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## EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, COST OF LIVING, AND TRADE DISPUTES IN MAY.

### EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT at 24th May showed little change, on the whole, as compared with 19th April.

*Insured Persons in work.*—It is estimated that at 24th May, 1937, the number of insured persons, aged 16-64, in employment in Great Britain, exclusive of persons within the agricultural scheme, was approximately 11,387,000. This was 7,000 less\* than at 19th April, 1937, but 469,000 more than at 25th May, 1936.

*Numbers Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).*—At 24th May, 1937, there were 1,173,802 persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 80,844 less than at 19th April, 1937, and 223,953 less than at 25th May, 1936. The total on 24th May, 1937, was made up of 939,438 men, 32,056 boys, 167,299 women, and 35,009 girls.

*Numbers Temporarily stopped.*—At 24th May, 1937, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain, 144,230 men, 4,197 boys, 55,491 women, and 3,310 girls who were on short time or otherwise temporarily suspended from work. The total of 207,228 was 78,573 more than at 19th April, 1937, but 18,057 less than at 25th May, 1936.

*Numbers unemployed normally in Casual Employment.*—At 24th May, 1937, there were on the registers in Great Britain 68,199 men, 167 boys, 1,925 women, and 9 girls who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration. The total of 70,300 was 842 less than at 19th April, 1937, and 11,702 less than at 25th May, 1936.

*Applicants for Benefit or Allowances.*—The total of 1,451,330 persons on the registers at 24th May, 1937, included 652,316 persons with claims admitted for insurance benefit (of whom 2,359 had applications authorised for payment of unemployment allowances in supplementation of benefit), 34,911 claimants whose position under the conditions relating to contributions paid and benefit received had not been determined, and 5,766 persons who had been disqualified for short periods from receiving benefit (of whom 2,032 had applications authorised for payment of unemployment allowances). There were also 601,312 persons (not included in any of the foregoing classes) with applications authorised for unemployment allowances, 2,190 persons with applications for unemployment allowances under consideration, and 154,835 other persons, of whom 32,939 were under 16 years of age.

*Percentages Unemployed.*—Among insured workpeople, aged 16-64 (excluding persons within the agricultural scheme), the percentage unemployed, in-

\* Between 19th April and 24th May, there was a net decrease of 3,113 in the total numbers registered as unemployed. The reduction, during the same period, of 7,000 in the estimated number of insured persons, aged 16-64, in employment, is accounted for by the London omnibus dispute. The men directly involved in that dispute are not included in the estimated numbers in employment or in the numbers registered as unemployed.

cluding those temporarily stopped, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 10.9 at 24th May, 1937, as compared with 10.8 at 19th April, 1937, and 12.8 at 25th May, 1936.

*Industries in which the Principal Variations occurred.*—There was an improvement in employment, between 19th April and 24th May, in building and public works contracting, general engineering, the distributive trades, hotel and boarding house service, and the road transport services outside the London area. There was also a seasonal improvement in agriculture and fishing. On the other hand, there were increases in the numbers recorded as unemployed in the coal mining, boot and shoe, woollen and worsted, textile bleaching, dyeing, etc., cotton, clothing, ship building and repairing, and iron and steel industries. In some of these industries, particularly coal mining and woollen and worsted manufacture, employment on the date to which the figures relate was affected by holiday stoppages.

### WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in May resulted in an increase of nearly £62,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 485,000 workpeople, and in a decrease of £3,000 in those of about 173,000 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople affected by increases in rates of wages were coal miners in Durham, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, North Staffordshire and Scotland, and day-wage workers at coal mines in Northumberland; and workers employed in steel melting and steel rolling in various districts, in tin-plate manufacture, and in the light castings industry. Those affected by decreases were mainly coal miners in Yorkshire and Cannock Chase, and piece-workers at coal mines in Northumberland.

The changes so far reported in the five completed months of 1937 are estimated to have resulted in a net increase of about £367,000 per week in the full-time rates of wages of over 2,900,000 workpeople, and in a net decrease of £6,500 in those of 60,000 workpeople.

### COST OF LIVING.

At 1st June the average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 52 per cent. above the level of July, 1914; for food only the average percentage increase was 36. These percentages were the same as at 1st May. For 2nd June, 1936, the corresponding figures were 44 per cent. for all items and 26 per cent. for food only.

### TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in May was 90. In addition, 25 disputes which began before May were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in the above disputes, including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, was about 73,000, and the aggregate duration of the disputes in May is estimated at about 814,000 working days.



Combined statistics of the causes and results of disputes beginning in 1936 are given below:—

Table with columns: Principal Causes, Number of Workpeople directly involved in Disputes beginning in 1936, and Total. Rows include Wage increase questions, Wage decrease questions, Other wage questions, All wage questions, Hours of labour, Employment of particular classes or persons, etc.

METHODS OF SETTLEMENT.

The principal methods by which disputes beginning in 1936 were settled are shown in the Table below:—

Table with columns: Methods of Settlement, Number of Disputes beginning in 1936, and Number of Workpeople directly involved. Rows include By direct negotiation, By conciliation, By arbitration, etc.

The most frequent method of settlement of disputes in 1936, as in previous years, was direct negotiation between the parties or their representatives, two-thirds of all the disputes being thus settled.

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1893-1936.

The following Table shows the total number of disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in each of the years 1893-1936, together with the approximate number of workpeople involved in these disputes, and the aggregate number of working days lost in all disputes in progress during the year (irrespective of the date of beginning) at the establishments where the disputes occurred.

Table with columns: Year, Number of Disputes beginning in Year, Number of Workpeople involved in Disputes beginning in Year (Directly, Indirectly, Total), and Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress during Year. Rows from 1893 to 1936.

\* For the purpose of these totals, workpeople are counted in the total for each year as many times as they were involved in a dispute during that year. The resulting duplication, which is generally inconsiderable in relation to the year's totals, is mainly confined to the coal mining industry...

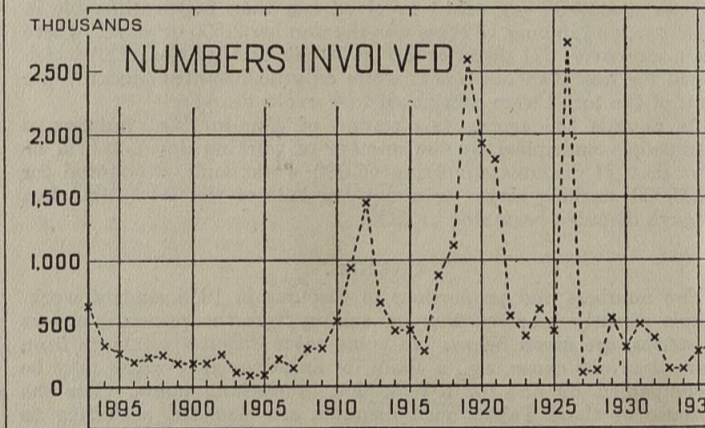
Strikes and Lock-outs, 1893-1936 (continued).

Table with columns: Year, Number of Disputes beginning in Year, Number of Workpeople involved in Disputes beginning in Year (Directly, Indirectly, Total), and Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress during Year.

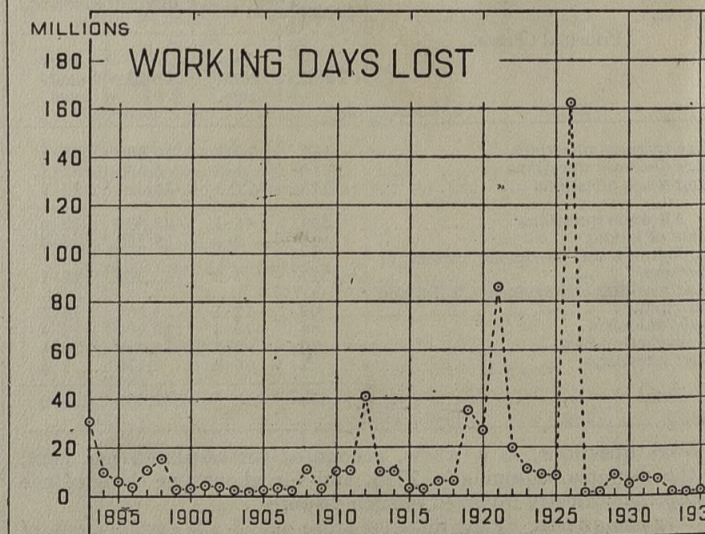
It will be seen that the figures show wide variations in different years, especially as regards the aggregate number of working days lost. In 1926 a total loss of over 162 million working days was recorded, while in 1934 the corresponding total was under one million.

