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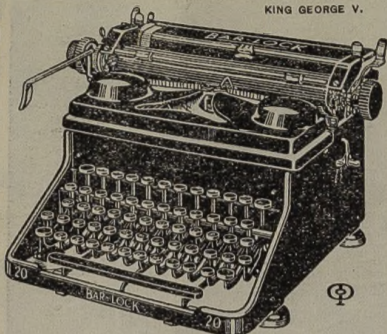
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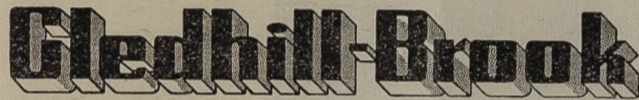
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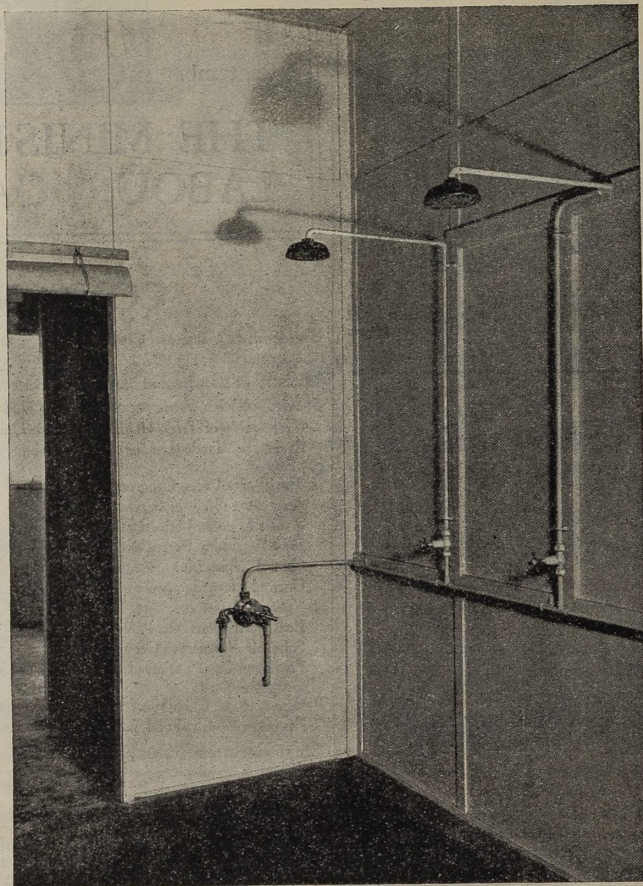
# THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

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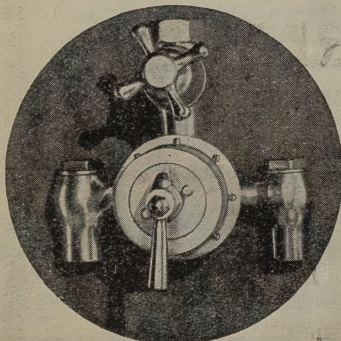
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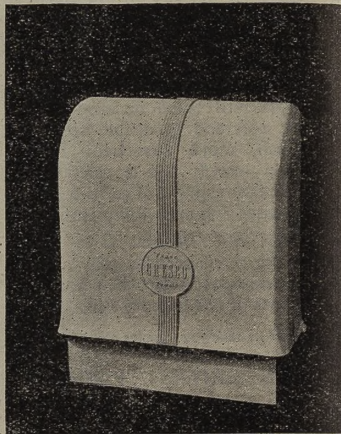
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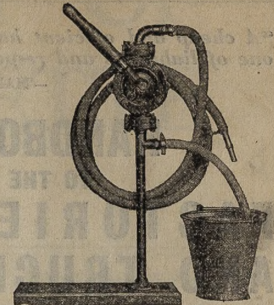
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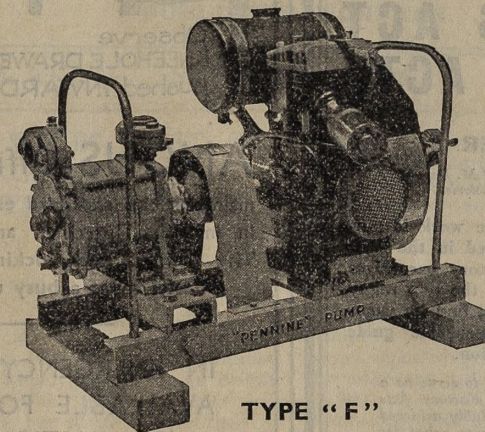
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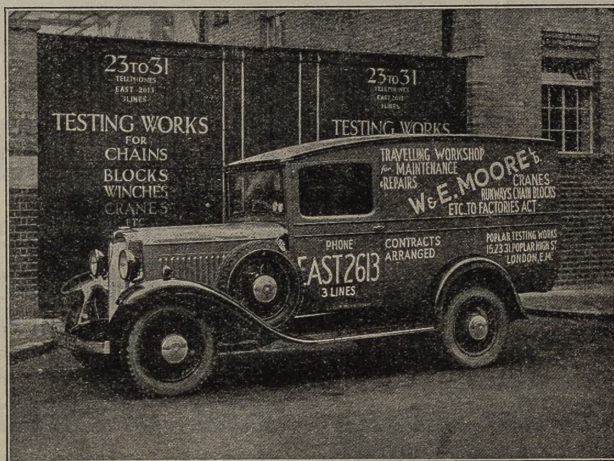
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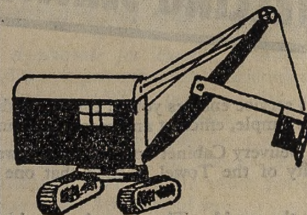
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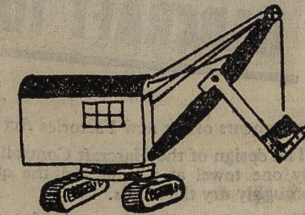
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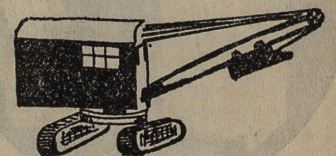
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# THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Vol. XLVII.—No. 9.]

