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

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT during April showed, on the whole, some further improvement.

Among workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together was 20·9 at 27th April, 1931, as compared with 21·5 at 23rd March, 1931, and 14·2 at 28th April, 1930. For males alone the percentage at 27th April, 1931, was 22·0, and for females 18·0. At 23rd March, 1931, the corresponding percentages were 22·7 and 18·4.

Insured Persons in Work in Great Britain.—It is estimated that on 27th April, 1931, there were approximately 9,356,700 insured persons aged 16 to 64 in work in Great Britain. This was 89,500 more than a month before, but 553,300 less than a year before.

Numbers Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).—At 27th April, 1931, there were 1,848,170 persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 11,356 less than a month before, but 690,061 more than a year before. The total on 27th April, 1931, included 1,340,599 men, 58,286 boys, 400,999 women and 48,286 girls. It was made up approximately of 1,276,110 insured persons who had paid at least 30 contributions during the preceding two years, and therefore satisfied the full contributions condition for the receipt of unemployment benefit; 468,800 insured persons who had paid less than 30 contributions during the preceding two years; and 103,260 uninsured persons. The claimants for benefit, numbering 1,671,290, included 220,367 men, 5,374 boys, 46,101 women and 3,052 girls who had been on the Register for less than one month.

Numbers Temporarily Stopped.—At 27th April, 1931, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 390,946 men, 12,334 boys, 144,457 women and 9,241 girls who were on short time or were otherwise suspended from work on the definite understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment. The total of 556,978 was 47,111 less than a month before, but 109,734 more than a year before.

Numbers Unemployed normally in Casual Employment.—At 27th April, 1931, there were on the Registers in Great Britain 112,584 men, 268 boys, 2,093 women and 20 girls who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration; these are mainly employed in dock, harbour, river and canal service. The total of 114,965 was 1,538 less than a month before, but 21,932 more than a year before.

Industries in which Principal Variations occurred.—There was a further seasonal improvement in the building trade, public works contracting, brick and tile manufacture, and the clothing industries. The numbers unemployed showed a further decrease in a number of the textile industries (the principal exceptions being the cotton and lace industries), and employment also

improved in coal mining, slate quarrying, steel and tin-plate manufacture, constructional engineering, and the motor vehicle industry. There were increases, however, in the numbers unemployed in pottery manufacture, general and marine engineering, and the cotton and lace industries.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported during April resulted in an estimated decrease of over £26,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 325,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £1,225 in those of nearly 19,000 workpeople.

The reductions mainly occurred in the mining, textile, and transport groups. In the mining group the workpeople affected included coal miners in the Cannock Chase, Leicestershire, South Derbyshire, North and South Staffordshire, and Bristol coalfields, where there were reductions in the percentage additions to basis rates, varying in the different areas from about 1½ to 5½ per cent. on current wages. In the textile group the principal reduction concerned workpeople in the bleaching, dyeing, etc., industries in Yorkshire and Lancashire. Railway traffic workers formed the main body of workpeople affected by reductions in the transport group, many of the lower grades sustaining a reduction of 1s. per week under a cost-of-living sliding scale. Other workpeople whose wages were reduced included ironstone miners and blastfurnacemen in the Cleveland area, brass workers at Birmingham and in Yorkshire, and men employed by electrical contractors in England and Wales.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st May, 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 47 per cent. above the level of July, 1914; for food alone the figure was 29. These percentages were the same as those for a month earlier, and compare with 55 and 40 respectively for 1st May, 1930.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families. Accordingly, the changes in the prices of the various articles included are combined proportionately to the relative importance of those items in pre-war working-class family expenditure, and no allowance is 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 April was 45. In addition, 12 disputes which began before April were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in April (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 24,300, and the aggregate duration of all disputes in April was about 130,000 working days.

STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS IN 1930.

In the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1931 (page 6), some preliminary statistics were given of industrial disputes, involving stoppages of work, which occurred in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1930. More detailed statistics regarding these disputes, revised in accordance with the latest information received, are now available and are given below.

The number of disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as having begun in 1930 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 422.* In these disputes about 286,100 workpeople were directly involved (i.e., on strike or locked out), and 20,800 indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 1,800 workpeople were involved, directly or indirectly, in 8 disputes which began in 1929 and were still in progress at the beginning of 1930. The total number of workpeople involved, either directly or indirectly, in all disputes in progress in 1930, was thus about 308,700, as compared with 533,800 in the previous year. The aggregate time lost in 1930 by these workpeople owing to the disputes was approximately 4,399,000 working days, as compared with 8,287,000 in 1929.

Two disputes, one occurring in the wool textile industry and one in the coal-mining industry, accounted for about two-thirds of all the workpeople involved in disputes in 1930; and to the former of these two disputes nearly three-quarters of the total loss of time through disputes was due. In 1929 one dispute alone, that occurring in the cotton industry, greatly preponderated both as regards the number of workpeople involved and of working days lost. The following summary shows the relative proportions of these outstanding disputes and of all other disputes in 1929 and 1930—

Table with columns: Industry Group, No. of Disputes beginning in period, No. of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress, No. of Working Days lost by such Workpeople. Rows for 1929 (Cotton Dispute, All other Disputes, All Disputes) and 1930 (Wool Textile Dispute, Coal Mining Dispute, All other Disputes, All Disputes).

The following Table summarises by industries the number of disputes reported as beginning in 1929 and 1930 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the number of workpeople involved in and the aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in each year—

Table with columns: Industry Group, 1929 (No. of Disputes, Number of Workpeople, Aggregate Duration), 1930 (No. of Disputes, Number of Workpeople, Aggregate Duration). Lists industries like Coal Mining, Shipbuilding, Textile, etc.