The numbers of workpeople involved in disputes in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during 1893-1936, and the numbers of working days lost in such disputes, are shown graphically below.

In the first diagram the position of the crosses, in relation to the scale in the margin, indicates the total number of workpeople involved in disputes beginning in each year since 1893:—



In the following diagram the position of the dots enclosed in the circles indicates the aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in each year:—



The dotted lines in both these diagrams are inserted only in order to assist the eye by connecting successive crosses or circles.

\* See note \* in previous column.

THE LONDON OMNIBUS DISPUTE.

I.—FINAL REPORT BY THE COURT OF INQUIRY.

THE Interim Report of the Court of Inquiry appointed by the Minister of Labour was noticed on page 173 of last month's issue of this GAZETTE. The final Report\* of the Court, dated 21st May, contains a summary and review of the evidence placed before it on behalf of the Transport and General Workers' Union and the London Passenger Transport Board, and sets out the conclusions of the Court, the chief of which may be summarised as follows:—

(i) The growth and congestion of traffic on the streets of London have had an increasingly adverse effect on the circumstances in which the omnibus service is compelled to operate, and have added to the difficulties under which the busmen's work has to be performed. Another factor which has intensified the work of the busmen has been the progressive increase in the average speed of the omnibuses; but it does not appear that a practical remedy for this is to be found in a general reduction of the speed of services which are designed to meet the needs of the travelling public.

(ii) Owing to the speeding-up of the bus services, the present-day schedules of duties, in some cases, appear to have borne little relation to the schedules on which the collective Agreement of 1932 was based; and many of the schedules have borne onerously upon the busmen. This matter is one of considerable difficulty if the varied and fluctuating requirements of the travelling public are to be met; but experience shows that the ordinary process of negotiation between the parties has successfully resolved the difficulties in the past, and affords ample justification for the view that such method will be no less successful in the future.

The Court also suggest that the parties might take into consideration the question of some decentralisation of the procedure for dealing with trade union complaints in respect of schedules and rotas of duties.

(iii) The Court found that standing time and terminal facilities (including washing and lavatory accommodation and facilities for meals) in some cases leave much to be desired; but that the remedy does not lie wholly with the parties to the dispute but rests with the authorities who appoint and regulate the stands. The Court suggest that, where this is the case, and suitable provision of accommodation cannot otherwise be made, the matter might be the subject of joint approach by the Board and the trade union to the authorities concerned.

(iv) The claim by the trade union for the adoption of a maximum 7½-hour day was based fundamentally upon the contention that the work of the busmen is injurious to their health. Neither the statistics furnished to the Court nor the evidence given by three medical men convinced the Court that the claim of injury to health was proved. Two of the medical witnesses stated that the views which they held that there was a high incidence of illness among busmen were based more on general impressions than on any statistical evidence.

(v) Finally, the Court pointed out that, while it is not possible to eliminate strikes or lock-outs entirely, the conduct of an essential public service places on those engaged in it a special responsibility; that, if the public has to suffer social inconvenience and loss in its daily life by reason of a stoppage of such a service, it should, in advance, be well informed on the facts and merits of the case, and be able to apportion the blame with correct judgment.

II.—SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE AND RESUMPTION OF WORK.

Following upon the breakdown of negotiations for the termination of the stoppage, to which reference was made in last month's issue of this GAZETTE, an announcement was made on 25th May by the executive council of the Transport and General Workers' Union that they had decided to assume responsibility for the further conduct of the dispute and of the negotiations in connection therewith, which had, until then, been in the hands of the Central Bus Committee. On receipt of this announcement, arrangements were made for a resumption of discussions between the London Passenger Transport Board and the trade union. These discussions, which took place on 26th May at the Ministry of Labour, resulted in an understanding between the Board and the trade union to the following effect:—

(a) all employees who reported for duty on Friday, 28th May, should be reinstated in their former employment, and the period of the strike should not be deemed to be a break in service;

(b) pending the conclusion of a new agreement, the men should operate and be paid on the pre-strike basis, but the new agreement should be made retrospective to the date of resumption of work;

(c) the Board and the trade union accept the Interim Report of the Court of Inquiry;

(d) immediately work was resumed the parties should meet and proceed—(i) to negotiate and settle the new agreement, taking as the basis a draft agreement prepared by the London Passenger Transport Board containing the last offer made by them before the stoppage began; (ii) to set up joint machinery for the examination of the various questions arising out of scheduled duties, easements, etc.; and

\* Cmd. 5464. H.M. Stationery Office; price 4d. net (5d. post free).

(iii) to establish joint machinery for the investigation of the conditions of employment in relation to the effect which such conditions have upon the health of the men; and upon the results of such investigation to take immediate and appropriate steps as may be required, either by reduction of hours and/or by such other measures as may be agreed to meet the position.

On this understanding, full omnibus services were restored on Friday, 28th May.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COAL MINING DISPUTE: TERMS OF SETTLEMENT.

At the time of the national coal mining dispute in 1926 a trade union was formed in Nottinghamshire called the Nottinghamshire and District Miners' Industrial Union. The mine owners in Nottinghamshire made an agreement with this union, and it was thenceforward the only union recognised by them. Some of the coal miners, however, continued to belong to the Nottinghamshire Miners' Association, which (unlike the Industrial Union) was affiliated to the Mineworkers' Federation of Great Britain.

On 16th November, 1936, about 1,000 men at Harworth, a colliery in Nottinghamshire, struck work without notice, in connection with a dispute about a sub-checkweighman. The Mineworkers' Federation urged them to return to work, and they agreed to do so; but the managers of the colliery at that time made membership of the Industrial Union a condition of re-employment, and the men remained out. Early in January the management of the colliery withdrew the requirement of membership of the Industrial Union as a condition of re-employment, but they still refused to negotiate with the Nottinghamshire Miners' Association or with the Mineworkers' Federation.

A delegate conference of the Mineworkers' Federation was held in January, at which a resolution was passed empowering the executive of the Federation to take a ballot of all the coalfields in the country on the question of enforcing the principle of the freedom of organisation and trade union recognition. No ballot was, however, taken at that time, as the Secretary for Mines intervened in the dispute. Believing that the root cause of the local dispute at Harworth was the existence of two rival unions in the county, he invited representatives of the Nottinghamshire coal owners, of the Mineworkers' Federation, and of the Industrial Union, to meet him informally; and, as a result of this meeting, draft heads of an agreement for the amalgamation of the Nottinghamshire and District Miners' Industrial Union and of the Nottinghamshire Miners' Association were drawn up and signed, subject to approval by the respective organisations.

Two weeks afterwards, on 12th March, 1937, the executive of the Mineworkers' Federation deferred considering the proposals for amalgamation until further efforts had been made to settle the dispute at Harworth, where a large number of men were still out of employment. The owners of the Harworth colliery had decided to work one shift a day instead of two, so that fewer men would be required to work the colliery.

A special delegate conference of the Mineworkers' Federation was held on 1st and 2nd April, 1937, at which the draft heads of agreement for the fusion of the two unions (see above) were rejected, and a resolution was passed deploring the absence of satisfactory assurances regarding re-employment of the men who were still out at Harworth. It was also decided to take a ballot of all the coalfields. The ballot, which was taken on the question: "Are you in favour of tendering notices with the object of obtaining recognition of the Mineworkers' Federation of Great Britain in the Nottinghamshire coalfield, and to secure adequate assurances to prevent any victimisation of the workmen at Harworth," resulted in a majority of 444,546 for tendering notices, and 61,445 against.

