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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT remained bad on the whole during October. In many industries, including iron mining, iron and steel manufacture, the tinplate trade, heavy engineering, shipbuilding, and most of the textile trades, it continued seriously affected by the shortage of fuel resulting from the coal-mining stoppage. There was some improvement in the cotton and pottery industries, but there was a seasonal decline in the building trades.

Among the workpeople (numbering approximately 12,000,000) insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed at 25th October, 1926, was 13·6,* as compared with 13·7† at 20th September, 1926, and 11·4 at 26th October, 1925. Among the members of those trade unions from which returns were received, the percentage unemployed was 13·6 at the end of October, 1926, the same percentage as at the end of September, 1926, as compared with 11·3 at the end of October, 1925. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 1st November, 1926, was approximately 1,610,000, of whom 1,234,000 were men and 292,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 27th September, 1926, it was 1,582,000, of whom 1,198,000 were men and 295,000 were women; and at 26th October, 1925, it was 1,295,000, of whom 1,032,000 were men and 196,000 were women. The figures relating to September, 1926, and those for 1st November, 1926, are exclusive of workpeople in the coal-mining industry who ceased work on account of the dispute.

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 during October resulted in an increase of nearly £21,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 310,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of £200 in those of 850 workpeople. These figures do not include the effect of any changes in the rates of wages of coal miners which may have been made on or after resumption of work, as to which complete statistics are not yet available.

The principal groups of workpeople whose rates of wages were increased included textile bleaching, dyeing, finishing, etc., operatives in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Scotland, iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands, iron miners in Cleveland and Cumberland,

* These percentages include coal mining, those miners who were not disqualified for benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Acts by reason of the dispute being taken as unemployed for the purpose of the percentage, but not those who ceased work owing to the dispute. In other industries (excluding coal mining) the percentage of unemployment at 25th October was 14·1, as compared with 14·2 at 20th September, 1926.

† The figures for September, 1926, have been revised.

blastfurnacemen in Cleveland, blastfurnacemen and iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and sheet steel millmen and galvanisers in various districts in England and Wales. There were also increases in the minimum rates of wages fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople employed in boot and shoe repairing.

During the ten completed months of 1926 the changes reported to the Department, in the industries for which statistics have been compiled, resulted in net increases amounting to £17,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 140,000 workpeople, and in net reductions of nearly £70,000 in those of 770,000 workpeople. These figures are exclusive of the effects of any recent changes in rates of wages in the coal-mining industry. In the corresponding period of 1925, there were net increases of £77,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 840,000 workpeople, and net reductions of over £150,000 in those of 890,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st November the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 79 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 74 per cent. a month ago and 76 per cent. a year ago. The corresponding figures for food alone were 69, 63 and 72 respectively.

The rise in the index-number at 1st November, as compared with a month earlier, was mainly due to increases in the retail prices of coal, eggs and potatoes.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families, and accordingly, in making the calculations, the changes in the prices of the various items included are combined in proportions corresponding with the relative importance of those items in pre-war working-class family expenditure.

TRADE DISPUTES.

At the beginning of October about 900,000 workpeople in the coal-mining industry continued to be involved in the stoppage of work which began on 1st May. The aggregate number of working days lost by workpeople taking part in the dispute was about 18½ million in October, making a total of 126½ million since the beginning of the stoppage.

Apart from the coal-mining dispute, the number of trade disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in October was 12; in addition, 9 disputes which began before October were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The total number of workpeople involved in these 21 disputes (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 3,000, and the estimated aggregate duration of such disputes in October was about 10,000 working days.

EIGHTEENTH ABSTRACT OF LABOUR STATISTICS.

A new edition (the Eighteenth) of the Abstract of Labour Statistics of the United Kingdom (Cmd. 2740) has been compiled by the Ministry of Labour and is now on sale. Before the war, the Abstract was published at intervals of approximately one year, but the present edition is the first to appear for nearly 12 years, publication having been suspended, after the issue of the 17th edition early in 1915, on grounds of economy. During the long period which has elapsed since the publication of that edition the need for a volume containing a summary of the principal statistics relating to labour has become increasingly apparent, and the present volume has accordingly been prepared.

The statistics are presented in 14 main sections, dealing respectively with—

- Population; Employment, unemployment and unemployment insurance; Wages and hours of labour; Profit-sharing and labour co-partnership; Wholesale and retail prices and cost of living; Strikes and lock-outs; Industrial accidents and diseases and workmen's compensation; Trade unions, trades councils, and employers' associations; Co-operative societies, friendly societies and building societies; National health insurance; Old age pensions; Poor-law relief; Migration; Building plans approved.

The figures summarised are largely compiled from information collected by the Ministry of Labour; but summaries are also given of statistics relating to labour matters published by other Government departments. In the case of serial Tables the figures cover, so far as possible, the years 1910-1925.

Copies of the volume may be obtained (price 4s. net) from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C. 2, and branches (see the front page of the cover of this GAZETTE), or ordered through any bookseller.

EARNINGS AND HOURS IN THE CLOTHING INDUSTRIES.*

In the following Tables particulars are given of the earnings and hours of labour in the clothing industries in 1924, as shown by the returns received from employers in response to the general inquiry instituted last year by the Ministry of Labour. The details supplied in the returns relate to four dates in 1924, viz., the weeks ended 19th January, 12th April, 12th July and 18th October. The figures given below are subject to slight revision when later returns are included. For an explanation of the scope and nature of the inquiry, reference should be made to the article on page 196 of the June issue of this GAZETTE.

I.—NUMBER OF RETURNS RECEIVED AND NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE COVERED.

The number of returns received, giving information regarding earnings, and the average number of workpeople covered, as shown by the average of the numbers in the four weeks specified above, in this group of industries, are as shown below :—

Table with 3 columns: Industry, Returns received, Workpeople covered. Lists various clothing industries and their respective return counts and workpeople covered.

The following Table shows the total number of workpeople, including adults and juveniles, employed by firms which have made returns as to earnings, in each of the four specified weeks of 1924, together with the proportions of males and females employed, as shown by the averages of the numbers in the four weeks :—

Table with 3 columns: Industry, Males, Females. Shows the distribution of workpeople by gender across various clothing industries.

* Particulars relating to the Textile Industries were given in the June issue of this GAZETTE, to the Pottery, Brick, Glass, Chemical, etc., Industries in the July issue, to the Iron and Steel, Engineering, Shipbuilding and other Metal Industries in the August and September issues, and to the Paper, Printing and Woodworking Industries in the October issue.

