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

EMPLOYMENT.

DURING the first half of June there was a decline in employment, the Whitsun holiday stoppages being extended in many cases. In the latter half of the month, however, there was a recovery, and at the end of June the numbers of workpeople unemployed were about the same as at the end of May.

Among the 11,500,000 workpeople insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed at 23rd June, 1924, was 9·4, compared with 9·5 at 26th May, 1924, and with 11·3 in June, 1923. Among members of Trade Unions from which returns were received the percentage unemployed was 7·2 at the end of June, 1924, compared with 7·0 at the end of May, 1924. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which was approximately 1,022,000 at 26th May, rose to 1,052,000 at 16th June, but fell again to 1,015,000 at 30th June.

Employment was good in the tinsplate and steel sheet, carpet, jute, and brick trades, and with millsawyers, coachbuilders, and skilled workmen in the building trades; it was fairly good in the coal mining industry and in certain branches of the metal and clothing trades; and fair in the printing and furnishing trades. In some other large industries, however, including iron and steel manufacture, engineering, shipbuilding, and the cotton trade, it continued slack.

As compared with the previous month a decline was reported in coal mining and in the wool textile industry, but there was some improvement in the engineering and shipbuilding industries.

WAGES.

There was a further rise in wages, on the whole, during June. In the industries for which statistics are available, the changes in rates of wages reported resulted in an aggregate increase of nearly £103,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 595,000 workpeople and in an aggregate reduction of £11,000 in those of over 150,000 workpeople.

There was an increase of 1s. per day, or 6d. per half-day, in the wages of dock labourers; seamen, firemen, etc., in the merchant shipping service obtained increases of 10s. or 15s. on monthly rates and of 2s. 6d. to 3s. 3d. on weekly rates; the majority of shipyard workers in the principal shipbuilding centres received advances amounting to 3s. a week in the case of piece-workers and the higher-paid time-workers, with smaller amounts in the case of lower-paid time-workers. Other workers whose wages were increased included iron puddlers and millmen in the Midlands and the West of Scotland, heavy chemical workers, flour mill operatives, and brick-makers in various districts.

The principal groups of workpeople whose rates of wages were reduced included coal miners in North-

umberland, who sustained a decrease of about 3 per cent. on current rates; hosiery workers in the Midlands, whose wages were reduced by 5 per cent.; iron ore miners in Cumberland, steel sheet millmen, and chainmakers.

During the first six months of 1924 the changes reported to the Department have resulted in net increases equivalent to about £580,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 2,900,000 workpeople and in net reductions of £23,000 in the weekly wages of 317,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1923 there were net reductions of nearly £390,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 2,700,000 workpeople and net increases of over £110,000 in the weekly wages of 800,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st July the average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous items) was approximately 70 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 69 per cent. both a month ago and a year ago. The rise in the percentage since 31st May was due to small increases in the prices of several of the principal articles of food, the average increase over the pre-war level for food only being 62 per cent. at 1st July, as compared with 60 per cent. at 31st May.

The statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families. Accordingly, in making the calculations, the changes in the prices of the various items included are combined in proportions corresponding with the relative importance of these 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 June was 57. In addition, 35 disputes which began before June were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in June (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 50,000, as compared with 36,000 in the previous month. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during June was about 356,000 working days, as compared with 398,000 days in May.

During the first six months of 1924 the stoppages of work owing to trade disputes, so far as reported to the Department, have involved approximately 390,000 workpeople, as compared with 256,000 workpeople involved in disputes in the first six months of last year. The aggregate duration of the stoppages in January to June, 1924, has been over 3,300,000 working days, as compared with about 4,400,000 days in the corresponding period of 1923.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and (except as regards coal mining) 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 and females, of adults and juveniles, and of skilled and unskilled workers in the respective industries.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry during June was fairly good generally, but showed a decline as compared with the previous month. The decline was partly seasonal, owing to a smaller demand for house coal and partly due to a decrease in the export trade.

The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 26th June showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. as compared with that at 24th May, but showed an increase of 2.0 per cent. as compared with that at 23rd June, 1923.

The average number of days worked per week for the fortnight ended 28th June was 5.07, a decrease of 0.24 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 24th May and 0.50 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 23rd June, 1923.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 4.7 at 23rd June, as compared with 3.0 at 26th May.

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 28th June, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals :—

Table with columns: Districts, Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at (28th June, 1924), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a (Month ago, Year ago), Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines* (Fortnight ended 28th June, 1924), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a (Month ago, Year ago). Rows include ENGLAND AND WALES, SCOTLAND, and GREAT BRITAIN.

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 28th June, 1924, was 0.69 of a day, of which 0.60 of a day was lost through transport difficulties and want of trade. The figures for the fortnight ended 24th May, 1924, were 0.46 of a day lost, of which 0.40 of a day was lost through transport difficulties and want of trade; for the fortnight ended 23rd June, 1923, the average time lost was 0.19 of a day, of which 0.14 of a day was due to transport difficulties and want of trade. The average non-winding time for each of the three periods under review was about one-quarter of a day per week.

The output of coal for Great Britain for the four weeks ended 28th June, 1924 (including the Whitsun holidays), was returned to the Mines Department at 18,699,300 tons, as compared with 21,999,600 tons in the four weeks ended 24th May, and with 22,620,600 tons in the four weeks ended 23rd June, 1923.

The exports of coal, including coal shipped for the use of steamers engaged in the foreign trade, and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 6,518,279 tons in June, compared with 7,413,538 tons in May.

* 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.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

Iron Mining.

IN the Cleveland district employment was bad and slightly worse than in May. In Cumberland and Lancashire the numbers employed in June showed a very considerable decrease compared with the previous month and a year ago, in consequence of the closing down of certain mines; employment in these districts was very slack. In other areas employment was fair.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in iron-ore and ironstone mining and quarrying, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 21.3 on 23rd June as compared with 21.8 on 26th May.

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

Table with columns: Districts, Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns (Fortnight ended 28th June, 1924), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with (Month ago, Year ago), Average No. of Days* worked per week by the Mines (Days, Days, Days), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with (Month ago, Year ago). Rows include Cleveland, Cumberland and Lancashire, Other Districts, and ALL DISTRICTS.

Shale Mining.

Employment remained fair at shale mines. At mines employing 4,145 workpeople in the fortnight ended 28th June, there was an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the numbers employed as compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 4.6 per cent. compared with June, 1923. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines was 6.00 in June, 1924, 5.99 in May, 1924, and 5.90 in June, 1923.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during June continued slack. The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 13.5 at 23rd June, 1924, compared with 13.8 at 26th May, 1924.

Returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers from 83 firms, employing 22,155 workpeople, at the end of June, showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. compared with the number employed at the end of May.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of June, as shown by returns collected by the Federation, was 185, compared with 191 at the end of May and 222 at the end of June, 1923.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in blast :—

Table with columns: District, Total Number of Furnaces (June 1924, May 1924, June 1923), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in June on a (Month ago, Year ago). Rows include ENGLAND AND WALES, SCOTLAND, and Total.

The production of pig iron in June amounted to 607,800 tons, as compared with 650,900 tons in May and 692,900 tons in June, 1923.

* See note* in previous column.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in the iron and steel trades continued slack, on the whole, during June.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 18.7 on 23rd June, as compared with 16.8 on 26th May.

According to returns from firms employing 76,087 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 23th June (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed at each works, combined with the number of shifts* during which work was carried on in each case) decreased by 1.7 per cent. as compared with May, and by 2.6 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The average number of shifts during which the works were open was 5.3 in the week ended 28th June, as compared with 5.4 in the week ended 24th May, and 5.3 a year ago.

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

Table with columns: DEPARTMENTS, No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns (Week ended 28th June, 1924), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with (Month ago, Year ago), Aggregate number of Shifts Worked* (Week ended 28th June, 1924), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with (Month ago, Year ago). Rows include DEPARTMENTS, DISTRICTS, Total, England and Wales, and Scotland.

The production of steel ingots and castings, as returned by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 651,500 tons in June, as compared with 809,700 tons in May, and 767,700 tons in June, 1923.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued good during June, and there was an increase in the number of mills in operation. At the end of the month 548 tinplate and steel sheet mills were reported to be in operation at the works for which information is available, as compared with 539† in May and 527 at the end of June, 1923.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 2.7 on 23rd June, compared with 2.9 on 26th May.

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

Table with columns: Works, Number of Works Open (At end of June, 1924), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a (Month ago, Year ago), Number of Mills in Operation (At end of June, 1924), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a (Month ago, Year ago). Rows include Tinplate, Steel Sheet, and TOTAL.

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in June, 1924, amounted to 101,627 tons, or 24,871 tons less than in May, 1924, but 3,590 tons more than in June, 1923.

* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the works were in operation, allowance being made for the numbers of men employed. No account is taken of the time lost by individuals owing to absenteeism, etc., and it is not implied that the number of shifts were actually worked by all the men employed.

† Revised figure.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was still bad during June, but continued to show an upward trend. It remained good in the motor and cycle section and fairly good in the electrical section. In railway engineering there was a tendency towards slackening, though employment in this section was fairly good on the whole. In marine and general engineering it remained bad, and in textile machinery manufacture it was still very depressed, but in all these sections it continued slowly to improve.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 23rd June, 1924, and the increase or decrease as compared with 26th May, 1924 :—

Table with columns: Divisions, Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 23rd June, 1924 (Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Marine Engineering, etc.), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 26th May, 1924. Rows include London, South Eastern, etc., and Males/Females.

