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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further improvement during May. Among the 11,500,000 workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed at 26th May, 1924, was 9·5, compared with 9·7 at 28th April, 1924, and with 11·2 in May, 1923. Among members of Trade Unions from which returns were received the percentage unemployed was 7·0 at the end of May, 1924, compared with 7·5 at the end of April, 1924. The total number of applicants for employment registered at 26th May, 1924, at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was approximately 1,022,000, of whom 767,000 were men and 191,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 28th April, 1924, the total was 1,052,000, of whom 790,000 were men and 194,000 were women.

Employment was good in the coal mining, tinplate and steel sheet, carpet and jute trades, and with brick-makers, coachbuilders, and skilled workmen in the building trades; it was fairly good in the woollen and worsted industry, with millsawyers and brushmakers, 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, and shipbuilding, it continued slack.

WAGES.

The upward movement in wages continued in May. In the industries for which statistics are available the changes in rates of wages reported during the month resulted in an aggregate increase of about £275,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 1,350,000 workpeople, and in an aggregate reduction of about £3,700 in those of 45,000 workpeople.

The principal increases resulted from the adoption of the new agreement in the coal mining industry, by which the general level of wages was advanced in the principal districts by amounts varying from 3 to 12 per cent. on current rates, and additional increases were granted to the lower-paid workers in most districts. There was an increase of about 1 per cent. on the current rates of steel smelters and millmen in various districts in England and Scotland, and other important groups of workpeople whose wages were increased included ship repairers on the Thames and Mersey, men employed in the lead manufacturing industry, vehicle builders, coopers, and road transport workers in several large towns in Yorkshire and Lancashire.

The principal bodies of workpeople who sustained reductions in wages were metallic bedstead makers, pen-makers at Birmingham, and furniture trade operatives and road transport workers in Scotland. The minimum rates payable under the Trade Boards Acts in the brush

and broom trade in Great Britain were also reduced under a cost-of-living sliding scale.

During the first five months of 1924 the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department have resulted in net increases amounting to about £480,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 2,480,000 workpeople, and in net reductions of £13,500 in the weekly wages of nearly 250,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1923 there were net reductions amounting to £340,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 2,350,000 workpeople, and net increases of over £100,000 in the weekly wages of 760,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

There was a slight decline, on the average, in working-class cost of living during May, mainly due to reductions in the prices of sugar, milk, fish, and coal. At 31st May the average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous items) was approximately 69 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 71 per cent. at 1st May, 1924, and with 69 per cent. at 1st June, 1923. For food alone the corresponding percentage at 31st May was 60, as compared with 63 a month ago and 60 a year ago. The average level of prices, both for food and for all items included in the statistics, was thus approximately the same as at the corresponding date of last year.

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 May, was 56. In addition, 30 disputes which began before May were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in May (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 36,000, as compared with 51,000 in the previous month. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during May was about 398,000 working days, as compared with 471,000 days in April.

During the first five months of 1924 the stoppages of work owing to trade disputes, so far as reported to the Department, have involved approximately 356,000 workpeople, as compared with 221,000 workpeople involved in disputes in the first five months of last year. The aggregate duration of the stoppages in January to May, 1924, has been nearly 3,000,000 working days, as compared with approximately 3,100,000 days in the corresponding period of 1923.

NEW COAL MINES AGREEMENT.

IN accordance with the recommendation of the Court of Inquiry,* the negotiations between the Mining Association of Great Britain and the Miners' Federation of Great Britain were renewed, and the Mining Association offered certain further concessions, as regards the minimum percentages on basis rates, and as regards the division of surplus profits. The Executive of the Miners' Federation presented the proposed new Agreement, as thus amended, to a delegate conference, which decided, by a large majority, to accept it. The Agreement is to be in force for twelve months, and thereafter until terminated by a month's notice on either side. Retrospective effect is to be given to the Agreement as from the 1st May.

The principal changes in the Agreement, as compared with the Agreement of 1921, are as follows:—

In the periodical ascertainment for determining the percentage to be paid on basis rates:—

The standard profits item is to be 15 per cent. of the standard wages item, instead of 17 per cent.

The surplus proceeds (after deducting the items for "standard wages," "standard profits," and "costs other than wages") are to be allocated as to 88 per cent. to wages instead of 83 per cent.

The minimum percentage payable on basis rates is to be the equivalent of 33½ per cent. above standard wages, instead of 20 per cent.

Recoupment of deficiencies in profits.—Under the old agreement the owners were nominally permitted to recoup themselves, out of "surplus proceeds" in subsequent ascertainment, for deficiencies in "standard profits"; that is to say, where the proceeds in any accounting period fell short of an amount equal to the sum of "standard wages" "standard profits" and "costs other than wages," the owners were entitled to recover the deficiency from the "surplus proceeds" in a subsequent period. But whilst the surplus out of which the deficiency was to be recouped was the surplus left after deducting "other costs," "standard profits" and "standard wages," the minimum level of wages which the owners had actually to pay was 20 per cent. over standard wages. As a result the owners' right of recoupment was in practice ineffective.

Under the new Agreement the recoupable deficiency is still limited to the amount by which the proceeds fall short of the other deductions plus "standard profits," but in the other deductions "wages at the minimum percentage" is substituted for "standard wages." Similarly, in ascertaining whether any surplus exists out of which the deficiency, or any part of it, can be recouped, the deductions, under the new agreement, are to be "other costs" (as before), "standard wages" plus minimum percentage thereon (instead of "standard wages" alone), and "standard profits" plus the profits corresponding to the minimum percentage (instead of "standard profits" alone).

But in order that the workmen may always obtain some benefit from improved conditions, not more than one-third of any such surplus in any single accounting period is to be used for recoupment of owners' deficiencies.

Low-paid day-wage men.—Subsistence rates or allowances on low-paid day-wage men had been granted, under the old Agreement, in some districts. The new Agreement provides for an addition of one-eighth to these rates or allowances. It also provides that, in all districts (whether a subsistence allowance is in force or not), no wage is to fall below an amount equal to 40 per cent. on the standard wage of the lowest paid class in the district. Any resulting anomalies in the wages of men at or near the minimum are to be dealt with in the districts.

