which 68,715 were for men, 25,879 for women, and 16,864 for juveniles.

Table showing Applications from Employers, Vacancies Filled, and Number of Workpeople Registered as Unemployed. Includes data for Week ended 24th November, 1924, and 1st December, 1924.

* The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and refer to all workpeople on the "Live 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.

† This figure includes a weekly average of 600 jobs of a casual nature, 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 29th December, 1924. In certain cases—e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.—the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Large table showing Area, Number of Persons registered as Unemployed on 29th December, 1924, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 24th Nov. 1924. Includes data for London Division, South Eastern Division, South Western Division, Midlands Division, North Eastern Division, and North Western Division.

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 22nd December, 1924. "Unemployed" as used in these statistics does not necessarily mean that the person is definitely without a job.

Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, substantially all employed persons, except outworkers and persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, must be insured against unemployment. Every person so insured is given an Unemployment Book on which inter alia the industry of the employer has been recorded.

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.

Every insured person claiming unemployment benefit must lodge his unemployment book at an Employment Exchange when making a claim. It is possible therefore to obtain from a count of the lodged books a record of unemployment in insured trades.

(a) Insured persons, unemployed and in receipt of benefit;

(b) Insured persons not in receipt of benefit, but known to be unemployed by reason of their maintaining registration at an Employment Exchange or otherwise;

(c) Insured persons who are not in receipt of benefit and are not maintaining registration, but whose unemployment books remain lodged at Employment Exchanges.

Insured persons who are disqualified for the receipt of benefit under the trade dispute disqualification are not included amongst the numbers unemployed.

In July, 1923, the classification of insured workpeople was revised so as to bring it, so far as practicable, into conformity with the industrial grouping adopted in connection with the 1921 census of population. At the same time the classification was put on a strictly industrial basis, all unemployment books being classified according to the industry of the employer, or, in the case of unemployed persons, of the last employer.

NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1924 (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.), NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 22ND DECEMBER, 1924 (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.), PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 22ND DECEMBER, 1924 (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) AS COMPARED WITH 24TH NOVEMBER, 1924 (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.). Rows include Fishing, Mining, Coal Mining, Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying, etc.

* Revised figures.

NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1924 (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.), NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 22ND DECEMBER, 1924 (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.), PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 22ND DECEMBER, 1924 (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) AS COMPARED WITH 24TH NOVEMBER, 1924 (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.). Rows include Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Leather and Leather Goods, etc.

* Revised figures.

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 December in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate increase of £29,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 500,000 workpeople and in a reduction of about £300 in the weekly wages of nearly 9,000 workpeople.

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

Table with 5 columns: Group of Industries, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by (Increases/Decreases), Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages (£/s). Rows include Mining and Quarrying, Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding, etc., and a Total row.

The principal change in the mining group was an increase, equivalent to about 1 3/8 per cent. on current rates, in the percentage addition to the basis rates of coal miners in the Yorkshire and East Midland area.

In the metal group there was an increase of over 4 3/8 per cent. on the current rates of steel sheet millmen and galvanisers. Penmakers in Birmingham received increases of 1s. or 1s. 4d. per week in the case of men, and 5d. per week in the case of women.

In the textile group, hosiery workers in the Midlands had their bonus increased by 1d. on each shilling earned, and there were also increases in the wages of hosiery bleachers, dyers, etc., in the same district, amounting, in the case of timeworkers, to 1/2d. or 3/4d. per hour.

In trades other than the above the principal bodies of workpeople whose wages were increased included dyers and dry cleaners, basket makers, men employed by electricity supply undertakings in the West Midlands, and those employed in the non-trading services of local authorities in the East Midlands.

Of the increases taking effect in December, 7, amounting to £16,600 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on the selling prices of manufactured products, or on the proceeds of the industry; 52, amounting to over £8,400 per week, took effect under cost of living sliding scales; 12, amounting to over £1,600 per week, were arranged by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople (including £770 under cost of living sliding scales, and also included thereunder); 2, amounting to under £20 per week, were arranged by arbitration or mediation; and the remaining 31 cases, amounting to £3,350 per week, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople or under Trade Board orders.

Hours of Labour.

The principal change reported was a reduction of 2 1/4 hours per week in the winter hours of building trade operatives at Bristol.

Changes in Wages and Hours in 1924.

A special article dealing with these changes appears on pages 3 and 4.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1924.

Table with 5 columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change (Decreases in italics). Rows include Agriculture, Mining and Quarrying, Coal Mining, and Manufacture.

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, police, agricultural labourers, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to provide a basis for statistics.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1924 (continued).

Table with 5 columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change (Decreases in italics). Rows include Mining and Quarrying, Chemical, Glass, Brick, Pottery, &c., Trades, Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding Industries, and other manufacturing sectors.

* Including Berkshire, Cornwall, Devonshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Oxfordshire, Somersetshire and Wiltshire. † This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN DECEMBER, 1924 (continued).

| Industry. | Locality. | Date from which change took effect. | Classes of Workpeople. | Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.) |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| TEXTILE TRADES. | | | | |
| Rope, Twine and Net | Northern Ireland | 1 Dec. | Male workers employed in the rope, twine, and net trade. | Piecework basis time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for Areas A and B* respectively as follows—hand dressers (hemp), hand spinners and charge hands, 11d.; piecers-out, rope makers (walk), 11d., 11d.; hemp cutters, 11d., 10d.; line and cord makers, 10d., 10d.; rope layers (house machines), 10d., 10d.; rope formers (house machines), 10d., 9d.; all other workers, 9d., 9d. Bonus of 8d. in the shilling on earnings increased to 9d. in the shilling. |
| Hosiery Manufacture | Various towns in the Midland Counties.† | Pay day in week beginning 22 Dec. | All classes of workpeople employed in the manufacture of hosiery (except dyers, trimmers, finishers, etc.) | |
| Asbestos Manufacture | Great Britain | Day following 1st make up day in Dec. | Workpeople employed in the asbestos trade. | Increase of ½d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: men, 1s. 1d.; women, 8½d. |
| Textile, Bleaching, Dyeing, Finishing, etc. | Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Derby and Hinckley. | Week ending 27 Dec. | Workpeople employed in the hosiery bleaching, dyeing, and finishing trades:— Timeworkers | Increase of ½d. per hour for dyers, scourers and trimmers, ½d. per hour for menders and for male and female auxiliary workers 18 and over, and proportionate increases for auxiliary workers under 18. Rates after change: dyers and scourers, 1s. 3½d.; auxiliary workers: Leicester, Loughborough and Hinckley—men 18 to 21, 10½d.; 21 and over, 1s. 2½d.; women 18 and over, 9½d.; qualified menders, 11½d. |
| | | | Piecers:— Trimmers (other than web trimmers and jersey trimmers). | Bonus of 60 per cent. on list prices previously paid increased to 70 per cent. |
| | | | Web trimmers and jersey trimmers. | Bonus of 40 per cent. on list prices previously paid increased to 47½ per cent. |
| | | | Dyers, scourers, menders and other piecworkers. | Increase of 1s. in the £. |
| | | | Lace dyers | Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 3d. to 1s. 3½d.). |
| Nottingham | Nottingham | Pay day in week beginning 29 Dec. | Workpeople employed in the lace dressing and finishing trade. | Increase for timeworkers of ½d. per hour for men and ¼d. per hour for boys, women, and girls, and of 5 per cent. for piecworkers. Rates after change: men 21 years and over, 1s. 0½d.; women 18 years and over, 7½d.; women takers-off and takers-down, 8d. |
| | | | Lace dippers and stainers | Increase of 3s. per week. Minimum rate after change: 65s. |
| | | | Lace bleachers' dollymen and labourers. | Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: dollymen, 1s. 4½d.; labourers, 1s. 3½d. |
| | | | CLOTHING TRADES. | |
| Boot and Shoe Manufacture | Great Britain | 1st pay day in Dec. | Male operatives employed in departments other than heel building departments, and stock or shoe rooms. | Minimum rate of 14s. 6d. per week adopted for those 15 and under 16 years, and minimum rate of 60s. per week previously paid at 23 years and over made payable at 22 years and over; the rates for other ages remaining unchanged. |
| | | | Female operatives employed in the closing and heel building departments or in stock or shoe rooms. | Minimum rate of 13s. 6d. per week adopted for those 15 and under 16 years; the rates for other ages remaining unchanged. |
| Dyeing and Dry Cleaning | England and Scotland | 1st pay day in Dec. | Workpeople employed in the dyeing and dry cleaning trade. | Increase of 2s. per week for men 21 years and over, and of 6d. to 1s. per week for youths under 21 and for women and girls. Rates after change: men, skilled dyers, 68s. or 73s.; dyers (one colour), 65s.; wet or dry cleaners, finishers, glazers and other skilled workers, 58s.; labourers, 55s.; boys, 11s. at 14 years increasing to 29s. at 18 and to 43s. at 20 years; girls and women, 11s. at 14 years, increasing to 22s. at 18 and to 29s. at 21 years. |
| FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO TRADES. | | | | |
| Baking and Confectionery | Various towns in Yorkshire.‡ | 27 Dec. | Adult male workers employed in the baking and confectionery trades by private traders. | Increase of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: forehands, 71s. 6d.; doughmakers and ovenmen, 66s. 6d.; table-hands, 61s. 6d. |
| | Chester | 1 Dec. | Workpeople employed in the baking and confectionery trades. | Increase of 2s. 6d. per week for adult male workers, of 1s. 3d. per week for youths and women 18 years and over, and of proportionate amounts for boys and girls. Minimum rates after change: adult male workers—foremen, 76s. 6d. and 75s. 6d.; singlehands, machinemakers, mixers, and ovenmen, 71s. 6d.; secondhands, 69s. 6d.; tablehands, 67s. 6d. |
| | Birmingham and Midland District.¶ | 27 Dec. | Workpeople employed in the baking and confectionery trade. | Increase of 2s. 4d. per week for adult male workers and proportionate increases for juniors. Minimum rates after change for adult workers: daywork—foremen, 66s. or 71s.; doughmakers, singlehands and secondhands, 65s.; platers, 65s.; tablehands, 61s.; nightwork—1s. per night extra. |
| | Bristol | 6 Dec. | Bakers and confectioners | Increase of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 63s. 6d. |
| | Leicester | 1st pay day after 22 Dec. | Bakers and confectioners:— Adult workers Youths and deliverers 18 to 20 years. | Increase of 3s. per week. Rates after change: ordinary bakeries—forehands, 71s.; singlehands and secondhands, 69s.; tablehands, 67s.; factories—5s. per week more in each case. Increase of 1s. 9d. to 2s. 7d. per week. |
| Bath | 6 Dec. | Bakers and confectioners | Increase of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 62s. 9d. | |
| Chatham, Rochester and Gillingham. | 6 Dec. | Bakers and confectioners | Increase of 2s. 6d. per week. Rates after change: forehands, 66s.; singlehands, secondhands and doughmakers, 62s.; table hands, 58s. | |
| Belfast | 1st pay day after 20 Oct. | Storemen, bogey, inside labourers, and stablemen. Motor drivers, carters, loaders and assistants. | Minimum weekly rates adopted of 50s. for stablemen and of 42s. to 47s. for other classes; and increase of 2s. per week for those receiving more than these rates. Minimum weekly rates adopted for motor drivers of 58s. and 66s. for drivers of vehicles under 2 tons and over 2 tons respectively, and of 57s. for other classes. | |

* The first rate quoted in each instance applies to Area A (i.e., the area of the County Borough of the City of Belfast) and the second rate to Area B (i.e., areas other than Area A).
 † Viz., Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Ilkeston, Derby, Hinckley and Coventry districts.
 ‡ The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
 § Including Barnsley, Bradford, Bridlington, Doncaster, Halifax, Harrogate, Dewsbury, Hull, Leeds, Sheffield, Wakefield and York.
 ¶ Including Brierley Hill, Burton-on-Trent, Cannock, Coventry, Darlaston, Dudley, Leamington, Rugby, Smethwick, Walsall, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Willenhall and Wolverhampton.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1924 (continued).