Percentage Unemployed at 23rd June, 1924.

Table with columns: Divisions, Percentage Unemployed at 23rd June, 1924 (Engineering, Electrical Engineering, etc.), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 26th May, 1924. Rows include London, South Eastern, etc., and Males/Females.

On the North-East Coast employment remained very bad, but continued to improve, especially in marine engineering; in locomotive engineering employment was fair. In Yorkshire the upward tendency continued, and at some centres employment was moderate, though at Leeds it was still slack. Pattern makers at Sheffield and Halifax and printing machinery makers at Otley were busy. Employment in Lincolnshire, although still bad at the principal centres, showed signs of further improvement; at Peterborough it was fairly good.

In Lancashire and Cheshire employment was still bad, but showed a further improvement on the whole. In the textile machinery section an improvement was shown, though much short time was still reported. In the motor section continued activity was reported; but in the locomotive section some slackening was observed, though employment remained fair.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district employment in the motor and cycle industries continued good. In general engineering employment was very moderate, with short time on heavy engineering work; in the locomotive and electrical sections employment was fairly good. At Nottingham motor and cycle makers were still busy; but in the textile machinery section, although a little improvement was shown, employment was still slack, with short time. At Derby employment remained fair on the whole; a decline was reported in the locomotive section, but an improvement in the motor section. At Leicester and Newark conditions remained fair.

Some improvement continued to be shown in the Eastern Counties, but employment remained quiet on the whole; at Norwich and Chelmsford, however, it was fair. In the London district employment continued moderate on the whole, and showed a further improvement; on motor, aircraft and electrical work it was fairly good. In the Southern Counties the locomotive, motor and aircraft sections continued well employed.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, and the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on 23rd June, 1924.

Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, substantially all persons, except outworkers and persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, must be insured against unemployment.

The statistics take account only of persons insured under the Acts. Such persons number approximately 11,500,000 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Every insured person claiming unemployment benefit must lodge his unemployment book at an Employment Exchange when making a claim.

lodge his unemployment book at an Employment Exchange when making a claim. It is possible therefore to obtain from a count of the lodged books a record of unemployment in insured trades.

(a) Insured persons unemployed and in receipt of benefit; (b) Insured persons not in receipt of benefit, but known to be unemployed by reason of their maintaining registration at an Employment Exchange or otherwise;

Concurrently with the exchange of insurance books in the middle of July last opportunity was taken to revise the classification of insured workpeople so as to bring it, so far as practicable, into conformity with the industrial grouping adopted in connection with the 1921 census of population.

Insured persons who have lost their employment owing to a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at the premises at which they were employed (who are not generally eligible for benefit), and persons who were not at work owing to sickness, are not included amongst the numbers unemployed.

NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1923, NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 23RD JUNE, 1924, PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD JUNE, 1924, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) AS COMPARED WITH 26TH MAY, 1924.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.—continued.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1923, NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS REMAINING LODGED AT 23RD JUNE, 1924, PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 23RD JUNE, 1924, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) AS COMPARED WITH 26TH MAY, 1924.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JUNE, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
MINING AND QUARRYING—(continued).				
Coal Mining— <i>contd.</i>	Radstock ...	1 May	Workpeople (both underground and surface) employed in or about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Increase of 13.11 per cent. on the standard base rates of 1918, making wages 55.08 per cent. above the standard of 1918.
	Newbury ...	1 May	Workpeople (both underground and surface) employed in or about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Increase of 13.55 per cent. on the standard base rates of 1918, making wages 35.55 per cent. above the standard of 1918.
Coke and By-Products	Cumberland ...	1 May	Cokemen and by-product workers	Increase of 14.44 per cent. on the standard base rates, making wages 44.44 per cent. above the standard, and subsistence wages and allowance previously fixed increased by one-eighth, making subsistence allowance for male workers, 21 years and over, 7s. 5.44d. per shift; 18 years to 21 years, 7s. 0.38d. per shift (with a maximum daily allowance of 3.375d.).
	Cumberland ...	9 June	Iron ore miners ... Winding enginemen ... Other underground and surface workers	Decrease* of 1d. per shift in the bargain price (10s. 2d. to 10s. 1d.), and of 1d. per shift in the minimum wage (7s. 6d. to 7s. 5d.). Decrease* of 3d. per shift (8s. 10½d. to 8s. 9½d.). Decrease* of 2d. per shift for men and 3d. per shift for boys under 16 years. Rates after change: underground 1st class or leading labourers, 6s. 5d. per shift; joiners, 9s. 2d. per shift, plus 6d. per shift tool money; blacksmiths, 9s. 2d. per shift.
Iron Mining, etc.	South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire	21 May†	Miners and surface workers in fireclay, etc., mines	Increase of 8d. per shift for pikemen, and 6d. per shift for surface workers and other underground men.
Fireclay Mining	West Cumberland	9 June	Limestone quarrymen ...	Decrease* of 3d. per shift for blacksmiths and joiners, of 3d. per shift for other men, and of 3d. per shift for boys under 16 years. Rates after change: knotters, 8s. 3¼d. per shift; haulage enginemen, 8s. 4¼d.; blacksmiths and joiners, 8s. 8d.; day borers, 1st class, 8s. 2¼d.; day labourers, 7s. 6¼d.; ruddmen, 7s. 0¼d.
	West Lancashire ...	8 May	Freestone, sandstone and grit-stone quarrymen	Increase of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: masons, 1s. 5½d. per hour; rock getters, 1s. 4¼d.; skilled labourers, 1s. 1½d.; unskilled labourers, 1s. 0¼d.
Quarrying	Macclesfield ...	1 Feb.	Quarrymen, rock getters and sawyers	Increase of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: quarrymen and rock getters, 1s. 4¼d. per hour; sawyers, 1s. 3¼d.
	Morley and District	2 May	Freestone, sandstone, etc., quarryworkers	Increase of 1d. per hour.
Bristol ...	Feb.	Banker masons, etc., in pen- nant stone quarries	Further increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: quarrymen, 1s. 5d. per hour; labourers, 1s. 2d.	
	Cornwall ...	1 May	Granite quarryworkers ...	Increase of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: free-stone masons, Grade A, 1s. 7¼d. per hour; banker masons (rough street work), 1s. 5½d.; quarrymen, 1s. 2½d.; labourers, 1s. 0¼d.
Aberdeen and Kernay District	27 May	Granite quarryworkers:— Piecemen (setmakers) ... Timeworkers ...	Increase of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: masons, 1s. 3½d. per hour; labourers, 11½d.	
	17 June	Decrease† of 4d. per ton. Decrease† of ½d. per hour.		
BRICK, POTTERY, GLASS, CHEMICAL, ETC., TRADES.				
Certain districts in England and Wales§	1st full pay after 6 June	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of common and facing bricks, glazed bricks and terra-cotta roofing tiles, drain and conduit pipes, fire bricks, and enamelled sanitary fireclay goods:— Male timeworkers 21 years and over	Increase of 4s. per full ordinary week, leaving a minimum advance of 25s. per full ordinary week over pre-war rates, and a minimum rate of 46s. per full ordinary week.	
	1st full pay after 6 June	Male timeworkers 18 and under 21 years	Increase of 3s. per full ordinary week, leaving a minimum advance of 24s. 6d. per full ordinary week over pre-war rates.	
Brickmaking	North Staffordshire	27 June	Female timeworkers 18 years of age and over Boys and girls under 18 years	Increase of 2s. 6d. per full ordinary week.
	Stourbridge, Dudley, Brierley Hill, Kingswinford, Lye and Rowley Regis	11 June	Piecemen ... Red and blue brick and tile makers:— Timeworkers ...	Wages to be adjusted locally, having regard to the increases granted to adult workers and to the rates of wages of the boys and girls concerned. Increases equivalent to those granted to timeworkers. Increase of 4s. per week for men 21 years and over, 3s. per week for men 18 and under 21 years, 2s. 6d. per week for women 18 and over, and 2s. per week for boys and girls. Increase of 7½ per cent.
Glassworking	Scotland	1st pay week be- ginning after 11 June	Piecemen ... Workpeople employed in the brick industry:— Male workers ...	Increase of 4s. per full ordinary week for timeworkers and piecemen 21 years and over, of 3s. per week for those 18 and under 21 years, and of 1s. 6d. per week for dayworkers under 18 years. Minimum rates after change: labourers, 46s.; brickmakers, 59s. 6d.
	Belfast ...	1 May	Female workers ... Brickmakers ...	Increase of 2s. 6d. per full ordinary week for timeworkers and piecemen 18 years and over, of 1s. 6d. per week for dayworkers under 18 years, and of 2s. 6d. per week for piecemen under 18 years working in setting, drawing, and loading gangs. Minimum rate after change at 18 years and over, 28s. 6d. Increases for timeworkers of 4s. per full ordinary week for men 21 and over, 3s. for men 18 and under 21 years, 2s. 6d. for women 18 and over, and 2s. per week for boys and girls under 18, and proportionate increases for piecemen. Increase of 2d. per hour. Rates after change: glaziers, 1s. 9d.; decorative glass workers, 1s. 10d.

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices.