SEPTEMBER, 1939.

[PRICE SIXPENCE NET.]

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

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT at 14th August showed little change as compared with 10th July.

*Insured Persons in Work.*—It is provisionally estimated that at 14th August, 1939, the number of insured persons, aged 16-64, in employment in Great Britain was approximately 12,900,000. This was 12,000 less than at 10th July, 1939, but 610,000 more than at 15th August, 1938. The figure of 12,900,000 for 14th August, 1939, excludes insured militiamen and reservists, numbering approximately 50,000, who were in training at that date.

*Numbers Wholly Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).*—At 14th August, 1939, there were 968,108 persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 45,528 less than at 10th July, 1939, and 294,235 less than at 15th August, 1938.

*Numbers Temporarily Stopped.*—At 14th August, 1939, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 211,978 persons who were on short time or otherwise temporarily suspended from work. This was 21,614 more than at 10th July, 1939, but 227,046 less than at 15th August, 1938.

*Numbers unemployed normally in Casual Employment.*—At 14th August, 1939, there were on the registers in Great Britain 51,606 unemployed persons who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration. This was 818 less than at 10th July, 1939, and 6,269 less than at 15th August, 1938.

*Applicants for Benefit or Allowances.*—The total of 1,231,692 persons on the registers at 14th August, 1939, included 615,359 persons with claims admitted for insurance benefit, 438,695 persons with applications authorised for unemployment allowances, 30,294 persons with applications for benefit or allowances under consideration and 147,344 other persons, of whom 44,370 were under 16 years of age.

*Percentages Unemployed.*—Among insured persons, aged 16-64, the percentage unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 14th August, 1939, was 8.6, as compared with 8.8 at 10th July, 1939, and 12.2 at 15th August, 1938. For persons insured under the general scheme the corresponding percentages were 8.8 at 14th August, 1939, 9.1 at 10th July, 1939, and 12.6 at 15th August, 1938. For persons within the agricultural scheme the percentages were 3.8, 3.9 and 4.2 respectively.

*Industries in which the Principal Variations occurred.*—There was an improvement in employment between 10th July and 14th August in coal mining, engineering, shipbuilding and repairing, building and public works

contracting, the cotton and linen industries, shipping service, the distributive trades, and hotel, boarding house, etc., service. On the other hand employment declined in the pottery industry and in boot and shoe manufacture, mainly because of local holidays, and in tailoring and dressmaking.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in August are estimated to have resulted in an increase of about £6,900 in the weekly full-time wages of 169,000 workpeople, and in a decrease of £26,000 in those of 332,500 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople whose wages were increased were blastfurnacemen and steel workers in various districts, coal miners in Leicestershire and Cannock Chase, tinsplate makers, brush and broom makers and certain classes of jute workers. The decreases mainly affected coal miners in certain districts and iron workers in the Midlands.

The changes so far reported in the eight completed months in 1939 are estimated to have resulted in a net increase of about £114,500 a week in the full-time wages of 1,340,000 workpeople, and in a net decrease of £39,000 in those of 397,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st September the average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 55 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 55 per cent. at 1st August, 1939, and 56 per cent. at 1st September, 1938. For food only the corresponding percentage at 1st September, 1939, was 38, as compared with 37 at 1st August, 1939, and 40 at 1st September, 1938.

TRADE DISPUTES.

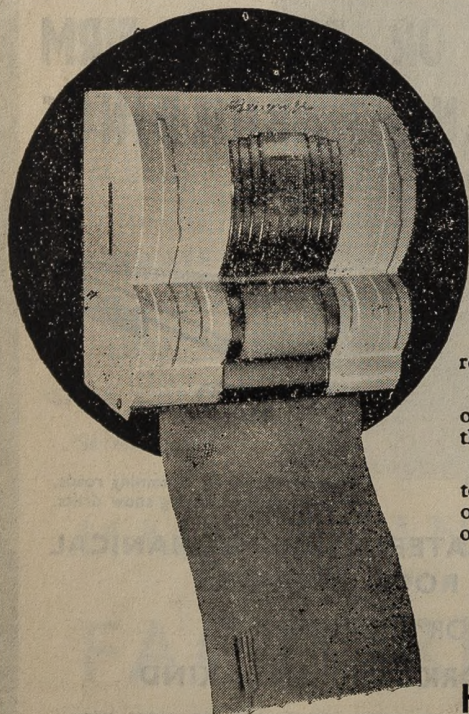
The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in August was 85. In addition, 21 disputes which began before August were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workpeople involved in these 106 disputes, including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, was 37,000, and the aggregate duration of the disputes in August was about 118,000 working days.

## MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND NATIONAL SERVICE.

The Minister of Labour has also been appointed Minister of National Service, and has been empowered to exercise both offices concurrently.\* Accordingly, the Ministry of Labour is to be known in future as the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

\* The Ministry of Labour and National Service Order, 1939. S.R.O. 1939, No. 1118.

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BRICK INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in August showed little change and continued fairly good.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, was 6.9\* at 14th August, 1939, as compared with 7.1\* at 10th July, 1939, and 8.9 at 15th August, 1938.

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

Table with columns: Districts, Number of Workpeople (Week ended 19th Aug., 1939; Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before; Year before), Total Wages paid to all Workpeople (£; Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before; Year before). Rows include Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire, etc.

Returns from employers relative to short-time and overtime working showed that, of 19,301 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, 3 per cent. were working overtime to the extent of nearly 8½ hours each on the average.

BUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further improvement in August and remained good on the whole. The improvement extended to all occupations except plasterers. Compared with a year ago, there was also an improvement on the whole, but there were increases in the numbers of bricklayers, masons and plasterers recorded as unemployed.

As regards individual occupations employment was good with carpenters, bricklayers, masons and plumbers, fair with slaters and tilers and painters, and moderate with plasterers. With labourers to skilled occupations and builders' labourers employment was fair, but with navvies, general labourers and certain other occupations it remained slack.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages \* unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, at 14th August, 1939, and the increases or decreases as compared with a month before and a year before :-

Table with columns: Occupations, Estimated Numbers aged 16-64 Insured at July, 1938, Numbers aged 16-64 Unemployed at 14th Aug., 1939, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers as compared with a month before, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers as compared with a year before. Rows include Carpenters, Bricklayers, Masons, etc.

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire continued slack; there was a considerable increase in the numbers recorded as unemployed at 14th August as compared with 10th July, mainly due to the registration of workpeople as a result of local holidays. At Bristol, employment continued good.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, was 31.1\* at 14th August,

\* See footnote \* in first column on page 338.

1939, as compared with 16.3\* at 10th July, 1939, and 26.5 at 15th August, 1938.

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

Table with columns: BRANCHES (China, Earthenware, etc.), DISTRICTS (North Staffordshire, etc.), Total Wages paid to all Workpeople (£; Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before; Year before).

Returns from employers relative to short-time working† showed that, of 8,137 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 2,283, or about 28 per cent., were working on an average nearly 8 hours less than full time in the week ended 19th August, 1939;

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper-making industry showed no change as compared with July and was good generally; it was much better than a year ago.

Owing to the emergency figures derived from trade unions relating to the state of employment at the end of August are not available for all branches of the letterpress printing industry. The reports which have been furnished indicate, however, that there was little change, on the whole, between July and August, in the state of employment, although at some centres, including Bradford and Edinburgh, an improvement was reported.

Among lithographic workers there appears to have been little change in the level of employment, and conditions continued fair generally. With lithographic artists employment was fairly good on the whole.

In the bookbinding industry employment showed a further improvement as compared with July and also with August, 1938.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, in the paper and paper-board industries was 4.0\* at 14th August, 1939, the same as at 10th July, 1939, as compared with 10.8 at 15th August, 1938. The corresponding percentages unemployed in the printing and bookbinding industries were 5.4\*, 5.7\* and 6.2; in the cardboard-box, paper-bag and stationery industries they were 3.8\*, 4.3\* and 5.6.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT at 14th August showed a slight decline in port transport service but some improvement in harbour, river, and canal service; it was better than in the corresponding period last year.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, in dock, harbour, river and canal service was 22.1\* at 14th August, 1939, as compared with 21.6\* at 10th July, 1939, and 25.6 at 15th August, 1938. In harbour, river, and canal service, the corresponding percentages were 7.7\*, 8.0\* and 9.4; in dock, wharf and lighterage (port transport) service, they were 24.7\*, 24.0\* and 28.5.

London.—Owing to the emergency, it has not been possible to obtain, in respect of some of the docks and principal wharves in London, returns showing the numbers of labourers employed in August. The available figures indicate, however, that the level of employment in that month was, on the whole, about the same as in July, 1939, and higher than in August, 1938, particularly at wharves.

Tilbury.—The available information shows that employment among dock labourers during August was considerably better than in July, 1939, and slightly better than in August, 1938.

North-East Coast Ports.—Employment continued to improve at most of the ports, and was fair on the whole.

Mersey.—Employment at Liverpool fluctuated, but was fair generally; at Salford (Manchester Docks) and at Garston it continued to improve.