Table with 7 columns: Industry, 19th Jan., 12th Apr., 12th July, 18th Oct., Males, Females. Shows workpeople employed in various clothing industries over time.

II.—AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS.

The following Table shows the average actual earnings per head, in the four specified weeks, of the workpeople employed by the firms making returns, together with the average earnings of males and of females, as shown by those returns which gave separate particulars. It should be observed that the workpeople covered by the returns include workers of all ages, including boys and apprentices and other juveniles. Owing to the fact that certain firms were unable to separate the wages paid to males and females respectively, the numbers of males and females for whom particulars are given separately in Sections (B) and (C) of the Table add to less than the total numbers given in Section (A) of the Table.

The relative levels of average earnings shown for the different industries are, of course, affected by the variations in the proportions of males and females, and of adults and juveniles employed.

Table with 7 columns: Industry, 19th Jan., 12th Apr., 12th July, 18th Oct., Average earnings. Shows average weekly earnings for various clothing industries.

Table with 7 columns: Industry, 19th Jan., 12th Apr., 12th July, 18th Oct., Average earnings. Shows average weekly earnings for various clothing industries (continued).

* See footnote † in previous column. † See footnote ‡ in first column on page 396. ‡ See footnote § in first column on page 396. § Averages of the numbers employed in the four weeks.

Table with 7 columns: Industry, 19th Jan., 12th Apr., 12th July, 18th Oct., Average earnings. Shows average weekly earnings for various clothing industries (continued).

III.—NORMAL HOURS OF LABOUR.

The following Table shows the proportion of the workpeople employed by firms making returns on this subject, whose normal weekly hours, exclusive of mealtimes, in the week ended 18th October, 1924, fell within the limits stated, and the average normal hours :—

Table with 7 columns: Industry, 44 or less, 44 1/2 to 47, 47 1/2 to 48, Over 48, Average weekly normal hours. Shows the proportion of workpeople within normal hour limits.

IV.—HOURS ACTUALLY WORKED.

The following Table shows the average number of hours actually worked in the four specified weeks by the workpeople employed by firms who were able to supply these particulars :—

Table with 7 columns: Industry, 19th Jan., 12th Apr., 12th July, 18th Oct., Average hours worked. Shows average hours actually worked in various clothing industries.

V.—AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS.

The following Table shows the average earnings per hour of those workpeople covered by returns which showed the number of hours actually worked.

Table with 7 columns: Industry, 19th Jan., 12th Apr., 12th July, 18th Oct., Average hourly earnings. Shows average hourly earnings in various clothing industries.

* Averages of the numbers employed in the four weeks. † See footnote ‡ in first column on page 396. ‡ See footnote § in first column on page 396. § Averages of the numbers employed in the four weeks.

As some firms were unable to give particulars of the total number of hours worked, the average weekly earnings obtained by multiplying the average hourly earnings shown below by the average hours shown in Section IV do not correspond precisely with the average weekly earnings shown in Section II. Comparisons of the average earnings shown for different industries are, of course, affected by the different proportions of males and females and of adults and juveniles employed as between one industry and another.

Table with 7 columns: Industry, 19th Jan., 12th Apr., 12th July, 18th Oct., Average hourly earnings. Shows average hourly earnings in various clothing industries.

VI.—EXTENT OF SHORT TIME.

The following Table shows the proportion of workpeople employed by the firms making returns, who were reported to be working less than full time, together with the average number of hours lost per week by such workpeople, and the average time lost by all the workpeople covered by the returns. Workpeople "stood-off" for the whole of any of the weeks specified have been regarded as unemployed and have not been taken into account in compiling the statistics.

Table with 7 columns: Industry, 19th Jan., 12th Apr., 12th July, 18th Oct., Proportion of workpeople on short time. Shows the extent of short time in various clothing industries.

Table with 8 columns: Industry, 19th Jan., 12th Apr., 12th July, 18th Oct., Average number of hours lost. Shows average hours lost in various clothing industries.

* Averages of the numbers employed in the four weeks. † See footnote ‡ in first column on page 396. ‡ See footnote § in first column on page 396. § Averages of the numbers employed in the four weeks.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of employment exchanges in the principal centres of the boot and shoe industry at 25th October, 1926 :-

Table showing employment exchanges for Boot and Shoe Manufacture, categorized by Department and gender.

The exports of boots and shoes in October, 1926, amounted to 125,745 dozen pairs, or 5,903 dozen pairs more than in September, 1926, but 159 dozen pairs less than in October, 1925.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper trade during October was moderate on the whole, and worse than in the previous month. Full time was worked in certain districts, but employment was generally affected by the shortage of fuel, and a good deal of short time or irregular working was reported.

With letterpress printers, employment was again moderate on the whole. At Manchester and Birmingham it was still bad and at Glasgow slack, and at the two last named centres it was reported as worse than in the previous month.

In the lithographic printing trade employment was fair on the whole; it was, however, reported as bad, and worse than in September, at Manchester, and some short time was worked at this and several other large centres.

Employment in the bookbinding trade remained about the same as in September, and was worse than during October, 1925.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and bookbinding trades was 5.5 at 25th October, compared with 5.7* at 20th September and 4.2 at 26th October, 1925.

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

Table showing Trade Unions with columns for No. of Members of Unions at end of October, 1926, and Percentage Unemployed at end of October, 1926.

BUILDING TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further slight decline during October; it was fairly good with skilled operatives, other than painters, and moderate, on the whole, with unskilled workers. It was again adversely affected in some districts by a shortage of materials arising out of the continued stoppage in the coal-mining industry.

As regards individual occupations, employment remained very good generally with plasterers, and a shortage of this class of labour was reported in a number of towns; employment declined somewhat with carpenters and bricklayers, but was fairly good, on the whole; there was also a slight decline with masons, and employment was quiet at most centres; it continued fair with plumbers and fairly good with slaters. There was a further general seasonal decline with

* Revised figures.

painters and employment remained slack; it continued generally moderate with tradesmen's labourers.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 25th October, 1926, together with the increase or decrease in the percentages as compared with the previous month and with October, 1925 :-

Large table showing Estimated Number of Insured Workpeople at July, 1926, Total Number Unemployed at 25th Oct., 1926, and various other statistics for Occupations and Divisions.

The above Tables show the new estimates for July, 1926, of the numbers of insured persons in the various building industry occupations. A comparison between these figures and those for July, 1925, is shown in the following Table :-

Table titled 'Changes in the Estimated Numbers Insured, July, 1925-July, 1926,' comparing insured numbers and percentages between 1925 and 1926 for various occupations.