Of the total numbers of workpeople shown as involved in all disputes, approximately 40,900 in 1929 and 20,900 in 1930 were indirectly involved.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES IN 1930.

The largest single dispute in 1930 occurred in the wool textile industry of the West Riding of Yorkshire and part of Lancashire. Following upon the issue of the report of a Court of Inquiry appointed to investigate the question of wages payable in the industry, the employers posted notices of reductions. The Executive Committees

* Disputes involving less than ten workpeople and those which lasted less than one day are 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.

of the National Association of Unions in the Textile Trade decided to withdraw workpeople from all firms where the reductions were imposed. Work ceased on various dates, usually between 8th and 11th April, a total of 120,000 workpeople being involved, directly and indirectly. Considerable resumptions of work took place in April and May, and the majority of the unions involved declared the dispute at an end in June, so far as their members were concerned. Certain unions continued the dispute for another month, and one union of weaving overlookers held out until September. Work was resumed upon the employers' terms, except with certain firms where modified reductions were agreed upon. About 3 1/2 million working days were lost in the course of this dispute.

In the coal-mining industry, following alteration in working hours underground, in accordance with the Coal Mines Act, 1930, a question arose as to the terms of employment which were to operate from 1st December. Stoppages of work occurred on this date involving about 76,000 workpeople in Scotland, 6,000 in North Staffordshire and 3,000 in Shropshire and other districts. In Scotland the dispute lasted a week, while elsewhere at most of the collieries involved it lasted for one or two days only; the total aggregate duration of these stoppages exceeded 440,000 working days. In Scotland a temporary settlement was effected by the Conciliation Board for the Coal Trade of Scotland, on the basis of a fortnightly "spread over" of hours without change in wage rates pending a permanent settlement. Temporary settlements were also effected in North Staffordshire and elsewhere.

No other disputes occurred in 1930 involving 5,000 workpeople, but three other disputes each involved a loss of between 50,000 and 70,000 working days. Of these, the first occurred in February, and involved 3,250 insurance agents in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Improved terms of remuneration were demanded, and, as a result of the mediation of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, a minimum rate of 50s. per week was guaranteed, other claims being waived. The second of these disputes began on 13th June and involved 1,250 upholsterers and upholsteresses in the employment of wholesale manufacturing firms in London. The workpeople's demands comprised an advance in wages, the limitation of junior labour, and other improvements in working conditions. A settlement was effected on 19th August, providing for a resumption of work at the old rate of wages and for further consideration of the question of junior labour, the other matters in dispute being settled provisionally. The third of these disputes involved 620 silk knitters and makers-up in the employment of a firm at Macclesfield, who ceased work on 16th October in resistance to a proposed reduction in wages. On 25th February, 1931, the reduction was accepted, with some modifications.

Following is a list of the principal trade disputes, involving stoppages of work, beginning in 1930—

Table with columns: Classes of Workpeople involved, Dates of beginning and end of Stoppage, Approximate Number of Workpeople involved, Approximate Aggregate Number of Working Days lost. Lists disputes like Coal Mining, Shipbuilding, Textile, etc.

* Most of the workpeople resumed work in April, May or June and some in July; one union of weaving overlookers held out till September.

CAUSES.

The numbers and proportions of disputes in 1930, and of workpeople directly involved therein, arising from the principal classes of causes, are given below. In some cases disputes originate from a number of different causes, e.g., a claim for an advance in wages may be accompanied by one for a reduction in working hours. For the purpose of these Tables such disputes are classified according to what appears to be the principal cause of the stoppage—

Table with columns: Principal Causes or Objects, Number of Disputes beginning in 1930 (Total, Percentage), Number of Workpeople directly involved (Total, Percentage). Lists causes like Wage increases, Wage decreases, Other wage questions, etc.

Wages questions accounted for more than half of the disputes and of the numbers of workpeople directly involved. Disputes arising out of questions respecting working hours formed less than 5 per cent. of the total number of disputes, but, mainly owing to the stoppage in the coal mining industry in Scotland, accounted for about one-third of the total number of workpeople.

The following Table shows by groups of industries the proportion of workpeople who were directly involved in disputes in 1930 arising from the principal classes of causes—

Table with columns: Industry Group, Workpeople directly involved in Disputes beginning in 1930, Proportions directly involved in Disputes respecting (Wages, Hours of Labour, etc.). Lists industries like Mining and Quarrying, Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding, etc.

Judged by the numbers of workpeople involved, wage questions were the principal causes of disputes in all industry groups except the mining and quarrying and the transport groups, where the chief place was held by questions respecting working hours and by other questions of working arrangements, respectively.

RESULTS.

The number and proportion of disputes beginning in 1930, and of workpeople directly involved therein, the results of which were (a) in favour of the workpeople, (b) in favour of the employers, and (c) of the nature of a compromise, were as under. Disputes classified as in favour of workpeople or in favour of employers, for the purpose of this and the following Tables, are those in which the workpeople or employers, respectively, were completely successful, or practically so, in attaining or resisting the objects to which the stoppage of work was due. Disputes in which the workpeople, or employers, were partly, but not wholly, successful, are included under "compromised."

Table with columns: Results, Number of Disputes (Total, Percentage), Number of Workpeople directly involved (Total, Percentage). Rows for In favour of workpeople, In favour of employers, Compromised, Total.