Meanwhile officers of the Mines Department had been in touch with the parties, and assurances were obtained from the owners of the Harworth colliery to the effect that, under certain conditions, they would agree to the following terms of re-employment, viz., (i) that all workmen then unemployed, and who had been employed at the colliery before the stoppage in September, 1936, were to be eligible for re-employment, and that there should be no victimisation; and (ii) that selection from these men should be made from those eligible for re-employment by drawing the names of the required number of each grade to make a total in all of 350, the number expected to be required to complete the complement of the colliery. An officer of the Mines Department was to be responsible for the draw.

The owners of the colliery, however, made it plain that the arrangement was conditional on the amalgamation of the two unions; and the efforts of the negotiators were directed to finding a formula of amalgamation acceptable to all parties. At the end of April, however, the Mineworkers' Federation informed the Secretary for Mines that the delegate conference of the Federation had rejected the terms before them, and had decided that notices should be handed in, throughout the coalfields, to expire on 22nd May, 1937.

On 5th May, a debate took place in the House of Commons, in the course of which the Prime Minister (Mr. Baldwin) expressed the opinion that there was nothing in the dispute that ought to be allowed to lead to a stoppage, and appealed to those with whom the responsibility lay to effect a settlement. He added that the parties to the dispute would be meeting the Secretary for Mines again very soon, fresh invitations having already gone out.

The first result of these negotiations was that the Mineworkers' Federation agreed to suspend the handing in of notices for one week, in order to give the Secretary for Mines an opportunity to arrange a meeting between the three parties concerned. Subsequently all the parties to the dispute accepted the principle of amalgamation, and it was agreed that meetings to discuss the terms of amalgamation should be held under a neutral chairman to be nominated by the Secretary for Mines. Mr. John Forster was nominated to act in this capacity. It was further agreed that effect would be given





EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during May showed little change on the whole. A slight decrease in the number of insured workpeople recorded as wholly unemployed was more than offset by an increase in the numbers temporarily stopped, but this was mainly due to holiday stoppages and was most marked in Yorkshire. Employment was good in Kent, fairly good in the Midlands and fair to moderate in other districts, except Cumberland and parts of South Wales, where it remained very bad.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, was 17.4 at 24th May, 1937, as compared with 13.8 at 19th April, 1937, and 23.1 at 25th May, 1936. The percentage wholly unemployed decreased by 0.4 (from 12.6 to 12.2) but the percentage temporarily stopped increased by 4.0 (from 1.2 to 5.2).

The numbers and percentages unemployed among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, in the respective areas at 24th May, 1937, and the increases or decreases as compared with 19th April, 1937, and 25th May, 1936, are shown in the following Table:—

Table showing employment statistics for coal mining districts, including columns for Area, Insured persons, Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Total Percentages.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal mining districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 29th May, 1937, and the average number of days worked during the preceding week,\* as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals.

Table showing wage-earners on colliery books and average number of days worked per week at the mines, broken down by districts.

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

The average number of coal winding days lost in Great Britain during the week ended 29th May, 1937, was 0.29 of a day, of which 0.23 of a day was due to want of trade. The corresponding figures for the fortnight ended 17th April, 1937, were 0.23 and 0.16 of a day per week, respectively, and for the fortnight ended 23rd May, 1936, 0.94 and 0.86 of a day per week, respectively. The average non-winding time, for each of the three periods under review, was about one-fifth of a day per week.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 29th May, 1937 (which included the Coronation and Whitsun holidays) as reported to the Mines Department, was 17,901,800 tons, as compared with 18,696,700 tons in the four weeks ended 17th April, 1937 (which included the Easter holidays), and 18,142,800 tons in the four weeks ended 23rd May, 1936.

IRON MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during May showed a slight improvement and was good generally. The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, in the iron ore and ironstone mining industry was 9.1 at 24th May, 1937, as compared with 9.9 at 19th April, 1937, and 14.1 at 25th May, 1936.

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

Table summarizing iron mining employment, including columns for Districts, Number of Workpeople employed, and Average No. of Days worked per week at the Mines.

SHALE MINING.

THE number of workpeople employed at the West Lothian mines during the week ended 29th May, 1937, by firms making returns, was 2,069, an increase of 0.3 per cent. as compared with April, 1937, and of 3.3 per cent. as compared with May, 1936.

The average number of days worked per week\* at the mines making returns was 5.82 in May, 1937, as compared with 5.95 in April, 1937, and 5.91 in May, 1936.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during May showed little change and remained good in most districts.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, was 11.3 at 24th May, 1937, as compared with 10.7 at 19th April, 1937, and 14.7 at 25th May, 1936.

Returns received by the British Iron and Steel Federation from firms engaged in the production of pig iron, employing 15,520 workpeople at the end of May, 1937, showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the numbers employed compared with April, 1937, and of 15.2 per cent. compared with May, 1936.

The number of furnaces in operation at the end of May, 1937, was 122, compared with 121 at the end of April, 1937, and 112 at the end of May, 1936. The figures are analysed below:—

Table showing pig iron industry statistics, including columns for Districts, Total number of Furnaces, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a

The production of pig iron in May, 1937, amounted to 696,300 tons, compared with 680,700 tons in April, 1937, and 661,000 tons in May, 1936.

\* See footnote \* in previous column.

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT during May was affected by extended Whitsun holidays, but showed an improvement towards the end of the month; it was much better than a year ago. Shortages of material continued to be reported from some districts.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, was 12.6 at 24th May, 1937, compared with 11.7 at 19th April, 1937, and 17.2 at 25th May, 1936.

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

Table summarizing iron and steel manufacture employment, including columns for DEPARTMENTS, DISTRICTS, and TOTAL, with sub-columns for No. of Workpeople employed and Aggregate number of Shifts.

The average number of shifts\* during which the works were open was 5.6 in the week ended 29th May, 1937, as compared with 5.7 in April, 1937, and May, 1936.

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns from the British Iron and Steel Federation, amounted to 1,047,300 tons in May, 1937, as compared with 1,080,400 tons in April, 1937, and with 963,000 tons in May, 1936.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET INDUSTRIES.

In the tinplate industry employment continued moderate on the whole; it was much better than a year ago. An increase in the numbers recorded as temporarily stopped on 24th May was due, in part, to shortages of steel bars. The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, was 14.6 at 24th May, 1937, as compared with 12.7 at 19th April, 1937, and 30.7 at 25th May, 1936.

In steel sheet manufacture employment showed little change, but was much better than a year ago.

The following Table shows the number of mills in operation at those works in respect of which returns were received for the week ended 29th May, 1937, as compared with a month before, and a year before:

Table showing tinplate and steel sheet industry statistics, including columns for Works, Number of Works Open, and Number of Mills in Operation.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during May showed little general change and remained good on the whole. There was a slight decline in motor vehicle manufacture, mainly due to seasonal slackness in the South-Western and Midlands Divisions, but employment in this section and in electrical engineering remained very good; it improved in general engineering and in marine engineering, being good in the former and fair in the latter section; it continued fair in constructional engineering and moderate in textile engineering. Reports were received from certain districts of continued difficulty in meeting demands for some classes of skilled labour.

\* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the works were in operation, taken in conjunction with the number of men employed. No account is taken of time lost by individuals owing to absenteeism, etc., and it is not intended to imply that the number of shifts shown were actually worked by all the men employed. Works closed are omitted in computing the average number of shifts.

Compared with a year ago employment was better in all the principal sections of the industry and in all administrative divisions, with the exception of the South-Western Division.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) at 24th May, 1937, among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before:—

Table showing engineering employment statistics, including columns for Division, Numbers of Insured Workpeople, and Percentages Unemployed.

On the North-East Coast employment in marine engineering improved and was moderate to fair; it also improved in general engineering in that area and was fairly good. Employment in general engineering in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire continued good. In Lancashire and Cheshire employment was good in motor vehicle manufacture, fairly good in general engineering, and moderate in textile engineering.

Employment in Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry continued very good in electrical and general engineering; some seasonal slackness occurred in motor vehicle manufacture but employment in this section was still very good; it was good in constructional engineering. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district employment was good. Apart from some seasonal slackness in motor vehicle manufacture in the South-Western Division, employment in London and the Southern counties was generally very good; it remained very good at the principal centres of aircraft manufacture.

