

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

VOL. XXXVI.—No. 4.]

APRIL, 1928.

[PRICE SIXPENCE NET.

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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT showed a continued steady improvement during March. There were further seasonal increases in the numbers employed in the building trade and public works contracting, in the allied industries of brick, tile, and cement manufacture, in woodworking and furniture making, and in the tailoring and dressmaking trades. There was also an improvement in the pottery, glass bottle, motor vehicle, rubber, tinplate, and wool textile industries, and in the shipping service. In coal mining, a slight increase in the numbers wholly unemployed was more than balanced by a decrease in the numbers temporarily stopped. On the other hand, employment showed a slight decline at coke-oven and by-product works, in iron and steel manufacture, in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industry, in the linen industry, and in the dock, canal, river, etc., service.

Among the workpeople (aged 16-64 inclusive, and numbering approximately 11,800,000) insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed), in all industries taken together was 9.6 at 26th March, 1928, as compared with 10.4 at 20th February, 1928, and 9.8 at 21st March, 1927.

The percentage wholly unemployed was 7.7 at 26th March, 1928, as compared with 8.2 at 20th February, 1928; while the percentage temporarily stopped was 1.9 as compared with 2.2. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 26th March, 1928, was approximately 1,063,000, of whom 858,000 were men and 146,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 27th February, 1928, it was 1,139,000, of whom 911,000 were men and 158,000 were women; and at 28th March, 1927, it was 1,115,000, of whom 905,000 were men and 153,000 were women.

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 March resulted in a reduction of £46,450 in the weekly full-time wages of 210,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £180 in those of 1,200 workpeople.

The principal reductions affected coal miners in Durham and Northumberland, in which districts the percentage addition to basis rates was reduced by an amount equivalent to nearly 13 per cent. on the current rates in Durham and to over 22 per cent. in Northumberland. Coal miners in the Radstock district also had their wages reduced, by the equivalent of about 3 per cent. on current rates. A temporary allowance of 3½ per cent. on basis rates payable to

tinplate workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire was reduced to 2½ per cent., affecting most classes of workpeople except the lower-paid men. Electrical cable makers sustained reductions, amounting to 1s. 11½d. or 2s. per week in the case of adult male workers and 1s. per week in the case of adult female workers. There were also reductions in the wages of iron miners and blastfurnace workers in Cumberland.

During the first three months of 1928 the changes reported to the Department in the industries for which statistics have been compiled have resulted in net increases of £12,150 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 207,000 workpeople, and in net reductions of over £109,000 in those of 971,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1927 there were net increases of £70,500 in the weekly full-time wages of 629,000 workpeople, and net reductions of £70,800 in those of 436,500 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 31st March 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 64 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 64 per cent. a month ago, and 65 per cent. a year ago. For food alone the corresponding percentage for 31st March was 55, which was the same as that a month ago and a year ago.

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, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in March, was 31. In addition, 15 disputes which began before March were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in March (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 38,000, and the aggregate duration of all disputes during March was about 168,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of 13,200 workpeople involved and 107,000 working days lost in the previous month, and with 14,000 workpeople involved and 137,000 days lost in March, 1927.

The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in the first three months of 1928 was about 325,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was about 58,000. The figures for the corresponding period of 1927 were 348,000 days and 32,000 workpeople respectively.

UNEMPLOYED BENEFIT CLAIMANTS.

REPORT ON AN INVESTIGATION OF
APRIL, 1927.

THE Ministry of Labour have issued a Report* on an investigation into the personal circumstances and industrial history of 9,748 insured persons who were claimants to unemployment benefit during the week ended 9th April, 1927. This number represents one per cent. of the total number of claimants at all local offices (including branch offices and juvenile employment bureaux) at the date of the inquiry, and includes 8,230 men, 1,261 women, and 83 girls.

The object of the investigation was to obtain reliable information regarding the composition of the whole body of benefit claimants, and particularly as regards their ages, degrees of employability, physique, health, and personal circumstances, and also their record of employment and unemployment. The inquiry was carried out generally on the same lines as the two previous inquiries of 1923 and 1924,† but the present Report includes certain lines of analysis which are new. As in the two earlier inquiries, the figures relate solely to claimants to unemployment benefit, but they include a proportion of those who were maintaining registration at the Employment Exchanges, although their claims had been disallowed.

This is the fourth inquiry made by the Ministry of Labour in which the method of taking a very small sample for examination has been adopted. It has been proved that, except where the absolute numbers in any sub-category are small, the method can be relied upon to yield results which are sufficiently representative of the whole field from which the sample is taken, and this is again borne out by comparisons between the results of this latest inquiry with those of the previous three in so far as they relate to circumstances which have themselves remained unchanged.

Ages of Claimants.—An inquiry‡ made in 1926 furnished material from which it was possible to ascertain the age distribution of the whole body of insured persons, and, by relating to such figures the numbers found from the present inquiry to be unemployed within each age group, percentage rates of unemployment among insured persons of various ages have been computed. The figures thus obtained provide a valuable indication of the effect of age as a factor in the causation of unemployment.

In April, 1927, the rates of unemployment among males fell into three well-defined groups: (i) those aged 16-19, with a rate only about half the average for all ages; (ii) those aged 20-44, with a rate slightly below the average level for all ages except at ages 25-29; (iii) those aged 45-69, with a rapidly rising rate, higher at each age than the average level for all ages. If the percentages at ages above 44 had been no higher than the average of the age group 20-44 the claims to benefit of those aged 45 to 69 would have been fewer in number by about 69,000; and this gives a rough measure of the influence of age on the present unemployment problem.

The figures indicated a comparatively heavy rate of unemployment among males aged 25-29 which did not appear from the inquiry of November, 1924. A detailed analysis of this age-group showed that the excess was to some extent made up of men recently discharged from the Forces with contribution credits, under Section 41 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

The percentages for females showed relatively slight variations according to age; and at all ages the rate was well below the corresponding rate for males.

Of the total number included in the sample the 10-year age group, 20 to 29, included nearly 30 per cent. of the male claimants and over 47 per cent. of the female claimants.

The Report also analyses the percentage rates of unemployment among males at 21st March, 1927, according to industries, distinguishing those in which the rate of unemployment among men aged 45 and over was markedly higher than among men aged 16-44. For example, in coal mining, where the general rate of unemployment among males of all ages included in the sample at 21st March, 1927, was 15.3, the rate for males aged 45 and over was 20.3 (as compared with 13.3 for males aged 16-44). Other examples of a similar disparity were steel melting, etc.; the tinplate trade; general, electrical, and marine engineering; shipbuilding; the motor vehicle industry; pottery and glass manufacture; the clothing and boot and shoe industries; printing, publishing, etc.; and the building trades. On the other hand, in the cotton textile industry; in textile bleaching, dyeing, printing, etc.; in pig-iron manufacture; and in several of the minor metal trades, there was no marked difference in the unemployment rates for the two groups. In four industrial groups unemployment was distinctly heavier among the younger men than among the older. The figures for females showed much less marked disparities between the age groups in the various industries.

Degrees of "Employability."—The interviewing officers were asked to state, as the result of the interview and the examination of relevant documents, into which of five specified categories of employability the claimant interviewed should be placed. The categories adopted for the purpose were defined as follows:—

(a) Persons who, in normal times, would usually be in steady employment.

(b) Persons who, though not usually in steady employment, would, in normal times, obtain a fair amount of employment.

(c) Persons who would not, in normal times, obtain a fair amount of employment, but who were not considered to be "verging on the unemployable."

(d) Persons who were considered to be "verging on the unemployable."

(e) Persons who could not be placed in any of the above categories.

The term "unemployable" was defined in the instructions to interviewing officers as meaning any person "whose industrial value is so low that an employer would never select him for a job unless no other applicant was available and the work had to be done at once, i.e., that an employer would only engage him in the last resort, if at all." It is unlikely that any person who was completely unemployable would be in the sample, since one of the statutory conditions for benefit is that the applicant must be "capable of work."

64.8 per cent. of the men interviewed were in Category (a), and 88.4 per cent. were in Categories (a) and (b) taken together. The corresponding percentages for women were 80.5 and 93.0. These percentages were higher than the corresponding figures for November, 1924. On the other hand, the percentage in Category (d)—those "verging on the unemployable"—was very small (2.1 for men and 1.3 for women, and none for boys and girls). Those in Category (d) were mostly over 60 years of age.

Personal Circumstances.—The Report includes analyses on similar lines to those obtained in 1923 and 1924 regarding physique, health and physical defects; education, age of starting work, and training received; marital state and dependants; and compares the results obtained from the three inquiries.

Generally speaking there is a striking similarity in the figures, but on the whole the latest sample yielded better results as regards physical capacity than the other two.

"Standard" and "Extended" Benefit.—The recipients of "standard" benefit are those who satisfy, among others, the following three conditions as regards contributions and benefit, viz., (i) that they have paid not less than 20 contributions since the beginning of the insurance year next before the beginning of the benefit year in which the application for benefit is made; (ii) that there is also a balance of contributions standing to their credit after a deduction has been made in respect of benefit already received; and (iii) that they have not received more than 26 weeks' benefit in the benefit year. These individuals have therefore had a considerable amount of recent employment. Persons in receipt of "extended" benefit are those who do not satisfy one or more of these three conditions.

Of the claims authorised for benefit, those authorised for "standard" benefit slightly outnumbered those authorised for "extended" benefit in the case of males, and greatly outnumbered them—nearly in the proportion of five to one—in the case of females. This great disparity in the proportion of "standard" to "extended" benefit in the case of females is probably due in some measure to the fact that large numbers of women drop out of insurance altogether on marriage, and this tends to reduce the rate of unemployment among the women who remain in industry. The industries in which unemployment has been particularly severe (e.g., shipbuilding, iron and steel production, etc.) are, moreover, peculiarly men's industries; and, further, the conditions affecting the allowance of "extended" benefit in the case of married women and short-time workers would particularly affect women claimants.

There is a decrease in the proportion of claimants, both males and females, on "extended" benefit as compared with 1924, due in part to the changed conditions for the allowance of extended benefit now in operation.

Poor-Law Relief.—A great majority of the claimants—nearly 95 per cent. in the case of males, and 98½ per cent. in the case of females—were not in receipt of poor law relief, neither was any member of their family receiving such relief. Of the males in receipt of poor law relief, nearly half were also drawing unemployment benefit. The highest percentages of males on poor law relief occurred in the age groups 35-44 and 65-69; the former group includes the highest proportion of men with dependants, and the largest number of dependants to each individual. Where poor law relief was being drawn concurrently with unemployment benefit, the figures in a majority of cases indicate a family consisting of a man, wife, and from one to four children.

War-Service Men.—Nearly 80 per cent. of the men aged 30-34 in the sample, and over 50 per cent. of those aged 25-54, had had war service. There was no important difference in the degree of "employability" between those with war service and the rest of the sample.

Of the war-service men, aged 25 and over, included in the sample, one in six was in receipt of a disability pension. They were almost all in the two higher of the three "categories of disability" under which disabled war-service men are classified by the Ministry of Pensions for pension purposes.

Contributions and Benefit.—The analysis of contributions and benefit has been designed mainly to indicate the extent to which the sample consisted of persons who had been unemployed for long periods and of persons who had had a fair amount of recent employment. In this connection, reference has been made above to the proportions on "standard" and "extended" benefit respectively. By grouping together the individuals who entered the scheme of unemployment insurance during the same year and ignoring the record for the year of entry (which covered in most cases only a

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT,
1927.

THE attention of all concerned is called to the fact that a new Unemployment Insurance Act comes into force on the 19th April. The main changes which become operative on that date are as follows:—

There will be only one kind of benefit, the present distinction between standard and extended benefit being abolished. Benefit will not be subject to the Minister's discretion (as extended benefit is at present). All claims will be decided by the same statutory machinery, namely, by an Insurance Officer in the first instance, with a right of appeal in all cases to a Court of Referees, and an appeal in some cases from the Court of Referees to the Umpire, who is the final authority.

Certain changes in the rates of benefit also come into operation on the 19th April. Men with dependants will, in general, receive a higher rate than they receive at present, but men without dependants will receive 1s. less. The rates for boys and girls aged 16 and 17 are reduced. The cases in which dependants' benefit is payable are somewhat extended.

There are two main conditions governing the receipt of benefit:—

(a) From 19th April, for a transitional period varying from one to two years in individual cases, claimants will be required to prove payment of 8 contributions in the last two years or 30 contributions at any time. After that transitional period claimants must prove the payment of 30 contributions during the two years preceding the claim for benefit.

Special provisions apply to ex-service disabled men, in whose case the requirement will be 10 contributions instead of 30.

(b) The claimant must be genuinely seeking work.

A claimant for benefit is allowed to stand out for a reasonable interval for employment in his usual occupation, but thereafter employment of a kind other than his usual employment may be regarded as suitable.

There are also some modifications of the disqualification for benefit based on the loss of employment owing to a trade dispute.

The maximum period of employment after which a fresh waiting period is not required is extended from six weeks to ten weeks.

From the beginning of July next, reduced rates of contributions and benefits will be payable in respect of young men and young women aged 18, 19 and 20.

Full particulars regarding the provisions of the Act may be obtained from any Employment Exchange or Local Office of the Ministry of Labour.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
FOR JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT.

THE first meeting of the National Advisory Council for Juvenile Employment (England and Wales) was held at the Ministry of Labour on 22nd March, 1928, under the Chairmanship of the Earl of Shaftesbury.

The Minister of Labour opened the proceedings by giving a welcome to the Council. He laid special emphasis on the way in which the Council had been appointed so as to represent, so far as he knew for the first time, the interests both of education and of industry; and he thought it was a most valuable body, to which the Government could look for advice. He emphasised the great importance which should be attached to the right choice of employment by boys and girls on leaving school, not only in the interests of the children themselves, but also for the sake of national economy and efficiency. He proceeded to explain some of the more important points on which the Government were looking to the Council for advice, in particular the future of the Juvenile Unemployment Centres, and the Malcolm Committee's recommendations in regard to a system of working certificates.

The Chairman (Lord Shaftesbury) then made an introductory speech, and the Council went on to consider matters of procedure.

EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED
EX-SERVICE MEN.

KING'S NATIONAL ROLL.

THE King's Roll National Council held its 19th meeting at the House of Commons on 20th March, Major-General Sir John Davidson, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., M.P., being in the Chair.

Since the previous meeting, the Council had sustained an irreparable loss by the death of Field Marshal Earl Haig, who had been Chairman of the Council since its inception early in 1923. The Council recorded their deep appreciation of Earl Haig's work. The question of a successor was under consideration, and it was hoped that he would be appointed before the next meeting.

The Council welcomed the appointment of Captain Ian Fraser, M.P., vice Major the Hon. J. J. Astor, M.P., appointed Honorary Secretary.

It was reported that the number of Local Authorities, Royal Warrant Holders, and public utility undertakings (gas, water, electricity, etc.) of any appreciable size not on the King's Roll had been reduced to 32, 25 and 51 respectively.

The number of firms on the King's Roll is approximately 27,500, employing approximately 380,000 disabled ex-service men.

The number of disabled ex-service men registered as unemployed is approximately 21,000, of whom some 7,000 require something in the nature of a light job.

part of the year) it has been possible to obtain analyses and averages covering exactly the same period of time. Among other things this classification showed that, on the whole, a remarkably uniform proportion of the total number of insured persons who entered the scheme in each year, including the war years, were included in the sample as benefit claimants.

The analysis of benefit paid shows a striking contrast between the yearly average number of days' benefit drawn by males up to July, 1920, varying from 0.1 day to 1.9 days, and the number drawn after July, 1920: this varied from 60 to 98 days a year in the case of those who entered insurance in the years between 1912 and 1920, and from 25 to 46 in the case of those who entered insurance from 1920 onwards. The difference in the case of females is small; they have a lower rate of unemployment than males, and their spells of unemployment are generally shorter.

This analysis, together with that relating to contributions paid, also brings out the almost negligible amount of benefit drawn in the war years, the effect of the industrial depression on the number of contributions paid in the years 1920-21 to 1922-23, the improvement in the two following years, and the effects of the general strike and of the coal dispute in 1925-26 and 1926-27. Apart from these special influences, however, the claimants in the sample had had a fair record of employment during every one of the years in which they had been covered by the insurance scheme. Among males of all ages the contributions paid in specific years varied between an average of 33 and 41, while among females the average varied between 25 and 52. With females, the low figures for the years 1918-19 and 1919-20 (29 and 25 contributions respectively) are of course due mainly to the cessation of munition work on the termination of the war, and this appears to have fallen most heavily on women in the age group 35 to 44 at April, 1927. These would have been in the group 27 to 36 in 1919. From 1920 onwards, however, there was a steady increase in the average employment obtained by women each year.

The Report shows that for rather more than 75 per cent. of all the males in the sample, the contributions and benefit recorded account for 90 per cent. or more of the period covered, while in about 90 per cent. of cases the record accounts for 85 per cent. or more of the whole period. Moreover, with 90 per cent. of the males contributions represent about 77 per cent. of the period included in the record, and thus show a fair average record of employment.

During the period of about three and a half years from 17th October, 1923, to 4th April, 1927, nearly 2 per cent. of the males in the sample, and over 7 per cent. of the females, were found to have drawn no benefit. (To a small extent, this was due to benefit having been disallowed.) Nearly half the males, and five out of six of the females, had drawn benefit for less than 20 per cent. of the total period; while only a sixth of the males, and less than 1 per cent. of the females, had drawn benefit for more than half the total period. The average number of days' benefit drawn by each individual who drew benefit was 273 for males and 116 for females. The percentage of males on long periods of benefit was much higher at ages over 34.

The results of the analyses based on contributions and benefit are thus stated:—"The general body of claimants for benefit at a given date is made up of individuals with widely varying fortunes as regards employment and unemployment. . . . There is, among males, a nucleus of individuals who have been on benefit for long periods. These are mainly individuals over 45 years of age, and the nucleus is well below 10 per cent. of the total males in the sample, and is probably less than 7 per cent. The nucleus among females, if any, is very small. Among the remainder of the individuals on benefit the personnel is constantly changing, and on the average these individuals are at work for probably not less than 75 or 80 per cent. of their time."

INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT
SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) ACT.

THE Industrial and Provident Societies (Amendment) Act received the Royal Assent on 28th March.*

The Act provides that, "notwithstanding anything in Section 22 of the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1893, a member of a society registered under that Act shall not, without his consent in writing having been first obtained, be bound by any amendment of rules registered after he became a member, if and so far as such amendment requires him to take or subscribe for more shares than the number held by him at the date of registration of the amendment, or to pay upon the shares so held any sum exceeding the amount unpaid upon them at that date, or in any other way increases the liability of the member to contribute to the share or loan capital of the society."

In 1924 the Agricultural Wholesale Society, Limited, which is registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1893, went into liquidation; and as a result of a judgment of the House of Lords (Biddulph and District Agricultural Society, Limited, v. Agricultural Wholesale Society, Limited; 1927, A.C. 76) the shareholding societies of the Agricultural Wholesale Society, Limited, were held liable to pay for additional shares in accordance with the terms of amendments of its rules, although some of the shareholding societies appear to have been ignorant of their increased liability. The present Act is designed to prevent in future any increase in the liability of a shareholder in any Industrial and Provident Society without his written consent.

* 17 and 18 Geo. 5, cap. 4. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net.

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 2s. 6d. net.
† H.M. Stationery Office; price 3s. and 4s. net, respectively. Summaries of these Reports appeared in the issues of this GAZETTE for March, 1924, and for June, 1925, respectively.

‡ This inquiry, also on a sample basis, related to the whole body of insured persons, whether employed or unemployed. A Report on this inquiry has been published (H.M. Stationery Office, price 3s. 6d. net), and was reviewed in the January, 1927, issue of this GAZETTE, pages 12-13.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1927.

In the issue of this GAZETTE for January last (pages 3 and 4), a brief summary was published giving preliminary statistics as to the changes in rates of wages and hours of labour in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during 1927. In the following article revised figures are given, in greater detail, together with comparative statistics for previous years.

Changes in rates of wages and hours of labour come to the notice of the Department from a variety of sources, including (a) arbitration or conciliation proceedings under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, or the Conciliation Act, 1896; (b) Orders issued under the Trade Boards Acts; (c) returns and reports regularly supplied by many employers, employers' associations, and trade unions; (d) reports from the local officers of the Ministry, and from local correspondents in the principal industrial towns; (e) reports in the press. On the receipt of a notification as to a change, enquiry forms are sent by the Department to the employers, or their associations, and to the trade unions concerned, asking for particulars, and at the end of each month a summary of the information obtained is circulated to employers' associations and trade unions for verification. The particulars thus collected are published each month in this GAZETTE (see, for example, pages 143 and 144 of the present issue) with a summary showing the total numbers of workpeople affected and the total amount of increase or decrease in their weekly wages or hours of labour.

For the purpose of these statistics a change in a rate of wages is defined as a change in the rate of remuneration of a particular class of workpeople, apart from any change in the nature of the work performed. This definition excludes (a) changes in average earnings due to changes in the proportions of higher and lower paid workpeople, (b) changes in the rates of pay of individuals due to promotions or to progressive increments within the limits of fixed scales of wages, (c) changes in the terms of employment providing merely for compensation for extra work, and (d) changes in earnings arising out of variations in the amount of work done or in the amount of employment available. It should also be noted that as the Department has no compulsory powers in regard to the collection of the information, it is dependent on the voluntary co-operation of the employers, employers' associations, and trade unions concerned for the supply of the particulars required. While this voluntary co-operation is very freely accorded, and the statistics, therefore, cover a very wide field, some changes in wages and hours of labour, especially among those affecting unorganised groups of workpeople and those arranged by individual firms, do not come to the notice of the Department and are not included in the figures. Moreover, the statistics exclude changes in the wages and hours of agricultural labourers, Government employees, domestic servants, shop assistants, and clerks.

RATES OF WAGES.

CHANGES IN 1927, BY GROUPS OF INDUSTRIES.

In the industries and services for which statistics are available* the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department in 1927 resulted in an aggregate net decrease of £388,500 in the weekly full-time rates of wages of 1,855,000 workpeople, and a net increase of £30,700 in those of 282,000 workpeople. The following Table shows the numbers affected and the net amounts of increase or decrease in each of the groups of industries covered:—

Industry Group.	Approximate Number of separate individuals reported as affected by		Weekly Amount of Change in Rates of Wages.		Net Weekly Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in the Rates of Wages of those affected.
	Net Increases.	Net Decreases.	Increase.	Decrease.	
Mining and Quarrying ...	18,000	792,000	£ 850	£ 278,000	- 277,150
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ...	1,350	4,750	280	1,000	- 720
Iron and Steel ...	6,500	135,000	650	25,100	- 24,450
Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	185,000	...	18,600	...	+ 18,600
Other Metal ...	33,000	43,500	3,400	4,300	- 900
Textile ...	1,800	232,000	200	23,200	- 23,000
Clothing ...	200	195,000	40	18,900	- 18,860
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	650	21,000	200	2,100	- 1,900
Woodworking, etc. ...	800	17,500	110	2,250	- 2,140
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	...	26,000	...	1,950	- 1,950
Building and Allied Industries ...	15,000	57,250	3,100	5,900	- 2,800
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply ...	2,800	37,000	370	3,400	- 3,030
Transport ...	8,600	188,000	2,000	13,700	- 11,700
Public Administrative Services ...	7,400	66,500	750	5,800	- 5,050
Other ...	900	38,500	150	2,900	- 2,750
Total* ...	282,000	1,855,000	30,700	388,500	- 357,800

In addition to the numbers shown in the Table, 62,000 workpeople received increases and sustained reductions of equal amounts.

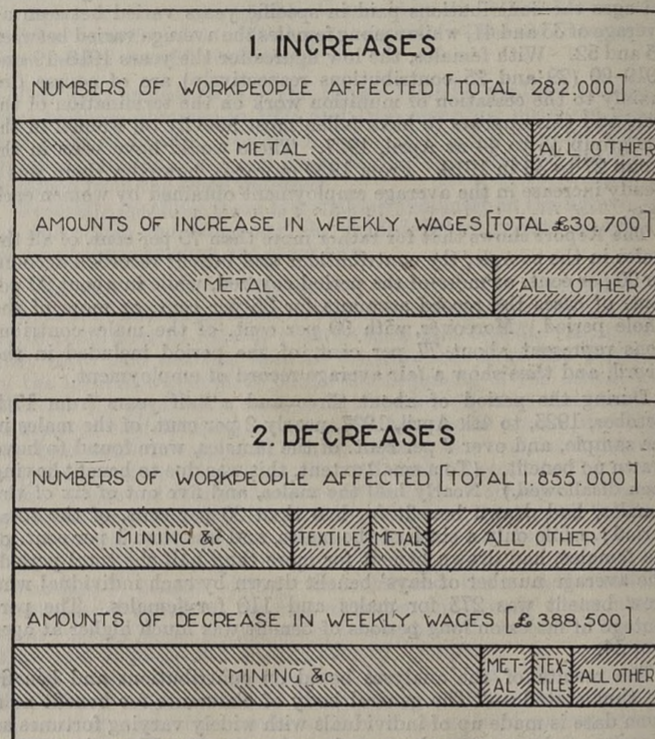
* The statistics are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, Government employees, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks.

during the year. Of these, 27,000 were in the transport group, 11,500 in the public administrative services group, 6,500 in the chemical, etc., group, and 6,500 in the woodworking, etc., group.

It should be observed that, as the changes in the wages of adult men are usually greater than those affecting women, boys and girls, comparisons of the average amount of change per head in the different groups of industries, to be deduced from the figures, are affected by the varying proportions of men, women and young persons employed in those industries.

Among the industries covered by the statistics, coal-mining alone accounted for 42 per cent. of the total number of workpeople whose wage rates were reported as reduced, and for 71 per cent. of the total amount of decrease in weekly wages. Considerable numbers of workpeople in the iron and steel, textile, clothing and transport industries were also affected by reductions in rates of wages during 1927, but the amounts of the changes in these groups were relatively small. The engineering and other metal groups accounted for a large portion of the total increase.

The distribution, among the industry-groups principally affected, of the numbers of workpeople and amounts of increase or decrease shown for 1927 in the foregoing Table, is illustrated below:—



Details of changes in rates of wages arranged in 1927 in each of the principal industries are given below:—

Mining and Quarrying.—In the coal-mining industry rates of wages in Northumberland and Durham had been reduced to the minimum permissible under the terms of settlement of the stoppage of 1926 in December of that year, and they remained unchanged throughout 1927. In the other important coalfields, the terms of settlement contained provisions that wage levels fixed therein should be maintained, subject in certain instances to reductions at specified intervals, for varying periods in 1927, after which wages were to be regulated by the proceeds of the industry in each district. On the expiration of these periods, wages were reduced, on the basis of the sliding scales, to the minimum level permissible under the terms of the agreements. The subsistence wages and allowances of the lower-paid workers, however, were in some cases unchanged, and in others reduced by amounts smaller than those by which the wages of other workers were reduced. Iron miners in Cleveland, and shale miners in Scotland, sustained reductions in wages, but a considerable number of the iron miners in Cumberland received a small net increase.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—The wages of workpeople engaged in the manufacture of pig-iron and finished iron and steel, which fluctuate in nearly all the principal districts under sliding scales dependent on the selling price of pig-iron or of manufactured iron and steel, were reduced in nearly all districts in 1927, the principal exception being blastfurnace workers in South Staffordshire, whose wages were increased and reduced by equal amounts during the year. In certain cases the full amount of wage reduction warranted by the sliding scales was not enforced, and in several districts the reduction was modified or not operated in the case of lower-paid workers. The following Table shows the percentage additions to the standard rates of the principal bodies of workers at the end of 1926 and at the end of 1927.

It should be observed that the percentage additions to standard rates do not indicate the relative level of wages as between one district and another, owing to the fact that there are considerable differences in the standard rates in the different districts.

Class of Worker and District.	Percentage additions to standard rates at end of	
	1926.	1927.
Blastfurnace workers (Cleveland) ...	14½	13
" " (West Cumberland) ...	38*	16*
" " (North Staffordshire) ...	48½†	46½†
" " (South Staffordshire) ...	10	10
" " (North Lincolnshire) ...	34‡	25‡
" " (Northamptonshire) ...	45	42‡
" " (South Wales and Monmouth) ...	51	49
" " (West of Scotland) ...	15§	11§
Iron puddlers and millmen (North of England) ...	49‡ and 47	32 and 29‡
" " (West of Scotland) ...	55	47‡
Iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen (Midlands) ...	55‡	{ 35, 37‡ and 40‡
Siemens steel workers (South-West Wales) ...	16‡¶	6‡¶
Iron and steel workers (South Wales and Monmouth) ...	51	49
Steel smelters (N. of England, West of Scotland, &c.) ...	1‡ and 26‡	{ At Std. and 25
Steel sheet millmen (various districts) ...	50	40, 42‡ & 45

Engineering, Shipbuilding and other Metal Industries.—In the engineering industry and certain other metal industries, including railway carriage and wagon building (except railway companies), bridge building, sheet metal working, and weighing-machine making, in various districts in Great Britain, and ammunition, small arms, cycle, axle and spring, cast-iron hollow-ware, tube, etc. making in the Birmingham and Wolverhampton districts, adult male time-workers were granted a special bonus of 2s. a week in August. No general change in wages occurred during the year in the shipbuilding industry or in the tinplate industry. The principal reductions in wages in this group occurred in electric cable, chain, and bobbin making.

Textile Industries.—There was no general change in wages during 1927 in the cotton and wool textile industries, though in the latter the agreement regulating wage rates was terminated in November. In the hosiery industry in the Midlands there was a reduction in the bonus. There were also reductions in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts in the jute and flax and hemp industries in Great Britain, and in the linen and cotton handkerchief and household goods and linen piece goods industry in Northern Ireland. In the textile bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing industries in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Scotland, there were small net reductions during the year under cost-of-living sliding scales; except in Scotland, wages were also reduced by the withdrawal of a bonus of 2s. per week for men and 1s. 3d. per week for women, which had been in operation since 1924.

Clothing Industries.—In the retail bespoke tailoring trade the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were modified by the introduction of a system whereby differential rates were fixed for areas of varying importance. Generally speaking, the effect, so far as the minimum time rates were concerned, was to leave the rates unchanged in a considerable number of districts, to increase them in certain of the larger towns, and to reduce them in smaller towns and rural districts. The rates of wages of operatives engaged in boot and shoe manufacture were reduced during the year, under a cost-of-living sliding scale by 4s. and 2s. per week in the case of adult male and female time-workers respectively, and by 2½ per cent. in the case of piece-workers; while there were reductions in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for boot and shoe repairers, amounting in the case of adult time-workers to 2s. or 3s. per week. There was also a reduction in the dyeing and dry cleaning industry.

Gas, Water and Electricity Supply.—There was no general change in wages during the year in the gas industry. In the electricity supply industry there was a reduction of ¼d. per hour in most districts, except on the North-East Coast and in the East Midlands, where no change occurred, and also excluding certain classes of workers in Scotland, who received a net increase. Employees at waterworks in London, the Northern Counties, Yorkshire and Lancashire also sustained reductions.

Transport Industries.—In the case of railway workers engaged in the manipulation of traffic in Great Britain there was an increase, under cost-of-living sliding scale, of 1s. a week in January, followed by a reduction of 2s. a week in July, affecting those grades of workers who were in receipt of the cost-of-living bonus. Coal tipplers and trimmers also sustained a decrease in wages. In the road transport and shipping industries, and in the case of dock labour, there were no general changes during the year.

Public Administrative Services.—In the non-trading departments of Local Authorities there were reductions in wages during 1927 in London, Lancashire and Cheshire, the East Midlands, the South Midlands, and in Devon, Cornwall and Dorset.

Other Industries.—The principal changes in rates of wages in other industries were all reductions, and affected workpeople engaged in seed crushing and oil milling, electrical contracting, civil engineering

* The percentage on bonus earnings was reduced from 56 to 43½ in the Workington area and from 51 to 38½ in the Furness area. A cost-of-living bonus paid to certain classes was also reduced in 1927.

† Tonnage men only. The percentage for workers other than tonnage men was increased from 54½ to 61.

‡ A bonus of 1d. to 5d. a shift paid to lower-paid workers at the end of 1926, supplementing a bonus of 1s. 1d. per shift, was altered to 1d. to 9d.

§ This percentage applies chiefly to tonnage men. The percentage addition for lower-rated day-men generally remained at 21 throughout the year.

¶ A bonus of 2d. to 11d. per shift (granted in 1925) was paid to lower-paid workers in addition to the percentages quoted.

‡ Special bonuses paid to lower-paid workers, in addition to the current percentage on basis rates, were adjusted so as to leave their total wages the same at the end of the year as at the beginning.

construction, glass bottle making in Yorkshire, packing case making in London, and, under Trade Board Orders, in paper bag, paper box and brush and broom making.

MONTHLY CHANGES IN 1927.

The following Table shows the numbers of workpeople affected by changes in rates of wages reported to the Department as taking effect in each month of 1927, and the amount of the change in their weekly wages:—

Month.	Approximate Number of Workpeople whose Rates of Wages were		Weekly Amount of Change in Rates of Wages.	
	Increased.	Decreased.	Increase.	Decrease.
January ...	402,000	294,000	£ 21,300	£ 39,400
February ...	48,000	140,000	4,600	9,150
March ...	200,000	153,000	46,500	24,000
April ...	28,000	564,000	4,250	70,500
May ...	10,500	516,000	750	78,400
June ...	67,000	556,000	5,600	84,300
July ...	98,000	566,000	2,600	81,700
August ...	292,000	134,000	27,200	11,650
September ...	4,500	210,000	500	48,000
October ...	106,000	177,000	2,300	12,500
November ...	124,000	164,000	7,600	17,200
December ...	27,000	65,000	1,900	6,100

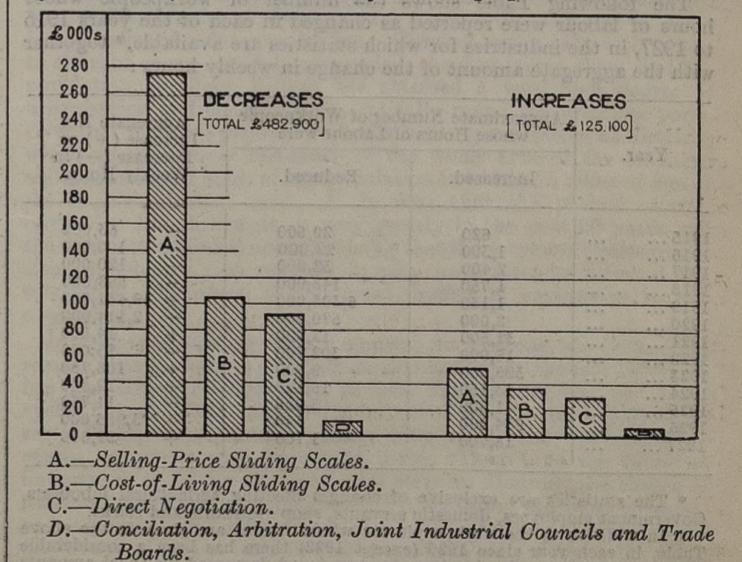
It should be noted that a considerable number of workpeople had their wages changed more than once during the year, and that consequently the same workers may appear in the total number affected in two or more months.

METHODS BY WHICH CHANGES IN WAGES WERE ARRANGED.

In the case of those workpeople who received increases at certain dates and sustained reductions at other dates in 1927, the figures in the Table on page 120 relate to the net amount of the change in the year. The gross total of all the increases granted was £125,100, and that of all the decreases was £482,900 a week, the net effect being a decrease, as shown above, of £357,800 a week. The following Table shows the aggregate amounts of the total increases and total decreases which were effected by various methods during 1927, together with percentages which show to what extent each method contributed to the total. The figures in italics represent the changes which followed disputes causing stoppage of work.

Method.	Aggregate Amount of Change in Weekly Wage Rates effected by the methods shown in the first column.			
	Increases.		Decreases.	
	Amount.	Percentage of Total.	Amount.	Percentage of Total.
Under sliding scales * based on:	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
Cost of living ...	36,300	29.1	105,000	21.7
Selling prices, proceeds of industry, etc. ...	51,800	41.4	273,700	56.7
Conciliation (including Conciliation Boards) ...	3,550	2.8	3,000	0.6
Arbitration ...	2,900	2.3	3,450	0.7
By other methods:—				
Direct Negotiation ...	29,900	23.9	92,300	19.1
Joint Industrial Councils ...	550	0.4	350	0.1
Trade Boards ...	100	0.1	5,100	1.1

From the following graphic representation of the extent to which various methods of settlement operated in 1927, it will be seen that the great bulk of the changes in wages were effected in accordance with cost-of-living and selling-price sliding scales, or by direct negotiation, while other methods of arranging changes (e.g., by the machinery of conciliation boards and joint industrial councils, and by arbitration) accounted for only a small proportion of the total.



* Changes taking effect under sliding scales arranged by Joint Industrial Councils and Trade Boards are included under "sliding scales."

SUMMARY FOR 1915-1927.

In the following Table the figures as to the number of workpeople affected by changes in rates of wages, and the net amount of increase or decrease in wages, in 1927, in the industries for which statistics are available,* are shown in comparison with similar figures for the previous 12 years:—

Year.	Approximate Number of Workpeople whose Rates of Wages were		Net Weekly Amount of Change in Rates of Wages.		Net Weekly Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in the Rates of Wages of those affected.
	Increased.	Decreased.	Increase.	Decrease.	
1915 ...	4,305,000	...	£ 867,100	...	+ 867,100
1916 ...	4,848,000	250	885,250	50	+ 885,200
1917 ...	6,362,000	75	2,986,200	5	+ 2,986,195
1918 ...	6,224,000	...	3,434,500	...	+ 3,434,500
1919 ...	6,240,000	100	2,547,200	...	+ 2,547,140
1920 ...	7,867,000	500	4,793,200	180	+ 4,793,020
1921 ...	78,000	7,244,000	13,600	6,074,600	- 6,061,000
1922 ...	73,700	7,633,000	11,450	4,221,500	- 4,210,050
1923 ...	1,202,000	3,079,000	169,000	486,000	- 317,000
1924 ...	3,019,000	481,500	616,000	62,100	+ 553,900
1925 ...	873,000	851,000	80,900	159,000	+ 78,100
1926 ...	420,000	740,000	135,000	83,700	+ 49,300
1927 ...	282,000	1,855,000	30,700	388,500	- 357,800

As indicated above, the figures quoted in the above Table must be regarded in the light of certain qualifications. In the first place it should be noted that the changes in wage rates reported to the Department are in the main those arranged between organised groups of employers and workpeople, and that many changes among unorganised workers, especially those affecting only employees of single firms, are not reported. Moreover, as already stated, certain large groups of workpeople are definitely excluded from the scope of the statistics. In consequence of these limitations the figures should not be regarded as affording more than a general indication of the direction of the movement of wages in any year, and a very rough measure of the extent of such movement in comparison with that of other years; and significance should not be attached to small differences in the amount of change between one year and another. A small amount of change in any year indicates little more than the fact that wages were almost stationary; in 1925, for example, the inclusion of agricultural labourers would have converted the small reduction in wages shown in the Table into a slight increase. Further, the fact that the changes reported relate mainly to organised workers results in the figures being influenced, over a series of years, by fluctuations in the strength of the workers' organisations. This is particularly the case during the period of 13 years under review, in which these fluctuations have been very considerable. The tendency towards the negotiation of wage changes on a national basis since the war period has also tended to make the figures more comprehensive, for such changes do not escape notice; but when changes are negotiated for particular localities only it is probable that a proportion of such changes do not come to the notice of the Department. It may also be observed that, during the war period, the number of female workers in industry was above the normal and the number of male workers considerably below normal; and as the amount of individual changes arranged for females is generally smaller than that agreed upon for males in the same industry, the aggregate amount of the changes in these years is lower than it would have been if the pre-war proportions of male and female employees had been maintained. The relative levels of wages at the end of 1914 and 1927, therefore, cannot be accurately ascertained by deducting the aggregate amount of the reduction shown in the years 1921-1927 from the aggregate amount of increase accorded in 1915-1920. The figures, however, illustrate the steep rise in money wages during the earlier of these periods, the marked fall in 1921-1922, and the relative stability in wages in 1923 to 1927.