It will be seen that there are important increases in four of the principal skilled occupations, viz., carpenters, bricklayers, plasterers and plumbers. The percentage increase in the number of slaters is also slightly above the average for the industry as a whole, while painters show an increase of less than that average.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 142 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 16,061,000, show that in October, 1926, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £4,693,100, as compared with £5,914,200 in September, 1926, and £5,880,800 in October, 1925.

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during October continued to be adversely affected by the shortage of coal. Short time was still worked in many districts. In the Peterborough district, employment continued good.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 18.9 at 25th October, 1926, as compared with 17.8* at 20th September, 1926, and 7.4 at 26th October, 1925.

* Revised figures.

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

Table summarizing information received from employers, showing Districts, Number of Workpeople, and Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.

Returns from employers relative to short time working showed that of 7,653 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, 415, or 5 per cent., were working, on an average, 11 hours less than full time in the week ended 23rd October, 1926.

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed a further improvement as a consequence of increased fuel supplies, and some sections were well employed. At Worcester also employment improved, but at Derby, Bristol and in the stoneware section in Scotland employment continued slack.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 20.9 at 25th October, 1926, as compared with 30.5 at 20th September, 1926, and 13.9 at 26th October, 1925.

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

Table summarizing information received from employers for Pottery Trades, showing BRANCHES, DISTRICTS, Number of Workpeople, and Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that of 10,353 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, 3,001, or 29 per cent., were working on an average about 9 hours less than full time in the week ended 23rd October, 1926.

SEAMEN.

DURING October employment continued slack on the whole, and was worse than in September. A declining tendency was noticeable towards the end of the month, particularly at the liner ports. Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 25th October, 1926, was 20.7, compared with 18.8 at 20th September, 1926, and 20.5 at 26th October, 1925.

The demand for men on the Thames was brisk in the first half of October, but declined later. It was very quiet on the Tyne, except in the lower reaches, where there was increased activity. The demand was insignificant on the Wear and generally slack on the Tees. It was quiet at Hull until the close of the month, when an improvement occurred. The demand at Southampton remained fairly brisk until the latter part of the month, when there was a substantial falling-off. It was again moderate at Bristol and moderate to fair at Avonmouth. At Newport the demand was negligible, and at Cardiff it was generally fair, but declined in the last week of October. It continued quiet to fair at Swansea. In the foreign-going trade on the Mersey the demand was fairly good until the last week of the month, when it declined. It was again fairly brisk at Manchester. The demand on the Clyde was moderate to fair. It was quiet at Leith and brisk on the whole at Belfast.

The following Table shows the number of seamen shipped in

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

British registered foreign-going vessels at the undermentioned ports of Great Britain and Northern Ireland during October :-

Table showing Number of Seamen* shipped in Principal Ports, categorized by Port, with columns for Oct., 1926, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Year before, and Ten months ended.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during October remained generally slack. Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, harbour and dock service, 32.0 per cent. were unemployed at 25th October, 1926, as compared with 32.2 per cent. at 20th September, 1926, and with 30.0 per cent. at 26th October, 1925.

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

Table titled 'Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London,' showing Period, In Docks (By Port of London Authority or through Contractors, By Ship-owners, etc., Total), At Wharves making Returns, and Total Docks and Principal Wharves.

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during October was 1,182, compared with 1,043 in September, and with 1,103 in October, 1925.

East Coast.—Employment was still generally bad at the North-East coast ports, although there was a small improvement on the Tyne, due to increased coal imports. On the Humber and at the East Anglian ports employment was mainly fair.

Liverpool.—Employment was still quiet, but again showed a slight improvement. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks scheme as employed in the five weeks ended 29th October was 15,964, compared with 15,212 in September, and with 16,749 in October, 1925. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £45,218 in the five weeks ended 29th October, compared with £42,692 in September, and with £48,724 in October, 1925.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment at the South Wales ports remained slack, though the importation of coal continued to provide work at Cardiff, Newport and Swansea. At Bristol and Avonmouth there was an improvement. Employment was fair at Southampton. It showed a slight improvement, though still described as slack, at Plymouth and other south-western ports.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—A substantial amount of employment was provided at Leith, Glasgow, Ardrrossan, Grangemouth and Bonness by imports of coal. Employment was good at Dundee on jute imports. At Belfast employment declined.

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

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 25th October, 1926.

Table showing the number of persons on registers at 25th October, 1926, categorized by area (London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

* The figures are exclusive of persons in the coal-mining industry who ceased work on account of the dispute which commenced on 1st May.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

COMPOSITION OF STATISTICS.

On page 410 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published weekly in the Press, and monthly in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives figures relating to the 25th October, 1926, for the total of each group included in these statistics.

Table showing composition of statistics by gender and age group: 1. Unemployed - Special Schemes, 2. Claims admitted or under consideration, 3. Claimants disqualified, 4. Insured non-claimants, 5. Uninsured persons on Register, 6. Two months' file, 7. Persons on Register (lines 2-5), 8. Books Lodged (lines 1-4 and 6).

CLAIMS TO EXTENDED BENEFIT.

Claims to "extended" benefit—i.e., benefit beyond that to which the claimant is entitled in respect of contributions paid—are submitted to Local Committees, composed, in the main, of representatives of employers and workpeople.

Table showing claims to extended benefit by industry: Mining, Non-Metalliferous Mining Products, Brick, Tile, etc., Pottery, Earthenware, etc., Glass Trades, Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, Paints, Oils, etc., Metal Manufacture, Engineering, etc., Construction and Repair of Vehicles, Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing, Metal Trades, Textile Trades, and Leather and Leather Goods.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

During the five weeks ended 30th October, 1926, the receipts and payments of the Unemployment Fund were approximately as shown in the following Table:

Table showing Unemployment Fund statistics: Contributions (Receipts) by Employers, Employed Persons, Service Departments, and Exchequer; Payments for Benefit and Other Payments; and Treasury Advances Outstanding.

* Includes refunds at age 60 and compensation for the abolition thereof, cost of administration, etc. † Excludes sum apportioned to Irish Free State on account of the deficit up to 31st December, 1925, amounting to £332,431 8s. 3d.

CHANGES IN THE ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS IN THE VARIOUS INDUSTRIES.

THE number of persons in industry who are insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts is estimated once a year on the basis mainly of information derived from the exchange of unemployment books,* in July of each year.

While a comparison between the estimates for July, 1926, and July, 1925, in respect of any individual industry shows the net change that has occurred in the interval, it is clear that such a figure represents a balance between the effects of various counter-acting influences.