MINERS' WELFARE FUND: SECOND REPORT.

THE Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to allocate the Miners' Welfare Fund, established under Section 20 of the Mining Industry Act, 1920, has issued its second Report,† covering the year ended 31st December, 1923.

The fund is provided by means of a levy of a penny a ton on the output of every coal mine, during a period which is limited by the Act of 1920 to five and a half years; but the Committee report that there is a desire, which appears to be universal on both sides of the coal-mining industry, that the levy should be extended for a further period.

The sum which has accrued to the Welfare Fund during the past year in respect of the output for 1922 is well over £1,000,000, very nearly as much as the total receipts of the preceding eighteen months; and the number of allocations approved in the twelve months is more than 50 per cent. greater than the number approved in the two years covered by the first Report. The total amount allocated during the past year exceeds £1,030,000, as compared with rather less than £525,000 in the preceding period; and the amount actually paid out from the Fund was £634,807, as compared with £122,298.

The total amount of the contributions received was £452,789 in respect of the output of 1920, £676,218 in respect of 1921, and £1,032,657 in respect of 1922 (including £81 paid in advance in respect of the output of 1923), making in all, with interest on invested funds, £2,284,758.

* See the May, 1924, issue of this GAZETTE, page 156. The Court found that "the resumption of negotiations between the parties, with a view to a modification of the terms of the Agreement of 1921, appears to offer an immediate and practicable means of effecting a new Wages Agreement."
† H.M. Stationery Office; price 2s. net.

The position of the fund on the 31st December, 1923, was as follows:—

District.	Share of Contributions and Interest.	Allocations Approved.	Total Payments on account of allocations.
Fife and Clackmannan ..	57,235	46,689	19,164
The Lothians	29,347	36,080	8,230
Lanarkshire	186,066	188,482	43,499
Ayrshire	29,729	50,000	20,000
Northumberland	94,301	63,865	30,087
Durham	251,007	52,274	30,004
Cumberland	13,536	2,075	75
Lancashire and Cheshire ..	141,610	—	—
North Wales	20,828	19,810	14,310
South Yorkshire	204,805	183,983	73,563
West Yorkshire	106,822	135,658	48,584
Nottinghamshire	93,353	94,288	48,678
Derbyshire	102,011	129,196	59,481
South Derbyshire	14,094	13,348	10,970
North Staffordshire	44,884	60,050	50
Cannock Chase	39,840	10,500	10,500
South Staffordshire	10,664	2,920	2,920
Leicestershire	17,805	4,675	2,350
Warwickshire	35,832	56,949	21,899
South Wales and Monmouthshire ..	353,957	298,865	247,784
Minor Districts*	26,538	24,805	13,327
Total earmarked for District Funds ..	1,824,194	1,474,352	710,375
General Funds	460,564	82,154	46,730
Total	2,284,758	1,556,506	757,105

It will be seen that, in the majority of the districts, allocations had been made in respect of practically the whole of the money then available for each; indeed, in many cases, future contributions have been anticipated. In these latter cases substantial contributions have now been paid in respect of the 1923 output; and in any case the payment of instalments from the fund is confined to the balance standing to the credit of the district at the time when payments are made.

The total sum allocated up to 31st December, 1923, to district funds (£1,474,352) includes £9,166 allocated and paid for administration expenses. The remaining £1,465,186 was allocated to various schemes, which may be classified as follows:—

	Number of Schemes.	Total allocated up to 31st December, 1923.
1. Recreation grounds, playing fields, swimming pools and baths, colliery bands, etc.	265	570,790
2. Institutes, clubs, libraries, etc. (including small grants for the purchase of books)	251	472,255
3. Pithead baths, drying rooms and shelters, slipper baths, wash-houses, etc.	10	44,200
4. Hospitals (structural additions, equipment, or endowment for existing public institutions) ..	23	24,280
5. Convalescent Homes (new institutions for the use of miners only, including special Trust Funds established for the purchase of admission tickets, surgical appliances, etc.)	11	305,200
6. District Nursing Services ..	10	16,895
7. Ambulance Services	23	17,462
8. Mining Education (lectures, scholarships, additions to existing public buildings, equipment, etc.)	91	14,104
	602	£1,465,186

NOTE.—Some of the institutes under heading (2) contain bath accommodation, and many of the larger schemes also include land for recreation purposes, so there is a certain amount of overlap between headings (1), (2), and (3).

The Committee express regret that the washing and drying accommodation available at the pithead is sufficient for only some 6,000 workers daily out of a total approaching 1,200,000. They add:—"The provision of the necessary accommodation throughout the country would, of course, involve expenditure on a scale outside the scope of the fund as at present constituted, and, indeed, we should not be disposed to approve of the fund being used in this way. But we do feel that the fund may properly be employed to stimulate the provision of pithead baths during what may be called the educational period, when publicity and actual example are important considerations."

The general fund is provided for by setting aside one-fifth of the total contributions; and, in the opinion of the Committee, it was the intention of Parliament that this part of the fund should be devoted to national as distinct from local purposes. The Committee anticipate that by the 31st March, 1926, the total amount of this fund will not fall far short of £1,000,000. Of this sum they propose to set aside provisionally £500,000 for

* Shropshire, Forest of Dean, Somerset, Bristol, and Kent.
† Four-fifths of the contributions of each district are earmarked for allocation to that district.
‡ These are additional to any grants that may be made from the "general fund" in aid of mining education or research.

research work in connection with the safety and health of workers in coal mines, and the greater part of the remainder (about £475,000) for education. They have so far contributed to research by means of allocations from the general fund in three different ways:—

- (i) Towards experimental work carried out by staff employed directly by the Safety in Mines Research Board.
- (ii) Towards experimental work on special problems delegated to *ad hoc* Committees by the Board or by the Medical Research Council.
- (iii) Towards experimental work carried out by an independent research body, or by an independent investigator working at a University.

In regard to education, only two allocations were made for educational purposes from the general fund during the period under review; but the Committee hope next year to submit full details of a comprehensive scheme that is under consideration for the assistance of mining education throughout the country. Among the miscellaneous services which are met from the general fund is a grant, amounting to £2,000 for the year 1923, made to the Industrial Welfare Society for the maintenance of a small expert branch, to which district and local Committees can go for advice in all welfare matters, particularly in connection with the lay-out of recreation grounds and the planning of institutes.