In Scotland employment continued to improve in marine engineering and in general engineering, and was fair in both sections. Employment improved but was still slack in Wales; it showed some general improvement in Northern Ireland and was moderate.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT during May showed a slight decline on the whole as compared with the previous month, mainly at certain ship-repairing centres. The increase, between 19th April, and 24th May, 1937, in the numbers recorded as unemployed in Scotland was largely due to the effects of a strike of rivet-heaters at Greenock and Port Glasgow, which resulted in unemployment among other classes of workers in the shipyards. Shortages of certain classes of skilled men were again reported in some districts.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople aged 16-64, at 24th May, 1937, and the increases or decreases as compared with 19th April, 1937 and 25th May, 1936:—

Table showing shipbuilding and ship-repairing employment statistics, including columns for Division, Insured Workpeople Unemployed, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage Unemployed.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in May, though affected by holiday stoppages in certain areas, showed little change, on the whole, as compared with April, and was much better than in May of last year.

Table with columns: DEPARTMENTS, DISTRICTS, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. Rows include Preparing, Spinning, Weaving, etc., and districts like Ashton, Stockport, etc.

Returns from firms employing about 59,350 workpeople in the week ended 29th May, 1937, showed that about 9 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in that week, losing 6 hours each on the average.

At Ashton-under-Lyne and Stockport employment continued fairly good, though a few firms extended the holiday stoppage. Employment at Glossop and Hyde continued good. In the Oldham district employment continued good both in the spinning and in the manufacturing departments...

In Yorkshire employment with spinners and doublers continued good generally. At Huddersfield, however, it was described as slack with doublers. Employment at Todmorden continued good.

Table showing the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 56 Employment Exchanges in the principal cotton trade centres in Lancashire and Cheshire at 24th May, 1937.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in May showed a slight decline, which was mainly seasonal; the Whitsuntide holiday stoppage was extended by many firms.

The percentage recorded as unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, in the woollen and worsted industry at 24th May, 1937, was 10.1, compared with 7.0 at 19th April, 1937, and 9.9 at 25th May, 1936.

Worsted Section.—Employment showed a slight decline in most districts, but was still fairly good on the whole. Returns from employers for the week ended 29th May, 1937, showed that, in the worsted section as a whole, 13 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were on short time in that week, losing 9 hours each on the average, and 18 per cent. were on overtime, averaging 6 hours each.

In the wool sorting department employment declined slightly but remained fair; in the combing department there was an improvement in the crossbred section, which was well employed, but little change in the merino section.

At Bradford employment was fairly good generally and showed little change, except among spinners of fine quality worsted yarns, with whom there was some decline.

Returns from employers for the week ended 29th May, 1937, showed that, in the woollen section as a whole, 13 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were on short time in that week, losing 7½ hours each on the average, and 18 per cent. were on overtime, averaging 9 hours each.

In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley districts employment declined somewhat; some firms extended the holiday stoppage. At Leeds there was little change; at Morley employment remained good; shortages of labour were reported at both these centres.

In the blanket trade employment showed a slight decline in Yorkshire, but remained fair. Among flannel workers at Rochdale and Saddleworth employment continued to be fairly good.

At Preston employment continued good; there was a demand for weavers of fancy goods and of fine plain goods.

At Burnley and at Nelson employment showed a considerable improvement; at Darwen and at Colne there was a slight improvement.

In Yorkshire employment with spinners and doublers continued good generally. At Huddersfield, however, it was described as slack with doublers. Employment at Todmorden continued good.

Table with columns: DEPARTMENTS, DISTRICTS, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. Rows include Worsteds, Woollens, Carpet, and Wool Textile Industry.

\* This percentage is affected by holiday stoppages on the date to which the count related. † The figures given in this article as to short time do not take into account, in the case of the weaving departments, other forms of under-employment, such as "playing for warps" or tending one loom instead of two.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

At the beginning of May there was much activity in connection with the completion of orders before Whitsuntide. After the holiday, however, there was, as usual, a decline at most centres, and the holiday stoppage was extended by many firms.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, was 16.7 at 24th May, 1937, as compared with 10.0 at 19th April, 1937, and with 11.5 at 25th May, 1936 (which was just before Whitsuntide last year).

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

Table with columns: DEPARTMENTS, DISTRICTS, Number of Workpeople, Total wages paid to all Workpeople. Rows include England and Wales, London, Leicester, etc., and districts like Northampton, Higham, etc.

Returns from firms employing about 53,000 workpeople in the week ended 29th May, 1937, showed that 28 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in that week, losing 7 hours each on the average; while 12 per cent. were on overtime, to the extent of 3½ hours each on the average.

Employment in London declined, and was fair to moderate. At Leicester there was a seasonal decline; the resumption of work after the Whitsuntide holiday was delayed.

At Northampton the Whitsuntide holiday was extended by many firms, but employment generally remained fair. Employment continued to be good at Kettering, Higham and Rushden, Wellingborough, and Raunds.

At Stafford there was a seasonal decline, but employment remained fairly good with most firms. There was also a seasonal decline at Norwich, and employment was worse than in May, 1936.

At Bristol and Kingswood the holiday stoppage was extended by some firms, and employment remained slack; at Leeds there was a seasonal decline after Whitsuntide. In the Lancashire slipper trade employment remained fairly good at most centres; at Bacup, however, there was a decline, with an extension of the holiday stoppage.

Employment remained good at Kilmarnock; it continued to be slack at Edinburgh and at Glasgow, and very slack at Maybole.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 53 Employment Exchanges in the principal centres of the boot and shoe industry at 24th May, 1937:

Table with columns: DEPARTMENT, Numbers (excluding casuals) on the Registers at 24th May, 1937. Rows include Boot and Shoe M'f're: Preparing Dept., Rough Stuff Dept., etc.

Table with columns: DISTRICTS, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. Rows include WORSTED SECTION, WOOLEN SECTION, CARPET SECTION, and Wool Textile Industry.

The following Table shows, by districts and by departments, the percentage increases and decreases in the numbers employed in the week ended 29th May, 1937, by those firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the week ended 17th April, 1937:

Table showing percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with previous month. Rows include WORSTED SECTION, WOOLEN SECTION, and CARPET SECTION.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 17 Employment Exchanges in the principal wool textile trade centres at 24th May, 1937:

Table with columns: DEPARTMENT, Numbers (excluding casuals) on the Registers at 24th May, 1937. Rows include Wool Sorting, Wool Washing and Preparing, etc.

\* See footnote † in second column on page 224. † Most of the districts are indicated by the names of their principal towns, but neighbouring towns and areas are included in each case.

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





UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG INSURED PERSONS AT 24th MAY, 1937.

INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS.

THE statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons, aged 16-64, insured against unemployment at July, 1936, and the total number and percentage of such persons unemployed on 24th May, 1937, distinguishing those wholly unemployed (i.e., out of a situation) from those temporarily stopped (i.e., suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment).

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed persons. The principal classes excepted are persons aged 65 and over, persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum, private domestic servants, and outworkers. Persons employed by local public authorities, railways and certain other public utility undertakings, members of the police forces, and persons with rights under a statutory superannuation scheme may, in certain circumstances, also be excepted. Prior to September, 1934, juveniles under 16 years of age were also excepted, and they are excluded from the statistics in these Tables; particulars of the numbers of these juveniles recorded as unemployed at 24th May, 1937, are given on page 233.

An unemployment book, on which is recorded the industry in which he is employed, is issued to every insured person, and this book must be lodged at an Employment Exchange whenever the insured person makes a claim for unemployment benefit, or for an unemployment allowance, or registers as unemployed without claiming benefit or allowances.

The files of "lodged" books at the Employment Exchanges thus furnish for each industrial group a record of the unemployment of insured persons. In arriving at this figure the books of those persons who are known to be working in an uninsured trade, or to be sick or deceased, or to have gone abroad, are excluded. Where information on these points is lacking the books remain in the

"lodged" files, and are included in the statistics of unemployment, for a period of two months from the date on which the insured person was last in touch with the Exchange.