| Industry. | Locality. | Date from which change took effect. | Classes of Workpeople. | Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.) |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO TRADES (continued). | | | | |
| Brewing | Certain towns in North-East Lancashire.* | 5 Dec. | Brewery workers | Increase 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 years and over, 58s.; women, 39s.; youths, 18s. 6d. at 14 to 15 years, increasing to 30s. at 18 to 19. |
| | | | Working at fishing stations | Increase of 12s. 6d. or 15s. per week in minimum rates. Minimum rates after change: home fishing, 77s. 6d.; when sent from home and staying in bothies where fire, light and cook are supplied, 85s.; when sent from home and in lodgings, 95s. |
| Fishery Coopering | Aberdeen, Berwick, Buckie, Fraserburgh, Lerwick, Peterhead, Stormoway and Wick. | 22 Dec. | Barrel making | New list of piece prices adopted, resulting in increases of from 14 to 42 per cent. on the rates previously paid; also time rates of 1s. 5d. and 1s. 7d. per hour adopted when on time work for a whole day and less than a day respectively. |
| | | | Apprentices | New scale of minimum rates adopted, resulting in increases of from 2s. to 6s. per week. Minimum rates after change: 12s. during first year, increasing to 30s. during second six months of fourth year. |
| Pork Curing | Londonderry | { 17 Oct. 18 Nov. | Pork curers | { Increase of 1s. per week (49s. to 50s.). Increase of 1s. per week (50s. to 51s.). |
| WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE TRADES. | | | | |
| Vehicle Building | Dumfries | 1 Dec. | Men employed in the vehicle building and wheelwright trades. | Increase of ½d. per hour. Minimum rate after change for skilled men, 1s. 5½d. |
| Mill Sawing | West Riding of Yorkshire.† | 1 Dec. | Woodcutting machinists and sawyers | Increase of 1d. per hour for those receiving the minimum rate, and ½d. per hour for those receiving more than the minimum. Minimum rates after change: foreign timber section, 1s. 7d.; home-grown section, 1s. 6d. |
| Packing-Case Making | Leicester | Pay day in week beginning 1 Dec. | Packing-case makers | Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 4d. to 1s. 4½d.). |
| Furniture Manufacture | Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, Keighley, Brighouse, Dewsbury and York. | 1 Dec. | Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, machinists, upholsterers and french polishers. | Increase of ½d. per hour. Rate after change: 1s. 8d.; carvers and spindle hands who are all-round machinists, 1s. 9d. |
| | Ripon | | Female workers | Increase of ½d. per hour. Rate after change for skilled upholsterers, 10½d. Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 6½d. to 1s. 7d.). |
| Sports Accessories Manufacture | Beith, Dundee, Glasgow, Greenock, Kirkcaldy and Lochwinnoch. | 1st full pay in Dec. | Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, french polishers, machinists, upholsterers, upholstery sewers and sand paperers. | Increase of 1d. per hour for men, ½d. per hour for women, 5 per cent. for piecworkers and proportionate amounts for apprentices. Minimum rates after change: Beith, Dundee, Kirkcaldy and Lochwinnoch—men, 1s. 5½d.; women, 8½d.; Glasgow—men, 1s. 6½d.; women, 9½d. |
| | London, Bolton, Cambridge, Nottingham, Horbury and Leeds. | | 1 Dec. | Workpeople employed in the manufacture of accessories for sports and games. |
| BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES. | | | | |
| Building | East Grinstead | 13 Nov. | Building trade operatives | Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 5d.; labourers 1s. 1d.‡ |
| | Bangor, Beaumaris, Carnarvon, Holyhead and Llanfairfechan. | 1 Dec. | Building trade operatives | Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 5d.; labourers, 1s. 1d.‡ |
| TRANSPORT TRADES. | | | | |
| Railway Service | London and North Eastern Railway System. | 1 Dec. | Dining car (travelling) staff:— Pantry and kitchen boys and pages. | Scales of weekly rates adopted as follows, in respect of normal hours, which are not to exceed 120, spread over 14 days:— 12s. in first year, increasing each year to 18s. in fourth year. |
| | | | Dining-car attendants | 24s. in first year, increasing each year to 30s. in fourth year. |
| | | | Conductors | 32s. in first year, increasing each year to 36s. in fifth year. |
| | | | Cooks | 50s. in first year, increasing each year to 60s. in fifth year. |
| Dock, etc., Labour | Hull | 4 Oct. | Riggers employed by fishing vessel owners. | Increase of 4s. 6d. per week (50s. 6d. to 55s.). |
| Road Transport | Liverpool, Birkenhead, Bootle and Wallasey. | 1 Dec. | Drivers of motors of 1 ton and under (new employees). | Rate fixed at 59s. per week.¶ |
| Other Transport | Edinburgh | 15 Dec. | Taxi drivers | Minimum rate adopted of 45s. per week, or 7s. 6d. per day. |
| PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES. | | | | |
| Gas Undertakings | Various districts in Great Britain (excluding Glasgow and Liverpool).** | 1 Dec. | Bricklayers and masons | Rates of wages agreed at the standard rate for bricklayers in each district, in respect of a working week of 47 hours, an extra 1d. per hour to be paid for firebrick work on retorts, retort furnaces, oil gas generators, and boiler settings, and an extra 1d. to 3d. per hour for detached chimney work above 40 feet (varying according to height).** |
| | Certain Undertakings in Somerset and Devonshire.†† | 7 Oct. | Adult male workers | Rates of wages revised in accordance with a new area grading scheme, which fixes the following rates:—Somerset: labourers—Grade A towns, 50s. 5½d. per week; Grade B, 46s.; Grade C, 45s.; Grade D, 44s.; Grade E, 41s.; stokers—Grade A towns, 10s. 4d. per shift; Grade B, 9s. 6d.; Grade C, 8s. 6d.; Grade D, 8s. 2d.; Grade E, 8s. 1d. Devonshire: labourers—Grade A towns, 48s. per week; Grade B, 46s.; Grade C, 45s.; Grade D, 44s.; stokers—Grade A towns, 9s. 6½d. per shift; Grade B, 9s. 2d.; Grade C, 8s. 6d.; Grade D, 8s. 2d.†† |
| Electricity Supply Undertakings | Certain Undertakings in West Midlands.††† | 1st pay following 1 Dec. | Adult male workers | Increase of 2s. 6d. per week. Scheduled minimum hourly rates after change:—Zone A: labourers, 13-78d.; stokers (other than leading), grade I, 17-81d., grade II, 16-81d.; fitters (electrical and mechanical), 19-78d. Zone B: labourers, 13-28d.; stokers, grade I, 17-31d.; grade II, 16-31d., fitters, 19-78d. Zone C: labourers, 12-78d.; stokers, grade I, 16-81d., grade II, 15-81d.; fitters, 18-78d.††† |

* Accrington, Blackburn, Burnley, Brierfield, Barrow-in-Furness, Cloughfold, Haslingden, Waterfoot and Whittle Springs (certain firms).
 † The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
 ‡ Including Barnsley, Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, Huddersfield, Keighley and Leeds. At the smaller centres the rates are 2d. or 3d. less than those quoted above.
 § The change took effect as the result of a re-grading under the Grading Scheme of the National Wages and Conditions Council for the Building Industry.
 ¶ It was agreed that in cases where the previous combined rate of wages and war wage exceeded the above rates, the excess was to be reducible under the cost of living sliding scale at present applicable to the employees concerned, provided that any future modifications made in the war wage payable to other classes of employees should be equally applicable to those covered by the above scales.
 † The rate quoted applies only to men engaged on and after 1 December, 1924. The local agreement had previously fixed a rate of 65s. per week for drivers of 2 tons and under.
 ** The above conditions were embodied in an agreement arrived at between the Federation of Gas Employers and the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers.
 †† The above change is in accordance with an arbitration decision adopted by the South Western Regional Joint Industrial Council for the Gas Industry. Full information is not available as to the Undertakings which recognise the various grade rates.
 ††† The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the West Midlands Area Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry and include the following, which are shown in their respective zones:—Zone A: Birmingham; Coventry; Shropshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Co. (Smethwick); Zone B: Midland Electric Corporation for Power Distribution, Ltd.; Stoke-on-Trent; Walsall; Wolverhampton; West Bromwich; Shropshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Co. (Dudley); Zone C: Leek; Nuneaton; Shrewsbury; Shropshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Co. (Kidderminster); Stratford-on-Avon Electricity Co., Ltd.; Sutton Coldfield.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1924 (continued).

| Industry. | Locality. | Date from which change took effect. | Classes of Workpeople. | Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.) |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Electricity Supply Undertakings (contd.) | Certain Undertakings in Scotland.* | 1st pay day following 27 Nov. | PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES (continued). Semi-skilled and unskilled workers | Increase of 3s. per week in which is merged the increase of 4d. per hour granted at 20th August, 1924. Scheduled minimum hourly rates after change:—labourers: Group A: undertakings, 12. 71d.; Group B, 12. 43d.; Group C, 11. 87d.; stokers: Group A, 13. 65d.; Group B, 13. 07d.; Group C, 12. 77d.* |
| Tramways Undertakings. | Sunderland ... | 10 Dec. | Inspectors, motormen, conductors, handymen, trackmen and car cleaners. | Increase of 1s. per week for conductors under 21 years, and of 2s. for conductors 21 years and over and for motormen and other classes. Rates after change:—motormen, 60s. to 63s. 6d.; conductors (over 21 years), 51s. 9d. to 57s. 9d. |
| | South Shields ... | Week beginning 4 Dec. | Manual workers ... | Increase of 1s. per week. Rates after change:—labourers, 50s. per week; scavengers and refuse collectors, 49s. |
| | Certain Authorities in East Midlands† | 1st pay in Dec. | Manual workers:— Men paid hourly rates ... | Increase of 4d. per hour. Scheduled minimum hourly rates after change for road and general labourers and scavengers, Grade A districts, 1s. 2d.; Grade B, 1s.; Grade C, 11d.; Grade D, industrial districts, 11d., rural districts, 10d.† |
| | | | Women (baths, library, and lavatory attendants). | Increase of 11d. per week for Grade A areas. Scheduled minimum rate after change for Grade A areas, 25s. 8d. |
| Non-Trading Departments of Local Authorities | Certain Authorities in Middlesex‡ | 1st pay after 1 Dec. | Manual workers ... | Increase of 1s. per week. Scheduled minimum weekly rates after change for scavengers and labourers respectively:—Zone I districts, 52s. 6d. and 55s. 6d.; Zone II, 51s. and 53s. 3d.; Zone III, 48s. 6d. and 50s. 6d.§ |
| | Kensington ... | 18 Dec. | Manual workers ... | Basis rates and bonuses revised in accordance with the agreement made by the London Joint Industrial Council in July, 1922, (when 50 per cent. of the current cost of living bonus was merged into wages) resulting in an increase in wages. Rates after change:—road sweepers, 58s. 10d. per week; labourers, 62s. 2d. |
| | Plymouth ... | 5 Nov. } 3 Dec. } | House refuse collectors and sweepers. | Increase of 2½ per cent. Further increase of 2½ per cent. making rate 54s. 8d. per week. |
| | | 3 Nov. | Road paviers, masons and general yard and road labourers. | Increase of 4d. per hour for craftsmen and of 4d. per hour for labourers. Rates after change:—paviers, 1s. 4½d. per hour; masons, 1s. 8d.; labourers, 1s. 3½d. |
| | Aberdeen ... | 1 Dec. | Manual workers ... | Increase of 1s. per week. Rates after change:—general labourers, 50s. per week; scavengers and refuse collectors, 53s. |
| Saddlery ... | London (Metropolitan Police Area). | 1 Dec. | MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. Saddlers and harness makers ... | Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d.) for timeworkers, and of 7½ per cent. in percentage payable on piece price lists. |
| Roller Leather Manufacture | Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales. | 1st pay day in Dec. | Workpeople employed in roller leather manufacture. | "Cost of living" wage increased from 75 per cent. to 80 per cent. on basic rates. Minimum rates after change: men—skilled, 9d. per hour; semi-skilled, 6d. to 7½d.; women—5d.; plus, in each case, 80 per cent. |
| | Various Districts in England and Scotland. | 1 Dec. | Basket makers employed on Government work. | Bonus of 45 per cent. on revised London price list of 1919 previously paid increased to 52½ per cent. |
| | Yorkshire (except Hull and Sheffield). | 1 Dec. | Basket, skip and hamper makers ... | Increase of 10 per cent. on Yorkshire list prices, making wages 78 per cent. and 93 per cent. above the list for pieceworkers and timeworkers respectively. |
| Basket Making | Midland Counties ... | 1 Dec. | Workpeople employed in basket, hamper and cane and wicker furniture making:— Timeworkers ... | Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 3½d. to 1s. 4½d.). Bonuses previously paid on list of October, 1916 (with amendments thereto), increased by 7½ per cent. |
| | | | Pieceworkers ... | New scale of minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts resulting in an increase of 4d. per hour for those 16 years and over (the rates for those under 16 remaining unchanged). Minimum time rates after change: 4d. at 16 and under 16½ years, increasing to 6d., 6½d., 7d. or 7½d. (according to experience) for those 21 and over; pinkers and choppers to receive 1d. and 4d. per hour more respectively. (See p. 459 of December Gazette.) |
| Cerement Making | Great Britain... | 5 Dec. | Female workers employed in the cerement-making section of the coffin furniture and cerement-making trade (including folders, packers, warehouse workers and despatchers). | Increase of 2s. or 3s. per week. Rates after change: grave-diggers, 64s. 6d.; assistant grave-diggers, 57s. 6d.; qualified gardeners, 58s. 6d.; gardeners' and general labourers, 53s. |
| Cemeteries ... | London ... | 5 Dec. | Gardeners, gravediggers, etc., employed in certain non-municipal cemeteries. | |