LEITH COAL TRIMMING DISPUTE.

REPORT OF COURT OF INQUIRY.

THE Court of Inquiry set up by the Minister of Labour to inquire into the causes and circumstances of the threatened stoppage of work in the coal-exporting ports of Great Britain has issued its Report.* The Court consisted of the Hon. Lord Anderson (Chairman), Mr. J. F. Armour, and Colonel J. Lithgow; with Mr. H. C. Emmerson (Ministry of Labour) as Secretary.

The Court found, at the outset, that the threatened national stoppage was due entirely to a local dispute at Leith, which, in the first instance, concerned the appointment of charge hands or foremen trimmers. Terms of settlement of the points in dispute were agreed upon by the Joint Area Trimming Board for the Firth of Forth on 29th March, 1924, but the employers intimated that they had given a promise of permanent employment, through their contractors, to 21 of the men engaged during the strike, and they were in honour bound to continue to employ them. The members of the Union declined to work with strike-breakers who were non-Union men. Moreover, the 21 men would, if admitted, participate in the arrangements for the pooling of earnings of coal trimmers employed in Leith, thus reducing the weekly earnings of the men regularly employed. It is this question which was the cause of the persistence of the strike. The Court point out that the 21 men are not experienced coal trimmers but miners imported from Midlothian. The average weekly earnings of the coal trimmers at Leith Docks in 1923 amounting to £5 12s. 6d., and the Court observe:—"We can readily appreciate that this trade should prove attractive to men who have been working in and about a coal mine. We understand that no hindrance will be put in the way of the 21 men if they agree to return to their usual avocation of mining."

The matter was raised by the men's representatives at a meeting of the National Trimming Board on 24th April, 1924, and a Joint Sub-Committee was appointed to examine the position, although the Leith employers held the view that the National Board had no jurisdiction in such a question. The sub-Committee unanimously recommended ratification of the agreement reached on 29th March, 1924, subject to the following:—

- (1) Embargo as to black list on all men to be removed;
- (2) that the employers will arrange for the 21 men now working under an undertaking of permanent employment to be released upon payment of compensation;
- (3) that the Unions concerned will contribute £400 towards such compensation."

The Leith shipowners were unable to accept these recommendations and maintained that they were in honour bound to retain the 21 men. The offer of compensation, £800 in all, was submitted to the men concerned, but was rejected, and the Trade Unions then gave notice of a complete stoppage of work at all the coal-exporting ports.

In their conclusions the Court express regret that the matters originally in dispute were not submitted at an early stage to the Local Joint Trimming Committee, as provided for in an agreement dated 30th August, 1923, before precipitate action was decided upon. The Court state "we were not furnished with any very adequate reasons why it was necessary for Kennedy and Co. (the contractors) to give a promise of permanent employment in order to get outside labour. The employers were no doubt entitled to secure a nucleus of imported labour. The coal trimmers apparently considered that this was an arrangement whereby the contractor would always be in a position to break a strike, and felt unable to receive the men into their Union. . . . It thus appears that the present dispute is purely local; no general question of wages or of material conditions of labour is now involved. The question of the appointment of charge hands was settled by the provisional agreement of 29th March, 1924, the terms of which are in our view well calculated to settle all matters originally

* Cmd. 2149. H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net.

"in dispute. In these circumstances we think that it would be nothing short of a tragedy if the parties to the dispute did not find means of settling it without involving other districts."

The Court add that in their view it is regrettable that effect was not given to the terms of settlement recommended on 24th April, 1924, by the Sub-Committee of the National Joint Trimming Board.

A settlement of the dispute was reached on 12th June, and the men are to resume work on 20th June.

FACTORIES BILL, 1924.*

A BILL "to consolidate, with amendments, the enactments relating to factories; and for purposes connected therewith" was introduced in the House of Commons on the 22nd May.

In connection with this Bill, the Home Office have issued a Memorandum, showing the extent to which the provisions of the Bill differ from the present law.

The Bill proposes to abolish the distinction which exists at present between factories and workshops and between textile and non-textile factories, and employs only the one term "factories"; and, except where otherwise expressly provided, the provisions of the Bill apply indifferently to factories of all descriptions.

Under the existing Acts, the provisions relating to the sanitary condition of workshops—cleanliness, overcrowding, ventilation, and the drainage of floors—are enforced in the first instance by the local sanitary authorities and not (as in factories) by the factory inspectors; and the provisions as to sanitary conveniences, both in factories and in workshops, are, in London and in any place where s. 22 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, is in force, also enforced by the sanitary authorities.

Under the Bill, the corresponding provisions would be enforced by the factory inspectors, except that in any factory in which mechanical power is not used and which forms part of a dwelling-house or shop, or is adjacent to a dwelling-house or shop under the same occupation, the provisions are to be enforced by the sanitary authority; and, in the case of any other factory in which mechanical power is not used, the Secretary of State may make arrangements for the enforcement of the provisions by the sanitary authority instead of by the factory inspector.

These alterations are of general application. The principal alterations of particular provisions are indicated in a Table appended to the Memorandum. Some of the provisions indicated in the Table as new correspond to or are based on provisions already in force in particular industries; for example, Clause 103, which provides that "every person paid by the piece . . . shall, in order to enable him to compute the total amount of wages payable to him in respect of his work, be furnished with particulars of his work and of the rate of wages applicable thereto," is based on provisions already applying to textile factories and to certain non-textile factories.

TRADE FACILITIES ACT.‡

AN Act to amend the Trade Facilities Acts, 1920 and 1922, and for other purposes, received the Royal Assent on the 15th May.

Section 1 of the Act extends the maximum limit of the loans, the principal or interest of which may be guaranteed under the Trade Facilities Acts, from £50,000,000 to £65,000,000; and extends the date up to which the power to give guarantees may be exercised up to the 31st March, 1925.

Section 2 authorises the Treasury, in certain cases, and up to specified limits, to undertake to pay to the Government of any part of His Majesty's Dominions (including protectorates) up to three-quarters of any interest payable, during the first five years of the currency of a loan, in respect of such portion of the loan as is to be expended in the United Kingdom. One of the conditions attached to such payments is that the loan is calculated to promote employment in the United Kingdom.