† The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.

‡ The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.

§ The increase took effect as the result of a decision of the Industrial Court (No. 923, see page 269) to which the Operatives' side and the Employers' side of the Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee for the Clay Industries were parties. The increase did not apply to certain districts including Sheffield, Nottingham, Peterborough, Birmingham, Bridgwater, Stourbridge district and North Staffs., nor to stock brickmakers (mainly in Kent).

|| The increase took effect as the result of an arrangement made between the Scottish Employers' Council for the Clay Industries and the Trade Unions concerned.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JUNE, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
BRICK, POTTERY, GLASS, CHEMICAL, ETC., TRADES—(continued).				
Heavy Chemical Manu- facture	England and Wales*	beginning of 1st full pay period after 4 June	Adult workpeople employed in the manufacture of heavy chemicals (except those whose wages are regulated by move- ments in other trades)	Increases for timeworkers of 5d. and 4d. per day or shift for adult male and female workers respectively, and of proportionate amounts for piecemen. Mini- mum rates after change for male workers: day- workers, 1s. per hour, plus 5d. per day; process workers, 1s. 1½d. per hour, plus 5d. per shift.†
	London ...	6 May	Plumbers employed in chemical and fertiliser works	Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 9½d. to 1s. 10d.)‡
Iron and Steel Manu- facture	England and Wales	9 June	Steel sheet millmen ...	Decreases of 4 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 66 per cent. above the standard of 1891.
	North-East Coast of England	12 May	Bricklayers' labourers employed at blastfurnaces and in iron and steel works	Basic rate increased to 8¼d. per hour. Total rate after change (including sliding scale addition), 11.53d. per hour.
Midlands and part of South York- shire and South Lancashire	9 June	Iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen	Increase of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 62½ per cent. above the standard.	
	Barrow-in-Furness	9 June	Non-scale workers employed in iron and steel works	War bonus increased by 6d. per week for men, 3d. per week for youths 18 to 21 years, and 1½d. per week for boys under 18 years.
West of Scotland	2 June	Wire and hoop millmen ... Iron puddlers and millmen ...	Increase of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 62½ per cent. above the standard. Increase of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 60 per cent. above the standard.	
ENGINEERING, SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.				
Engineering, etc.	London ...	1st full pay day in Feb.	Fully skilled tradesmen em- ployed in War Department Establishments¶	Increase of 6s. per week in war advances.
	London ...	1st full pay day in Feb.	Semi-skilled and unskilled workers employed by War Department	Increase of 3s. per week for those workpeople in receipt of engineering war advances whose "all in" wages were 44s. to 56s. per week, of 2s. per week for those whose "all in" wages were 46s. 6d. to 50s. per week, and 1s. 6d. per week for those whose "all in" wages were 50s. 6d. to 57s. 6d. per week.
Scotland ...	1st full pay period after 23 June	Blacksmiths employed in run- ning sheds of London, Mid- land and Scottish and London and North-Eastern Railways	Rate fixed at 2s. per week in excess of the standard weekly rates determined by Decision No. 728 of the Industrial Court. (See Decision No. 933 of the Indus- trial Court on page 269.)	
Southampton ...	23 April	Men (excluding boilermakers) employed on ship repair work	Increase of 3s. per week or 6d. per day.**	
North-East Coast, Hull, Southamp- ton, Cowes, Birkenhead, Barrow, Clyde and East of Scot- land	1st full pay after 14 June	Men employed in the shipbuild- ing and ship-repairing trade (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in some other industry)††	Increase† of 3s. per week for piecemen and for those timeworkers whose wages were reduced by amounts varying from 6s. to 10s. in the period 1st November, 1922, to 3rd January, 1923; timeworkers whose wages were reduced by less than 6s. but more than 3s. during the above period, to receive an increase represented by the difference between 3s. and their previous reduction; those men (chiefly labourers, etc.) whose wages were reduced by 3s. or under to receive no increase.	
London ...	2 June	Boiler scalers and ship scrapers	Increase of 6d. per day. Rate after change:—12s. per day, plus 1s. per day when worker provides own tools.	
London§§	June	Sailmakers ...	Increase of 1½d. per hour (1s. 5d. to 1s. 6½d.).	
Tyne, Wear and Tees	June	Sailmakers ...	Increase of 3s. per week. Rate after change: 1s. 1d. per hour.	
Hull ...	1st full pay after 14 June	Sailmakers ...	Increase of 3s. per week. Rates after change:—machine- men, 55s. 1d.; bench hands, 53s. 1d.	
Birmingham, Wol- verhampton, West Bromwich, Walsall and Dis- trict	14 June	Boiler scalers, ship painters, etc., employed by members of the Hull Shipping Labour Contractors' Association	Increase of 1s. per day. Rates after change:—boiler scalers, men employed on chipping, wire brushing, scraping and painting holds, etc., 11s.; engineroom men, 13s.; donkeymen, 14s. 6d.; skilled painters, 14s.	
Southampton ...	1st full pay in June	Boat builders ...	Increase of 3d. per hour or 3s. per week. Rate after change: 1s. 4¼d. per hour.	
Portsmouth ...	1st full pay after 14 June	Boiler scalers, men in black gangs and donkeymen (fire- men and trimmers)	Increase of 1s. per day (Monday to Friday) and 6d. per day (Saturday). Rates after change: boiler scalers and men in black gangs, Monday to Friday, 11s.; Sat- urday, 5s. 10d.; donkeymen (firemen), Monday to Fri- day, 14s. 6d.; Saturday, 7s. 9d.; donkeymen (trimmers), Monday to Friday, 14s.; Saturday, 7s. 6d.	
Clyde ...	Week ending 21 June	Mechanics employed in the shipbuilding, engineering, etc., trades (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in some other industry and those employed in H.M. Dockyards)	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: moulders, 51s.; other mechanics, 55s.	
Belfast ...	20 June	Sailmakers ...	Increase of 3s. per week (49s. 6d. to 52s. 6d.).	
			Men employed in the shipbuild- ing and ship-repairing trade (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in some other industry)	Increase of 3s. per week for piecemen and for those timeworkers whose wages were reduced by amounts varying from 6s. to 10s. in the period 1st January to 1st April, 1923; timeworkers whose wages were reduced by less than 6s. but more than 3s. during the above period to receive an increase repre- sented by the difference between 3s. and their pre- vious reduction; those men (chiefly labourers, etc.) whose wages were reduced by 3s. or under to receive no increase.

* The increases took effect under a decision of the Industrial Court to which the Employers' side and the Trade Union side of the Chemical Trade Joint Industrial Council were parties. (See Decision 925 on page 269).

† It is understood that in South Wales, while the minimum rate for process workers is as stated above, the rate for the majority of process workers is 1s. 2d. per hour (and upwards), plus 5d. per shift.

‡ Plumbers employed in fertiliser works receive ½d. per hour more, but are not paid for Bank Holidays.

§ This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices.

|| This change took effect under an agreement made between the Iron and Steel makers on the North-East Coast, members of the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association, and the "Altogether" Builders' Labourers' and Construction Workers' Society.

¶ Particulars of the change, so far as it affected mechanics, etc., at Woolwich, were published on page 178 of the May GAZETTE.

** The increase was granted by a Board of Arbitration (see page 270) who adjudged that men engaged on ship repair work at Southampton should receive the same extra rate as men similarly engaged at other federated ports.

†† Engineers were in most cases not affected by the change, except at Southampton and East Cowes.

‡‡ This change took effect under an Arbitration Award (see page 270) to which the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation was a party with various trade unions. A further increase of 4s. per week for those workpeople who sustained the full reduction of 10s. in the period 1st November, 1922, to 3rd January, 1923, is to take effect from the first full pay after 20th September. Other time workers whose wages were reduced by less than 10s. but more than 6s. per week are receiving advances of such smaller amounts than 4s. as will restore all but 3s. of the previous reductions.