CHANGE IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN DECEMBER, 1924.

| Industry. | Locality. | Date from which change took effect. | Classes of Workpeople. | Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.) |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Building ... | Bristol ... | 8 Dec. | Building trade operatives ... | Decrease of 2½ hours per week (44 to 41½) during winter period (second Monday in November to third Friday in January). |

* The above increase is part of an advance of 5s. per week granted by the Scottish District Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry at 26th December, 1924, to be made in instalments of 3s. per week from first pay day after 27th November (in which is merged the increase of 4d. per hour granted at 20th August, 1924—see entry on p. 341 of September GAZETTE), and of 2s. per week from first pay day after 1st February, 1925.
† This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
‡ The Authorities affected are those which follow the recommendations of the East Midlands Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities. Those recognising the minimum hourly rates stated are as follows:—Grade A: Derby, Grimsby, Leicester, Mansfield, Mansfield Woodhouse, Northampton, Nottingham. Grade B: Bolsover, Coalville, Eastwood, Grantham, Hinckley, Kettering, Kirby-in-Ashfield, Loughborough, Newark, Ripley, Rushden, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Swadlincote. Grade C: Ashby-de-la-Zouch (made change from 9 January), Ashby Woules, Rothwell, Shepshed, Warsop, Wigston Magna. Grade D: Daventry, Derbyshire C.C. (made change from 12th January), Shardlow B.D.C.
§ The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Provincial Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities Non-Trading Services in Middlesex, and include:—Zone I: Brentford, Chiswick (pay higher rates), Edmonton (pay higher rates), Friern Barnet, Tottenham (pay higher rates), Middlesex C.C. (certain areas). Zone II: Hanwell, Southall Norwood, Twickenham, Wembley, Middlesex C.C. (certain areas). Zone III: Middlesex C.C. (certain areas).
|| Including London, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, and the Midland Counties.

CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN JANUARY, 1925.

The following groups of workpeople are among those affected by changes in wages already reported as having been arranged to take effect in January:—Increases.—Coal miners in Yorkshire and the East Midland Area; drug and fine chemical workers; paper makers; house painters in Scotland; men employed by public works contractors in London; railway traffic workers; and employees of gas, water, and electricity supply undertakings in various districts. Decreases.—Iron-ore miners in Cumberland; ironstone miners in Cleveland; and blastfurnace workers in Cumberland and Cleveland.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Disputes during December.

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in December in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 41, as compared with 40 in the previous month and 12 in December, 1923. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes, (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 12,000. In addition about 4,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 24 disputes which began before December and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 65, involving about 16,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during December of about 92,000 working days.

The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in December 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 December. | | | Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Dec. | Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Dec. |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------|--------|---|--|
| | Started before 1st Dec. | Started in Dec. | Total. | | |
| Mining and Quarrying... | 6 | 11 | 17 | 10,000 | 41,000 |
| Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding. | 6 | 11 | 17 | 2,000 | 24,000 |
| Textile ... | ... | 6 | 6 | 1,000 | 11,000 |
| Other ... | ... | 12 | 25 | 3,000 | 16,000 |
| Total, Dec., 1924 ... | 24 | 41 | 65 | 16,000 | 92,000 |
| Total, Nov., 1924 ... | 32 | 40 | 72 | 15,000 | 134,000 |
| Total, Dec., 1923 ... | 12 | 12 | 24 | 10,000 | 83,000 |

Causes.—Of the 41 disputes beginning in December, 17, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in

wages or other wages questions; 12, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 6, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, on details of working arrangements; and 6, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 26 new disputes, directly involving 9,000 workpeople, and 10 old disputes, directly involving 4,000 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 9, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 9, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 18, directly involving 7,000 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 4 disputes, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

Disputes in 1923 and 1924.

The number of trade disputes causing a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in 1924 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 692. In these disputes about 556,000 workpeople were directly involved and 54,000 indirectly involved. In addition, about 3,000 workpeople were involved in 12 disputes which began in 1923 and continued into the following year. The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in 1924 was thus about 613,000. The aggregate number of working days lost by these workpeople in the disputes was approximately 8,312,000.

In 1923 the number of disputes reported as having begun in the year in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 628; the number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress was over 400,000 (including about 62,000 workpeople indirectly involved), and the total loss of time in these disputes was about 10,670,000 working days (more than half of which was due to a prolonged dispute in the shipbuilding industry).

The total number of disputes recorded in 1924 and of workpeople involved in such disputes was larger than in either of the two previous years, but was still much below the figures for 1917-1921. The total time lost owing to disputes in 1924 was less than in any year since 1918.

Further particulars with regard to disputes in 1924, with comparative statistics for previous years, are given in the special article on pages 4 and 5.

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS DURING DECEMBER, 1924.

| Occupations and Locality.† | Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved. | | Date when Dispute | | Cause or Object.† | Result.† |
|--|--|--------------|-------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| | Directly. | Indirectly.† | Began. | Ended. | | |
| MINING AND QUARRYING:— | | | | | | |
| East Kent ... | 1,734 | ... | 7 July | 13 Dec. | Refusal of employers to pay percentage advance in wages agreed upon nationally. | At one colliery the advance was granted in July. At the other colliery it was agreed in December to pay the percentage advance upon reduced piece-work rates, resulting in no change in aggregate wages. |
| Coal miners, etc. Barnsley (near) ... | 625 | 543 | 10 Sept. | 12 Dec. | Against proposed reduction in wages. | Modified reduction accepted for a period of six months. |
| South Shields (near) ... | 2,143 | 119 | 1 Dec. | 6 Dec. | Dispute in connection with the drawing of lots for working places. | Amicable settlement effected. |
| Newport, Mon. (near) ... | 1,510 | ... | 29 Dec. | 29 Dec. | Objection to a newly installed screening and weighing machine, alleged to be inefficient and badly placed. | Machine placed in another position. |
| METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIP-BUILDING INDUSTRIES:— | | | | | | |
| Steel rollers, forgers, drawers, enginemen, boilermen, blacksmiths, carters, labourers, etc.—Sheffield. | 340 | 100 | 24 Nov. | 6 Jan. 1925. | Against proposed reduction in wages. | Work resumed pending arbitration. |
| Workpeople employed in tank-making, galvanising, etc.—London. | 262 | 150 | 25 Nov. | 13 Dec., 1924—13 Jan., 1925. | For advance in wages of 10s. per week. | Modified advances granted. |
| TEXTILE INDUSTRIES:— | | | | | | |
| Cotton weavers, winders, overlookers, twisters, drawers, tapers, labourers and warehouse workers—Chorley (near). | 320 | 19 | 1 Dec. | 10 Dec. | For compensation for alleged bad material. | Compensation paid. |
| Cotton weavers, winders, beamers, tapers, twisters, warehousemen, etc.—Burnley. | 500 | ... | 2 Dec. | 2 Dec. | Non-payment of list prices for weaving certain cloth. | List prices to be paid as from 11th November 1924. |
| OTHER INDUSTRIES:— | | | | | | |
| Firebrick workers—Chester (near) | 450 | ... | 26-28 July | 4 Dec. | For advance in wages ... | Modified advance granted. (See also page 21.) |
| Clothing operatives—Hackney, London, E. | 800 | ... | 9 Dec. | 17 Dec. | Refusal to work with a non-unionist | Agreement effected as to the organisation in appropriate Trade Unions of productive workers and of other workers respectively. (See also page 30.) |

* 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.
† 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 those persons.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

RETURNS have been received from 148 Local Authorities in Great Britain giving the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed during the last quarter of 1924. The summarised figures for the quarter are given in the Table below, together with similar figures as to plans passed by the same Local Authorities during the corresponding quarter of 1923:-

| District and Aggregate Population (at Census of 1921) of Towns from which returns have been received. | Estimated Cost of Buildings for which plans were approved in 148 towns from which returns have been received. | | | | | TOTAL. |
|---|---|--------------------------|--|--|---|------------|
| | Dwelling Houses. | Factories and Workshops. | Shops, Offices, Warehouses, and other Business Premises. | Churches, Schools, and Public Buildings. | Other Buildings, and Additions and Alterations. | |
| (a) FOURTH QUARTER OF 1924. | | | | | | |
| ENGLAND AND WALES—Northern Counties (917,000) | £ 271,400 | £ 11,700 | £ 55,300 | £ 10,700 | £ 64,200 | £ 413,300 |
| Yorkshire (2,376,000) | 1,044,100 | 112,300 | 91,100 | 112,400 | 336,200 | 1,696,100 |
| Lancashire and Cheshire (3,035,000) | 1,452,200 | 184,000 | 545,100 | 60,800 | 242,400 | 2,484,500 |
| North and West-Midland Counties (2,910,000) | 1,363,900 | 119,200 | 155,800 | 34,800 | 359,100 | 2,032,800 |
| South-Midland and Eastern Counties (641,000) | 641,700 | 9,800 | 89,700 | 122,100 | 83,700 | 947,000 |
| Outer London* (2,142,000) | 2,072,300 | 119,500 | 130,400 | 136,400 | 239,200 | 2,697,800 |
| South-Eastern Counties (1,041,000) | 845,000 | 21,000 | 37,900 | 29,300 | 160,300 | 1,093,500 |
| South-Western Counties (433,000) | 163,900 | 2,900 | 5,400 | 6,500 | 60,600 | 239,300 |
| Wales and Monmouthshire (834,000) | 364,000 | 7,300 | 39,600 | 13,800 | 62,700 | 487,400 |
| SCOTLAND (2,147,000) | 835,900 | 228,500 | 46,200 | 142,400 | 340,700 | 1,593,700 |
| Total (16,476,000) | 9,054,400 | 816,200 | 1,196,500 | 669,200 | 1,949,100 | 13,685,400 |
| (b) FOURTH QUARTER OF 1923. | | | | | | |
| ENGLAND AND WALES—Northern Counties (917,000) | £ 474,700 | £ 261,500 | £ 34,900 | £ 100,100 | £ 54,600 | £ 925,800 |
| Yorkshire (2,376,000) | 1,269,000 | 47,400 | 86,000 | 58,000 | 224,700 | 1,685,100 |
| Lancashire and Cheshire (3,035,000) | 2,001,100 | 159,800 | 169,400 | 124,000 | 189,600 | 2,643,900 |
| North and West-Midland Counties (2,910,000) | 1,372,700 | 157,000 | 93,500 | 75,000 | 398,600 | 2,096,800 |
| South-Midland and Eastern Counties (641,000) | 629,900 | 57,700 | 78,100 | 36,000 | 91,800 | 893,500 |
| Outer London* (2,142,000) | 2,082,700 | 95,600 | 253,000 | 55,800 | 162,400 | 2,649,500 |
| South-Eastern Counties (1,041,000) | 638,600 | 23,500 | 43,400 | 4,200 | 233,400 | 943,100 |
| South-Western Counties (433,000) | 182,800 | 11,600 | 4,300 | 6,500 | 44,000 | 249,200 |
| Wales and Monmouthshire (834,000) | 432,700 | 15,400 | 40,400 | 33,800 | 47,800 | 570,100 |
| SCOTLAND (2,147,000) | 760,300 | 87,300 | 183,900 | 260,700 | 261,600 | 1,553,800 |
| Total (16,476,000) | 9,844,500 | 916,800 | 986,900 | 754,100 | 1,708,500 | 14,210,800 |