HOURS OF LABOUR.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople whose hours of labour were reported as changed in each of the years 1915 to 1927, in the industries for which statistics are available,* together with the aggregate amount of the change in weekly hours:—

Year.	Approximate Number of Workpeople whose Hours of Labour were		Aggregate Net Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Weekly Hours.
	Increased.	Reduced.	
1915 ...	620	20,500	- 63,000
1916 ...	1,300	22,000	- 100,000
1917 ...	2,400	32,000	- 120,000
1918 ...	1,750	148,000	- 568,000
1919 ...	1,150	6,305,000	- 40,651,000
1920 ...	2,000	570,000	- 2,114,000
1921 ...	31,500	12,900	+ 14,500
1922 ...	16,000	302,700	+ 93,000
1923 ...	325,000	9,600	+ 108,750
1924 ...	13,150	16,150	+ 12,500
1925 ...	1,300	3,925	+ 11,750
1926 ...	934,200	340	+ 3,985,000
1927 ...	18,700	1,700	+ 59,000

* The statistics are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, Government employees, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks.
† In addition to the workpeople for whom figures are given in the above Table, in each year since 1920 (except 1922) there has been a considerable number whose wages having been increased and decreased by equal amounts remained at the same level at the end of the year as at the beginning. The numbers of such workpeople in the various years are as follows: 1921, 110,000; 1923, 404,000; 1924, 372,000; 1925, 332,000; 1926, 447,000; 1927, 62,000.

The total number of workpeople whose normal hours of labour were changed in 1927, so far as reported to the Department, was 20,400. Of these, 18,700 had their hours increased by an average of about 3.6 hours per head per week, and 1,700 had their working time reduced by about 4.6 hours per week. The principal increases in hours were alterations from 7 to 8 per shift in the case of underground workers and from 4½ to 49 per week for surface workers at shale mines in Scotland; from 44 to 48 per week for thread workers in Scotland; and from 44 to 47 per week for the employees of certain Local Authorities in London. The hours of coal tipplers and trimmers at the Bristol Channel ports were increased from 43 to 45 per week on the first shift, and from 37½ to 40 on the second shift.

AGRICULTURAL WAGES AND EMPLOYMENT IN 1927.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have issued a Report of proceedings under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act for the year ending 30th September, 1927.*

In a large majority of areas there was no change during the year in the statutory minimum rates of wages. In Hampshire the rate for adult male workers was increased from 30s. to 30s. 6d. a week; but in Northumberland and Durham the rate was reduced by 1s. a week, to 32s. in Northumberland and 31s. in Durham.

The hours in respect of which the minimum rates are fixed are usually 48 or 50 in winter, and usually range from 50 to 54 in summer. In Glamorgan and in Herefordshire the summer hours were increased by two hours and by one hour, respectively, the weekly minimum wage remaining unchanged.

In the summer of 1927, as in the summer of 1926, the lowest minimum rate for ordinary adult male workers was 30s., and the highest 36s. The rates most commonly paid in both years were 30s. and 31s.; and four-fifths of the rates in 1927 fell within the range 30s. to 32s. 6d. The average of the minimum weekly rates for ordinary adult male workers in 1927 was 31s. 8d. On the assumption that, taking the country as a whole, farm wages in 1914 averaged about 18s. a week, including the principal allowances in kind, the average in 1927 stood at about 76 per cent. above the pre-war level. (This takes no account of overtime payments or of additional earnings at special seasons, nor has any allowance been made for the reduction of hours since 1914.)

The average rate for the "special class" workers, such as horsemen, stockmen, and shepherds, stood at about 37s., or about 5s. 6d. above the average for ordinary workers.

Speaking generally, and with some exceptions, the lowest rates are paid in areas that are predominantly agricultural, and the highest in counties with a large urban or industrial population. The areas with a rate exceeding 35s. are Cheshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire, Leicestershire, the Holland division of Lincolnshire, Middlesex, the East and West Ridings of Yorkshire, and Glamorgan.

All but two of the Agricultural Wages Committees now allow for a weekly half-holiday. Many of the Committees have had under consideration during the year the question of the observance of public holidays in agriculture, and four more Committees have defined employment on certain public holidays as overtime. The practice is, however, still quite exceptional.

A section of the Report dealing with the state of employment in agriculture states that it would appear that there was no appreciable unemployment among regular farm hands during the year. Such unemployment as has occurred has been chiefly confined to casual workers at certain periods of the year; on the other hand there have been a few cases where farmers have had some difficulty in getting extra casual labour for harvest work, and in some cases for potato lifting. Reports are still received from time to time that boy labour is very difficult to get in some areas, and that the young men of the rural districts are disinclined to take up employment on the land. It is also constantly reported that there is a shortage of really competent adult workers for such work as that of stockmen, carters, shepherds, hedgers, thatchers, etc., and that, as the older men retire, it is becoming increasingly difficult to fill their places. Reference is made in the Report to the educational work that is being done to remedy this state of affairs. It is considered that the number of Irish labourers available for seasonal work is smaller than before the War.

REGISTERED TRADE UNIONS: STATISTICAL RETURN FOR 1925-6.

A RETURN† has been compiled by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies giving statistics relating to registered trade unions with 10,000 or more members. The number of unions included in the Return is 70, the years to which the figures given relate are 1925 and 1926, and the particulars given, which are shown separately for each union included, comprise the number of branches, membership, income, expenditure and funds. The income is analysed according to whether it was derived from members, from State Unemployment refund, or from other sources; and the expenditure is analysed under several headings, viz., unemployment benefit, dispute benefit, sick and accident benefit, funeral benefit, superannuation benefit, other benefits, expenditure from political fund, grants to other bodies, salaries of officers, expenses of executive committee, other working expenses, and other outgoings.

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 6d. net.

† Cmd. 3056. H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net.

"FURTHER FACTORS IN INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EFFICIENCY."

SURVEY BY THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY AND TRADE.

THE Committee on Industry and Trade, whose Chairman is Sir Arthur Balfour, K.B.E., have issued a further volume*, in continuation of their "Factors in Industrial and Commercial Efficiency," issued in February, 1927.†

The first subject discussed by the Committee is industrial output and power, with special reference to the preliminary results of the Third Census of Production, taken in 1924, most of which have now been published. The Committee point out that the increase in the average volume (as distinct from money value) of net output per head between 1907 (the date of the only previous complete census) and 1924 was relatively slight, in spite of an increase of about 75 per cent. in the power capacity at the disposal of industry in the interval. Some of the possible reasons for this disappointing result are discussed.

The next chapter of the volume deals with costs of production and distribution. With certain exceptions (chiefly coal-mining), no generally available statistics of costs of production (or distribution) in this country exist. Hence the figures assembled by the Committee (as the result of a special investigation), though forming a somewhat slender statistical basis for comparisons or conclusions, are of much interest. They include a comparative analysis of costs of production in a pre-war year (usually 1913) and a post-war year (usually 1924 or 1925) for 50 undertakings or groups of undertakings, mostly in the great exporting industries. Taking first the comparison of total costs in the pre-war and post-war year, the Committee find a very wide range of divergence, both as between different industries and within the same industry; but it is possible to infer that the average rise of industrial costs in the great exporting trades between 1913 and 1925 has been in the neighbourhood of 80 to 90 per cent. Looking at the differences between examples from different industries, it is found that the total costs as compared with 1913 (= 100) range from 120 (heavy oil engines) and 133 (blasting explosives) to 275 (Egyptian cotton spinning). Of the groups of trades, the textile group, with an average of 225, shows much the highest rise; while shipbuilding (147), iron and steel (162), general engineering (166), and chemicals (174), show the lowest rates of increase. The magnitude of the increase in the textile group is mainly attributable to the rise in the cost of raw material. The returns for the cotton trade (spinning and weaving) show that on the average nearly three-quarters of the cost of production was represented by the cost of materials, and that on the average the cost of materials in 1925 was 236 as compared with 100 in 1913. In other cases a great part of the increase is attributed to a decline in production, and a consequent increase in the burden of overhead charges per unit of output.

The Committee next analyse the figures relating to wages costs. They note first the widely different percentages of total cost of production which are represented by wages of labour employed (directly or indirectly) on production in different industries, and in different undertakings belonging to the same industrial group. The figures indicate that, in the cost accounts of the great exporting trades as a whole, the average proportion borne to total cost by the wages of labour employed directly or indirectly on production is in the neighbourhood of 30 to 40 per cent. (not including the element of wages contained in other items of cost, such as materials). The highest percentage found for any important industry in 1925 was that for coal mining (70.7). Among the lowest percentages were coke (about 9) and basic pig iron (10), the predominant reason in these cases being the high proportion of cost due to raw materials.

The Committee then inquire into the movement of labour costs as between 1913 and 1925, both absolutely and in relation to the movement of total costs. They find that, on the average, the wages cost of production in the instances examined has increased in the interval by about 90 per cent. In the group comprising the coal, iron and steel, shipbuilding, and general engineering trades the increase has been somewhat less (between 80 and 85 per cent.); while the textile and clothing groups show increases between 90 and 115 per cent., and the chemical group (including dyes, explosives, and soap) comes highest with an increase of 129 per cent. The Committee mention some reasons for the differences in these percentages, such as the disproportionate rise in wages for unskilled labour, experienced in full force by the chemical group, the operation of the Trade Boards Acts in the clothing group, and an increase in the amount of labour expended per unit of production, owing to changes of fashion, in the boot and shoe trades. In the cotton trade the governing factor has probably been the reduction of hours of labour for which no compensation could be found by speeding up machinery. But it is noteworthy that in all the great groups, with the possible exceptions of iron and steel, shipbuilding, and general engineering, the rate of increase of the labour cost per unit of product shown by the returns exceeded the rise during the same period in the rates of money wages for a full week's work. No doubt part of the difference is due to the character of the data, but, after all necessary qualifications, the Committee suggest that the average rise of direct wages costs in the cases for which comparable data are available had been in the neighbourhood of 75 to 80 per cent.; while the average rise in rates of wages for a full week in the great

* "Further Factors in Industrial and Commercial Efficiency." H.M. Stationery Office; price 3s. 6d. net.
† H.M. Stationery Office; price 5s. net. A short notice of this volume appeared in the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1927, page 43.

exporting trades, it is estimated, did not exceed 60 to 70 per cent. There was thus a marked discrepancy between the increases in wages and in labour costs, in spite of the progress made in the equipment of industry with plant and power. After indicating some of the factors operating either to increase or to diminish such a discrepancy, the Committee find it difficult to resist the conclusion that the residual factor which accounts for at least part and possibly the greater part of the increase in the "real" cost of labour in production is the reduction in the length of the working week between the dates compared. This reduction averaged on the whole about 10 per cent.; and, speaking generally, it seems clear that it has not been fully offset by increased productivity per hour, though doubtless the experience of different industries has varied widely in this respect.

Turning to costs of salaries, which vary greatly as between different industries and different undertakings, the Committee find that the limited evidence available indicates that the average cost of salaries per unit of output represented in 1925 between double and treble its amount in 1913. The disproportion between this rate of increase and that of wages costs is accounted for by the fact that the post-war year to which the figures relate was one of depression, in which the relative cost of salaries is bound to be abnormally high.

Of the items (other than wages and salaries) in the cost of industrial production the cost of materials is, as a general rule, much the most important. It is shown that the relative cost of materials varies widely as between different industries and different undertakings, and that the great fluctuations in the price of certain essential raw materials during the post-war period had a most deleterious effect on costs of production.

Of the items included under the category of "other expenses," it is found that the cost of power, heat, etc., while varying widely in different cases, represented between 2 and 2½ per cent. of total cost, and that on the average it roughly doubled per unit of output since 1913. (The cost of the same amount of power has not, of course, gone up in this proportion, since, as already shown, there has been a great increase in power capacity.) The item for maintenance and depreciation has risen very greatly. The incidence of other items, e.g., local rates and social charges, on costs was described in the Committee's earlier volume "Factors in Industrial and Commercial Efficiency."

As regards costs of distribution, the figures given by the Committee suggest that, subject to wide deviations in individual commodities and trades, about a third of the retail price of commodities goes to the wholesale and retail distributors, and the remainder to the producers and transport agencies.

On the subject of the general effects of over-capitalisation on costs and prices, and generally on the successful conduct of industrial enterprise, the Committee reach the conclusion that "the evils so widely attributed to over-capitalisation are . . . very real and serious, though not of the kind commonly supposed." They proceed to discuss what, in their opinion, are the actual effects of over-capitalisation.

Separate chapters of the volume deal with transport facilities, and with some aspects of industrial mobility, and in the latter connection a comparative examination is made of the unemployment insurance statistics for the years 1923 to 1927. The total number of insured persons increased from about 11½ millions in 1923 to rather less than 12 millions in 1927. This increase (nearly 6 per cent.) was very unequally distributed both industrially and geographically. Among the group of relatively shrinking trades are the bulk of the great exporting industries which the Committee selected at the outset of their inquiry for special examination, the only important industries in the exporting group which show substantial increases being the electrical trades, the motor industry, and artificial silk. In general the figures confirm the view that in the last few years the great exporting industries have not fully kept pace with other industries and occupations in this country. Other significant indications which can be observed from a study of the figures are the southward shifting of the centres of gravity of certain trades, and the industrialisation of non-urban areas in the South of England, phenomena which are comparatively new, and likely to be stimulated by the transmission of electric power to rural districts and by other forces making for decentralisation. Turning to the data with regard to changes over a much longer period, the Committee show that the population of Great Britain has attained a very high degree of urbanisation and concentration, specially round the principal ports. Over half the total population dwells in five great industrial districts, which comprise only one-tenth of the whole area of the country; and about 45 per cent. of the population is within 15 miles of one of the twelve principal ports. It is clear that the process of concentration has slowed down very greatly in the past 20 years, and the Committee think it not improbable that the process of decentralisation of industry just referred to may have already reversed the tendency. The effect of the great decline in emigration is also considered.

In a chapter dealing with industrial fluctuations, the Committee remark that the course of the economic history of the last 100 years has been largely dominated by periodic wave movements, or "trade cycles," and, while taking due account of the part played in such cycles by monetary causes, they show that psychological causes occupy a very important place. They urge the immense importance of taking all practicable steps to diminish the causes of irrational aberrations of judgment, by providing the most complete and accurate information bearing on the trend and prospects of productive activity; and in this connection they refer to the steps which are being taken by the Board of Trade (as recommended in an interim Report by the Committee) for the compilation of a continuous series of indices of production to be published at short

intervals, and so bridge the gap between the successive Censuses of Production. The publication of official statistical data, however, will not suffice to check industrial fluctuations apart from the gradual creation of a habit of mind among the business community disposing them to take broader and longer views of their interest, based less on irrational impulse and more on reason and experience.

The two concluding chapters of the volume deal with the present position in regard to the supply of official information and statistics on industrial and commercial matters; and with public trading enterprise (municipal trading, dock and harbour administration by public trusts, etc.).

OUTPUT, COSTS AND PROCEEDS OF THE COAL-MINING INDUSTRY.

A STATISTICAL summary* of the output, and of the costs of production, proceeds and profits of the coal-mining industry for the quarter ended 31st December, 1927,† prepared by the Mines Department and based partly upon returns made for the purpose of wages ascertainment for certain districts and partly upon other returns supplied by individual colliery owners, shows that at undertakings which produced 60,350,401 tons of saleable coal, or about 96 per cent. of the total quantity raised in the quarter, 55,379,732 tons were disposable commercially.

The net costs, after deducting the proceeds of miners' coal, amounted to £41,122,417, equivalent to 14s. 10.21d. per ton. The proceeds of commercial disposals amounted to £38,253,465, equivalent to 13s. 9.78d. per ton. There was thus a debit balance of £2,868,952, or 1s. 0.43d. per ton. An analysis by districts shows that the debit balance ranged from 7.11d. in South Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Cannock Chase and Warwickshire to 1s. 7.86d. in South Wales and Monmouthshire.†

The number of workpeople employed was 945,480, and the number of man-shifts worked was 57,964,035. The average output per man-shift worked was 20.82 cwt., the average for the districts ranging from 16.53 cwt. in Lancashire, Cheshire and North Staffordshire, to 23.30 cwt. in Scotland. The average earnings per man-shift worked were 9s. 7.38d., ranging from 8s. 6.73d. in Northumberland to 10s. 5.30d. in North Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. These earnings do not include the value of allowances in kind.

The number of man-shifts lost which could have been worked (including absences due to sickness or accident) was 3,659,730.

The following Table compares some of the more important figures with those given in previous returns:—

Quarter ended	Proportion of Industry covered.	Amount of Saleable Coal raised.	Credit (+) or Debit (-) balance per ton.†	No. of Work-people employed.	Output per man-shift worked.	Earnings per man-shift worked.
1924.	Per cent.	Tons.	s. d.		Cwts.	s. d.
31st Mar.	94	67,047,657	+2 9.63	1,111,280	17.79	10 2.82
30th June	93	61,552,868	+1 0.34	1,107,457	17.48	10 11.17
30th Sept.	92	59,163,976	+0 0.26	1,082,340	17.33	10 10.24
31st Dec.	94	62,428,185	+0 7.61	1,078,758	17.74	10 7.04
1925.						
31st Mar.	94	62,458,898	+0 6.13	1,074,079	17.98	10 7.58
30th June	95	54,982,191	-0 11.81	1,032,216	17.85	10 6.77
30th Sept.	98	54,976,337	-0 2.82	1,013,757	17.88	10 4.85
31st Dec.	98	62,662,455	+1 6.70	1,041,997	18.31	10 5.14
1926.						
31st Mar.	99	66,071,166	+1 4.99	1,074,395	18.46	10 4.79
1927.						
31st Mar.	96	63,329,641	+1 2.41	969,943	20.66	10 7.12
30th June	96	58,880,719	-1 0.65	981,393	20.47	10 2.84
30th Sept.	96	58,585,249	-1 2.00	946,487	20.47	9 9.53
31st Dec.	96	60,350,401	-1 0.43	945,480	20.82	9 7.38

FATAL ACCIDENTS IN MINES AND QUARRIES IN 1927.

THE Mines Department have issued a preliminary statement‡ of the number of deaths caused by accidents in and about the mines and quarries of Great Britain, together with the Isle of Man, during the year 1927. The principal statistics are given below:—

	Number of separate Fatal Accidents in			Number of Deaths caused by Fatal Accidents in		
	1927.¶	1926.	1925.	1927.¶	1926.	1925.
Mines under the Coal Mines Act, 1911 ...	1,026	630	1,050	1,126	649	1,136
Mines under the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act, 1872 ...	12	12	22	13	13	23
Quarries under the Quarries Act, 1894** ...	67	66	73	67	67	74
Total ...	1,105	708	1,145	1,206	729	1,233

* Cmd. 3063. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net.
 † In the case of South Wales and Monmouthshire the period covered is the quarter ended 31st January, 1928.
 ‡ Calculated on the quantity of coal disposable commercially.
 § After crediting subvention.
 ¶ H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net.
 ** The particulars relating to 1927 are subject to minor corrections on the receipt of the final returns for the Annual Report.
 *** The Quarries Act, 1894, applies only to quarries more than 20 feet deep. In addition, 6 deaths at quarries 20 feet deep or less were reported.

The greatly reduced number of accidents in 1926 was, of course, due to the prolonged coal mining stoppage of that year. Hence the figures for 1925 afford a better basis of comparison.

Of the 1,126 deaths from fatal accidents at mines under the Coal Mines Act in 1927, almost exactly half—562—were due to falls of ground (including 376 at the working face and 186 on underground roads), and 234 were due to haulage accidents underground (including 204 caused by persons being run over or crushed by trams or tubs). Of the remainder, 72 were due to explosions of fire damp or coal dust, including 52 caused by a single great explosion in Monmouthshire; 52 were due to shaft accidents; 110 were due to miscellaneous accidents underground; and 96 to accidents on the surface.

Falls of ground also accounted for half the deaths from fatal accidents at mines under the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act and at quarries, viz., 7 out of 13, and 34 out of 67.

INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE BETWEEN CERTAIN EMPLOYERS AND THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS GENERAL COUNCIL.

At the joint meeting held on 12th January* between the representative group of employers and the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, Sir Alfred Mond, on behalf of the employers, suggested certain topics* for investigation and discussion. Following this meeting the General Council gave consideration to the programme of inquiry, and decided to submit for the consideration of the employers a more detailed list of subjects for discussion, as follows:—

Trade Union recognition; victimisation; collective bargaining; the legal regulation of hours; unemployment; management and labour; works councils; high wages policy; participation of labour in the benefits of increased production; minimum wage principles; publicity for the facts of industry; the effect of unnecessary internal competition on labour standards; competition of countries with lower labour standards; international agreements and conventions; International Economic Conference; the organisation, technique, and control of industry; distribution; technical education; industrial finance; banking and credit systems and policy; taxation and local rates.

The sub-committee of the General Council and of the Representative Group of Employers met on 21st March, when the question of the agenda was discussed fully, and it was decided that the agenda agreed by the Joint Committee should be referred respectively to the General Council of the Trades Union Congress and the Representative Group of Employers. It was arranged that for the consideration of the various items on the agenda further joint committee meetings should be held weekly.

The Joint Committee have drawn attention to the fact that, in view of the large field of industrial problems covered by the agenda, some time must elapse before any complete and detailed information can be made public. Arrangements will be made for further full joint conferences as required.

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS IN EMPLOYMENT.

IN the March issue of this GAZETTE (pages 81-82) figures were given showing the results of an attempt to arrive at an approximate estimate of the number of insured persons in employment in Great Britain at the end of June in each of the years 1921-1927, and in January and February, 1928. The method by which the estimates have been computed is explained in the article referred to.

Corresponding figures for 26th March, 1928, with comparative figures for 23rd January and 20th February, are given below:—

Date.	Estimated Total Insured, aged 16-64. (provisional figures).	Number Un-employed.	Difference (to nearest hundred).	Estimated Number in Employment, after allowing for sickness, etc.:	
				(A) including persons directly involved in Trade Disputes; (B) excluding such persons.	(A) (B)
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
1928.					
23rd Jan.	11,590,000	1,227,435	10,362,600	9,957,000	9,954,000
20th Feb.	11,599,000	1,195,131	10,403,900	9,997,900	9,992,900
26th Mar.	11,608,000	1,095,858	10,512,100	10,105,800	10,100,800

* See the February, 1928, issue of this GAZETTE, page 43.

HOURS AND EARNINGS IN BITUMINOUS COAL MINING IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1926.

THE United States Bureau of Labour Statistics have published the results* of an inquiry made in 1926 into hours and earnings in bituminous coal mines. The data were taken directly from the pay rolls and other records of 36 representative mines, distributed over 11 States in which, according to the figures of the Bureau of Mines, approximately 90 per cent. of all wage earners in bituminous coal mining were employed. The statistics relate to 148,155 workers (or about 25 per cent. of the total number of wage-earners in bituminous coal-mining), of whom 132,949, or 89.7 per cent., worked underground or "inside," and 15,206 worked on the surface, or "outside" the mine.

The following Tables show the average hours and earnings of miners and loaders and other underground as well as surface workers, in the year 1926. In that year, "miners and loaders" included 66,414 hand loaders, 20,594 hand or pick miners, 6,055 machine cutters, 1,065 gang miners, 882 machine cutters' helpers, 694 contract loaders, and 306 machine loaders, and in the aggregate represented 65 per cent. of the 148,155 bituminous wage earners covered by the inquiry. In practically all mines, miners and loaders are paid tonnage rates, and are therefore generally called "tonnage men," while workers in other occupations are as a rule paid hourly or daily rates and are called "day men" or "time workers." As few companies keep a daily time record for tonnage men, it was necessary to make arrangements to have a special day-by-day record kept of the hours of each tonnage worker for a half-month pay period.

Table I.—Average number of hours and earnings of miners and loaders in 1926, by occupation.

Occupation.	Average Hours.		Average Earnings.		Average number of shifts worked per half month (15 calendar days).
	Per shift based on		Per hour based on		
	Time at face including lunch.	Time in Mine.	Time at face including lunch.	Time in Mine.	
Loaders, contract ...	8.4	9.1	\$.849	\$.784	7.16
Loaders, hand ...	7.8	8.6	\$.779	\$.715	6.12
Loaders, machine ...	8.8	9.5	\$.788	\$.735	6.96
Miners, gang ...	8.2	9.0	1.377	1.260	11.36
Miners, hand or pick ...	7.9	8.6	\$.783	\$.715	6.18
Miners, machine cutters ...	8.3	9.0	1.195	1.101	9.93
Miners, machine cutters' helpers ...	9.0	9.6	\$.681	\$.637	6.14
Total ...	7.9	8.6	\$.817	\$.749	6.46

Time for lunch, as reported, was usually about 30 minutes, and the time of travel in the different mines ranged from 10 minutes per day, for the mine with the shortest time of travel, to 2 hours for the mine with the longest time of travel. The average time of travel was about 46 minutes per day, or 23 minutes each way.

The earnings in Table I are based on the "net earnings in the half month," or on the amount remaining after deductions from total or gross earnings of the costs or charges for powder, dynamite or other explosives, fuses, and caps used by miners and loaders in blasting coal from the seams, and for tool sharpening or blacksmithing. There are, it is stated, very few companies which do not charge workers for explosives or for tool sharpening.

Table II.—Average number of hours and earnings of workers other than miners and loaders in 1926, by occupation.

Place of work and occupation.	Average hours worked per shift.	Average Earnings.		Average number of shifts worked per half month (15 calendar days).
		Per hour.	Per shift.	
Underground:—				
Brakemen ...	8.5	\$.687	\$.82	9.9
Bratticemen and timbermen ...	8.3	\$.742	\$.616	10.8
Cagers ...	9.0	\$.811	\$.729	11.1
Drivers ...	8.3	\$.708	\$.588	10.2
Labourers ...	8.4	\$.620	\$.518	9.4
Motormen ...	8.7	\$.718	\$.627	10.8
Pumpmen ...	9.3	\$.626	\$.584	12.7
Trackmen ...	8.4	\$.705	\$.592	10.8
Trappers (boys) ...	8.0	\$.379	\$.304	9.9
Other workers ...	8.7	\$.775	\$.671	11.3
Surface:—				
Blacksmiths ...	8.8	\$.743	\$.656	11.9
Carpenters and tub or tram repairers ...	8.6	\$.654	\$.564	11.4
Engineers ...	9.0	\$.762	\$.683	13.3
Labourers ...	8.7	\$.546	\$.474	10.7
Other workers ...	8.9	\$.604	\$.541	12.1
Total ...	8.6	\$.664	\$.570	10.7

Engineers and pumpmen worked more shifts and hours in the half month than the workpeople in any of the other occupations. A large percentage of the persons employed in these two occupations work overtime and on Sundays and holidays.

* Hours and Earnings in Bituminous Coal Mining, 1922, 1924 and 1926. Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics. No. 454. Washington, 1927.

WAGES IN GERMANY, 1913-1928.

THE Reichsarbeitsblatt (the official organ of the German Ministry of Labour) for 1st March, 1928, contains an article dealing with the course of wages in twelve of the chief industries of Germany, from which the following particulars have been extracted as to the relative levels of wages in 1913 and 1928. The hourly rates for 1928 given in the Table below are the weighted averages of the rates fixed by collective agreements for adult skilled or unskilled workers of the highest wage category. The average weekly rates given in the Table are full-time wages on this basis for a normal week. Except in the textile and cardboard-box making industries, in which women workers are strongly represented, the rates are those paid to men only. Where family allowances are paid (e.g., in mining, on Federal railways, and to some extent in the metal, textile and chemical industries), the wages given include the allowances paid for a wife and two children.

In coal-mining, the average earnings for skilled workers (coal and stone hewers only) were, in 1913, 6.51 Reichsmarks, and, at 1st February, 1928, 9.05 Reichsmarks, for an average shift of 8 hours in both years. For unskilled male adult workers (surface workers, excluding maintenance labourers), the average earnings were, in 1913, 3.95 Reichsmarks for an average shift of 11 hours, and, at 1st February, 1928, 6.41 Reichsmarks for a shift of 9 hours (10 hours in West Upper Silesia).

The comparison for 11 other industries is made in the following Table:—

Average Hourly and Weekly wages of Adult Male Workmen (except where otherwise specified).

Industry and Class of Worker.	Average Hourly Wages.		Average Weekly Wages.	
	1913.	1st Feb. 1928.	1913.	1st Feb. 1928.
Metals:—				
Skilled ...	66.8	100.1	36.92	49.11
Unskilled ...	42.5	70.2	23.55	34.41
Chemicals:—				
Skilled ...	57.0	92.3	32.99	44.30
Unskilled* ...	46.0	77.8	26.76	37.34
Building:—				
Skilled† ...	71.8	123.8	37.88	59.13
Unskilled ...	56.4	101.3	29.76	48.37
Woodworking:—				
Skilled ...	62.7	108.1	32.49	51.34
Unskilled ...	45.3	95.3	23.58	44.34
Paper Manufacture:—				
Skilled‡ ...	32.6	75.6	21.57	36.29
Unskilled§ ...	29.4	68.0	17.73	32.63
Textiles:—				
Spinners and Weavers:—				
Males ...	43.2	73.7	25.04	35.38
Females ...	31.1	58.4	17.88	28.03
Assistants:—				
Males ...	33.3	61.3	19.01	29.42
Females ...	24.9	45.3	14.10	21.74
Brewing:—				
Skilled ...	...	...	37.33	55.39
Unskilled ...	...	...	30.21	49.02
Baking and Confectionery:—				
Skilled ...	50.4	96.2	28.84	46.18
Unskilled ...	41.0	83.1	23.45	39.89
Printing:—				
Skilled¶ ...	...	...	31.65	50.36
Unskilled ...	...	...	25.20	43.84
Transport (Federal Railways):—				
Skilled ...	62.6	90.8	33.80	46.68
Unskilled ...	39.8	73.3	23.88	37.62
Cardboard-box Making:—				
Skilled:—				
Males ...	48.2	84.3	26.88	40.46
Females ...	28.0	55.8	15.28	26.78
Assistants:—				
Males ...	35.6	71.6	19.88	34.37
Females ...	25.3	46.2	13.69	22.18

In comparing the average weekly wages in 1913 and at 1st February, 1928, the following variations in the length of the normal working week should be noted:—

Industry.	Working Week.		Industry.	Working Week.	
	1913.	Feb. 1928.		1913.	Feb. 1928.
Metals ...	Hours 54-60	Hours 48-52	Brewing ...	Hours 51-60	Hours 48
Chemicals ...	54-60	48	Baking and Confectionery ...	54-60	48
Building ...	49½-56	46½-48	Printing ...	52	48
Woodworking ...	51-57	46-48	Transport ...	54-60	48
Paper Manufacture ...	60-72	48	Cardboard-box making ...	50-60	48
Textiles ...	55-60	48			

The particulars of wages for February, 1928, are based on time rates, except that in the case of skilled workers in industries which are mainly of a piecework character (e.g., the mining, metal and textile industries) piecework rates have been used, computed on an average output of work or on time rates with a piecework adjustment.

* Workers on chemical processes only.
 † Bricklayers, masons and carpenters only.
 ‡ First paper machine assistants only.
 § Yard workers only.
 ¶ Hand compositors only.

Of the 12 industries under review, only 4 (building, woodworking, printing and brewing) possessed systems for the regulation of wages before the War. In the remaining industries, for the year 1913 particulars of average earnings were obtained as far as possible. Owing to the difficulties experienced in ascertaining these, it is pointed out that complete comparability of pre-war and post-war rates of wages cannot be attained, as the general rule before the War was to pay wages according to capacity, regardless of age and family needs; some caution is, therefore, necessary in comparing the figures for 1913 and 1928.

HOURS OF LABOUR IN GERMANY.

TRADE UNION REPORT.

THE General Federation of German Trade Unions has published a report* on the results of an inquiry into the hours worked in selected industries in various districts of Germany during the week ended 29th October, 1927. Investigations on similar lines had previously been carried out by the Federation in April, 1927, and in May and November, 1924. The figures for the October inquiry, a summary of which is given below, are based on returns furnished by 535 local trades councils, and cover 67,099 undertakings in which 2,904,849 workers were employed during the week in question. The corresponding figures for the inquiry of April, 1927, were, respectively, 562, 57,895 and 2,533,147. The industries selected for the purpose of both investigations were: (1) building; (2) printing; (3) chemical; (4) woodworking; (5) metal and engineering; (6) boot and shoe; and (7) textile. The first of the two inquiries carried out in 1927 was instituted shortly before the date (1st May) on which the Act of 14th April, 1927, amending the legislation on working hours†, came into force, so that the figures for the two inquiries are regarded by the Federation as providing definite evidence of the effect of the additional restrictions on working hours imposed by the Act. The following Table shows the percentage of the total number of workers covered who were working for varying numbers of hours a week, including overtime, at both dates:—

Number of hours worked per week, including overtime, where worked.	Percentage of total number of workers, working the hours stated, in the	
	Week ended 30th April, 1927.	Week ended 30th October, 1927.
Short time	5	1.7
Full time of less than 48 hours	6	6.0
48 hours	41	49.6
Over 48 and up to 51	11	14.4
Over 51 and up to 54	25	22.1
More than 54 hours	12	6.2
	100	100.0

The report points out that the October inquiry was carried out at a time of greater industrial prosperity than in April, 1927. This improvement, while to a large extent accounting for the decrease in the number of workers on short time, caused employers in certain industries to avail themselves to a greater extent of the overtime facilities provided by the hours legislation. Short time was most prevalent in the boot and shoe industry, in which 10.9 per cent. of the workers were employed for less than a full week in October, as compared with 5.4 per cent. in April, 1927. In the case of the remaining industries, the percentages of short-time workers ranged from 2.4 to nil, as compared with percentages varying between 7.1 and 0.2 in April, 1927.

As regards full-time workers, there was a general tendency towards a reduction in hours, except in the printing trade, in which the percentage of workers employed for more than 48 hours a week increased from 9.5 in April to 19.4 in October, 1927. This, it is stated, was due to seasonal pressure of work in October, which necessitated a considerable amount of overtime.

The following Table shows the percentages of the total number of workers in the various industries working short time and of those working under 48 hours, 48 hours and over 48 hours (including overtime, where worked):—

Industry.	Total Number of Workers Covered.	Percentage of Total Number of Workers in each industry working, during the week ended 29th October, 1927:—					
		Short time.	Full time under 48 hours.	48 hours.	Over 48 and up to 51 hours.	Over 51 and up to 54 hours.	Over 54 hours.
Building	376,302	...	24	66	5	3	2
Printing	89,902	1	5	75	13	4	2
Chemical	212,669	2	4	59	5	22	8
Woodworking	213,487	2	12	75	5	4	2
Metal and Engineering	1,441,481	2	2	44	15	28	9
Boot and Shoe	80,905	11	2	82	2	2	1
Textile	490,103	1	4	27	30	35	3
All industries combined	2,904,849	1.7	6.0	49.6	14.4	22.1	6.2

* *Gewerkschafts-Zeitung*, 17th December, 1927. Berlin.
† See footnote on page 374 of this GAZETTE for October, 1927.

WAGES AND HOURS MOVEMENTS IN GERMANY.

Metal Trades.—As was stated in the last issue of this GAZETTE, a provisional settlement of the Berlin toolmakers' strike was arrived at during March, work being resumed on the 14th of that month. The award (which, although rejected by both parties, was declared binding) is to remain in force pending the conclusion of a general wage agreement for all skilled and semi-skilled workers, being valid only until 30th June next at the latest. It provides that, wherever possible, toolmakers are to be paid on a piecework basis, the rates being settled either between the management and the works council of the individual works within a period of three weeks from the date of the award, or, where no settlement is thus arrived at, by a joint committee appointed by the employers' and workers' organisations. First-class toolmakers over 21 years of age are to receive a guaranteed minimum time rate of one mark an hour, and piece-work rates are to be calculated on this basis also.

After prolonged negotiations, an award was issued by the official arbitrator in settlement of the dispute in the Saxon metal industry, providing for various wage adjustments, and for the inclusion in future agreements of provisions regulating the terms of employment of apprentices. Special arrangements may be made in the case of mass production work, while disputes arising out of the interpretation of the award may be referred to a joint committee. This award was accepted by the employers, but was rejected by the workers. Partial strikes resulted, in which about 22,000 men were involved. In an endeavour to bring the workers to renounce their claims for increased wages, the employers in the Saxon metal industry announced a general lock-out, to take effect from 12th April. The number of workers affected is stated to be about 250,000.

A dispute affecting about 2,000 metal workers in Bavaria was settled during the last week in March by the issue of an award by the Bavarian Minister for Social Affairs, granting increases of 5 pfennigs an hour as from 1st March, a further 2 pfennigs an hour being payable as from 1st October next. The revised hourly rates are stated to be as follows: unskilled female workers, 39.5 pf.; semi-skilled female workers, 43 pf.; unskilled male workers, 62 pf.; skilled male workers, 74 pf.; and highly skilled, 85 pf.

Chemicals.—Under a recent award, workers employed in the Hesse and Hesse-Nassau chemical industry have been granted general wage increases, raising the Frankfurt-on-Main hourly rates of factory labourers from 75 to 82 pfennigs and of skilled workers from 88 to 96 pfennigs. The present family allowances of 2 pfennigs an hour continue to be payable in respect of the wives and children of employed workers, while piecework and output bonus rates are to be increased by 9.33 per cent. Wage movements are also reported in the chemical industry in Berlin and Brandenburg, Baden and the Rhenish Palatinate.

SHIP REPAIRERS' STRIKE IN ANTWERP.