§§ Certain firms—not associated.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JUNE, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
OTHER METAL TRADES.				
Galvanising	England and Wales*	9 June	Workpeople employed in galvanising departments (excluding process of annealing)	Decrease† of 4 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 66 per cent. above the standard.
Electrical Cable Making	Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Essex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire	3rd pay day in May	Workpeople employed in the electrical cable making industry (except plumber-jointers, etc.)	Decrease† of 1s. 6d. per week for men 21 years of age and over, of 1s. 2d. per week for youths 18 to 20 years, of 3d. per week for boys 14 to 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 being correspondingly reduced. Rates after change:—men 21 years and over, 52s. 11d. to 58s. 10d.; youths 18 to 20 years, 36s. 9d. to 44s. 7d.; boys 14 to 17 years, 14s. 2d. to 24s.; women 18 years and over, 27s. to 31s.; girls 14 to 17 years, 13s. 6d. to 18s.
	Great Britain, other than the above counties		Workpeople employed in making hand-hammered chain from iron up to and including 1/2 inch diameter	Decrease† of 5 per cent. on the general minimum time rates and piecework rates, as fixed under Trade Boards Acts at 1st November, 1923.
Chain Making	Great Britain ...	1 June	Workpeople employed in making drolled and tommied chain from iron No. 6 I.S.W.G. up to and including 1/2 inch diameter, and hand-hammered chain from iron 3/8-inch up to and including 1/2 inch diameter	Decrease† of 5 per cent. on general minimum time rates and piecework rates, as varied under Trade Boards Acts at 1 February, 1924.
	Cradley Heath and District and Pontypridd	1st pay day in June	Commercial endwelded, drolled and tommied chainmakers (except those whose wages are regulated by the Chain Trade Board), and cable shackle makers	Decrease† of 5 per cent. on list prices.
Farriery	Liverpool and Birkenhead	1 June	Anchor and grapnel makers ... Farriers ...	Decrease† of amounts varying from 2d. to 4d. per cut., according to size. Decrease† of 3d. per cut. Decrease† of 2s. per week. Rates after change: firemen, 72s. 6d.; doormen, 70s. 6d.
	TEXTILE TRADES.			
Hosiery Manufacture	Various districts in Midland Counties†	Pay day in week beginning 23 June	All classes of workpeople (except dyers, trimmers, finishers, etc.)	Bonus of 8d. in the 1s. on earnings decreased† to 7d. in the shilling.
Elastic Web Weaving	Leicester ...	23 April	Elastic web weavers (male workers)	Bonus reduced† from 15s. to 14s. in the pound.
Hosiery Bleaching, Dyeing and Finishing	Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Derby and Hinckley	28 June	Timeworkers ...	Decrease† of 2d. per hour for dyers, scourers and trimmers, 2d. per hour for menders, and for male and female auxiliary workers 18 and over, and proportionate decreases for auxiliary workers under 18. Rates after change: dyers and scourers, 1s. 2d.; trimmers, 1s. 5d.; auxiliary workers—Leicester, Loughborough and Hinckley—men, 18 to 21 2d., 21 and over, 1s. 1 1/2d.; women, 18 and over 8d.; qualified menders, 10d.
			Pieceworkers: Trimmers (other than web trimmers and jersey trimmers) Web trimmers and jersey trimmers Dyers, scourers, menders and other pieceworkers	Bonus of 60 per cent. on list prices previously paid reduced† to 50 per cent. Bonus of 40 per cent. on list prices previously paid reduced† to 32 1/2 per cent. Decrease† of 1s. in the £.
CLOTHING TRADES.				
Retail Bespoke Tailoring	London ...	23 May	Workpeople employed in the retail bespoke tailoring trade	Revised log adopted for riding breeches making and court breeches making, resulting in an increase of about 10s. or 11s. per week on this class of work. Bonus of 32 1/2 per cent. on piecework lists previously paid reduced† to 30 per cent. Increase in the general minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 1d. per hour. Minimum rates after change*: lappers, 1s. 4d., 1s. 2d.; measurers and sample makers, 1s. 4d., 1s. 2d. (See also pp. 228 and 229 of June GAZETTE.)
Felt Hat Making Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods	Atherstone and Bedworth Northern Ireland	5 June	Male pieceworkers employed in the felt hat making trade Male lappers, measurers, and sample makers who have served an apprenticeship of five years	Percentage deduction on rates existing at 1st October, 1921 (viz., pre-war rates plus 100 per cent.), reduced from 17 1/2 to 12 1/2.
Boot and Shoe Making and Repairing	London (West End)	11 June	Handsewn boot and shoe makers and repairers (pieceworkers)	
FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES.				
Baking and Confectionery	London ...	1st pay day in June	Adult male workers employed by members of the London Master Bakers' Protection Society	Increase of 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: adult male workers—forehands, 68s., 72s., 76s.; singlehands, 64s.; secondhands and dough-makers, 62s., 66s., 68s.; ovenmen, machine minders, stokers, etc., 63s.; tablehands, 60s.
	Various towns in Yorkshire††	Week ending 28 June	Adult male workers employed by private traders	Decrease† of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: forehands, 67s.; doughmakers and ovenmen, 62s.; tablehands, 57s.
	Leicester ...	1st pay day after 23 June	Adult male workers ... Youths and deliverers under 21	Decrease† of 3s. per week. Rates after change: ordinary bakeries—forehands, 65s.; singlehands and 2nd hands, 63s.; tablehands, 61s.; factories, 5s. per week more in each case. Decrease† of 1s. 9d., 2s. 3d. and 2s. 7d. for those of 18, 19 and 20 respectively. Rates after change: 18 years, 33s. 9d.; 19 years, 41s. 3d.; 20 years, 49s. 7d.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JUNE, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO TRADES—(continued).				
Baking and Confectionery—(cont.)	Armadale ...	12 May		Increase of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 74s.
	Coupar-Angus ...	1st pay day in May		Increase of 5s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 65s.
	Musselburgh, Gorebridge and Tranent Coatbridge ...	3 May	Bakers and confectioners ...	Increase of 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 75s.
	Paisley ...	1st pay day in May		Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 75s.
	Port Glasgow ...	1st pay day in May		Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 75s.
	West Calder ...	12 May		Increase of 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 72s. 6d.
Flour Milling	Great Britain†	1st full pay after 4 June	Workpeople employed in the flour milling industry (including motor lorry drivers, carriers and horse carmen, where previously included with mill employees):— Male workers 21 years and over	Increase of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 74s.
			Female workers 18 years and over	Increase of 2s. 6d. per week. Rates after change: Class A, 33s.; Class AA, 32s.; Class B, 31s.; Class BB, 30s.; Class C, 29s.
Pork Curing	Londonderry ...	1st pay after 10 June	Pork curers ...	Increase of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 50s.
Brewing	Accrington, Blackburn, Burnley, Brierfield, Barrow-in-Furness, Cloughfold, Haslingden, Waterfoot and Whittle Springs (certain firms)	27 June	Brewery workers ...	Increase of 4s. per week for men 19 years and over, 3s. per week for women, and of from 1s. to 2s. per week for youths. Rates after change: men 19 and over, 56s.; women, 38s.; youths, 18s. at 14 to 15 years, increasing to 29s. at 18 and under 19.
WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE TRADES.				
Packing Case-making	Manchester, Salford and Bolton	2 June	Packing case makers ...	Increase of 2d. per hour for men timeworkers (1s. 6d. to 1s. 6 1/2d.) and of proportionate amounts for apprentices and pieceworkers.
			Journeyman ...	Decrease* of 1/2d. per hour. Rates after change: those engaged on skilled processes, 1s. 5 1/2d.; Windsor, cane and cheap rush bottom chairmakers, packers, markers-out and benders, 1s. 5d.
Furniture Manufacture	High Wycombe ...	Pay day in week ending 28 June	Women timeworkers ... Labourers ... Apprentices ...	Decrease* of 1/2d. per hour (10 1/2d. to 10d.). Decrease* of 1/2d. per hour (1s. 2d. to 1s. 1 1/2d.). Decrease* of from 3d. to 10d. per week. Rates after change: 1st six months, 10s. 3d., 4th six months, 16s. 1d., 8th six months, 31s. 2d.
	Nottingham ...	1 June	Cabinetmakers, carvers, chair-makers, french polishers, machinists, upholsterers, sanders by hand or machine (single band), and packers	Decrease* of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: sanders and packers 1s. 3d., others 1s. 6d.
	Belfast (associated firms)	2 June	Cabinetmakers, french polishers and upholsterers	Increase of 1 1/2d. per hour. Rates after change: cabinet makers, 1s. 7d. plus 3s. per week "tool money"; french polishers and upholsterers, 1s. 7d.
Perambulator and Invalid Carriage	Great Britain ...	1 June	Workpeople employed in the perambulator and invalid carriage trade:— Timeworkers 21 years of age and over:— Male workers ...	Decrease* in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively:—
			Female workers ...	Decrease* of 3d. or 2d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: woodworking machinists, 11 1/2d., 1s. 3d., 1s. 4d.; wood bodymakers, 1s. 3d., 1s. 4d.; other woodworkers, 1s. 1 1/2d.; perambulator smiths, 1s., 1s. 2 1/2d., 1s. 4d.; nickel platers, 1s. 4d.; cane and wicker bodymakers, 1s. 2 1/2d., 1s. 4d., painters, 1s., 1s. 2 1/2d., 1s. 4d.; wheel workers, 1s. 0 1/2d., 1s. 1d., 1s. 2 1/2d.; upholsterers and hood coverers, 1s. 4d., cutters, 1s. 2 1/2d.; other workers, 11 1/2d. to 1s. 1 1/2d.
			Timeworkers under 21 years:— Male workers (except porters and labourers) ... Female workers ... Male porters and labourers ...	Decrease* of 3d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: woodworking machinists, 7d.; wood body-makers, 8d.; other woodworkers, 7d.; cane and wicker bodymakers, 7d., 8d.; painters, 7d., 7 1/2d., 9d.; wheel workers, 7d., 7 1/2d., 7d.; upholsterers and hood coverers, 8d.; cutters, 7d.; sewing machinists, 7d., 7 1/2d.; other workers, 6 1/2d. to 7d.
			Certain classes of male and female indentured apprentices and male and female workers under 21 years who have completed an indentured apprenticeship	Decrease* of from 6d. to 1s. 9d. per week. Decrease* of from 6d. to 1s. 3d. per week. Decrease* of 1/2d. or 3d. per hour.
			Pieceworkers ...	Decreases* proportionate to those for workers of corresponding ages other than apprentices.
				Piecework basis time rates fixed at 10 per cent. above the appropriate general minimum time rates.