Section 3 extends the period within which the Board of Trade may give guarantees under the Overseas Trade Acts, 1920-22, from the 8th September, 1924, to the 8th September, 1926, such guarantees to be liquidated before the 8th September, 1930; and Section 4 raises the amount of the Sudan loan, the principal and interest on which may be guaranteed under the Trade Facilities and Loans Guarantee Act, 1922 (Session 2), from £3,500,000 to £7,000,000.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 27th May, 1924, the number of men in training was 9,065, and the number awaiting training 3,699. Since 1st August, 1919, 83,520 men have terminated training.

NATIONAL SCHEME (KING'S ROLL).

The latest returns show that there are 28,800 firms on the King's National Roll. The number of disabled ex-Service men employed by these firms is approximately 330,000.

* House of Commons Bill No. 140. H.M. Stationery Office; price 4s. net.
† Cmd. 2159. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net.
‡ Trade Facilities Act, 1924. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF YOUNG PERSONS FOR FACTORY EMPLOYMENT.

THE Committee* appointed by the Home Secretary "to inquire into the working of the provisions of the Factory and Workshop Acts for the medical examination of young persons as to their fitness for employment in factories" have presented their Report.†

The medical examination of the boys and girls who are to enter industry is at present twofold; there is the medical examination for factory employment by certifying surgeons under the Factory Act, and the medical examination during school life by medical officers of the Local Education Authority under the Education Acts. The evidence given to the Committee respecting the working of the first-mentioned system was conflicting, but on the whole unfavourable; and the Committee record their opinion that this failure (for as such they regard it) is due to inherent defects of the system itself. They therefore recommend that the examination and certification of young persons should be amended as follows:—

- (1) The age for examination should be raised from 16 to 18 years.
- (2) The examination should be required in all factories and workshops, except such as the Home Office may, by Special Order, exempt.
- (3) The form of the certificate should be positive instead of negative, i.e., it should be to the effect that the young person is physically fit for employment in the factory.
- (4) The surgeon should be able to grant, at his discretion, a qualified certificate, to which conditions may be attached respecting the nature of the work on which the young persons may (or may not) be employed, the remedial or other measures which are to be taken in regard to the young person; or the certificate should be conditional upon re-examination within a stated period on account either of the physical state of the young persons or of the industrial conditions.
- (5) The certificate should be obtained within 14 days after the young person has started work in the factory, and should include a statement to the effect that the surgeon has seen the young person's school medical record. . . .
- (6) The examination should be conducted at the factory. . . .
- (7) The surgeon should have the duty of acquainting himself in every factory where he examines young persons with the process upon which they are, or are proposed to be, employed, and of recording in the register the date of his visits.
- (8) The standard of examination, the form of certificate and the nature of the conditions which may be attached to qualified certificates should be prescribed by the Home Office, which should supervise the work of the surgeon.
- (9) A retaining fee should be paid to the surgeon out of public funds for the purpose of covering the examination of processes referred to in (7) above, the making of an annual report, and the re-examinations referred to in (4) above. The fee for examination on entering employment in a factory should continue to be paid by the occupier.
- (10) The title "Examining Factory Surgeon" should be substituted for "Certifying Factory Surgeon" to mark the change effected in the duties and responsibilities by the above amendments.
- (11) On the application of the occupier of a factory who employs a medical officer, the Central Authority should have power to appoint him to be examining surgeon for that factory for the purpose of examination of young persons, as in the case of charitable institutions under the Factory Act, 1907.

In regard to linking up the examination of young persons under the Factory Act with that under other public health services, the Committee are of opinion that the Councils of Counties and County Boroughs in England and Wales, and the District Committees and Town Councils in Scotland, should at once be invited to submit schemes for taking over the examination and certification of young persons, which should be regarded as one of the specialised services of the Local Authority, like the school medical inspection. If the voluntary trial made by Local Authorities proves successful, the whole of this work should, in the opinion of the Committee, ultimately be transferred to the Local Authorities.

The Report is signed by all the members of the Committee; but certain reservations are made by Sir Gerald Bellhouse, H.M. Chief Inspector of Factories, who doubts the necessity for raising the age for examination from 16 to 18 years, and disagrees with the proposal to pay a retaining fee to examining surgeons out of public funds.

An appendix to the Report shows that 1,681,158 young persons were examined for fitness by certifying surgeons during the five years 1919-1923, of whom 54,056 were rejected. Statistics as to the number conditionally certified are not available for the years 1919 and 1920, but the number so certified during the three years 1921-23 was 22,847, as compared with 28,560 rejected outright in the same three years.

* See the April, 1924, issue of this GAZETTE, page 123.
† Cmd. 2135. H.M. Stationery Office; price 8d. net.

PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS AND INTERIM INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES IN MAY.

DURING the five weeks ended 30th May, 1924, 18 meetings of Joint Industrial Councils and Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees were reported to the Ministry of Labour.

The Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee for the Furniture Warehousing and Removing industry appointed two representatives from each side to discuss and report on the question of the reconstitution of the Committee in order to afford stronger representation from provincial centres. Representatives were also appointed to act on the Committee of the Association of Joint Industrial Councils.

The Joint Sub-Committee of enquiry appointed by the Emergency Committee of the National Wool (and Allied) Textile Industrial Council to ascertain the extent of the problem involved in the proposal to establish a Wages Schedule for young persons not now covered by an agreed wages scale, has issued its Report. The various classes of operatives employed in all sections of the industry, from raw material to finished piece, were reviewed carefully district by district. The findings of the Committee deal with the problem in two parts, the woollen spinning section being treated separately in view of the high proportion of young persons employed in it.

The wages question in the industry was discussed at some length by the Joint Industrial Council for the Soap and Candle Industry. No agreement was, however, reached.

The National Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-trading Services (Manual Workers) received the interim report of the Functions Committee which was appointed to consider the functions and powers of National and Provincial Councils.

The Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Undertakings Industry offered no objection to the reference to arbitration by the Industrial Court of a difference regarding the revision of wages between the Metropolitan Water Board and the Trade Union side of the Metropolitan District Council. A resolution was also carried authorising the payment of travelling and out-of-pocket expenses to representatives of the National Council attending meetings of the District Councils.