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

The number of assisted passages granted during December, 1924, 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 Dec., 1924. | Total Assisted Passages Granted, 1922 and 1923. | Total Assisted Passages Granted, Jan.-Dec., 1924. | Departures in | | Total Departures. | |
|---|--|---|---|---------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | | | | Dec., 1924. | Jan.-Dec., 1924. | 1922 and 1923. | Jan.-Dec., 1924. |
| To Australia ... | 1,768 | 32,912† | 23,263† | 1,804 | 31,067 | 24,214 | 6,839 |
| „ New Zealand ... | 840 | 7,550 | 9,027† | 196 | 6,839 | 7,736 | 1,312 |
| „ Canada: Dominion of Canada... Province of Ontario ... | 648 | 3,557 | 8,676† | 95 | 3,519 | 8,104 | 1,624 |
| Minor Schemes ... | 196 | 1,662 | 1,659 | 160 | 1,624 | 1,481 | — |
| Total ... | 3,452 | 47,024† | 42,649† | 2,255 | 44,361 | 41,579 | — |

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

* Particulars are not available for the London County Council Area. † Revised figures.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.*

The total number of cases† of poisoning and of anthrax in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during December, 1924, was 60. Thirteen deaths‡ were reported during the month, nine due to epitheliomatous ulceration and four due to lead poisoning. In addition, 17 cases of lead poisoning (including four deaths) among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during December, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

| (a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING. | | (b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING. | |
|------------------------------------|-----|---|-----|
| Among Operatives engaged in— | | Mercury Poisoning ... | ... |
| Smelting of Metals ... | 4 | Phosphorus Poisoning ... | ... |
| Plumbing and Soldering ... | ... | Arsenic Poisoning— | ... |
| Shipbreaking ... | 11 | Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic ... | ... |
| Printing ... | 1 | Other Industries... .. | 1 |
| Tinning of Metals ... | ... | Toxic Jaundice— | ... |
| Other Contact with Molten Lead ... | 3 | Arseniuretted Hydrogen Gas ... | ... |
| White and Red Lead Works ... | 1 | Benzene, etc., derivatives ... | ... |
| Pottery ... | ... | Epitheliomatous Ulceration— | ... |
| Vitreous Enamelling ... | ... | Paraffin ... | ... |
| Electric Accumulator Works ... | 7 | Pitch ... | 1 |
| Paint and Colour Works ... | 2 | Tar ... | 1 |
| Indiarubber Works ... | ... | Oil ... | 10 |
| Coach and Car Painting ... | 2 | Chrome Ulceration— | ... |
| Shipbuilding ... | ... | Manufacture of Bichromates ... | ... |
| Paint used in Other Industries ... | 3 | Dyeing and Finishing ... | 3 |
| Other Industries ... | 5 | Chrome Tanning... .. | 3 |
| | | Other Industries... .. | ... |
| TOTAL OF ABOVE ... | 39 | TOTAL, OTHER FORMS OF POISONING ... | 19 |
| | | (c) CASES OF ANTHRAX. | |
| | | Wool ... | 1 |
| | | Handling of Horsehair ... | ... |
| | | Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins ... | 1 |
| | | Other Industries... .. | 1 |
| | | TOTAL, ANTHRAX ... | 2 |

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 December, 1924, was 230, as compared with 182 in the previous month, and with 225 a year ago.

| RAILWAY SERVICE. | | FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued): | |
|--------------------------------|-----|--|-----|
| Brakesmen and Goods Guards ... | ... | Boiler Making and Constructional Engineering... | 1 |
| Engine Drivers ... | 1 | Locomotives, Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft ... | 3 |
| Firemen ... | 1 | Other Metal Trades ... | 1 |
| Guards (Passenger) ... | 1 | Shipbuilding ... | 11 |
| Permanent Way Men ... | 8 | Wood ... | 1 |
| Porters ... | ... | Gas ... | 2 |
| Shunters ... | 3 | Electric Generating Stations | 1 |
| Mechanics ... | ... | Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ... | 6 |
| Labourers ... | 1 | Chemicals, etc. ... | 4 |
| Miscellaneous ... | 3 | Food and Drink ... | 6 |
| Contractors' Servants ... | 2 | Hull District ... | 1 |
| | | Paper, Printing, etc. ... | 2 |
| TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE | 20 | Tanning, Currying, etc. ... | 2 |
| | | Rubber Trades ... | ... |
| | | Other Non-Textile Industries ... | 4 |
| | | TOTAL, MINES ... | 111 |
| Underground ... | 96 | | |
| Surface ... | 15 | | |
| TOTAL, MINES ... | 111 | | |
| | | PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901. | |
| Quarries over 20 feet deep | 12 | Docks, Wharves, etc. ... | 10 |
| | | Buildings ... | 8 |
| | | Warehouses and Railway Sidings ... | 1 |
| | | Other Textiles ... | 1 |
| | | Other Textiles ... | 1 |
| | | Textile Bleaching & Dyeing | 1 |
| | | Metal Extracting and Refining ... | 3 |
| | | Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making ... | 3 |
| | | Metal Founding ... | 4 |
| | | Engineering and Machine Making ... | 8 |
| | | Total (excluding Seamen) ... | 230 |

* Based on Returns from the Home Office and from the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland. † 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. § Based on returns from the Home Office, the Mines Department, the Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland. ¶ Accidents occurring in the use or working of railways are included under "Railway Service."

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 December, 1924, in the thirty-one selected areas named below, was 691,800, or 0.3 per cent. more than in the previous month, but 18.4 per cent. less than in December, 1923. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 389, 387, and 479 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

In the twenty-five selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in December, 1924, was 575,571, or 366 per 10,000 of the estimated population. In the six areas in Scotland the number relieved was 116,229, or 560 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Recipients of indoor relief in the thirty-one districts in December numbered 123,402, or 0.3 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 2.3 per cent. less than in December, 1923. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 568,398, or 0.5 per cent. more than in the previous month, but 21.3 per cent. less than a year ago.

Sixteen districts showed small increases and fourteen districts showed small decreases in the number per 10,000 relieved in December, 1924, as compared with the previous month. Compared with December, 1923, all districts except Barnsley showed decreases, the most noteworthy being Stockton and Tees (299 per 10,000), Paisley and Greenock (285 per 10,000), Sheffield (280 per 10,000), and Glasgow (279 per 10,000).

In the 31 areas shown, the proportion of persons relieved ranged from 109 per 10,000 of the estimated population in the case of Halifax and Huddersfield District to 955 per 10,000 in the case of West Ham.

| Selected Urban Areas.‡ | Number of Persons* in receipt of Poor Law Relief on one day† in December, 1924. | | | Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population. | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a | |
|--|---|-----------|---------|--|--|-----------|
| | Indoor. | Out-door. | Total. | | Month ago. | Year ago. |
| ENGLAND AND WALES. | | | | | | |
| Metropolis. | 9,084 | 6,730 | 15,814 | 191 | - 1 | - 27 |
| West District... | 10,311 | 17,525 | 27,836 | 273 | - 12 | - 53 |
| Central District ... | 2,390 | 2,425 | 4,815 | 358 | - 13 | - 53 |
| East District ... | 10,073 | 45,735 | 55,808 | 855 | + 2 | - 105 |
| South District ... | 19,086 | 63,916 | 83,002 | 428 | - 7 | - 87 |
| TOTAL, Metropolis ... | 50,944 | 136,331 | 187,275 | 410 | - 6 | - 70 |
| West Ham ... | 4,432 | 68,159 | 72,591 | 955 | + 32 | - 74 |
| Other Districts. | | | | | | |
| Newcastle District | 2,574 | 22,697 | 25,271 | 506 | + 5 | - 189 |
| Stockton and Tees District ... | 1,154 | 12,057 | 13,211 | 483 | + 10 | - 299 |
| Bolton, Oldham, etc. | 4,122 | 7,373 | 11,495 | 144 | + 2 | - 4 |
| Wigan District ... | 1,769 | 9,436 | 11,205 | 249 | + 5 | - 77 |
| Manchester District | 8,648 | 23,186 | 31,834 | 306 | - 2 | - 67 |
| Liverpool District... | 9,461 | 43,956 | 53,417 | 435 | - 1 | - 108 |
| Bradford District ... | 1,751 | 3,557 | 5,308 | 142 | + 5 | - 31 |
| Halifax and Huddersfield ... | 1,291 | 2,855 | 4,146 | 109 | + 4 | - 11 |
| Leeds District ... | 2,486 | 8,324 | 10,810 | 220 | + 4 | - 38 |
| Barnsley District ... | 916 | 7,752 | 8,668 | 266 | - 1 | + 10 |
| Sheffield District ... | 2,564 | 25,033 | 27,597 | 535 | - 6 | - 280 |
| Hull District ... | 1,733 | 9,859 | 11,592 | 362 | - 3 | - 85 |
| North Staffordshire | 2,163 | 5,116 | 7,279 | 175 | - 1 | - 12 |
| Nottingham District | 2,162 | 6,584 | 11,746 | 250 | - 1 | - 8 |
| Leicester District ... | 1,270 | 2,660 | 3,930 | 164 | + 2 | - 5 |
| Wolverhampton District ... | 3,244 | 14,958 | 18,212 | 248 | - 1 | - 99 |
| Birmingham District | 7,000 | 23,238 | 30,238 | 319 | - 1 | - 184 |
| Bristol District ... | 2,345 | 12,202 | 14,547 | 352 | + 15 | - 44 |
| Cardiff and Swansea | 2,486 | 12,693 | 15,179 | 319 | + 18 | - 4 |
| TOTAL "Other Districts" | 59,139 | 256,566 | 315,705 | 304 | + 2 | - 84 |
| TOTAL, Districts in England and Wales ... | 114,515 | 461,056 | 575,571 | 366 | + 1 | - 80 |
| SCOTLAND. | | | | | | |
| Glasgow District ... | 4,919 | 69,768 | 74,687 | 767 | ... | - 279 |
| Paisley and Greenock District ... | 827 | 11,518 | 12,345 | 640 | + 29 | - 285 |
| Edinburgh ... | 1,511 | 14,809 | 16,320 | 384 | - 6 | - 15 |
| Dunfermline ... | 718 | 2,743 | 3,461 | 157 | + 4 | - 1 |
| Aberdeen ... | 526 | 3,071 | 3,597 | 225 | + 11 | - 113 |
| Coatbridge and Airdrie | 386 | 5,433 | 5,819 | 570 | + 7 | - 54 |
| TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts ... | 8,887 | 107,342 | 116,229 | 560 | + 3 | - 172 |
| TOTAL for above 31 Districts in Dec., 1924 | 123,402 | 568,398 | 691,800 | 389 | + 2 | - 90 |

| Country. | Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.* | | | | | Latest figures available. |
|------------------------|---|-------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| | July, 1921. | July, 1922. | July, 1923. | July, 1924.† | Per cent. | |
| UNITED KINGDOM ... | 120 | 80 | 62 | 62 | 78 | Jan. '25 |
| FOREIGN COUNTRIES. | | | | | | |
| Austria (Vienna) ... | 9,700‡ | 328,600 | 1,291,000 | 1,436,100 | 1,624,700 | Dec. '24 |
| Czechoslovakia§ ... | 1,246 | 1,330 | 821 | 809 | 822 | Nov. '24 |
| Denmark ... | 136 | 84 | 88 | 100 | 100 | July '24 |
| Finland ... | 1,178 | 1,005 | 868 | 916 | 1,027 | Nov. '24 |
| France (Paris)§ ... | 206 | 197 | 221 | 260 | 304 | Dec. '24 |
| „ (other towns)§ ... | 250 | 212 | 249 | 300 | 300 | Aug. '24 |
| Holland (The Hague) | 113 | 80 | 60 | 62 | 73 | Nov. '24 |
| „ (Amsterdam) | 80 | 40 | 36 | 42 | 50 | Oct. '24 |
| Italy (Milan) ... | 406 | 392 | 396 | 408 | 479 | Dec. '24 |
| Norway ... | 195 | 133 | 118 | 148 | 174 | Dec. '24 |
| Sweden§ ... | 132 | 79 | 60 | 59 | 72 | Dec. '24 |
| Switzerland ... | 110 | 57 | 64 | 68 | 70 | Nov. '24 |
| United States ... | 45 | 39 | 44 | 40 | 47 | Nov. '24 |
| BRITISH DOMINIONS, &c. | | | | | | |
| Australia ... | 61 | 48 | 64 | 49† | 47 | Nov. '24 |
| Canada ... | 48 | 38 | 37 | 34 | 42 | Dec. '24 |
| India (Bombay) ... | 74 | 60 | 48 | 51 | 56 | Dec. '24 |
| Irish Free State ... | — | 85‡ | 82 | 85 | 100 | Oct. '24 |

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of 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. 9-10 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 in 1922 by the International Labour Office under the title "Methods of Compiling Statistics of Unemployment." (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7.)]