* Certain firms—members of the Galvanising Conciliation Board.
 † This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
 ‡ This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
 § Excluding any service bonus which may be due.
 ¶ Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Ilkeston, Derby, Hinckley, and Coventry Districts.
 ** The reduction did not apply to auxiliary workers at Nottingham.
 *** The first rate applies to workers employed in the County Borough of the City of Belfast, and in districts situate not more than 30 miles by rail from Belfast, and the second rate to those employed in other districts.
 †† Barnsley, Bradford, Bridlington, Doncaster, Halifax, Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury), Harrogate, Huddersfield, Hull, Leeds, Sheffield, Wakefield, and York.

* The change took effect under an arrangement made whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
 † The change took effect under an agreement arrived at by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Flour Milling Industry.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JUNE, 1924—(continued).

Table with 4 columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, and Particulars of change. Includes entries for Paper Making, Building, Merchant Shipping Service, and Dock, Wharf, Riverside, etc., Labour.

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices. † A "day's work" is a quantity of paper which varies according to the different sizes. ‡ Further increases have been agreed upon to take effect from 5th September, 1924. § Where a range of rates is shown there is a variation according to length of service and class of certificate held. Navigating Officers on oil tank vessels receive 7½ per cent. to 10 per cent. extra; engineer officers 7½ per cent. to 12½ per cent. extra, according to rating. ¶ In the case of men on monthly rates food is provided in addition to the rates quoted. § Where food is provided a deduction of 21s. per week (or pro rata for part of a week) is to be made from the above rates. The rates quoted are supplemented by 7s. 6d. to 15s., according to tonnage if trading outside home trade limits. A sum of 10s. to 35s. is added for passenger vessels (according to tonnage and speed) above the Foreign Going cargo vessel rates. ¶¶ Boatwains on monthly articles on some Liverpool owned passenger liners receive £13, and the boatswain's mate £11; superior ratings of leading firemen on certain large passenger liners are to rank as first leading fireman, and be paid £11. ¶¶ Coal trimmers at Glasgow and Manchester and tippers and trimmers at Liverpool and Garston were affected. ¶¶ The increase is the second instalment of an increase of 2s. per day (and corresponding increases to piecworkers). The first instalment took effect in February, 1924. In the case of permanent men the second instalment took effect from the first pay week wholly worked from 2nd June, 1924. ¶¶ For classification of the ports see page 101 of the March GAZETTE. At some ports differential daily rates, of which the following are examples, are in operation for certain classes of men.—London: Stevedores and dockers (except those on timber work) employed by ocean shipowners and master stevedores, 13s. 6d.; men employed by the Port of London Authority: deal porters, 8s. 3d. per half-day, other men 12s. per day; men employed by public wharves and short sea traders: shipwork, 13s. 6d.; quaywork, 12s. Liverpool: Coal heavers, 15s. 8d.; timberworkers, 13s.; stevedores, 14s.; riggers, 12s. 6d.; coal loaders and riggers, 12s. 6d.; checkers and capstanmen, 12s. 9d.; steam crane drivers, oilers, coal tip drivers, weighbridgemen, 13s.; coal tippers, 14s.; coal trimmers, 15s. 6d.; Manchester: Timber men aboard ship, 13s. 6d.; men carrying from ship on quay, 14s. 4d.; men trimming bulk grain in hold, 15s. 6d.; men shovelling ore, 16s. 3d.; other shovelling work, 12s. 3d.; men discharging pig iron, 14s. per day. Glasgow: Iron ore men and coal trimmers, 6s. 10d. per half-day and 7s. (Saturdays); timber workers (lower reaches) 1s. 7½d. per hour, (upper reaches) 1s. 6½d. per hour; hatchwaymen, 12s. (day shift), 19s. 6d. (night shift); men employed by master stevedores: stevedores, 15s. 6d. (day shift), and 23s. 3d. (night shift); hatchwaymen, 12s. (day shift), 19s. 6d. (night shift); men employed by wharf owners (on a basis of six full days per week): stevedores, 14s. 4d.; slingers and crane-men, 12s.; hatchwaymen, 11s. Hull: fillers (grain and seed), 12s. 8d.; fillers (mineral), 13s. 5d.; pitch workers, 14s.; weekly lightermen, 62s. per week; deal carriers in merchant yards, tallymen, 12s. 6d.; labourers, 11s. (labourers when piling away, 13s.). Newcastle: Men on timber, coal, stone, etc., cargoes, 1s. 4d. per day extra. Bristol: Grain workers, 12s. and 12s. 6d.; boiler sealers and shore donkeymen, 13s.; timber workers, 12s. for weekdays and 8s. 7d. for Saturdays; riggers working by the ship, leading hands, 14s. 6d.; leading hands on liners, 13s. Cardiff, Barry and Penarth, Pit prop workers, (a) in hold, 13s. 6d.; (b) other work, 12s.; deal carriers, 14s. 6d. Dundee: Jute cargoes, 12s. 8d.; coaling, 13s. 8d. ¶¶ The increases for piecworkers were applied in the manner stated at the majority of the ports. Exceptions included the following:—London: Men employed by ocean shipowners and master stevedores—The increase for piecworkers was applied by restoring the rates paid prior to the decrease in October, 1922. Men on timber cargoes were granted an increase on the tariff list of April, 1923. Middlesbrough: The increase for timeworkers employed by members of Tees Wharf Owners' Association was 11d. instead of 1s. per day on account of six days' pay being given for a full week (to make up the normal amount of 5s. 6d. per week). Hull: Timberworkers' percentage of 87½ on tariff rates increased to 100. Bristol and Avonmouth: A revised schedule was adopted for 5s. 6d. per week. Hull: Timberworkers' percentage of 87½ on tariff rates, 1922, reduction. Cardiff, Barry and Penarth: A revised schedule was put into force grainworkers which restored the rates operative prior to the October, 1922, reduction. Cardiff, Barry and Penarth: A revised schedule was put into force for pitwork workers, which resulted in an average increase of an amount equal to 5 per cent. on the rates paid at 1st August, 1921. Glasgow: Grainworkers, an increase of 1s. per 10 tons. Ayr, Troon and Ardrossan: Men discharging iron ore and limestone, 13s. 8d. per day (minimum).

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JUNE, 1924—(continued).

Table with 4 columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, and Particulars of change. Includes entries for Transport Trades, Public Utility Services, and various localities like Mersey, Grimsby, Avonmouth, etc.

* Including Cardiff, Penarth, Barry, Port Talbot, Newport and Swansea. The tariff rates for vessels up to 3,500 net tons remain unchanged. † Including Aston, Birmingham, Bradley, Kidderminster, Oldbury, Old Hill, Smethwick, Tamworth, Tipton, Walsall, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton. ‡ A further increase of 1s. per week has been arranged to take effect from 5th September, 1924. § This change was arranged in May to take effect from the date shown. ¶ This change was arranged in June to take effect from the date shown. ¶¶ The Authorities affected include the Port of London Authority, the Tyne Improvement Commissioners, the Blyth Harbour Commissioners, the River Wear Commissioners, the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, Preston Corporation (Ribble Navigation), the Bristol Docks Committee, and the Clyde Navigation Trustees. ¶¶ This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING JUNE, 1924—(continued).

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Public Utility Services, Miscellaneous Trades, and various manufacturing sectors like leather, rubber, and brush-making.

* This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices. † The Authorities affected are those which follow the recommendations of the East Midlands Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities and include: Grade A: Chesterfield, Derby, Grimsby, Ilkeston, Leicester, Mansfield, Woodhouse, Northampton, Nottingham; Grade B: Eastwood, Grantham, Hinckley, Kettering, Kirby-in-Ashfield, Loughborough, Newark, Ripley, Rushden, Swadincote; Grade C: Shepshed, Warsop, Wigston Magna; Grade D: Daventry, Derbyshire C.C. (from 21st July), Shardlow R.D.C. ‡ This increase was the result of a decision of the Joint Wages Board of Local Authorities of Glamorgan, dated 26th June. The Authorities affected are those affiliated to the Board and include:—Aberdare, Barry, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Glyncoerrwg, Llanelly, Maesteg, Merthyr Tydfil, Mountain Ash, Neath, Ogmore and Garw, Penarth, Pontypridd, Port Talbot, Rhondda, Llantrisant and Llanwit Fardre R.D.C., Neath R.D.C. § Viz.: Fan (hair and base), hairs, finishing (i.e., the work of all woodworkers employed on finishing or part finishing brushes or brooms by hand or machine), boring (hand and machine boring), drawing, bone brush cutting, bone brush fashioning, bone brush drilling, bone brush profiling, the manufacture of artists', medical, painting, whitewash and tar brushes and brushes not otherwise specified: the drafting, dressing (including cutting), or mixing of animal hair, bass, whisk, or other fibre where the operative performs the aforesaid operations singly or in combination by hand or partly by hand and partly by machine; the working of ivory or celluloid; the turning of bone; where all or any of the operations specified are carried on in association with or in conjunction with the manufacture of brushes (other than feather brushes) or brooms. ¶ These rates are subject to an addition of 1d. per hour for cold chamber work.

CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN JULY, 1924.