Figures are available with regard to the net effect of these various influences, and also with regard to the movement into insurable employment within each industry of persons who have not previously been within the scope of the scheme.

employment within each industry of persons who have not previously been within the scope of the scheme. Precise figures are not available for each of the other items already mentioned, but it is possible from those already known to gauge their net effect as a whole.

The only indeterminate off-set against the losses from any industry consists of transfers thereto from other industries, of persons already insured. This, of course, can only operate in the case of individual industries.

In framing the following Table, percentages of the estimated number of insured persons in each industry at July, 1925, have been worked for males, females and totals separately, in respect of (a) the estimated numbers insured at July, 1926 (cols. 3, 7 and 11) and (b) the number of new entrants to insurance between July, 1925, and June, 1926, inclusive (cols. 4, 8 and 12).

The figures in cols. 5, 9 and 13 show in most cases the gross movement out of the industry (after reduction, as indicated above, by transfers from other industries). They represent the difference between the index number for July, 1926, and the sum of the index number for July, 1925, (100) and the percentage addition for new entrants.

TABLE SHOWING, FOR VARIOUS INDUSTRY GROUPS, THE ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE IN GREAT BRITAIN AT JULY, 1926, AND THESE NUMBERS, TOGETHER WITH THE NEW ENTRANTS AND THE LOSSES DURING THE TWELVE MONTHS JULY, 1925, TO JUNE, 1926, EXPRESSED AS PERCENTAGES OF THE ESTIMATED NUMBERS INSURED AT JULY, 1925.

Large table showing industry statistics: Industry, Males, Females, Total. Columns include Estimated Number Insured, Percentage July 1925, New Entrants July 1925-June 1926, Gross Losses (-) Further additions (+), Estimated Number Insured July 1926, Percentage July 1926, New Entrants July 1926-June 1926, Gross Losses (-) Further additions (+).

* A brief outline of the method of computing the estimate appeared in the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1925, page 380.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in October in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate increase of nearly £21,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 309,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of £200 in the weekly wages of 850 workpeople.

These figures, and also those shown in the next column relating to the changes in wages during the period January to October, do not include the effect of the terms under which a considerable number of coal miners have resumed work. The particulars which would enable the Department to compute the effect of the changes which have taken place are not yet available.

The groups of industries principally affected were as follows:—

Table with columns: Group of Industries, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by (Increases, Decreases), Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages (£, £).

The increases in wages in the metal group affected mainly workpeople employed in the iron and steel industries. The percentage payable on standard rates to blastfurnacemen in Cleveland was increased by an amount equivalent to over 2½ per cent. on current wages, and there was an increase equal to nearly 2 per cent. on current wages in the percentage payable to blastfurnacemen and iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire.

In the textile group the principal bodies of workpeople whose wages were increased were operatives in the bleaching, dyeing, finishing, etc., industries. In Yorkshire such workpeople received increases equivalent to nearly 2 per cent. on their current rates, while in Lancashire and Scotland adult male workers received an increase of 1s. per week and adult female workers an increase of 8d. per week.

The principal change in the clothing group affected workpeople employed in boot and shoe repairing, who received increases as a result of the raising of the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, the increases in the minimum rates amounting to 2s. or 3s. per week in the case of adult timeworkers. There were also increases in the wages of dyers and dry cleaners in England and Scotland, amounting to 2s. and 1s. per week in the case of men and of women respectively.

Among the changes affecting workpeople in other industrial groups, there were increases in the wages of iron miners in Cleveland

and Cumberland; these amounted to about 6½ per cent. on current rates in Cleveland, and to 2d. or 3d. per shift in the case of adult workers in Cumberland. Workpeople employed by waterworks undertakings had their wages increased by ¼d. per hour in London and various districts in the Northern and Midland counties. The wages of wholesale warehouse workers at Manchester were increased by 1s. 3d. and 6d. per week in the case of men and women respectively. There were also increases of 2s. and 1s. 6d. per week in the wages of bakers at Liverpool and Edinburgh respectively. The minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were increased by ¼d. per hour in the case of adult workers employed in brush and broom making, and by amounts varying from ¼d. to ¾d. per hour in the case of those employed in the paper box, paper bag, and perambulator and invalid carriage making industries.

Of the total increase of £20,800 per week, £13,700 took effect under sliding scales based on the cost of living, including nearly £8,000 under scales arranged by Trade Boards and £700 under scales arranged by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople; £5,600 took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices; and the remainder was chiefly the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople.

Of the total reduction of £200, the greater part was the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople. Reductions preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work accounted for about £40.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY—OCTOBER, 1926.

Summary table with columns: Group of Industries, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net (Increases, Decreases), Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages (£, £).

In the corresponding period of 1925 there were net increases of £77,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 840,000 workpeople, and net reductions of over £150,000 in those of 890,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

Apart from any changes in hours of labour which have been made in the case of coal miners who have resumed work, as to which complete statistics are not yet available, no important changes in hours were reported in October.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING OCTOBER, 1926.

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

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING OCTOBER, 1926 (continued).