A STRIKE has been in progress since 7th March last in the ship-repairing yards in Antwerp. At the outset, it affected about 1,000 workers, but later became general, only a small number of foremen and lads remaining at work. The original cause of the dispute was the long working hours, the strikers alleging that, despite the 8-hour day and 48-hour week operative in Belgium, they are frequently required to work twenty-four hours on end. It is also claimed that wages are too low, and that the hourly rates of skilled workers in the yards should be raised to 6.30-7.00 francs an hour, those of semi-skilled workers (*spécialisés*) to 5.70-6.50 francs, and those of unskilled to 5.70-6.00 francs. On 30th March, the employers agreed to a proposal, already accepted by the workers, to submit the dispute to the competent conciliation and arbitration board.

REGULATION OF APPRENTICESHIP IN FRANCE.*

UNDER an Act of 20th March, 1928, the provisions of the French Labour Code relating to contracts of apprenticeship have been amended with a view to strengthening their legal application and instituting a closer supervision of the training of apprentices. Such contracts must, in future, be drawn up in writing in the form of a legal deed or a deed under private seal, both the employer and the legal representative of the apprentice retaining a copy and a further copy being forwarded to the local Provisory Council. The existence of the contract must also be recorded by the employer in the apprentice's "work-book" (*Livret de Travail*). The contract must be framed with due regard to the usages and customs of the occupation and under the supervision and guarantee of the regularly constituted associations for apprenticeship, where such exist.

In addition to particulars establishing the identity of the contracting parties, the contract must specify the financial conditions agreed upon, the occupational training courses which the employer undertakes shall be attended by the apprentice in accordance with the law on technical instruction, and also the amount of compensation payable in the event of a breach of contract by either party. The Act also provides that the right of the employer to undertake the training of apprentices may be limited or suspended, if the training given is manifestly inadequate, or in the event of serious irregularities of which the apprentice would be the victim. On the other hand,

* *Journal Officiel*, 22nd March, 1928. Paris.

general and persistent lack of application or obvious incompetence on the part of the apprentice may constitute a ground for the annulment of the contract.

On completion of the term of his apprenticeship, the apprentice is required to submit to an examination by the responsible local vocational and technical education authorities, and, if successful, he is to be awarded a diploma.

OVERTIME IN BELGIUM.*

DEVIATIONS from the 8-hour day and the 48-hour week in Belgium, to enable an employer to cope with unusual increases of orders occasioned by unforeseen events, may be authorised by the Minister of Industry, Labour and Social Welfare, under Section 7 of the Act of 14th June, 1921, subject (a) to an agreement between the employer and the association or associations to which the majority of his workers belong, or, in default of an association, the majority of his workers; and (b) to a limit of two extra hours a day for not more than three months in any one year.

The following Table classifies the authorisations granted in 1927 according to their industrial distribution, the numbers of workpeople affected, and the number of additional hours authorised:—

Industry.	No. of Authorisations granted.	No. of Workpeople affected.	No. of Additional hours authorised.
Building	25	1,790	137,736
Woodworking and Furniture Trades	107	4,392	365,907
Food and Drink	46	2,246	158,047
Textile	160	9,885	780,860†
Metal	155	5,001	399,984‡
Clothing	58	2,883	234,652
Leather and Leather Goods	34	1,525	111,400
Tobacco	13	1,005	95,277
Other	101	3,447	290,403
TOTAL	699	32,174	2,574,267

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF ITALIAN CHEMICAL WORKERS.†

A NATIONAL agreement which covers more than 70,000 workers has been concluded between the Fascist National Federation for the Chemical and Allied Industries and the National Federation of Fascist Trade Unions of Chemical Workers. It is supplemented by a series of regional and local agreements fixing minimum wages in accordance with the national agreement.

The agreement follows the main lines of the national agreement for Italian metal workers (an account of which was given in the last issue of this GAZETTE) in its provisions regarding the engagement of labour, normal working hours, holidays, sickness, mutual benefit funds and compensation for discharge.

The minimum wage for the various categories of workers has been, or is to be, fixed by separate regional and local agreements. Piece-rates must be so determined as to ensure to the diligent worker of normal working capacity a minimum remuneration of 25 per cent. above the basic wage.

Overtime, *i.e.*, hours worked in excess of eight a day or (in the case of plant requiring uninterrupted work for seven days a week) in excess of 144 in three weeks, is to be paid at rates increased as follows:—

- 20 per cent. of the basic wage for the first 2 hours overtime;
- 30 per cent. of the basic wage for the next 3 hours overtime;
- 50 per cent. of the basic wage for further hours overtime.

The agreement also fixes percentage increased rates for night work and work performed on holidays, rising respectively to 100 per cent. of the basic wage for hours worked in excess of five at night and to 80 per cent. of the basic wage for hours worked in excess of five on holidays.

SETTLEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL LABOUR DISPUTES IN ITALY.

THE Act of 3rd April, 1926,‡ which provided for a special labour magistracy for the hearing of collective labour disputes, has been supplemented by a Royal Decree of 26th February, 1928,§ which makes provision for the hearing of individual disputes arising out of collective labour relations.

The Decree abolishes the proviviral courts and the arbitration boards for private salaried employees, whose jurisdiction remained unaffected by the Act of 3rd April, 1926. Disputes which have fallen within the competence of these courts and boards and all other individual disputes arising from collective labour agreements will in future fall within the competence of the police magistrates (*pretori*) or courts (*tribunali*), according to the amount involved.

Before any action arising from alleged violation of a collective agreement is brought, the legally recognised trade association for the

* *Revue du Travail*, 31st January, 1928. Brussels.
† *Il Lavoro d'Italia*, 30th March, 1928. Rome.
‡ See this GAZETTE for June, 1926, page 207.
§ *Gazzetta Ufficiale*, 22nd March, 1928. Rome.

category of workers or employers to which the plaintiff belongs must be informed, in order that the association may decide whether to try to effect a settlement through the trade association for the category to which the defendant belongs.

Two citizens, one an employers' representative, one a workers' representative, selected from a panel of experts in labour matters, are to be appointed to assist at the hearing of disputes, when the parties so desire. The panels of experts are to be revised every two years by the provincial economic councils, on information furnished by the trade associations of employers and workers. The first panels are to be drawn up by 30th September, and the Decree is to come into force on 1st October, 1928.

THE POPULATION OF SOVIET RUSSIA.

THE recently published results of the census of 17th December, 1926,* show that the population of the whole of the Soviet Union at that date was 146,989,460, or 71,026,864 men and 75,962,596 women. This is the first census embracing the whole of the territory of the Union, and it is, therefore, not possible to compare the results with those of a previous census. The population of the various federated Soviet Republics, distinguishing the urban and rural inhabitants, is shown in the Table below:—

Union of Socialist Soviet Republics.	Population on 17th December, 1926.		
	Urban.	Rural.	Total.
Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic	17,440,478	83,417,507	100,857,985
Ukraine	5,374,047	23,646,257	29,020,304
White Russia	848,557	4,135,327	4,983,884
Trans-Caucasia	1,407,469	4,452,868	5,860,337
Uzbek	1,102,538	4,172,460	5,274,998
Turcoman	136,809	855,143	991,952
Soviet Union	26,309,898	120,679,562	146,989,460

According to the results of the census, there are in the Union six towns with a population of more than 400,000; these are Moscow (2,025,947), Leningrad (1,614,008), Kiev (513,789), Baku (452,808), Odessa (420,888) and Kharkov (417,186).

AMENDMENT TO QUEENSLAND UNEMPLOYED WORKERS' INSURANCE ACT.†

THE Queensland Unemployed Workers' Insurance Act of 1922 applied to every worker over eighteen years of age, employed within Queensland, whose rate of wages, salary or allowance was fixed by award or industrial agreement made under the Queensland Industrial Arbitration Act of 1916. Workers employed in industries for which Federal awards were in force were excluded from insurance under the Act; and it was subsequently held by the High Court that workers in an industry for which a State award had been superseded by a Federal award were also excluded, although the State award may not have been repealed. A large number of workers were thus declared to be uninsurable, in spite of the fact that they had been paying contributions regularly, and a voluntary scheme was inaugurated to cover them temporarily.

The Amending Act of December, 1927, removes this anomaly by admitting to the scheme, in addition to workers covered by State awards, those who are covered by any other contract, agreement or award. In the latter case, however, the employer is made responsible for both his own and the worker's contributions, and is required to pay double the normal employer's contribution, the half of this (equivalent to the worker's contribution in the normal case) being recoverable from the worker as a debt due from worker to employer. The worker cannot claim benefit unless his debt to the employer on this account has been liquidated.

The Amending Act also provides that workers who are bona-fide residents in Queensland but who are temporarily absent from the State (*e.g.* sheep drovers) may claim to have the condition of six months' residence prior to benefit waived in their favour.

The original Act excluded from benefit (a) repatriated soldiers and sailors whilst in receipt of unemployment allowance from any Repatriation Department, (b) any person in receipt of an old age pension under the laws of the Commonwealth, and (c) any person in receipt of periodical payments under the Workmen's Compensation Acts. The Amending Act adds to the categories of persons excluded, any person in receipt of an invalid pension under the laws of the Commonwealth.

* *Le Recensement de la Population du 17 décembre 1926. Résumés Abrégés: Population de l'U.R.S.S.* Moscow, 1927.
† *Queensland Industrial Gazette*, 24th December, 1927. Brisbane.

CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING: STATISTICS FOR 31st MARCH.*

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	...	...	64%
Food only	...	...	55%

FOOD.

During March there were further reductions in the prices of eggs, but the prices of potatoes showed an appreciable upward movement, and butter and meat were also somewhat dearer at the end of the month than at the beginning.

As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was about 55 per cent. at 31st March, 1928,* the same as a month ago and a year ago.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st March and 31st March, 1928:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated— to the nearest 1/4d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 31st Mar., 1928, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st Mar., 1928.	31st Mar., 1928.	July, 1914.	1st Mar., 1928.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ribs	0 10	1 4	1 4 1/2	+ 0 6 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2
Thin Flank	0 6 1/2	0 8 1/2	0 8 1/2	+ 0 2 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs	0 7 1/2	0 9 1/2	0 9 1/2	+ 0 2 1/2	...
Thin Flank	0 4 1/2	0 5 1/2	0 5 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2	...
Mutton, British—					
Legs	0 10 1/2	1 5 1/2	1 6	+ 0 7 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2
Breast	0 6 1/2	0 9 1/2	0 9 1/2	+ 0 3 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	0 6 1/2	0 11	0 11	+ 0 4 1/2	...
Breast	0 4	0 4 1/2	0 4 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2	...
Bacon (streaky)†	0 11 1/2	1 2 1/2	1 2 1/2	+ 0 3 1/2	...
Flour ... per 7 lb.	0 10 1/2	1 4 1/2	1 4 1/2	+ 0 6	...
Bread ... per 4 lb.	0 5 1/2	0 9 1/2	0 9 1/2	+ 0 3 1/2	...
Tea	1 6 1/2	2 5	2 5	+ 0 10 1/2	...
Sugar (granulated)	0 2	0 3 1/2	0 3 1/2	+ 0 1 1/2	...
Milk ... per quart	0 3 1/2	0 6 1/2	0 6 1/2	+ 0 3	...
Butter—					
Fresh	1 2 1/2	1 11 1/2	1 11 1/2	+ 0 9	+ 0 0 1/2
Salt	1 2 1/2	1 9 1/2	1 10 1/2	+ 0 8	+ 0 0 1/2
Cheese†	0 8 1/2	1 2 1/2	1 2 1/2	+ 0 5 1/2	...
Margarine	0 7	0 7 1/2	0 7 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2	...
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 1 1/2	0 1 1/2	0 1 1/2	+ 0 0	- 0 0 1/2
Potatoes per 7 lb.	0 4 1/2	0 7 1/2	0 8 1/2	+ 0 3 1/2	+ 0 0 1/2

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 31st Mar., 1928, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding General Average for 1st Mar., 1928.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	65	63	64	62
Thin Flank	34	35	34	32
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	37	36	36	36
Thin Flank	5	10	8	7
Mutton, British—				
Legs	73	73	73	70
Breast	52	48	50	47
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs	65	59	62	61
Breast	17	21	19	19
Bacon (streaky)†	31	34	32	32
Fish	125	98	111	107
Flour	55	59	57	57
Bread	61	59	60	60
Tea	55	62	59	59
Sugar (granulated)	76	69	73	72
Milk	83	88	86	87
Butter—				
Fresh	57	67	62	59
Salt	55	57	56	52
Cheese†	65	65	65	63
Margarine	9	5	7	6
Eggs (fresh)	23	15	19	19
Potatoes	88	55	71	57
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase)	55	54	55	55

* As 1st April fell on a Sunday, the statistics relate to 31st March, in accordance with the usual practice.
 † If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.
 ‡ The description of cheese specified for quotation is Canadian or American, but where such cheese is seldom sold in a locality the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts indicate that the average increase in the rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 31st March, 1928, was approximately 51 per cent. Of the total increase about two-fifths is accounted for by increases on account of rates and water charges, and about two-fifths is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Acts falling within the remaining one-fifth.

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 31st March, the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged between 115 and 120 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group, the prices of coal at 31st March averaged between 70 and 75 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, and those of gas about 50 per cent. above the pre-war level. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches) the average increase at 31st March, as compared with July, 1914, was between 65 and 70 per cent.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 31st March is, approximately, 64 per cent.† over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 64 per cent. at 1st March, 1928, and 65 per cent. at 1st April, 1927.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1928 as in 1914) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). Owing to the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or readjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, it is probable that the standard of living has been raised in those families in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1918 to 1928.

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, 1918 to 1928:—

Month.	Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items. (Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.)											
	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	
Jan. ...	85-90	120	125	165	92	78	77	80	75	75	68	
Feb. ...	90	120	130	151	88	77	79	79	73	72	66	
Mar. ...	90	115	130	141	86	76	78	79	72	71	64	
April ...	90-95	110	132	133	82	74	73	75	68	65	64	
May ...	95-100	105	141	128	81	70	71	73	67	64	...	
June ...	100	105	150	119	80	69	69	72	68	65	...	
July ...	100-105	105-110	152	119	84	69	70	73	70	66	...	
Aug. ...	110	115	155	122	81	71	71	73	70	64	...	
Sept. ...	110	115	161	120	79	73	72	74	72	65	...	
Oct. ...	115-120	120	164	110	78	75	76	76	74	67	...	
Nov. ...	120-125	125	176	103	80	75	80	76	79	69	...	
Dec. ...	120	125	169	99	80	77	81	77	79	69	...	

NOTE.

A brief Statement of the method of compiling these statistics was given on page 236 of the July, 1923, issue of this GAZETTE. A more detailed account was given in the issue of February, 1921.

* See note * in previous column.
 † If allowance is made for the changes in taxation since July, 1914, on the commodities included in these statistics, the average increase is about 2 per cent. less.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT showed a continued steady improvement during March. There were further seasonal increases in the numbers employed in the building trade and public works contracting, in the allied industries of brick, tile, and cement manufacture, in woodworking and furniture making, and in the tailoring and dressmaking trades. There was also an improvement in the pottery, glass bottle, motor vehicle, rubber, tinplate, and wool textile industries and in the shipping service. In coal mining, a slight increase in the numbers wholly unemployed was more than balanced by a decrease in the numbers temporarily stopped. On the other hand, employment showed a slight decline at coke-oven and by-product works, in iron and steel manufacture, in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industry, in the linen industry, and in the dock, canal, river, &c. service.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts (aged 16 to 64 inclusive and numbering approximately 11,800,000), and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 26th March, 1928 (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed) was 9.6, as compared with 10.4 at 20th February, 1928, and 9.8 at 21st March, 1927. For males alone the percentage at 26th March, 1928, was 11.0, as compared with 12.0 at 20th February, 1928; for females the corresponding figures were 5.7 and 6.3. The percentage wholly unemployed fell from 8.2 at 20th February, 1928, to 7.7 at 26th March, 1928. The total number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 26th March, 1928, was approximately 1,063,000, of whom 858,000 were men and 146,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 27th February, 1928, it was 1,139,000, of whom 911,000 were men and 158,000 were women; and at 28th March, 1927, it was 1,115,000, of whom 905,000 were men and 153,000 were women.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—In the coal-mining industry employment continued slack. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 24th March, 1928, was 949,839, a decrease of 0.8 per cent. as compared with February; the average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 24th March, 1928, was 4.92, as compared with 4.84 in February.

Iron-mining employment continued slack, and showed a decline, on the whole, as compared with the previous month. In the shale mines in West Lothian there was an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed at the mines from which returns were received, compared with February, 1928, but a decrease of 7.4 per cent. compared with March, 1927. At limestone quarries employment was moderate in the Clitheroe and Weardale districts; in the Buxton area it remained good. At slate quarries in North Wales it was good. At whinstone quarries in the East of Scotland it improved to fair. At chalk quarries it remained slack. At china clay quarries employment was fair; at tin mines it was fairly good.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment continued bad. Of 437 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of March, 1928, was 150, as compared with 148 in February, 1928, and with 178 in March, 1927.

In iron and steel manufacture employment was still slack, and short-time working was reported in many districts. In the tinplate industry employment showed an improvement. The arrangement made in November for stabilising prices and regulating output, whereby each works is to stop for three weeks out of every thirteen, was still in operation. In the week ended 31st March, 363 mills were reported to be in operation, as compared with 322 in the week ended 25th February, and with 421 at the end of March, 1927. In steel sheet manufacture employment continued fair. The number of steel sheet mills working was 121 at the end of March, 1928, as compared with 113 in February, 1928 and with 129 in March, 1927.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Industries.—In engineering employment was quiet, but showed an improvement in most districts compared with the previous month. The improvement was most pronounced in the motor vehicle section, but some improvement was also shown in general, marine, and electrical engineering. Employment was fairly good in electrical engineering, and fair on motor vehicle and locomotive work. In marine engineering it remained bad; and in the textile machinery section much short time was still in operation. In shipbuilding and ship-repairing employment remained very bad, on the whole, and showed a further slight decline. In the other metal trades employment continued moderate to fair. It was fairly good in the hollow-ware and tube trades; fair in the nut and bolt, brasswork, cutlery, sheet metal, needle, and fishing tackle trades; moderate in the wire manufacturing industry; slack in

the chain and anchor, jewellery and plated ware, and metallic bedstead trades; and bad in the stove and grate trade.

Textile Industry.—In the cotton industry employment showed little change as compared with the previous month. In the spinning department there was a slight improvement in the section spinning American cotton; the Egyptian spinning section remained well employed. On the other hand there was a decline in the weaving department at some centres.

In the wool textile industry employment showed a further slight improvement in both the woollen and the worsted sections; in the carpet section employment also improved and was generally good.

In the hosiery trade employment continued good generally; in the silk and artificial silk trades, taken together, it was fairly good, and showed an improvement; in the lace trade a further improvement was reported; in linen manufacture it was moderate, and showed a decline as compared with the previous month; in the jute trade it continued good. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades employment improved, but was still slack generally.

Clothing Industry.—Employment in both the retail bespoke, and ready-made and wholesale bespoke, branches of the tailoring trade showed a seasonal improvement, and was fair, on the whole. In the dressmaking and millinery trades employment also showed a seasonal improvement, and was reported to be fairly good in the bespoke branches, and good in the wholesale trade; a shortage of skilled machinists was experienced in some districts. In the shirt and collar trade and in the corset trade employment showed some improvement, and was good generally. In felt hat making, employment was fair, on the whole. In the boot and shoe industry employment continued fairly good, on the whole. There was a slight decline at most centres, except in some establishments where orders had to be completed before the Easter holidays.

Leather Industry.—Employment showed little change as compared with the previous month; in the tanning and currying section it remained good, on the whole; in the portmanteau, trunk, and fancy leather section it was moderate; with saddlery and harness makers it continued fair.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trades showed a further seasonal improvement, especially in the painting and decorating section; it was fair in many districts with skilled operatives, other than plasterers, and generally moderate with unskilled workers. As regards individual occupations, employment improved with bricklayers and was fair, on the whole; it also improved with carpenters and masons, and was moderate to fair generally; with slaters and plumbers it continued generally fair in most districts; with plasterers it was slack on the whole; with painters there was a considerable improvement. With tradesmen's labourers employment was moderate, on the whole. In brick manufacture employment showed a further improvement.

Employment in the furnishing trades continued fairly good; with millswyers it showed an improvement.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—With paper-makers employment continued fair, on the whole. With letterpress printers it showed an improvement in London and a number of provincial towns, and was generally fair; with electrotypers and stereotypers it also improved, and was generally good. With lithographic printers there was little change, on the whole; employment remained bad in Liverpool, Manchester, and Edinburgh; while in most other centres it was reported as fair. In the book-binding trade employment continued moderate, on the whole.

Pottery and Glass.—Employment in the pottery industry in North Staffordshire showed a further improvement, and in the best china ware and in the sanitary ware sections it was reported to be good; in other branches of the trade there was still much short-time working. In the glass trade it showed an improvement, but was still bad in the bottle-making section; in other branches it was slack.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture in England and Wales the supply of labour was sufficient during the month, although in one or two districts highly-skilled workers were difficult to obtain. In Scotland the supply of labour was also generally sufficient for requirements. In Sutherland and Central Perth, however, casual workers were scarce, while in Skye experienced hands were short of requirements. In the fishing industry employment showed an improvement and was moderate.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—With dock labourers employment continued slack; with seamen it was generally quiet to moderate, the supply of seamen being in excess of the demand at the majority of ports.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

In Tables which appear on subsequent pages of this GAZETTE, detailed statistics bearing on the state of employment during March are given, based on information obtained from employers or employers' associations in certain industries. In the following Tables some of the principal features of these statistics are briefly

summarised (a) for certain mining and metal industries and (b) for various other industries:—

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL INDUSTRIES.

Industry.	Workpeople included in the Returns for March, 1928.	March, 1928.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Month before.	Year before.	Month before.	Year before.
		Days Worked per week by Mines.		Days.	Days.
Coal Mining ...	949,839	4.92	+ 0.08	+ 0.03	
Iron	6,070	5.83	+ 0.05	+ 0.04	
Shale	2,527	6.00	...	+ 0.13	
		Furnaces in Blast.		Number.	Number.
Pig Iron ...	...	150	+ 2	- 28	
		Mills working.		Days.	Days.
Tinplate and Steel Sheet ...	...	484	+ 49	- 66	
		Shifts Worked (one week).		Per cent.	Per cent.
Iron and Steel ...	67,023	360,884	- 1.8	- 9.7	

(b) OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Industry.	Number of Workpeople Employed.			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 24th March, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 24th March, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Textiles—						
Cotton ...	80,382	+ 0.4	- 2.8	149,514	+ 1.1	- 5.1
Woolen ...	64,886	+ 0.6	+ 0.5	136,649	+ 1.5	+ 1.1
Worsted ...	92,039	- 0.3	+ 1.3	188,644	+ 1.3	+ 6.3
Carpet ...	10,147	+ 1.4	+ 5.8	19,726	+ 2.4	+ 10.6
Boot and Shoe ...	52,185	+ 0.2	+ 2.9	121,879	- 0.7	+ 2.4
Pottery ...	11,306	+ 0.6	- 0.6	21,313	+ 3.5	- 4.5
Brick ...	8,160	+ 0.3	- 10.9	21,060	+ 2.9	- 16.8

UNEMPLOYMENT SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS.

The following Table shows the variations in the rates of unemployment at 26th March, 1928, among insured persons in the respective divisions into which the country is divided for the purpose of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts:—

Divisions.	Estimated Numbers Insured at aged 16-64 inclusive, at July, 1927. (Totals.)	Percentage Unemployed at 26th March, 1928.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a	
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Month before.	Year before.
London ...	2,091,260	6.4	3.5	5.4	- 0.9	- 1.0
South-Eastern ...	849,410	5.9	3.5	5.4	- 1.2	+ 0.2
South-Western ...	807,100	8.9	4.5	7.9	- 1.2	+ 0.6
Midlands ...	1,733,280	8.3	6.3	7.8	- 0.9	- 0.5
North-Eastern ...	1,961,560	14.7	6.2	12.9	- 0.7	- 1.8
North-Western ...	2,090,390	12.0	7.9	10.7	- 0.4	+ 1.0
Scotland ...	1,268,170	12.4	6.2	10.7	- 0.3	- 1.0
Wales ...	607,580	22.1	7.1	20.7	- 2.8	+ 4.3
Northern Ireland ...	249,000	16.2	7.7	12.8	- 0.2	+ 1.8
Special Schemes	126,250	1.8	0.4	1.4	...	- 0.2
TOTAL ...	11,784,000	11.0	5.7	9.6	- 0.8	- 0.2

UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

The following Table shows, month by month from March, 1927, the percentages unemployed among insured workpeople and the approximate number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges, etc., in Great Britain and Northern Ireland:—

Date.	Percentages Unemployed among Insured Workpeople.					Numbers (Insured and Uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges, etc.	
	Males.	Fe-males.	Males and Females.			Date.	Numbers.
			Wholly Unemployed and Casuals.	Temporarily Stopped	Total.		
1927.							
21 Mar. ...	11.2	6.1	7.8	2.0	9.8	28 Mar. ...	1,115,000
25 Apr. ...	10.7	5.7	7.1	2.3	9.4	25 Apr. ...	1,075,000
23 May ...	10.0	5.3	6.6	2.1	8.7	30 May ...	1,015,000
20 June ...	10.1	5.3	6.5	2.3	8.8	27 June ...	1,032,000
25 July ...	10.4	5.8	6.6	2.6	9.2	25 July ...	1,055,000
22 Aug. ...	10.4	6.3	6.8	2.5	9.3	29 Aug. ...	1,076,000
26 Sept. ...	10.5	5.9	6.9	2.4	9.3	26 Sept. ...	1,075,000
24 Oct. ...	10.8	6.0	7.2	2.3	9.5	31 Oct. ...	1,132,000
20 Nov. ...	11.3	6.4	7.6	2.4	10.0	28 Nov. ...	1,172,000
19 Dec. ...	11.3	5.9	7.7	2.1	9.8	19 Dec. ...	1,127,000
1928.						1928.	
23 Jan. ...	12.2	6.8	8.3	2.4	10.7	30 Jan. ...	1,199,000
20 Feb. ...	12.0	6.3	8.2	2.2	10.4	27 Feb. ...	1,139,000
26 Mar. ...	11.0	5.7	7.7	1.9	9.6	26 Mar. ...	1,063,000

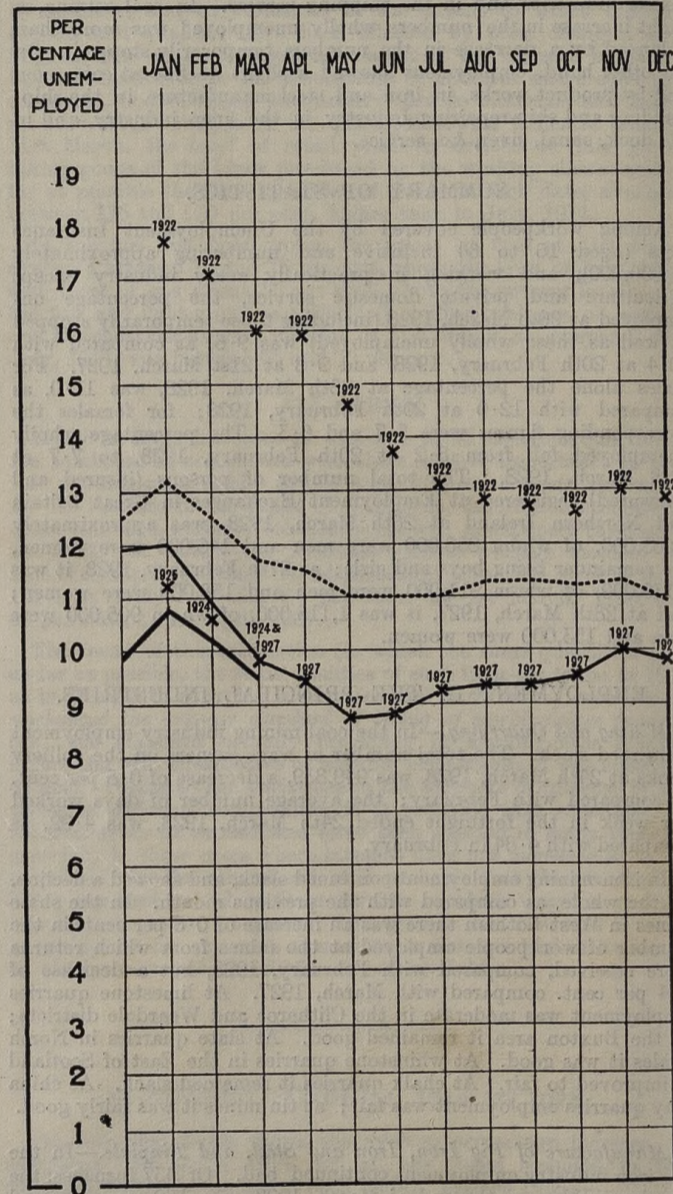
UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORKPEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND:—

Thick Curve - - - - - = 1928.
Dotted Curve - - - - - = Mean of 1922-25 and 1927.
Thin Curve - - - - - = 1927.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1922-5 and 1927.



NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS RECEIVED AT LOCAL OFFICES OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR IN GREAT BRITAIN DURING MARCH, 1928.

Area.	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.	
					Number.	Percentage of Numbers Insured at July, 1927.*
South-Eastern (a) London ...	1,431	5,488	2,550	5,078	14,547	0.70
(b) Rest of South-Eastern ...	1,197	2,408	856	1,651	6,112	0.72
South-Western ...	964	2,044	818	1,429	5,255	0.65
Midlands ...	887	4,053	1,141	3,550	9,631	0.55
North-Eastern ...	1,061	4,718	1,227	2,950	9,956	0.51
North-Western ...	1,074	4,155	1,207	3,635	10,071	0.48
Scotland ...	863	3,186	768	2,436	7,253	0.57
Wales ...	389	1,666	302	487	2,844	0.47
GREAT BRITAIN ...	7,866	27,718	8,869	21,216	65,669	0.58

The above figures are exclusive of cases in which, as the result of systematic search, duplication of applications has been discovered.

* Aged 16-64 inclusive.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople employed given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and not the total numbers employed in the various industries. The comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates relate to the same firms at each date, and cover all the wage-earners, irrespective of age, sex, or occupation, employed by these firms. In comparing the earnings in different industries, it should be remembered that any averages calculated from these figures will be affected not only by the variations in the state of employment and in rates of wages, but also by differences in the proportions of males to females, of adults to juveniles and of skilled to unskilled workers in the respective industries.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT continued slack during March.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 17.2 at 26th March, 1928, as compared with 18.5 at 20th February, 1928, and 16.8 at 21st March, 1927. There was a slight increase at 26th March, 1928, in the numbers wholly unemployed as compared with a month before, which was more than counterbalanced by a decrease in the numbers temporarily stopped.

The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 24th March, 1928, showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent, as compared with 25th February, 1928, and of 7.3 per cent, as compared with 26th March, 1927.

The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 24th March, 1928, was 4.92, an increase of 0.08 of a day as compared with 25th February, 1928, and of 0.03 of a day as compared with 26th March, 1927.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal-mining districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked per week* during the fortnight ended 24th March, 1928, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals:—

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per week by the Mines.*			
	24th Mar., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Fortnight ended 24th Mar., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		
				Month before.	Year before.	
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.	Days.
ENGLAND AND WALES:						
Northumberland ...	45,520	+ 0.2	- 16.8	5.12	- 0.16	+ 0.27
Durham ...	125,334	- 0.7	- 5.4	5.05	- 0.03	- 0.09
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	12,395	+ 0.3	+ 6.9	5.02	+ 0.37	- 0.51
South Yorkshire ...	121,369	- 0.6	+ 1.3	4.77	- 0.01	+ 0.04
West Yorkshire ...	59,514	- 1.7	- 8.0	4.33	+ 0.09	+ 0.03
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	83,031	- 0.4	- 8.6	4.35	- 0.02	- 0.28
Derbyshire ...	57,102	- 0.8	- 6.1	4.37	+ 0.17	+ 0.38
Nottingham and Leicester ...	62,821	- 3.9	- 8.6	4.48	+ 0.51	+ 0.41
Warwick ...	18,336	- 0.9	- 5.5	5.16	- 0.12	- 0.21
North Staffordshire ...	31,446	- 1.8	- 5.2	4.68	- 0.06	- 0.30
South Staffs.† Worcs and Salop ...	32,009	- 2.5	- 7.8	4.78	- 0.22	- 0.30
Glos. and Somerset ...	11,499	- 1.5	- 0.7	4.54	+ 0.21	- 0.30
Kent ...	3,226	- 0.2	+ 44.0	5.58	+ 0.07	+ 0.64
North Wales ...	14,674	- 1.3	- 7.3	5.21	+ 0.07	- 0.49
South Wales and Mon. ...	169,220	- 0.2	- 12.1	5.47	+ 0.32	+ 0.07
England and Wales	847,496	- 1.0	- 7.2	4.87	+ 0.09	+ 0.01
SCOTLAND:						
Mid & East Lothians ...	12,831	+ 0.3	- 7.2	5.34	- 0.01	- 0.05
Fife and Clackmannan ...	22,693	- 0.7	- 1.0	5.20	- 0.01	+ 0.23
Rest of Scotland ...	66,819	+ 0.6	- 10.6	5.42	- 0.01	+ 0.32
Scotland ...	102,343	+ 0.3	- 8.2	5.36	- 0.01	+ 0.26
GREAT BRITAIN ...	949,839	- 0.8	- 7.3	4.92	+ 0.08	+ 0.03

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 24th March, 1928, was 0.88 of a day per week, of which 0.80 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The figures for the fortnight ended 25th February, 1928, were 0.96 of a day per week, of which 0.87 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties; for the fortnight ended 26th March, 1927, the average time lost was 0.90 of a day per week, of which 0.87 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The average non-winding time for all three periods under review was about one-fifth of a day per week.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 24th March, 1928, was reported to the Mines Department as 19,923,500 tons, as compared with 20,119,300 tons in the four weeks ended 25th February, 1928, and 21,097,400 tons in the four weeks ended 26th March, 1927.

The exports of coal, including that shipped for the use of steamers engaged in foreign trade, and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 5,775,500 tons in March, as compared with 5,688,700 tons in February, 1928, and with 6,494,000 tons in March, 1927.

The numbers and percentages unemployed among insured workpeople in the respective areas at 26th March, 1928, and the increases

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

or decreases in the percentages, as compared with 20th February 1928, are shown in the following Table:—

Area.	Insured Persons Recorded as Unemployed at 26th March, 1928.				Total.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Total percentages as compared with a	
	Numbers.		Percentages.			Month before.	Year before.
	Wholly Unemployed (incl. Casuals).	Temporarily stopped.	Wholly Unemployed.	Temporarily stopped.			
Great Britain ...	148,023	52,009	12.7	4.5	17.2	- 1.3	+ 0.4
England and Wales ...	130,480	49,684	12.7	4.8	17.5	- 1.6	+ 0.4
Scotland ...	17,543	2,325	12.8	1.7	14.5	+ 0.3	+ 0.6
Principal Districts in England and Wales:—							
Northumberland ...	10,601	1,320	18.1	2.3	20.4	+ 1.2	+ 7.6
Durham ...	31,071	4,703	19.3	2.9	22.2	+ 0.6	+ 1.1
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	1,150	194	9.2	1.6	10.8	- 5.7	+ 6.9
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	10,845	9,332	5.7	4.9	10.6	- 1.0	- 9.9
Derbyshire ...	8,760	7,984	8.6	7.8	16.4	- 2.3	+ 3.6
Nottingham and Leicester ...	3,534	2,464	5.4	3.7	9.1	- 8.4	- 7.3
Warwick ...	3,684	1,583	5.2	2.2	7.4	- 1.1	- 2.5
Warwickshire Staffs, Worcester and Salop ...	733	135	5.5	1.0	6.5	+ 1.0	+ 3.8
Glos. and Somerset ...	5,992	2,664	7.5	3.4	10.9	+ 1.3	+ 4.7
Kent ...	1,181	1,986	8.5	14.3	22.8	+ 0.3	+ 11.0
Wales and Monmouth ...	115	...	4.2	...	4.2	+ 0.2	- 19.7
	52,410	17,311	20.5	6.8	27.3	- 2.9	+ 5.3

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during March continued slack, and showed a decline, on the whole, as compared with the previous month.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the iron ore and ironstone mining industry, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 16.9 at 26th March, 1928, as compared with 16.4 at 20th February, 1928, and 10.9 at 21st March, 1927.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.			Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.*		
	Fortnight ended 24th Mar., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Fortnight ended 24th Mar., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.	Days.

According to returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers 150 furnaces were in operation at the end of March, compared with 148 at the end of February and 178 at the end of March, 1927.

Returns received from 79 firms employing 18,064 workpeople at the end of March showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent., as compared with February, and a decrease of 10.9 per cent. as compared with March, 1927.

The following table shows the number of furnaces in operation at the end of March, 1928, February, 1928, and March, 1927:—

District.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in Blast.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Mar., 1928.	Feb., 1928.	Mar., 1927.	Month before.	Year before.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Durham and Cleveland	99	38	39	47	- 1	- 9
Cumberland and W. Lancs.	44	10	10	15	...	- 5
Parts of Lancs and Yorks (including Sheffield)	33	11	10	15	+ 1	- 4
Derby, Leicester, Notts and Northants	64	30	30	30	...	...
Lincolnshire	24	14	13	14	+ 1	...
Staffs, Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick	55	10	10	15	...	- 5
South Wales	28	8	8	8	...	...
Total, England and Wales	347	121	120	144	+ 1	- 23
SCOTLAND						
...	90	29	28	34	+ 1	- 5
Total	437	150	148	178	+ 2	- 28

The production of pig iron in March amounted to 592,600 tons as compared with 550,800 tons in February, 1928, and 671,800 tons in March, 1927.

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT in March continued slack, and showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month; short-time working was reported in many districts.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 20.3 on 26th March, 1928, as compared with 19.3 on 20th February, 1928, and 15.4 on 21st March, 1927.