The numbers unemployed given in the following Tables relate only to persons aged 16-64 insured against unemployment. They include insured persons of those ages maintaining registration at Employment Exchanges, together with those whose unemployment books remain lodged in the "two months" file referred to above. The figures given on page 221 relating to persons registered at Employment Exchanges include uninsured as well as insured persons who are maintaining registration for employment, but not insured persons whose books are in the two months file. A Table showing the composition of the two series of figures is given on page 221.

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

The estimated numbers of insured persons in each industry are computed once a year, in November, on the basis of information obtained at the annual exchange of unemployment books. The figures relate to the beginning of July, and similar statistics are not available for other dates in the year. In considering the figures on pages 230 and 231 it should be borne in mind that, in the case of individual industries, the percentage rates of unemployment at April and May, 1937, have been calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers of insured persons at the beginning of July, 1936; while the figures for May, 1936, and 1935, are calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers insured at July, 1935, and 1934, respectively (but see footnote † on page 231 regarding the percentages for all industries and services combined). In an industry in which a relatively large change occurs during one or more years in the estimated number of insured workpeople, this change may have an important effect on the relative percentage rates of unemployment.

I. PERSONS AGED 16-64, INSURED UNDER THE GENERAL SCHEME.\*

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total). Rows include Fishing, Mining, Non-Metallic Mining Products, Brick, Tile, Pipe, etc., Pottery, Glass, Chemicals, Metal Manufacture, Engineering, Construction and Repair of Vehicles, Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing.

\* Persons insured under the special scheme for the banking and insurance industries have been included in the figures.

Table with columns: GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total). Rows include Other Metal Industries, Textiles, Leather and Leather Goods, Clothing, Food, Drink and Tobacco, Woodworking, Paper, Printing, etc., Building and Contracting, Other Manufacturing Industries, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply, Transport and Communication, Distributive Trades, Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance, Miscellaneous Trades and Services.

\* Excluding persons insured under the agricultural scheme and juveniles under 16 years of age (see Tables on pages 231 and 233). † Including 72,798 casuals (males, 70,862; females, 1,936).

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS, AGED 16-64; AT JULY, 1936, PERCENTAGES AT 24TH MAY, 1937, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 19TH APR., 1937, 25TH MAY, 1936, 20TH MAY, 1935, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGE AT 24TH MAY, 1937.

\* See last paragraph of text on page 228.

PERCENTAGES AT 24TH MAY, 1937.\*

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS, AGED 16-64, AT JULY, 1936, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (INCLUDING CASUALS), TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, TOTAL, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 19TH APR., 1937, 25TH MAY, 1936, 20TH MAY, 1935, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGE AT 24TH MAY, 1937.

II. PERSONS AGED 16-64 INSURED UNDER THE AGRICULTURAL SCHEME.†

As explained in the November, 1936, issue of this GAZETTE (page 397), the information on which estimates of the total numbers of insured workers in particular industries are ordinarily based will not be obtainable, as regards agricultural workers, until after the next general exchange of unemployment books, in July, 1937. It will not, therefore, be possible to compute exact percentages of unemployment, comparable with those given for other industries in the foregoing Table, until after that date.

subject to revision in the light of the information which will be derived from the exchange of unemployment books in July. Comparable percentages of unemployment cannot be calculated for dates earlier than November, 1936, owing to the alteration in conditions caused by the operation of the benefit provisions of the Unemployment Insurance (Agriculture) Act, 1936.

Table with columns: Industry, Estimated numbers of Insured Persons, aged 16-64, at July, 1936, Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 24th May, 1937, Approximate Percentages Unemployed, Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 24th May, 1937, Percentages (Total).

At 19th April, 1937, the corresponding numbers and approximate percentages recorded as unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland were:—farming, forestry, etc., 19,773 (4.1 per cent.); market gardening, horticulture, etc., 2,742 (3.8 per cent.); other gardening, 960 (2.8 per cent.); total 23,475 (4.0 per cent.).

\* See last paragraph of text on page 228. † For 20th May, 1935, separate figures are not available. ‡ The percentages for all industries and services combined for May, 1936, and May, 1935, used for these comparisons are the revised figures based on the estimated number insured at those dates—see the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1936, page 397. The percentages given for April, 1937, and May, 1937, are based on the numbers insured at July, 1936. § Excluding persons insured under the agricultural scheme, and juveniles under 16 years of age. ¶ Exclusive of private gardeners. (See last paragraph of text preceding the Table.)

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS IN NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED.

The Table below indicates, for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the industries in which the numbers of insured persons, aged 16-64, recorded as unemployed at 24th May, 1937, differed from the figures for 19th April, 1937, to the extent of 1,500 or more :-

Table with 4 columns: Industries, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 24th May, 1937, as compared with 19th April, 1937. Sub-columns: Males, Females, Total.

PERIODS OF REGISTERED UNEMPLOYMENT.

ANALYSIS IN RESPECT OF PERSONS APPLYING FOR INSURANCE BENEFIT OR UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES.

The following Table gives an analysis, according to the length of their last spell of registered unemployment, of persons aged 16-64 applying for insurance benefit or unemployment allowances (including those applicants whose position in relation to insurance benefit and unemployment allowances had not been determined), who were on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 24th May, 1937.

Of the persons who had been on the register for extended periods a proportion, which will increase as the period on the register increases, will have had one or more short spells of employment, lasting not more than three days each, during such periods.

Table with 7 columns: Applicants, aged 16-64, who had been on Register. Sub-columns: Less than 3 months, 3 months but less than 6 months, 6 months but less than 9 months, 9 months but less than 12 months, 12 months or more, Totals. Rows: Men, 18-64; Boys, 16-17; Women, 18-64; Girls, 16-17; Total.

Table with 7 columns: PERCENTAGES. Sub-columns: Men, 18-64; Boys, 16-17; Women, 18-64; Girls, 16-17; Total. Rows: Men, 18-64; Boys, 16-17; Women, 18-64; Girls, 16-17; Total.

Of the 709,930 applicants who had been on the register for less than 3 months, approximately 552,000, or 42.0 per cent. of the total number of applicants, had been on the register for less than 6 weeks.

[Note.—As a result of the extension of the unemployment assistance scheme, and the consequent increase in applications for unemployment allowances, as from 1st April, 1937, the statistics given above cover a larger proportion of persons on the register than those published in previous issues of this GAZETTE, for dates prior to April, 1937.\*]

\* At 19th April, 1937, the number of applicants for allowances included in the analysis was increased from this cause by 78,892, of whom 38,204 had been on the registers of Employment Exchanges for 12 months or more. The total thus added included 66,773 men, of whom 36,169 had been on the register for 12 months or more.

APPLICANTS FOR INSURANCE BENEFIT AND UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES.

DIVISIONAL ANALYSIS.

An analysis, for Great Britain as a whole, of the numbers registered as unemployed at 24th May, 1937, according to their position in relation to insurance benefit and unemployment allowances, is given on page 221. The Tables below give an analysis by Divisions of the number of persons on the register at 24th May, 1937, with claims admitted for insurance benefit and applications authorised for unemployment allowances.

Up to 31st March, 1937, the only persons whose applications for assistance allowances could be taken into consideration were those who, if in need, would have been entitled to transitional payments under the former scheme for those payments. This required that certain unemployment insurance conditions had to be fulfilled. After the 1st April, 1937, however, which was the Second Appointed Day under the Unemployment Assistance Scheme, all persons fulfilling the conditions prescribed in Section 36 of the Unemployment Assistance Act, 1934, could be considered for the grant of allowances.

CLAIMS ADMITTED FOR INSURANCE BENEFIT.\*

Table with 6 columns: Division, Men 18-64, Boys 16 & 17, Women 18-64, Girls 16 & 17, Total 16-64. Sub-headers: (a) General Scheme, (b) Agricultural Scheme. Rows: London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Northern, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain.

APPLICATIONS AUTHORISED FOR UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES.†

Table with 6 columns: Division, Men aged 18-64, Boys aged 16 & 17, Women aged 18-64, Girls aged 16 & 17, Total aged 16-64. Rows: London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Northern, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain.

NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

MAY, 1937.