Following the notice given at the previous meeting by the Workers' Side, the Coöperage Joint Industrial Council dealt with an application for an advance on time and piece work rates. A provisional offer, conceding part of the advance claimed and offering arbitration on the remainder, was made by the employers, and a further meeting was agreed on in the event of the employers failing to get powers to agree to arbitration on the remainder of the claim. A special further meeting proved to be necessary, and was accordingly held. At this meeting the application was discussed at length *de novo*, agreement being eventually reached on a modified basis.

This Council further decided to convene a special meeting of the whole trade with a view to obtaining further support for the employers' side.

The Joint Industrial Council for the Flour Milling Industry ratified an agreement which had been negotiated by the Executive Committee, providing for an increase in the wages of various classes of workers. Three members from either side were appointed to act as a Committee on technical education in the industry.

Discussion also took place on the wages question at a meeting of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry, which was convened specially to consider the reports from the District Councils in connection with the wages application made by the Trade Union Side. The varying nature of the reports resulted in a failure to reach a satisfactory agreement, and the meeting was adjourned. At the subsequent meeting the Trade Union side found themselves unable to agree to accept the employers' offer for reference to arbitration, and stated their intention to take a ballot of their members in the industry on the alternatives of arbitration or strike action.

At a meeting of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Tramway Industry, held on 8th May, it was decided to appoint a Committee of the Council to enquire and report as to what steps, if any, might be taken to improve the existing machinery of the Council.

A special meeting of the Council was also held as a result of an application by the Trade Union side giving 3 months' notice of termination of the National Agreement of 1922. In connection with this application a draft scheme of grading was submitted by the Trade Union side to the employers for consideration, on the understanding that it was without prejudice to any future claim made by either side.

Other subjects discussed at Council meetings were the Industrial Councils Bill, 1924, the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Bill, and overtime and hours of employment.

CENSUS OF SCOTLAND, 1921: OCCUPATIONS AND INDUSTRIES.

THE third volume of the Report on the Thirteenth Census of Scotland, which was taken on the 19th June, 1921, has been published.* This volume deals with the occupations and industries of persons of twelve years of age and upwards.

"Occupation" is defined, for the purposes of the Census, as the class of work performed by an individual; and "industry" (which includes service) as the class of work collectively performed by all in one employment. Roughly, except in the case of domestic service, the personal occupation of the employer is the industry of the employees. Thus a cooper working for an employer engaged solely or principally in the manufacture of barrels would count as in the industry of cooperage; but a cooper in the employment of a brewer or of a fish-curer would count as in the industry of brewing or of fish-curing, as the case might be; though he would still, of course, be classed as a cooper in the occupation Tables.

OCCUPATIONS.

Occupations of Males.—The total number of male persons aged twelve and upwards enumerated in Scotland at the Census of 1921 was 1,771,228, of whom 1,543,177, or 87.1 per cent., were returned as having remunerative occupation. The corresponding proportion in 1911 was 87.6 per cent., the reduction being chiefly in age-groups under 16 and in the age-group 70 and over.

The following Table shows the principal occupations of males in 1921:—

	Number.	Per cent.
Metal workers	280,210	18.16
Agricultural occupations	169,984	11.02
Workers in transport and communication	169,912	11.01
Mining and quarrying occupations	151,884	9.84
Commercial, financial and insurance occupations	116,460	7.55
Workers in wood and furniture	80,860	5.24
Builders, contractors, etc.	65,223	4.23
Clerks, draughtsmen, etc.	59,487	3.85
Professional occupations	42,378	2.75
Persons employed in public administration and defence	40,085	2.60
Textile workers	36,566	2.37
Makers of foods, drinks and tobacco	34,360	2.22
Persons engaged in personal service	31,738	2.06

Occupations of Females.—The total number of female persons aged 12 and upwards enumerated in Scotland at the Census of 1921 was 1,967,133; of whom 636,092, or 32.3 per cent., were returned as having remunerative occupation. The corresponding proportion in 1911 was 32.4, or practically the same as in 1921. The percentages in age-groups 16-17, 18-19, 20-24, and 25-44 were actually greater in 1921 than in 1911; but there was a decline in the age-groups under 16 and over 45.

The following Table shows the principal occupations of females:—

	Number.	Per cent.
Persons engaged in personal service	168,149	26.43
Textile workers	92,407	14.53
Commercial, financial and insurance occupations	83,111	13.07
Clerks, draughtsmen, etc.	67,966	10.69
Makers of textile goods	53,967	8.48
Professional occupations	44,970	7.07
Agricultural occupations	24,317	3.82
Makers of foods, drinks and tobacco	22,099	3.47
Paper makers, workers, printers	16,713	2.63

The 168,149 females engaged in personal service include 122,248 indoor domestic servants; 14,994 charwomen or office cleaners; 10,477 laundry workers; 6,629 lodging or boarding house keepers; and 6,075 waitresses.

Married Women and Widows.—Married women, aged 16 and upwards, numbered 844,453; of whom 40,279, or 4.8 per cent., were returned as having remunerative occupation. Widows, aged 16 and upwards, numbered 202,565, of whom 43,443, or 21.4 per cent., were returned as having remunerative occupation. The number and proportion of married women with occupation have increased since 1911; while widows with occupation have declined, both in numbers and in the proportion to the total number of widows.

INDUSTRIES.

The following Tables show the groups of industries in which the largest numbers of males and of females, respectively, were employed in 1921:—

Males Employed in Industries.

	Number.	Per cent.
Manufacture of metals, machines, etc.	349,109	22.95
Mining and quarrying, etc.	175,000	11.50
Commerce and finance	168,219	11.06
Agriculture	159,305	10.47
Transport and communication	148,237	9.74
Public administration and defence	97,530	6.41
Building, decorating, etc., and contracting	65,314	4.29
Manufacture of textiles and textile goods	50,882	3.35
Manufacture of food, drink and tobacco	48,396	3.18
Personal service	47,222	3.10
Wood working, cane and basket ware, etc.	37,340	2.45
Professions	34,767	2.29

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 30s. net.

Females Employed in Industries.