According to returns received from firms employing 67,023 workpeople in the week ended 24th March, 1928, the volume of employment in that week (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed, combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each department) decreased by 1.8 per cent. as compared with February, and by 9.7 per cent. as compared with March, 1927. The average number of shifts* during which the works were open was 5.4 in each of the three periods.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.		Aggregate number of Shifts.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
	Week ended 24th Mar., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Week ended 24th Mar., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Month before.	
					Month before.	Year before.
		Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
OpenHearth Melting Furnaces ...	7,022	- 4.6	40,125	- 4.0	- 20.5	- 18.1
Puddling Forges ...	2,123	- 8.6	8,881	- 12.4	- 13.7	- 13.7
Rolling Mills ...	24,484	- 3.7	123,166	- 3.3	- 15.5	- 15.5
Forging & Pressing ...	3,059	+ 5.9	16,171	+ 5.2	- 0.3	- 0.3
Founding ...	7,834	+ 1.8	45,113	+ 1.9	+ 4.8	+ 4.8
Other Departments ...	8,353	+ 0.2	47,644	+ 0.6	...	...
Mechanics, Labourers ...	14,148	- 0.9	79,784	- 1.8	- 6.9	- 6.9
TOTAL ...	67,023	- 1.9	360,884	- 1.8	- 9.7	- 9.7
DISTRICTS.						
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland ...	14,171	- 3.3	79,285	- 3.2	- 13.9	- 13.9
Sheffield & Rotherham ...	17,656	- 2.6	95,068	- 0.2	- 7.6	- 7.6
Leeds, Bradford, etc. ...	1,779	- 5.2	9,552	- 4.2	- 15.0	- 15.0
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire ...	6,633	- 9.8	34,397	- 9.5	- 2.7	- 2.7
Staffordshire ...	5,207	+ 4.1	27,679	+ 3.5	- 4.0	- 4.0
Other Midland Counties ...	3,252	- 1.0	18,391	- 1.4	- 9.1	- 9.1
Wales and Monmouth ...	6,300	+ 0.9	33,741	- 1.4	- 8.4	- 8.4
Total, England and Wales ...	54,998	- 2.7	298,113	- 2.2	- 9.0	- 9.0
Scotland ...	12,025	+ 2.2	62,771	+ 0.1	- 12.9	- 12.9
TOTAL ...	67,023	- 1.9	360,884	- 1.8	- 9.7	- 9.7

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

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 793,300 tons in March, 1928, as compared with 764,400 tons in February, 1928, and 949,600 tons in March 1927.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET INDUSTRIES.

EMPLOYMENT in the tinplate industry showed an improvement as compared with the previous month. The arrangements made in November for stabilising prices and regulating output, whereby a minimum selling price was agreed upon and provision made for each works to stop for three weeks out of every thirteen, were still in operation. In the week ended 31st March 363 mills were reported to be in operation at works from which information is available, as compared with 322 in the week ended 25th February, and with 421 at the end of March, 1927. In steel sheet manufacture employment continued fair and showed an improvement. In the week ended 31st March, 1928, 121 mills were in operation, as compared with 113 in the week ended 25th February, 1928, and with 129 at the end of March, 1927.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed at 26th March, 1928, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 16.8, as compared with 38.3 at 20th February, 1928, and 5.0 at 21st March, 1927.

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

Works.	Number of Works Open		Number of Mills in Operation		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	Week ending 31st March, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	Week ending 31st March, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	Month before.	
					Month before.	Year before.
Tinplate ...	70	+ 7	363	+ 41	- 58	- 58
Steel Sheet ...	13	+ 1	121	+ 8	- 8	- 8
TOTAL ...	83	+ 8	484	+ 49	- 66	- 66

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in March, 1928, amounted to 123,752 tons, or 20,847 tons more than in February, 1928, and 8,425 tons more than in March, 1927.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during March was quiet, on the whole, but showed an improvement in most districts as compared with the previous month. The improvement was greatest in the motor vehicle section, but some improvement was also shown in general, marine, and electrical engineering. Employment was fairly good in electrical engineering, and fair on motor vehicle and locomotive work. In marine engineering it remained bad, and much short time was still in operation in the textile machinery section.

Compared with a year before employment was better in most districts, the greatest improvement being shown in marine and electrical engineering.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 26th March, 1928, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before:—

Divisions.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 26th March, 1928.						Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	Engineering, Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	Month before.	
							Month before.	Year before.
London ...	3,837	375	58	136	1,384	5,790	- 919	- 2,373
South-Eastern	1,808	235	262	57	814	3,174	- 753	- 619
South-Western	1,624	121	589	66	890	3,270	862	423
Midlands	5,279	957	110	707	6,765	13,818	- 730	- 1,629
North-Eastern	14,771	626	2,713	716	733	19,559	- 1,056	- 9,385
North-Western	18,131	1,093	122	191	1,774	21,311	+ 1,168	- 1,166
Scotland	8,470	220	1,533	734	582	11,539	+ 286	- 4,572
Wales	924	19	16	64	216	1,239	- 298	- 19
Northern Ireland	863	18	1,098	5	130	2,114	- 163	- 1,262
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	55,707	3,662	6,481	2,676	13,288	81,814	- 3,327	- 21,448
Percentage Unemployed at 26th March, 1928.								
London ...	4.9	3.1	7.5	4.5	3.8	4.4	- 0.7	- 1.7
South-Eastern	4.3	2.7	8.5	9.7	3.2	4.0	- 0.9	- 0.6
South-Western	4.7	3.8	9.0	10.3	3.5	4.7	- 1.2	- 0.6
Midlands	5.9	4.0	7.1	10.6	7.0	6.3	- 0.4	- 0.8
North-Eastern	12.8	7.8	13.2	10.2	5.9	12.0	- 0.6	- 4.7
North-Western	13.9	5.8	12.7	6.9	9.3	12.4	+ 0.7	- 3.0
Scotland	11.1	8.4	8.7	13.6	5.7	10.3	- 0.2	- 0.6
Wales	14.8	5.8	8.4	8.8	10.6	13.0	- 3.1	+ 0.6
Northern Ireland	12.7	7.2	22.7	16.7	6.9	15.3	- 1.2	- 7.5
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	9.6	4.7	11.6	10.0	5.8	8.4	- 0.4	- 1.9
<i>Dicto, Feb., 1928</i>	<i>9.8</i>	<i>4.8</i>	<i>11.8</i>	<i>10.0</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>8.8</i>		
<i>Dicto, Mar., 1927</i>	<i>11.3</i>	<i>6.2</i>	<i>18.9</i>	<i>11.2</i>	<i>6.6</i>	<i>10.3</i>		

On the North-East Coast employment was slack on the whole, and bad in the Newcastle district. In Yorkshire and Lincolnshire it was still rather slack, especially in the textile machinery section, but a little improvement was experienced. In Lancashire and Cheshire it remained bad, and showed a decline, on the whole. There was an improvement on motor work, and employment remained fairly good in electrical and locomotive engineering; but at textile machinery works much short time was still in operation.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district employment continued moderate, showing an improvement in general and motor engineering, while conditions on electrical work remained fairly good. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district employment continued fair. In London and the Southern Counties employment improved and was fairly good in motor and general engineering, and it remained good on electrical work.

In Scotland conditions were still slack. In Wales and in Northern Ireland employment, although still bad, exhibited improvement.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT remained very bad on the whole during March, and showed a further slight decline. Compared with a year ago, there was a substantial improvement on the North-East Coast and in Scotland; in other districts little change was shown.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 26th March, 1928, and the increase or decrease as compared with 20th February, 1928, and with a year ago:—

Divisions.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 26th Mar., 1928.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers Unemployed as compared with a		Percentage Unemployed at 26th Mar., 1928.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
South-Eastern	649	- 243	- 37.4	8.1	- 3.0	+ 0.9
South-Western	3,131	+ 837	+ 26.7	14.4	+ 3.9	+ 2.0
Midlands	85	+ 9	+ 10.6	11.8	+ 2.0	+ 0.1
North-Eastern	15,040	+ 1,396	+ 9.3	25.7	+ 2.4	- 14.0
North-Western	8,260	+ 1,205	+ 14.6	28.5	+ 4.1	+ 1.8
Scotland	10,510	+ 508	+ 4.8	18.3	+ 0.9	- 12.0
Wales	2,948	- 234	- 7.9	28.8	- 2.3	+ 2.7
Northern Ireland	4,051	- 400	- 9.9	32.4	- 3.2	+ 0.9
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	46,545	+ 2,776	+ 5.9	22.3	+ 1.3	- 6.7

SHIPBUILDING IN THE QUARTER ENDED 31st MARCH, 1928.

According to Lloyd's Register Quarterly Shipbuilding Returns the gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of March, 1928, amounted to 1,440,842 tons as compared with 1,579,713 tons at the end of December, 1927, and 1,216,352 tons at the end of March, 1927. It will be seen that there is a reduction of about 139,000 tons in the work in hand as compared with the figures for December, 1927, which were the highest reached since September, 1922. The present total is, however, about 224,000 tons higher than the tonnage building at the end of March, 1927. The tonnage of motor ships building at the end of March, 1928, amounted to nearly 40 per cent. of the total tonnage under construction.

The tonnage commenced during the quarter amounted to 341,843 tons as compared with 377,482 tons in the previous quarter. The tonnage launched during the quarter under review, namely, 406,726 tons, shows a decrease of 91,824 tons as compared with the figures for the previous three months.

The total horse power of the marine engines building or being installed on board vessels in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of March, 1928, amounted to 918,659 horse-power, as compared with 981,825 horse-power in the previous quarter.

The above figures are exclusive of warships and of merchant vessels of under 100 tons gross.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

DURING March there was little change on the whole in this industry. In the spinning department there was a slight improvement in the section spinning American cotton; the Egyptian spinning section remained well employed. On the other hand, there was a decline in the weaving department at some centres.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 9.2 at 26th March, 1928, as compared with 8.7 at 20th February, 1928, and with 5.9 at 21st March, 1927.

In the Ashton district employment in the American spinning section continued bad; in the Egyptian section it was good. On the whole there was a decline as compared with the previous month. At Stalybridge employment continued bad and showed a decline;

at Stockport there was a further improvement; at Glossop the improvement reported last month was maintained. At Oldham employment with spinners continued bad, but showed an improvement, particularly in the ring spinning section; in the spinning department as a whole, and in the whole Oldham district production was about 21 per cent. below the normal. In the manufacturing section in the Oldham district employment was slack on the whole; it was very bad with calico workers, but fair in the velvet and fustian section, while some improvement was shown on fancy goods. A shortage of juvenile workers was reported at this centre. At Rochdale employment continued bad. At Bolton employment was described as good with spinners, and as fair with cardroom workers and weavers; there was, however, a slight decline in the quilt manufacturing section. At Leigh employment with spinners continued good.

At Preston employment continued fairly regular with operatives engaged on fine and fancy cloths; but many looms adapted for plain goods were stopped. At Chorley employment was good with spinners, and the improvement previously reported was maintained. At Blackburn, a serious depression was reported in the weaving department; many looms were idle, and there was a considerable increase in the number of women weavers temporarily stopped; a number of mills (some of which had been working regularly for the past three years) were closed for indefinite periods. Other towns which were similarly, but not so seriously, affected were Darwen, Accrington, and Great Harwood. At Darwen it was estimated that about eight thousand looms were idle, and a considerable number of operatives were running two or three looms, instead of the usual four. On the other hand, at Burnley and Nelson, both centres for coarse weaving, employment was fair; there was a further improvement at Burnley, and no mills at that centre were entirely stopped, although a large number of looms were still idle, and approximately one thousand weavers were still unemployed. At Nelson some weavers were still running two or three instead of four looms, but the position in this respect showed an improvement. At Padiham employment with weavers continued fair.

In Yorkshire employment continued bad; short time was still largely worked by many firms in the Todmorden area; and at Sowerby Bridge employment was reported as slack.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 24th Mar., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	Week ended 24th Mar., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
					Month before.	Year before.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Preparing ...	11,224	+ 1.8	18,773	+ 1.7	- 8.3
Spinning ...	21,210	+ 1.7	38,210	+ 2.3	- 5.1
Weaving ...	33,853	- 1.0	60,040	- 0.6	- 4.3
Other ...	7,683	+ 0.8	19,071	+ 2.4	- 2.8
Not Specified ...	6,412	+ 0.4	13,420	+ 3.3	- 7.2
TOTAL ...	80,382	+ 0.4	149,514	+ 1.1	- 5.1
DISTRICTS.					
Ashton ...	3,171	- 7.1	5,621	- 5.0	- 6.0
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde ...	8,825	+ 0.1	16,334	+ 1.6	- 6.5
Oldham ...	9,172	+ 1.7	17,252	+ 4.2	- 5.9
Bolton and Leigh ...	14,701	+ 2.2	26,620	+ 1.2	+ 1.9
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden ...	6,604	+ 4.6	11,877	+ 12.5	- 3.0
Manchester ...	4,674	- 2.1	7,642	- 6.5	- 6.9
Preston and Chorley ...	6,436	+ 0.5	11,351	+ 0.0	- 1.3
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen ...	8,030	- 2.4	15,200	- 4.4	- 15.6

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 20th February, 1928:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blowing Room	+ 31	+ 8	+ 39	- 157	- 480	- 637	- 598
Spinning	- 53	- 36	- 89	- 50	- 450	- 500	- 589
Beaming and Winding	- 1	+ 62	+ 61	+ 141	- 70	+ 71	+ 132
Weaving	+ 112	+ 126	+ 238	+ 1,018	+ 2,741	+ 3,759	+ 3,997
Other Processes	+ 17	- 1	+ 16	+ 124	+ 84	+ 208	+ 224
Total	+ 106	+ 159	+ 265	+ 1,076	+ 1,825	+ 2,901	+ 3,166

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 138,858,600 lbs. in March, 1928, compared with 129,227,800 lbs. in February, 1928, and with 179,024,200 lbs. in March, 1927.

The exports of cotton yarn were 15,503,700 lbs. in March, 1928, compared with 14,491,400 lbs. in February, 1928, and with 19,270,800 lbs. in March, 1927.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 397,363,400 square yards, as compared with 316,109,900 square yards in the previous month, and with 393,928,200 square yards in March, 1927.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

DURING March employment showed a further slight improvement in both the woollen and the worsted sections of the industry; in the carpet section employment also improved, and was generally good. Compared with a year ago there was a fairly general improvement.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed (including those temporarily stopped), as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 6.7 on 26th March, 1928, as compared with 7.6 on 20th February, 1928, and with 9.4 on 21st March, 1927.

Worsted Section.—In this section employment showed a further slight improvement. In the week ended 24th March the returns received from employers showed that 12 per cent. of the operatives in the worsted section, taken as a whole, worked short time*, losing about 10 hours each on the average; on the other hand, 13 per cent. worked overtime to the extent of about 6 hours each.

Employment showed a further improvement on the whole in the sorting, preparing and combing departments; the merino section was fairly well employed, with some overtime, but there was still a good deal of short time in the other sections, although a slight improvement was reported. About 16 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns lost an average of 12 hours each in short time during the week ended 24th March; while about 14 per cent. worked overtime to the extent of 9 hours each.

With worsted spinners there was little change on the whole; 11½ per cent. of the operatives were working short time to the average extent of about 10 hours each, while about 14 per cent. were working 5½ hours each in overtime. With worsted weavers there was a slight improvement in most of the principal districts, but at Leeds a slight decline was reported. About 9 per cent. of the worsted weavers were losing about 9 hours each in short time* during the week ended 24th March, while about 11 per cent. worked 6 hours each in overtime.

Woollen Section.—In this section employment showed a further improvement. Employers' returns for the week ended 24th March showed that about 23 per cent. of the operatives in both the spinning and the weaving* departments worked short time, losing, in each case, an average of about 9 hours each. On the other hand, 12 per cent. of the spinners worked about 8 hours each in overtime, and 5 per cent. of the weavers worked overtime to the extent of about 6 hours each. Taking the woollen section as a whole, nearly 23 per cent. of the operatives were losing an average of about 9 hours each in short time*, while 7½ per cent. were working overtime to the extent of about 7½ hours each.

In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley districts conditions showed little change as compared with February. In the Heavy Woollen district employment was poor, but there was some improvement as compared with February; there was also a little improvement at Morley, where employment varied from fair to good; it was generally poor in the Yeadon and Guiseley districts and moderate in the Leeds district. In Stockport employment with woollen workers was reported as good, and better than for some months past. In the flannel trade of Rochdale employment was described as moderate to good, and showed very little change as compared with February; in the Saddleworth district employment was fair, but not so good as a month earlier. With blanket manufacturers in Yorkshire employment on the whole was moderate, and, generally speaking, not as good as in the previous month; at Witney the operatives were well employed.

In Scotland employment, on the whole, continued good, but a little seasonal slackness was reported.

Carpet Section.—Employment in this section continued good, particularly in the Kidderminster district, and was better than in February. The employers' returns for the week ended 24th March showed that about 4 per cent. of the operatives were on short time, to the extent of about 9 hours each on the average; while about 5½ per cent. worked 8 hours each in overtime.

* The figures given in this article as to short time do not take into account in the case of the weaving sections, other forms of under-employment, such as "playing for warps" and tending one instead of two looms.

The following Table summarises the returns received from employers as to the number of operatives employed and the wages paid:—

Departments :	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 24th March, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.)	Week ended 24th March, 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.)
WORSTED SECTION:						
Wool Sorting and Combing	11,468	+ 0.5	99.1	32,396	+ 3.0	106.9
Spinning	44,257	- 0.9	100.0	73,083	+ 0.2	104.3
Weaving	22,673	+ 0.8	103.6	49,344	+ 2.7	109.7
Other Depts.	11,712	- 0.7	99.5	29,535	+ 0.2	99.4
Not specified	1,929	+ 1.2	103.4	4,286	- 1.3	112.0
Total—Worsted	92,039	- 0.3	100.6	188,644	+ 1.3	105.5
WOOLLEN SECTION:						
Wool Sorting	1,095	- 1.2	101.4	2,657	- 1.7	107.6
Spinning	14,919	+ 1.7	98.3	32,881	+ 2.7	109.5
Weaving	27,776	+ 0.7	106.4	52,057	+ 1.9	112.9
Other Depts.	18,840	- 0.4	97.7	43,942	+ 0.4	103.0
Not specified	2,256	+ 0.7	95.7	5,112	- 0.2	105.5
Total—Woollen	64,886	+ 0.6	101.4	136,649	+ 1.5	108.2
CARPET SECTION	10,147	+ 1.4	107.2	19,726	+ 2.4	109.2
Total—Wool Textile Industry	167,072	+ 0.2	101.1	345,019	+ 1.4	106.8
Districts* :						
WORSTED SECTION:						
Bradford	42,823	+ 0.2	99.4	93,567	+ 1.5	102.5
Huddersfield	10,639	+ 0.6	109.5	24,114	+ 5.6	116.7
Halifax	10,295	- 0.2	98.1	18,653	+ 0.2	100.7
Leeds	8,685	- 0.7	97.0	16,622	- 0.0	101.9
Keighley	9,425	+ 0.2	104.9	18,299	+ 1.1	120.0
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.)	3,557	- 0.1	102.2	6,081	+ 3.0	114.1
Total, West Riding	85,424	+ 0.1	100.9	177,356	+ 1.7	106.1
West of England and Midlands	4,161	- 7.2	93.6	7,301	- 9.7	85.8
Lancs	356	+ 0.6	123.2	672	+ 0.3	117.4
Scotland	2,098	+ 0.4	105.4	3,355	+ 5.5	138.0
Total—Worsted	92,039	- 0.3	100.6	188,644	+ 1.3	105.5
WOOLLEN SECTION:						
Huddersfield	12,922	- 1.0	93.1	30,370	- 2.2	94.2
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.)	12,582	+ 2.5	103.9	26,337	+ 4.5	115.5
Leeds	9,661	+ 2.0	107.8	21,492	+ 3.0	123.1
Halifax and Calder Vale	2,709	+ 1.2	94.2	5,859	+ 1.7	94.3
Bradford	1,437	- 0.3	109.0	3,343	+ 0.8	110.2
Total, West Riding	39,311	+ 1.0	100.2	87,401	+ 1.4	106.9
Lancs	5,664	- 0.1	102.2	11,964	+ 0.6	112.5
West of England and Midlands	4,546	- 0.4	103.5	7,924	+ 1.4	113.8
Scotland	15,354	- 0.1	103.3	29,039	+ 2.0	109.8
Wales	211	- 4.1	160.9	301	- 3.2	164.9
Total—Woollen	64,886	+ 0.6	101.4	136,649	+ 1.5	108.2
CARPET SECTION	10,147	+ 1.4	107.2	19,726	+ 2.4	109.2
Total—Wool Textile Industry	167,072	+ 0.2	101.1	345,019	+ 1.4	106.8

The following Table shows, by districts and departments, the percentage increase or decrease in the numbers employed in the week ended 24th March, 1928, by those firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the numbers employed by the same firms in the week ended 25th February, 1928:—

Departments :	Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with the previous month. (—, without a figure, signifies "few or no workpeople returned.")				
	Wool Sorting and Combing.	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified).
WORSTED SECTION:					
Bradford	+ 0.9	- 0.1	+ 1.1	- 2.4	+ 0.2
Huddersfield	- 1.8	+ 0.8	+ 1.6	- 0.7	+ 0.6
Halifax	- 0.5	- 1.5	+ 0.2	+ 5.2	- 0.2
Leeds	- 1.1	- 0.8	- 0.3	- 0.7	- 0.7
Keighley	- 0.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.2
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.)	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 1.2	- 0.1	- 0.1
Total, West Riding	+ 0.8	- 0.3	+ 0.8	- 0.6	+ 0.1
West of England and Midlands	- 9.4	- 13.9	+ 0.7	- 2.1	- 7.2
Lancashire	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.9	+ 0.6	+ 0.6
Scotland	+ 3.7	+ 0.4	- 0.9	+ 0.4	+ 0.4
TOTAL	+ 0.5	- 0.9	+ 0.8	- 0.7	- 0.3

* Most of the districts are indicated by the names of their principal towns, but neighbouring towns and areas are included in each case.

Department.	Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with the previous month. (... signifies "no change.")			
	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified).
WOOLLEN SECTION:				
Huddersfield	- 1.6	+ 0.6	- 3.2	- 1.0
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.)	+ 6.5	+ 1.6	+ 1.6	+ 2.5
Leeds	+ 3.2	+ 1.8	+ 1.6	+ 2.0
Halifax and Calder Vale	+ 3.7	+ 0.5	+ 0.2	+ 1.2
Bradford	+ 1.3	+ 2.0	+ 0.4	+ 0.3
Total, West Riding	+ 2.3	+ 1.1	- 1.2	+ 1.0
Lancashire	+ 0.4	- 0.5	- 1.2	- 0.1
West of England and Midlands	- 0.9	- 0.1	- 0.3	- 0.4
Scotland	+ 1.8	...	- 1.1	- 0.1
Wales	- 6.4	...	- 7.5	- 4.1
TOTAL	+ 1.7	+ 0.7	- 0.4	+ 0.6

The following Table shows the number of men and women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal centres of the wool textile industry at 26th March, 1928:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 26th March, 1928.					
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Wool Sorting	65	—	65	28	2	30
Wool Washing and Preparing	191	63	254	234	171	405
Wool Combing	103	67	170	190	219	409
Wool Carding	282	35	315	282	75	357
Woolen Spinning	163	42	205	203	91	294
Worst Drawing and Spinning	203	482	685	149	833	982
Wool Winding and Warping	33	15	48	68	76	144
Worst Winding and Warping	38	68	106	53	331	384
Woolen Weaving	79	89	168	179	1,473	1,652
Worst Weaving	49	20	69	20	316	336
Other Processes	433	24	457	463	141	604
Total	1,639	903	2,542	1,869	3,728	5,597

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 20th February, 1928:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting	- 12	—	- 12	- 20	+ 2	- 18	- 30
Wool Washing and Preparing	- 10	- 24	- 34	- 69	- 49	- 118	- 152
Wool Combing	- 1	+ 8	+ 7	- 130	- 18	- 148	- 141
Wool Carding	- 33	- 9	- 42	+ 53	+ 10	+ 63	+ 21
Woolen Spinning	- 78	- 8	- 86	- 40	- 50	- 90	- 176
Worst Drawing and Spinning	- 23	+ 47	+ 24	+ 1	- 221	- 220	- 196
Wool Winding and Warping	- 15	+ 4	- 11	- 36	+ 24	- 12	- 23
Worst Winding and Warping	+ 8	- 16	- 8	- 7	- 41	- 48	- 56
Woolen Weaving	+ 3	- 36	- 33	+ 29	- 206	- 177	- 210
Worst Weaving	- 11	- 16	- 27	- 7	- 122	- 129	- 156
Other Processes	- 92	- 11	- 103	- 51	+ 3	- 48	- 151
Total	- 264	- 61	- 325	- 383	- 668	- 1,051	- 1,376

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 95,860,900 lbs. in March, 1928, compared with 74,441,700 lbs. in February, 1928, and 88,300,400 lbs. in March, 1927.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 4,234,700 lbs., compared with 3,605,100 lbs. in February, 1928, and with 3,958,500 lbs. in March, 1927.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 15,118,700 square yards, compared with 14,457,700 square yards in February, 1928, and 13,275,200 square yards in March, 1927.

The exports of blankets were 120,046 pairs, 136,200 pairs and 106,495 pairs in March, 1928, February, 1928, and March, 1927, respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during March continued fairly good, on the whole. There was a slight decline at most centres, except in some where orders had to be completed before the Easter holidays.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily suspended, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 6.5 on 26th March, 1928, as compared with 5.9 on 20th February, 1928, and with 8.1 on 21st March, 1927.

Employment in the London district showed little change, and was fairly good at most establishments. At Leicester employment remained fair, some firms working full time, or even overtime, on orders for early delivery; on the whole, however, there was a slight decline, and nearly 28 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns were on short time in the week ended 24th March, losing about 6 hours each on the average. Employment at Hinkley showed some decline, but remained fair, on the whole. There was a decline at Northampton also, and a considerable increase in the number of workpeople on short time: about 34 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns lost about 7½ hours each, on the average, in the week ended 24th March; some firms, however, were relatively busy.

Employment remained good or fair, on the whole, at Higham and Rushden, Wellingborough, and Kettering, and fairly good at most of the smaller Northamptonshire centres; both short time and overtime were reported, though neither to a very considerable extent. On the other hand, there was a further slackening in employment at Wollaston.

Employment at Stafford was moderate, with the majority of firms on short time. At Norwich employment continued fairly good, with most firms working full time, and showed a further slight improvement towards the end of the month; in the turnshoe branch, however, employment remained very slack. In the Bristol and Kingswood district there was a decline, and short time was very prevalent. At Street employment continued fair. Employment continued slack in the heavy boot trade at Leeds; but it was fair in some other sections of the trade. In the slipper trade in the Rossendale Valley and at Bury and Preston employment continued good.

In Scotland there was some decline, and employment was reported as quiet at Edinburgh, fair at Glasgow and Kilmarnock, and slack at Maybole.

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

Department.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople		
-------------	-----------------------	--	--	------------------------------------	--	--

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 20th February, 1928:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Boot and Shoe Manufacture:							
Preparing Department ...	- 3	...	- 3	+ 5	+ 16	+ 21	+ 18
Rough Stuff Department ...	- 8	...	- 8	+ 15	+ 2	+ 17	+ 9
Clicking Department ...	+ 103	+ 3	+ 106	+ 162	+ 1	+ 163	+ 269
Closing Department ...	+ 4	+ 42	+ 46	+ 11	+ 318	+ 329	+ 375
Making Department ...	- 36	+ 2	- 34	+ 230	+ 20	+ 250	+ 216
Finishing Department ...	- 91	- 20	- 111	+ 18	+ 18	+ 36	- 75
Slipper Making ...	- 18	- 6	- 24	- 115	- 131	- 246	- 270
Clog Making ...	+ 4	...	+ 4	...	+ 1	+ 5	+ 5
Repairing and Hand-sewn Work ...	+ 7	+ 1	+ 8	- 7	...	- 7	+ 1
TOTAL ...	- 38	+ 22	- 16	+ 319	+ 245	+ 564	+ 548

The exports of boots and shoes in March, 1928, amounted to 133,113 dozen pairs, or 17,394 dozen pairs more than in February, 1928, and 13,836 dozen pairs more than in March, 1927.

BUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT during March showed a further seasonal improvement, especially in the painting and decorating section; it was fair in many districts with skilled operatives, other than plasterers, and generally moderate with unskilled workers.

As regards individual occupations, employment improved with bricklayers, and was fair, on the whole; there was also some improvement to fair generally; it showed little change with slaters and plumbers, and continued fair with these classes in most districts. There was an improvement with plasterers, but employment was slack, on the whole; it showed a further considerable improvement with painters, and was very fair. Employment was moderate, on the whole, with tradesmen's labourers.

As compared with March, 1927, employment was considerably worse with plasterers, and also showed a decline with other classes except painters, with whom it was somewhat better.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, who were unemployed at 26th March, 1928, together with the increase or decrease in the percentages as compared with the previous month and with March, 1927:—

OCCUPATIONS.	*Estimated Number of Insured Workpeople at July, 1927.	Total Numbers Unemployed at 26th Mar., 1928.	Number included in previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped.	Percentage Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with a	
					Month before.	Year before.
					26th Mar., 1928.	26th Mar., 1927.
CARPENTERS.						
Carpenters ...	128,090	11,732	339	9.2	- 2.5	+ 3.4
Bricklayers ...	72,170	5,551	259	7.7	- 2.6	+ 4.9
Masons ...	23,390	2,100	133	9.0	- 3.2	+ 2.0
Slaters ...	5,850	469	19	8.0	- 0.1	+ 2.9
Plasterers ...	21,080	3,035	95	14.4	- 4.0	+ 10.9
Painters ...	109,080	8,783	117	8.1	- 13.4	- 2.3
Plumbers ...	32,600	2,848	120	8.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Labourers to above ...	252,230	32,617	873	12.9	- 2.5	+ 1.3
All other occupations ...	162,720	23,576	721	14.6	- 2.1	+ 1.7
Total ...	807,210	90,812	2,676	11.3	- 3.8	+ 1.8
DIVISIONS.						
London ...	163,620	12,801	5	7.8	- 3.8	- 1.6
South-Eastern ...	127,050	7,200	41	5.7	- 3.8	+ 1.4
South-Western ...	100,310	9,477	75	9.4	- 3.6	+ 2.6
Midlands ...	91,380	9,255	603	10.1	- 3.5	+ 1.6
North-Eastern ...	103,420	19,597	954	18.9	- 4.7	+ 5.9
North-Western ...	106,900	14,206	423	13.3	- 3.9	+ 2.1
Scotland ...	72,650	7,812	245	10.8	- 4.4	+ 1.4
Wales ...	28,280	7,616	323	25.9	- 3.7	+ 10.8
Northern Ireland ...	13,600	2,848	7	20.9	- 1.2	- 6.0
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	807,210	90,812	2,676	11.3	- 3.8	+ 1.8

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 134 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 15,551,000, show that in March, 1928, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £5,221,200, as compared with £5,199,100 in February, 1928, and £4,841,900 in March, 1927. Of the total for March, 1928, dwelling-houses accounted for £3,105,000; factories and workshops for £243,400; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £595,200; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,277,600.

The figures for the quarter ended March, 1928, in comparison with the corresponding quarter of 1927, are given on page 147.

* Aged 16-64 inclusive.

BRICK INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during March showed a further improvement. At Peterborough it was 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 12.2 at 26th March, 1928, as compared with 13.7 at 20th February, 1928, and 6.3 at 21st March, 1927.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 24th Mar., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 24th Mar., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire ...	1,828	- 3.7	- 9.5	4,283	- 1.3	- 20.0
Midlands and Eastern Counties ...	4,681	+ 2.1	- 12.4	12,796	+ 3.7	- 16.7
South and South-West Counties and Wales ...	1,463	- 0.3	- 10.1	3,494	+ 5.6	- 15.0
Scotland ...	188	+ 2.7	+ 12.6	487	+ 2.7	+ 3.4
TOTAL ...	8,160	+ 0.3	- 10.9	21,060	+ 2.9	- 16.8

Returns from employers relative to short-time working, exclusive of time lost on account of bad weather, showed that, of 8,071 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, about 17.5 per cent. were working on an average about 13 hours less than full time in the week ending 24th March, 1928.

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed a further improvement, and in the best china ware and in the sanitary ware sections it was reported to be good; in other branches of the trade there was still much short time working. At Worcester there was still some short-time working. In the stoneware section in Scotland employment was again reported to be bad.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 12.8 at 26th March, 1928, as compared with 16.0 at 20th February, 1928, and with 11.7 at 21st March, 1927.

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

BRANCHES.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 24th Mar., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 24th Mar., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
China Manufacture ...	1,246	+ 0.9	+ 0.1	2,377	+ 2.9	- 1.1
Earthenware Manufacture ...	8,246	+ 0.4	- 0.6	15,607	+ 3.5	- 4.7
Other Branches (including unspecified) ...	1,814	+ 1.1	- 1.1	3,329	+ 3.9	- 5.6
TOTAL ...	11,306	+ 0.6	- 0.6	21,313	+ 3.5	- 4.5
DISTRICTS.						
North Staffordshire ...	8,741	+ 0.8	+ 1.4	15,274	+ 4.6	- 3.8
Other Districts ...	2,565	- 0.0	- 6.8	6,039	+ 0.9	- 6.2
TOTAL ...	11,306	+ 0.6	- 0.6	21,313	+ 3.5	- 4.5

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that, of 11,106 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 3,872, or 35.0 per cent., were working on an average about 13½ hours less than full time in the week ending 24th March, 1928.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT with paper makers continued fair, on the whole, during March. In several districts it was reported as good, with full time being worked; but a few mills in Lancashire and elsewhere were working irregularly, owing to a shortage of orders.

With letterpress printers employment showed an improvement on the previous month in London and a number of provincial towns, and was generally fair; a decline was, however, reported at Birmingham, where employment was again reported as slack, and a slight falling-off was also reported at Bradford and Leeds. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment was generally good, and better than in February.

Employment showed little change, on the whole, with lithographic printers. It remained bad at Liverpool, Manchester, and Edinburgh; at most other centres it was fair, and there was an improvement on the previous month at Glasgow, Hull, and Norwich. With lithographic artists employment generally continued fair, except at Manchester, where it was slack, but better than in February. Employment continued moderate, on the whole, in the bookbinding trade.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and bookbinding industries was 4.3 at 26th March, 1928, compared with 4.9 at 20th February, 1928, and 5.2 at 21st March, 1927. In the paper and paper board industry the percentage was 5.2 at 26th March, 1928, compared with 4.5 at 20th February, 1928, and 7.0 at 21st March, 1927. In the cardboard box, paper bag, and stationery industries the percentage was 4.6 at 26th March, 1928, compared with 4.7 at 20th February, 1928, and 5.2 at 21st March, 1927.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of March, 1928.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		March, 1928.	Feb., 1928.	March, 1927.	Month before.	Year before.
		March, 1928.	Feb., 1928.	March, 1927.	Month before.	Year before.
Letterpress Printing: London ...	40,137	4.5	5.5	5.8	- 1.0	- 1.3
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire Midlands and Eastern Counties ...	16,711	4.1	4.4	4.4	- 0.3	- 0.3
Scotland ...	10,901	2.2	2.5	2.5	- 0.3	- 0.3
Other Districts ...	7,281	4.8	5.5	5.1	- 0.7	- 0.3
Total ...	85,787	4.0	4.6	4.7	- 0.6	- 0.7
Lithographic Printing ...	10,875	3.3	3.3	4.0	...	- 0.7
Bookbinding ...	20,121	4.1	3.9	4.7	+ 0.2	- 0.6

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during March remained generally slack. Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, dock and harbour service, 28.3 per cent. were recorded as unemployed at 26th March, 1928, as compared with 27.6 per cent. at 20th February, 1928, and with 26.9 per cent. at 21st March, 1927.

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:—

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.			At Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	In Docks.				
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, etc.	Total.		
Week ended—					
3rd March 1928 ...	3,968	2,028	5,996	8,186	14,182
10th " " ...	4,040	2,425	6,465	8,210	14,675
17th " " ...	4,284	1,921	6,205	8,115	14,320
24th " " ...	4,379	2,088	6,467	8,239	14,706
31st " " ...	4,240	1,583	5,823	8,055	13,878
Average for 5 weeks ended 31st March, 1928 ...	4,182	2,009	6,191	8,161	14,352
Average for February, 1928 ...	4,144	1,963	6,107	8,130	14,237
Average for March, 1927 ...	4,529	2,404	6,933	8,173	15,106

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during March was 782, compared with 808 in February and with 871 in March, 1927.

East Coast.—Employment with coal trimmers and teamers was moderate on the Tyne, but slack on the Wear. Other classes of dock workers on the Tyne were fairly well employed, with some overtime on iron ore cargoes. Employment was generally moderate on the Wear and slack at Blyth. It was fairly good at Middlesbrough and moderate at Hull and Grimsby. At Ipswich and Yarmouth it was fair.

Liverpool.—Employment remained generally slack. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the five weeks ended 30th March was 14,772, compared with 14,945 in February and with 15,165 in March, 1927. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £39,779 in the five weeks ended 30th March, compared with £40,664 in February and with £40,532 in March, 1927.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment at the South Wales ports was generally fair, and the improvement observed last month continued. At Bristol, Avonmouth and Gloucester conditions remained slack. Employment declined at Southampton and was slack. At Plymouth and other South Western ports it was also slack.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Leith and Grangemouth employment continued moderate. It was fair at Glasgow and at Dundee, but showed a falling-off at the latter port. At Ayr it was slack. At Belfast employment was fair.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT during March was generally quiet to moderate, the supply of seamen being in excess of the demand at the majority of ports.

Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 26th March, 1928, was 15.1, compared with 16.3 at 20th February, 1928, and 16.8 at 21st March, 1927.

The demand for men on the Thames declined until the middle of March, and increased afterwards, being described as fair at the end of the month. It was generally moderate on the Tyne, and poor on the Wear. The demand on the Tees was very slack in the first half of the month and moderate later. It was moderate on the whole at Hull. The demand at Southampton was dull until the middle of the month, and became fair subsequently. At Bristol it was fair during the first half of March and very quiet afterwards; at Avonmouth it was moderate to good. The demand was fair to good at Newport, and moderate to fairly good at Cardiff. It was fair at Swansea in the first two weeks of the month, but declined later, being reported to be very quiet in the closing stages. The demand was generally quiet to moderate on the Mersey, and it fluctuated from poor to fair at Manchester. It was quiet on the Clyde in the early part of March, but had improved to moderate by the end of the month. The demand remained quiet on the whole at Leith, and it was dull at Belfast.

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in				
	Mar., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Three Months ended	
		Month before.	Year before.	Mar., 1928.	Mar., 1927.
ENGLAND & WALES:					
Liverpool ...	11,894	+ 1,502	- 745	32,226	32,904
Manchester ...	704	- 6	- 140	2,165	2,456
London ...	8,254	+ 166	+ 156	25,810	24,185
Southampton ...	8,413	+ 2,030	- 138	23,317	22,746
Tyne Ports ...	3,157	+ 1,065	+ 1,205	7,386	6,928
Sunderland ...	306	- 54	7	1,042	826
Middlesbrough ...	342	- 259	- 25	1,488	1,022
Hull ...	1,392	+ 419	+ 299	4,004	3,886
Bristol ...	1,003	+ 202	+ 19	2,976	3,056
Newport, Mon. ...	826	+ 376	- 52	2,045	2,248
Cardiff ...	2,687	+ 96	+ 82	8,304	8,568
Swansea ...	491	- 261	- 174	1,878	2,164
SCOTLAND:					
Leith ...	303	- 41	+ 19	998	1,008
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	352	+ 61	- 6	1,102	807
Glasgow ...	2,261	+ 252	+ 318	7,176	6,687
NORTHERN IRELAND:					
Belfast ...	126	+ 27	- 90	443	670
TOTAL for above Ports ...	42,511	+ 5,575	+ 721	122,360	120,161

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS DURING MARCH IN NUMBERS OF UNEMPLOYED.