Disputes settled by compromise formed the largest group in 1930, representing over 46 per cent. of the total number of disputes. Judged by numbers of workpeople directly involved, however, disputes settled in favour of the employers greatly preponderated, over three-quarters of all the workpeople being included in disputes of this category; the stoppage in the wool textile industry alone accounted for 40 per cent. of the total. Disputes settled in favour

of the workpeople formed much the smallest group (17 per cent.) and included 6 per cent. only of the workpeople involved. The following Table shows, by groups of industries, the proportion of workpeople directly involved in disputes beginning in 1930, classified according to their results—

Table with columns: Industry Group, Workpeople directly involved in Disputes beginning in 1930, Proportions directly involved in Disputes beginning in 1930, the Results of which were (In favour of Workpeople, In favour of Employers, Compromised). Lists industries like Mining and Quarrying, Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding, etc.

Disputes settled in favour of the employers preponderated in the mining and quarrying and textile groups, and settlements by compromise in the metal, etc., transport, and "other" industries groups. Disputes settled in favour of the workpeople accounted for nearly half the workpeople directly involved in the building, etc., group; in the other groups they were of minor importance.

Combined statistics of the causes and results of disputes beginning in 1930 are given below—

Table with columns: Principal Causes, Number of Workpeople directly involved in Disputes beginning in 1930, the Results of which were (In favour of Workpeople, In favour of Employers, Compromised), Total. Lists causes like Wage increases, Wage decreases, Other wage questions, etc.

METHODS OF SETTLEMENT.

The principal methods by which disputes beginning in 1930 were settled are shown in the Table below—

Table with columns: Methods of Settlement, Number of Disputes, Proportion of all Disputes, Number of Workpeople directly involved, Proportion of Workpeople directly involved in all Disputes. Lists methods like Direct negotiations, Conciliation, Arbitration, etc.

The majority of final settlements in 1930 as in most years were effected by direct arrangements or negotiations between the parties or their representatives, 265, or over three-fifths of all the disputes, directly involving about the same proportion of workpeople, being thus concluded. Although settlements effected by the various modes of conciliation and arbitration numbered only 48, or 11 per cent. of the total, they included nearly one-third of all the workpeople, owing largely to the fact that the dispute in the coal mining industry of Scotland was settled by conciliation. In 68 disputes, mostly of small dimensions, although forming 16 per cent. of the total number of disputes, work was resumed on the employers' terms without negotiations. In 32 disputes the workpeople who ceased work were replaced by other workpeople, but such disputes were in all cases very small.

MAGNITUDE.

In the Table below, the disputes of 1930 are analysed from three different aspects of magnitude, viz., numbers of workpeople involved, duration in weeks, and aggregate duration in working days. It should be observed that, for the purposes of this Table, the duration in weeks and the aggregate duration in working days take account of time lost in 1931 by disputes which began in 1930 and continued beyond the end of the year. On the other hand, the aggregate

Less than 100 workpeople involved.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during April showed a decline, and remained very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 35.9 at 27th April, 1931, as compared with 34.9 at 23rd March, 1931, and 17.8 at 28th April, 1930.

According to information received from the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, 78 furnaces were in operation at the end of April, 1931, as compared with 81 at the end of March, 1931, and 151 at the end of April, 1930; while in the case of 68 firms employing 11,380 workpeople at the end of April, 1931, the returns showed a decrease of 2.4 per cent. in the numbers employed compared with March, 1931, and a decrease of 40.4 per cent. compared with April, 1930.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in operation at the end of April, 1931, March, 1931, and April, 1930 :-

Table with columns: Districts, Total Number of Furnaces, Number of Furnaces in Blast (April 1931, March 1931, April 1930), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) or a (Month before, Year before). Rows include England and Wales, Scotland, and Great Britain.

The production of pig iron in April, 1931, amounted to 323,200 tons, compared with 357,100 tons in March, 1931, and 619,600 tons in April, 1930.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET INDUSTRIES.

In the tinplate industry employment showed an improvement but remained very bad. In the week ended 25th April, 1931, 300 tinplate mills were in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 254 in the week ended 28th March, 1931, and with 411 in the week ended 3rd May, 1930.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 43.4 at 27th April, 1931, as compared with 48.6 at 23rd March, 1931, and with 27.3 at 28th April, 1930.

In steel sheet manufacture employment remained very bad. In the week ended 25th April, 1931, 66 mills were in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 52 in the week ended 28th March, 1931, and with 92 in the week ended 3rd May, 1930.

The following Table shows the number of mills in operation at works covered by the returns :-

Table with columns: Works, Number of Works Open (Week ended 25th April 1931, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a (Month before, Year before)), Number of Mills in Operation (Week ended 25th April 1931, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a (Month before, Year before)). Rows include Tinplate, Steel Sheet, and TOTAL.

The exports of tinned and galvanized plates and sheets in April, 1931, amounted to 59,992 tons, or 11,445 tons more than in March, 1931, but 22,363 tons less than in April, 1930.

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT in April among insured workpeople showed a slight improvement, but remained very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 45.1 at 27th April, 1931, as compared with 45.8 at 23rd March, 1931, and 30.9 at 28th April, 1930.

At certain firms, employing 48,182 workpeople, from which returns were received for the week ended 25th April, 1931, the volume of employment in that week (as indicated by the number

of workpeople employed, combined with the number of shifts* during which work was carried on in each department) decreased by 5.4 per cent. as compared with the week ended 28th March, 1931, and by 33.4 per cent. as compared with April, 1930. The average number of shifts during which the works were open was 5.0 in the week ended 25th April, 1931, as compared with 5.1 in March, 1931 and 5.4 in April, 1930.

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

Table with columns: DEPARTMENTS, No. of Workpeople employed by Firms making returns (Week ended 25th April 1931, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a (Month before, Year before)), Aggregate number of Shifts (Week ended 25th April 1931, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a (Month before, Year before)). Rows include Open Hearth Melting Furnaces, Puddling Forges, Rolling Mills, etc., and DISTRICTS.