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in December.—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of Employment Exchanges on 27th December was 8,976 (6,356 men and 2,620 women). At the end of November the corresponding total was 11,863; in December, 1923, it was 6,883. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 5,603 (2,942 for men and 2,661 for women), as compared with 7,295 at the end of November and 11,164 in December, 1923. During the last week of December the Exchanges succeeded in placing 24,421 persons in situations, including 10,819 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 2,574 foreign immigrants.

The latest returns show that two departmental and nineteen municipal unemployment funds were in operation throughout France on 2nd January, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit through their agency being 509 (473 men and 36 women). The corresponding total for the preceding month was 479, and that for December, 1923, 464. It is to be noted that these figures do not fully represent the number of persons out of employment, since some localities are without unemployment funds, and where they do exist their record of unemployed persons is not complete.

GERMANY.

Unemployment in November.—According to the issue of the Reichsarbeitsblatt for 1st January the proportion of trade union members reported as totally unemployed at the end of November was 7.3 per cent., as compared with 8.4 per cent. at the end of the preceding month, and 23.4 per cent. in November, 1923. The proportion of short-time workers amongst trade union members also decreased, being 6.7 per cent., as against 12.2 per cent. in the preceding month.

BELGIUM.†

Unemployment in November.—The latest figures available relate to November, but are provisional only. Returns received by the Ministry of Industry and Labour from 1,431 approved unemployment insurance societies, with a total membership of 644,713, show that 24,428 of these were either totally or partially unemployed at the end of the month. The total days lost through unemployment in November numbered 268,457, or 1.73 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days; in the preceding month the percentage was 1.71, and in November, 1923, 1.05.

During November 14,716 applications for employment were received at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 15,771 in the preceding month. Vacancies notified by employers in November numbered 7,999, as against 10,499 in October. There were thus on an average 184 applicants for each 100 situations registered as vacant, as compared with 150 in October.

SWITZERLAND.‡

Unemployment in November.—According to figures compiled by the Swiss Federal Labour Office, the number of applicants for work on the "live register" of Employment Exchanges at the end of November was 11,479, as compared with 9,451 at the end of the preceding month and 27,029 at the end of November, 1923. The 11,479 applicants for work included 1,806 normally engaged in the building trades, 1,331 in commercial undertakings, shops, etc., and 1,086 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades. The number of situations remaining unfilled at the same date was 1,934, as against 2,409 at the end of the preceding month and 1,811 at the end of November, 1923. On the last day of November, 1924, there were 1,085 applications for each 100 vacancies for men and 216 for each 100 for women. On 31st October the ratios were 716 and 147 respectively, and on 30th November, 1923, 2,957 and 326 respectively.

ITALY.

Unemployment in October.—According to a report issued by the Italian Unemployment Insurance Department, § 117,051 workpeople were totally unemployed on 31st October, as compared with 115,590 at the end of September last and 199,694 on 31st October, 1923. In addition, 24,112 were partially unemployed at the latest date, 21,849 on 30th September and 67,805 on 31st October, 1923. On 31st October last the number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of benefit, under the statutory unemployment insurance scheme, was 17,668, as compared with 18,054 on 30th September and 35,805 on 31st October, 1923.

* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 3rd January, 1924. Paris.
† Revue du Travail, 31st December, 1924. Brussels.
‡ Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt, 15th December, 1924. Berne.
§ La Disoccupazione in Italia al 31 ottobre, 1924. Rome.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

Unemployment in November.—According to a report forwarded by the Commercial Secretary at Prague, the figures issued by the Czechoslovakian Ministry of Social Welfare show that a slight increase in unemployment took place in November. The number of persons in direct receipt of Government unemployment benefit was 8,950, as compared with 7,850 in October. Persons on short time in receipt of support from employers numbered 11,890. These figures are exclusive of the number of family dependants of the breadwinner in respect of whom relief is also granted.

DENMARK.

Unemployment in December.—H.M. Commercial Secretary at Copenhagen, in a despatch to the Department of Overseas Trade, dated 31st December last, states that the latest returns of unemployment in Denmark show that 35,712 workpeople were unemployed on 27th December as against 31,057 at the end of the preceding week, and 41,800 on 28th December, 1923.

SWEDEN.*

Unemployment in October.—Trade unions with an aggregate membership of 205,605 reported 17,344, or 8.4 per cent., as out of work on the last day of October, as against 7.0 per cent. at the end of September and 8.2 per cent. at the end of October, 1923. The following Table gives particulars for the principal unions included in the returns:—

| Unions. | Membership reporting on 31st Oct. 1924. | Percentage Unemployed. | | |
|--|---|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | | 31st Oct., 1924. | 30th Sept., 1924. | 31st Oct., 1923. |
| All Unions making Returns ... | 205,605 | 8.4 | 7.0 | 8.2 |
| PRINCIPAL UNIONS:— | | | | |
| Carpenters and joiners ... | 6,242 | 12.5 | 6.3 | ... |
| Iron and steel ... | 12,934 | 12.7 | 8.9 | 5.0 |
| Foundry workers... .. | 3,905 | 11.8 | 9.5 | 12.0 |
| Engineering | 44,984 | 8.2 | 7.3 | 10.7 |
| Textile | 9,505 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 1.7 |
| Clothing | 4,981 | 3.9 | 5.9 | 7.1 |
| Food preparation | 8,100 | 4.9 | 5.5 | 3.4 |
| Foot, shoe and leather | 7,703 | 9.3 | 7.2 | 8.3 |
| Sawmilling | 17,879 | 19.7 | 15.7 | 15.2 |
| Woodworking | 5,800 | 6.2 | 5.2 | 11.9 |
| Paper and pulp | 15,207 | 2.9 | 1.8 | 2.9 |
| Municipal workers | 9,523 | 2.4 | 1.3 | 1.8 |
| Commercial employees | 7,066 | 5.0 | 4.2 | 6.8 |
| General and factory workers (trades not specified) ... | 19,933 | 13.5 | 14.2 | 15.2 |

UNITED STATES.†

Employment in November.—Provisional figures, presented by the United States Department of Labour through the Bureau of Labour Statistics, based on reports from 8,557 establishments in 52 manufacturing industries covering 2,553,132 workpeople show that the general level of employment in manufacturing industries was practically unaltered from October to November, the actual percentage change being a decrease of only 0.1 per cent. The aggregate wages paid show for the same period a decrease of 1.3 per cent., and the average weekly earnings a decrease of 1.2 per cent. Regularly occurring seasonal decreases in various industries, such as men's and women's clothing, were responsible for the slight decrease in employment, while the larger falling off in earnings was due almost entirely to the holidays quite generally observed in many localities during the first half of November. Twenty-five of the 52 industries record increases in the number of workpeople employed in November; the increases were, for the most part, relatively small, the largest—which marks a return to more normal conditions after a depressed summer—being in the rubber boot and shoe industry (47 per cent.). Other large increases in numbers employed were shown in cigar and cigarettes (11.4 per cent.) and in the agricultural implement industry (6 per cent.). The greatest decreases shown were in sugar refining (10.7 per cent.), confectionery (10.2 per cent.), ice-cream (8.7 per cent.), women's clothing (7.8 per cent.) and in men's clothing (4.7 per cent.). As regards comparison between the month under review and the corresponding month of 1923, returns from 6,773 establishments in the 52 industries show a decrease of over 10 per cent. in the number of persons employed, a decrease of 13 per cent. in aggregate wages and a decrease of 3.5 per cent. in average weekly earnings.

CANADA.

Employment in December.—For 1st December, 1924, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa from 5,880 firms, with an aggregate of 749,841 upon their pay-rolls. On 1st November the same firms reported 768,678 employed, the total for 1st December thus showing a decrease of 18,837 persons. If the number 100 be assigned to the week ended 17th January, 1920, the index number of employment for 1st December, 1924, is 90.8, as compared with 93.0 at the beginning of the preceding month and 95.7 on 1st December, 1923.

Trade Union Unemployment in November.—On 30th November 9.7 per cent. of the aggregate membership of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 6.8 per cent. at the end of October and 6.2 per cent. at the end of November, 1923.

* Societa Meddelanden, No. 12, 1924. Stockholm.
† Information supplied through the courtesy of the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics, Washington.
‡ The December Employment Situation, 1924. Ottawa.
§ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Canadian Department of Labour, Ottawa.

LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, &c.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Master and Servant.

CONTRACT OF SERVICE—TWELVE MONTHS CERTAIN, "THEREAFTER UNTIL THE TERMINATION BY THREE MONTHS' NOTICE IN WRITING."

A service agreement, in writing, was executed to begin on 11th September, 1922, and to continue for twelve months certain and "thereafter until the determination by three months' notice in writing."

On 13th July, 1923, the master gave the servant, in writing, three months' notice to determine the agreement. The servant contended that no notice of determination could take effect until the expiration of fifteen months from the 11th September, 1922. It was held that, on a fair construction of the agreement, a notice, if duly given, could become effective at any time after the expiration of the first twelve months; and that, in this case, the agreement was duly determined at the expiration of three months from the date of the notice, that is, on the 13th October, 1923.—*King's Bench Division.*—*Costigan v. Gray Bovier Engines, Ltd.*—December 18th, 1924.

Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1906 & 1923.

WIDOW'S CLAIM TO COMPENSATION—BREAKS IN THE CHAIN OF CAUSATION.

A claim of an unusual character under the above Acts was decided by Sheriff-Substitute Broun in the Ayr Sheriff Court recently.

Mrs. McBride asked for an award of £558 for the death of her husband, a miner. The miner, whilst employed at a pit, sustained injuries to his left eye and practically lost the sight of it. The defenders admitted liability and paid him compensation for total incapacity until April, 1924, when he was offered and accepted light work at the pit head.

When injured, McBride was 51 years of age and weighed about 12 stone. During his total incapacity his weight increased by about 3 stone. Whilst at work at the pit head he had to push loaded hutches from the weighing machine to the cart scree, which he alleged was heavy work, and in his soft condition, caused by his enforced absence from work as the result of the accident, he perspired heavily. In May, 1924, when engaged in pushing loaded hutches and when in a heated condition, he caught a chill from which bronchitis developed, and on the 13th August he died.

Sheriff Broun disallowed the claim. His Lordship stated that there were several breaks in the chain of causation by which it was attempted to connect, either directly or indirectly, the death with the accident in 1922. He was not satisfied that McBride's increased weight could be ascribed to the accident. McBride had not suffered injury which necessitated a sedentary life and prevented him from taking exercise. His Lordship was of opinion that the cold contracted by McBride after three weeks' work had not been proved even indirectly to have resulted from the effects of the accident in 1922. Catching cold was incidental to all sorts and conditions of people and to all employments.—*Ayr Sheriff Court.*—*McBride v. Ayrshire Collieries, Ltd.*—December, 1924.