THE following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 26th March, 1928, differed from the figures for 20th February, 1928, to the extent of 1,000 or more:—

Industry.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 26th March, 1928, as compared with 20th Feb., 1928.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Building ...	- 31,163	- 17	- 31,180
Coalmining ...	- 15,318	- 107	- 15,425
Tailoring ...	- 3,031	- 4,959	- 7,990
Distributive Trades ...	- 3,600		

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on the 26th March, 1928, and the increase or decrease at that date in the total percentages unemployed compared with a month earlier, a year ago, and two years ago, respectively.

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed persons. The principal classes of persons who are exempted from such compulsory insurance are juveniles under 16 years of age, and (since 2nd January, 1928) persons aged 65 and over, persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum, persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, and outworkers. Persons employed by local public authorities, railways and certain other public utility undertakings, members of the police forces, and persons with rights under a statutory superannuation scheme may, in certain circumstances, also be exempted.

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

The files of "lodged" books at the Employment Exchanges thus furnish for each industrial group a record of the unemployment of insured persons. In arriving at this figure the books of those persons who are known to be working in an uninsured trade, or to be sick or deceased, or who are known to have emigrated or gone abroad, are of course excluded. In cases where information on these points is lacking the books remain in the "lodged" files, and are included in the statistics of unemployment, for a period of two months from the date on which the insured person was last in touch with the Employment Exchange.

This last item determines in the main the difference between the total number of unemployed persons given in the following Table and the figure given on page 141 showing the total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges. The difference would be greater were it not that this latter figure includes uninsured persons who are maintaining registration. These do not appear in the figures of "books lodged," which relate solely to insured persons.

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

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

Special Note. Persons aged 65 and over.

Under the provisions of the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925, all persons aged 65 and over ceased to be insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts as from 2nd January, 1928. The estimates of the numbers of insured persons in each industry prepared on the basis of the information obtained from the exchange of unemployment books in July, 1927, have therefore been revised to exclude persons aged 65 and over who, it is computed, numbered approximately 323,000 men, and 24,000 women. Such persons no longer appear in the statistics showing the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, and the figures for dates subsequent to 2nd January, 1928, are therefore not comparable with those for earlier dates. The number of insured persons aged 65 and over whose books were lodged at the beginning of January did not exceed 30,000, and a proportion of these continued to register as uninsured persons. For all practical purposes, however, the percentages unemployed can be regarded as comparable with the corresponding figures published each month since July, 1923.

NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 26th MARCH, 1928.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.									GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.		
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (Including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, AND CASUALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fishing	3,272	109	3,381	84	12	96	3,356	121	3,477	3,335	120	3,455
Mining—												
Coal Mining	147,556	510	148,066	51,770	239	52,009	199,326	749	200,075	199,283	749	200,032
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	1,742	2	1,744	660	...	660	2,402	2	2,404	2,381	2	2,383
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	886	2	888	49	1	50	935	3	938	935	3	938
Stone Quarrying and Mining	3,222	4	3,226	726	4	730	3,948	8	3,956	3,723	8	3,731
Slate Quarrying and Mining	303	...	303	96	1	97	399	1	400	399	1	400
Mining and Quarrying not separately specified	1,276	42	1,318	275	37	312	1,551	79	1,630	1,474	79	1,553
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	703	3	706	45	10	55	748	13	761	734	13	747
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products—												
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	1,297	14	1,311	244	2	246	1,541	16	1,557	1,540	16	1,556
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manufacture	1,900	51	1,951	191	4	195	2,091	55	2,146	2,075	54	2,129
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works	1,172	40	1,212	243	3	246	1,415	43	1,458	1,374	39	1,413
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	7,257	699	7,956	268	2,143	2,411	9,132	967	10,099	8,975	967	9,942
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	1,898	1,730	3,628	2,609	2,744	5,353	4,507	4,474	8,981	4,505	4,474	8,979
Glass Trades—												
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scientific Glass) Manufacture	1,683	231	1,914	388	67	455	2,071	298	2,369	2,065	298	2,363
Glass Bottle Making	2,044	142	2,186	605	11	616	2,649	153	2,802	2,646	153	2,799
Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, etc.—												
Chemicals Manufacture	4,122	607	4,729	403	132	535	4,525	739	5,264	4,496	739	5,235
Explosives Manufacture	620	265	885	112	60	172	732	325	1,057	730	325	1,055
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture	582	117	699	23	8	31	605	125	730	605	125	730
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture	3,194	674	3,868	420	173	593	3,614	847	4,461	3,597	837	4,434
Metal Manufacture—												
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	2,871	18	2,889	525	...	525	3,396	18	3,414	3,394	18	3,412
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges	15,714	132	15,846	22,177	140	22,317	37,891	272	38,163	37,882	272	38,154
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	2,733	165	2,898	834	26	860	3,567	191	3,758	3,508	189	3,697
Manufacture of Tin Plates	899	122	1,021	3,799	353	4,152	4,698	475	5,173	4,698	475	5,173
Iron and Steel Tube Making	1,669	74	1,743	1,632	9	1,641	3,301	83	3,384	3,300	83	3,383
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manufacture	1,438	206	1,644	1,213	86	1,299	2,651	292	2,943	2,648	292	2,940
Engineering, etc.—												
General Engineering; Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	38,548	1,165	39,713	15,622	372	15,994	54,170	1,537	55,707	53,317	1,527	54,844
Electrical Engineering	2,677	513	3,190	472	123	595	3,026	636	3,662	3,008	636	3,644
Marine Engineering, etc.	6,037	24	6,061	418	2	420	6,455	26	6,481	5,362	21	5,383
Constructional Engineering	2,151	33	2,184	482	10	492	2,633	43	2,676	2,628	43	2,671
Construction and Repair of Vehicles—												
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	10,362	849	11,211	1,973	104	2,077	12,335	953	13,288	12,208	950	13,158
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc.	1,179	83	1,262	178	9	187	1,357	92	1,449	1,321	92	1,413
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tram-car Building	3,111	25	3,136	2,497	24	2,521	5,608	49	5,657	5,606	49	5,655

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.									GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.		
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (Including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, AND CASUALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ...	44,443	121	44,564	1,969	12	1,981	46,412	133	46,545	42,383	111	42,494
Metal Trades—												
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding	6,575	421	6,996	3,331	265	3,596	9,906	686	10,592	9,818	686	10,504
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ...	950	26	976	68	2	70	1,018	28	1,046	985	28	1,013
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture	2,954	1,283	4,237	442	338	780	3,396	1,621	5,017	3,386	1,620	5,006
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making	2,226	715	2,941	1,230	260	1,490	3,456	975	4,431	3,449	975	4,424
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture	879	694	1,573	601	139	740	1,480	833	2,313	1,480	833	2,313
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture	1,361	677	2,038	338	170	508	1,699	847	2,546	1,697	847	2,544
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	364	7	371	72	...	72	436	7	443	432	7	439
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture	1,324	935	2,259	519	559	1,078	1,843	1,494	3,337	1,829	1,494	3,323
Metal Industries not separately specified	7,241	3,990	11,231	2,464	1,190	3,654	9,705	5,180	14,885	9,590	5,173	14,763
Textile Trades—												
Cotton	9,001	11,387	20,388	9,463	22,037	31,500	18,464	33,424	51,888	18,459	33,399	51,858
Woolen and Worsted	3,805	2,873	6,678	3,750	5,717	9,467	7,555	8,590	16,145	7,526	8,579	16,105
Silk and Artificial Silk	710	732	1,442	516	1,155	1,671	1,226	1,887	3,113	1,221	1,876	3,097
Linen	2,607	3,111	5,718	654	1,701	2,355	3,261	4,812	8,073	3,261	4,812	8,073
Jute	1,010	1,325	2,335	79	88	167	1,089	1,413	2,502	1,089	1,413	2,502
Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making	410	580	990	65	315	380	475	895	1,370	433	795	1,228
Hostery	495	1,327	1,822	329	2,115	2,444	824	3,442	4,266	745	3,383	4,128
Lace	311	218	529	259	174	433	570	392	962	570	392	962
Carpet Manufacture	298	277	575	190	366	556	488	643	1,131	488	643	1,131
Textile Industries not separately specified	728	1,329	2,057	199	707	906	927	2,036	2,963	833	1,707	2,540
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	2,915	988	3,903	7,014	2,346	9,360	9,929	3,334	13,263	9,516	2,764	12,280
Leather and Leather Goods—												
Tanning, Currying and Dressing ...	1,637	378	2,015	467	98	565	2,104	476	2,580	2,102	476	2,578
Saddlery, Harness and other Leather Goods Manufacture	800	634	1,434	189	304	493	989	938	1,927	973	935	1,908
Clothing Trades—												
Tailoring	3,389	2,851	6,240	365	1,217	1,582	3,754	4,068	7,822	3,528	3,984	7,512
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery	565	2,496	3,061	33	438	471	598	2,934	3,532	590	2,802	3,392
Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait) Manufacture	457	392	849	152	358	510	609	750	1,359	606	748	1,354
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Making	322	1,992	2,314	18	1,130	1,148	340	3,122	3,462	260	1,311	1,571
Dress Industries not separately specified	494	323	817	103	283	386	597	606	1,203	595	604	1,199
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades	4,706	1,192	5,898	1,984	1,057	3,041	6,690	2,249	8,939	6,665	2,243	8,908
Food, Drink and Tobacco—												
Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making ...	6,999	2,650	9,649	340	240	580	7,339	2,890	10,229	6,842	2,761	9,603
Grain Milling	1,455	106	1,561	370	17	387	1,825	123	1,948	1,754	118	1,872
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery	1,670	2,295	3,965	307	4,468	4,775	1,977	6,763	8,740	1,974	6,757	8,731
Food Industries not separately specified	4,783	4,983	9,766	142	411	553	4,925	5,394	10,319	4,841	5,368	10,209
Drink Industries	4,565	1,524	6,089	174								

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.												GREAT BRITAIN ONLY TOTAL PERCENTAGE AT 26TH MAR., 1928.			
	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AGED 16-64 INCLUSIVE, AT JULY, 1927.			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 26TH MARCH, 1928.						INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH						
	Males.	Females.	Total.	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (Including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.				20TH FEB., 1928.	21ST MAR., 1927.	22ND MAR., 1926.
				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.				
Fishing	26,600	950	27,550	12.3	11.5	12.3	0.3	1.2	0.3	12.6	12.7	12.6	- 2.3	- 2.9	- 0.9	12.6
Mining :-																
Coal Mining	1,157,580	6,800	1,164,380	12.7	7.5	12.7	4.5	3.5	4.5	17.2	11.0	17.2	- 1.3	+ 0.4	+ 7.9	17.2
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	14,220	30	14,250	12.3	6.7	12.2	4.6	...	4.7	16.9	6.7	16.9	+ 0.5	+ 6.0	- 0.1	16.8
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	5,420	60	5,480	16.3	3.3	16.2	1.0	1.7	0.9	17.3	5.0	17.1	+ 3.3	+ 5.5	+ 5.7	17.1
Stone Quarrying and Mining	40,900	330	41,230	7.9	1.2	7.8	1.8	1.2	1.8	9.7	2.4	9.6	- 2.0	+ 3.0	+ 2.4	9.3
Slate Quarrying and Mining	10,690	10	10,700	2.8	...	2.8	0.9	10.0	0.9	3.7	10.0	3.7	- 0.5	+ 2.1	+ 0.2	3.7
Mining and Quarrying not separately specified	16,130	1,590	17,720	7.9	2.6	7.4	1.7	2.4	1.8	9.6	5.0	9.2	- 1.7	- 0.2	- 1.4	9.0
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	14,570	160	14,730	4.8	1.9	4.8	0.3	6.2	0.4	5.1	8.1	5.2	- 1.4	+ 0.6	+ 1.5	5.1
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products :-																
Ooke Ovens and By-Product Works	11,180	120	11,300	11.6	11.7	11.6	2.2	1.6	2.2	13.8	13.3	13.8	+ 2.2	+ 1.9	+ 1.5	13.8
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manufacture	15,040	1,350	16,390	12.6	3.8	11.9	1.3	0.3	1.2	13.9	4.1	13.1	- 1.1	+ 0.3	- 2.6	13.1
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works	17,930	880	18,810	6.5	4.5	6.4	1.4	0.4	1.4	7.9	4.9	7.8	- 2.1	+ 2.8	+ 2.6	7.7
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	75,010	7,570	82,580	9.7	9.2	9.6	2.5	3.6	2.6	12.2	12.8	12.2	- 1.5	+ 5.9	+ 5.7	12.2
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	32,110	37,790	69,900	5.9	4.6	5.2	8.1	7.2	7.6	14.0	11.8	12.8	- 3.2	+ 1.1	- 1.3	12.9
Glass Trades :-																
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scientific Glass) Manufacture	19,650	5,300	24,950	8.6	4.4	7.7	1.9	1.2	1.8	10.5	5.6	9.5	- 0.5	- 0.3	- 0.4	9.5
Glass Bottle Making	15,510	2,170	17,680	13.2	6.5	12.4	3.9	0.6	3.4	17.1	7.1	15.8	- 1.1	+ 1.7	- 1.1	15.8
Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, etc. :-																
Chemicals Manufacture	70,040	22,560	92,600	5.9	2.7	5.1	0.6	0.6	0.6	6.5	3.3	5.7	- 0.4	- 0.7	- 2.3	5.7
Explosives Manufacture	12,360	5,990	18,350	5.0	4.4	4.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	5.9	5.4	5.8	- 0.2	- 1.8	- 2.2	5.7
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture	13,790	4,300	18,090	4.2	2.7	3.9	0.2	0.2	0.1	4.4	2.9	4.0	- 0.4	- 1.2	- 0.9	4.0
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture	55,700	20,920	76,620	5.7	3.2	5.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	6.5	4.0	5.8	- 0.3	- 1.1	- 1.5	5.8
Metal Manufacture :-																
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	23,090	270	23,360	12.4	6.7	12.4	2.3	...	2.2	14.7	6.7	14.6	+ 0.4	+ 2.1	- 0.8	14.6
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges	183,790	4,200	187,990	8.6	3.1	8.4	12.0	3.4	11.9	20.6	6.5	20.3	+ 1.0	+ 4.9	+ 0.2	20.3
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	35,910	3,030	38,940	7.6	5.4	7.4	2.3	0.9	2.3	9.9	6.3	9.7	+ 0.1	- 0.7	- 0.4	9.6
Manufacture of Tin Plates	26,820	3,950	30,770	3.4	3.1	3.3	14.1	8.9	13.5	17.5	12.0	16.8	- 21.5	+ 11.8	+ 3.7	16.8
Iron and Steel Tube Making	26,110	1,340	27,450	6.4	5.5	6.3	6.2	0.7	6.0	12.6	6.2	12.3	- 0.4	- 1.5	- 2.1	12.3
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manufacture	17,820	3,950	21,770	8.1	5.2	7.6	6.8	2.2	5.9	14.9	7.4	13.5	+ 0.1	- 0.5	+ 1.2	13.5
Engineering, etc. :-																
General Engineering, Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	535,820	42,100	577,920	7.2	2.8	6.9	2.9	0.9	2.7	10.1	3.7	9.6	- 0.2	- 1.7	- 2.4	9.6
Electrical Engineering	61,130	16,670	77,800	4.4	3.1	4.1	0.6	0.7	0.6	5.0	3.8	4.7	- 0.1	- 1.5	- 2.0	4.7
Marine Engineering, etc.	54,840	1,130	55,970	11.0	2.1	10.8	0.8	0.2	0.8	11.8	2.3	11.6	- 0.2	- 7.3	- 12.5	10.5
Constructional Engineering	25,740	1,050	26,790	8.4	3.1	8.2	1.8	1.0	1.8	10.2	4.1	10.0	...	- 1.2	- 2.8	10.0
Construction and Repair of Vehicles :-																
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	207,310	22,820	230,130	5.0	3.7	4.9	1.0	0.5	0.9	6.0	4.2	5.8	- 0.9	- 0.8	- 0.1	5.8
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc.	18,020	2,250	20,270	6.5	3.7	6.2	1.0	0.4	0.9	7.5	4.1	7.1	- 2.1	- 2.2	- 2.0	7.1
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tram-car Building	52,830	1,320	54,150	5.9	1.9	5.8	4.7	1.8	4.6	10.6	3.7	10.4	+ 0.9	+ 3.6	+ 4.6	10.5
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing	205,140	3,340	208,480	21.7	3.6	21.4	0.9	0.4	0.9	22.6	4.0	22.3	+ 1.3	- 6.7	- 14.4	21.7
Metal Trades :-																
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding	77,010	7,830	84,840	8.5	5.4	8.2	4.4	3.4	4.3	12.9	8.8	12.5	- 0.2	+ 3.4	+ 3.2	12.4
Electrical Wiring and Contracting	13,150	1,160	14,310	7.2	2.2	6.8	0.5	0.2	0.5	7.7	2.4	7.3	- 0.8	- 0.6	- 0.6	7.2
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture	53,170	30,560	83,730	5.6	4.2	5.1	0.8	1.1	0.9	6.4	5.3	6.0	- 0.1	- 2.6	- 1.4	6.0
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making	23,660	10,560	34,220	9.4	6.8	8.6	5.2	2.4	4.3	14.6	9.2	12.9	- 0.5	- 3.6	...	12.9
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture	14,230	11,110	25,340	6.2	6.2	6.2	4.2	1.3	2.9	10.4	7.5	9.1	- 0.4	- 2.1	- 1.2	9.1
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture	18,020	10,740	28,760	7.6	6.3	7.1	1.8	1.6	1.8	9.4	7.9	8.9	- 0.9	- 1.6	- 0.3	8.8
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	6,860	490	7,350	5.3	1.4	5.0	1.1	...	1.0	6.4	1.4	6.0	+ 0.2	- 1.3	- 1.0	6.0
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture	23,220	20,600	43,820	5.7	4.5	5.2	2.2	2.8	2.4	7.9	7.3	7.6	- 0.2	- 2.7	- 2.4	7.6
Metal Industries not separately specified	115,810	67,080	182,890	6.3	5.9	6.1	2.1	1.8	2.0	8.4	7.7	8.1	- 0.3	- 1.1	- 0.4	8.1
Textile Trades :-																
Cotton	202,250	359,880	562,130	4.5	3.2	3.6	4.6	6.1	5.6	9.1	9.3	9.2	+ 0.5	+ 3.3	- 0.4	9.2
Woolen and Worsted	96,430	143,370	239,800	3.9	2.0	2.8	3.9	4.0	3.9	7.8	6.0	6.7	- 0.9	- 2.7	- 3.5	6.7
Silk and Artificial Silk	21,920	31,660	53,580	3.2	2.3	2.7	2.4	3.7	3.1	5.6	6.0	5.8	- 1.0	- 1.9	- 2.9	5.8
Linen	25,490	57,370	82,860	10.2	5.4	6.9	2.6	3.0	2.8	12.8	8.4	9.7	+ 1.4	+ 0.9	- 14.9	15.5
Jute	12,230	26,170	38,400	8.3	5.1	6.1	0.6	0.3	0.4	8.9	5.4	6.5	+ 0.4	- 1.8	- 6.8	6.5
Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making	7,060	11,960	19,020	5.8	4.8	5.2	0.9	2.7	2.0	6.7	7.5	7.2	- 0.5	- 1.9	- 5.8	7.5
Hosiery	21,410	78,100	99,510	2.3	1.7	1.8	1.5	2.7	2.5	3.8	4.4	4.3	- 0.5	- 3.2	- 0.3	4.2
Lace	6,990	10,320	17,310	4.4	2.1	3.1	3.8	1.7	2.5	8.2	3.8	5.6	- 1.3	- 2.6	- 9.1	5.6
Carpet Manufacture	9,540	14,840	24,380	5.1	1.9	2.4	2.0	2.4	2.2	5.1	4.3	4.6	- 0.1	- 1.2	- 6.8	4.6
Textile Industries not separately specified	13,080	30,210	43,290	5.6	4.4	4.8	1.5	2.3	2.0	7.1	6.7	6.8	- 0.2	- 1.7	- 3.4	6.5
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	82,250	33,080	115,330	3.5	3.0	3.4	8.6	7.1	8.1	12.1	10.1	11.5	- 1.0	- 3.3	- 1.4	11.6
Leather and Leather Goods :-																
Tanning, Currying and Dressing	31,980	9,380	41,360	5.1	4.0	4.9	1.5	1.1	1.3	6.6	5.1	6.2	+ 0.1	- 2.5	- 3.9	6.2
Saddlery, Harness and other Leather Goods Manufacture	12,920	13,160	26,080	6.2	4.8	5.5	1.5	2.3	1.9	7.7	7.1	7.4	+ 0.1	- 2.0	- 1.5	7.4
Clothing Trades :-																
Tailoring	67,030	130,950	197,980	5.1	2.2	3.2	0.5	0.9	0.8	5.6	3.1	4.0	- 4.0	- 1.6	- 1.6	3.9
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery	10,250	94,710	104,960	5.5	2.6	2.9	0.3	0.5	0.5	5.8	3.1	3.4	- 2.2	- 0.8	- 1.0	3.3
Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait) Manufacture	12,980	19,960	32,940	3.5	2.0	2.6	1.2	1.8	1.5	4.7	3.8	4.1	+ 0.3	- 0.2	- 0.8	4.1
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Making	7,250	67,250	74,500	4.4	3.0	3.1	0.3	1.6	1.5	4.7	4.6	4.6	- 0.2	+ 0.7	- 0.1	2.7
Dress Industries not separately specified	9,500	17,490	26,990	5.2	1.8	3.0	1.1									

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 26th March, 1928. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Area.	Number of Persons on Register at 26th March, 1928.				Inc.(+) or Dec.(-) as compared with 27th Feb., 1928.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	
London Division ...	78,246	16,505	5,352	100,103	- 16,710
South-Eastern Division ...	33,203	4,920	3,693	41,816	- 7,439
Brighton ...	1,296	352	277	1,925	- 522
Chatham ...	1,911	181	635	2,727	- 276
Ipswich ...	1,421	194	104	1,719	- 87
Norwich ...	2,669	347	52	3,068	- 202
Rest of South-Eastern	25,906	3,846	2,625	32,377	- 6,352
South-Western Division ...	50,300	6,054	4,345	60,699	- 5,022
Bristol ...	10,374	1,771	911	13,056	- 751
Plymouth ...	4,471	425	365	5,259	- 712
Portsmouth ...	3,818	421	418	4,657	- 140
Reading ...	1,150	108	187	1,445	+ 117
Southampton ...	4,001	290	609	4,900	+ 153
Swindon ...	890	133	132	1,155	- 3,081
Rest of South-Western	25,596	2,906	1,725	30,227	- 14,276
Midlands Division ...	94,796	24,392	5,417	124,605	- 2,586
Birmingham ...	16,152	6,585	956	23,693	- 1,107
Coventry ...	2,530	414	30	2,974	- 485
Cradley Heath ...	2,574	501	82	3,157	- 63
Derby ...	1,314	347	136	1,797	+ 58
Leicester ...	2,043	1,481	43	3,567	- 11
Northampton ...	1,395	198	55	1,648	- 229
Nottingham ...	5,310	906	308	6,524	- 2,376
Smethwick ...	2,035	658	75	2,768	- 197
Stoke-on-Trent ...	8,901	3,290	521	12,712	- 485
Walsall ...	3,391	742	234	4,367	- 227
West Bromwich ...	1,883	377	119	2,379	- 175
Wolverhampton ...	2,770	621	111	3,502	- 7,630
Rest of Midlands ...	44,498	8,268	2,747	55,513	- 8,586
North-Eastern Division ...	211,052	21,084	12,414	244,550	- 251
Barnsley ...	2,723	295	140	3,158	- 839
Bradford ...	5,254	1,425	162	6,841	- 229
Darlington ...	1,695	164	181	2,040	- 11
Dewsbury ...	1,454	491	143	2,088	+ 651
Doncaster ...	3,608	187	230	4,025	- 363
Gateshead ...	6,981	567	577	8,125	- 432
Grimsby ...	3,257	167	173	3,597	- 184
Hull ...	1,686	584	32	2,302	- 294
Hartlepool ...	5,029	166	400	5,595	- 433
Huddersfield ...	1,946	976	173	3,095	- 1,714
Leeds ...	9,335	660	10,734	11,744	- 256
Lincoln ...	10,317	1,821	162	12,300	+ 94
Middlesbrough ...	5,704	282	248	6,234	- 287
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	14,947	1,147	935	17,029	- 884
Rotherham ...	4,228	268	270	4,766	- 1,428
Sheffield ...	18,442	2,260	1,204	21,906	+ 152
South Shields ...	7,429	290	394	8,113	- 210
Stockton-on-Tees ...	4,378	180	394	4,952	- 26
Sunderland ...	7,951	499	514	8,944	- 7
Wakefield ...	2,377	178	256	2,811	- 348
York ...	1,778	564	205	2,547	- 974
Rest of North-Eastern	88,441	7,618	4,673	100,732	- 9,119
North-Western Division ...	153,021	45,597	11,399	210,017	- 79
Accrington ...	1,903	793	124	2,820	+ 313
Ashton-under-Lyne ...	2,540	1,265	151	3,957	- 63
Barrow ...	2,075	207	219	2,701	- 558
Birkenhead ...	4,393	372	343	5,108	- 527
Blackburn ...	3,562	4,436	415	8,413	+ 442
Blackpool ...	1,314	526	164	2,004	+ 210
Bolton ...	4,072	1,728	219	6,019	- 183
Burnley ...	2,032	1,222	123	3,377	+ 442
Bury ...	1,288	1,106	145	2,539	+ 210
Chorley ...	1,745	446	88	2,279	+ 210
Liverpool ...	37,560	5,174	3,670	46,424	- 2,049
Manchester ...	15,567	3,985	746	20,298	- 1,133
Nelson ...	546	389	26	961	- 616
Oldham ...	9,938	2,635	339	12,912	- 488
Preston ...	2,523	1,128	108	3,759	- 83
Rochdale ...	1,882	673	55	2,610	- 231
St. Helens ...	4,309	232	186	4,727	- 803
Salford ...	6,598	2,273	489	9,360	- 439
Stockport ...	1,985	1,007	109	3,101	- 572
Warrington ...	1,834	402	212	2,448	- 558
Wigan ...	5,413	1,409	200	7,022	- 535
Rest of North-Western	39,722	14,188	3,268	57,178	- 5,031
Scotland Division ...	101,559	16,898	9,315	127,772	- 461
Aberdeen ...	3,074	619	169	3,862	- 29
Clydebank ...	722	155	155	1,032	- 182
Dundee ...	3,160	1,283	315	4,758	- 327
Edinburgh ...	9,163	1,874	679	11,716	- 1,897
Glasgow ...	35,552	6,117	3,819	45,488	+ 7
Greenock ...	4,062	393	308	4,763	+ 296
Motherwell ...	3,153	125	205	3,483	- 88
Paisley ...	1,985	271	233	2,489	- 2,350
Rest of Scotland	40,688	6,061	3,432	50,181	- 8,648
Wales Division ...	114,635	3,700	5,948	124,283	- 838
Cardiff ...	7,021	818	616	8,455	- 775
Llanelli ...	4,313	98	154	4,565	+ 37
Newport ...	4,998	240	298	5,536	+ 827
Swansea ...	6,049	452	610	7,111	- 7,896
Rest of Wales	92,254	2,092	4,270	98,616	- 894
Northern Ireland ...	21,262	6,588	1,187	29,037	- 374
Belfast ...	14,808	3,928	919	19,655	- 22
Londonderry ...	988	322	48	1,358	- 38
Lurgan ...	237	539	17	793	- 387
Lisburn ...	457	154	21	632	- 417
Newry ...	429	88	7	524	+ 344
Rest of Northern Ireland	4,343	1,557	175	6,075	- 75,725
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	858,074	145,738	59,070	1,062,882	- 75,725

[Percentage rates of unemployment, for each of 653 towns in Great Britain, are given in the monthly "Local Unemployment Index"—see Advertisement pages of this GAZETTE.]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

COMPOSITION OF STATISTICS.

On page 138 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 26th March, 1928, for the total of each group included in these statistics. Lines 2 to 5 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 5) and including lines 1 and 6, the number of books lodged, or, in other words, the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, is obtained:—

	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.
1. Unemployed — Special Schemes ...	1,544	8	160	4	1,716
2. Claims admitted or under consideration ...	731,464	13,633	116,043	6,911	868,051
3. Claimants disqualified, but maintaining registration ...	72,358	729	7,095	352	80,534
4. Insured non-claimants on main file ...	20,890	1,887	2,058	1,619	26,454
5. Uninsured persons on Register ...	12,100	13,390	13,954	19,362	58,806
6. Two months' file ...	73,113	4,500	37,182	4,308	119,103
Persons on Register (lines 2-5) ...	836,812	29,639	139,150	28,244	1,033,845
Books Lodged (lines 1-4 and 6) ...	899,369	20,757	162,538	13,194	1,095,858

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.

The following Table gives an analysis of the recommendations of these Committees in Great Britain during the period 14th February to 12th March, 1928:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Applications considered by Committees during period ...	247,556	26,504	274,060
Applications admitted by Committees during period —			
(a) For 12 weeks ...	27,588	1,959	29,547
(b) For less than 12 weeks ...	188,565	15,844	204,409
Applications definitely recommended for disallowance during period:—			
General Conditions:			
Not normally insurable and not seeking to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment ...	1,602	606	2,208
Insurable employment not likely to be available ...	676	218	894
Not a reasonable period of insurable employment during the preceding two years ...	13,057	1,565	14,622
Not making every reasonable effort to obtain suitable employment or not willing to accept suitable employment ...	8,525	2,497	11,022
Special Conditions:			
Single persons residing with relatives	5,151	1,675	6,826
Married women who could look for support from their husbands ...	...	1,598	1,598
Married men who could look for support from their wives ...	404	...	404
Working short time but earning sufficient for maintenance ...	1,001	232	1,233
Aliens ...	4	...	4
Total definitely recommended for disallowance ...	30,420	8,391	38,811
Applications during the period recommended for postponement for a definite time ...	983	310	1,293

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

Table showing APPROXIMATELY the Receipts and Payments, and the Liabilities of the Fund.

	Five weeks ended 31st Mar., 1928.	Four weeks ended 25th Feb., 1928.	Four weeks ended 26th Mar., 1927.
Contributions received from—			
Employers ...	£ 1,555,000	£ 1,105,000	£ 1,280,000
Employed Persons ...	1,325,000	940,000	1,100,000
Exchequer ...	1,105,000	790,000	930,000
Total ...	3,985,000	2,835,000	3,310,000
Unemployment Benefit ...	3,660,000	3,185,000	2,950,000
Cost of Administration ...	500,000	400,000	450,000
Interest accrued on Treasury Advances	115,000	90,000	95,000
Other Items ...	25,000	15,000	10,000
Total ...	4,300,000	3,690,000	3,505,000
Treasury Advances outstanding ...	24,530,000	24,310,000	24,710,000
Other Liabilities (net), including Accrued Interest and Deposits ...	370,000	275,000	395,000

A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually (see House of Commons Paper No. 5 of 1928 for the period ending 31st March, 1927).

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 March in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate reduction of £46,450 in the weekly full-time wages of about 210,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £180 in those of 1,200 workpeople.

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

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ...	400	170,000	£ 60	£ 44,100
Metal ...	...	37,000	...	2,000
Other ...	800	3,500	120	350
Total ...	1,200	210,500	180	46,450

The reductions in the mining and quarrying group mainly concerned coal miners in Durham and Northumberland; in the former district the percentage addition to basis rates was reduced by an amount equivalent to nearly 13 per cent. on current rates, and in the latter district the reduction amounted to over 22 per cent. on current rates. There was also a reduction in the wages of coal miners in the Radstock district, where the percentage addition to basis rates was reduced by the equivalent of about 3 per cent. on current rates. Iron-ore miners in Cumberland had their wages reduced by 3d. per shift, and there were reductions of 2d. or 3d. per shift in the wages of similar classes of men in the Furness district.

The reductions in the metal group affected principally electrical cable makers and tinplate workers. In the case of the former there were reductions of 1s. 11½d. or 2s. per week in the wages of adult male workers and of 1s. per week in the case of adult female workers. A temporary allowance of 3½ per cent. on basis rates paid to tinplate workers was reduced to 2½ per cent., affecting most classes of workers except the lower-paid men, whose wages remained as before. There were also reductions of varying amounts in the wages of blastfurnace workers in Cumberland, with the exception of the lower-paid men.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1928.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Agriculture	Worcestershire† ...	6 Mar.	Male agricultural labourers ...	Minimum rates previously in operation extended up to 2 March 1929, but for a week of 53 hours in summer and 48 hours in winter (in lieu of 50 hours in summer and 48 in winter as previously arranged); ‡
	Hampshire and Isle of Wight.	26 Mar.	Male agricultural labourers ...	Decrease of 1s. per week for those under 19 years of age, the rates for those 19 and over remaining unchanged, leaving minimum rates for a week of 51 hours in summer and 48 hours in winter: 8s. at 14, increasing each year to 30s. 6d. at 21 and over.†
	Rutland ...	19 Mar.	Male agricultural labourers ...	Rates previously in operation extended for an indefinite period, but for a week of 54 hours in summer and 50 hours in winter (in lieu of 54 hours throughout the year). †
Coal Mining	Monmouthshire ...	16 Mar.	Male agricultural labourers ...	Minimum rates previously in operation extended up to 15 March 1929, but for a week of 52 hours in summer and 50 hours in winter (in lieu of 50 hours in summer and 48 hours in winter as previously arranged). ‡
	Glamorganshire ...	2 Mar.	Male agricultural labourers ...	Decreases of 2s. per week for those 20 years of age and over, of 1s. 6d. per week for those 17 and under 20, and of 1s. per week

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1928 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Coke, etc., Manufacture.	Durham	1st pay beginning after 12 Mar.	Cokemen and by-product workers	Decrease of 5 per cent. for workpeople with standard basis rates of 5s. 9d. per shift and under, leaving their wages 25 per cent. above basis rates, and of 7½ per cent. for workpeople with standard basis rates above 5s. 9d. per shift, leaving their wages 22½ per cent. above basis rates. Rate after change for labourers, 5s. 6d. per shift, plus 25 per cent.
Iron Mining	Cumberland... ..	1st bargain day after 7 Mar.	Workpeople employed at iron-ore mines.	Decrease* of 3d. per shift in the bargain price (8s. 5d. to 8s. 2d.) of 3d. per shift for other underground and surface workers, and of 1½d. per shift for youths under 18 years. Shift rates after change: shiftmen, winding enginemen, blacksmiths and joiners, 8s. 2d.; mineral shot borers, 8s. 2d. plus 3d. per foot bored; pumping enginemen, loco. and crane drivers, 7s. 8d.; leading labourers, 7s.†
	Furness and District	12 Mar.	Iron-ore miners and surfacemen (except blacksmiths and fitters whose wages are not regulated by sliding-scale arrangements).	Decrease* of 3d. per shift in the bargain price (7s. 4d. to 7s. 1d.) of 3d. per shift in the minimum wage (6s. 1d. to 5s. 4d.), of 2d. per shift for surfacemen, and of 1d. per shift for boys.
Quarrying	Northumberland and Durham	12 Mar.	Freestone quarrymen	Decrease of ¼d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 7d.).
Chemical Manufacture.	Bristol (certain firms)	1st week in Mar.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of glue and chemical manures.	Decrease† of 9d. per week for men, and of proportionate amounts for women and youths. Minimum rate after change for men, 44s. 6d.
Brickmaking	Nottingham... ..	Week ending 31 Mar.	Adult male workers	Decrease of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: daymen and wheelers, 1s. 1d.; drawers, 1s. 1½d.; setters and clay-getters 1s. 2d. per hour; burners, 5½s. per week.
Pig Iron Manufacture.	West Cumberland and North Lancashire.	2nd full pay in Mar.	All classes (except skilled craftsmen and bricklayers on maintenance work, and also labourers). Keepers, slagers, fillers, enginemen, etc.	Decreases† in bonuses of amounts varying according to base rates from 2-6d. to 7d. per week, leaving total amount of bonuses from 1s. 10-5d. to 4s. 7-5d. per week. Decrease† of 3½ per cent. on output bonus earnings, leaving the percentage payable 39 in the Workington Area and 34 in the Furness Area.
Tinplate Manufacture.	South Wales and Monmouthshire.	5 Feb.	Workpeople employed in tinplate manufacture, with the exception of maintenance craftsmen and all workers in receipt of a base rate of 6s. 10½d. or less per day.¶	Temporary allowance of 3½ per cent. previously paid on basis rates (which include the 25 per cent. bonus consolidated in 1920) reduced to 2½ per cent. (Rates for labourers remain unchanged at 6s. 10½d. per day, plus 7½ per cent., or 44s. 5d. per week.)
Electrical Cable Manufacture.	Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Essex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Berkshire.	3rd pay day in Mar.	Workpeople employed in the electrical cable-making industry (except plumber-jointers, etc).	Decrease† of 1s. 11½d. per week for men 21 years of age and over, of 1s. 5½d. per week for youths 18 to 20 years, of 6d. per week for youths 15 years, of 5½d. per week for youths 14, 16 and 17 years, of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. per week for girls 14 to 17 years; pieceworkers' wages to be correspondingly reduced. Rates after change (excluding service bonuses): men 21 years and over, 52s. 10½d. to 58s. 9d.; youths 18 to 20 years, 36s. 8½d. to 44s. 6½d.; boys 14 to 17 years, 14s. 2½d. to 24s.; women 18 years and over, 27s. 6d. to 31s. 6d.; girls 14 to 17 years, 13s. 6d. to 18s.
	Great Britain, other than the above counties.			Decrease† of 2s. per week for men 21 years and over, of 1s. 6d. per week for youths 18 to 20 years, of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. per week for boys and girls 14 to 17 years; pieceworkers' wages to be correspondingly reduced. Rates after change (excluding service bonuses): men 21 years and over, 47s. 6d. to 53s. 6d.; youths 18 to 20 years, 34s. 6d. to 41s.; boys 14 to 17 years, 13s. 6d. to 22s. 6d.; women 18 years and over, 27s. 6d. to 31s. 6d.; girls 14 to 17 years, 13s. 6d. to 18s.
Laminated Spring Manufacture.	Sheffield	1st full pay after 18 Mar.	Laminated spring fitters, vicemen, smiths and strikers.	Decrease† of 1s. per week in flat-rate bonus (7s. to 6s.).
Cotton Manufacture.	Burnley and District	Pay day in week ending 3 Mar.	Twisters and drawers	Amendments made in the Burnley List of Prices for Grey work in respect of coloured stripes, pattern, reversed twist, stripes and cords, etc.
Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household and Linen Piece Goods.	Northern Ireland ...	26 Mar.	Female workers	New scale of general minimum piece rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts (Northern Ireland), 1923, for workers employed on the making of certain bias or french corners on fancy linens. (See also page 152.)
Furniture Manufacture.	High Wycombe ...	Pay day in week ending 24 Mar.	Caners of common bedroom chairs bored 18, 19, and 20.	Decrease† of ¼d. per chair. Rates after change: bored 18, 6½d. per chair; bored 19 and 20, 7½d. per chair.
	Glasgow	1st full pay in Mar.	Rocking and baby chair makers ...	Decrease† of ¼d. per hour for timeworkers (1s. 4½d. to 1s. 4d.) and of 2½ per cent. for pieceworkers.
Paper Manufacture.	Blackburn and Bury districts.	Pay day in week ending 25 Feb.	Skilled mechanics	Minimum rate of 1s. 5d. per hour adopted.
Building	Kettering and Wellingborough.	1 Feb.		Grading altered from B to A3, under the grading scheme of the National Joint Council for the Building Industry. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 6d.; labourers, 1s. 1½d.¶
	Oakham	1 Feb.		Grading altered from B1 to B, under the grading scheme of the National Joint Council for the Building Industry. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 5½d.; labourers, 1s. 1½d.¶
	Bridgnorth and Spalding.	1 Feb.	Building trade operatives ...	Grading altered from B2 to B1, under the grading scheme of the National Joint Council for the Building Industry. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 5d.; labourers, Bridgnorth, 1s. 0½d.; Spalding, 1s. 1d.¶
	Northampton ...	1 Feb.		Grading altered from A2 to A1, under the grading scheme of the National Joint Council for the Building Industry. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 7d.; labourers 1s. 2½d.¶
	Frome	2 Mar.		Decrease of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: painters, 1s. 3d.; other craftsmen, 1s. 4d.; labourers, 1s.
Local Government (Non-Trading).	Norwich	1st full pay after 1 Mar.	Able-bodied manual workers employed in non-trading and water departments.	Increase of 3s. per week in minimum rate and basis rates and cost-of-living bonus consolidated. Rate after change for labourers, scavengers and refuse collectors, 52s. 6d. per week.
	Kirkcaldy	17 Mar.	Manual workers	Decrease† of 1/40th of the original basic rates. Rates after change: labourers, 54s. 3d.; road paviors, 66s.; masons, 65s.; refuse collectors and scavengers, 55s. 3d.; carters, 56s. 1d.
Roller Leather Manufacture.	Lancashire, Cheshire, and North Wales.	1st pay day in Mar.	Workpeople employed in roller leather manufacture.	Cost-of-living wage reduced from 70 per cent. to 65 per cent. on basic rates. Minimum rates after change: men—skilled, 9d.; semi-skilled, 6d. to 7½d.; women, 5d., plus, in each case, 65 per cent.

* Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.
 † The minimum wage for miners remained unchanged at 7s. per shift.
 ‡ Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
 § The percentage addition to the day and tonnage basis rates remained at 16 in accordance with an arrangement made in October, 1925.
 ¶ This base rate is made up of 5s. 6d., plus the 25 per cent. bonus consolidated in 1920.
 ¶ The above up-gradings received the approval of the National Joint Council for the Building Industry on 22nd March, except in the case of Northampton, Kettering and Wellingborough, who received an increase of ¼d. per hour, except in the case of labourers at the three towns mentioned above, while in all other cases the rates of wages remained unchanged. The rates shown above reported as applicable to labourers at Northampton and Spalding are ¼d. above the Grade rates as approved by the National Joint Council.

RATES OF WAGES IN THE BUILDING TRADE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The following Table shows the revised rates of wages authorised by the National Joint Council for the Building Industry, after the recent general reduction of ¼d. per hour, reported on page 103 of the March GAZETTE, and the various re-gradings reported on page 144 of this issue. The rates of wages in the London district, which is not included in the Table, were given in the March GAZETTE.

Grade.	Craftsmen.	Labourers.	Grade.	Craftsmen.	Labourers.	Grade.	Craftsmen.	Labourers.
A	s. d. 1 7½	s. d. 1 2½	B	s. d. 1 5½	s. d. 1 1½	C	s. d. 1 3½	s. d. 0 11½
A1	1 7	1 2½	B1	1 5	1 0½	C1	1 3	0 11½
A2	1 6½	1 2	B2	1 4½	1 0			
A3	1 6	1 1½	B3	1 4	1 0			

GRADING OF TOWNS.

The towns in which the above Grade rates have been reported to apply are shown below, divided into their main Area Groups. The principal exceptions are indicated in the notes appended to each Group. In towns marked * the rate for painters is 1d. less than that paid to other craftsmen, and in those marked † it is ¼d. less than the other craftsmen's rate. The differential rates indicated for plumbers and labourers in certain towns have not received the approval of the National Joint Council, but are reported as representing the current rates in the instances mentioned.

NORTHERN COUNTIES.—Grade A.—Alnwick, Amble, Annfield Plain, Ashington, Aycliffe, Barnard Castle, Bedlington, Bishop Auckland, Blackhill, Blyth, Brandon, Consett, Coundon, Crook, Darlington, Dipton, Durham, Ebchester, Ferryhill, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Howden, Lanchester, Leadgate, Middlesbrough, Morpeth, Newbigin, Newcastle, North Shields, Seahouses, Shildon, Spennymoor, South Shields, Stanley, Stockton, Sunderland, Willington and Wooller. **Grade A2.**—Berwick-on-Tweed, Frosterley, Hamsterley, Stanhope, Tow Law and Wolsingham. **Grade B3.**—Northallerton.

[NOTE.—Under an agreement arrived at by the National Joint Council for the Plastering Industry a rate of 1s. 9½d. per hour was fixed for plasterers at large towns in the North-East Coast area as from 1st September, 1927. It is understood that this rate remains unaltered within the limits of operation of the agreement, to which the National Joint Council for the Building Industry was not a party.]

YORKSHIRE.—Grade A.—Barnsley, Batley, Beverley, Bingley, Bradford, Brighouse, Calder Valley, Castleford, Colne Valley, Crosshills, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Grimsby, Halifax, Harrogate, Hebden Bridge, Holmfirth, Huddersfield, Hull, Ilkley, Immingham, Keighley, Leeds, Mexborough, Morley, Normanton, Ossett and Horbury, Penistone, Pontefract, Pudsey, Rotherham, Scunthorpe, Selby, Sheffield, Shipley, Sowerby Bridge, Spen Valley, Stocksbridge, Wakefield, Wombwell, Yealand and York. **Grade A1.**—Bridlington, Scarborough. **Grade A2.**—Barnoldswick, Goole, Skipton and Whitby **Grade A3.**—Driffield, Filey, Malton, Tadcaster and Worksop. **Grade B3.**—Pickering.

[NOTE.—Under agreements arrived at by the National Joint Council for the Plastering Industry, a rate of 1s. 9½d. per hour had previously been fixed for plasterers at Bradford and Leeds, and 1s. 9d. at Sheffield. It is understood that these rates remain unaltered within the limits of operation of the agreements, to which the National Joint Council for the Building Industry was not a party.]

NORTH-WESTERN COUNTIES WITH NORTH WALES.—Grade A.—Accrington, Alderley Edge, Altrincham, Ashton-under-Lyne, Barrow, Bispham, Blackburn, Blackpool, Blackrod, Bolton, Brierfield, Broughton (Ches.), Burnley, Bury, Carlisle, Carnforth, Chester, Chorley, Cleveleys, Clitheroe, Colne, Connaught Quay, Dalton, Darwen, Fleetwood, Frodsham, Garstang, Glossop, Hawarden, Haydock, Heysham, Heywood, Higher Kinnerton, Horwich, Kirkham, Lancaster, Leigh, Leyland, Longridge, Lytham, Manchester, Middleton, Morecambe, Nelson, Oldham, Ormskirk, Poulton, Prescot, Preston, Queensferry, Radcliffe, Rainford, Rochdale, Rossendale Valley, Runcorn, St. Annes-on-the-Sea, St. Helens, Shotton, Silverdale, Stockport, Southport, Thornton, Todmorden, Warrington (plumbers 1s. 6½d.), Westhoughton, Whiston, Widnes, Wigan and Wilmslow. **Grade A1.**—Bollington, Buxton, Congleton, Macclesfield, New Mills, Whaley Bridge and Wrexham. **Grade A3.**—Abergele, Askam, Broughton-in-Furness, Cleator Moor, Conistone, Crewe, Denbigh, Egremont, Grange-over-Sands, Harrington, Holywell, Knutsford, Langolton, Malpas, Market Drayton, Middlewich, Millom, Mold, Nantwich, Northwich, Oswestry, Over, Sandbach, Tarporley, Ulverston, Whitehaven, Winsford and Workington. **Grade B1.**—Ambleside, Bala, Bangor, Carnarvon, Cockermouth, Kendal, Keswick, Llanfairfechan, Pwllhel, Towy, Windermere. **Grade B3.**—Appley, Llandiloes.

[NOTE.—In the Liverpool and Birkenhead districts the rates remain unaltered at 1s. 10d. per hour, plus 2s. per week "tool money" for bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, 1s. 11d. per hour for plasterers, 1s. 9½d. per hour for painters, 1s. 10d. for other craftsmen, and 1s. 4d. per hour for labourers. It is reported that the reduction did not apply to plasterers' and painters' labourers in the Manchester and Salford district, whose rates remain at 1s. 10d. and 1s. 3½d. respectively, under the terms of a local settlement effected in 1926, subject to six months' notice of termination given by the Master Builders' Association, which expires on 1st May next, from which date wages are, according to the terms of the notice, to be regulated by the decisions of the National Joint Council for the Building Industry. Under an agreement between the local branches of the National Association of Master Plasterers and the National Association of Plasterers, Granolithic and Cement Workers a rate of 1s. 10d. had previously been fixed for plasterers at Rochdale. It is reported that this rate was reduced to 1s. 9½d. from 1st February, so far as concerns those men who were covered by the agreement, to which the National Joint Council for the Building Industry was not a party.]

MIDLAND COUNTIES.—Grade A.—Alfreton and Ripley, Belper, Birmingham, Blackheath, Burslem, Burton-on-Trent, Cheadle, Chesterfield (plumbers 1s. 8½d.), Coalville, Coventry, Derby, Fenton, Hanley, Heanor, Hinckley, Ilkeston, Kenilworth, Leek, Leicester, Lincoln, Long Eaton (plumbers, 1s. 8d.), Loughborough, Loughborough, Mansfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Nottingham, Nuneaton, Oldbury, Rugby, Stoke-on-Trent, Sutton Coldfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Swadlincote, Swanwick, Tunstall, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton, Willenhall and Bilston. **Grade A1.**—Dudley, Dudley Port, Gornal, Northampton (labourers 1s. 2½d.), Sedgley, Tamworth, and Walsall, Wednesbury and Darlaston. **Grade A2.**—Bewdley, Bromsgrove, Cannock, Hednesford, Kidderminster, Knowle, Leamington, Melton Mowbray, Redditch, Solihull, Stafford, Stourbridge (including Brierley Hill, Halesowen and Old Hill), Stourport and Warwick. **Grade A3.**—Atherstone, Boston, Coleshill, Droitwich, Gainsborough, Grantham, Kettering, Lichfield, Louth, Malvern, Market Harborough, Matlock, Newark-on-Trent, Oakengates, Peterborough, Retford, Rugeley, Ruskington, Shrewsbury, Skegness, Sleaford, Southwell, Stamford, Stratford-on-Avon, Wellingborough, Wellington. **Grade B.**—Oakham. **Grade B1.**—Bridgnorth, Oundle, Raunds, Rushden, Spalding (labourers 1s. 1d.), Thrapston and Uttoxeter. **Grade B2.**—Ashbourne, Church Stretton, Horncastle, Ludlow, Newport and Wirksworth.

[NOTE.—Under an agreement between the local branches of the National Association of Master Plasterers and the National Association of Plasterers, Granolithic and Cement Workers, a rate of 1s. 9½d. had previously been fixed for plasterers at Birmingham; and a rate of 1s. 9d. had been fixed for the same class of craftsmen at Leicester under an agreement arrived at by the National Joint Council for the Plastering Industry. It is understood that these rates remain unaltered within the limits of operation of the agreements, to which the National Joint Council for the Building Industry was not a party.]

EASTERN COUNTIES.—Grade A2.—Brentwood, Norwich. **Grade A3.**—Hemel Hempstead, St. Albans. **Grade B.**—Bedford, Cambridge, Felixstowe, Ipswich, Luton. **Grade B1.**—Braintree, Chelmsford, Clacton, Colchester, Frinton, Great Yarmouth, Halstead, Hatfield, Hertford, Hitchin, Hoddeston, Ingatstone, Letchworth, Lowestoft, Sawbridgeworth, Sible Hedingham, Southend, Stevenage, Walton-on-the-Naze, Ware. **Grade B2.**—King's Lynn, Newmarket. **Grade B3.**—Amphill, Aylsham, Aysham, Bishops Cleeve, Bures, Cromer, Dunstable, Ely, Fakenham, Leighton Buzzard, March, Much Hadham, Mundesley, North Walsham, Puckridge, Sheringham, Snettisham, Southwold, Standon, Tring, Woodbridge. **Grade C.**—Alderburgh, Chatteris, East Dereham, Halesworth, Leiston, Saxmundham, Wickham Market, and Yoxford.

[NOTE.—Under an agreement arrived at by the National Joint Council for the Plastering Industry, a rate of 1s. 7d. per hour had previously been fixed for plasterers at Norwich, and a similar rate had been fixed at Cambridge by agreement between the local employers of plasterers and the local branch of the National Association of Plasterers, Granolithic and Cement Workers. It is understood that this rate remains unaltered within the limits of operation of the agreements, to which the National Joint Council for the Building Industry was not a party.]

SOUTHERN COUNTIES.—Grade A1.—Gravesend. **Grade A3.**—Ashford (Middlesex), Addlestone, Ashted, Chertsey, Cobham, Eastleigh, Leatherhead and Southampton. **Grade B.**—Abingdon, Ascot, Beaconsfield, Bournemouth, Brighton, Chalfonts, Didcot, Eastbourne, Egham, Eton, Gerrard's Cross, Gosport, Henley, Maidenhead, Oxford, Poole, Portsmouth, Reading, Slough, Staines, Windsor, Wokingham and Wycombe. **Grade B1.**—Chatham, Chesham, Dorking, Gillingham, Guildford, Maidstone, Marlow, Redhill, Reigate, Rochester, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Woking. **Grade B2.**—Ardingly, Bexhill, Bramley, Cranleigh, Crawley, Crowborough, Cuckfield, East Grinstead, Fareham, Folkestone, Godalming, Grayshot, Haslemere, Horsham, Littlehampton, New Forest, Turners Hill, Uckfield, Westerham, Winchester, Witley, Worthing. **Grade B3.**—Andover, Arundel, Ashford (Kent), Aylesbury, Banbury, Basingstoke, Bicester, Bognor, Bosham, Buckingham, Burgess Hill, Canterbury, Chichester, Chipping Norton, Deal, Dover, Faringdon, Farnham, Faversham, Fenny Stratford, Hastings, Herne Bay, Lingfield, Margate, Midhurst, Milton-under-Wychwood, Mortimer, Newbury, Newport Pagnell, Pangbourne, Petworth, Ramsgate, Siftingbourne, Stony Stratford, Tenterden, Wantage, Wendover, Westgate, Whitstable, Winslow and Witney. **Grade C.**—Isle of Wight. **Grade C1.**—Rye, Staplehurst.

SOUTH WESTERN COUNTIES.—Grade A.—Bristol, Keynsham, Plymouth,* Portishead. **Grade A2.**—Dartmouth,† Exeter,* Newton Abbot, Paignton, Torquay. **Grade A3.**—Cheltenham, Gloucester,* Tewkesbury.* **Grade B.**—Bath, Hereford,* Ross-on-Wye,* Swindon,* Weston-super-Mare. **Grade B1.**—Barnstaple, Princetown, Stroud,† Taunton, Torrington. **Grade B2.**—Bridgwater, Buckfastleigh,* Budleigh Salterton,* Cirencester,* Exmouth, Falmouth, Swanage* (labourers, 1s. 0½d.), Thornbury, Wellington, West Gloucestershire,* Weymouth,* Yeovil. **Grade B3.**—Box* and Corsham,* Bradford-on-Avon,* Calne,* Cheddar,* Chippenham,* Devizes,* Dorchester* (labourers, 1s. 0½d.), Frome,* Midsomer Norton, Newquay, Ottery St. Mary, Penzance, Redruth and Camborne, Tiverton,* Trowbridge,* Westbury.* **Grade C.**—Bromyard,* Crediton,† Shepton Mallet.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE.—Grade A.—Aberdare, Ammanford, Barry, Bridgend and Porthcawl, Burry Port, Cardiff, Eastern and Western Valleys, Ebbw Vale, Gorseinon, Llanelli, Maesteg, Merthyr, Neath, Newport, Ogmere and Garw, Pontardawe and Swansea Valley, Port Talbot, Pontypridd and Rhondda Valley, Swansea and Sirhowy Valley. **Grade A1.**—Abergavenny. **Grade A2.**—Chepstow. **Grade B.**—Brecon, Carmarthen, Llandilo, Llandrindod Wells. **Grade B3.**—Pembroke Dock, Tenby.

SCOTLAND.—Grade A.—Aberdeen, Airdrie, Alloa, Ayr, Bathgate, Bellshill, Bridge of Weir, Burntisland, Coatbridge, Dalkeith, Dumbarton, Dundee, Dumoon, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Gournock, Granton, Greenock, Haddington, Hamilton, Helensburgh, Irvine, Kilmarnock, Kirkcaldy, Lanark, Larbert, Leith, Leslie, Leven, Markinch, Methil, Motherwell, Paisley, Pencaitland, Perth, Port Glasgow, Rothesay, St. Andrews, Stirling, Wishaw. **Grade A2.**—Aberroath, Brechin, Dumfries, Galashiels, Hawick, Jedburgh, Kelso, Maxwelltown, Montrose, Peebles and Selkirk.

[NOTE.—The rates quoted do not apply to bricklayers employed by members of the Scottish Building Contractors' Association in the Glasgow and West of Scotland district (whose rate, formerly 1s. 3d. per hour, is reported as reduced to 1s. 8½d. from 1st April), nor to plasterers and painters, who are not affiliated to the National Joint Council for the Building Industry. The rates payable to painters remain at 1s. 8d., 1s. 7d. and 1s. 6d. for Grade A, B and C districts respectively (see page 60 of GAZETTE for February, 1925), and to plasterers in most large towns at 1s. 9d. (see page 340 of GAZETTE for September, 1924). The plasterers' rate is to be reduced by ¼d. per hour from 1st May, under the terms of an award issued by the Industrial Court on 10th April.]

TRADE DISPUTES IN MARCH.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in March in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 31 as compared with 33 in the previous month and 22 in March, 1927. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was approximately 37,000 (including 25,900 thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 1,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 15 disputes which began before March and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 46, involving about 38,000 workpeople and resulting in a loss during March of about 168,000 working days.

The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in March in Great Britain and Northern Ireland by groups of industries, and indicates the number of workpeople involved at the establishments concerned and the approximate time lost during the month in all disputes in progress:—

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in Month.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month.
	Started before beginning of Month.	Started in Month.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying...	3	7	10	35,200	143,000
Textile ...	1	3	4	900	4,000
Other Industries ...	11	21	32	1,900	21,000
Total, Mar., 1928 ...	15	31	46	38,000	168,000
Total, Feb., 1928 ...	13	33	46	13,200	107,000
Total, Mar., 1927 ...	13	22	35	14,000	137,000

Causes.—Of the 31 disputes beginning in March, 11, directly involving 7,800 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 8, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, on other wages

questions; 8, directly involving 1,100 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and 4, directly involving 200 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 15 new disputes, directly involving 10,100 workpeople, and 3 old disputes, directly involving 200 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 11, directly involving 9,300 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 7, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 5 disputes, directly involving 700 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1927 AND 1928.†

The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first three months of 1928, as compared with the corresponding period of 1927:—

Groups of Industries.	January to March, 1927.			January to March, 1928.		
	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.
Mining and Quarrying ...	23	21,200	235,000	39	52,500	267,000
Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	6	400	1,000	13	1,400	5,000
Other Metal ...	12	1,500	12,000	5	200	2,000
Textile ...	7	2,000	10,000	5	1,100	6,000
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	10	5,500	82,000	15	1,300	20,000
Other ...	13	1,200	8,000	26	1,800	25,000
Total ...	71	31,800	348,000	103	58,300	325,000

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING MARCH, 1928.

Occupations and Locality †	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object. ‡	Result. ‡
	Directly.	Indirectly. †	Began.	Ended.		
COAL MINING INDUSTRY:—			1928.	1928.		
Coal putters, hewers and other colliery workpeople. §						
Northumberland	16,300		1 March	31 March	Dissatisfaction with reduced wages awarded by arbitrator.	Work resumed on terms of the award; in some cases grievances were promised consideration.
Co. Durham ...	3,850		7 March ¶	9 March ¶		
	6,400		20 Mar.**	28 Mar.**		
Coal putters, hewers and other colliery workpeople—Durham (near).	6,500		13 and 14 March.	24 March	Collieries closed owing to restriction of output by putters, who were dissatisfied with reduced wages awarded by arbitrator.	Restriction of output to cease.
GLASS INDUSTRY:—						
Glass bottle blowers, makers and other workpeople—London.	164	93	13 Feb.	...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent.	No settlement reported.
WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY:—						
Woolcombers—Bradford ...	560	...	19 March	21 March	Dispute as to method of computing a bonus on production.	Work 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.

† In making up the totals for the several months of the year 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 is, however, very slight.

‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople indirectly involved, i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

§ In some cases coal hewers, etc., also were directly involved.

¶ Stoppages occurred at a considerable number of pits on various dates, mostly early in the month, and lasted about three days, on the average.

** Average loss of time, one day.

** Average loss of time, three days.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

RETURNS have been received from 134 Local Authorities in Great Britain giving the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed during the first quarter of 1928. The summarised figures for the quarter are given in the Table below, together with similar figures as to plans passed by the same Authorities during the corresponding quarter of 1927.

District and Aggregate Population (at Census of 1921) of Towns from which returns have been received.	Estimated Cost of Buildings for which Plans were approved in the 134 Towns from which returns have been received.					
	Dwelling Houses.	Factories and Workshops.	Shops, Offices, Warehouses, and other Business Premises.	Churches and Public Buildings.	Other Buildings, and Additions and Alterations to Existing Buildings.	TOTAL.
(a) FIRST QUARTER OF 1928.						
ENGLAND AND WALES—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northern Counties (917,000)	223,800	14,500	68,700	89,100	99,200	495,300
Yorkshire (2,334,000)	940,400	184,300	220,700	139,600	266,000	1,751,000
Lancashire and Cheshire (2,932,000)	1,553,700	114,100	322,000	148,100	281,000	2,418,900
North and West-Midland Counties (2,837,000)	1,162,300	357,200	345,900	209,100	476,000	2,550,500
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (525,000)	412,100	16,600	73,200	4,100	89,200	595,200
Outer London* (1,933,000)	1,774,900	104,600	206,700	101,700	258,600	2,446,500
South-Eastern Counties (902,000)	569,000	2,000	161,700	47,900	167,300	947,900
South-Western Counties (433,000)	222,000	6,300	13,300	9,600	54,700	305,900
Wales and Monmouthshire (591,000)	247,100	5,800	43,500	46,300	38,300	381,000
SCOTLAND (2,147,000)	1,270,000	178,400	51,200	295,200	318,600	2,113,400
TOTAL (15,551,000)	8,375,300	983,800	1,506,900	1,090,700	2,048,900	14,005,600
(b) FIRST QUARTER OF 1927.						
ENGLAND AND WALES—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northern Counties (917,000)	231,500	6,400	51,600	23,000	93,900	406,400
Yorkshire (2,334,000)	1,410,200	94,600	266,100	128,700	268,300	2,167,900
Lancashire and Cheshire (2,932,000)	1,884,600	73,900	393,100	136,100	186,900	2,674,600
North and West-Midland Counties (2,837,000)	1,198,700	356,300	74,900	114,600	350,800	2,095,300
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (525,000)	408,400	12,200	252,000	20,300	77,800	770,700
Outer London* (1,933,000)	2,745,000	226,900	243,300	210,400	219,600	3,645,200
South-Eastern Counties (902,000)	565,400	15,200	81,900	38,900	190,500	891,900
South-Western Counties (433,000)	313,300	...	23,500	31,200	60,200	428,200
Wales and Monmouthshire (591,000)	321,200	29,300	59,100	16,300	37,200	463,100
SCOTLAND (2,147,000)	723,300	158,500	46,400	75,300	274,300	1,277,800
TOTAL (15,551,000)	9,801,600	973,300	1,491,900	794,800	1,759,500	14,821,100

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

The number of assisted passages from Great Britain and Northern Ireland granted during March, 1928, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act, and the total number of such passages granted from the inception of these schemes, together with the number of departures during the same periods, are shown in the following Table:—

Assisted Passage Schemes.	Assisted Passages Granted in Mar., 1928.	Total Assisted Passages Granted.		Departures in Mar., 1928.	Total Departures.	
		1922 to 1927.	Jan. to Mar., 1928.		1922 to 1927.	Jan. to Mar., 1928.
To Australia ...	1,822	140,916	5,694	2,012	137,503	6,318
" New Zealand ...	185	40,751	590	366	38,855	840
" Canada ...	5,304	66,640	9,231	1,919	66,343	2,387
" South Africa ...	42	761	68	18	420	33
Minor Schemes ...	124	8,141	227	33	7,380	51
Total ...	7,477	257,209	15,810	4,348	250,501	9,629

The figures are provisional and subject to revision; they include both applicants and dependants of applicants to whom assisted passages have been granted.

* Particulars are not available for the London County Council area.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

THE total number of cases* of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during March, 1928, under the Factory and Workshop Act, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926, was 81. Twelve deaths* were reported during the month, seven due to epitheliomatous ulceration, four due to lead poisoning, and one due to anthrax. In addition, two cases of lead poisoning among house plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during March, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.	(b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING.
Among Operatives engaged in—	
Smelting of Metals ...	Mercurial Poisoning ... 1
Plumbing and Soldering ...	Aniline Poisoning ... 4
Shipbreaking ...	TOTAL, OTHER FORMS OF POISONING ... 5
Printing ...	(c) CASES OF ANTHRAX.
Tinning of Metals ...	Wool ... 1
Other Contact with Molten Lead ...	Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins ... 4
White and Red Lead Works ...	TOTAL, ANTHRAX ... 15
Pottery† ...	(d) CASES OF EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION.
Vitreous Enamelling ...	Pitch ... 3
Electric Accumulator Works ...	Tar ... 7
Paint and Colour Works... ..	Paraffin ... 1
Indiarubber Works ...	Oil... .. 15
Coach and Car Painting ...	TOTAL, EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION ... 24
Shipbuilding ...	(e) CASES OF CHROME ULCERATION.
Paint used in Other Industries ...	Manufacture of Bichromates ... 1
Other Industries... ..	Dyeing and Finishing... .. 1
Painting of Buildings ...	Chrome Tanning... .. 3
TOTAL OF ABOVE ...	TOTAL, CHROME ULCERATION ... 4

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during March, 1928, as killed in the course of their employment, was 201, as compared with 213 in the previous month and with 249 in March, 1927. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in March numbered 57, as compared with 85 in the previous month and with 93 in March, 1927.

RAILWAY SERVICE.	FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued).
Brakemen and Goods Guards ...	Locomotives, Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft ... 3
Engine Drivers and Motor-men ...	Other Metal Trades ... 3
Firemen ...	Shipbuilding ... 6
Guards (Passenger) ...	Wood ... 2
Permanent Way Men ...	Gas ... 3
Porters ...	Electric Generating Stations ...
Shunters ...	Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ... 6
Mechanics ...	Chemicals, etc. ... 5
Labourers ...	Food and Drink ... 3
Miscellaneous ...	Paper, Printing, etc. ... 2
Contractors' Servants ...	Tanning, Currying, etc. ...
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE ...	Rubber Trades ...
	Other Non-Textile Industries ... 4
MINES.	PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901.
Underground ...	Docks, Wharves, etc. ... 10
Surface ...	Buildings ... 7
TOTAL, MINES ...	Warehouses and Railway Sidings ... 1
QUARRIES over 20 feet deep ...	TOTAL, FACTORY ACTS ... 82
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.	Total (excluding Seamen) ... 201
Cotton ...	
Wool, Worsted and Shoddy	
Other Textiles ...	
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing ...	SEAMEN.
Metal Extracting and Refining ...	Trading Vessels, Sailing ... 5
Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making ...	" Steam ... 45
Metal Founding ...	Fishing Vessels, Sailing ...
Engineering and Machine Making ...	" Steam ... 7
Boiler Making and Constructional Engineering... ..	TOTAL, SEAMEN ... 57
	Total (including Seamen) ... 258

* 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.

† Of the three persons affected in the pottery industry, two were females. ‡ In addition to these cases reported under the Act, two cases (one fatal) of anthrax among dock labourers were reported.

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 March, 1928, in the poor-law areas in the thirty-one selected urban areas named below was 748,812, or 2.4 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 9.4 per cent. less than in March, 1927. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 419, 430 and 462 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Selected Urban Areas.‡	Number of persons* in receipt of Poor Law Relief on one day† in March, 1928.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	
	Indoor.	Out-door.	Total.		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Metropolis.						
West District ...	9,435	6,641	16,076	193	- 6	- 8
North District ...	10,874	17,216	28,090	272	- 9	- 35
Central District ...	2,396	2,532	4,928	367	- 7	- 13
East District ...	10,033	56,621	66,654	1,022	- 48	- 151
South District ...	19,768	67,970	87,738	446	- 20	- 63
TOTAL, Metropolis ...	52,866‡	150,980	203,846‡	442	- 17	- 57
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District	2,916	26,490	29,406	579	+ 3	- 59
Stockton and Tees District ...	1,475	13,245	14,720	533	- 32	- 128
Bolton, Oldham, etc. District ...	4,216	7,478	11,694	149	- 9	- 18
Wigan District ...	1,834	14,760	16,594	365	- 7	+ 42
Manchester District	9,662	30,886	40,548	387	- 19	- 83
Liverpool District	9,982	64,996	74,978	591	- 2	+ 30
Bradford District ...	1,763	6,259	8,022	217	- 11	- 14
Halifax and Huddersfield ...	1,530	3,290	4,820	129	- 3	+ 4
Leeds ...	2,832	10,408	13,240	271	- 9	- 1
Barnsley District ...	1,013	11,100	12,113	361	+ 14	+ 28
Sheffield ...	2,576	23,532	26,108	507	+ 3	- 91
Hull District ...	1,816	15,969	17,785	555	- 2	+ 41
North Staffordshire District	2,473	9,381	11,854	285	+ 9	+ 48
Nottingham District	2,191	12,465	14,656	312	- 2	+ 7
Leicester ...	1,228	4,049	5,277	218	- 2	+ 8
Wolverhampton District ...	3,606	15,158	18,764	249	- 6	- 19
Birmingham ...	7,525	17,537	25,062	268	- 26	- 57
Bristol District ...	2,513	15,167	17,680	379	- 17	- 25
Cardiff and Swansea	2,646	18,444	21,090	436	- 17	- 25
TOTAL, "Other Districts"	63,797	318,614	382,411	366	- 7	- 19
TOTAL, Districts in England and Wales ...	121,180	494,257	615,437	389	- 11	- 39
SCOTLAND.						
Glasgow District ...	6,231	77,021	83,252	866	- 9	- 117
Paisley and Greenock District ...	856	12,253	13,089	678	- 26	- 217
Edinburgh ...	1,767	18,616	20,383	481	+ 3	+ 7
Dundee and Dunfermline ...	890	4,905	5,795	269	+ 7	- 1
Aberdeen ...	538	4,498	5,036	319	- 19	- 19
Coatbridge & Airdrie	386	5,434	5,820	572	- 7	+ 36
TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts ...	10,648	122,727	133,375	649	- 8	- 74
TOTAL for above 31 Districts in Mar., 1928	131,828	616,984	748,812	419	- 11	- 43

In the twenty-five selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in March, 1928, was 615,437, a decrease of 2.7 per cent. as compared with February, 1928, and a decrease of 9.2 per cent. as compared with a year ago. In the six areas in Scotland the number relieved was 133,375, a decrease of 1.1 per cent. as compared with February, and a decrease of 10.1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Recipients of indoor relief in the thirty-one areas in March numbered 131,828, or 0.9 per cent. less than in the previous month, but 1.1 per cent. more than in March, 1927. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 616,984, or 2.8 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 11.4 per cent. less than a year ago.

Of the thirty-one areas, twenty-five showed decreases in the number per 10,000 relieved in March as compared with the previous month, the most noteworthy being East London (48 per 10,000); while six areas showed small increases. Compared with March, 1927, twenty-one areas showed decreases, including Paisley and Greenock (217 per 10,000), West Ham (209 per 10,000), East London (151 per 10,000), Stockton and Tees (128 per 10,000), and Glasgow (117 per 10,000); while ten areas showed increases, the chief being North Staffordshire (48 per 10,000).

* 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 31st March, and those for Scotland to 15th March.

‡ These urban areas include more than one poor-law union in the case of England and Wales, except in the Leeds, Leicester, Birmingham, Sheffield and West Ham districts; and more than one parish in the case of Scotland, except in the Aberdeen and Edinburgh districts.

§ Includes 360 not included in District 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 period 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.*

Country.	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*					Latest figures available.	
	July, 1924.	July, 1925.	July, 1926.	July, 1927.	Per cent.	1928.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	31 Mar.	
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	62	67	61	59	55	1928.	
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							
Ozechoslovakia ...	737	816	776	862	810	Feb.	
Denmark ...	100	110	69	53	52	Jan.	
Egypt (Cairo)† ...	48	58	58	47	43	Jan.	
Finland ...	916	1,007	967	965	981	Feb.	
France (Paris)‡ ...	260	321	474	457	424	Mar.	
France (other towns)‡ ...	300‡	351‡	510‡	453‡	422	Feb.	
Germany ...	45	45	57	51	51	Feb.	
Holland (The Hague) ...	77	76	68	72	70	Jan.	
Italy (Milan) ...	408	502	554	424	413	Dec. '27	
Italy (Rome) ...	369	427	498	425	399	Feb.	
Norway ...	148	160	98	75	71	Mar.	
Spain (Madrid) ...	82	90	86	89	75	Feb.	
Spain (Barcelona) ...	72	82	63	64	66	Feb.	
Sweden† ...	59	69	56	51	54	Mar.	
Switzerland ...	70	69	65	57	58	Feb.	
United States ...	40	56	54	50	49	Feb.	
BRITISH DOMINIONS, & C.							
Australia ...	49†	56	59	52	52	Feb.	
Canada ...	34†	42†	51†	49	49	Mar.	
India (Bombay): Native families ...	51	52	55	54	46	Feb.	
India (Bombay): Other ...	85	88	74	66	75	Jan.	
Irish Free State ...	48	51	49	44	45	Mar.	
New Zealand ...	17	20	16	19	18	Feb.	
South Africa ...							

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.*

Country.	Items on which Comparison is based.‡	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*					Latest figures available.	
		July, 1924.	July, 1925.	July, 1926.	July, 1927.	Per cent.	1928.	
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	31 Mar.	
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	A,B,O,D,E	70	73	70	66	64	1928.	
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.								
Belgium ...	A,C,D,E	393	409	537	690	711	Feb.	
Ozechoslovakia (Prague) ...	A,B,O,D,E	589	641	618	647	632	Feb.	
Denmark ...	A,B,O,D,E	114	119	84	76	76	Jan.	
Finland ...	A,B,O,D,E	1,032	1,094	1,018	1,081	1,088	Feb.	
France (Paris) ...	A,B,C,D,E	267‡	301‡	439‡	407‡	407	1st qr.	
France (other towns) ...	A,B,O,D,E	45	42	50	51	51	Feb.	
Germany ...	A,B,O,D,E	1,225	1,372	1,708	...	1,886	Jan.	
Holland (Amsterdam) ...	A,B,O,D,E	73†	79†	71†	67†	70	Dec. '27	
Italy (Milan) ...	A,B,O,D,E	412	498	549	448	431	Dec. '27	
Italy (Rome) ...	A,B,O,D,E	349	398	462	406	377	Feb.	
Luxemburg ...	A,C,D	381	415	509	681	697	Feb.	
Norway ...	A,B,O,D,E	151†	161†	121†	103	93	Mar.	
Poland (Warsaw) ...	A,B,O,D,E	...	...	...	15	18	Feb.
Sweden ...	A,B,O,D,E	71	76	72	69	71	Apr.	
Switzerland ...	A,B,O,D	...	...	...	62	61	Feb.
United States ...	A,B,O,D,E	59†	74†	75†	73†	72	Dec. '27	
BRITISH DOMINIONS, & C.								
Australia ...	A,B,C,D,E	42‡	44‡	47‡	45‡	45	3rd qr. 1927.	
Canada ...	A,B,C,D,E	53†	55†	57†	55†	56	Mar.	
India (Bombay): Native families ...	A,B,C,D	87	87	87	56	48	Feb.	
India (Bombay): Other ...	A,B,C,D,E	83	88	82	71	77	Jan.	
Irish Free State ...	A,B,C,D,E	60‡	63‡	61	61	61	Mar.	
New Zealand ...	A,B,C,D,E	32	33	30	32	31	Feb.	
South Africa ...	A,B,C,D,E							

* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), August, 1914; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland and Luxemburg, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, France (Paris, all items), Greece, average, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Amsterdam, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; United States (all items), Canada, 1913, Australia (all items), November, 1914; Poland, January, 1914. (Note: Polish index numbers have been re-calculated on the basis of the new parity of the zloty). † 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. ¶ Figure for 3rd Quarter.

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. 129-130 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).]

GERMANY.*

Reichsarbeitsblatt states that the gradual improvement in the labour market which began in the middle of January continued during February. In spite of bad weather there was a reduction from 11.2 to 10.4 in the percentage of unemployed members of trade unions and a decline of over 85,000 in the number of applicants for work at employment exchanges. Further, the number of insured persons in receipt of benefit on account of unemployment (including those in receipt of emergency benefit) fell by 54,000 between the middle and end of February and by 95,000 during the month as a whole. This improvement was especially marked in outdoor occupations (agricultural, quarrying, pottery, etc., building, transport, and general unskilled labour) and in the clothing industry. In the textile industry, however, the statistics indicated a slight decline in employment, particularly as regards female workers. In other industries the situation showed little change.

At the end of February, the Employment Exchanges making returns reported 1,926,734 persons on the "live register," as against 2,012,212 at the end of January, and 2,434,611 at the end of February, 1927. The number of vacant situations registered at the Exchanges at the end of February was 71,678, as compared with 56,905 at the end of the preceding month and 43,200 at the end of February, 1927.

The number of insured persons in receipt of benefit in respect of total unemployment on 29th February, 1928, was 1,452,416 (including 214,912 in receipt of emergency unemployment benefit). On 31st January the corresponding total was 1,547,944 (including 214,829 in receipt of emergency benefit).