	Number.	Per cent.
Personal service	152,426	24.26
Commerce and finance	121,150	19.28
Manufacture of textiles and textile goods	100,284	15.96
Public administration and defence	45,661	7.27
Manufacture of clothing	41,172	6.55
Manufacture of food, drink and tobacco	33,448	5.32
Professions	31,025	4.94
Agriculture	23,781	3.79
Paper making, working, printing, etc.	19,829	3.16
Manufacture of metals, machines, etc.	19,501	3.10

The above classification is according to censal "Orders," or combinations of industries. Of the 349,109 males engaged in Order VI. of the Census classification (manufacture of metals, machines, etc.), 121,075 were engaged in shipbuilding and repairing and marine engineering; 83,935 in engineering (not marine or electrical); 51,507 in founding and other secondary processes in metal working; 40,677 in the smelting, converting, refining, and rolling of iron and steel; and 51,915 in other industries of the same Order.

Of the 152,426 females in personal service 112,493 were in private domestic service; 10,694 in laundry, job dyeing, or dry cleaning service; 6,820 in lodging and boarding house service; 6,660 in restaurant service; and 8,503 in hotel or public house service.

Of the 100,284 females in the textile group, 36,493 were in the flax, hemp and jute industry; 18,412 in the cotton industry; and 13,175 in the woollen, worsted, and shoddy industry.

INDUSTRIAL FATIGUE RESEARCH BOARD.

REPORT FOR YEAR 1923.

THE Industrial Fatigue Research Board have issued their Fourth Annual Report,* relating to the year ended the 31st December, 1923.

Part I. of the Report deals with the investigations and researches, and with the other activities, of the Board during the year. In a concluding section they point out that close association with industries is essential at the final stages of an inquiry, and suggest that in each important industry a small committee should be set up, representative of employers and workmen, to examine results submitted by the Board, and, after criticism, to apply them experimentally in selected factories. Such a committee, in the opinion of the Board, could also discuss problems affecting the human factor in industry, and carry out other valuable functions in connection with the study of industrial fatigue and industrial psychology.

The second part of the Report consists of personal contributions from investigators on (i) general psychological problems; (ii) the method of grouping by differential tests; (iii) the training of operatives, with special reference to cotton weaving; (iv) the use and significance of the kata-thermometer (a device for measuring the cooling power of the air, and therefore for testing the effectiveness of ventilation).

NEW MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SOCIAL AFFAIRS) IN DENMARK.†

As a result of the elections held on 11th April, 1924, a social-democratic Government came into power in Denmark for the first time. One of the first acts of the new Government was to redistribute the functions of certain of the Ministries and to create a Ministry of Labour under the title of "Ministry of Social Affairs." This Ministry has taken over the following functions:—

(1) *From the Ministry of the Interior:* Matters relating to apprenticeship, conditions of labour, conciliation and arbitration in labour disputes, employment exchanges, factory and boiler inspection, holidays in factories and industrial undertakings, shops (closing hours), foreign workers, and the various social insurances (sickness and burial, unemployment, life, invalidity and industrial accidents), also the duties of the branch of the Ministry of the Interior concerned with international co-operation in social questions.

(2) *From the Ministry of Justice:* Matters relating to the supervision of children's education, etc., and to certain institutions for the mentally defective, etc., maternity homes, etc.

(3) *From the Ministry of Education:* All matters (not connected with poor-law administration) relating to the feeble minded, deaf mutes, the blind and cripples, together with State schools and institutes for deaf mutes, and the care of children.

The Ministry of the Interior retains all such matters as relate to poor-law and old age pensions.

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 3d. net.

† *Social Forsorg*, April, 1924. (A Ministry of Social Affairs set up on 5th April, 1920, after existing for exactly a month, was abolished by the newly-formed liberal and conservative coalition government.)

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES of UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE Unions with a net membership of 1,092,603 in branches covered by the returns received reported 76,079 (or 7.0 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of May, 1924, compared with 7.5 per cent. at the end of April, 1924, and 11.3 per cent. at the end of May, 1923.

Table showing Trade Union Percentages of Unemployed. Columns: Trade, Membership at end of May, 1924, Unemployed at end of May, 1924 (Number and Percentage), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a Month ago, Year ago.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

The percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 9.5 per cent. (males 9.9 per cent., females 8.1 per cent.) at 26th May, 1924, as compared with 9.7 per cent. (males 10.2 per cent., females 8.4 per cent.) at 23rd April, 1924, and 11.2 per cent. (Males 12.0 per cent., females 8.9 per cent.) at 21st May, 1923.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in May, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below. Further details are given on pages 203 to 208.

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Table showing Summary of Employers' Returns for Mining and Metal Trades. Columns: Trade, Workpeople included in the Returns for May, 1924, Days Worked per week by Miners, Furnaces in Blast, Mills Working, Shifts Worked, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago, Year ago.

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Table showing Summary of Employers' Returns for Other Trades. Columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople Employed, Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on Week ended 24th May, 1924, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on Week ended 24th April, 1924.

* Short time and broken time are not reflected in the figures. In the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is generally met by short-time working. Persons on strike or locked out are also excluded. † The percentage is based on returns relating to woodworkers and plumbers, and as regards woodworkers, who constitute the bulk of the membership, the returns relate to April. ‡ In addition to those shown, who were totally unemployed, a large number of the members of the unions reporting were "paid off part of each week, or alternate weeks or fortnights" or on "temporary stoppage benefit." § Comparative figures for May, 1924, April, 1924, and May, 1923, are not at present available. ¶ The returns for the tobacco trade are supplied by unions whose members are mainly cigar makers. †† Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