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns received from the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 397,400 tons in April, 1931, as compared with 500,100 tons in March, 1931, and 696,100 tons in April, 1930.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT remained very bad during April, and continued to decline in most districts. In the North-Eastern division and in Scotland and Wales from 60 to 67 per cent. of the insured workpeople were recorded as unemployed, and only one division (the South-Eastern) showed a percentage unemployed of less than 25. Compared with a year ago, when employment was already very bad, the proportion of unemployed was almost twice as great.

In the North-Western division there was some improvement in ship-repairing as compared with the previous month, though employment on the whole was much worse than a year ago.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 27th April, 1931, and the increase or decrease as compared with 23rd March, 1931, and 28th April, 1930 :-

Table with columns: Divisions, Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 27th April, 1931 (Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers Unemployed as compared with a (Month before, Year before)), Percentage Unemployed at 27th April, 1931 (Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage Unemployed as compared with a (Month before, Year before)). Rows include London, South-Eastern, South-Western, etc., and GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

* 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.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during April remained bad, and showed, on the whole, little change, a further decline in marine and general engineering being balanced by an improvement in the motor vehicle section and in electrical and constructional engineering. In general, textile, marine and constructional engineering, employment was very bad; it was bad in the motor vehicle section and slack in electrical engineering. A considerable number of workpeople were discharged from railway engineering works.

Compared with a year ago employment was much worse in all sections and in all areas.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 27th April, 1931, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before :-

Table with columns: Division, Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 27th April, 1931 (General Engineering, Iron and Steel Founding, Electrical Engineering, etc., Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a (Month before, Year before)), Percentages Unemployed at 27th April, 1931 (Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a (Month before, Year before)). Rows include London, South-Eastern, South-Western, etc., and GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

On the North-East Coast employment again declined in marine engineering and was very bad. In Yorkshire and Lincolnshire there was little general change, employment remaining bad. In Lancashire and Cheshire it continued bad or very bad in all sections; in textile engineering the depression continued, with much short-time working. In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district employment in the motor vehicle section showed a slight seasonal improvement but it was still bad and much short-time was worked. It continued bad in general engineering and slack in the electrical section. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district employment remained very slack.

In London and the Southern Counties employment remained quiet; it showed an improvement in the motor vehicle section, but a decline in general engineering.

In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland employment remained very bad. It was worse than in the previous month in general and marine engineering in Scotland, and in marine engineering in Northern Ireland.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in all sections continued unsatisfactory, and showed a slight decline in April in the spinning section, from the very low level of March. In the section spinning American cotton about one quarter of the mills were closed, and not more than 60 per cent. of normal production was obtained in the remainder. In the Egyptian spinning section there was a similar percentage of short-time running at the active mills, but a much smaller percentage were closed down. In the weaving section, employment remained very bad, and showed no improvement. Many mills, in various districts, extended the Easter stoppage.

The percentage of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 38.2 at 27th April, 1931, as compared with 36.5 at 23rd March, 1931, and with 30.7 at 28th April, 1930.

At Ashton-under-Lyne employment continued bad, and was much below the level of last year. At Stockport the slight improvement recorded last month was maintained, though short time working was still prevalent; at Stalybridge the position was slightly worse, and irregular short time continued; at Hyde the improvement reported last month was maintained, and there was a further decrease in short time working. At Glossop employment was slightly worse. At Oldham employment in the spinning section remained bad,

many spinning mills had been closed for some time, and it was reported that many were unlikely to restart. In the manufacturing section employment continued very slack, and machinery was stopped at every firm; many weavers were working on a reduced number of looms. At Middleton conditions remained fairly good in the Egyptian section, but short time working continued in the American section. At Royton the slightly increased activity in the spinning section was maintained. At Bolton the improvement recorded last month in the spinning and weaving departments was not maintained, and employment in the spinning department was bad; in the week ended 25th April, 39 per cent. of the operative cotton spinners were working less than half time, as compared with 34 per cent. in the week ended 28th March. At Leigh employment with spinners was described as bad. At Rochdale employment showed a decline and was bad; at Bury a large number of operatives were suspended for extended holidays at Easter, and short time working prevailed during the month.

At Preston employment was not so steady as in March, owing principally to sectional stoppages in the preparation departments. At Chorley most of the mills were working better time. At Blackburn the rate of unemployment still remained very high, but the improvement noted last month continued; nevertheless, between 64 and 68 mills, or about half the total number, were closed each week. At Darwen employment was very bad. At Great Harwood employment with weavers showed a slight improvement. At Accrington six of the weaving mills reported last month as having recently re-opened continued production during April. At Burnley the position was worse than in March; several local mills were "weaving out," with the intention of closing down, and most of the mills which were still running had a number of idle looms. At Nelson and at Colne a slight improvement was reported. In the Rossendale Valley employment was described as very bad; there was much unemployment and under-employment, and the majority of the mills closed down for one to two weeks at Easter.

In Yorkshire employment continued very bad, with short time and under-employment; an extended stoppage at Easter was general; there was a slight improvement, however, at Hebden Bridge.

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

Table with columns: DEPARTMENTS, Number of Workpeople (Week ended 25th Apr. 1931, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a (Month before, Year before)), Total Wages paid to all Workpeople (Week ended 25th Apr. 1931, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a (Month before, Year before)). Rows include Preparing, Spinning, Weaving, etc., and DISTRICTS.