The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 25th August, 1939, was 11,465, compared with 11,930 in July, 1939, and with 11,284 in August, 1938. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £31,010 in the four weeks ended 25th August, 1939, compared with £34,164 in July, 1939, and with £29,553 in August, 1938.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment at Cardiff showed a slight improvement with coal trimmers and was fair; at Swansea

\* See footnote \* in first column on page 338. † The figures for August, 1939, are affected by local holidays.

it remained fairly good. At Avonmouth employment declined; at Plymouth and Southampton it was good and moderate respectively.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment at Glasgow and Leith fluctuated somewhat but was fair generally; at Dundee it continued fair. Employment at Grangemouth and Belfast remained good.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT among seamen during August again showed a slight improvement. Shortages of deck ratings were reported from several ports. The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, in shipping service was 18.0\* at 14th August, 1939, as compared with 19.1\* at 10th July, 1939, and 21.8 at 15th August, 1938.

The following Table shows the number of seamen† shipped in British registered foreign-going vessels at the undermentioned ports of Great Britain and Northern Ireland :-

Table with columns: Principal Ports (England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland), Number of Seamen shipped in (Aug., 1939; Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before; Year before; August, 1939; August, 1938).

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

ANALYSIS FOR 14TH AUGUST, 1939.

Large table with columns: Categories (A. Insured on Register, B. Others on Register, C. Total on Register, D. Insured Unemployed), Age groups (Men 18 years and over, Boys under 18 years, Women 18 years and over, Girls under 18 years), Total.

\* See footnote \* in first column on page 338.

† It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals.

‡ Including Birkenhead and Garston.

§ For South Shields, one of the Tyne Ports, and for Hull, figures for August, 1939, are not available.

|| Including Avonmouth and Portishead.

¶ Including Barry and Penarth.

\*\* These exclusions represent (a) insurance benefit claimants in receipt of unemployment allowances in supplementation of benefit (numbering 6,063 at 14th August, 1939); and (b) persons disqualified for short periods from receiving benefit, who are shown in line 2 (b) of the Table.

†† See explanation on page 344.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

THE Table below shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and for the principal towns therein, the number of unemployed persons registered at Employment Exchanges on 14th August, 1939.

Large table with columns: Area, Number of persons on Register at 14th Aug., 1939 (Men, Women, Juveniles, Total), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in totals as compared with 10th July, 1939; 15th Aug., 1938.

\* The figures for Rutherglen\* are included. † Percentage rates of unemployment for about 750 Towns in Great Britain are given in the monthly "Local Unemployment Index."



Table for GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND showing industry statistics, percentages at 14th August 1939, and increases/decreases compared with 10th July 1939 and 15th August 1938.

\* The percentages for July and August, 1939, and those for August, 1938, used for purpose of comparison, have been calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers of insured persons at July, 1938.

Table for GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND showing industry statistics, percentages at 14th August 1939, and increases/decreases compared with 10th July 1939 and 15th August 1938. Includes a section for 'PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED' and 'NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE'.

\* See footnote on the previous page. † Persons insured under the special schemes for the banking and insurance industries are included in these figures.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED.

NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

Table showing principal changes in numbers unemployed and new entrants into unemployment insurance for August 1939, categorized by industry and division.





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

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics\* the changes in the rates of wages reported to have come into operation in August in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an increase estimated at about £6,890 in the weekly full-time wages of 168,900 workpeople and in a decrease of £26,000 in those of 332,500 workpeople.

The particulars are analysed by industry groups below:—

Table with columns: Industry Group, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by Change in Weekly Wages (Increases, Decreases), Estimated Amount of Change in Weekly Wages (£) (Increases, Decreases). Rows include Mining and Quarrying, Metal, Other, and TOTAL.

In the mining and quarrying group there were increases for coal miners in Leicestershire and the Cannock Chase district, and decreases in Northumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, North Staffordshire, the Forest of Dean, and Scotland, the changes being due to fluctuations in the proceeds of the industry as shown by the district ascertainment. Other workpeople whose wages were increased included iron miners and quarrymen in certain districts and cokemen and by-product workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and those whose wages were reduced included cokemen and by-product workers in Durham and West Yorkshire, the changes being due in each case to the operation of sliding scales based on the selling prices of the products.

In the metal group the principal increase affected workpeople engaged in steel melting and rolling in various districts, whose wages were advanced slightly under the operation of a selling-price sliding scale. Other increases affected tinplate makers, blastfurnacemen in certain areas, workers engaged in wire rope manufacture, and those chain makers whose wages are regulated by Orders under the Trade Boards Acts. There was a decrease in the wages of workpeople employed at iron puddling furnaces and at iron and steel rolling mills and forges in the Midlands, amounting to about 1 1/2 per cent. on current wages.

In the other industry groups the principal increases affected brush and broom makers and certain classes of jute workers. The decreases concerned mainly waterworks employees in the Midlands.