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. 8539, Section 8 (1) of Principal Act and 4 (1) of No. 2 Act, 1924.—*Trade Dispute—Alleged Breach of Agreement made by Joint Committee—Committee since defunct and Present Practice for Individual Agreements to be made between Employers and Workmen—New Offer at one Firm not Breach of National Agreement or of Agreement between Group of Employers.*

The applicants, who had been employed as shifters, checkweighmen, putters, etc., at a colliery, were reported to have lost employment owing to a trade dispute, and their claims for benefit were, accordingly, disallowed under Section 8 (1).

It appeared that the colliery owners had informed the men that the colliery could not be carried on profitably at the existing wages

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

Cases after No. 2,000 are not published in volume form, but summaries of the decisions are printed in pamphlets issued at approximately fortnightly intervals. The pamphlets will be supplied post free, as and when issued, for an annual subscription of 7s. 6d., payable in advance. All applications should be made to His Majesty's Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

and that the men must accept certain reductions in piece rates. After negotiations had been carried on unsuccessfully for some time, the employers brought matters to a head by giving the men a fortnight's notice to terminate their contracts, and, accordingly, the applicants became unemployed on 14th August, 1924. The employers stated that they had hitherto paid wages in excess of the County rates and that the new rates offered to the men would still have enabled them to earn more than the County rates. If any man was unable to earn sufficient, his wages would be made up to the County rates.

The applicants were represented by their Trade Union Secretary, who submitted that the employers' offer constituted a breach of agreement. They stated that formerly the basic rates were fixed according to Awards given by a Joint Committee, but this Committee had been defunct since 1922 and prices had remained fixed because there was nobody to settle rates either one way or the other. The men had endeavoured to obtain increased rates, but their demands had always met with refusal on the ground that the rates were fixed and could not be varied in the absence of the Joint Committee.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims for benefit should be allowed under Section 4 (1) of No. 2 Act, 1924. The Court thought the stoppage of work was due to the employers acting in such a manner as to contravene the terms of an agreement arrived at by a Joint Committee of Employers' and Workmen's representatives for the County.

The Insurance Officer disagreed with the Court and referred the matter to the Umpire, who held an oral hearing of the case.

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

The dispute which led to the stoppage of work in these cases was with regard to the piece prices. These are fixed by agreement between the owners of each colliery and their employees. At one time there was in existence a Joint Committee for settling disputes, but it has been defunct for a considerable time.

"The employers, no doubt, are seeking to vary existing piece-price agreements, but those agreements are not National Agreements, nor are they agreements existing between a group of employers. They are only agreements between a single employer or firm of colliery owners and the employees at the colliery."

Case No. 8561, Section 8 (2).—*Employment left Voluntarily—Short-Time Worker gave up Spare-Time Occupation in order to Qualify for Benefit on Days of Unemployment—Not Just Cause.*

The applicant, a spinner, was employed on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in each week under a system of short-time working. On Saturdays he was employed during the evening as a pianist at a local hotel, and for this additional employment he received ten shillings. He had carried on the spare-time employment as a pianist for 25 years, but on the 8th March, 1924, he gave up this employment in order to become eligible for unemployment benefit on the three days in each week, viz., Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, on which he was not employed in his usual trade as a cotton spinner. Under the regulations governing the payment of benefit the applicant was not entitled to benefit in respect of Monday and Tuesday in each week, as he was "not unemployed" on Saturday.

He gave as his reason for leaving the spare-time employment that he would have received more by way of unemployment benefit for the three days in question than he did by playing the piano, and that he wanted to qualify for benefit which would be set off against an overpayment of benefit recorded against him at the Employment Exchange.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be allowed on the ground that the applicant was justified in leaving his spare-time employment, but the Insurance Officer declined to accept the recommendation of the Court of Referees and referred the matter to the Umpire.

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

"The applicant had two employments. Three days a week he was employed in his usual occupation of a cotton spinner, and on Saturdays he had a spare-time employment which he had followed for 25 years, in respect of which he received 10s. a day.

"The Insurance Officer claims that he voluntarily left this spare-time employment without just cause and therefore is disqualified for benefit for 6 weeks. His only reason for leaving it was that, so long as he followed it, he was employed on four days in each week and therefore was not entitled to benefit in respect of the two days on which he was unemployed.

"It sometimes happens, no doubt, that a person would be better off when unemployed and in receipt of benefit than he is whilst employed, but in my opinion this is not in itself just cause for leaving employment, and in several cases it has been so held (see Cases Nos. 637, 1257, 1770).

"The Court of Referees appear to have been of the opinion that there should be no disqualification on the ground that Section 8 (2) of the Act of 1920 has no application to spare-time employment. I am not prepared to say that that Section is applicable to all kinds of occupations the following of which would disqualify for benefit under Section 7 (2) (a), but I see no reason for thinking that the spare-time employment followed by this applicant was not 'employment' within the meaning of that expression as used in Section 8 (2)."

Case No. 8676, Section 7 (1) (iv) (as amended).—Not Genuinely Seeking Work and Suitable Employment, not unable to obtain—Plea of Physical Disability not accepted as Sufficient Reason for Refusing Work for which Applicant had Specially Registered.

The applicant, whose usual occupation was that of a glass blower, became unemployed on the 23rd June, 1924, and on the 3rd September, 1924, he was offered local and permanent employment in his own trade at the district standard piece rate of wages.

The applicant was unwilling to accept the employment offered on account of his health. He contended that owing to the effects of war service, employment as a glass blower was prejudicial to his health, as that kind of work affected his lungs; and in support of his contention he produced a medical certificate which showed that he suffered from neurasthenia and debility, and was unable to follow his usual employment, and that it was advisable that he should obtain a light kind of work.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be allowed, as the Court were of opinion that the applicant had not refused an offer of suitable employment.

The Insurance Officer declined to accept the recommendation of the Court of Referees, and referred the matter to the Umpire.

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

"The applicant was registered for employment as a glass blower and for that only. After being in receipt of benefit for a considerable time he was offered work as a glass blower, and then said that he could not do the work owing to his disability caused by the war.

"If he had been genuinely seeking work, he would have registered for work of a kind which he could do, and it is quite possible that work of some suitable kind would have been found for him.

"He does not satisfy me that he is genuinely seeking work but unable to find suitable employment."

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

Recent Proceedings.

(A.)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

SPINNERS.—The Workers' Union v. The Chemical Employers' Federation (on behalf of the British Celanese Co., Ltd.). *Difference.*—Application for an increase in spinners' week-end overtime; the rate to be time and a half for all work done on Saturday between 2 and 10 p.m. Double time for all work done between 10 p.m. Saturday and 6 a.m. Monday. *Decision.*—The Court decide not to disturb the existing rate of payment of the men concerned for week-end work. Issued 3rd December, 1924. (999.)

CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION—CLASSIFICATION—BLACKPOOL—CONCILIATION BOARD WORKING RULE AGREEMENT—BOROUGH NOT INDUSTRIAL.—The National Union of General and Municipal Workers v. The Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors. *Difference.*—Claim that Blackpool should be classified as Class I. under the Working Rule Agreement of the Civil Engineering Construction Conciliation Board. *Decision.*—Blackpool shall be regarded for the time being as a case contemplated by Rule 1 (2) of the Working Rule Agreement, and therefore one which should be specially rated. The rate properly to be assigned to Blackpool is that payable in respect of Class II. (1s. 1½d. per hour). Issued 4th December, 1924. (1000.)

CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION—CLASSIFICATION—EASINGTON RESERVOIR CONTRACT—CONCILIATION BOARD WORKING RULE AGREEMENT.—The Public Works and Construction Operatives' Union v. Messrs. Brims and Co., Ltd. *Difference.*—Claim for a higher classification of the Easington Reservoir Contract than that at present in operation, viz.: Class III. *Decision.*—The Easington Reservoir Contract is properly placed in Class III. Issued 8th December, 1924. (1001.)

FARRIERS AND BLACKSMITHS—WAGES—EDINBURGH DISTRICT.—The Amalgamated Society of Farriers and Blacksmiths v. The National Master Farriers and Blacksmiths' Association (Edinburgh Branch). *Difference.*—Claim for increase in hourly rate. *Decision.*—The rates of firemen and drivers be advanced ¼d. per hour from 1s. 6d. and 1s. 5½d. per hour to 1s. 6½d. and 1s. 6d. per hour respectively. Effective as from the beginning of the first full pay period on or after 24th November, 1924. Issued 20th December, 1924. (1002.)

DESPATCH WORKERS—AGREEMENT—CONSTRUCTION OF NORMAL WORKING WEEK—SUNDAY WORK.—The Transport and General Workers' Union v. Messrs. J. Lyons and Co., Ltd. *Difference.*—The application of Clause 2 of the Agreement dated 30th June, 1924, to a certain section of the Employees, viz.: Despatch workers, covered by such Agreement. *Decision.*—The Firm are not acting contrary to the terms of the Agreement in re-arranging their staff, so that, in the case of despatch workers, being day workers, Sunday forms parts of the 48-hour working week. Issued 20th December, 1924. (1003.)

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

[There were no cases under this heading during December.]

(C.)—OTHER SETTLEMENTS.

CIVIL ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS CONSTRUCTION: SOUTH WALES.—The Workers' Union v. J. M. Broadfoot, Public Works Contractor, Newport. *Difference.*—Claim for Grade I Civil Engineering Rates. *Agreement.*—Certain operatives given special rates, but no departure made in general from Grade II Rates. Signed 29th November, 1924.

SHOP ASSISTANTS, WAREHOUSEMEN, ETC.: LONDON.—The Transport and General Workers' Union and the Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks v. Messrs. Pearks Dairies, Limited, Bethnal Green Road, Bethnal Green. *Difference.*—Discharge of a shop steward. *Agreement.*—Firm to endeavour to find suitable employment elsewhere for the man discharged. Directors to investigate any future proposal to reduce staff. Agreed: 3rd December, 1924.

CARTERS: LIMEHOUSE.—The Transport and General Workers' Union v. Mr. J. J. Prior, Cartage Contractor, Limehouse. *Difference.*—Two men discharged as a consequence of a disagreement as to what constituted a fair day's work. *Agreement.*—Joint conference set up to determine a fair day's work based on the load system. Signed 2nd December, 1924.

CARTERS: SILVERTOWN.—The Transport and General Workers' Union v. Messrs. Heaslip and Company, Cartage Contractors, Silvertown. *Difference.*—Dispute in connection with the operation of the London Road Transport Agreement. *Agreement.*—Firm to operate the Agreement in its entirety as from the first full pay day in October, 1924. Agreed: 8th December, 1924.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP REPAIRING: BRIGHTLINGSEA.—The Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society, and the Ship Constructors' and Shipwrights' Society v. Messrs. Aldous, Ltd., Shipbuilders and Ship Repairers, Brightlingsea. *Difference.*—Refusal of firm to operate an Industrial Court Award involving a wages increase. *Agreement.*—Certain increases granted and firm agreed to discuss the remainder of the Union's claim at a later date. Signed 9th December, 1924.

TRANSPORT WORKERS: NEWBRIDGE, MON.—The Transport and General Workers' Union v. Messrs. Lewis and James, Western Valleys Garage and Engineering Company, Newbridge, Mon. *Difference.*—Dispute in connection with the setting up of a new wages agreement, the Employers having given notice to terminate the old one. *Agreement.*—New agreement drawn up and signed by both parties. Signed 9th December, 1924.

TAXI-DRIVERS: EDINBURGH.—The Scottish Horse and Motor-men's Association v. The Taxi Employers' Association. *Difference.*—Claim for an increase in wages and a reduction in hours. *Agreement.*—Wages increased and agreement arrived at in respect of meal-times and overtime. Signed 16th December, 1924.

WHOLESALE CLOTHIERS: HACKNEY.—The Tailors' and Garment Workers' Union v. Messrs. Polikoff, Wholesale Clothiers, Hackney, London, E. *Difference.*—Refusal of employees to work with a non-unionist. *Agreement.*—All productive workers to be members of the Tailors and Garment Workers' Union. Workers on the Executive Staff already members of this Union to remain so, but membership not to be enforced on administrative and clerical staff, provided no objection is raised to their organisation in appropriate Trade Unions. Agreed: 16th December, 1924.