The following groups of workpeople are affected by changes in wages already reported as having been arranged to take effect in July.—Increases.—Coal miners in Yorkshire and the East Midlands; freestone quarryworkers in Yorkshire; iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire; asbestos workers; wholesale textile warehousemen in London. Decreases.—Coal Miners in Northumberland, Durham and Scotland; roadstone quarryworkers in South West of England; blast furnacemen in Cleveland; railway servants; warehousemen at Manchester; and workpeople employed in the brush and broom trade, boot and shoe repairing trade, paper box trade, paper bag trade (under cost of living scales embodied in Trade Board Orders). Particulars of the above changes will be included in the August issue of the GAZETTE.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

RETURNS have been received from 145 Local Authorities in Great Britain giving the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed during the second quarter of this year. The summarised figures for the quarter are given in the Table below, together with similar figures as to plans passed by the same Local Authorities during the corresponding quarter of 1923.

Table showing Estimated Cost of Buildings for which plans were approved in 145 towns from which returns have been received. Columns include District and Aggregate Population, Dwelling Houses, Factories and Workshops, Shops, Offices, Warehouses, Churches, Schools, and Other Buildings. Includes sub-sections for (a) Second Quarter of 1924 and (b) Second Quarter of 1923.

Table showing Assisted Passages Under the Empire Settlement Act, 1922. Columns include Assisted Passages Granted in June, 1924, Total Assisted Passages Granted, and Departures in June, 1924. Includes sub-sections for Assisted Passage Schemes and Minor Schemes.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

The number of assisted passages granted during June, 1924, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act, and the total number of such passages granted from the inception of these schemes, together with the number of departures during the same periods, are shown in the following Table:—

Table showing Assisted Passages Under the Empire Settlement Act, 1922. Columns include Assisted Passages Granted in June, 1924, Total Assisted Passages Granted, and Departures in June, 1924. Includes sub-sections for Assisted Passage Schemes and Minor Schemes.

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

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

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.*

The total number of cases† of poisoning and of anthrax in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during June, 1924, was 62. No deaths‡ were reported under the Act during the month. In addition, ten cases of lead poisoning (including one death) among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during June, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

Table showing Cases of Lead Poisoning and Cases of Other Forms of Poisoning. Columns include Among Operatives engaged in (Smelting of Metals, Plumbing and Soldering, Shipbreaking, etc.) and (b) Cases of Other Forms of Poisoning (Mercury Poisoning, Phosphorus Poisoning, etc.).

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.‡

The number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during June, 1924, was 152, as compared with 236 in the previous month and with 177 a year ago.

Table showing Fatal Industrial Accidents. Columns include Railway Service (Brakemen and Goods, Guards, etc.), Mines (Underground, Surface), Quarries over 20 feet deep, and Factories and Workshops (Engineering and Machine, Making, etc.).

* Based on Returns from the Home Office and from the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland. † 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 five persons affected in the Pottery industry three were females. ¶ Based on returns from the Home Office, the Mines Department, the Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland.

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 June, 1924, in the thirty-one selected areas named below was 766,044, or 1.8 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 12.4 per cent. less than in June, 1923. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 430, 438§ and 494§ per 10,000 of the estimated population.

In the twenty-five selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in June, 1924, was 630,235, or 401 per 10,000 of the estimated population. In the six areas in Scotland the number relieved was 135,809, or 655 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Recipients of indoor relief in the thirty-one districts in June numbered 120,368, or 1.4 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 1.3 per cent. less than in June, 1923. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 645,676, or 1.8 per cent. less than in the previous month and 14.2 per cent. less than a year ago.

Twenty districts showed decreases, and ten districts showed increases in the number per 10,000 relieved in June, 1924, as compared with the previous month. Districts showing the most marked decreases were Glasgow (34 per 10,000), Newcastle (33 per 10,000), and Hull (31 per 10,000); while the chief increases were in Stockton and Tees (38 per 10,000), and Paisley and Greenock (28 per 10,000). Compared with June, 1923, all except two districts showed decreases, the most noteworthy being Paisley and Greenock (299 per 10,000), Newcastle (219 per 10,000), Stockton and Tees (210 per 10,000), Sheffield (185 per 10,000), and Glasgow (166 per 10,000).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Areas, Number of persons in receipt of poor law relief on one day, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population, Month ago, Year ago. Rows include ENGLAND & WALES, SCOTLAND, and TOTAL for above 31 districts.

* The figures for England and Wales relate to 28th June, and those for Scotland to 15th June. † These urban areas include in the case of England and Wales more than one poor-law union, except in the Leicester, Birmingham and West Ham districts; and more than one parish in the case of Scotland, except in the Aberdeen and Edinburgh districts. ‡ Exclusive of casuals, of lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses, and of persons receiving out-door medical relief only. § The figures previously published have been revised. ¶ The rates per 10,000 of population for June, 1924, and May, 1924, are calculated on the basis of the estimated populations of the various districts in the middle of 1923; the rates for June, 1923, are based on the estimated populations in the middle of 1922.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Table showing percentage increase in retail food prices for various countries from July 1914 to July 1924. Columns include Country, July 1920, July 1921, July 1922, July 1923, and Latest figures available (Rise, Date).

* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), 3rd quarter of 1914; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Poland, January, 1914; Amsterdam, South Africa, average, 1914. † Figure for June. ‡ 3,706,601-fold increase. § Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. ¶ Figure for August.

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 REQUISITES, AS COMPARED WITH JULY, 1914.†

Table showing percentage increase in the cost of all items for various countries from July 1914 to July 1924. Columns include Country, Items on which computation is based, July 1920, July 1921, July 1922, July 1923, and Latest figures available (Rise, Date).

* A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and Light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items. † Exceptions to this are: France, Spain, Australia and South Africa, in which comparison is with the average for 1914; Belgium, April, 1914; Greece, March, 1914; Milan and New Zealand, January to June, 1914; Egypt, Hungary, average, 1913-1914; Poland, January, 1914; Switzerland and Luxembourg, June, 1914; United States, 1913. ‡ Figure for 3rd Quarter. § Figure for June. ¶ Figure for May. ** 2,895,648-fold increase.

COMPARATIVE REAL WAGES

IN LONDON AND CERTAIN CAPITAL CITIES ABROAD IN MAY, 1924.

[N.B.—The method by which the index-numbers in the following table have been computed was explained in an article in the issue of this GAZETTE for July, 1923, pages 236-238. The numbers relate to purchasing-power in terms of food alone, and, for the reasons given in the article referred to, they can only be accepted as affording a very rough indication of the differences that existed, on or about the date at the head of the table, between the real wage levels (in terms of food), in the various capitals, of the selected categories of typical urban male labour. The numbers for the various occupations are comparable horizontally but not vertically. The averages, however, are comparable both ways, provided it be understood (a) that this applies only to capitals other than London, and (b) that any difference between the indices for a given capital at two different dates does not imply a proportionate change in its real-wage level between those dates, but only a proportionate change in the level in relation to that of London.]

Index Numbers of Comparative Real Wages, 1st May, 1924. (London=100.)

Table showing index numbers of comparative real wages for various occupations in London and other cities (Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Christiania, Copenhagen, Madrid, New York, Ottawa, Paris, Prague, Stockholm, Sydney, Vienna, Warsaw) in May 1924.

LABOUR ADMINISTRATION IN SPAIN: RECENT ENACTMENTS.

A ROYAL Decree, published in the Gaceta de Madrid for 6th May, 1924, establishes a Higher Council of Labour, Commerce and Industry, together with two permanent Committees of Commerce and Industry. The functions of the Higher Council will be to deal with questions submitted to it by the Government or by the Minister of Labour, Commerce and Industry, as well as to advise the Government on all matters connected with the International Labour Organisation where such questions do not fall within the scope of the Institute of Social Reforms, the Institute of National Insurance or the Higher Council of Emigration. By a Royal Decree dated 2nd June, 1924, and published in the Gaceta de Madrid of 3rd June, the functions of the Institute of Social Reforms were transferred to the Ministry of Labour, Commerce and Industry. The General Assembly of the Institute is to be converted into a Permanent Committee of the Council. The exact composition of the Council and the duties which it will be called upon to perform have still to be fixed by the Minister of Labour, Commerce and Industry.

* Revised figures. † Provisional figures. ‡ Based on prices and wages for first half of the month. § This Institute, established in 1903, was the first official Spanish Labour department. An account of it was given in this GAZETTE for November, 1919, page 467.

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. 242-243 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in other countries. For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries see Report issued in 1922 by the International Labour Office under the title "Methods of Compiling Statistics of Unemployment." (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7.)]

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in June.—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of Employment Exchanges on 26th June was 8,606 (5,951 men and 2,655 women). At the end of May the corresponding total was 7,917, and in June, 1923, 8,739. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 13,474 (8,106 for men and 5,368 for women), as compared with 13,210 at the end of May and 9,483 in June, 1923. During the week under review the Exchanges succeeded in placing 27,783 persons in situations, including 9,362 dock workers at seaports, and, in addition, found employment for 2,681 foreign immigrants. The latest returns show that five departmental and 19 municipal unemployment funds were in operation throughout France on 3rd July, the number of persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit through their agency being 527 (469 men and 58 women). The corresponding total for the preceding month was 805 and that for June, 1923, 2,200. It is to be noted that these figures do not fully represent the number of persons out of employment, since some localities are without unemployment funds, and, where they do exist, their record of unemployed persons is not complete.