Of the estimated total increase of £6,890 per week, £3,900 was due to the operation of sliding scales based on selling prices or on the proceeds of the coal mining industry; £500 was due to the operation of sliding scales based on the cost of living; £1,500 was due to arrangements made by joint standing bodies; and the remaining £990 was the result of direct negotiations between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

Of the estimated total decrease of £26,000 per week, £25,725 was due to the operation of sliding scales based on selling prices or on the proceeds of the coal mining industry; £135 was due to the operation of sliding scales based on the cost of living; and the remaining £140 was the result of arrangements made by joint standing bodies.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY-AUGUST, 1939. The following Table shows the number of workpeople in Great Britain and Northern Ireland affected by changes in rates of wages reported to the Department during the eight completed months of 1939, and the net aggregate amounts of such changes.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY-AUGUST, 1939. The following Table shows the number of workpeople in Great Britain and Northern Ireland affected by changes in rates of wages reported to the Department during the eight completed months of 1939, and the net aggregate amounts of such changes.

Table with columns: Industry Group, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net (Increases, Decreases), Estimated Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages (£) (Increases, Decreases). Rows include Coal Mining, Other Mining and Quarrying, Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc., Iron and Steel, Engineering, Shipbuilding, Other Metal, Textile, Clothing, Food, Drink, and Tobacco, Woodworking, Furniture, etc., Paper, Printing, etc., Building, Public Works, Contracting, etc., Gas, Water, and Electricity Supply, Transport, Public Administration, Services, Other, and Total.

In the corresponding eight months of 1938, there were net increases of £261,900 in the weekly full-time wages of 2,380,200 workpeople, and net decreases of £28,550 in those of 122,800 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

There were no important change in hours of labour during August. In the industries covered by the Department's statistics\* the changes reported in the eight completed months of 1939 are estimated to have affected about 367,000 workpeople, who have had their hours reduced, on average, by a little over 3 1/2 hours per week.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST.

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change (Decreases in italics). Rows include Coal Mining (Northumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, South Derbyshire, Cannock Chase, North Staffordshire, Leicestershire, Forest of Dean, Scotland), and Coke, etc. Manufacture (Durham, West Yorkshire, South Wales and Monmouthshire).

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

† In addition to the numbers quoted, wages stand at the same level as at the beginning of the year in the case of 149,000 workpeople whose wages have been increased and reduced by equal amounts during the year.

‡ Changes affecting workpeople employed in railway engineering workshops are included under "Engineering" and not under "Transport."

§ Apart from the percentage additions to basis rates, certain flat-rate additions per day or per shift, granted in January, 1936, are paid.

|| Apart from the percentage additions to basis rates, certain flat-rate additions per day or per shift, granted in January, 1936, are paid to all workers, as well as "subsistence allowances" to adult day-wage workers for whom the basis rates plus the percentage additions do not yield certain specified amounts.

¶ This reduction affected mainly the employees of firms who are members of the Durham Coke Owners' Association.

\*\* Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.

†† Flat-rate additions are also paid of 1s. per shift to workers 21 years and over, and of 6d. per shift to other workers, subject to the proviso that when the percentage addition to basis rates is more than 32 the cost of the flat-rate advance shall be set off against such increased percentage and only any balance then shown paid as a further increase in wages.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST—continued.

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change (Decreases in italics). Rows include Ironstone miners, Ironstone and limestone quarrymen, Certain ironstone miners and quarrymen, Ironstone miners and quarrymen, Limestone quarrymen, Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed at blastfurnaces, Cokemen and by-product workers, Skilled engineers, etc., employed on maintenance work at blastfurnaces and iron and steel works, Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed at blastfurnaces, Semi-skilled workers, labourers, etc., employed at iron puddling furnaces and rolling mills, Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed at iron puddling furnaces and at iron and steel rolling mills and forges, Wire and hoop millmen, Workpeople employed in steel melting shops (melters, pitmen, slagmen, ladlemen, furnace helpers, gas producermen, semi-skilled workers and labourers, etc.), Men employed on direct production in steel rolling mills, Rail millmen, merchant millmen, enginemmen, cranimen, etc., Steel millmen and labourers (datal workers), Steel millmen, wagon builders and repairers employed at certain iron and steel works, Millmen, gas producermen, enginemmen, cranimen, firemen and mill labourers, semi-skilled workers and general labourers employed in steel rolling mills, Bricklayers employed at blastfurnaces, Bricklayers' labourers employed at blastfurnaces and at iron and steel works, Skilled and semi-skilled craftsmen 21 years and over employed at blastfurnaces and at iron and steel works, Joiners, wagonwrights and wagon repairers employed at certain iron and steel works, Roll turners employed in steel works, Fitters, turners, sheet metal workers, etc., employed on repairs to fishing vessels by members of the Hull Fishing Vessel Owners' Association, Ltd., Ancillary and ropery workers engaged in the manufacture of wire ropes, Workpeople employed in making hand-hammered chain from iron up to and including 1 1/2-in. diameter, Workpeople employed in making drolled and tinned chain from iron No. 6 I.S.W.G. up to and including 1 1/2-in. diameter, and hand-hammered chain from iron 1 1/2-in. up to and including 1 1/2-in. diameter, Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed in tinplate manufacture.

\* Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.

† Flat-rate additions are also paid of 4d. per shift to workers 18 years and over and of 2d. per shift to other workers.

‡ This increase affected mainly the employees of firms affiliated to The Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the principal districts affected being the North-East Coast, Cumberland, Lancashire, South Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, the Midlands, South Wales and West of Scotland.