ENGINEERS: IRVINE, SCOTLAND.—The Amalgamated Engineering Union v. Messrs. Robert Kerr and Sons, Limited, Irvine. *Difference.*—Claim for night shift conditions in accordance with the National Agreement in order to comply with the Fair Wages Clause. *Agreement.*—Claim conceded. Agreed: 17th December, 1924.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

Orders, Notices, etc., Issued During December.

I.—CONFIRMING ORDERS.

(a) Fur Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order Z. (17) and (18), dated 18th December, 1924, confirming certain general minimum piece-rates and confirming the variation of general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates, general minimum piece-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers and specifying 3rd January, 1925, as the date from which such rates and variations should become effective.

(b) Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order D. (28), dated 29th December, 1924, confirming certain general minimum piece-rates and the variation of overtime rates for male and female workers employed on work preparatory to rounding and channelling machines, for periods dependent upon the "Cost of Living" index figure, and specifying 12th January, 1925, as the date from which such rates should first become effective.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, DECEMBER, 1924.

ADMIRALTY.

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

Pembroke: Oil Fuel Steel Tanks: The Tees Side Bridge & Engineering Works, Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Portsmouth: Glazed Bricks and Tiles:** Scourse & Kingston, Ltd., Bedminster, Bristol.

(Contract and Purchase Department.)

Bags, Kit, Seamen's: H. J. Barr, Wivenhoe; Cranfield & Carter, Burnham-on-Crouch; Gowen & Co., West Mersea; J. T. Inglis & Sons, Ltd., Dundee.—**Battery Gear:** Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester; D. P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell.—**Beech Wedges:** G. Randle & Son, Ltd., Bridgwater; J. Jones & Sons, Ltd., Larbert; East & Son, Ltd., Berkhamsted; C. R. Claridge, Exeter; J. D. Foster, Emsworth, Hants.—**Cameras, Wide Angle:** Thornton Picard Mfg. Co., Ltd., Altrincham.—**Cases, Suit (Canvas):** Frenchs, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Casks, Trade:** W. Ryan & Co., London, E.—**Cells, Inert:** Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End, Middlesex.—**Cells, Secondary:** London Battery & Cable Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Cleats and Eyeplates, Stamped Steel:** Carron Company, Falkirk; R. Heath & Low Moor, Ltd., Bradford; Vaughan Bros., Willenhall.—**Compasses, Aircraft:** Kelvin, Bottomley & Baird, Ltd., London, S.E.; Henry Hughes & Son, Ltd., London, E.C.; Dent & Co. & Johnson, Ltd., Paisley.—**Condensers, Vane Units for:** Sparklets, Ltd., London, N.—**Cranes, Electric Travelling, Jib:** Sir W. Arrol & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Flannel:** John Sandiford & Sons, Rochdale.—**Flour:** Wingent & Kimmins, Ltd., Chatham; W. Vernon & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; J. White & Sons (Glasgow), Ltd., Glasgow; Spillers & Bakers, Ltd., Bristol.—**Fuses:** Wholesale Electrical Co. (1922), Ltd., Weybridge.—**Generating Set, Diesel, erection of:** Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—**Hoists and Control Valves; Hoists, Mast raising:** MacLaggart, Scott & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Lamps, Electric:** General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.; Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End, Middlesex; Metro-Vick Supplies, Ltd., Brimsdown; Siemens & English Electric Lamp Co., Ltd., Preston; British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Rugby.—**Lockers:** G. A. Harvey & Co., (London), Ltd., London, S.E.—**Machines, Universal Milling:** Cunliffe & Croom, Ltd., Manchester.—**Machines, Universal Grinding:** Churchill Machine Tool Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Machines, Radial Drilling:** W. Muir & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Meat, etc., Rations:** C. & T. Harris (Calne), Ltd., Wiltshire.—**Motor Generators and Spares:** Small Electric Motors, Ltd., Beckenham, Kent; Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—**Motor Generator, Switchgear and Spares:** W. Canning & Co., Birmingham.—**Motors, Regulators and Switches:** Bulpitt & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Motors, Control Gear and Spares:** Veritys, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Oak Blocks:** C. R. Claridge, Exeter; J. S. Elliott & Sons, Cranleigh; H. Longley & Sons, East Grinstead; J. Stening & Son, Ltd., East Grinstead; E. C. White & Son, Ltd., Basingstoke.—**Otters, Kite:** Vosper & Co., Ltd., Portsmouth.—**Pickles:** C. & E. Morton, Ltd., London, E.C.; J. Stephens, Son & Co., Ltd., Gloucester.—**Plant, Oxygen Producing:** G. & J. Weir, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Screws and Slips:** Douglass Bros., Ltd., Blaydon-on-Tyne; Ruston & Hornsby, Ltd., Grantham.—**Screws, Mooring:** Brown, Lenox & Co., Ltd., Pontypriid.—**Serge, Blue:** Henry Booth & Sons, Gildersome; The Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., Buckfastleigh; Wm. Edleston, Ltd., Sowerby Bridge; J. W. Whitworth, Ltd., Luddenden Foot, Yorks.—**Shafting, Rolled Steel:** Talbot Stead Tube Co., Ltd., Walsall.—**Socks, Thin:** A. E. Hill (Wigston), Ltd., Leicester; J. Main, Leicester; I. & R. Morley, Leicester; T. Morley & Son, Leicester; R. W. Myhill & Co., Leicester; S. D. Stretton & Sons, Ltd., Leicester.—**Spoons, Nickel Silver:** Cooper, Bros. & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; Mappin & Webb, Ltd., Sheffield; T. Wilkinson & Sons, Birmingham.—**Steel Plates:** W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Steel Sheets:** Park Gate Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham; Port Talbot Steel Co., Ltd., Port Talbot; Steel Co. of Scotland, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Steel, Tool, H.S.:** Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Ltd., Openshaw; T. Andrews & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; J. H. Andrew & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; T. Firth & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; W. Oxley & Co., Ltd., Rotherham; H. Russell & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Steel Wire Hawers (fitted):** Edwin Ellis & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Haggie Bros., Ltd., Gateshead-on-Tyne.—**Steel Wire Line and Strand:** Edwin Ellis & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Steel Wire Rope:** Edwin Ellis & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Excelsior Wire Rope Co., Ltd., Cardiff; Bullivant & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; R. Hood, Haggie & Son, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington.—**Steckings, Thin:** A. E. Hill (Wigston), Ltd., Leicester; W. & H. Howe, Leicester; Arthur Kemp, Leicester; I. & R. Morley, Leicester.—**Theodolites:** E. R. Waits & Son, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Tin foil:** G. Johnson & Co. (Birmingham), Ltd., Birmingham.—**Transformer Plant:** General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Varnishes, etc.:** Blundell, Spence & Co., Ltd., Hull; Colthurst & Harding, Ltd., Bristol; Gross, Sherwood & Heald, Ltd., Barking; W. S. Jenkins & Co., London, N.W.; Jensen & Nicholson (1924), Ltd., London, E.; C. Orme & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Paripan, Ltd., London, W.; Sissons Bros. & Co., Ltd., Hull; John Smith & Sons (Haltwhistle), Ltd., Haltwhistle; C. W. Waters, Ltd., London, E.C.; L. G. Wilkinson, Ltd., London, E.C.; S. Wills & Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Vests, Summer:** J. B. Lewis & Sons, Ltd., Nottingham; **Voice**

(c) Shirtmaking Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.S. (16), dated 15th December, 1924, confirming general minimum time-rates, a piece-work basis time-rate and general overtime rates as fixed for certain male workers and specifying the 1st January, 1925, as the date from which these rates become effective.

Copies of the above-mentioned Orders containing details of the minimum rates in operation may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, price 3d. each.

II.—NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

Linen and Cotton Embroidery Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.E. (N. 19), dated 4th December, 1924, to fix piece-work basis time-rates for female workers and to vary general minimum piece-rates for female workers engaged in certain operations.

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

Higher wage rates have become operative as from 1st January, 1925, in the under-mentioned trades. The minimum rates of wages now applicable are those appropriate to the "Cost of Living" figure of 81, and are set out in the Confirming Orders quoted below, which may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, price 3d. each.

Brush and Broom (Great Britain).—M. (35), (36), and (37), Col. 8. Paper Bag (Great Britain).—P. (10), Col. 7. Paper Box (Great Britain).—B. (11), Col. 2. Perambulator and Invalid Carriage (Great Britain).—1. (14) and (15), Col. IV.

IV.—NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MAKE A SPECIAL ORDER.

Paper Box Trade (Great Britain).

The Minister of Labour has issued a notice of his intention to make a Special Order altering the description of the Paper Box Trade contained in paragraph 2 of the Schedule to the Trade Boards Act, 1909.

Copies of the Notice and draft Special Order, which contains as an appendix the revised description of the trade, together with an instructional circular which gives information as to the Minister's understanding of the scope of the Draft Order in its present form, may be obtained on application to the Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Montagu House, Whitehall, S.W. 1.

RECONSTITUTION OF THE STAMPED OR PRESSED METAL WARES TRADE BOARD.

Following the Trade Boards (Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares) Order, 1924 (S.R. & O., 1924, No. 832), which amended the definition of the trade and the issue of fresh Regulations (S. R. & O., 1924, No. 1485), the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade Board has now been reconstituted.

Professor F. Tillyard and Mr. A. E. Harris, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively of the previous Board, have been re-appointed in a similar capacity, and Mrs. M. H. Pritchard has been appointed to be the woman Appointed Member. The representative members of the Board have been selected in consultation with employers and workers in the trade, and include a number of representatives who were members of the previous Board.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

CENSUS.—Census, 1921: (1) Jersey, Guernsey and adjacent islands; (2) Isle of Man. (S.O. publications; price 4s. and 2s. 6d., respectively.)

FOOD PRICES.—Minutes of evidence taken before the Royal Commission on food prices, first four days. (S.O. publications; price 1s. 6d. each.)

MINING.—Statistical summary of output, and of the costs of production, proceeds and profits of the coal mining industry for the quarter ended 30th September, 1924. Board of Trade, Mines Department. (Cmd. 2308; price 1d.) (See page 6.)

OVERSEA SETTLEMENT.—British Oversea Settlement Delegation to Canada, 1924. Report to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, President of the Oversea Settlement Committee, from the Delegation appointed to obtain information regarding the system of child migration and settlement in Canada. (Cmd. 2285; price 6d.) (See page 6.)

POLICE STRIKE, 1919.—Report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the claims of the men dismissed from the police and prison services on account of the strike of 1919. Home Office. (Cmd. 2297; price 9d.)

VITAL STATISTICS.—Registrar-General's statistical review of England and Wales for the year 1923. Tables, Part II. Civil. (New annual series, No. 3.) (S.O. publication; price 5s.)

WORKERS' LEISURE.—Texts adopted by a provisional vote of the International Labour Conference at its sixth session, 16th June-5th July, 1924. (Utilisation of workers' spare time.) (Cmd. 2292; price 6d.)

Pipes and Fittings: Interlock Metal Hose Co., London, N.; Power Flexible Tubing Co., Ltd., London, N.; United Flexible Metallic Tubing Co., Ltd., Ponder's End, Middlesex.—**W/T Amplifiers:** H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, E.C.—**W/T Apparatus:** Marconi's W/T Co., Ltd., Chelmsford.—**Zinc Slabs & Sheets:** London Zinc Mills, Ltd., London, N.; G. A. Harvey & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.E.

WAR OFFICE.