Table with 8 columns: Division, Men aged 18-64, Boys Aged 16 & 17, Boys Aged 14 & 15, Women aged 18-64, Girls Aged 16 & 17, Girls Aged 14 & 15, Total. Rows: London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Northern, Scotland, Wales, Total, General Scheme, Agricultural Scheme, Private Gardeners, Private Gardeners.

\* The persons with claims admitted for insurance benefit included 2,359 for whom payment of unemployment allowances in supplementation of benefit had been authorised. † Excluding 2,032 persons, disqualified for short periods from receiving unemployment benefit, who had applications authorised for unemployment allowances.

JUVENILE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

JUVENILES UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES AND JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX AT 24TH MAY, 1937.

Table with 7 columns: Division, Boys Aged 14 and 15, Boys Aged 16 and 17, Total, Girls Aged 14 and 15, Girls Aged 16 and 17, Total. Rows: London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Northern, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain, N. Ireland, Gt. Britain and N. Ireland.

Note.—These figures include considerable numbers of boys and girls who, though registered at Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux as applicants for employment, are remaining whole time at school until employment is obtained. See article on page 218.

INSURED JUVENILES, UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 24TH MAY, 1937.

Table with 7 columns: Division, Boys Aged 14 and 15, Boys Aged 16 and 17, Total, Girls Aged 14 and 15, Girls Aged 16 and 17, Total. Rows: London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Northern, Scotland, Wales, Special Schemes, Great Britain, N. Ireland, Gt. Britain and N. Ireland.

Note.—These figures include not only insured juveniles on the register, but also those whose unemployment books were in the "two months" file, i.e., boys and girls who had registered as unemployed at some date within the past two months, but were not maintaining registration as applicants for employment, and were not known to have found employment. The effect of the inclusion of those with books in the two months' file is especially marked in the London Division. Juveniles insured under the agricultural scheme who were recorded as unemployed are included in the figures.

JUVENILES, UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT. FIVE WEEKS ENDED 24TH MAY, 1937.

Table with 7 columns: Division, Number of Vacancies Filled, Boys, Girls, Total, Juveniles placed in first situation since leaving School, Boys, Girls, Total. Rows: London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Northern, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain.

JUVENILES, UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, IN ATTENDANCE AT AUTHORISED COURSES OF INSTRUCTION.

Table with 10 columns: Division, Week ended 19th May, 1937, Month ended 19th May, 1937, Total number of individuals who have attended Junior Instruction Centres and Classes, No. of Centres, No. of Classes, Average attendance, No. of Institutions, Average attendance, Centres and Classes since 1st April, 1937. Rows: London, S.-Eastern, S.-Western, Midlands, N.-Eastern, N.-Western, Northern, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain.

\* Comparable figures for other educational institutions are not available. † Of these, sixty-nine Junior Instruction Centres and thirteen classes were temporarily closed.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG BOYS AND GIRLS, UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE, IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

The following Table shows for each industry group, and for the principal industries, the numbers of insured boys and girls under 16 years of age (other than those insured under the agricultural scheme) recorded as unemployed in Great Britain, and in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, at 24th May, 1937 :-

Table with 5 columns: Industry, Number of Insured Juveniles under 16 years of age recorded as Unemployed at 24th May, 1937. Sub-columns: Great Britain, Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Sub-sub-columns: Boys, Girls, Boys, Girls. Rows: Fishing, Mining, Coal Mining, All other Mining, etc., Total Mining, Non-Metallic Mining Products, Brick, Tile, Pipe, etc. Making, Pottery, Earthenware, etc., Glass, Chemicals, etc., Metal Manufacture, Engineering, etc., General Engineering, Engineers' Iron and Steel Foundry, etc., Total Engineering, Construction and Repair of Vehicles, Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft, Other Vehicles, Total Vehicles, Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing, Other Metal Industries, Electric Cable, Apparatus, Lamps, etc., All others, Total Other Metals, Textiles, Cotton Preparing, Spinning, etc., Cotton Manufacturing (Weaving, etc.), Total Cotton, Woollen and Worsted, Hosiery, All other Textiles, Total Textiles, Leather and Leather Goods, Tanning, Dress Making and Millinery, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Boots, Shoes, Slippers and Clogs, Other Clothing, Total Clothing, Food, Drink and Tobacco, Bread, Biscuits, Cakes, etc., Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery, All other Food and Drink, Tobacco, Cigars, Cigarettes and Snuff, Total Food, Drink, etc., Woodworking, etc., Furniture Making, Upholstering, etc., All other Woodworking, Total Woodworking, Paper, Printing, etc., Cardboard Boxes, Paper Bags and Stationery, Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding, Other Paper, Printing, etc., Total Paper, Printing, etc., Building and Contracting, Building, Public Works Contracting, etc., Total Building and Contracting, Other Manufacturing Industries, Toys, Games and Sports Requisites, All other Manufacturing Industries, Total Other Manufacturing Industries, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply, Transport and Communication, Distributive Trades, Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance, Miscellaneous Trades and Services, Professional Services, Entertainments and Sports, Hotel, Public House, Restaurant, Boarding House, Club, etc. Service, Laundry Services, Job Dyeing, Dry Cleaning, etc., All other Industries and Services, Total Miscellaneous.

The figures above include those boys and girls whose unemployment books were in the "two-months file" of lodged books, i.e., boys and girls who had registered as unemployed at some date within the previous two months and were not known to have found work, but were not maintaining registration as applicants for employment.

Boys and Girls under 16 years of age, insured under the Agricultural Scheme, recorded as unemployed.

The numbers of juveniles under 16 years of age, insured under the agricultural scheme, recorded as unemployed at 24th May, 1937 (who are excluded from the above Table), including those whose books were lodged in the "two-months file," were 354\* boys and 95\* girls in Great Britain, and 350\* boys and 93\* girls in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

\* Inclusive of 13 boys and 1 girl classified as private gardeners.



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

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics\* the changes in the rates of wages reported to have come into operation in May in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate increase of about £61,900 in the weekly full-time wages of 484,600 workpeople and in a decrease of £3,000 in those of 172,700 workpeople.

The particulars are analysed by industry groups below :—

Table with columns: Industry Group, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Estimated amount of change in Weekly Wages. Sub-columns: Increases, Decreases.

The principal increases in the mining and quarrying group affected coal miners in Durham, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, North Staffordshire, and Scotland, and in each case consisted of an increase in the percentage additions to basis rates. In Durham there was also an increase in basis rates. Other workpeople whose wages were increased included firemen, shotmen, master hauliers and traffic foremen employed at coal mines in South Wales and Monmouthshire, workpeople employed at shale mines and oil works in Scotland, cokemen and by-product workers in West Yorkshire and in South Wales and Monmouthshire, ironstone and limestone quarrymen in Leicestershire and parts of Lincolnshire, and ironstone miners and quarrymen in North Lincolnshire and at Corby.

In the metal group the principal increases affected men employed in steel melting shops and in steel rolling mills in various districts in Great Britain, who received an increase in the percentage addition to basis rates of 8-75 for the lower-paid workers and of 5 for the higher-paid workers; workers employed in tinplate manufacture in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire, who received various increases in the percentage additions to basis rates, and workpeople employed in the light castings industry in England and Scotland, whose wages were increased by 4s. per week for adult males, by 2s. for adult females and by proportionate amounts for juveniles.

the West of Scotland; the higher-paid Siemens steel workers in South-West Wales; workpeople employed in the gold, silver and allied trades in London, and female timeworkers in the electrical cable manufacturing industry.

In the other industry groups the principal increases affected machine calico printers in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, furniture trade operatives in Liverpool and district, asphalt workers in England and Wales, and steel benders and fixers of bars for reinforced concrete employed on civil engineering construction in England and Wales and on building work in London.

Of the total increase about £40,200 was due to direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, £2,700 took effect under arrangements made by joint standing bodies, £500 took effect as a result of mediation (including about £100 which was accounted for by an increase preceded by a stoppage of work), £75 was due to the operation of sliding scales based on the cost of living, and the remainder was the result of sliding scales based on selling prices or on the proceeds of the industry (coal mining).

The decreases took effect under sliding scales based on the proceeds of the industry (coal mining).

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY-MAY, 1937.

Table with columns: Industry Group, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net, Estimated Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages. Sub-columns: Increases, Decreases.