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

* This change did not take effect under the sliding scale, but was the result of an agreement to revert to the arrangement whereby the standard selling price for the purpose of sliding-scale adjustments should be 54s. per ton as fixed by the agreement of November, 1919.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING OCTOBER, 1926 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
TEXTILE INDUSTRIES (continued).				
Drift Nets Making.	Great Britain	4 Oct.	Female workers:— Other than homeworkers ...	Minimum weekly rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts at 4s. for workers in their 1st six months of employment in the trade, and 6s. in their 2nd six months' employment. (See p. 388 of October GAZETTE.)
Elastic Web Weaving.	Leicester	1st pay after 17 Oct. 1st pay day in Nov.†	Elastic web weavers (male workers)	General minimum piece rate fixed under the Trade Boards Acts at 5s. 6d. per net. (See p. 388 of October GAZETTE.) Bonus increased* from 14s. to 15s. in the pound.
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	Yorkshire (majority of firms) and certain firms in Lancashire.†	1st pay day in Nov.‡	Workpeople employed in the dyeing and finishing trades.	Cost-of-living wage increased* from 74½ per cent. to 78 per cent. on basic rates for timeworkers, from 59½ per cent. to 62½ per cent. for pieceworkers (except pressers), and from 44½ per cent. to 46½ per cent. for pressers. Minimum rates after change: timeworkers—The Bradford Dyers' Association, Ltd.—men 21 and over—28s., plus 8 per cent., plus 78 per cent. on total, plus 2s.; other firms—men 21 and over, 30s. 3d., plus 78 per cent., plus 2s.; women 18 and over, 18s., plus 78 per cent., plus 1s. 3d.
	Lancashire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire (majority of firms) and certain firms in Yorkshire§; also Scotland.	1st pay day in Nov.‡	Workpeople employed in the bleaching, dyeing, calico printing and finishing trades (except waste bleachers, machine calico printers, engineers, mechanics, etc., employed in repair and maintenance of plant).	Males: Cost-of-living wage increased* from 22s. 7d. to 23s. 7d. per week for those 21 years and over, and by smaller amounts for those under 21. Females: Cost-of-living wage increased* from 13s. 5d. to 14s. 1d. per week for those 18 years and over in Lancashire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire, and for those 21 years and over in Scotland, and by smaller amounts for those under these age limits in the respective districts. Minimum rates after change: Lancashire—men, 28s., plus 23s. 7d., plus 2s.; women, 18s., plus 14s. 1d., plus 1s. 3d. Scotland—men, 25s., plus 23s. 7d., plus 2s.; women, 15s., plus 14s. 1d., plus 1s. 3d.
	West Riding of Yorkshire.	1st pay day in Nov.‡	Mechanics employed in dyeworks...	Increase* of 1s. per week. Rates after change: Bradford, Leeds, and Shipley, 65s. 10d.; other towns, 64s. 10d.
	Bolton and Bury Districts.	1st pay day in Nov.‡	Mechanics employed in the textile dyeing, bleaching, etc. industry.	Cost-of-living wage increased* from 22s. 7d. to 23s. 7d. per week. Total rate after change, 63s. 7d.
Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, and Scotland.	1st pay day in Nov.‡	Engravers, etc. employed in calico print works.	Cost-of-living wage increased* from 31s. to 32s. 2d. per week for engravers, and from 22s. 7d. to 23s. 7d. per week for turners, polishers and varnishers.	
Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Scotland, and Belfast.	1st pay day in Nov.‡	Engravers employed in engraving works.	Cost-of-living wage increased* from 28s. to 29s. 2d. per week for men, from 16s. 7d. to 17s. 2d. per week for women, with corresponding increases for youths under 21.	
CLOTHING INDUSTRIES.				
Felt-Hat Making	Atherstone and Bedworth.	Week ending 23 Oct.	Male pieceworkers ...	Bonus of 30 per cent. on piecework lists previously paid increased* to 32½ per cent.
Boot and Shoe Repairing, etc.	Great Britain	1 Oct.‡	Workpeople employed in boot and shoe repairing, etc. :—	Increases* in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively. (See p. 388 of October GAZETTE):— Increase* of 3s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 65s.
			Male and female workers wholly or mainly employed in making bespoke hand-sewn leather footwear.	Increase* of 3s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 70s.
			Male workers employed as pressmen who are responsible for cutting and costing.	Increases* of 2s. or 3s. per week.
			Male workers 21 years and over employed in operating power sole-stitchers and Blake, etc. machines.	Increase* of 3s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 60s.
Dyeing and Dry Cleaning.	England and Scotland.	1st pay day in Oct.	All other adult male workers; also female workers employed on benching and/or finishing in the repairing of leather footwear.	Increases* of from 3d. to 3s. 6d. per week. Increase* of from 1s. to 2s. per week.
			Male indentured apprentices ... Male learners and other male workers under 21 years of age.	Increase* of 1s. per week for those 14 and under 17 years, and of 2s. per week for those 17 years and over. Minimum rates after change: 13s. at 14, increasing to 42s. at 21 and over.
			Female workers (other than those mentioned above).	Increase* of 2½ or 5 per cent. on list prices.
			Pieceworkers ...	Increase* of 2s. per week for men 21 and over, and of 6d. or 1s. per week for youths under 21, and for women and girls. Rates after change: men—skilled dyers, 68s. or 73s.; dyers (one colour), 63s.; wet or dry cleaners, finishers, glazers, and other skilled workers, 58s.; labourers, 53s.; women, 21 and over, 29s.
FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO INDUSTRIES.				
Baking and Confectionery.	Liverpool, Birkenhead and Wallasey.	18 Oct.	Bakers and confectioners ...	Increase* of 2s. per week for adult workers and 1s. per week for juniors. Rates after change for daywork: forehands and ovenmen, 72s.; tablehands, 66s.
Distilling	Edinburgh and Leith Campbeltown	18 Oct. 1 Oct.	Bakers and confectioners ... Distillery workers (except mashmen and head maltmen).	Increase* of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 75s. Decrease of 5s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 50s.
WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES.				
Lace Web Upholstery.	Long Eaton (certain firms).	2 Sept.	Apprentices ...	Scale of rates adopted, starting at two-ninths of the journeymen's rate during the first year, and increasing to two-thirds of the journeymen's rate during the fifth year.

* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.

† The change applied to workers employed by firms who are members of the British Cotton and Wool Dyers' Association, Ltd. (Slubbing Section), the Leeds Dyers' and Finishers' Federation, the Yorkshire Indigo, Scarlet and Colour Dyers, Ltd., the Leeds and District Worsted Dyers' and Finishers' Association, Ltd., the Huddersfield and District Master Dyers' Association, the Yorkshire Dyers' Federation, the West Riding of Yorkshire Master Slubbing Dyers' Association, The Bradford Dyers' Association, Ltd., and the Employers' Federation of Cotton Yarn Bleachers, Dyers, and Sizers (certain firms). Except in a few cases in the Bradford area the change did not apply to workpeople employed in the home dyeing and finishing departments of woollen and worsted manufacturers.

‡ In respect of the preceding pay period.

§ The change applied to workpeople employed by firms who are members of the Federation of Calico Printers, the Employers' Federation of Dyers and Finishers, the Employers' Federation of Bleachers and the Employers' Federation of Cotton Yarn Bleachers, Dyers, and Sizers (certain firms). At Hebdon Bridge the increases for timeworkers were similar to those in Lancashire (see above). For pieceworkers the cost-of-living wages were increased from 64 per cent. to 67 per cent. for netherwood cutters, from 58 per cent. to 61 per cent. for hand cutters, from 49 per cent. to 51 per cent. for menders, and from 55 per cent. to 57 per cent. for all other pieceworkers.