Alcohol: Hammersmith Distillery Co., Ltd., Hammersmith.—**Aluminium Ingot:** The British Aluminium Co., Ltd., Warrington.—**Bedford Cord:** J. Bower & Sons, Ltd., Holmfirth; Glendenning Bros., Ltd., Huddersfield; Taylor & Littlewood, Ltd., Huddersfield; Whiteley & Green, Ltd., Holmbridge.—**Buckets, Latrine:** Sargeant, Turner & Sons, Stourbridge.—**Canvas, Packing:** Craiks, Ltd., Forfar.—**Caps, Service Dress:** L. Silberston, London, E.C.—**Cars, Touring:** A. E. Gould, Ltd., London, W.—**Chassis, Motor:** Guy Motors, Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Chassis, 30 cwt.:** Karrier Motors, Ltd., Huddersfield; J. I. Thornycroft & Co., Ltd., Basingstoke.—**Cloth, Blue:** A. W. Hainsworth & Sons, Ltd., Farsley, Yorks; J. Hainsworth & Sons, Farsley, Yorks.—**Collars, Breast:** Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Copper Sheet (various sizes):** British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott.—**Cotton, Brown, Mercerised:** Central Agency, Ltd., Paisley.—**Drawers, Cotton:** G. Braun, Ltd., Loughborough; I. & R. Morley, Nottingham.—**Drill, Brown:** Fothergill & Harvey, Ltd., Littleborough, Lancs.—**Drill, Drab:** Ashton Bros. & Co., Ltd., Hyde, Cheshire; Fothergill & Harvey, Ltd., Littleborough, Lancs.—**Fearnought:** L. Harwood & Co., Ltd., Luddenfoot, Yorks.—**Generating Sets:** W. H. Dorman & Co., Ltd., Stafford; Ruston & Hornsby, Ltd., Lincoln.—**Generating Set, Turbine:** Greenwood & Batley, Ltd., Leeds.—**Hydrants, Fire:** Ham, Baker & Co., Ltd., Langley Green.—**Iron, Pig:** Ebbw Vale Steel, Iron, & Coal Co. Ltd., Ebbw Vale.—**Jackets, Service Dress:** Airedale Clothing Co., Ltd., Leeds; R. B. Brown & Sons, Leeds; T. H. Crombie & Co., Glasgow; Dixon & Gaunt, Ltd., Leeds; L. Fox, Leeds; Jacques Bros., Ltd., Northampton; Limerick Clothing Factory, Ltd., Limerick; L. Silberston, London, E.C.; Stones, Clothiers, Manchester; Sim Rose & Son, Leeds.—**Jackets and Trousers, Overall:** D. Gurteen & Sons, Haverhill; E. Greenwood & Co., Hebden Bridge.—**Metal Rod:** Thomas Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Froghall.—**Millimeters:** Elliot Bros., Ltd., London.—**Motor Cycles:** Triumph Cycle Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Nickel:** Hard Nickel Co., Ltd., South Wales.—**Oil, Pan:** Sternes, Ltd., London E.C.—**Plates, Dinner, G.S.:** Myott, Son & Co., Cobridge, Hanley, Staffs.—**Pneumatic Covers and Inner Tubes:** Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Chas. Macintosh & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Railway Conversion Sets and Spares for 8-cwt. Vans:** F. Theakston, Ltd., London.—**Roofing Composition:** Industrial Engineering, Ltd., London.—**Serge, Service Dress:** H. Booth & Sons, Gildersome; A. W. Hainsworth & Son, Ltd., Farsley; J. Watkinson & Sons, Ltd., Holmfirth.—**Shoes, Highland:** W. Nichols & Son, Kettering.—**Soft Soap:** Peter Lunt & Co., Liverpool.—**Steel Bars (Rounds, Squares and Flats):** Park Gate Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham.—**Steel Gutting, Ridging, R.W. Piping and Fittings:** G. A. Harvey & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Steel, Round: Cammell Laird & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Vickers, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Steel Castings:** Edgar Allen & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Steel Sheets, Corrugated (Various):** Burnell & Co., Ltd., Ellesmere Port.—**Stoves, Oil:** Rippingilles Albion Lamp Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Strappings, Leather:** H. Gibbs & Son, London, E.C.; R. & J. Pullman, Ltd., Godalming.—**Tartan, Highland:** D. Ballantyne Bros. & Co., Peebles.—**Thread, Machine:** H. Campbell & Co., Ltd., Belfast; Lindsay, Thompson & Co., Ltd., Belfast; W. Milner & Sons, Ltd., Leek; Hugh Sleigh & Co., Leek.—**Tin Ingot:** Williams, Harvey & Co., Ltd., Bootle.—**Tractors, Four-wheel Drive:** J. I. Thornycroft & Co., Ltd., Basingstoke.—**Tweed, Blue:** H. Booth & Sons, Gildersome, Yorks; Colbeck Bros., Ltd., Wakefield.—**Wire, Bronze:** Thomas Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Froghall.—**Works Services: Building Works** at: Dover—Barrack Blocks: The Ashford Builders Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Okehampton—Cookhouse: W. J. Avery, Okehampton. Dover—Connaught Barracks: T. T. Denne, Walmer, Kent. Woolwich: J. B. Edwards & Co., Whyteleafe, Surrey. Bedford Barracks. Construction of Recreation Ground: M. M. Hart, Glasgow. Stanhope Lines—Buller Barracks, Bath and Boiler House: Geo. Kemp, Stroud & Co., Ltd., Aldershot. Lancaster—Bowerham Barracks, alterations to Officers' Quarters: J. Parkinson & Sons, Lancaster. Chelsea Regimental Institute: Lole & Co., London, S.W. Deptford: John Mansland & Sons, Ltd., London, W. Grain Fort, Isle of Grain, Kent—Covering Roofs with Asphalt: Permainite, Ltd., London, E. Glasgow, Maryhill Barracks—Regrading and resurfacing Parade Ground: A. F. Reid & Co., Glasgow. Lichfield—Whittington Barracks, Repair to Roads: W. Sharp & Sons, Burton-on-Trent. Beverley—Depot Barracks, Erection of Dining Hall: J. Taylor & Co., Hull. Didcot: A. & S. Wheeler (London), Ltd., London, W.C. Kensington Barracks—Conversion of Cookhouse: White & Johnson, London, S.W. Burscough Depot: J. Whittle, Ormskirk. Maintenance Works: Mill Hill Area: W. Downs, Ltd., London, S.E. Didcot—Supplying and Fixing of Fittings: T. G. Fincher, Stratford-on-Avon. Omagh: Jas. McGrath, Omagh. Chester: J. Pennington & Co. and Inchley & Co., Bowdon, Cheshire.—**Painting:** Glencorse Barracks, A. Hutton & Son, Edinburgh.—**Installations:** Derby—Normanton Barracks, Electric Lighting: The Brightside Foundry Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Leicester—Glen Parva Barracks, Electric Lighting: John Collier & Co., Ltd., Manchester. Old Granby Barracks and Married Quarters at Elphinstone and Lambhay Hill: W. J. Corse & Co., Plymouth. Lincoln—Depot Barracks, Electric Lighting: A. Higginbotham & Sons, Bradford.

AIR MINISTRY.

Accumulators: Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Aircraft:** Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex; Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Coventry; A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Short Bros., Ltd., Rochester.—**Aircraft, Master Tracings of:** Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—**Aircraft, Reconditioning of:** A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Manchester; H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.—**Aircraft Spares:** Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex; Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil; Blackburn Aeroplane & Motor Co., Ltd., Leeds; H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames; Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.; De Havilland Aircraft Co., Ltd., Edgware, Middlesex.—**Airscrews and Cases:** D. M. Davies, London, N.—**Airscrews, Blades and Hubs:** Metal Airscrew Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Buildings and Works Services:** Bricks, Facing (Halton): L. B. Faulkner, Leighton Buzzard. Heating and Hot Water Supply (Farmborough): Heywood & Bryett, London, S.E. Lockers, Steel (Cranwell): G. A. Harvey & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.E. Married Quarters (W. & B. Staff) (Upper Heyford): McCarthy, E. Pitt., Reading. Re-roofing Shed (Henlow): Fredk. Eraby & Co., Ltd., London, N.W. Reservoirs (Bircham Newton, Sealand, Harlescott and Netheravon): L. T. Speight, Ltd., London, W.C. Reservoirs (Worthy Down): Wilson, Lovatt & Sons, Ltd., Wolverhampton. Sick Quarters and Guard House (Catterick): J. Laing & Son, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Carriers, Bomb:** G. A. Harvey & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Coal:** Dinham, Fawcus & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Containers, Baby Bomb:** Trojan, Ltd., Croydon.—**Crankcase, &c.:** W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Crankcases, Repair of:** Peter Hooker, Ltd., London, E.—**Curtains, Mosquito:** Waring & Gillow, Ltd., London, W.—**Cylinders, Oxygen:** Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Dope:** British Celanese, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Engines, Aircraft:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby; D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.; Armstrong-Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry.—**Engines, Aircraft, Bonding, Screening and Running of:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engines, Aircraft, Development test on:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Engine Aircraft Spares:** Armstrong-Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry.—**Linen, Loom Sheeting:** W. Lumdsen & Son, Freuchie, Fife.—**Magnetos:** British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Masts for Aircraft:** McGruer Hollow Spar Co., London, E.—**Mechanical Transport, Ford Touring Cars and Vanettes:** A. E. Gould, Ltd., London, W.—**Oil, Castor:** Hull Oil Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Hull; Premier Oil Extracting Mills, Ltd., Hull.—**Oil, Mineral, Lubricating:** Sternes, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Pipes, hose, canvas:** The Wm. Rose Hose Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Plywood:** Borst Bros., London, E.; Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Rope, Steel Wire:** Edwin Ellis & Co., Ltd., Millwall, E.; Wilkins Wire & Wire Ropes, Ltd., Eastwood, Nottingham.—**Shields, Distributor:** British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Sights, Gun:** Mackie & Co., London.—**Slips, Bomb:** Monarch Engineering Co., London, S.E.—**Slips, Release:** W. W. Greener, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Timber, Imported Swedish:** Denny, Mott & Dickson, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tyres, Wheels, Shields, etc.:** Palmer Tyres, Ltd., Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.—**Valves, W/T:** Mullard Radio Valve Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Varnish, Shellac:** Naylor Bros. (London), Ltd., Slough.—**Voltmeters:** Ernest Turner, High Wycombe, Bucks.—**Wheels, Shields, Tyres, etc.:** Palmer Tyres, Ltd., London, W.C.

POST OFFICE.

Apparatus, Telephonic: Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Liverpool; British L.M. Ericsson Mfg. Co., Ltd., Beeston, Notts; General Electric Co., Ltd., Coventry; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Sterling Telephone & Electric Co., Ltd., Dagenham, Essex; Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Apparatus, Testing:** Power Equipment Co., Ltd., London, N.W.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, E.C.; Walters Electrical Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, W.; Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Baskets:** W. H. Sharp & Sons, Pudsey.—**Blocks, Wood:** A. Bailey, Stone, Staffs.—**Cable, Various:** Connollys (Blackley), Ltd., Blackley; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown, Middlesex; W. T. Glover & Co., Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester; W. T. Henleys Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., Gravesend; Union Cable Co., Ltd., Dagenham, Essex; Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Canvas, Brown:** Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee; Lamb & Scott, Ltd., Brechin; Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen.—**Castings, Joint Box:** Ladywood Iron Works, Ltd., Lutterworth.—**Coils, Loading:** General Electric Co., Ltd., Salford; Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Combinations, Motor Cycle:** B.S.A. Cycles, Ltd., Birmingham and Redditch.—**Covers, Motor Car & Motor Cycle:** Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Handcards:** E. Benton & Co. (Nottingham), Ltd., Nottingham; W. Godyear & Sons, Ltd., Dudley.—**Insulators:** Bullers, Ltd., Hanley and Milton; Douulton & Co., Ltd., Burslem.—**Kiosks, Concrete:** D. G. Somerville & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Lorry, Motor:** Maudsley Motor Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Sleeves, Lead:** Locke, Blackett & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Stayblocks:** Burt, Boulton & Haywood, Ltd., Newport; Gabriel, Wade & English, Ltd., Staddlethorpe.—**Troughing:** Calders, Ltd., Rotherhithe.—**Vans, Motor:** W. H. Perry, London, N.—**Wire, Bronze:** T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Oakmoor; British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott; R. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Beswick; Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley; F. Smith & Co., incorporated in the London Electric Wire Co. & Smiths, Ltd., Manchester.—**Wire, Copper:** T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Oakmoor; British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott; Elliotts Metal Co., Ltd., Selly Oak; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown; Richard Johnson & Nephew, Ltd.,

Beswick; Johnson, Clapham & Morris, Ltd., Manchester; Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Eastleigh, Hants; Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley; F. Smith & Co., incorporated in the London Electric Wire Co. & Smiths, Ltd., Manchester; John Wilkes, Sons, & Mapplebeck, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Wire, Flameproof:** Macintosh Cable Co., Ltd., Derby.

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