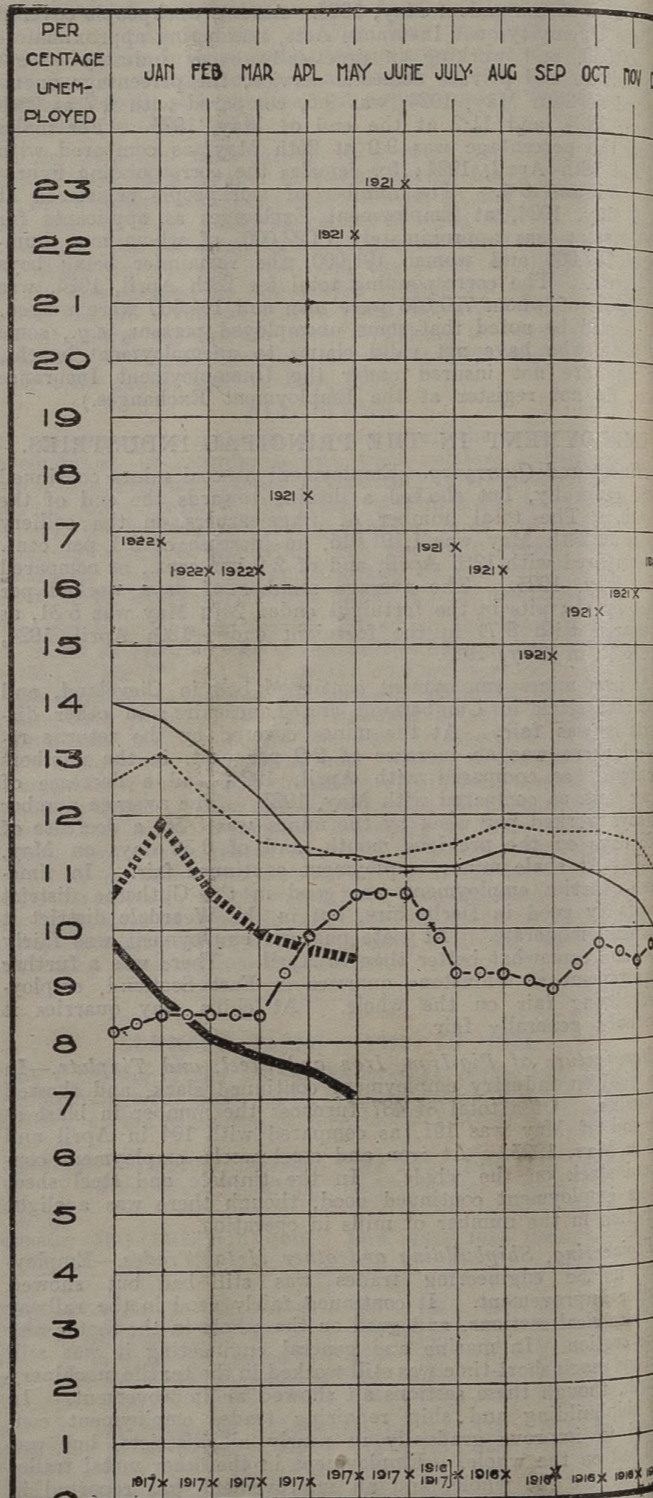
(1) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH AMONG MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS:—

Thick Curve ————— = 1924. Thin Curve ————— = 1923. Chain Curve - - - - - = Mean of 1919-23.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of Trade Union members unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1894-1923.

(2) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORKPEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT:—

Thick Dotted Curve - - - - - 1924. Thin Dotted Curve - - - - - 1923.



NOTE.

The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Trade Union Returns are furnished by various Trade Unions which pay unemployment benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. Detailed figures are given in the previous column. The figures for insured workpeople are briefly explained, and are analysed in detail on pages 210 and 211.

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 continued good generally, but showed a decline towards the end of the month; this decline was partly seasonal, owing to smaller demand for house coal and partly due to a decrease in the export trade, particularly in Northumberland and Durham and in Fifeshire.

The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 24th May showed an increase of 0.1 per cent., as compared with that at 12th April, and of 2.9 per cent. as compared with that at 19th May, 1923.

The average number of days worked per week for the fortnight ended 24th May was 5.31, a decrease of 0.40 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 12th April, and of 0.28 of a day compared with the fortnight ended 19th May, 1923.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 5.0 at 26th May, as compared with 2.0 at 23rd April.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal-mining districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked per week* during the fortnight ended 24th May, 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 showing Coal Mining statistics by Districts. Columns: Districts, Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at 24th May, 1924, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 12th April, A year ago, Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 12th April, A year ago.

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 24th May, 1924, was 0.46 of a day, of which 0.40 of a day was lost through transport difficulties and want of trade. The corresponding figures for the fortnight ended 12th April, 1924, were 0.05 of a day and 0.015 of a day respectively; for the fortnight ended 19th May, 1923, the time lost was 0.18 of a day, of which 0.09 of a day was due to holidays, and 0.05 of a day 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 in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 24th May, 1924, was returned to the Mines Department at 21,999,600 tons, as compared with 20,839,700 tons in the four weeks ended 26th April, and with 20,464,000 tons in the four weeks ended 26th May, 1923. The output for the period ended 24th May, 1924, was affected by the Whitsun Holidays, and that for the period ended 26th April, 1924, by the Easter Holidays.

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 7,413,538 tons in May, compared with 6,813,864 tons in April.

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, &c., 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 worked are omitted in computing the average number of days worked. * Including Cannonk Chase.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

Iron Mining.

EMPLOYMENT remained bad in the Cleveland district during May, and there was a very considerable amount of unemployment and short-time working. In Cumberland and Lancashire, also, there was considerable slackness, but in other districts employment was fair on the whole.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in iron ore and ironstone mining and quarrying, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 21.8 at 26th May, as compared with 19.0 at 23rd April.

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

Table showing Iron and Shale Mining statistics by Districts. Columns: Districts, Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns, Average No. of Days* worked per week by the Mines, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 12th April, A year ago.

Shale Mining.

Employment continued fair during May. At mines employing 4,107 workpeople in the fortnight ended 24th May there was a decrease in the number employed of 2.2 per cent. as compared with the previous month, and of 5.1 per cent. as compared with May, 1923. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines was 5.99 in May, 1924, as compared with 5.96 in April, 1924, and in May, 1923.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during May continued slack and showed a decline as compared with April.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 13.8 at 26th May, 1924, compared with 11.3 at 23rd April, 1924.

Returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers from 83 firms employing 22,101 workpeople at the end of May showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. compared with the number employed at the end of April.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of May, as shown by the returns collected by the Federation, was 191, compared with 194 at the end of April, and 223 at the end of May, 1923.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in blast at the end of May, 1924, April, 1924, and May, 1923:—

Table showing Pig Iron Industry statistics by District. Columns: District, Total Number of Furnaces, Number of Furnaces in Blast at end of May, April, May, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in May on a Month ago, Year ago.