Returns from firms employing nearly 59,000 operatives in the week ended 25th April showed that about 21 per cent. were on short time in that week, with a loss of nearly 16½ hours each, on an average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal cotton trade centres at 27th April, 1931 :-

Table with columns: Department, Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 27th April, 1931 (Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, Total). Rows include Card and Blowing Room, Spinning, Beaming, Wind-Ing and Warp-Ing, Weaving, Other Processes.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

The statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on 27th April, 1931, and the increase or decrease at that date in the total percentages unemployed compared with a month earlier, a year before, and two years before, respectively.

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed persons. The principal classes of persons who are exempted from such compulsory insurance are juveniles under 16 years of age and (since 2nd January, 1928) 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, persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, and outworkers.

An unemployment book, on which is recorded, inter alia, the industry in which he is employed, is issued to every insured person, and this book must be lodged at an Employment Exchange whenever the insured person to whom it relates makes a claim for unemployment benefit, or, without claiming benefit, ceases to be employed in an insured trade.

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

The numbers unemployed given in the following Table relate only to persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts. They include insured persons who are 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 190 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 190.

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 statistics of unemployment in insured industries are presented in two separate Tables, one showing the numbers recorded as unemployed, and the other showing the estimated numbers insured and the percentages unemployed.

Special Note. Persons aged 65 and over.

Under the provisions of the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925, all persons aged 65 and over ceased to be insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts as from 2nd January, 1928. (The employers of such persons, however, are required to pay contributions at the employer's rates.) The estimates of the numbers of insured persons in each industry prepared on the basis of the information obtained from the exchange of unemployment books, therefore, no longer include persons aged 65 and over. Such persons do not now appear in the statistics showing the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, and the figures for dates subsequent to 2nd January, 1928, are therefore not comparable with those for earlier dates. For all practical purposes, however, the percentages unemployed can be regarded as comparable with the corresponding figures published each month since July, 1923.

NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 27th APRIL, 1931.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals), TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, TOTAL. Sub-headers: MALES, FEMALES, TOTAL. Rows include Fishing, Mining, Brick, Tile, etc., Making, Pottery, Earthenware, etc., Glass Trades, Chemicals, etc., Metal Manufacture, Engineering, etc., Construction and Repair of Vehicles.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals), TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, TOTAL. Sub-headers: MALES, FEMALES, TOTAL. Rows include Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing, Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Leather and Leather Goods, Clothing Trades, Food, Drink and Tobacco, Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork, Printing and Paper Trades, Other Manufacturing Industries, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply, Transport and Communication, Distributive Trades, Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance, Miscellaneous Trades and Services.

* Including 116,983 Casuals (Males, 114,858; Females, 2,125).

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns for Industry, Estimated Number of Insured Persons at July, 1930, Percentage Unemployed at 27th April, 1931, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with 23rd March, 1931, 28th April, 1930, and 22nd April, 1929. Includes sub-sections for Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Great Britain only.

* For 28th April, 1930, and 22nd April, 1929, separate figures for each of the two sections are not available.

Table showing industry groups, estimated number of insured persons at July, 1930, and percentage unemployed at 27th April, 1931. Includes sub-sections for Wholly Unemployed (including Casuals), Temporary Stoppages, and Total. Also includes increase (+) or decrease (-) in total percentages as compared with 23rd March, 1931, 28th April, 1930, and 22nd April, 1929.

NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE UNEMPLOYED.

PROPORTIONS IN VARIOUS INDUSTRY GROUPS. In the following Table the numbers of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 27th April, 1931, are analysed so as to show the proportion of the total unemployed classified as belonging to various industry groups :-

Table showing proportions of insured workpeople unemployed by industry group, categorized by Males and Females, with columns for Number Wholly Unemployed, Percentage of Total, and Percentage of Total Unemployed.

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS IN NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED.

The following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 27th April, 1931, differed from the figures for 23rd March, 1931, to the extent of 1,000 or more :-

Table showing principal variations in numbers unemployed by industry, with columns for Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 27th April, 1931, as compared with 23rd March, 1931, categorized by Males, Females, and Total.

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

On page 186 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published weekly in the Press, and monthly in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives an analysis relating to the 27th April, 1931, of the composition of these statistics. Lines 2 to 4 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 4) and including lines 1 and 5, the number of books lodged, or, in other words, the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, is obtained:—

Table with 6 columns: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total. Rows include Unemployed—Special Schemes, Claims admitted or under consideration, Insured non-claimants and claimants disqualified, Uninsured persons on Register, Two months' file, Persons on Register, Books Lodged.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

Table with 6 columns: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total. Rows include 30th March 1931, 6th April 1931, 13th, 20th, 27th, Average (3 weeks).

Analysis of figures for 27th April, 1931.

Table with 6 columns: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total. Rows include Persons normally in Regular Employment, Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, Persons normally in Casual Employment, Total.

Table with 6 columns: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total. Rows include Great Britain, Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total.

Table with 6 columns: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total. Rows include Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total.

VACANCIES NOTIFIED AND FILLED. (Great Britain and Northern Ireland.)

Table with 6 columns: Number, Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with year before, Week ended, Applications from Employers, Vacancies filled, Per cent. of vacancies notified. Rows include Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total.

Of the 151,659 vacancies filled during the four weeks ended 27th April, 92,303 were for men, 33,829 for women, and 25,527 for juveniles.

* The term "Employment Exchange," as used in this connection, includes Ministry of Labour Employment Exchanges and Branch Employment Offices, and also Juvenile Employment Bureaux under the control of Local Education Authorities which are exercising powers under Sec. 107 of the Education Act, 1921, and Sec. 6 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923.