Returns relating to 4,160,707 organised workers were received from national trade unions. Of these, 431,765, or 10.4 per cent., were totally unemployed on 25th February, 1928, as compared with 11.2 per cent. on 28th January, and 15.5 per cent. on 26th February, 1927. In addition, 151,646, or 3.6 per cent., were working short time, as against 3.5 per cent. on 28th January, and 5.8 per cent. at the end of February, 1927.

The following Table gives particulars of total unemployment among the principal groups of trades represented in the above total:—

Groups of Trades.	Membership reported on at end of February, 1928.	Percentage unemployed at end of Month.	
		February, 1928.	January, 1928.
All Unions making Returns ...	4,160,707	10.4	11.2
Mining ...	166,400	2.0	2.3
Quarrying, stone, brick, pottery, etc. ...	223,300	12.2	14.3
Engineering and metal ...	904,500	5.5	5.5
Chemical ...	110,900	5.4	6.3
Textile ...	386,600	3.7	3.2
Paper ...	114,100	4.9	5.1
Leather ...	152,700	10.0	10.3
Wood ...	300,000	11.9	11.7
Food, tobacco, etc. ...	270,300	7.2	7.4
Clothing ...	92,600	14.1	17.4
Building ...	604,700	33.5	37.6
Printing ...	141,700	3.4	3.8
Transport ...	327,300	5.1	5.6

Employers' returns were received in February from 3,435 establishments in various industries. On the 15th of the month, 27 per cent. of the aggregate workpeople covered by the returns were employed in establishments reporting good employment (as compared with 30 per cent. in the previous month and 24 per cent. in February, 1927) and 22 per cent. in those reporting bad employment (as against 21 per cent. in the previous month and 36 per cent. in February, 1927).

FRANCE.†

The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of the Exchanges on 31st March, 1928, was 22,325 (15,762 men and 6,563 women). At the end of February the corresponding total was 28,942. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on 31st March was 11,634 (6,771 for men and 4,863 for women), as compared with 6,849 at the end of February. During the last week of March the Exchanges succeeded in placing 23,481 persons in situations, including 7,926 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 184 foreign immigrants.

DENMARK.‡

Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange show that 25.9 per cent. of the 274,777 workpeople covered by the statistics were unemployed at the end of February, as against 30.3 per cent. at the end of the preceding month and 31.1 per cent. at the end of February, 1927.

* Reichsarbeitsblatt, 20th March, 1928. Berlin.
† Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 6th April, 1928. Paris.
‡ Statistiske Efterretninger, 23rd March, 1928. Copenhagen.

NORWAY.

According to information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, out of 16,362 members of trade unions making returns, 20.5 per cent. were unemployed on the last day of February, 1928. The corresponding figure for the end of January, 1928, was 22.3, and that for February, 1927, 26.6 per cent. In the building and metal trades, the percentages for February, 1928, were 31.6 and 18.9 respectively.

SWEDEN.*

The percentage of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed on 29th February, 1928, was 13.2, as compared with 14.2 per cent. on the last day of the preceding month, and 15.5 per cent. on 28th February, 1927.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Trade Boards Acts, 1909-1918.

MINIMUM WAGE RATES—BOOT AND SHOE REPAIRING TRADE—WORKING MANAGER.

THIS was an appeal by the plaintiff from the judgment of Mr. Justice MacKinnon in favour of the defendant company, Messrs. J. Coombes and Company.*

The plaintiff, Mr. France, claimed some £363, which he said was owing to him as wages by the defendants.

Mr. Justice MacKinnon held that the defendants had proved that the plaintiff was present on their premises during part of the business hours for some purposes unconnected with the work for which a minimum rate of wages had been fixed, and other than that of waiting for work to be given to him to perform. He was not, therefore, to be deemed, by Section 8 of the Trade Boards Act, 1918, to have been employed during the whole of his working time on work for which a minimum rate of wages had been fixed.

In the course of his judgment Lord Justice Scrutton referred to the Trade Boards (Boot and Shoe Repairing) Order, which defined a "manager" as "a worker who is employed in any branch of the trade specified in the Trade Boards (Boot and Shoe Repairing) Order, 1919 . . . who (whether working alone or with any other worker) under the terms of his employment, in addition to any work which may be required of him as a journeyman, fits up or supervises the fitting up of the work, and has control of the repairing or making and technical direction thereof." There was nothing said in this definition about the work of a shop manager: clearly it applied to a man who was technically directing the work of boot repairing. A shop manager, therefore, would not be covered by the terms of the Boot Repairing Order.

From the terms of the agreement which governed the plaintiff's employment it was clear that he had to do a considerable amount of clerical and accounting work, and in consequence a very great deal of the work which had to be done by him did not come within the Boot Repairing Order. This did not appear to be the case of a man who was doing one kind of work, with something else put in to evade the Trade Boards Order, but of a man doing two distinct classes of work. On the appellant's own evidence only about half his time was occupied by the work of boot repairing, and, therefore, subject to the question arising under Section 8 of the Trade Boards Act, 1918, he was not entitled to the full minimum weekly wage rate laid down by the Regulations. As to the question arising under Section 8 he was of opinion that, since the respondents had proved that the appellant had to be on the premises for a number of hours each day to perform clerical and accounting work and to sell sundries, they had discharged the onus which lay upon them of proving that the man was there for some purpose unconnected with his work within the meaning of the Section. In addition to the boot repairing, the appellant had to do work not connected with the repairing of boots, but of quite a different character. He was, therefore, on the premises doing work which was not within the Order.

The appeal was dismissed.—*France v. J. Coombes and Company—Court of Appeal.* 7th March, 1928.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

ILLEGAL EMPLOYMENT—EXCESSIVE HOURS.

Messrs. Stevenson, McKellar and Company, Limited, dyers, bleachers and finishers, of Newlands, Glasgow, were prosecuted on two charges, one relating to the employment of ten women, three girls, and a boy until 9.45 p.m. on a Friday, though the proper hours were from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m.; and the other relating to the employment of fifteen women, three girls, and a boy on a Sunday.

H.M. Inspector of Factories, prosecuting, said that such excessive hours could not be tolerated, and it was therefore necessary that cases of this kind should be ventilated in Court.

On behalf of the firm it was stated that what had happened was due to the fact that an order for India had to be completed in a hurry, so that the goods might be shipped in time.

The Sheriff pointed out that the respondents knew the law, and they had infringed it with their eyes open. He imposed a fine of £15 in respect of each charge.—*Glasgow Sheriff Court.* 31st March, 1928.

Coal Mines Act.

A haulage hand was summoned for an offence against the provisions of the Coal Mines Act.

Evidence was given that the defendant on 27th February, 1928, had called another man a "blackleg," and subsequently threatened him and struck him twice.

The colliery manager stated that the trouble had arisen through the complainant starting work before the stoppage in the coal industry had officially terminated. He further informed the Court that other men were being bullied in a similar way.

As a warning to others the defendant was bound over, and ordered to pay costs amounting to 14s.—*Pontefract Petty Sessions.* 10th March, 1928.

* The facts are set out in the December, 1927, issue of this GAZETTE, pages 475-6, together with a summary of the proceedings in the Court of First Instance.

Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920-1926.

FAILURE TO DELIVER UNEMPLOYMENT BOOK—DUTY OF EMPLOYEE.

A workman was summoned by the Ministry of Labour for failing to deliver his unemployment book to his employers, on taking up employment with them.

Imposing a fine of 2s. 6d., and costs amounting to £1, the Chairman stated that it was of the utmost importance that employed persons should deliver their unemployment books to their employers immediately upon taking up employment.—*Portrush Petty Sessions.* 22nd March, 1928.

Other Recent Decisions of Interest.

ACCIDENT—MACHINERY NOT PROPERLY GUARDED—NEGLIGENCE—CLAIM FOR DAMAGES.

The plaintiff sued his employer for damages for the loss of his right eye, to which injury had been caused through a circular saw not being properly guarded.

For the plaintiff it was stated that on 13th September, 1927, in company with another man, he was sawing a wooden spar, which was thrown violently against a wall through being caught in the teeth of the saw. One of the splinters which flew from the spar embedded itself in the plaintiff's right eye, the socket of which was seriously damaged. As a result of the injury sustained it was improbable that the plaintiff would ever be able to work again as a journeyman sawyer or joiner.

The plaintiff maintained that the saw was not properly fenced, since, although there was a guard over it, the adjusting screw was so defective that a blow would swing the guard aside.

For the defence it was urged that the saw was not faulty, and that the guard provided was an efficient one; it was also alleged that the plaintiff was guilty of contributory negligence by sending his mate away to do another job. The defendant denied that complaints had ever been made to him as to the condition of the guard.

After hearing expert evidence, His Lordship said that, though the guard in itself was a good one, it had a defect, namely, a faulty screw; and owing to this the guard was likely to be deflected from its proper position if it received a strong blow. He found in consequence that the saw was not properly guarded, and that the defendant was guilty of negligence.

Judgment was given for the plaintiff for £750 damages and costs.—*Heap v. Woodworth.—Manchester Assizes.* 9th March, 1928.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920-27.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

THE Umpire is a judicial authority independent of the Ministry of Labour, appointed by the Crown under Section 12 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, for the purpose of determining disputed claims to benefit. His decisions* are final and conclusive.

Appeals to the Umpire may be made by the Insurance Officer or by an Association of which the claimant is a member, or, with the permission of the Court of Referees, by the claimant himself.

The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

Case No. 218/28. (16/3/28.) Section 8 (1) of the Principal Act and Section 4 (1) of 1924 (No. 2) Act—Trade Dispute.

QUESTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR FAILURE TO USE PROPER MACHINERY FOR SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE.

The applicants, who were quarrymen and stone dressers, lost their employment in circumstances which led to the disallowance of their claims for payment in lieu of unemployment benefit under the provisions of Section 8 (1) of the principal Act.

An agreement (dated 19th September, 1927) between the men's associations and the district quarry owners' association as to conditions of employment contained a clause providing that "any alteration or variation of this agreement shall be subject to one month's notice in writing" and should "then be the subject of immediate negotiation between the joint parties to this agreement." This agreement further provided that "should the parties fail to agree to the proposed alteration, no stoppage of work shall take place, and the matters in dispute shall be referred to the National Freestone Council with a view to a settlement in accordance with the machinery and Constitution of the Council." Paragraph 3 (b) of the Constitution of the Council provided that, failing a settlement, "it shall be incumbent on the party whose action has given rise to the dispute (and it shall be the right of either party or parties jointly) to give notice in writing to the Secretary of the Council that a dispute is imminent."

On 27th October the employers gave notice, to expire on 30th November, to "terminate" the agreement of 19th September, and proposed a revised price list which, however, the men refused to accept. Several attempts were made to reach a settlement, but without success. The Employers' Association did not notify the Council of the existence of a dispute until 22nd December, but evidence was given on 16th December by the representative of the men. On 20th December the employers announced that certain piece rates, as offered by them, would operate as from 28th December, as from which date work ceased.

* Volumes containing selected decisions of the Umpire are published annually by H.M. Stationery Office, the latest being a volume of selected decisions given during the year 1926 (price 7s. 6d. net). Selected decisions are also issued monthly in pamphlet form, and may be obtained, as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription; the latest monthly pamphlet issued is that for February, 1928. Applications should be made to H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

The men contended that this action of the employers constituted a breach of the agreement.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims should be allowed.

The Insurance Officer formally disagreed with the Court's recommendation in order to obtain the Umpire's ruling. The Deputy Umpire gave the following decision:—

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that, if the above-named employed persons had made claims for unemployment benefit, the claims would have been allowed."

"I agree with the Court of Referees.
"The employers may have thought that they had finally and absolutely terminated the agreement of 19th September, 1927, but, even so, they contravened (inadvertently, I think) the express provisions of Rule 3 (b) of the Rules of the National Joint Industrial Council, which laid upon them the obligation of reporting the threatened dispute to the Secretary of the Council. It appears to me that this obligation is imposed upon the party who is seeking to alter the existing terms of employment, and that there is an implied obligation to consult with the Joint Industrial Council with a view to arbitration before any alteration of the *status quo* is insisted upon where a stoppage of work is being threatened."

Case No. 351/28. (10/3/28.) Section 1 (4) of the 1924 (No. 2) Act—Not Unemployed.

LOST EMPLOYMENT AND AWARDED COMPENSATION UNDER LONDON ELECTRICITY (NO. 2) ACT, 1925—COMPENSATION BASED ON THREE WEEKS' WAGES FOR EACH YEAR OF SERVICE—HELD COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT NOT FOR LOSS OF REMUNERATION WITHIN MEANING OF SECTION 1 (4) OF 1924 (NO. 2) ACT.

The applicants lost their employment in consequence of the staff reorganisation of a London Electricity Supply Corporation, and were awarded compensation under Section 13 of the London Electricity (No. 2) Act, 1925. They made claims for unemployment benefit in November, and the claims were disallowed under the provisions of Section 1 (4) of the 1924 (No. 2) Act.

The Court of Referees recommended allowance of the claims. The Court examined Decision 1230/27,* but took the view that the principle of the decision was not applicable to this case.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation and referred the case to the Umpire.

Later information indicated that the men had been employed for varying periods, and on dismissal received amounts equivalent to three weeks' wages for each year of service, together with an additional sum stated by the employers to represent bonus.

The Deputy Umpire gave the following decision:—

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

"These cases are governed by the principles of Decision 1768/27,† in which the Umpire drew a distinction between compensation 'for loss of employment,' and compensation 'for loss of remuneration,' which latter is the expression used in Section 1 (4) of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924. He also showed the difference between the considerations which operate in assessing the compensation for loss of employment and for loss of remuneration. That difference is well exemplified in the present cases.

"If the employers had settled on a lump sum in each case without disclosing any method of calculation (which I should imagine is the course adopted by a referee) instead of referring to weeks and wages, there would have been nothing upon which to base the contention raised in these cases.

"But dealing with a number of men, and to avoid going into the circumstances of each, the employers suggested and the men accepted an arbitrary principle, which in the main would work out fairly and equitably, of calculating compensation for loss of employment on the basis of three weeks' wages for each year of service. I must assume that they were endeavouring to assess compensation in accordance with the statute which requires it to be given, and, if so, they were only adopting this method of calculation as a convenient means of expressing what they thought would not be less than the amount of compensation properly awardable under the statute for loss of employment, if each case had been separately investigated. They were not assessing either compensation for loss of remuneration, or the period in respect of which it should be given, under and for the purposes of Section 1 (4) of the said Unemployment Insurance Act, and that section had no application either to the amount paid by the employers or to the purposes for which it was paid."

Case No. 374/28. (15/3/28.) Section 7 (1) (iv) of the Principal Act (as Amended)—Unable to Obtain Suitable Employment.

CALICO WEAVERS OFFERED WORK AS WEAVERS OF ARTIFICIAL SILK WEFT—ALLEGED INEXPERIENCE AND THAT IT WOULD TAKE MANY WEEKS TO BECOME PROFICIENT ENOUGH TO EARN REASONABLE WAGE—WAGES WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE UP TO 30S. IN FIRST FORTNIGHT AND LONGER IF NECESSARY—NOT UNABLE TO OBTAIN SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT.

A number of women, who had been unemployed, in most cases for over two months, were offered employment in November, 1927, as weavers of artificial silk weft. They had previously worked only as calico weavers, and they refused the offer on the ground that, even with tuition, many weeks would have elapsed before they would have been proficient enough to earn a reasonable wage. Their claims for unemployment benefit were disallowed under the provisions of Section 7 (1) (iv) of the principal Act.

* See Vol. VI, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 94 (Pamphlet No. 5/1927).
† See Vol. VI, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 123 (Pamphlet No. 6/1927).

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claims should be allowed.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation. He took the view, having regard to the period of unemployment and the improbability of early re-engagement in their own branch of work, that the applicants should have given the work offered a trial. He referred the case to the Umpire, and the Deputy Umpire gave the following decision:—

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

"Applicants are experienced plain calico weavers who became unemployed by the closing down of the mill in which they were working, and there was little or no prospect of their obtaining work as calico weavers in their locality.

"In these circumstances they were offered employment at a mill in which they would have been required to do plain weaving with an artificial silk weft. They refused the employment offered on several grounds, but the only reasons material for consideration are their allegations that they had not done that kind of work before, that it would have taken many weeks before they could have earned a reasonable wage, and that without tuition they could never have become proficient.

"The reluctance of workers to transfer from one class of weaving to another may not be unnatural or unexpected, but it does not determine the question which has to be decided under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, namely, whether the employment offered was suitable for the applicants. On the other hand, the advisability, or even necessity, of weavers adapting themselves to the changed conditions in the weaving industry, consequent on the greater use of artificial silk, does not of itself make employment in that class of weaving suitable if, for other reasons or owing to the conditions of employment, it is found in fact not to be suitable for particular applicants.

"A general comparison of the two classes of weaving involves considerations of a technical and expert character, and for this reason the Court of Referees were recently requested to investigate the matter, and the evidence obtained in a careful and searching inquiry is now available.

"This evidence shows that an experienced plain calico weaver, who is willing to accept new conditions and who is not too old to adapt her fingers to the touch of newer material, may expect to become proficient in weaving with an artificial silk weft so as to be able to earn reasonable wages on piece work within a period of about a fortnight.

"Subject to terms and conditions of employment being satisfactory, I am of opinion that applicants could reasonably be expected and required to accept the employment offered as being suitable.

"In the present instance the prospective employer was prepared to make up the wages of the operatives to 30s. per week for the first fortnight, to extend this period if the operative was put to work on good cloth, to make no deductions for spoiled work (if any), to provide necessary tuition, and not to require the operative to work more than two looms out of four with artificial silk weft.

"Applicants refused to entertain the offer of employment, upon the ground that it was a new class of work, and without considering or inquiring into the terms and conditions upon which it was offered, and, in my opinion, they fail to show that at the time of their refusal they were unable to obtain suitable employment."

Case No. 404/28. (21/3/28.) Section 7 (1) (ii) of the Principal Act—Not Unemployed.

COAL PORTER AT DOCKS RECEIVED "DISAPPOINTMENT MONEY"—PAID ONLY IF "CALLED" IN MORNING AND NOT ENGAGED PROVIDED MIDDAY "CALL" IS ATTENDED—NOT OBLIGED TO ATTEND MIDDAY "CALL"—HELD NO CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT.

On 24th November, 1927, the applicant, a dock coal porter, received 2s. "disappointment money" because he attended the "calling off stand" at the docks and was not engaged. His claim for unemployment benefit was disallowed in respect of that day, on the ground that he was not unemployed.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be disallowed.

The applicant's association appealed to the Umpire, and the Deputy Umpire gave the following decision:—

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

"It appears that the applicant was paid what is called 'disappointment money.' This is paid if he is called for work in the morning and the expected work falls through, provided that he attends a midday call. There is nothing, however, to prevent him from accepting other employment, and he is not under obligation to attend the midday call or to remain about the docks. I do not think, therefore, that he had entered into any contract of employment. He had not been, as in 5252/26,* specially sent for; he went to the stand in the mornings in the ordinary course, and was selected then to work on a ship which was expected, but which did not arrive, and no work was begun; neither had he gone to his working place like a miner who has descended the pit.

"The case is rather analogous to No. 4021/20.†"

* See Vol. V, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 314 (Pamphlet No. 12/1926).
† See Vol. II, Umpire's Selected Decisions (Pamphlet No. 17).

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

Recent Proceedings.

(A.)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

RAILWAY SHOPMEN, LIFTERS AND LABOURERS, SLADES GREEN.—Railwaymen v. Southern Railway Co. *Difference.*—Grading under Award No. 728. *Decision.*—Labourers to be graded as Lifters, Lifters to be re-graded as Charge hands. Operative from first pay week following date of award. Award issued 8th March, 1928. (1358.)

CHIEF ATTENDANTS AND ATTENDANTS, VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM, AND BETHNAL GREEN MUSEUM.—Government Galleries Established Officers' Association v. Board of Education. *Difference.*—Claim for improved conditions of service. *Decision.*—Existing scales of pay, overtime rates and annual leave should not be disturbed. Award issued 13th March, 1928. (1359.)

ASSISTANT INSPECTORS, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE TRAFFIC, CLASS II, POST OFFICE.—The Institution of Professional Civil Servants v. General Post Office. *Difference.*—Claims for special increases. *Decision.*—(1) Assistant Inspectors, Class II, appointed on or before 1st January, 1923, to receive an immediate increment of £15, and (2) Assistant Inspectors, Class II, appointed from a Provincial Class after 1st January, 1923, and before 11th November, 1926, to have their present basic salary adjusted to the amount it would have been had their starting rate of pay been not less than £15 above the actual basic salary of which they were in receipt prior to transfer, plus accrued increment. Award issued 13th March, 1928. (1360.)

SHORTHAND-TYPISTS.—Civil Service Clerical Association v. H.M. Treasury. *Difference.*—Rates of pay of temporary Shorthand-Typists, Grade I or II, appointed to Established posts. *Decision.*—Temporary Shorthand-Typists, Grade I or II, appointed as Established Shorthand-Typists before 1st July, 1927, shall have their salaries adjusted to such amounts as they would have been receiving if the scale of pay awarded to Temporary Shorthand-Typists under Award No. 1328 had been in operation at the dates of their appointments as established Shorthand-Typists. Operative as from 1st March, 1928. Award issued 13th March, 1928. (1361.)

MALE CLEANERS, OFFICE OF WORKS.—Official Side v. Trade Union Side, Miscellaneous Trades Joint Council for Government Departments. *Difference.*—Application for reduction in wages. *Decision.*—Pay for new entrants to be 55s. per week, and for those at present in the service 60s. per week, these amounts to be subject to increase or decrease in accordance with the Civil Service cost-of-living bonus appropriate to basic wages of 32s. and 35s. per week. Award to become operative from 1st April, 1928. Award issued 23rd March, 1928. (1362.)

STAFF OF OFFICES OF ESTABLISHED COLLECTORS OF TAXES, SCOTLAND.—Association of Officers of Taxes v. Board of Inland Revenue. *Difference.*—Claim for an increase in scales of pay of Collectors, Assistant Collectors and Collectors' Clerks. *Decision.*—Collectors awarded following basic scales:—

Glasgow	£550-£20-£650
Edinburgh... ..	£500-£20-£600
Other Collectors	£350-£15-£450

No alteration was made in scales of pay of Assistant Collectors and Collectors' Clerks, but the Court expressed the opinion that the number of posts on the £200-£250 scale should be increased. Award to become operative on 1st April, 1928. Award issued on 26th March, 1928. (1363.)

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

IRON AND STEEL TRADE, EBBW VALE.—Iron and Steel Trades Confederation v. Ebbw Vale Steel, Iron and Coal Co., Ltd. *Difference.*—As to the rates to be paid to certain classes of workpeople employed by the Company. *Board of Arbitration*, consisting of Sir Harold S. Morris, K.C. (Chairman), Mr. G. Pate, O.B.E. (Employers' Representative), and Mr. W. T. Griffiths (Workpeople's Representative), appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to determine the matter. Award, fixing the rates of pay and operative as from 1st January, 1928, issued on 12th March, 1928.

(C.)—OTHER SETTLEMENTS.

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

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.

I.—CONFIRMING ORDERS.

Coffin Furniture and Cerement Making Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order U (22), dated 26th March, 1928, confirming minimum rates of wages for female workers in the cerement-making section of the trade for periods not dependent upon the cost-of-living index figure, and specifying the 1st April, 1928, as the date from which such minimum rates should become effective.

Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.H.G. (38), dated the 19th March, 1928, confirming the variation of certain minimum rates of wages and the cancellation of certain other minimum rates of wages for female workers in the linen and cotton handkerchief and household goods and linen piece-goods trade in Northern Ireland, and specifying the 26th March, 1928, as the effective date.

II.—NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

Paper Box Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.B. (N. 8), dated the 23rd March, 1928, to vary minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male and female workers in the paper box trade in Northern Ireland. Objection period expires 11th April, 1928.

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

Lower wage rates have become operative as from the 1st April, 1928, in the under-mentioned trades. The minimum rates now applicable are those appropriate to the cost-of-living figure of 64, and are set out in the Confirming Orders quoted below:—

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Great Britain), General Minimum Piece-Rates, D (34), and D (36), col. 5.

The alteration in the cost-of-living index figure does not necessitate changes in the general minimum time rates and guaranteed time rates specified or referred to in D (32), D (33) or D (36).

Brush and Broom Trade Board (Great Britain), M (39) and (40), M (41), and M (43), col. 12.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

AGRICULTURAL WAGES.—*Report of proceedings under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act for the year ending 30th September, 1927.* Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. (S.O. publication; price 1s. 6d.) (See page 122.)

CENSUS OF PRODUCTION.—*Third Census of Production, 1924. Preliminary Reports No. 31. General survey of Government departments.* Admiralty:—naval dockyards, naval ordnance depots, civil engineering departments, naval victualling yards, electricity undertakings; War Office:—ordnance factories and ordnance department workshops, army clothing factory, army bakeries, army laundries, electricity undertakings; General Post Office:—telegraph and telephone undertakings, Savings Bank Department; Office of Works:—Ordnance Survey Department of Great Britain; Stationery Office; Lighthouse Authorities; Prison Commission. Board of Trade. (S.O. publication; price 6d.)

HEALTH AND SAFETY.—*Descriptive account and catalogue of the Home Office Industrial Museum and exhibits, with explanatory notes.* Home Office. (S.O. publication; price 3s. 6d.)

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EFFICIENCY.—*Further factors in industrial and commercial efficiency, being Part II of a survey of industries, with an introduction by the Committee.* Committee on Industry and Trade. (S.O. publication; price 3s. 6d.) (See page 123.)

INDUSTRIAL COURT.—*Industrial Court decisions. Vol. IX, 1273 to 1354. 1st January, 1927, to 31st December, 1927.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 8s. 6d.)

INDUSTRIAL FATIGUE.—*Two studies on hours of work: I. Five-hour spells for women, with reference to rest pauses. II. The two-shift system in certain factories.* Report No. 47. Industrial Fatigue Research Board. (S.O. publication; price 1s. 3d.)

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.—*International Labour Conference, eleventh session, Geneva May, 1928: (a) Report on minimum wage fixing machinery. (b) Prevention of industrial accidents. Report and draft questionnaire.* International Labour Office. (Geneva, 1928; price 2s. and 6s., respectively.)

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT.—*London Advisory Committee for Juvenile Employment. Fourth Annual Report, 1927.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 4d.)

MINING.—(i) *Statistical summary of output; and of the costs of production, proceeds and profits of the coal mining industry for the quarter ended 31st December, 1927.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (Cmd. 3063; price 1d.) (See page 124.) (ii) *Regulations and orders relating to mines under the Coal Mines Act, 1911, 1927 edition, including orders up to 1st January, 1928.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication; price 1s.)

TRADE UNIONS.—*Return showing details of membership, income, expenditure and funds of registered trade unions with 10,000 or more members in the years 1925 and 1926.* Registry of Friendly Societies. (Cmd. 3056; price 3d.) (See page 122.)

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT.—(i) *Report on an investigation into the personal circumstances and industrial history of 9,748 claimants to unemployment benefit, 4th to 9th April, 1927.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 2s. 6d.) (See page 118.) (ii) *Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1926. Decisions given by the Unemployment Insurance Tribunal during the month of February, 1928.* U.I. 440. Pamphlet No. 2, 1928. Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 6d.)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, MARCH, 1928.

ADMIRALTY.

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

Devonport: Asphalt Floors, etc.: The Limmer & Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Pembroke: Steel Water-tank:** Tees Side Bridge & Engineering Works, Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Portsmouth: Portland Cement:** The Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; **Steelwork for Jetty:** The Cleveland Bridge & Engineering Co., Ltd., Darlington.

(Contract and Purchase Department.)

Alternators, Motor: W. Mackie & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—**Ammeters:** Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Angles, etc., Steel:** Frodingham Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Scunthorpe; Dorman Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough; Consett Iron Co., Ltd., Consett; Pease & Partners, Ltd., Saltburn.—**Belting, Balata:** Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., Mitcham.—**Boards, W/T:** Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester; The General Electric Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Boats, Motor, 13½ ft.:** Vosper & Co., Ltd., Portsmouth; J. Leitch & Co., Renfrew.—**Boats, Steam Picket, 50 ft.:** J. S. White & Co., Ltd., East Cowes.—**Bolts and Nuts, Wrought Iron:** E. Mercer, Ltd., Hollinwood; Wilkes, Ltd., Darlston; Stones Bros., Ltd., West Bromwich; C. Richards & Sons, Ltd., Darlston.—**Boxes, Distribution, Junction, etc.:** The Express Lift Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Chadburns (Ship) Telegraph Co., Ltd., Bootle; L. Weeks (Luton), Ltd., Luton; The Engineering & Lighting Equipment Co., Ltd., St. Albans; Player & Mitchell, Birmingham; The General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End; Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester.—**Braces, Web:** Southwark Brace & Belt Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Brass Fittings:** Bailey & Mackey, Ltd., Birmingham; J. & E. Bates & Sons, Ltd., Wolverhampton; Evered & Co., Ltd., Smethwick; Gabriel & Co., Birmingham; W. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; T. Pemberton & Sons, Ltd., West Bromwich; Player & Mitchell, Birmingham; W. Rowley, Ltd., Birmingham; E. Showell & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Tonks (Birmingham), Ltd., Birmingham; Worcester Brass Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Bronze Rod:** Bull's Metal & Melloid Co., Ltd., Glasgow; J. Booth & Co. (1915), Ltd., Birmingham; Manganese Bronze & Brass Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Cable, Chain and Gear:** H. Wood & Co., Ltd., Chester; Woodhouse Bros., Cradley Heath; J. Wright & Co., Ltd., Tipton.—**Calico:** A. & S. Henry & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Fothergill & Harvey, Ltd., Manchester; Ashton Bros. & Co., Ltd., Hyde; J. H. Greenhow & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Fred Taylor & Sons, Ltd., Radcliffe.—**Caps:** S. Schneiders & Son, London, E.—**Capstan Gear, Parts for:** Napier Bros., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Carriers, Web:** Mills Equipment Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Chemicals:** A. Boake, Roberts & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Skilbeck Bros., London, E.C.; F. Allen & Sons (Poplar), Ltd., London, E.; Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Circuit Breaker Apparatus, Oil:** The British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Cloth, Blue:** S. Salter & Co., Ltd., Trowbridge; A. W. Hainsworth & Sons, Ltd., Farsley; Wm. Lupton & Co., Leeds; J. Hainsworth & Sons, Farsley.—**Cloth, Linen Duck:** J. Johnson & Sons, Belfast; The Boase Spinning Co. (1920), Ltd., Kirkcaldy; D. & R. Duke, Brechin.—**Coils, W/T:** Radio Instruments, Ltd., London, W.C.—H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, S.E.; Gambrell Bros., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Compressors, Electrically driven:** Reavell & Co., Ltd., Ipswich.—**Condensers:** Dübiller Condenser Co. (1925), Ltd., London, W.—**Couplings, Hose:** Highton & Son, Ltd., London, E.; J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Covers, Cap:** S. Schneiders & Son, London, E.—**Cupboards, Electric Hot:** Benham & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Cutlery:** Elkington & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Thos. Turner & Co. (Sheffield), Ltd., Sheffield; Walker & Hall, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Diethyldiphenylurea:** Clayton Aniline Co., Ltd., Manchester; L. B. Holliday & Co., Ltd., Huddersfield; Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Drawers, Brown Cotton:** Moore, Eady & Murrcott Goode, Ltd., Hinckley; Simpkin, Son & Emery, Hinckley.—**Drills:** Easterbrook, Allcard & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; A. Mathieson & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow; International Twist Drill Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Drums, Light Steel:** F. Francis & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Electro Plate:** Fenton Bros., Ltd., Sheffield; Gladwin, Ltd., Sheffield; W. Hutton & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; T. Wilkinson & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Equipment, Electric Heating:** The General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Files:** Sanderson Bros. & Newbould, Ltd., Sheffield; S. Osborn & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Cammell Laird & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; J. J. Saville & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; T. Firth & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; H. Rossell & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Vickers-Armstrong, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Firehearth Gear:** Carron Co., Falkirk; Darwin Yearley & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; W. Green & Co. (Ecclesfield), Ltd., Ecclesfield; Moorwoods, Ltd., Sheffield; C. Portway & Son, Halstead; Smith & Wellstood, Ltd., Bonnybridge.—**Flour:** C. Brown & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Spillers, Ltd. (W. Vernon & Sons Branch), Liverpool; North Shore Mill Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Frocks, White, Woollen:** S. D. Stretton & Sons, Ltd., Leicester.—**Gear, Battery:** Premier Accumulator Co., Ltd., Northampton.—**Gear, Variable Speed:** Variable Speed Gear Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Generator Sets, Motor:** Newtons of Taunton, Taunton.—**Generators, Motor:** Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby; Bull Motors, Ltd., Ipswich.—**Glass, Table:** Jas. A. Jobling & Co., Ltd., Sunderland; H. G. Richardson & Sons, Stourbridge; Robinson, Son & Co., Warrington; Stuart & Sons, Ltd., Stourbridge; Stevens & Williams, Ltd., Brierley Hill; Wm. Toogood, Ltd., London, S.E.; John Walsh Walsh, Ltd., Birmingham; Thos. Webb & Sons, London, E.C.—**Gold Leaf:**

G. M. Whaley, Ltd., London, W.—**Gunmetal Articles, Miscellaneous:** Carron Co., Falkirk; Gabriel & Co., Birmingham; Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; T. Pemberton & Sons, Ltd., West Bromwich; Player & Mitchell, Birmingham; G. & W. Purser, Ltd., Birmingham; J. Roby, Ltd., Rainhill; Shipham & Co., Ltd., Hull; E. Showell & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Handkerchiefs, Black Silk:** Josiah Smale & Son, Ltd., Macclesfield; J. & T. Brocklehurst & Sons, Ltd., Macclesfield.—**Hoists, Telemotor-operated:** Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., Barrow; McTaggart Scott & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Hollow-ware, Aluminium:** Bulpitt & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; F. Braby & Co., Ltd., Bristol; Hague & McKenzie, Ltd., Birmingham; M. J. Hart & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; London Aluminium Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Horns, Klaxon:** Klaxon, Ltd., London, W.—**Hose Fittings, Gunmetal:** T. Pemberton & Sons, Ltd., West Bromwich; Shipham & Co., Ltd., Hull.—**Hoses, Flexible Bronze:** United Flexible Metallic Tubing Co., Ltd., Ponders End.—**Ingots, Aluminium:** British Aluminium Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Installation, Electric Light:** G. E. Taylor & Co., London, E.C.—**Iron, Pig:** Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Newcastle; Goldendale Iron Co., Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent; Staveley Coal & Iron Co., Ltd., Chesterfield.—**Laces, Boot and Shoe:** Clemessa Bros. & Birch, Ltd., Leek; Hunter, Son & Co., Manchester.—**Lamps, Electric:** Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End; General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.; Siemens Electric Lamps & Supplies, Ltd., Preston.—**Lathes, Capstan:** Alfred Herbert, Ltd., Coventry.—**Leads, Telephone:** Ward & Goldstone, Ltd., Manchester.—**Linen Goods:** A. Blyth & Co., Kirkcaldy; Wm. Ewart & Son, Ltd., Belfast; Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen; Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee; Ulster Weaving Co., Ltd., Linfield; Jas. Mathewson & Son, Ltd., Belfast; Broadway Damask Co., Ltd., Belfast; The York St. Flax Spinning Co. (London), Ltd., Belfast; N. Lockhart & Sons, Kirkcaldy; J. Johnson & Sons, Belfast; R. Usher & Co., Ltd., Drogheda; Stevenson & Sons, Ltd., Moygashel.—**Machines, Valve Box Resealing:** Greenwood & Batley, Ltd., Leeds.—**Mattresses and Pillows:** Davis's Feather Mills, Ltd., London, E.; Rundle, Rogers & Brook, Ltd., Plymouth.—**Oil, Light Shale:** Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Oil, Mineral Lighting:** Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Oil, Mineral Lubricating:** Shell-Mex, Ltd., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Oil, Mineral Sperm:** Anglo-American Oil Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Oil, Linseed:** Younghusband, Barnes & Co., London, S.E.—**Packing, Cotton and Hemp:** Turner Bros. Asbestos Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Panels, W/T:** H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, S.E.; The Plessey Co., Ltd., Ilford.—**Paxolin Fittings, etc.:** Micanite & Insulators Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Plant, Electric Lighting:** Mann Egerton & Co., Ltd., Ipswich; **Plant, H.P. Air Compressing:** J. & G. Weir, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Plates, Steel:** D. Colville & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow; Steel Co. of Scotland, Glasgow; W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Cardiff.—**Polish, Floor:** Fortune & Co., Ltd., Preston.—**Razors:** Joseph Allen & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Regulators and Starters:** Small Electric Motors, Ltd., Beckenham; E. N. Bray Ltd., London, E.; Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester.—**Rosbonite:** Pinchin, Johnson & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Scissors:** Harrison Bros. & Howson, Sheffield.—**Screwing Tackle, Engineers:** British Tap & Die Co., Ltd., London, E.; Easterbrook, Allcard & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Lehmann, Archer & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; John J. H. Lines, Stafford; A. Mathieson & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow; Joseph Robson & Sons, Sheffield; Pickford Evans & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; H. Williams & Sons, London, E.—**Screws:** Barwells, Ltd., Birmingham; Butler, Spragg & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; H. Cox Screw Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Davis & Timmins, Ltd., London, N.; T. Eaves, Ltd., Birmingham; T. Haddon & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., Birmingham; London Screw Co., Smethwick; A. Stokes & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Shades, Glass, etc.:** Butterworth Bros., Ltd., Manchester; J. Lane & Sons, Ltd., Dudley; Molineaux Webb & Co., Ltd., Manchester; New English Glass Manufacturers, Ltd., Tipton; Pilkington Bros., Ltd., St. Helens; Joseph Price & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Sheets, Brass and Copper:** British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Prescott; J. Wilkes, Sons & Mapplebeck, Ltd., Birmingham; Birmingham Battery & Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Manganese Bronze & Brass Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Aston Chain & Hook Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Broughton Copper Co., Ltd., Manchester; T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., London, W.; British Copper Manufacturers, Ltd., London, E.C.; Elliott's Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham; J. Booth & Co. (1915), Ltd., Birmingham; P. H. Muntz & Co., Ltd., West Bromwich.—**Sheets, Steel:** J. Dunlop & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; South Durham Steel & Iron Co., West Hartlepool; Port Talbot Co., Port Talbot; Appleby Iron Co., Scunthorpe; Baldwins, Ltd., Newport; Park Gate Co., Rotherham.—**Shirting, Cotton:** John Wilkinson (Manchester & Nelson), Ltd., Nelson.—**Shoes, Brown Canvas:** R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds.—**Socks:** I. & R. Morley, Loughborough.—**Solder:** Locke, Lancaster & W. W. & R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.; J. Ratcliff & Sons, Ltd., Great Bridge, Staffs; Sheldon Bush & P. S. Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Spirit, Petroleum:** British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Starters, Automatic Resistances and Switches:** The Watford Electric & Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Watford.—**Steel, High Speed Tool:** Firth & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; J. J. Saville & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Cammell, Laird & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; S. Osborn & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., Sheffield; Sanderson Bros., Ltd., Sheffield; A. Balfour & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Suits, Bluet Overall:** J. B. Hoyle & Co., Hebden Bridge; Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Gt. Yarmouth; Tippetts, Son & Co., Plymouth.—**Switches, Sockets and Plugs:** Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End.—**Tape:** Janes North Hardy & Son, Ltd., Heaton

Park; J. Lilley & Sons, Ltd., Derby; George Hattersley & Sons, Ltd., Keighley; Bole Hall Mill Co., Ltd., Tamworth; The Patent Loom & Tape Co., Ltd., Bolton.—**Thread**: Henry Campbell & Co., Ltd., Mossley; Wm. Paton, Ltd., Johnstone.—**Tinfoil**: Cheswright & Nicholls, Ltd., London, E.—**Tins**: Huntley, Boorne & Stevens, Ltd., Reading.—**Tools, Engineers' and Shipbuilders'**: Gilpin & Whitehouse, Ltd., Cannock; H. Williams & Son, London, E.; Swindell & Co., Netherton; W. Ridgway & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; F. G. Pearson & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; E. Partridge & Co., Ltd., Old Hill; Hope Works, Co., Dudley; Hardy Patent Pick Co., Ltd., Sheffield; J. Evans & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; S. A. Daniell, Ltd., Birmingham; Cammell, Laird & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; F. J. Brindley & Sons, Sheffield; J. H. Andrew & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; J. Beardshaw & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; C. Whitehouse & Sons, Ltd., Cannock; Wynn, Timmins & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Pneumatic Engineering Appliances, Ltd., London, W.C.; Ed. Preston & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Tools, Lancashire**: Wynn, Timmins & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; H. Brindley, Birmingham; A. Mathieson & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow; Gilpin & Whitehouse, Ltd., Cannock; Thos. Newey & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; J. Evans & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Towelling, Terry**: Stott & Smith, Ltd., Congleton; Wm. R. Lee, Ltd., Heywood.—**Transformers**: The English Electric Co., Ltd., Stafford; Ferranti, Ltd., Hollinwood, Lancs.—**Tubes, Deck, and Bulkhead Glands, etc.**: Fairless Engineering Supplies Co., Ltd., Stockton-on-Tees; Hawkers, Ltd., Birmingham; W. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Tubing, I.R.**: India Rubber, Gutta Percha, etc., Ltd., London, E.; North British Rubber Co., Ltd., London, W.; F. Reddaway & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Twil, Brown**: Howe & Coates, Ltd., Manchester.—**Valves, W/T**: General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Vests and Drawers, Net Cotton**: J. B. Lewis & Sons, Ltd., Nottingham.—**Vices**: Gilpin & Whitehouse, Ltd., Cannock; Alldays & Onions, Ltd., Birmingham; John Brooks (Lye), Ltd., Lye; J. Evans & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Voice Pipes and Gear**: Power Flexible Tubing Co., Ltd., London, N.; Interlock Metal Hose Co., London, N.—**Winches, Electrically-driven**: Napier Bros., Ltd., Glasgow; Harfield & Co., Ltd., Blaydon-on-Tyne.—**Wire**: T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., London, W.; R. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Manchester; Latch & Batchelor, Ltd., Birmingham; Ramsden, Camm & Co., Ltd., Brighouse; J. Wilkes, Sons & Mapplebeck, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Wire, Enamelled Copper**: British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Helsby; London Electric Wire Co. & Smiths, Ltd., London.—**W/T Apparatus, Fittings for**: G. H. Williams & Co., London, S.W.; G. A. Harvey & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.E.; Ross, Courtney & Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Wire Line and Strand, Steel**: Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington; British Ropes, Ltd., Warrington.—**Zinc Slabs, Sheets, etc.**: W. Barns & Son, London, N.; Locke Lancaster & W. W. & R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.; London Zinc Mills, Ltd., London, N.