In the corresponding five months of 1936, there were net increases of £272,900 in the weekly full-time wages of 1,940,600 workpeople, and net decreases of £2,600 in those of 97,500 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

The principal changes in hours of labour reported in May affected male agricultural workers in Merionethshire and Montgomeryshire, for whom there was an increase in the weekly number of hours beyond which overtime rates become payable; surface workers at coal mines in Durham, whose weekly hours were reduced from 49 to 48; and shift workers employed in pig iron manufacture in the West of Scotland, for whom there was a reduction from an average of 7 shifts to 6 shifts (56 hours to 48 hours) per week.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1937.

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change.

\* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of changes in the current rates of wages of these classes are shown in the list of principal changes recorded. The estimate of the effects of the changes on weekly wages are based on normal conditions of employment, and do not take into account the effect of short-time working, etc.

† In addition to the numbers quoted, wages stand at the same level as at the beginning of the year in the case of 66,500 workpeople, whose wages have been increased and reduced by equal amounts during the year.

‡ These increases took effect under Orders issued under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924.

§ This rate is subject to a deduction of 15s. per week for board and lodging.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1937—continued.

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)

\* These increases took effect under Orders issued under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924.

† See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."

‡ Flat-rate additions are also paid of 6d. per shift to workers 18 years of age and over and of 3d. per shift to other workers, as well as certain allowances in kind (free houses or rent allowances, and fire coal).

§ The basis shift rates are subject to the percentage addition of 70 referred to above. In addition flat-rate advances of 6d. per shift to workers 18 years of age and over and of 3d. per shift to those under 18 years are paid, as well as certain allowances in kind (free houses or rent allowances, and fire coal). See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."

¶ The classes of workpeople affected were bellmen and wiremen, lamp repairers, platelayers, smiths' strikers and masons, platelayers, sawyers' and mechanics' labourers.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1937—continued.

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics). Rows include Coal Mining, Coke, etc., Manufacturing, Other Mining and Quarrying, and Pig Iron and Iron and Steel Manufacture.

\* Apart from the percentage additions to basis rates, certain flat-rate additions per day or per shift, granted in January, 1936, are paid to all workers, as well as "subsistence allowances" to adult day-wage workers for whom the basis rates plus the percentage additions do not yield certain specified amounts. † Flat-rate additions are also paid of 1s. per day to workers 21 years of age and over and of 6d. per day to other workers. ‡ The percentage addition to the basis rates of workers other than those mentioned above remained unaltered at 44. § Flat-rate additions are also paid of 9d. per shift to male workers 18 years of age and over and of 4½d. per shift to other male workers, with proportionate additions for female workers. ¶ Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements. †† Flat-rate additions are also paid of 1s. per shift to workers 21 years of age and over and of 6d. per shift to other workers, subject to the proviso that when the percentage addition to basis rates is more than 32 the cost of the flat-rate advance shall be set off against such increased percentage and only any balance then shown paid as a further increase in wages. ‡‡ This increase took effect from the pay starting nearest 1st May—in most cases this was 2nd May. §§ See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour." ¶¶ The increases affected mainly the employees of firms affiliated to The Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the principal districts affected being the North-East Coast, Cumberland, Lancashire, South Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, the Midlands, and South Wales.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1937—continued.

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Rows include Bricklayers, Joiners, Patternmakers, and other manufacturing workers.

\* The increases affected mainly the employees of firms affiliated to The Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the principal districts affected being the North-East Coast, Cumberland, Lancashire, South Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, the Midlands and South Wales. † The wages of general labourers have been stabilised at 45s. 1½d. (i.e., 30s. basis plus 53.75 per cent.) per full normal week of 47 hours from 31st May, 1936, to the end of June, 1937, while the percentages payable on basis rates remained unaltered for other adult workers from 9.17 to 61.25 according to basis rates; for youths 18 and under 21 years of age at 52.5; and for boys under 18 years of age at 16.25, plus 3d. per shift. ‡ Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements. § These increases are due to the establishment of a differential rate for patternmakers of 5s. over the district fitters' rate. ¶ A further increase of 1s. per week is due to operate in August, 1937. †† A further increase of similar amount is due to operate in the week commencing 5th July, 1937.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1937—continued.

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Includes entries for Engineering, Ship-repairing, Electrical Cable Manufacture, Tinplate Manufacture, Light Castings Manufacture, Lock, Latch and Key Manufacture, Gold, Silver and Allied Trades, Calico Printing, Baking, Furniture Manufacture, Printing, and Building.

\* These increases are due to the establishment of a differential rate for patternmakers of 5s. over the district fitters' rate.
† A further increase of 2s. per week is to operate from 5th August, 1937.
‡ These increases affected mainly workers employed by firms affiliated to The National Light Castings Ironfounders' Federation and The Greensand Pipe Founders' Association of Scotland.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1937—continued.

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Includes entries for Civil Engineering, Asphalting, Road Transport, Shipping, Local Authorities (Non-Trading Services), Saddle and Harness Making, Distributive Trades.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING MAY, 1937.

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change (Decreases in italics). Includes entries for Agriculture, Coal Mining, Pig Iron Manufacture, Printing, Building, and Distributive Trade.

\* This increase is the result of a decision of the Civil Engineering Construction Conciliation Board, whereby the extra payment for this class of work was raised from 1d. to 2d. above the navies' and the labourers' rate.
† These increases took effect under arrangements made between the National Joint Council of Asphalt Employers and the Amalgamated Union of Asphalt Workers.
‡ The Authorities affected are mainly those affiliated to the Lancashire and Cheshire Whitley Council for Local Authorities' Non-trading Services (Manual Workers).





RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the periods for which the rise is measured, suggest the need for caution in drawing conclusions from a comparison between the figures for any two countries or cities. In every case the percentage calculation is based on the cost of a fixed list of commodities taken in identical quantities.

I.—FOOD.

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

Table showing percentage increase in retail food prices for various countries from July 1914 to July 1937. Columns include Country, July 1933, July 1934, July 1935, July 1936, and Latest figures available (Rise, Date).

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Table showing percentage increase in the cost of food and other household requirements for various countries from July 1914 to July 1937. Columns include Country, Items on which computation is based, July 1933, July 1934, July 1935, July 1936, and Latest figures available (Rise, Date).

\* Exceptions to this are: Egypt, January, 1913, to July, 1914; Finland, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, 1914; Germany, 1913-1914; Holland, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; United States, Canada, 1913; Australia (all items), November, 1914. The Australian percentages are calculated, in Australia, on prices converted at the rate of 1.44 Schilling equals one pre-war Krone, and, in the other countries, on prices in the ordinary currency.

† Fuel and light are also included in these figures. ‡ Figure for June. § A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and Light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items. ¶ Figure for August. \*\* Decrease. †† The figures for 1936 and subsequent years are on a revised basis. ‡‡ Revised figure. §§ Base: January-June, 1914. The series formerly published (base: July, 1914) is no longer available. ¶¶ The method of calculation was revised in 1937.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, whose deaths from accidents in the course of their employment occurred or were reported in May, was 152, as compared with 157\* in the previous month, and with 174\* in May, 1936. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in May numbered 25, as compared with 65 in the previous month, and with 20 in May, 1936.

Table showing fatal industrial accidents by sector: Railway Service, Factories and Workshops, Mines, Quarries, Seamen, and Industrial Diseases. Includes sub-totals for each sector.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

THE total number of cases† of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during May, under the Factory and Workshop Act or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, was 27†; the total number of deaths† reported was 7.

Table showing industrial diseases: I. Cases (Lead Poisoning, Epitheliomatous Ulceration, Chrome Ulceration, Lead Poisoning, Painting of Buildings), II. Deaths (Lead Poisoning, Painting of Buildings, Epitheliomatous Ulceration, Oil). Includes sub-totals for each category.

\* Revised figure. † Cases include all attacks reported during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not. ‡ In addition, one case of lead poisoning was reported among plumbers not employed in factories.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

MAY, 1937.