† "Vacancies filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B placements) in which the work of the Exchanges was limited; for instance, obtaining for an employer former employees, or placing the same men in relief work in alternate weeks. During the five weeks ended 6th April, 1931, the average number of such placements of men and women was 6,845 per week. The average number of placements of casual workers during the four weeks ended 27th April, 1931, was 600 per week.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS AT PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges on 27th April, 1931. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Large table with 6 columns: Men, Women, Juveniles, Total. Rows include London Division, South-Eastern Division, Brighton, Chatham, Ipswich, Norwich, Rest of Division, South-Western Division, Bristol, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Reading, Southampton, Swindon, Rest of Division, Midlands Division, Birmingham, Coventry, Cradley Heath, Derby, Leicester, Northampton, Nottingham, Smeethwick, Stoke-on-Trent, Walsall, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton, Rest of Division, North-Eastern Division, Barnsley, Bradford, Darlington, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Gateshead, Grimsby, Halifax, Harrogate, Huddersfield, Hull, Leeds, Lincoln, Middlesbrough, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Rotherham, Sheffield, South Shields, Stockton-on-Tees, Sunderland, Wakefield, York, Rest of Division, North-Western Division, Accrington, Ashton-under-Lyne, Barrow, Birkenhead, Blackburn, Blackpool, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Chorley, Liverpool, Manchester, Nelson, Oldham, Preston, Rochdale, St. Helens, Salford, Stockport, Warrington, Wigan, Rest of Division, Scotland Division, Aberdeen, Clydebank, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greenock, Motherwell, Paisley, Rest of Division, Wales Division, Cardiff, Llanelly, Newport, Swansea, Rest of Division, Northern Ireland, Belfast, Londonderry, Lurgan, Lisburn, Newry, Rest of Northern Ireland, Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

[Percentage rates of unemployment, for each of 700 towns in Great Britain, are given in the monthly "Local Unemployment Index."]

JUVENILE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

NUMBERS OF JUVENILES AGED 14 AND UNDER 18 ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES AND JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX AT 27TH APRIL, 1931.

Table with 6 columns: Insured 16 and under 18, Uninsured 14 and under 18, Total, Insured 16 and under 18, Uninsured 14 and under 18, Total. Rows include London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain.

JUVENILES PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT. FIVE WEEKS ENDED 6TH APRIL, 1931.

Table with 6 columns: Boys, Girls, Total, Boys, Girls, Total. Rows include South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain.

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

Table with 6 columns: Boys, Girls, Total, Boys, Girls, Total. Rows include London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Special Schemes, Great Britain.

JUVENILES IN ATTENDANCE AT APPROVED COURSES OF INSTRUCTION DURING WEEK ENDED 29TH APRIL, 1931.

Table with 6 columns: Boys, Girls, Total, Boys, Girls, Total. Rows include London, S.-Eastern, S.-Western, Midlands, N.-Eastern, N.-Western, Scotland, Wales, Gt. Britain.

There were 75 Junior Instruction Centres for boys, 28 for girls, and 29 mixed centres open in Great Britain during the week. In addition, there were 12 Junior Instruction Classes for boys, 8 for girls, and 3 mixed classes. The number of other Institutions to which unemployed juveniles were admitted was: for boys, 8; for girls, 5; mixed, 13. The attendances at these Institutions are mainly in the evening.

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

DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT IN GREAT BRITAIN.

10TH MARCH TO 13TH APRIL, 1931.

The following Table gives, for the period from 10th March to 13th April, 1931, inclusive, the number of claims to benefit made at local offices in Great Britain, the average number of claims current during that period, an analysis of the decisions of Courts of Referees and of the Empire, the number of cases disallowed by Insurance Officers under the trade dispute disqualification, and of the appeals against such disallowances dealt with by Courts of Referees.

Table with 5 columns: Men, Women, Juveniles, Total. Rows include Fresh and renewal claims made, Average number of claims current.

B.—Decisions of Courts of Referees.

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include First Statutory Condition, Less than 8 contributions paid in past 2 years and less than 30 contributions paid at any time (Sec. 14 (2), U.I. Act 1927).

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Not normally insurable and will not normally seek to obtain livelihood by means of insurable employment.

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Employment left voluntarily without just cause.

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Employment lost through misconduct.

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Failure or refusal to apply for or accept suitable employment, or failure to carry out written directions.

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Not unemployed.

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Not capable of work, or not available for work.

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Other grounds.

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Grand Total.

C.—Trade Dispute* Cases.

Table with 3 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include Cases dealt with by Insurance Officers, Appeals against disallowances by Insurance Officers dealt with by Courts of Referees, Total Appeals.

* The decisions of Courts of Referees, and of the Empire, on trade dispute disallowances refer largely to test cases. The total number of individuals affected by such decisions may be considerably in excess of the figures shown in the Table.

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

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 April in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate decrease of about £26,150 in the weekly full-time wages of 325,000 workpeople and in an increase of £1,225 in those of nearly 19,000 workpeople.

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

Table with 5 columns: Group of Industries, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Estimated Amount of Change in Weekly Wages. Sub-columns for Increases and Decreases.

The reductions in the mining group mainly concerned coal miners in the Cannock Chase, Leicestershire, North and South Staffordshire, Bristol and South Derbyshire coalfields, in which the percentage additions to basis rates were reduced by amounts varying in the different areas from about 1 1/2 to 5 1/2 per cent. on the current total wages.

In the metal group there was a reduction of about 2 per cent. on the current wages of blastfurnace workers in the Cleveland area, and reductions also occurred among similar classes in Northamptonshire and North Staffordshire.