WAR OFFICE.

Badges: Hobson & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Barrows, Stable**: East & Son, Ltd., Berkhamsted.—**Boxes, Ammunition**: Brownlee & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Cables and Accessories**: Macintosh Cable Co., Ltd., Derby.—**Caps, Bearskin**: L. Silberston, London, E.—**Caps, S.D., O.R.**: Hobson & Sons (London), Ltd., London, S.E.; L. Silberston, London, E.; J. Compton Sons & Webb, Ltd., London, E.; R. Z. Bloomfield, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Carts, Water Tank**: Tuke & Bell, Lichfield.—**Cases, Packing**: R. J. Latten, Ltd., Lowestoft; Langlands & McAlinsh, Ltd., Dundee; T. E. Dingwall, Ltd., London, E.C.; Mansfield Box Co., Mansfield; Smith Case & Roller Co., Ltd., Bury.—**Cloth, Blue Grey, Melton, W.P.**: J. Watkinson & Sons, Ltd., Holmfirth.—**Cord, Bedford, 28-inch**: S. Cordingley, Pudsey.—**Cresoli**: Killgerm Co., Ltd., Cleckheaton.—**Drill, Brown**: J. Bright Bros., Ltd., Rochdale; Ritchie & Eason, Ltd., Manchester.—**Flannelette**: J. Wilkinson (Manchester & Nelson), Ltd., Nelson; Schofield, Preston & Co., Ltd., Nelson; J. C. Hamer, Ltd., Manchester.—**Gabardine**: J. Halliday & Sons, Ltd., Bradford.—**Gauze, Absorbent**: Southall Bros. & Barclay, Ltd., Saitley.—**Generating Sets**: Douglas Motors, Ltd., Bristol.—**Generator Plant, Automatic**: Davey Paxman & Co., Ltd., Colchester.—**Harness and Saddlery**: D. Mason & Sons, Ltd., Walsall; Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Helmet Bodies, Khaki**: Helmets, Ltd., St. Albans; J. Compton, Sons & Webb, Ltd., London, E.; Hobson & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Hides, Collar**: S. E. Norris & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Kerosene**: British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Linoleum**: Lino Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Staines.—**Linters, Cotton**: Cotton Cellulose Co., Ltd., Rawtenstall.—**Lorries, Six-wheeled**: J. I. Thornycroft & Co., Ltd., Basingstoke; Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Magnesium Powder**: British Maxium, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Mattresses, S.S.**: E. H. Price, Hadleigh.—**Oil, Fuel**: Shell-Mex, Ltd., Shell Haven.—**Oil, Lubricating**: Vacuum Oil Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Overalls, Combination**: J. Smith & Co. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—**Oxygen Gas**: British Oxygen Co., Ltd., Greenwich and Wembley.—**Pagris**: E. Spinner & Co., Preston.—**Pails, I.G. and Tubs, Washing**: Sargeant, Turner & Sons, Ltd., Lye.—**Petrol**: British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Glico Petroleum, Ltd., London, W.C.; Redline Motor Spirit Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Shell Mex, Ltd., London, W.C.; Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Petrol-benzol Mixture**: Carless Capel & Leonard, London, E.; National Benzole Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Poles, Draught**: Mitchell & Son, Glasgow.—**Pullthroughs, Cord**: W. James & Co., Bridport.—**Rags, Old, Cotton**: W. C. Jones, Ltd., Manchester.—**Road Rollers**: Ruston & Hornsby, Ltd., Lincoln; Barford & Perkins, Peterborough.—**Roofing Felt and Damp Course**: F. McNeill & Co., Ltd., London, Manchester and Kirkintilloch; Ruberoid Co., Ltd., Enfield, Middlesex.—**Shirts, Angola Blue**: J. Bradbury & Co. (Saddleworth), Ltd., Upper Mill, Lancs; J. Smith (Milnrow), Ltd., Milnrow; The Saddleworth Woollen Co., Ltd., Delph.—**Shoes, Horse, Steel**: Guest &

Co. (Halesowen), Ltd., Halesowen; Wm. Cooke & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—**Shorts, K.D.**: J. B. Hoyle & Co., Hebden Bridge.—**Socks, Worsted**: A. Yates & Co., Leicester; Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Gt. Yarmouth; H. Tompkins, Countesthorpe and Leicester; Dickens, Armitage & Co., Ltd., Leicester.—**Steel, Mild**: The Whitehead Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Tredgar (Mon.).—**Steel, Shell**: Steel, Peech & Tozer, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Teak, Log**: Denny, Mott & Dickson, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tins, Feed and Tubs, Coal**: Frott & Tyler, Ltd., Bilston.—**Towels, Hand, Turkish**: W. T. Taylor & Co., Ltd., Horwick, near Bolton.—**Transformers, Rotary**: Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby.—**Twil, Grey**: Cottrill & Co., Ltd., Colne, Lancs.—**Tyres and Tubes**: Dunlop Rubber Co., Birmingham; British Goodrich Rubber Co., Leyland.—**Valves, W/T**: G.E.C., Ltd., Hammersmith, W.; Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End, Middlesex.—**Vehicles, Half-tracked, Crossley-Kegresse, Axle Assembly**: Crossley Motors, Ltd., Manchester.—**Vehicles, Six-wheeled, Spares**: Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Vehicle, Six-wheeled**: J. I. Thornycroft & Co., Ltd., Basingstoke.—**Wireless Telegraph Sets**: Dubilier Condenser Co. (1925), Ltd., London, W.—**Works Services: Building Works and Services**: Newcastle, Artificers' Works: G. R. Wade & Son, Richmond, Yorks. Sandhurst, Artificers' Works: E. C. Hughes, Wokingham, Lydd, Artificers' Works: G. H. Bates & Son, Lydd, N. Aldershot, Artificers' Works; Blackdown and Deput, Artificers' Works: C. Morgan & Son, South Farnborough. Weedon, Artificers' Works: Bosworth & Wakeford, Daventry. Canterbury, Artificers' Works: J. E. Wiltshier & Co., Canterbury. Chatham, Artificers' Works: J. R. McL. Keil, Camberley. Dover; Shorncliffe, Artificers' Works: G. Lewis & Sons (Dover), Ltd., Lichfield, Artificers' Works: F. Perks & Son, Ltd., Long Eaton. S. Aldershot, Artificers' Works: T. H. Jones, S. Farnborough. Bury St. Edmunds, Artificers' Works: A. E. Flory & Co., Colchester. Gravesend, Artificers' Works: G. Peacock, Gravesend. Bordon, Artificers' Works: T. H. Jones, S. Farnborough. Brighton; Chichester, Artificers' Works: Popkiss & Son, Brighton. Feltham, Reconstruction of "D" Hangar: J. B. Edwards & Son, London, W. Maidstone, Artificers' Works: Pickup & Earl, Maidstone. Sheerness, Artificers' Works: I. Allison & Son, Sheerness.

AIR MINISTRY.

Accumulators: Peto & Radford, London, S.W.—**Aircraft**: Gloster Aircraft Co., Ltd., Cheltenham.—**Aircraft, All Metal Fuselage for**: A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Newton Heath, Manchester.—**Aircraft, Alterations to**: Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge, Surrey.—**Aircraft Braking Arrangements**: Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—**Aircraft, Floats for**: Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—**Aircraft, Modification of**: Handley Page, Ltd., London, N.W.; Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil.—**Aircraft, Modifications to**: Gloster Aircraft Co., Ltd., Cheltenham.—**Aircraft, Reconditioning of**: Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; Short Bros. (Rochester & Bedford), Ltd., Rochester, Kent; Supermarine Aviation Co., Ltd., Woolston, Southampton; Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge.—**Aircraft, Spares**: Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Parkside, Coventry; Blackburn Aeroplane & Motor Co., Ltd., Olympia, Leeds; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—**Aircscrews and Cases**: D. M. Davies (Holloway), Ltd., Slough.—**Aircscrews, Metal, and Cases**: Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—**Asbestos-protected Sheets**: Wolverhampton Corrugated Iron Co., Ltd., Ellesmere Port, near Birkenhead.—**Balloons, Pilot, Rubber**: Chas. Macintosh & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Buildings and Works Services**: Accommodation (Halton): H. J. & A. Wright, Ltd., Great Missenden. Aeroplane Shed (Novar): Glasgow Steel Roofing Co., Ltd., Possilpark, Glasgow. Artificers Works (Calshot): A. E. Jukes & Son, Ltd., Southampton; (Croydon and Kenley): Pearce Bros., Bromley; (Duxford): Rice Bros. (Norwich), Ltd., Norwich; (Eastchurch): G. E. Wallis & Sons, Ltd., Gravesend; (Gosport): W. E. Chivers & Sons, Ltd., Devizes; (Halton): W. Laughton, Bedford; (Harlescott): W. Davies, Tenby; (Hawkinge): Pearce Bros., Bromley; (Henlow): W. Laughton, Bedford; (Lee-on-Solent): W. E. Chivers & Sons, Ltd., Devizes; (Manston): J. B. Sharman, Ltd., Ramsgate; (Uxbridge): W. S. Try, Cowley, Uxbridge. Cables, Underground Electric (Duxford): T. Clarke & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. External Services (Uxbridge): Ashford Builders Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Tracings and Colouring Photo Prints: A. West & Partners, London, S.W. Underground Cables (Hucknall): Cox, Walker & Partners, Darlington. Weighbridge (Martlesham Heath): Ashworth, Son & Co., Ltd., Dewsbury. W/T Transmitting Building (Pulham): Rice Bros., Ltd., Norwich.—**Camera Mountings, Aircraft**: Siebe, Gorman & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Carburettors and Spares**: D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Cars, Hire of**: F. Kidner & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Control Resistance and Voltmeter**: British Radio Corporation, Ltd., Weybridge.—**Dope Solvents**: Reckitt & Sons, Ltd., Hull.—**Engines, Aircraft**: Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engines, Aircraft, Reconditioning of**: D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engine, Aircraft, Spares**: Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Engine, Aircraft, Test on**: Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engine, Aircraft, Tool Kits for**: D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Magnetos**: Simms Motor Units, Ltd., London, W.—**Maintenance of Air Location Lights, Boundary Marking Lights and "T" Wind Indicators**: The Gas Accumulator Co., Ltd., Brentford.—**Parachute Spares**: Irving Air Chute of Great Britain, Ltd., Letchworth, Herts.—**Petrol Electric Cranes**: Ransomes & Rapier, Ltd., Ipswich.—**Plywood**: Aeronautical & Panel Plywood Co., Ltd., Crayford, Kent.—**Puttees**: Fox Bros. & Co., Ltd., Wellington, Somerset.—**Racks, Storage, Portable, Steel**: G. A. Harvey & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.E.—**Rolls Royce M.T. Spares**: Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Steel Drums**: P. D. Mitchell, Ltd., Dundee.—**Tubes**: Darlington Forge, Ltd., Darlington.

H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

Cardboards: Wiggins, Teape & A. Pirie (Sales), Ltd., Bucksburn, Aberdeenshire.—**Carbons**: Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Paper (of various descriptions)**: J. Brown & Co., Ltd., Penicuik, Midlothian; Alex. Cowan & Sons, Ltd., Penicuik, Midlothian; R. Craig & Sons, Ltd., Caldercruix, Lanarkshire; Darwen Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Lower Darwen, Lancs; Golden Valley Paper Mills, Bitton, near Bristol; King's Norton Paper Mills, Ltd., King's Norton, Birmingham; Wm. Nash, Ltd., St. Pauls Cray, Kent; New Northfleet Paper Mills, Ltd., Northfleet, Kent; Olives Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Bury, Lancs; Portals, Ltd., Ivybridge, Devon; R. Somerville & Co., Ltd., Taunton, Somerset.—**Printing, Ruling, Binding, etc.**: Scotland—Group 7 (1928), Glasgow Criminal Indictments: James Hedderwick & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow. Group 303 (1928), "The Meteorological Magazine," Metchim & Son, London, S.W. Group 304 (1928), Bookwork Printing, H.M. Stationery Office Press, Harrow and Hare Street. Group 305 (1928), Bookwork Printing: H.M. Stationery Office Press, Harrow. Group 306 (1928), Bookwork Printing: Harrison & Sons, Ltd., London, W.C. Group 309 (1928), Bookwork Printing: Wm. Clowes & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E. Group 310 (1928), Bookwork Printing: Wm. Clowes & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E. Printing and supplying Calendars for H.M. Prison, Birmingham: Birmingham Printers, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Tape**: J. North, Hardy & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—**Toilet Rolls**: The "Sanitas" Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Tracing Cloth**: B. J. Hall & Co., Ltd., Cheadle, Staffs; Winterbottom Book Cloth Co., Ltd., Manchester.

POST OFFICE.

Apparatus, Telephonic: Automatic Telephone Mfg. Co., Ltd., Liverpool; Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., Beeston, Notts; Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, N. or N.W.; Sterling Telephone & Electric Co., Ltd., Dagenham, Essex.—**Apparatus, Testing, Protective, and Miscellaneous**: British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Hackbridge Electric Construction Co., Ltd., Walton-on-Thames; Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, N. or N.W.; Telegraph Condenser Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Arms, Wood**: A. Bailey (Executors), Stone, Staffs; Calders, Ltd., London, S.E.; Neil Small & Sons, Kilwinning, Ayrshire.—**Beeswax**: Chas. Farris, London, E.C.—**Blocks, Wood**: A. Bailey (Executors), Stone, Staffs.—**Boxes, Service**: Venner Time Switches, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Cable, Various**: British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Prescott; Callender's Cable & Construction Co., Ltd., Leigh, Lancs; Connollys (Blackley), Ltd., Blackley; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown, Middlesex; W. T. Glover & Co., Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester; Hackbridge Cable Co., Ltd., Hackbridge, Surrey; W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.; Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.; Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton; Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, E.; Union Cable Co., Ltd., Dagenham Dock, Essex.—**Canvas, Flax**: Brookfield Linen Co., Ltd., Belfast.—**Castings, Joint Box**: Grahamston Iron Co., Ltd., Falkirk; United Steel Cos., Ltd. (Thos. Butlin & Co.), Wellingborough.—**Cells, Dry**: Fuller Accumulator Co. (1926), Ltd., Chadwell Heath, Essex; General Electric Co., Ltd., Witton, Birmingham.—**Chloride of Ammonia**: Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. (Messrs. Brunner Mond), Northwich, Cheshire.—**Clothing, Uniform**: J. Compton, Sons & Webb, Ltd., London, E., or Swindon; Day & Co., London, E.; D. Gurteen & Sons, Haverhill, Suffolk; Huggins, Son & Co., Ltd., Bristol; J. Hunter & Sons, Liverpool; Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Great Yarmouth; H. Lotery & Co., Ltd., London, E.; L. Silberston, London, E.; Jas. Smith & Co. (Derby), Ltd., Derby; Wathen, Gardiner & Co., Bristol; Wholesale Bespoke Tailoring Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Clothing, Waterproof**: Campbell, Achnach & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Geo. MacLellan & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Cords for Telephones**: British Insulated Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.; International Electric Co., Ltd., London, N.; Reliance Electrical Wire Co., London, E.C.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, E.—**Drill**: J. H. Greenhow & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Ducts**: Joseph Place & Sons, Ltd., Darwen.—**Date Stamps, To Engrave**: H. B. Sale, Ltd., Birmingham; Chas. Wright, Ltd., Edgware, Middlesex.—**Ironwork, Telegraphic**: Bullers, Ltd., Tipton, Staffs.—**Lamps**: A. C. Cossor, Ltd., London, N.—**Laundry Work**: Rogers & Cook, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Oil, Colza**: John L. Seaton & Co., Ltd., Hull.—**Oil Cylinder**: Price's Patent Candle Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Oil, Fuel**: British Petroleum Co., Ltd., Llandarcy, Swansea.—**Papers**: Samuel Jones & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., Dunstable and Watford.—**Rags**: I. and J. Hyman, Ltd., London, N.—**Ratchets and Tongs**: G. Plumpton & Co., Warrington.—**Sleeves, Paper**: Textile Paper Tube Co., Ltd., Romiley, near Stockport.—**Staples, Brass**: Tower Mfg. Co., Ltd., Worcester.—**Tents, Joiners'**: Adam & Lane & Neeve, Ltd., London, E.—**Tents, Joiners', to Repair**: J. Smith & Co. (London, E.), Ltd., London, E.—**Thread**: Blackstaff Flax Spinning & Weaving Co., Ltd., Belfast.—**Waste, Cotton**: Rostron & Co. (Darwen), Ltd., Darwen, Lancs.—**Wire, Copper, Enamelled**: Concordia Electric Wire Co., Ltd., New Sawley, near Nottingham.—**Wire, Copper, Hard Drawn**: Edison Swan Cables, Ltd., Lydbrook, Glos; E. & E. Kaye, Ltd., Ponders End, Middlesex; Nevill, Druce & Co., Ltd., Llanelly; The Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington.

Cable—Manufacture, Supply, Drawing-in, and Jointing: Beckenham—Addiscombe Junction: Callender's Cable & Construction Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Conduits, Laying**: Stepmey, etc.; Ilford, etc.; Richmond, etc.; Mountview Road, N.; Paleney Green (Hazelwood Lane); Maida Vale (Bronesbury Road, Donaldson Road, Willesden Lane, and Buckley Road): O. C. Summers, London, N. Hurstpier-

point and Rudgwick (Sussex); Blackmoor (Hants): W. H. Brown (Leatherhead), Ltd., Dorking. Croydon, etc.: A. Thomson & Co. (London), Ltd., London, W.C. City of London: J. Mowlem & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Beckenham—Addiscombe Junction; Streatham—West Norwood; Finchley, Holland Park: H. Farrow, Ltd., London, N.W. West Wittering (Sussex); Birdham and Sidlesham (Sussex): Fordyce Bros., Orpington, Kent. Colwyn Bay and Rhos-on-Sea; Dudley—Cradley Heath Junction: Moore & Rowley, Northfield, Birmingham. Millbrook (Cornwall); Modbury (Devon): S. Ambrose, Ltd., Bath. Streatham Common South—Streatham Station: J. E. Billings & Co., London, S.W. Gateshead Auto. Junction: H. E. Pitt, Ltd., Sunderland. Hebburn (Durham): E. E. Jeavons & Co., Ltd., Tipton, Staffs. Garston (Watford): W. Iles, Southend-on-Sea. Birmingham—Selly Oak; Halstead (Essex): J. F. Hodge, Rednal, Birmingham. Edinburgh (Murrayfield and Craigleith): Dobbie & Son, Leith. Leiston (Suffolk): May, Gurney & Co., Ltd., Norwich. Manchester Automatic (Kent Street—Higher Broughton): Norwest Construction Co., Ltd., Liverpool. Stamford (Lincs): Snaith and Goole (Yorks): W. P. & P. G. Hayes, Ltd., Grappenhall, Warrington. Colindale—Church Lane, N.W.; Vange (Essex); Nazeing: Hodge Bros. (Contractors), Ltd., Northfield, Birmingham. Belfast (South): J. McLaren, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne. Cardiff (N.E. and S.): H. Smith, Newport, Mon. Croydon (Scheme II): Greig & Matthews, London, E.C. Edinburgh, etc.: Fisher Bros., Edinburgh. St. Mellons: G. F. Leadbeter, Newport, Mon. Eaton (Norwich): J. J. Howes & Son, Norwich.—**Light**: East Croydon S.O.: Keighley Electrical Engineering Co., Ltd., Keighley.—**Power Plant**: Leafield Radio Station: Crompton Parkinson, Ltd., Chelmsford.—**Telephone Exchange Equipment**: Amherst: Automatic Telephone Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors: Newton Bros. (Derby), Ltd., Derby, for Machines; Alton Battery Co., Ltd., Alton, Hants, for Batteries. Fulham; Bridlington: Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors: Crompton Parkinson, Ltd., Chelmsford, for Machines; Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester, for Batteries. Purley: Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Moss Side (Manchester): General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry. Sub-Contractor: The D.P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell, Derbyshire, for Batteries. Southbourne (Bournemouth): General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry. Sub-Contractors: Crompton Parkinson, Ltd., Chelmsford, for Ringing Machines; Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester, for Batteries. Dudley; Stourbridge (Dudley Multi-Exchange Area): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-Contractors: English Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machines; Crompton Parkinson, Ltd., Chelmsford, for Ringing Machines; Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester, for Batteries. Brierley Hill (Dudley Multi-Exchange Area); Cradley Heath (Dudley Multi-Exchange Area): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-Contractors: English Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machines; W. Jones & Co., London, S.E., for Ringing Machines; Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester, for Batteries. Fleetwood; Manchester Corporation: Relay Automatic Telephone Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Voice-Frequency Telegraph Apparatus**: London Repeater Station (G.P.O. South); Leeds Repeater Station: General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Aluminium Sulphate: P. Spence & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Asbestos Cement Slates**: Bells, Poilite & Everite Co., London, S.E.—**Asbestos Cement Sheetting**: Turner Bros. Asbestos Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Axles**: Patent Shaft & Axletree Co., London, S.W.—**Bandages**: R. Bailey & Son, London, W.C.—**Beds**: Whitfield's Bedsteads, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Bituminous Solution**: J. Dampney & Co., Ltd., Gateshead-on-Tyne.—**Blankets**: T. & D. Lee & Sons, Dewsbury; Wormalds & Walker, Dewsbury.—**Blasting Powder**: Curtiss & Harvey, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Bogies**: Birmingham Railway Carriage & Wagon Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Boiler**: A. Anderson & Sons, Ltd., Motherwell.—**Boots**: Adams Bros., Raunds; Tebbutt & Hall, Ltd., Raunds; S. Walker, Walgrave, Northants.—**Cables**: Hooper's Telegraph & India Rubber Works, Ltd., London, E.C.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cars**: Sentinel Wagon Works, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Cement**: Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; T. Benyon & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Clothing**: T. Briggs, Ltd., London, E.C.; Hobson & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Coal**: H. C. Vivian & Co., Cardiff.—**Goal Tar**: Gas Light & Coke Co., London, E.C.—**Concrete Mixers**: Ransomes & Rapier, Ltd., Ipswich.—**Conversion of Gas Engine for Oil Fuel**: National Gas Engine Co., Ashton-under-Lyne.—**Copper Conductors**: R. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Manchester.—**Cotton Waste**: R. Garside, Ltd., Manchester; W. C. Jones, Ltd., Manchester; Redmayne & Isherwood, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Cranes**: Braithwaite & Co., Engineers, London, S.W.; Craven Bros. (Manchester), Ltd., Reddish, Stockport.—**Detonators**: Nobels Explosives, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Distemper**: The Dart Co. (Novoid), Ltd., London, E.C.—**Drill**: Fothergill & Harvey, Manchester; E. Spinner & Co., Manchester.—**Dust Exhausting Plant**: Taylor & Challan, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Electrical Equipment**: J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Filters**: Paterson Engineering Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Filtration Plant**: The Candy Filter Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Fire Hose**: F. Reddaway & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Fishbolts**: Nuts & Bolts (Darlaston), Darlaston.—**Generating Set**: Ruston & Hornsby, Ltd., Lincoln.—**Key Towers**: Callender's Cable & Construction Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Lamps**: Lamp Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Lead Wool**: Lead Wool Co., Ltd., Snodland, Kent.—**Linotype Machine**: Linotype & Machinery, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Liquaphalt**: Berry, Wiggins & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Lorry Chassis**: Associated Daimler Co., Ltd., Southall,

Middlesex.—**Mats**: Mitchells, Ashworth, Stansfield & Co., Ltd., Waterfoot, near Manchester.—**Metal**: Wm. Jacks & Co., London, E.C.—**Motor Launch**: J. I. Thornycroft & Co., London, S.W.—**Motor Rollers**: Barford & Perkins, Ltd., Peterborough.—**Oil**: Vacuum Oil Co., London, S.W.; C. C. Wakefield & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Paint**: Locke, Lancaster & W. R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; Torbay Paint Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Zocus Paint Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Paper**: J. Dickinson & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Reed & Smith, Ltd., London, E.C.; Spicers (Export), Ltd., London, E.C.; Wiggins, Teape & Alex. Pirie (Sales), Ltd., London, E.—**Phantophones**: Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Phosphor Bronze Tubes**: Phosphor Bronze Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Pipes**: Doulton & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Sheepbridge Coal & Iron Co., Sheepbridge, Chesterfield; Stanton Ironworks Co., Ltd., near Nottingham.—**Pumping Plant**: Worthington-Simpson, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Quinine**: Howard & Sons, Ltd., Ilford, near London.—**Rails and Fishplates**: The Cargo Fleet Iron Co., Middlesbrough; H. J. Skelton & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Rain Water Fittings**: McDowall, Steven & Co., London, E.C.—**Safes**: Milners' Safe Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Sanitary Fittings**: Burn Bros. (London), London, S.E.; Twyford, Ltd., Hanley.—**Santonium**: Arcos, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Serge**: Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., Buckfastleigh, Devon; J. Shaw & Sons, Ltd., Stainland, near Halifax.—**Signal Materials**: Tyers Signals, Ltd., London, E.; The Westinghouse Brake & Saxby Signal Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Sluice Gates**: Ham, Baker & Co., Ltd., Langley Green, near Birmingham.—**Static Transformers**: The Brush Electrical Engineering Co., Loughborough.—**Steelwork**: F. Braby & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Head, Wrightson & Co., Ltd., Thornaby-on-Tees; The Horsehay Co., Ltd., Horsehay, Salop; J. Lysaght, Ltd., London, E.C.; P. & W. Maclellan, Ltd., Glasgow; A. & J. Main & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Steel Doors**: The Crittall Manufacturing Co., London, W.C.—**Steel Poles**: British Mannesmann Tube Co., London, E.C.—**Steel Sheets**: The Wolverhampton C.I. Co., Ellesmere Port, near Birkenhead.—**Steel Sleepers**: Bolckow, Vaughan & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; The United Steel Co., Ltd., Workington.—**Steel Sleeper Keys**: Anderston Foundry Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Survey Material**: S. C. & P. Harding, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Switchgear**: Electric Control, Ltd., Bridgeton, Glasgow.—**Switches and Crossings**: Isea Foundry Co., Ltd., Newport, Mon.—**Telegraph Line Materials**: J. Spencer, Ltd., Wednesbury.—**Telephone Materials**: Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Timber**: C. Leary & Co., London, E.C.—**Tools**: V. & R. Blake-more, London, E.C.; Wm. Hunt & Sons, The Brades Steelworks, near Birmingham.—**Train Control Apparatus**: Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Trucks**: Metropolitan Carriage & Wagon & Finance Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; H. C. Slingsby, London, W.C.—**Tubing**: Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Tug**: Philip & Son, Dartmouth.—**Turbine Wheels**: Fraser & Chalmers (Engineering Works), Erith, Kent.—**Tyres**: Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Steel Company of Scotland, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Underframes**: Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagon Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Vaccine**: Genatosan, Ltd., Loughborough, Leicestershire.—**Wagon Ironworks**: Tees Side Bridge & Engineering Works, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Weighing Machines**: W. & T. Avery, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Winch**: The British Steel Piling Co., London, S.W.—**Winget Mixers**: Winget (1924), Ltd., London, S.W.—**Wire**: The London Electric Wire Co. & Smiths, Ltd., London, E.C.

H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS.

Building Works: Aldridge, Walsall, Telephone Exchange—Erection: Letts & Airston, Walsall. Bearwood, Birmingham, Telephone Exchange—Repairs, etc.: J. E. Harper & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham. Birmingham, P.O. Stores Depot—Slater: Ellis, Partridge & Co., Ltd., Leicester. Blackpool, South Shore P.O., etc.—Asphalter: Limmer & Trinidad Lake Asphalte Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Flooring: Diespeker & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Plasterer: W. Rimmer & Son, Blackpool; Steelwork: T. Blackburn & Sons, Ltd., Preston; Stonework, etc.: Pearson Bros., & Campbell, Ltd., Liverpool. Boughton Monchelsea, Maidstone, Telephone Exchange—Asphalter: French Asphalte Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Steelwork: Redpath, Brown & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh. Bramhall, Stockport, Telephone Exchange—Erection: Mark Lane & Co., Ltd., Stockport. Bristol, Central Telephone Exchange—Asphalter: Ragusa Asphalte Paving Co., Ltd., Bristol. Bute Docks, Cardiff, Employment Exchange—Asphalter: The Western Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd., Cardiff. Canford Cliffs, Bournemouth, Telephone Exchange—Erection: R. J. Bishop, Parkstone. Christchurch Telephone Exchange—Erection: Bryant & Trowbridge, Christchurch. Cobham P.O., etc.—Plasterer: A. Russell, Esher. Connah's Quay, Chester, Telephone Exchange—Erection: T. G. Huxley & Co., Chester; Steelwork: Guy & Co., Liverpool. Crewe P.O., etc.—Mason: Henry Harding & Sons, Nantwich. Cromer Coastguard Station—Alterations: J. Balls & Sons, Great Yarmouth. Dollis Hill, Cricklewood, N.W., P.O. Laboratory—Erection: Triangular Construction Co., Ltd., E. Molesey. Fulham, S.W., Telephone Exchange—Glazier: W. H. Garmston & Co., London, S.E. Gloucester—Maintenance Work: W. T. Nichols, Ltd., Gloucester. Gourdon, Montrose, Coastguard Station—Erection of Cottages: A. Adamson, Laurence-kirk. G.P.O., E.C.—Mezzanine Floor: E. D. Winn & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Heywood Employment Exchange—Asphalter: Limmer & Trinidad Lake Asphalte Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Painter: Bentley & Pullen, Bury; Plasterer: Lomax & Ormerod, Tottington; Plumber, etc.: G. Brown & Son, Tottington; Slater: R. Ratledge & Sons, Bury; Steelwork: J. Webb & Sons, Ltd., Bury. Horsham P.O., etc.—Steelwork: Redpath, Brown & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh. London District—Maintenance Work: John Mowlem & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Loughton, Essex, Branch P.O.,

etc.—Erection: H. J. & A. Wright, Ltd., Great Missenden. Morecambe, Lancs., P.O., etc.—Steelwork: Edward Wood & Co., Ltd., Manchester. Newcastle-on-Tyne, Ministry of Pensions Hospital—Painter, etc.: J. Denton, Gateshead; Plasterer: J. R. Buchan, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Plumber: M. Aynsley & Sons, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne. Petersfield P.O., etc.—Alterations, etc.: H. J. & A. Wright, Ltd., Great Missenden; Asphalter: The London Asphalte Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Concrete Steps, etc.: Malcolm Macleod & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Flooring: Hollis Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, W.; Roofing: Permanite, Ltd., London, E.; Steelwork: A. D. Dawney & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W. Princes Risborough, Bucks., Research Station—Erection of Laboratory, etc.: Webster & Cannon, Aylesbury. Redhill Station Sorting Office—Extension: J. Crewdson, Horley. Skegness, Lincs., P.O., etc.—Erection: F. W. Atkinson & Son, Brigg. Southbourne, Bournemouth, Telephone Exchange—Asphalter: Ragusa Asphalte Paving Co., Ltd., London, W.; Joiner: The Parkstone Joinery Co., Parkstone. Southend, Campbeltown, Coastguard Cottages—Erection: Neil McArthur, Campbeltown. South Kensington, S.W., Science Museum—Plasterer: A. Marton, London, E.C. Trafford Park, Manchester, Telephone Exchange—Extension: J. Gerrard & Sons, Ltd., Manchester. Upminster, Essex, Telephone Exchange—Fixing Steelwork: J. Green, Westcliff-on-Sea.—**Engineering Services**: Newcastle-on-Tyne, Ministry of Pensions Hospital—Heating, etc.: James Combe & Son, Ltd., London, S.W. Sutton Telephone Exchange—Heating, etc.: James Combe & Son, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Miscellaneous**: Casements (Steel), etc.: The Battle Steel Window Co., Battle; The Crittall Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Williams & Williams, Ltd., Chester. Chimney Sweeping: J. Hutchins, London, N.W.; The Westminster Chimney Sweeping Co., London, S.W. Furniture (Domestic and Office): Milners' Safe Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; B. North & Sons, West Wycombe; Wake & Dean, Ltd., Yatton. Kerosene, etc.: Anglo-American Oil Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Shell-Mex, Ltd., London, W.C. Rags: James Hargreaves, Bacup. Road Materials: The Carreg-y-Llam Quarries, Ltd., London, S.W.; H. Sabey & Co., Ltd., London, W. Screens (Wooden): W. E. Chivers & Sons, Ltd., Devizes. Steel Bars, etc. The United Strip & Bar Mills, Ltd., Sheffield. Window Cleaning: The Great Metropolitan Cleaning Co., Ltd., London, S.W.

H.M. PRISON COMMISSION.

Bacon (one year): J. F. Percival, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Dowlas Warps** (six months): Blackstaff Flax Spinning & Weaving Co., Ltd., Belfast.—**Dowlas Weft** (six months): Boyle & Son, Leeds.—**Drugs and Sundries** (one year): Willows, Francis, Butler & Thompson, Ltd., London, E.—**Hearthrug Weft** (six months): Jas. France & Co., Dewsbury.—**Margarine** (one year): Maypole Margarine Works, Ltd., Southall, Middlesex.—**Meat** (one year): J. H. Dewhurst, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Milk** (six months): London Wholesale Dairies, Ltd., London, W.—**Oatmeal** (one year): Jas. Procter & Son, Ltd., Liverpool; G. T. Cox & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Sheeting Warps** (six months): Wright Sutcliffe, Ltd., Todmorden.—**Thread, W.B.** (one year): Wm. Barbour & Sons, Ltd., Hilden, Lisburn, Ireland.—**Uniform Boots** (one year): Wilkins & Denton (London), Ltd., London, E.C.—**Uniform Caps** (one year): Army & Navy Mfg. Works, Ltd., London, E.—**Uniform Cloth** (one year): J. Hainsworth & Sons, Farsley, near Leeds; Colbeck Bros., Alverthorpe Mills, near Wakefield; A. W. Hainsworth & Sons, Farsley, near Leeds; Jas. Harper & Sons, Eccleshill, Bradford; W. & T. Huggan, Bramley, Leeds.—**Uniform (Making-up)** (three years): Rego Clothiers, Ltd., London, E.—**Waterproof Coats** (one year): North British Rubber Co., Ltd., London, W.

COMMISSIONERS OF CROWN LANDS.

New Carthouse Stable, with Chaff House and Hay House. Conversion of Open Sheds into Milking Sheds. Conversion of Stable and Chaff House into Cowhouse. Alterations to Bull Pens and Alterations to Piggeries, "Roundway Farm," Bishop's Cannings, Wilts: A. J. Box, St. Edith's Marsh, Bromham, Chippenham.—**Repairs to Queen's Drive, Esher, Surrey**: Stephen Kavanagh & Co., Surbiton Hill, Surrey.

METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Black Woollen Gloves: The Overhand Glove Co., Leicester.

MINISTRY OF PENSIONS.

Jam and Marmalade: Barnes & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Margarine**: English Margarine Works, Ltd., Broad Green, near Liverpool.

BOARD OF CONTROL.

Fish: R. Pearson, Grimsby.

NOTICE.

The "MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE" is published on or about the 18th of each month, price 6d. net. The annual subscription (post free) is 7s.

The Publishers (to whom should be addressed all communications concerning subscriptions and sales) are H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and branches (see Cover).

PRINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, LTD., HIS MAJESTY'S PRINTERS, EAST HARDING STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.