GERMANY.†

Employment in May.—The signs of weakness in the upward movement which hitherto has characterised the labour market became more pronounced during May, and at times there were indications of a decided worsening. Considerable variations existed between one industry and another and between one industrial area and another, and also as compared with the preceding month. In spite of a decidedly general downward trend, the state of employment as a whole could not as yet be described as unfavourable.

Statistics supplied by trade unions showed a further improvement, but, in spite of this, it was clear that the situation was less satisfactory than formerly. Out of 3,704,695 members covered by the 38 unions which made returns, 317,425, or 8.6 per cent., were unemployed on 31st May, as compared with 10.4 per cent. in April and with 6.2 per cent. in May, 1923. Percentages for the principal unions included in these totals are given in the following Table:—

Table showing percentages of unemployment for various unions in May, April, and May of the previous year. Columns include Unions, Membership reported on at end of May, 1924, and Percentage Unemployed at end of Month (May, April, May).

The figures in the Table relate to total unemployment. As regards short time working, returns relating to 3,209,530 trade unionists showed that 8.2 per cent. were so affected at the end of May, whereas in April the corresponding percentage was 5.8 per cent.

The most recent figures concerning totally unemployed persons in receipt of benefit from public funds showed a slight increase.

* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 4th July, 1924. Paris. † Reichsarbeitsblatt, 1st July, 1924. Berlin.

"I think it is clear that up to the 8th of January the remuneration received by the applicant was payable in respect of a period of one week and did on the daily average exceed 3s. 4d., and I am of opinion that in spite of the resolution of the Committee it is still so payable.

"I agree with the Court of Referees that the applicant is not unemployed."

CASE No. 7162—SECTION 7 (1) (iii)—SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT, REFUSAL OF—APPLICANT HAD BEEN A SHOP ASSISTANT FOR FIVE YEARS—REFUSED TRAINING AS A COLLIER—UNEMPLOYED FOR TWO MONTHS.

The applicant, aged 19 years, who has last been employed as a warehouseman for about 11 months ending on 3rd November, 1923, and for 4 years previously as a shop assistant, had been unemployed for two months when he was offered employment to be trained as a collier at a colliery situated 75 miles from his home. The offer of employment in this case was similar to that in Case No. 6963, and the applicant was offered the wage which was proper to young men of his age.

The applicant refused the offer on the ground that his occupation was that of a shop assistant and he did not want work as a collier. Further, the wages offered were insufficient to support him when he was living in lodgings.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed. The Court agreed that the applicant could not live away from home on the wages offered, but in view of the Umpire's decision on Case No. 6963 they felt bound to disallow the claim.

The Insurance Officer declined to accept the Court's recommendation. He stated that the applicant had worked for 5 years up to November, 1923, as a shop assistant and that his record of employment since leaving school was practically unbroken. He submitted that the case differed from No. 6963, where the applicant had been unemployed for a considerable period.

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

"The applicant had been in employment as a shop assistant or warehouseman almost without a break for 5 years until last November. After two months' unemployment he was offered training as a collier.

"I see no reason why he should be expected to make such a complete change in his calling after only a comparatively short period of unemployment.

"The case is very different from that on which the decision in Case No. 6963 was given. The applicant in that case had had but little experience of any kind, and had been for a long while out of work."

CASE No. 7198—SECTION 8 (2)—MISCONDUCT, NOT AMOUNTING TO—APPLICANT EMPLOYED ON CASUAL PART-TIME WORK—TWICE ABSENT HIMSELF IN ORDER TO SEEK FULL-TIME WORK—HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO WARN EMPLOYER.

The employer reported that the applicant, a temporary postman, was discharged on 17th January, 1924, for being absent from duty on the previous day and for failing to warn the employer that he would be absent. It was stated that he had on a previous occasion committed the same offence. The applicant's claim for benefit, lodged on 4th February, 1924, was disallowed for six weeks as from 17th January, 1924, on the ground that he had lost his employment through misconduct.

The applicant stated that his work was of a casual nature, and lasted from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. daily for a wage of 17s. per week. He had been in the employment at irregular intervals for about five months, and he was anxious to find permanent full-time work. His absence on both occasions had been due to his efforts to obtain other work. He explained that on each occasion his brother, who lived and worked in a town a few miles distant, had called at his house and told him that there was a chance of securing work at the firm at which he (the brother) was employed if he (the applicant) would put in an appearance at the gates at a certain time. It was at an early hour, and the applicant stated that he could not possibly have let his own employer know beforehand that he would be absent. On the first occasion he sent his little girl with a message, and his absence was excused, but on the second he quite forgot to send a message.

Recommended, by a majority of the Court of Referees, that the claim for benefit should be disallowed for three weeks from 19th January, 1924. It was felt that the applicant was not justified in absenting himself for two days without first asking permission. The employers' representative dissented on the ground that there were extenuating circumstances, and the applicant's action might be regarded as justified; in his judgment there was no misconduct within the meaning of Section 8 (2). Leave to appeal to the Umpire was granted.

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

"I agree with the employers' representative on the Court of Referees.

"It was clearly incumbent on the applicant to do his best to get regular full-time employment, and he was justified in missing the morning's work even though he thereby risked losing his temporary job. His case would have been very different if he had already had regular full-time employment."

CASE No. 7222—SECTION 7 (1) (iii)—SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT, REFUSAL OF—PROVISOS A AND B—DISPUTE BETWEEN EMPLOYER AND ASSOCIATION BECAUSE EMPLOYER HIMSELF WORKED OVERTIME—VACANCIES NOT CAUSED BY A STOPPAGE OF WORK DUE TO THAT DISPUTE—CONDITIONS NOT LESS FAVOURABLE THAN THOSE HABITUALLY OBTAINED, ETC.—NO EVIDENCE THAT APPLICANTS WOULD HAVE BEEN REQUIRED TO WORK CONTRARY TO USUAL CONDITIONS.

On 30th November, 1923, the applicants, two slaters, were offered local work in their usual occupation at the standard rate of 1s. 7d. per hour, 44 hours per week. They refused the offer on the ground that there was a dispute in progress between the prospective employer and their association on a question connected with overtime. They submitted that their refusal of the offer was governed by the provisions of Section 7 (1) (a).

At the Court of Referees, it was explained by a representative of the applicants' association that the prospective employer was a man who had recently started in business for himself, and who was known to work a great deal of overtime. Overtime work was contrary to the rules of the local Federation of Employers in the building industry, and as the prospective employer refused to conform to the rules, a trade dispute existed.

Recommended, by a majority of the Court of Referees, that claims for benefit should be disallowed on the ground that the applicants had refused an offer of suitable employment. The Court held that the trade dispute, if any, was one between the employer and the Federation, and not between employer and employee. The case was not therefore governed by Section 7 (1) (a). The insured contributor's representative dissented.

The applicants' association appealed to the Umpire, and from their statement it appeared that the prospective employer had himself worked considerable overtime in preference to employing men. It was only when he found that he could not keep pace with the work that he applied for some men. The association stated that, as a consequence, there was a trade dispute between him and their association, because his action constituted a breach of the rules laid down by the National Wages and Conditions Council of employers and operatives in the industry. If their members had accepted the employment, their chances of obtaining work with other local employers would have been seriously prejudiced. Accordingly, the refusal of the offer was justified under Section 7 (1) (a) and (b).

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

"I agree with the recommendation of the Court of Referees. There may have been an objection on the part of the members of the applicants' association to the prospective employer himself working overtime, but it is not shown either that there was a stoppage of work due to a dispute arising out of that objection or that the employment offered was in situations vacant in consequence of any such stoppage of work.

"Nor is it shown that the employment offered would have been on conditions less favourable than those which the applicants habitually obtained in their usual employment in the district, or would have obtained if they had continued to be so employed. The objection to the employment is that the employer himself worked overtime. But I cannot see how this would prejudicially affect the applicants. It is not suggested that they would have been required to work overtime (if at all) to an excessive extent or otherwise than in accordance with the conditions usually observed in the district."

CASE No. 7261—SECTION 8 (2)—EMPLOYMENT LEFT VOLUNTARILY—REFUSAL TO DO NIGHT WORK ON CONDITIONS NOT GENERALLY RECOGNISED IN THE DISTRICT—REFUSAL TO WORK JUSTIFIED.

The applicant, who had been last employed as a baker for 10 years, was reported to have left his employment of his own accord after refusing to revert to night work. He stated that he normally worked from 5 a.m. to some time between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., and that two years ago his Association had agreed with master bakers in the district that no night work should be performed. In view of this agreement, he was bound to refuse to perform night work which, he alleged, was prejudicial to his health.

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

The applicant's Association, however, appealed to the Umpire against the Court's recommendation. In support of the contention that the employer's request was contrary to the agreement, the Association pointed out that there was an employment in the district to whom the Association had in special circumstances given permission to institute night work. This, however, had been in accordance with the wishes of the Association's members who were employed there.

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

"The applicant had been for some time working by day only in accordance with an arrangement made by his Union with number of employers, and generally, though not universally recognised in the district.

"The employers proposed to make a substantial change in the conditions of his employment by requiring him to work night without any countervailing benefit.

"In my opinion this was an offer of new employment on conditions less favourable than those which the applicant habitually obtained in his usual employment in the district. He would have obtained had he continued to be so employed."

INSURANCE YEAR REGULATIONS, 1924.

The Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Year) Regulations, 1924, dated June 10, 1924, made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 (10 & 11 Geo. 5, c. 30).