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

|| This increase did not apply to datal workers whose basis rates are 6s. 10½d. per day or less. Such workers continued to receive ex-gratia bonuses, which, together with their sliding-scale percentage, amounted to a total of 22·75 per cent. on basis rates.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST—continued.

Table with 5 columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Includes entries for Jute Manufacture, Textile, Bleaching, Dyeing, etc., Boot Repairing, Building, Waterworks Undertakings, Brush and Broom Manufacture, Skip and Basket Making, and Entertainments.

\* These increases took effect under Orders issued under the Trade Boards Acts. Full details of the minimum rates are contained in the Confirming Order of the Minister of Labour, obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office.
† Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
‡ In respect of the preceding pay period.
§ The Undertakings affected are mainly those affiliated to the Midland District Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Undertakings Industry.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES.

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

Table with 6 columns: Product and District, Period covered by last Audit, Average Selling Price per ton according to last Audit, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) compared with Previous Audit, A Year ago. Includes entries for Pig-iron and Manufactured Iron in various districts.

In accordance with the provisions of the agreements under which wages are regulated, the ascertainment resulted in increases in the wages of blastfurnacemen, ironstone miners and quarrymen in North Lincolnshire and of blastfurnacemen, ironstone miners and quarrymen and limestone quarrymen in Northamptonshire (excluding Corby); and decreases in the wages of blastfurnacemen in West Cumberland and North Lancashire, blastfurnacemen in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, and ironstone and limestone quarrymen in Leicestershire and adjoining parts of Lincolnshire.

The ascertainment did not warrant a change in wages in the cases of iron ore miners and limestone quarrymen in Cumberland, iron ore miners in the Furness district, blastfurnacemen in North Staffordshire, Siemens Steel workers in South-West Wales, and iron puddlers and millmen and sheet millmen in the West of Scotland.

For details of the changes in wages, reference should be made to page 310 of the August issue of this GAZETTE and to page 353 of this issue.

\* Stated to the nearest farthing.
† The exact decrease was 0.052d.

TRADE DISPUTES IN AUGUST.\*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in August in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 85, as compared with 74 in the previous month and 77 in August, 1938. In these 85 new disputes about 23,800 workpeople were directly involved, and 8,900 workpeople indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 4,500 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 21 disputes which began before August and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 106, involving 37,200 workpeople, and resulting in a loss, during August, estimated at 118,000 working days.

In the following Table is given an analysis, by groups of industries, of all disputes in progress in August:—

Table with 5 columns: Industry Group, Started before beginning of Month, Started in Month, Total, Number of Disputes in progress in Month, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month. Includes entries for Mining and Quarrying, Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding, Textile, Building, etc., and Total for August 1939 and 1938.

Causes.—Of the 85 disputes beginning in August, 23, directly involving 4,900 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages, 5, directly involving 300 workpeople, out of proposed wage reductions, and 29, directly involving 9,500 workpeople, on other wage questions; 15, directly involving 3,100 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 5, directly involving 500 workpeople, on other questions respecting working arrangements; and 7, directly involving 5,700 workpeople, on questions of trade union principle. One small dispute was due to sympathetic action.

Results.—Final settlements of disputes which terminated during August have been effected in the case of 78 new disputes, directly involving 22,800 workpeople, and 16 old disputes, directly involving 2,600 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 24, directly involving 9,100 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 53, directly involving 13,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 17, directly involving 3,300 workpeople, resulted in a compromise. In the case of 3 other disputes, directly involving 300 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR JANUARY–AUGUST, 1939 AND 1938.†

Table with 7 columns: Industry Group, No. of Disputes beginning in period, Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress, No. of Disputes beginning in period, Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress. Includes entries for Fishing and Agriculture, Coal Mining, Other Mining and Quarrying, Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc., Engineering, Shipbuilding, Other Metal, Textile, Clothing, Food, Drink and Tobacco, Woodworking, Furniture, etc., Transport, Commerce, Distribution and Finance, and Other.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING AUGUST.

Table with 6 columns: Occupations and Locality, Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved, Date when Dispute Began, Date when Dispute Ended, Cause or Object, Result. Includes entries for Coal Mining, Engineering, Cotton Weaving, and Building.

\* 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, etc.) exceeded 100 days.

† In making up these totals the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. Workpeople involved in more than one dispute are counted more than once in the totals; the amount of such duplication, however, is slight, except in coal mining, in which the net number of workpeople involved was approximately 91,000 in 1939, and 92,000 in 1938. For all industries combined the net totals were approximately 188,000 in 1939, and 156,000 in 1938.

‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople indirectly involved, i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred but not themselves parties to the disputes.

§ Work was resumed on 15th August.

¶ Estimated number.

\*\* The stoppage began and ended on different dates at the different collieries involved.

\*\*\* Work was resumed on 21st August.

†† Work was resumed on 9th August.



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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

Table with 2 columns: Item (All Items included, Food only), Percentage (55%, 38%).

FOOD.

At 1st September the average level of the retail prices of food in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was slightly higher than at 1st August.