¶ In cases where this date did not coincide with the beginning of the weekly pay period, the changes operated from the beginning of the next following weekly pay period.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING OCTOBER, 1926 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES (continued).				
Perambulator and Invalid Carriage Manufacture.	Great Britain	1 Oct.*	Workpeople employed in the perambulator and invalid carriage making industry:—	Increases† in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see p. 388 of the October GAZETTE):—
			Timeworkers 21 and over:—	Increase† of ¼d. or ½d. per hour. General minimum time rate after change: 1s. per hour (higher rates apply to special classes).
			Male workers ...	Increase† of ¼d. per hour. General minimum time rate after change: 7d. per hour (higher rates apply to special classes).
			Female workers ...	Increase† of from 6d. to 1s. 9d. per week. Minimum rates after change: 12s. 6d. at 15, increasing to 39s. at 20.
Paper Box Making.	Great Britain	1 Oct.*	Timeworkers under 21 years:—	Increase† of ¼d. or ½d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: 8¼d. at 18, increasing to 10¼d. at 20.
			Male workers (except porters and labourers)	Increase† of from 6d. to 1s. 3d. per week. Minimum rates after change: 11s. at 15, increasing to 28s. at 20.
			Female workers ...	Piecework basis time rates fixed at 10 per cent. above the appropriate general minimum time rates.
			Pieceworkers ...	
PAPER, PRINTING AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES.				
Paper Bag Making.	Great Britain	1 Oct.*	Workpeople employed in paper-box making:—	Increases† in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see p. 388 of October GAZETTE):—
			Male timeworkers:—	Increase† of 1s. to 2s. 6d. per week. General minimum time rate after change, 51s.
			Other than learners...	Increase† of from 6d. to 2s. per week. Minimum rates after change: 13s. at under 15 years, increasing to 44s. at 20.
			Learners ...	Increase† of 1s. per week (29s. 6d. to 30s. 6d.).
Paper Bag Making.	Great Britain	1 Oct.*	Female timeworkers:—	Increase† of from 6d. to 1s. 6d. per week (except for those starting at 14 years in their first six months' employment for whom there was no change).
			Other than learners...	Increase† in the minimum piecework basis time rates of 3s. per week (54s. 6d. to 57s. 6d.) for men and 1s. per week (31s. 6d. to 32s. 6d.) for women.
			Learners ...	Increase† in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see p. 388 of October GAZETTE):—
			Pieceworkers ...	Increase† of from 1s. to 3s. per week. General minimum time rate after change, 55s.
Paper Bag Making.	Great Britain	1 Oct.*	Male timeworkers:—	Increase† of from 6d. to 2s. 6d. per week.
			Other than learners...	Increase† of 1s. 6d. per week (29s. to 30s. 6d.).
			Learners ...	Increase† of from 6d. to 1s. 6d. per week (except for those starting at 14 years in the first six months of employment).
			Female pieceworkers ...	Increase† in the minimum piecework basis time rate of 1s. per week (31s. to 32s.).
BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES.				
Building	Norwich	Aug.	Plasterers ...	See footnote †.
PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.				
Waterworks Undertakings.	Certain Undertakings in the North East, Yorkshire and Midland Areas.‡	1st full pay in Oct.	Manual workers ...	Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Hourly rates after change for labourers: North-East Area, majority rate, 1s. 1¼d.; Yorkshire Area, 1s. 0¼d. to 1s. 3d.; Midland Area, minimum rates, Zone A, 1s. 1d., Zone B, 1s., Zone C, 10¼d., Zone D, 9¼d.
			Able bodied male manual workers employed by the Metropolitan Water Board.	Increase† of 1s. 1¼d. per week, making the bonus 25s. 6d. per week for men over 21 years of age, 17s. 6d. per week for youths 18 to 21 years doing full men's work, and 11s. 9d. per week for youths 18 to 21 years not doing full men's work; also increases of 1s. or 6d. per week for boys 16 to 18 years. Rates after change: stokers, 36s. 6d. per week; trenchmen, 32s. 6d.; joiners, 34s. 6d. to 38s. 6d.; labourers, 31s. 6d.; plus in each case bonuses as above.
			Adult male manual workers ...	Increase† of 9d. per week for Grade D areas, of 10d. per week for Grades C and B, and of 8d. per week for Grade A. Minimum weekly rates after change for labourers: Grade D areas, 50s. 6d.; Grade C, 49s. 7d.; Grade B, 48s.; Grade A, 41s. 7d.
			Decrease† of ¼d. per hour. Scheduled minimum rates after change for general labourers: Zone A areas, 51s., Zone B, 41s., Zone C, 43s.	
Electricity Supply Undertakings.	Certain Undertakings in Devonshire and Cornwall.¶	1 Sept.	Adult male workers (excluding those whose wages are regulated by movements in other trades).	Increase† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: street sweepers, 1¼d.; general labourers, 1s. 2d.; roadmen and carters, 1s. 3d. per hour.
			Manual workers ...	Increase† of 1s. per week. Rates after change: general labourers, 52s.; refuse collectors (drivers), 54s. 11d.
			Unskilled manual workers in non-trading and water departments.	Increase† of 9d. per week. Rates after change: labourers, roadmen, scavengers and horse drivers, 42s. 8d.; refuse collectors, 44s. 8d.
			Manual workers in non-trading, works, and electricity departments.	Decrease† of 1s. 4d. per week. Increases of 1s. 4d. per week (46s. 8d. to 48s.). Increases of 4s. 6d. per week for workpeople on weekly wages not exceeding 70s.; of 1¼d. per hour for workpeople on hourly wages not exceeding 70s. per week; and of 1d. per hour for craftsmen on wages between 70s. and 80s. 8d. per week. Rates after change: general yard and road labourers, 1s. 6¼d. per hour; road sweepers, refuse collectors and one horse carters, 66s. 8d. per week.
Non-Trading Services of Local Authorities.	West Hartlepool ... Hull ... Peterborough ... Ipswich ... Battersea ...	1 Oct. 7 Oct. 1 Oct. { 1 July 30 Sept. 29 Oct.	General labourers, horse drivers and roadmen.	Increase† of 1-120th of the minimum basic rates recommended by the Provincial Joint Industrial Council in November, 1921, making the reduction now applicable to such rates 13-60ths. Scheduled minimum weekly rates after change (including the special increase of 2s. given in 1925): Grade A1 areas, 48s. 3d.; Grade A2, 46s. 8d.; Grade B1, 45s. 1d.; Grade B2, 41s. 2d.; Grade C1, 39s. 8d.; Grade C2, 38s.**
			Manual workers in non-trading, works, and electricity departments.	
			Manual workers in non-trading, works, and electricity departments.	
			Able bodied male manual workers	

* In cases where this date did not coincide with the beginning of the weekly pay period, the changes operated from the beginning of the next following weekly pay period.

† Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.

‡ In the October issue of this GAZETTE (p. 385) an entry was published showing that the rate of wages had been raised from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d. per hour by an agreement between certain employers of plasterers and the National Association of Operative Plasterers, etc. In amplification of this statement it is to be observed that the Norwich Master Builders' Association was not a party to the agreement, and that the new rate is not recognised by that Association nor by the National Joint Council for the Building Industry.

§ The increase affects those undertakings in the areas mentioned which follow the wages agreements of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Industry.

¶ The undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the South Midlands Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Industry and include:—Grade D: Southampton (town area); Grade C: Reading (pays higher rates); Grade A: Southampton (country area); West Gloucestershire

* This decrease was due under the sliding scale to take effect in July, but it was agreed to postpone it until 1st September. The Undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Devon and Cornwall Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry, and include Plymouth (Zone A). In the case of Exeter it was agreed that the change should not take place.

** The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Provincial Joint Industrial Council and include:—Grade A1: Bournemouth; Grade B1: Basing-toke, Winchester, Farnborough; Grade B2: Marlow. The rates paid by some of the Authorities differ slightly from the rates quoted above. Oxford and the Hampshire County Council made an increase of 1/60th, and pay minimum rates 2s. less than those quoted for A1 and C1 respectively.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING OCTOBER, 1926 (continued).

Table with 5 columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Rows include Brush and Broom Manufacture, Warehousing, and Button Manufacture.

* In cases where this date did not coincide with the beginning of the weekly pay period, the changes operated from the beginning of the next following weekly pay period. † Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. ‡ Men 21 years and over with three years' experience in certain operations and those of all ages who have served at least five years' apprenticeship in one or more of these operations. § Excluding male workers under 14, 15 and under 15 1/2, 16 and under 18, and 19 and under 21 years, and female workers under 14 1/2, 15 and under 15 1/2, and 16 and under 18 years.

CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN NOVEMBER, 1926.

The following groups of workpeople are among those affected by changes in wages already reported as having been arranged to take effect in November: Increases.—Steel smelters and millmen in various districts in England and Scotland; Siemens steel makers in South-West Wales; blastfurnacemen in Cumberland; boot and shoe makers in Great Britain; leather belt makers. Decrease.—Tinplate workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire (except lower-paid men).

TRADE DISPUTES.*

(1) COAL MINING DISPUTE.

At the beginning of October, about 900,000 workpeople in the coal mining industry continued to be involved in the general dispute in that industry which began on 1st May. The aggregate number of working days lost by workpeople taking part in this dispute was about 18 1/2 million in October, making a total of 126 1/2 million since the beginning of the stoppage. A special article on the subject of this dispute, in continuation of articles in previous issues of this GAZETTE, appears on pages 394-5 of the current issue.

(2) OTHER DISPUTES.

The other disputes in progress in October involved only small numbers of workpeople. A statistical summary relating to these other disputes is given below, the corresponding figures for a month earlier and a year earlier also being given.

Table with 4 columns: Month, Started before beginning of Month, Started in Month, Total, Number of Disputes in progress in Month, Number of Work-people In- volved in all Dis-putes in progress in Month, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Dis-putes in progress in Month.

Causes.—Of the twelve disputes beginning in October, six, directly involving 500 workpeople, arose on wages questions, and six, directly involving 1,800 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of ten new disputes, directly involving nearly 2,300 workpeople, and of six old disputes, directly involving 100 workpeople. Of these disputes, four, directly involving 1,700 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople, three, directly involving 200 workpeople, in favour of the employers, and nine, directly involving 500 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of one other dispute, directly involving 20 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

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

(3) TOTALS FOR FIRST TEN MONTHS OF 1925 AND 1926.*

The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first ten months of 1926, as compared with the corresponding period of 1925:—

Table with 6 columns: Groups of Industries, No. of Disputes, Number of Work-people involved in Working Days in progress, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress, January to Oct., 1925, January to Oct., 1926.

[The usual tabular statement of principal disputes is omitted, as, apart from the coal mining stoppage, there were no disputes in October involving large numbers of workpeople.]

* In making up the totals for the several months of the year, the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. Work-people involved in more than one dispute are counted more than once in the totals; the amount of such duplication is, however, not very considerable, except in the mining and quarrying group in 1926, when about 44,000 workpeople were involved in more than one dispute, and in the case of industries involved in the General Strike in May.

MEMBERSHIP OF TRADE UNIONS.

[NOTE.—The figures given for 1925 are provisional and subject to slight revision when certain information, at present outstanding, has been received. Some Unions are unable to state exactly the number of males and of females, respectively, comprised within their total membership, and in these cases estimates have been furnished. The totals shown for males and for females, therefore, are only approximate. The industrial classification used for the purpose of the analysis into groups of Unions follows that adopted for the current edition of the Ministry of Labour Directory of Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, &c., which is based upon the standard industrial classification drawn up for the Population Census. The total membership of each Union has been included in the group with which the majority of the members are believed to be connected, a separate group being made for Unions of general workers. A review of the figures appears on page 398.]

I.—NUMBER OF UNIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AT THE END OF 1925, WITH MEMBERSHIP (MALE, FEMALE, AND TOTAL) AND PERCENTAGE INCREASE OR DECREASE IN MEMBERSHIP COMPARED WITH 1924.

Table with 10 columns: Group of Unions, No. of Trade Unions at end of 1925, Membership at end of 1925 (Males, Females, Total), Membership at end of 1924 (Males, Females, Total), Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Membership at end of 1925 compared with end of 1924.

II.—MEMBERSHIP (MALE, FEMALE, AND TOTAL) AT THE END OF EACH OF THE YEARS 1913, 1920, 1923, 1924 AND 1925.

Table with 18 columns: Group of Unions, Males (1913, 1920, 1923, 1924, 1925), Females (1913, 1920, 1923, 1924, 1925), Total (1913, 1920, 1923, 1924, 1925).

* The figures are exclusive of the membership of General Labour Unions, for which see "General Labour." See also note in italics at head of page. † The total membership shown for all Trade Unions includes members in the Irish Free State and other overseas branches numbering approximately 50,000 in 1925, of whom 29,000 were engineers and other metal workers, and 18,000 were railwaymen and other transport workers. In compiling the figures for teachers, while certain associations, the majority of whose members are also members of the National Union of Teachers, have been omitted, others, which have also some members in this Union, have been included, but the extent of this duplication is not ascertainable precisely. When allowance is made for all these factors, the net number of Trade Union members in Great Britain and Northern Ireland is estimated to have been nearly 5,450,000 at the end of 1925, compared with rather more than 5,450,000 at the end of 1924.