In the textile group the principal body of workpeople affected by reductions were those employed in the bleaching, dyeing, etc. industries in Yorkshire and Lancashire, a reduction of 1 per cent. in the basic earnings of piece-workers being accompanied by reductions in the cost-of-living bonuses of both time-workers and piece-workers (making a total reduction of about 6 1/2 per cent. on current wages in Yorkshire).

In the building etc. group there was a decrease of 1/2d. per hour in the wages of most classes of building trade operatives in the Glasgow and West of Scotland area. Men employed by electrical contractors in England and Wales sustained a decrease of 1/2d. per hour, and those employed by public works contractors in the London area a decrease of 1/2d. per hour.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1931.

Main table for page 194 detailing principal changes in wages for various industries like Coal Mining, Steel and Metal, etc., with columns for Industry, Locality, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change.

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1931 (continued).

Main table for page 195 continuing principal changes in wages for industries like Coal Mining, Iron Mining, Quarrying, etc., with columns for Industry, Locality, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change.

* In respect of the preceding pay period. † Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements. ‡ The reduction took effect under an Agreement made by the Yorkshire Joint Industrial Council for the Freestone Quarrying Industry.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Table showing percentage increase in retail food prices for various countries from 1927 to 1931, compared to July 1914. Columns include Country, July 1927, July 1928, July 1929, July 1930, and 1931.

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, house-rent, clothing, fuel, and light for various countries from 1927 to 1931, compared to July 1914. Columns include Country, July 1927, July 1928, July 1929, July 1930, and 1931.

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

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during April, 1931, as killed in the course of their employment was 177, as compared with 175 in the previous month and with 176* in April, 1930. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in April, 1931, numbered 41, as compared with 43 in the previous month and with 37 in April, 1930.

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

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

THE total number of cases† of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during April, 1931, under the Factory and Workshop Act, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, was 34, and the total number of deaths‡ reported was 8.

Table detailing diseases of occupations: I. Cases (Lead Poisoning, Epitheliomatous Ulceration, Chrome Ulceration), II. Deaths (Lead Poisoning, Epitheliomatous Ulceration).

* The figure previously published for April, 1930, has been revised. † 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.

POOR RELIEF IN APRIL.

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

OWING to the alterations made by the Local Government Acts of 1929, which took effect in England and Wales on 1st April, 1930, and in Scotland on 16th May, 1930, comparable statistics are available only from those dates, and no comparison with the month of April, 1930, is therefore possible in the case of Scotland.

The statistics which appear in the Table below relate to the County of London and to those County Boroughs in England and Wales and Burghs in Scotland having an estimated population exceeding 100,000.

The number of persons* relieved on one day† in April, 1931, in the forty-seven selected areas named below was 572,822, or 1·5 per cent. less than in the previous month. The numbers relieved at these two dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 345 and 350 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

In the forty-three selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in April, 1931, was 477,053, a decrease of 1·6 per cent. as compared with March, 1931, but an increase of 5·9 per cent. as compared with a year ago. In the four areas in Scotland the number relieved was 95,769, a decrease of 0·8 per cent. compared with March, 1931.

Recipients of indoor relief in the forty-seven areas in April numbered 113,942, or 4·7 per cent. less than in the previous month. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 458,880, or 0·6 per cent. less than in the previous month.

Table showing poor relief statistics by county and area, including indoor and outdoor relief, total persons relieved, and rates per 10,000 of population.

* The figures include dependants, but exclude persons in receipt of outdoor medical relief only and casuals. In England and Wales, patients in mental hospitals (formerly referred to as lunatics in asylums), and in Scotland, lunatics and mental defectives, are also included. † 25th April in England and Wales (excluding London), 11th April in London, and 15th April in Scotland.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE following statistics relate to assisted passages from Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act. The figures include both applicants and dependants of applicants to whom assisted passages have been granted. Approvals subsequently cancelled have been excluded. The figures are provisional and subject to revision.

Table showing assisted passages by destination: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Africa and other parts of Empire.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925.

LIABILITY OF EMPLOYER—PAYMENT OF FULL COMPENSATION—FURTHER CLAIM UNDER LORD CAMPBELL'S ACT.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the employers from a decision of the second division of the Court of Session in Scotland, the question raised being whether the right of a widow to raise an action at common law (or, in England, under Lord Campbell's Act) to recover damages against the person whose fault caused the death of her husband had been taken away by Section 29 (1) of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925, by reason of the payment into court by the defender of the maximum amount payable under the Act in proceedings instituted by a third party.

In this case a workman lost his life by a pit accident, leaving a wife, two children, and a stepson. The widow, on behalf of herself and the children, took proceedings to enforce her remedy under the common law of Scotland; and, after those proceedings had been instituted, the stepson took proceedings alone under the Workmen's Compensation Act, in which the employers paid into Court £600, the maximum compensation payable by them. The employers contended that, having paid into court the maximum compensation payable under the Workman's Compensation Act, they were under no liability to proceedings brought by the widow independently of the Act.

Section 29 (1) of the Workmen's Compensation Act is as follows:—

"When the injury was caused by the personal negligence or wilful act of the employer, or of some person for whose act or default the employer is responsible, nothing in this Act shall affect any civil liability of the employer, but in that case the workman may, at his option, either claim compensation under this Act or take proceedings independently of this Act; but the employer shall not be liable to pay compensation for injury to a workman by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment both independently of and also under this Act, and shall not be liable to any proceedings independently of this Act, except in case of such personal negligence or wilful act as aforesaid."

Lord Buckmaster, in giving judgment, said that the section began by an express provision that nothing should affect the civil liability of the employer in case of negligence, but that the workman might in that event, at his option, select which remedy he would pursue. It was the latter part of the section on which the appellants relied. They said that it emphatically provided that, in respect of an injury to the workman, the employer could not be called on to pay in two independent proceedings.