As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices of the articles of food included in these statistics was 38 per cent. at 1st September, 1939, as compared with 37 per cent. at 1st August, 1939, and 40 per cent. at 1st September, 1938.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices in July, 1914, and at 1st August and 1st September, 1939:—

Table with columns: Article, Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated— to the nearest d.), Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st September, 1939, as compared with July, 1914, 1st Aug., 1939, 1st Sept., 1939, 1st Aug., 1938.

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

Table with columns: Article, Average Percentage Increase or Decrease (-) at 1st September, 1939, as compared with July, 1914, Large Towns (Populations over 50,000), Small Towns and Villages, General Average, Corresponding General Average Inc. or Dec. (-) for 1st Aug., 1939.

\* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the prices of another kind locally representative. † The description of cheese for which prices are quoted is in most cases Canadian or New Zealand, but in some districts the returns quote the prices of another kind locally representative.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, enquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Acts indicate that the average increase in the controlled rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st September, 1939, was approximately 54 per cent.

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, to changes in qualities and to the variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices.

In the fuel and light group the prices of coal in some districts were higher at 1st September than at 1st August, and averaged about 95 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 90 per cent. a month ago.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in working-class family expenditure in 1914, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging approximately 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st September, 1939, is approximately 55 per cent. over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 55 per cent. at 1st August, 1939, and 56 per cent. at 1st September, 1938.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken now as in 1914) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the standard of living prevailing in working-class families prior to August, 1914, no allowance being made for the effect of any changes in the standard of living that may have occurred since that date.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1920 to 1939.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month, 1920 to 1939:—

Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items.

(Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.).

Table with columns: Year, Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., and a final column for percentage values (125, 130, 130, 132, 141, 150, 152, 155, 161, 164, 176, 169).

NOTE.

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

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the periods for which the rise is measured, suggest the need for caution in drawing conclusions from a comparison between the figures for any two countries or cities.

I.—FOOD.

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

Table with columns: Country, Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.† (July 1935, July 1936, July 1937, July 1938, Latest figures available, Rise, Date), and 1939, Sept. (Per cent., 26, 29, 40, 46, 38).

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 with columns: Country, Items on which Computation is based,\*\* (Per cent., 43, 46, 55, 59, 55, 1939, Sept.), and 1939, 2nd Qr. (Per cent., 34, 30, 30, 30, 30, 30, 30, 30, 30, 30, 30, 30).

\* Exceptions to this are: Finland, Italy (Rome), January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June 1914; Portugal, South Africa, 1914; Egypt, Germany, 1913-1914; Netherlands, 1911-1913; Canada, 1913; Australia (all items), November, 1914. † The Australian percentages for all items are weighted averages for the six capital cities. ‡ Revised figure. § Figure for August. || The figures for 1936 and subsequent years are on a revised basis. ¶ Figure for June. \*\* A = Food; B = House-rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and Light; E = Other or Miscellaneous items. †† Figure for 3rd Quarter. ††† The method of calculation was revised during the latter half of 1935. §§ Revised figure.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, whose deaths from accidents in the course of their employment occurred or were reported in August\*, was 195, as compared with 140† in the previous month, and with 184‡ in August, 1938.

Table with columns: MINES AND QUARRIES, WORKS AND PLACES UNDER SS. 105, 107, 108, FACTORIES ACT, 1937, Docks, Wharves, Quays and Ships, Building Operations, Works of Engineering Construction, TOTAL, MINES AND QUARRIES, FACTORIES, RAILWAY SERVICE, SEAMEN, Total (including Seamen).

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

THE Table below shows the number of cases‡ and deaths‡ in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during August, under the Factories Act, 1937, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act:—

Table with columns: I. Cases, I. Cases—continued, II. Deaths, II. Deaths.

\* For mines and quarries the figures (calculated weekly since August, 1938) cover the 5 weeks ended 2nd September, and comparison is with the 4 weeks ended 29th July, 1939, and the calendar month of August, 1938. † Revised figure. ‡ Cases include all attacks reported during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.

## TRADE BOARDS ACTS AND HOLIDAYS WITH PAY ACT.

### NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

#### Paper Box Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.B. (N.18), dated 23rd August, 1939, to vary the general minimum time rates and general overtime rates for male workers.

#### Paper Box Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.B. (N.19), dated 23rd August, 1939, relating to Holidays with Pay. Objection period expires 23rd September, 1939.

### CONFIRMING ORDERS.

#### General Waste Materials Reclamation Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.W.R. (12), dated 2nd August, 1939, confirming a direction for Holidays with Pay under the Holidays with Pay Act (Northern Ireland), 1938, and specifying 7th August, 1939, as the date from which the same shall become effective.

#### Laundry Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.L. (12), dated 11th August, 1939, confirming a direction for Holidays with Pay under the Holidays with Pay Act (Northern Ireland), 1938, and specifying 21st August, 1939, as the date from which the same shall become effective.

#### Wholesale Mantle and Costume Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.W.M. (15), dated 11th August, 1939, confirming a direction for Holidays with Pay under the Holidays with Pay Act (Northern Ireland), 1938, and specifying 21st August, 1939, as the date from which the same shall become effective.