† Including Unions of clerks, chemists, foremen, etc., when not classifiable by industry. ‡ Including General Enginemen. § Comprising the Pottery and Glass, Food, Drink and Tobacco, and Other Manufacturing Industries groups shown in Table I. ¶ Comprising the Entertainments and Miscellaneous groups shown in Table I.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

The total number of cases* of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during October, 1926, was 40. Five deaths* were reported during the month, three due to epitheliomatous ulceration and two due to lead poisoning. In addition, sixteen cases of lead poisoning among house painters (including one death), and two cases among house plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during October, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

Table with columns for (a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING, (b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING, (c) CASES OF ANTHRAX, (d) CASES OF EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION, and (e) CASES OF CHROME ULCERATION. Rows list various occupations and their corresponding number of cases.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during October, 1926, was 117, as compared with 97 in the previous month and with 207 in October, 1925. Fatal accidents to seamen numbered 73 in October, 1926, as compared with 31 in the previous month, and with 44 a year ago.

Table showing Railway Service (Brakemen and Goods, Guards, Engine Drivers, etc.), Factories and Workshops (Other Metal Trades, Shipbuilding, etc.), and Mines (Underground, Surface). It lists various activities and the number of accidents or incidents.

* 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 LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

The number of persons* relieved on one day† in October, 1926, in the thirty-one selected areas named below was 1,054,807, or 5.4 per cent. less than in the previous month, but 35.4 per cent. more than in October, 1925. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 589, 623½ and 437½ per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Table showing Poor Law Relief in Great Britain. Columns include Selected Urban Areas, England and Wales (Metropolis, West Ham, Other Districts), Scotland, and Total. Rows list various districts and their respective relief figures.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

The number of assisted passages from Great Britain and Northern Ireland granted during October, 1926, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act, and the total number of such passages granted from the inception of these schemes, together with the number of departures during the same periods, are shown in the following Table:—

Table showing Assisted Passages under the Empire Settlement Act, 1922. Columns include Assisted Passage Schemes, Assisted Passages Granted, and Total Departures. Rows list various destinations like Australia, New Zealand, Canada, etc.

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

* The figures include dependants, but exclude casuals, lunatics in asylums, registered hospitals and licensed houses, and persons receiving out-door medical relief only. † The figures for England and Wales relate to 30th October, and those for Scotland to 15th October. ‡ Revised figures.

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 in various countries (United Kingdom, Foreign Countries, British Dominions, &c.) as compared with July, 1914. Columns include Country, July 1923, July 1924, July 1925, July 1926, and Latest figures available.

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, and other household requirements in various countries (United Kingdom, Foreign Countries, British Dominions, &c.) as compared with July, 1914.

* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), August, 1914; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Amsterdam, Spain, South Africa, average, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914. † Figure for June. ‡ Fuel and light are also included in these figures. § Figure for August. || A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items. ¶ Exceptions to this are: Amsterdam, 1911-1913; France, Poland, Australia, and South Africa, average for 1914; Belgium, April, 1914; Greece, March, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Germany, Egypt, average 1913-1914; Switzerland and Luxembourg, June, 1914; United States, 1913. ** Figure for 3rd Quarter. †† These figures are calculated on a gold basis.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the United Kingdom statistics; and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 402-403 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that of other countries. For details of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, reference should be made to the Reports on Statistics of Unemployment issued by the International Labour Office. (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7, and Series N., No. 7.)]

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in October.—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of the Exchanges on 30th October, 1926, was 9,750 (5,949 men and 3,801 women). At the end of September (2nd October) the corresponding total was 11,649, and at the end of October, 1925, 11,099. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on 30th October was 6,306 (3,710 for men and 2,596 for women), as compared with 10,475 at the end of September (2nd October) and 8,974 at the end of October, 1925. During the last week of October, the Exchanges succeeded in placing 24,692 persons in situations, including 9,902 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 1,529 foreign immigrants.

GERMANY.†

Employment in September.—The Reichsarbeitsblatt states that the improvement in employment reported in August was maintained in September. A decline in the demand for workpeople in agriculture in certain localities was more than counterbalanced by a slight recovery in building and by a gradually increasing demand for workers in the large majority of other trades, particularly textiles and clothing. The returns from statutory health insurance societies showed an increase in the number of members‡ in employment, the total on 1st October being 13,763,971 as compared with 13,672,700 on 1st September, an increase of 0.7 per cent.

Returns relating to unemployment among 3,368,201 organised workers were submitted by 38 national trade unions. Of these 513,364, or 15.2 per cent. were out of work on 25th September, as compared with 16.7 per cent. on 28th August and 4.5 per cent. at the end of September, 1925. In addition 427,380, or 12.7 per cent., were working short time, as against 15.0 per cent. on 28th August and 8.5 per cent. at the end of September, 1925.

The following Table gives particulars of total unemployment among the principal Unions included in the returns:—

Table showing Unemployment among principal unions in Germany. Columns include Unions, Membership reported on at end of September, 1926, and Percentage Totally Unemployed at end of Month (Sept., 1926, August, 1926, Sept., 1925).

Figures relating to the number of persons in receipt of benefit in respect of total unemployment are available for 15th October, on which date the total was 1,339,194. On 1st October, the corresponding figure was 1,394,105, and on 15th September, 1,483,458.

At the end of September the employment exchanges making returns reported 2,000,581 persons on the "live register" as against 2,147,056 at the end of August. The number of vacant situations at the end of September was 31,040, as compared with 31,185 at the end of August. During the month of September there were, on an average, 493 applications for each 100 vacancies registered at the Exchanges, as compared with 557 in August.

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in September.—According to the issue of Statistische Nachrichten (the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics) for 25th October, 1926, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in Austria was 148,111 at the end of September, as compared with 151,053 at the end of the preceding month and 119,004 at the end of September, 1925. In Vienna alone there were 81,375 persons in receipt of benefit at the middle of October and 83,015 at the end of September.

* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 5th November, 1926, Paris. † Reichsarbeitsblatt, 1st November, 1926, Berlin. ‡ "Members" of these societies are persons under obligation to pay insurance premiums. During unemployment they are relieved of this obligation; hence paying members are assumed to be in employment.

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