RETURNS as to the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were approved during May have been received from 144\* of the 146 Local Authorities which supply such information to the Department. The returns received from these 144 Authorities (representing towns with a total population of 17,349,000 in 1931) are summarised in the following Table, in which are also given comparisons with May, 1936, in respect of the same 144 Authorities:—

Table showing building plans approved by district for May 1937 and May 1936. Columns include District, Dwelling Houses, Factories and Workshops, Churches, Schools, and Public Buildings, Other Buildings, and Totals.

APRIL, 1937.

RETURNS for April are now available for all of the 146 Local Authorities covered by the Department's enquiries (representing towns with a total population of 17,810,000 in 1931). The estimated cost of the buildings covered by the returns was £10,977,400, compared with £9,898,100 in March, 1937, and £9,558,200 in April, 1936. Of the total for April, 1937, dwelling houses accounted for £7,036,400; factories and workshops, £1,014,200; shops, offices, etc., £1,189,900; churches, schools, etc., £666,200; other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, £1,070,700. The number of dwelling houses for which plans were approved by the 146 Authorities in April was 14,480, as compared with 12,429 in March, 1937, and 13,120 in April, 1936.

COAL MINES ACT, 1911.

REGULATIONS AND ORDERS RELATING TO SAFETY AND HEALTH.

THE Mines Department have issued the 1937 edition of the volume of Regulations and Orders relating to matters of safety and health in the working of mines under the Coal Mines Act, 1911.† All amendments have been incorporated in the text of the Orders, so that they can be read continuously in the form in which they have effect.

After the main codes of General Regulations, which include those relating to electricity, stone-dusting, rescue, first-aid, lighting, and fire-damp detectors, all the remaining Regulations and Orders are printed, grouped under subjects, as follows:—Explosives; safety lamp mines; horses; managers' and under-managers' certificates; surveyors' certificates; firemen's, examiners', and deputies' certificates; ganister mines; and miscellaneous. There is also a section devoted to the Notice of Accidents Act, 1906.

Of the three appendices, two are in the form of memoranda, dealing respectively with the storage of explosives at mines, and with firemen's, examiners', and deputies', and shot-firers' certificates. The third appendix is a list of Regulations, Orders, and other official publications relating to safety and health in coal mines.

SUNDAY CLOSING OF SHOPS.

ISSUE OF EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM.

THE Home Office have issued a memorandum, entitled "Sunday Closing of Shops," explaining the provisions of the Shops (Sunday Trading Restriction) Act, 1936, which came into operation on 1st May, 1937, and the Retail Meat Dealers' Shops (Sunday Closing) Act, 1936, which came into operation on 1st January, 1937. The memorandum may be purchased directly from H.M. Stationery Office, or through any bookseller, at the price of 2d. net (2½d., post-free).

\* Returns were outstanding for Authorities in Lancs. and Cheshire (one); and North and West-Midland Counties (one). † Particulars are not available for the London County Council area. ‡ Coal Mines Act, 1911: Regulations and Orders relating to Safety and Health, 1937 Edition. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 6d. net (1s. 9d. post-free).

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE following Table shows, approximately, the income and expenditure of the Unemployment Fund\* for the periods of five weeks ended 29th May, 1937, four weeks ended 24th April, 1937, and five weeks ended 30th May, 1936, respectively:—

Table showing income and expenditure of the Unemployment Fund for Great Britain across three periods: Five weeks ended 29th May 1937, Four weeks ended 24th Apr. 1937, and Five weeks ended 30th May 1936. Includes sub-totals for General and Agricultural Accounts.

UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES.

As from 1st April, 1937, the Second Appointed Day under the Unemployment Act, 1934, the cost of unemployment allowances, which had previously been charged to the Transitional Payments Account of the Unemployment Fund and reimbursed to that Fund by the Exchequer, has been met from the Unemployment Assistance Fund, which is also reimbursed by the Exchequer. For the period of five weeks ended 29th May, 1937, expenditure on unemployment allowances (excluding the cost of administration and special Coronation payments) amounted to approximately £3,700,000. The approximate cost of unemployment allowances (excluding the cost of administration) during the four weeks ended 24th April, 1937, was £3,050,000, and during the five weeks ended 30th May, 1936, was £3,815,000.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925.

ACCIDENT: WHETHER ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT. BREACH OF EMPLOYEE'S RULES.

THE workman in this case was a carter employed by the Southern Railway Company, one of the rules of his employment as such being that he must not consume intoxicating liquor whilst on duty. On the day of the accident he was driving a two-horsed van from Tooley Street to Nine Elms, London, at about 6.15 p.m. Opposite a public house he drew the van into the side of the road, put a chain on the near-side rear wheel, removed the near-side trace, put the reins through a brass ring on the harness; then, leaving the van in charge of the van boy, he went in to have a drink. Leaving the public house, he returned to the van, unhitched the chain on the wheel, replaced the trace, and taking the reins in his hand started to mount the box. As he was mounting, the horses began to move, which caused the workman to slip; the wheel went over him, and he received injuries from which he afterwards died.

When the case came before him, the County Court judge held that, notwithstanding the employer's rule about consumption of liquor whilst on duty, the carter was acting reasonably in having a drink, and that he had resumed his employment at the time of the accident; and he made an award in favour of the dependant. The Court of Appeal set aside the award of the County Court judge, and the appellant appealed.

Lord Russell of Killowen, in giving judgment, said that the only question in dispute was whether the accident arose out of and in the course of employment, or was to be deemed to have so arisen. The appellant based her claim on two alternatives:—(i) that if the course of the employment had been interrupted when the carter left the van to obtain a drink, it had in fact been resumed before the accident occurred, and that accordingly the accident arose out of and in the course of employment; (ii) that if the accident did not

\* A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually (see H.C. 44 of 1937, for the period ended 31st March, 1936). † Provision is made in the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1935, for the repayment (including interest) of the debt outstanding on 1st July, 1934 (amounting to £105,780,000) by half-yearly payments of £2,500,000. The first of these payments was made on 30th September, 1934, under the authority of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1934. ‡ The figures include income and expenditure in respect of the Agricultural Scheme; separate totals for the Agricultural Scheme in respect of the period 4th May, 1936, to 28th November, 1935, were given in the February, 1937, issue of this GAZETTE.







Ltd., High Wycombe; W. Birch, Ltd., High Wycombe; S. & W. Hummerston, London, E.C. Chairs, Bedroom: W. G. Harding (Furniture), Ltd., High Wycombe. Chairs, Ladder Back: R. & H. C. Mines, High Wycombe; W. Hands & Sons, Ltd., High Wycombe; A. & F. Howland (Wycombe), Ltd., High Wycombe; B. North & Sons, West Wycombe. Chairs, Telephone Operators: Tan Sad Chair Co. (1931), Ltd., London, E.C. Chairs, Small: W. Birch, Ltd., High Wycombe. Chairs, W.4: Owen Haines & Son, High Wycombe. Chairs, Folding: E. Atkins, Ltd., Wembley. Chinaware: Doulton & Co., Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent; A. B. Jones & Sons, Longton, Staffs. Cycle Holders: J. Elwell, Ltd., Oldbury. Earthenware: Booths, Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent. Electro Plate: Walker & Hall, Sheffield. Filing Racks: Drake & Warters, Ltd., Wakefield. Galvanised Ironware: Ludlow Bros. (1913), Ltd., Birmingham; Walker Bros., Ltd., Walsall; Sergeant Turner & Sons, Ltd., Stourbridge; H. Kirby & Co., Wolverhampton; Pratt Bros., Ltd., Birmingham; Bird, Stevens & Co., Ltd., Quarry Bank, Staffs. Insect Cabinets: J. J. Hill & Son, London, N.W. Linoleum: Barry, Ostlere & Shepherd, Ltd., Kirkcaldy; Miles, Sykes & Son, Ltd., Sowerby Bridge. Manhole Covers and Frames: Carron Co., London, E.C. Plan Presses: F. Palmer & Co., Bristol. Scourers: E. Wilman & Sons, Ltd., Manchester. Specimen Cabinets: W. T. Nicholls, Ltd., Gloucester. Steel Racking: Constructors, Ltd., Birmingham. Tables, Repetition: Leicester Cabinet Co., Ltd., Leicester. Toiletware: Mintons, Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent.

## CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

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