#### Jute Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order J. (61) dated 11th August, 1939, confirming a variation of guaranteed time rates, general minimum time rates and overtime rates for certain classes of male and female workers, and specifying 21st August, 1939, as the date from which the same shall become effective.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The Home Secretary has made the following Draft Regulations: Weekly Hours of Young Persons under 16 in Factories (Printing and Bookbinding) Regulations, 1939; Weekly Hours of Young Persons under 16 in Factories (various Textile and Allied Industries) Regulations, 1939. These Draft Regulations are in substitution for the Draft Factories Act (Weekly Hours of Young Persons under 16) (No. 1) Regulations, which applied only to the cotton, woollen and carpet industries. Copies of the Regulations can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the cover of this GAZETTE.

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

### SINGLE ARBITRATORS AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION.

IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY.—A difference having arisen between the Associated Society of Moulders and Guest Keen Baldwins Iron and Steel Company Limited regarding a claim by the Society for an increase in wages to certain grades employed at the Company's foundry at Dowlais Iron Works, Dowlais, the matter was referred for determination to a Board of Arbitration appointed by the Minister of Labour under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, consisting of Sir John Forster (Chairman), Mr. F. Stuart Hall (employers' representative) and Mr. David Evans, J.P. (workpeople's representative).

The award of the Board, issued on 12th August, 1939, provided for increases in wages, ranging from 4s. 3d. to 5s. per week of 47 hours to all the grades concerned with the exception of general labourers, whose wages, the Board awarded, should for the present remain unchanged.

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FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—*Annual report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1938.* Home Office. [Cmd. 6081; price 2s.]

LABOUR INSPECTION.—*International Labour Conference, twenty-sixth session, Geneva, 1940. The organisation of labour inspection in industrial and commercial undertakings.* Preliminary report. International Labour Office. [Geneva 1939; price 8s.]

TRADE UNIONS.—*Registered Trade Unions: Statistical Summary, 1928-38.* Registry of Friendly Societies. [S.O. publication; price 2d.]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—*Selected decisions given by the Umpire on claims for benefit during the month of June, 1939.* U.I. Code 8B. Pamphlet No. 6/1939. Ministry of Labour. [S.O. publication; price 2d.]

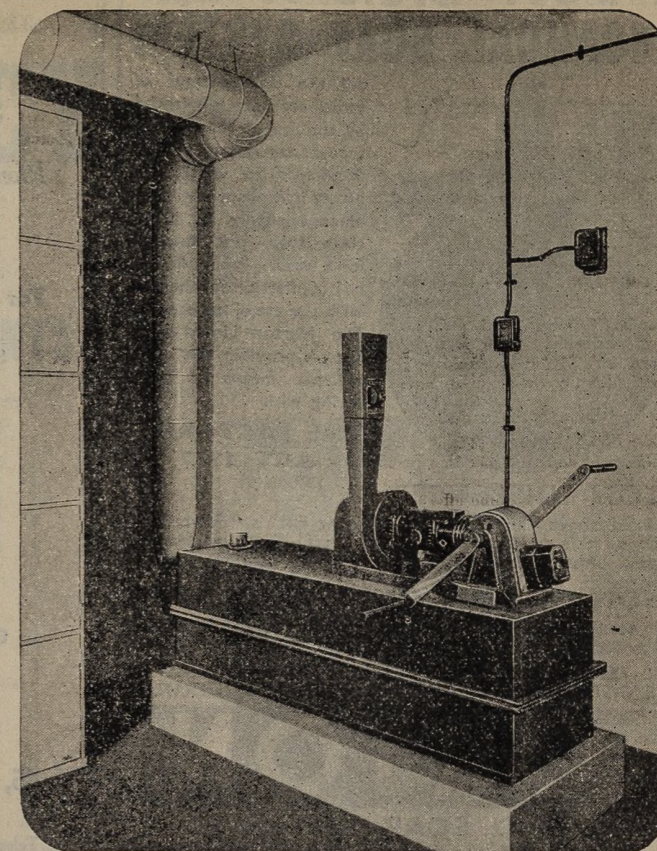
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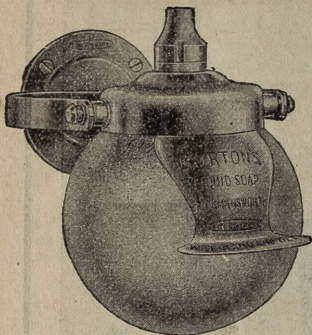
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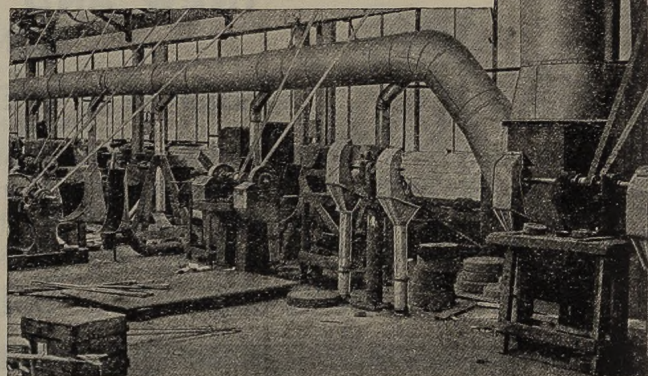
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