The Minister of Labour, by virtue of the powers conferred on him by Sections 35 and 47 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf hereby makes the following regulations:—

1. The period commencing on the 2nd day of July, 1923 (being the day next after the last day of the preceding Insurance Year), and ending on the 6th day of July, 1924, and the period commencing on the 7th day of July, 1924, and ending on the 5th day of July, 1925, shall each respectively be an Insurance Year.

2. These regulations may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Year) Regulations, 1924, and shall come into force on the date hereof.

Signed by Order of the Minister of Labour this tenth day of June, 1924.

(Signed) H. J. WILSON,
Secretary of the Ministry of Labour.

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

BRICKLAYER, IPSWICH—GRADING—DECISION No. 728, NOTE 2 OF SCHEDULE B.—The National Union of Railwaymen v. The London and North Eastern Railway. Decision.—This bricklayer is entitled, under the provisions of the above Note, to be placed in Grade I. of his occupation. Effective as from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the Decision. Issued 2nd June, 1924. (921.)

ALLOWANCES UNDER DECISION No. 728, SCHEDULE F, CONDITION 3—TIME WORKED BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF DAY SHIFT.—The Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades v. The London Midland and Scottish Railway. Decision.—Hours worked immediately before or immediately after any particular shift (allowing, where necessary, a break for meals) by men on that shift, fall to be paid at the rate laid down in the Schedule for overtime on that shift. Issued 2nd June, 1924. (922.)

STEEL WORK ERECTORS.—The Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Co., Ltd., v. The Constructional Engineering Union. Decision.—Of the thirty-six men concerned, twenty-three men enumerated in the Decision should be regarded as "steel work erectors," and for the purposes of the application of Decision No. 865 these twenty-three men are to be deemed steel work erectors at 3rd October, 1923, or at such later date as they entered the company's service, and to be entitled to the benefits of that Decision. The claim that the remainder of the men concerned should be regarded as steel work erectors has not been established. Issued 2nd June, 1924. (923.)

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIPREPAIRING INDUSTRY—OVERTIME AND NIGHTSHIFT AGREEMENT—REGULATION OF OVERTIME—ALLOWANCES PAYABLE TO PIECEWORKERS IN RESPECT OF DAYSHIFT OVERTIME, SUNDAY WORK, NIGHTSHIFT AND NIGHTSHIFT OVERTIME.—The Boilermakers' and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society v. The Shipbuilding Employers' Federation. Decision.—Clause I. of the National Agreement does not reveal any anomaly or special circumstances peculiar to members of the Society, or any class of them, in that it affects all time and pieceworkers alike in shipyards purported to be covered by the National Agreement. As regards the clauses relating to allowances payable to pieceworkers in respect of dayshift overtime, Sunday work and nightshift overtime, the following corrections and/or adjustments require to be made in the percentage allowances:—Clause 2 (c) For the figure "25" substitute "33," Clause 3 (ii) For the figure "50" substitute "66," Clause 5 (d) (ii) For the figure "25" substitute "45," Clause 5 (e) (ii) For the figure "50" substitute "66." Effective (by agreement) as from the date of resumption of work. Issued 3rd June, 1924. (924.)

CHEMICAL TRADES—APPLICATION FOR WAGES ADVANCE—PAYMENTS FOR WEEK-END WORK.—The Trade Union side of the Chemical Trade Joint Industrial Council v. The Employers' Side. Decision.—The following advances to take place:—Adult male time workers concerned 5d. p.d. or shift, adult female time workers concerned 4d. p.d. or shift. Pieceworkers shall receive advances equivalent to those granted by this Decision to time workers. The claim for all work performed at the week-end to be paid for at the rate of double time has not been established. Effective as from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the Decision. Issued 4th June, 1924. (925.)

UPHOLSTERY TRADES—COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS—EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION AND VARIOUS UNIONS—QUESTION OF UNIONS ACTING JOINTLY OR SEVERALLY AND INDIVIDUALLY.—The Amalgamated Union of Upholsterers and the London Cabinet and Upholstery Trades Federation. Decision.—The Amalgamated Union of Upholsterers was entitled to give notice of an alteration of rules independently of their co-signatories to existing agreements. Issued 6th June, 1924. (926.)

LEAD MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY—SMELTERS AND DE-SILVERISERS—CLAIM FOR ADVANCE IN WAGES COMMENSURATE WITH THAT RECENTLY GRANTED TO OTHER WORKERS.—The Work-

people's Side of the Joint Industrial Council for the Lead Manufacturing Industry v. The Employers' Side. Decision.—The advance agreed upon by the Joint Industrial Council for other classes shall apply to firms employing smelters and desilverisers in so far as it may be necessary to bring the minimum basis rate in Grade I. towns up to 1s. 1½d. p.h. Issued 6th June, 1924. (927.)

CLAY INDUSTRY—WAGES ADVANCE.—The Operatives' Side of the Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee for the Clay Industries v. The Employers' Side. Decision.—The following advances shall be made:—Men timeworkers of 21 years of age and over, 4s. per full ordinary week; men timeworkers of 18 years of age and under 21 years of age, 3s. per full ordinary week; women timeworkers 18 years of age and over, 2s. 6d. per full ordinary week. Boys and girls under 18 years of age, such adjustment, to be settled locally, as may be proper, having regard to the increases hereby awarded to adult workers, and to the rates of wages of the boys and girls concerned. Pieceworkers, such an advance as may be necessary to secure to them an increase equivalent to the respective increases provided for by the Decision in the case of timeworkers. Effective as from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the Decision. Issued 6th June, 1924. (928.)

BUILDING TRADE OPERATIVES, BANGOR—GRADING—DECISION No. 728.—The National Union of Railwaymen v. The London Midland and Scottish Railway. Decision.—Three of the men concerned should properly be placed in Grade I. and one in Grade II. In the case of the other man concerned the Court see no reason to depart from the grading already assigned. Issued 6th June, 1924. (929.)

WAGON MAKERS, ASHFORD—GRADING—DECISION No. 728.—The National Union of Railwaymen v. The Southern Railway. Decision.—The company have acted within the terms of the Decision in classifying the twenty-one men at present placed in Grade II. Issued 6th June, 1924. (930.)

PAINTER AT DOVER—GRADING—DECISION No. 728.—The National Union of Railwaymen v. The Southern Railway. Decision.—The Union have failed to justify their contention that the man concerned should be classified as a first grade painter, in the terms of Note 4 of Schedule B to Decision No. 728. Issued 23rd June, 1924. (931.)

"MERIT RATES"—WITHDRAWAL OF—DECISION No. 728—"GROUPS OF WORKPEOPLE."—The Amalgamated Engineering Union v. The London Midland and Scottish Railway. Decision.—Several cases were submitted and dealt with separately. The restoration of any rate, except where otherwise indicated, shall take place as from the 10th January, 1924. Issued 23rd June, 1924. (932.)

BLACKSMITHS—RUNNING SHEDS IN SCOTLAND—APPLICATION OF DECISION No. 892.—The Associated Blacksmiths' and Ironworkers' Society v. The London Midland and Scottish Railway and the London and North Eastern Railway. Decision.—A sum of 2s. p.w. shall be paid to the men concerned, in addition to their scheduled rates. Effective as from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the Decision. Issued 23rd June, 1924. (933.)

PAINTERS—GRADING—DECISION No. 728—MEN REQUIRED ON OCCASION TO DO WORK OF HIGHEST CLASS FINISH.—The National Union of Railwaymen v. The Great Western Railway. Decision.—The present duties of the men concerned are not such as to warrant their being classed as first grade painters. Issued 23rd June, 1924. (934.)

LONDON FIRE BRIGADE—FREE MEDICAL ADVICE AND TREATMENT—MEN RESIDING OUTSIDE COUNTY OF LONDON—ILLNESS OR INJURY NOT CAUSED BY EXECUTION OF DUTY.—The Representative Body of the London Fire Brigade v. The London County Council. Decision.—The Representative Body have not established a case for an alteration of the existing practice. Issued 23rd June, 1924. (935.)

APPLICATION FOR INCREASE IN RATES OF PAY—RELATION OF WAGES OF BOARD'S EMPLOYEES TO THOSE PAID BY PROVINCIAL WATER AUTHORITIES.—The Trade Union Side of the Metropolitan Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Undertakings Industry v. The Metropolitan Water Board. Decision.—The Metropolitan Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Undertakings Industry should meet at the earliest possible date to examine, with a view to an amicable settlement, the rates of pay of the men concerned, in the light of the observations contained in the Decision. Should a settlement not be reached by 1st September next, the question may, at the instance of either party, be referred to the Court for final determination. Issued 24th June, 1924. (936.)

NIGHTSHIFT—RATE OF PAYMENT TO PERMANENT MEN—SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT—PROPORTION OF PERMANENT TO CASUAL MEN.—The Transport and General Workers' Union v. The Union Cold Storage Co., Ltd. Decision.—Payment shall be made to permanent men employed on night work at time-and-a-third for hours worked, in lieu of the time-and-a-quarter as provisionally arranged under an Agreement of 2nd April, 1924. The Court decide against the claim for fixing a rigid proportion of permanent to casual men, which might be impossible of application in practice. Effective as from the beginning of the first full pay period following 2nd June, 1924. Issued 27th June, 1924. (937.)

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