In his opinion the section had not that effect. The latter provision was intended to relate only to cases where the proceedings were taken by the same persons, and affected only the cases where the workman proceeding under the statute had the option of proceeding either under the statute or at common law. The claims of the widow and children of proceeding at common law could not be defeated by the act of somebody to whom the common law remedy was not open. To hold otherwise would be to declare that the statute had, in special cases, inferentially destroyed the rights which, by the earlier part of the section, had been expressly kept alive.

Lords Dunedin, Warrington of Clyffe, Thankerton, and Russell of Killowen agreed. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—Kinneil Cannel and Coking Coal Company, Limited v. Sneddon or Waddell. House of Lords. 21st April, 1931.

Trade Boards Acts, 1909-1918.

FUR TRADE BOARD.

An employer and his agent (his son) were charged with (i) underpayment of two female workers, (ii) failure to keep adequate wages records, (iii) failure to post Trade Board notices. The agent was

Glazier: William Purdon & Son, Glasgow; Painter: Thomas Hastie & Son, Glasgow. St. Andrews, P.O.—Painter: A. & J. Cunningham, St. Andrews; Tiler: John D. Spence, St. Andrews Scarborough, South Cliff P.O.—Adaptations: Sawdon Bros., Filey. Shoeburyness, Essex, P.O.—Erection: A. D. Jackson & Son (Contractors), Ltd., Southend-on-Sea. South Kensington, S.W., Geological Museum—Superstructure: Galbraith Bros., Ltd., London, S.E.; Reinforcement: Helical Bar & Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Steelwork: Fleming Bros., Glasgow; Stonework: F. J. Barnes, Ltd., London, S.W. South Kensington, S.W., Natural History Museum—Bronze Laysights, etc.: George Wragge, Ltd., London, W.C.; Lanterns, etc.: Helliwell & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Marble Work, etc.: Marble Decorations, Ltd., London, E.; Temporary End: F. Braby & Co., Ltd., London, N.W.; W. I. Railings, etc.: G. Johnson Bros., London, E.C. Southport—Maintenance Work: T. F. Swarbrick, Southport. Stonehouse, Plymouth, P.O.—Steelwork: Blight & White, Ltd., Stonehouse. Teddington, Middlesex, Laboratory—Asphalter: Excel Asphalte Co., Ltd., London, W.; Reinforcement, etc.: Helical Bar & Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Steelwork: Rees & Kirby, Ltd., Morrision. Trafalgar Square, W.C., National Portrait Gallery Extension—Asphalter: Ragusa Asphalte Paving Co., Ltd., London, W.; Floors, etc.: Caxton Floors, Ltd., London, S.W.; Plasterer: G. Fletcher & Co., London, W.; Stonework: F. J. Barnes, Ltd., London, S.W. Walmley, Birmingham, Ashfield Telephone Exchange—Erection: W. H. James & Son, Sutton Coldfield. Walsall Employment Exchange—Plasterer: Wright & Harding, Walsall; Slater: S. Jackson & Co., Ltd., West Bromwich. Wandsworth, S.W., Sorting Office—Plumber: Steel & Wilson, Ltd., Glasgow. Wednesbury, Staffs, Employment Exchange—Plasterer: Essanbee Plaster Co., Ltd., Bromsgrove; Plumber: David Wiseman & Sons, Birmingham. Wolverhampton, Telephone Exchange—Iron Handrails, etc.: Marshall, Sons & Co., Birmingham. Yeovil, P.O.—Erection: Hayward & Wooster, Ltd., Bath.—**Engineering Services:** Crowthorne, Berks, Broadmoor Asylum—Trenching (for Wiring): Spear & King, Crowthorne. Glasgow, Central Employment Exchange, etc.—Heating: J. Combe & Son, Ltd., Glasgow. Wishaw Employment Exchange—Covering (for Heating) Work: James, Walker, Glasgow.—**Miscellaneous:** Boots: Tebbutt & Hall Bros., Ltd., Raunds. Casements (Metal): Crittall Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Doodson & Bains, Ltd., Manchester.—Furniture and Fittings: T. Bradford & Co., Salford; Drake & Warters, Wakefield;

Educational Supply Association, Ltd., London, W.C.; T. Glenister, Ltd., High Wycombe; Owen Haines & Son, High Wycombe; A. & F. Howland (Wycombe), Ltd., High Wycombe; W. Lusty & Sons, Ltd., London, E.; R. Palmer & Co., Bristol; W. A. Rathbone, Liverpool; Roneo, Ltd., London, E.C.; Stag Cabinet Co., Ltd., Nottingham.—Road Materials: Hibberts, Ltd., London, S.W.; Twickenham Gravel Co., Ltd., Feltham.—Window Cleaning: General Cleaning Contractors, Ltd., London, E.C.—Writing (Sign): C. A. Geyton, London, N.

METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Black Worsted Gloves (8,900 pairs each): A. Yates & Co., Leicester; H. R. Hopewell & Sons, Ltd., Kegworth.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT.*

Supply of Blue Cloth: R. Gaunt & Sons, Ltd., Leeds; Colbeck Bros., Ltd., Wakefield; A. W. Hainsworth & Sons, Ltd., Leeds; John Hainsworth & Sons, Leeds; Geo. H. Hirst & Co., Ltd., Batley.—**Supply of Petrol for Customs Launches:** Anglo-American Oil Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Supply of Coal for Customs Launches:** Wm. Cory & Son, Ltd., London, E.C.

* March, 1931, Contracts.

NOTICE.

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