* See note * in previous column.

noted was maintained until towards the end of the month, when a decline set in.

Employment in the tweed trade of the Colne, Holme and Calder Valleys, and of the Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) was, with some exceptions, reported as good.

In the rag and shoddy trade there was an improvement on the previous month; while in the rug and blanket trade employment was fairly good, though showing a slight decline on the previous month.

Employment was good at Trowbridge and Witney.

In Scotland steady improvement was reported. At Galashiels employment continued good, and there was very little unemployment among experienced workers.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to the numbers of workpeople employed and the total amount of wages paid in the three periods under review :-

Table with columns: Department, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on 12th April, 1924, and A year ago.

WOOLLEN INDUSTRY.

Table showing percentages and wages for departments like Wool Sorting, Spinning, Weaving, etc.

Table showing percentages and wages for districts like Huddersfield, Leeds, Dewsbury, etc.

WORSTED INDUSTRY.

Table showing percentages and wages for departments like Wool Sorting and Combing, Spinning, etc.

Table showing percentages and wages for districts like Bradford, Kelgley, Halifax, etc.

Returns from firms in the woollen section, employing 15,157 workpeople showed that about 26 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time, in the week ended the 24th May, to the extent, on the average, of five hours in that week.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 5th May, 1924, in the principal centres, at which approximately 61 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the woollen and worsted industries were registered :-

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

Table with columns: Department, Number of Applicants for Employment at 5th May, 1924, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 7th April, 1924.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep or lambs) were 80,886,700 lbs. in May, 1924, compared with 40,409,500 lbs. in April, 1924, and 51,562,700 lbs. in May, 1923.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 5,395,900 lbs., compared with 4,876,600 lbs. in April, 1924, and 3,993,100 lbs. in May, 1923.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 16,071,500 square yards, compared with 11,838,500 square yards in April, 1924, and 17,373,000 square yards in May, 1923.

The exports of blankets were 160,233 pairs, 144,907 pairs and 117,455 pairs in May, 1924, April, 1924, and May, 1923, respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT was moderate on the whole during May, but was slightly better than in the previous month. In some centres short time working was still prevalent, though to a less extent than in April.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 8.3 on the 26th May, as compared with 10.2 on the 28th April.

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

Table with columns: Department, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on 12th April, 1924, and A year ago.

Table showing percentages and wages for regions like England and Wales, Scotland, and Great Britain.

Employment in London again showed a slight improvement. At Leicester it was fairly good on the whole; although some short time was worked, the majority of factories were running full time.

Factories producing heavy footwear employment continued quiet. A considerable improvement was reported at Stafford, where employment was very fair.

Employment was again good at Norwich, and showed a further improvement; full time was general and overtime was worked at a number of factories.

The majority of operatives were fairly well employed during May at Glasgow, Edinburgh and Kilmarnock; but at Maybole and Arbroath employment continued poor, and a good deal of short time was worked.

Returns from firms employing over 39,000 workpeople in the week ended the 24th May, 1924, showed that about 24 per cent. of these workpeople worked short time in that week, to the extent of about 10 hours each on an average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 5th May, 1924, in the principal centres, at which approximately 72 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the boot and shoe industry were registered.

Table with columns: Department, Number of Applicants for Employment at 5th May, 1924, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 7th April, 1924.

The exports of boots and shoes in May, 1924, amounted to 20,490 dozen pairs, or 23,689 dozen pairs more than in April, 1924, and 32,967 dozen pairs more than in May, 1923.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper trade continued moderate on the whole, though showing a slight improvement on the previous month in some districts. A number of mills were still working irregularly.

With letterpress printers employment showed an improvement in London and was fair in most sections; with electrotypers and stereotypers it was reported as very good.

The percentage unemployed among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and book-binding trades was 5.3 at 26th May, 1924, compared with 5.7 at 28th April, 1924.

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

Table with columns: No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1924, Percentage Unemployed at end of May, 1924, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a Month ago, and Year ago.

BUILDING TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the building trade during May continued good, on the whole, with skilled operatives, and a further improvement was noticeable in the painting and decorating section; it remained generally slack with unskilled workers.

Middlesex, North-West and West Surrey, and Bournemouth, and as good at many other centres, a little overtime being worked in some cases.

As regards individual occupations employment continued very good generally with bricklayers and plasterers, and good in most districts with masons and with carpenters and joiners; in a considerable number of districts a shortage of one or more of the foregoing classes of skilled operatives, especially of bricklayers and plasterers, was again reported.

The following Table shows the numbers and approximate percentages* of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 26th May, and the increase or decrease in the percentage as compared with 28th April :-

Table with columns: Occupations, Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 26th May, 1924, Approximate Percentage Unemployed, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with 28th April, 1924.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 135 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 15,350,000, show that in May, 1924, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £5,356,700, as compared with £4,781,200 in April, 1924, and £4,197,300 in May, 1923.

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the brick trade in May was good generally and showed an improvement as compared with the previous month; there was practically no short time worked during the month, and in the South Staffordshire and Nottingham districts some overtime was reported to have been worked.

The following Table summarises the information received as to the number of workpeople employed and the amount of wages paid by those employers who furnished returns for the three periods under review :-

* Figures are not available as to the exact numbers of insured workpeople in each of the occupations shown in the first column of the Table, in the building industry.

Table showing Pottery Trades employment data by Districts, including Week ended 24th May 1924, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on 12th April, and Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the pottery industry was slack, on the whole, in the china and earthenware sections, but good in the tile, sanitary earthenware, and fireclay sections.

At Hanley, Longton and Burslem some improvement was reported, but at Stoke-on-Trent there was little change. At Worcester and Bristol employment was reported as fair, but at Glasgow it was bad.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 26th May, 1924, was 11.7, as compared with 11.8 at 28th April, 1924.

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

Table summarising Pottery Trades information received from employers, including Branches (China Manufacture, Earthenware Manufacture, etc.) and Districts (Potteries, Other Districts).

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that of 10,918 workpeople employed, 3,553, or 31 per cent., were working on an average 12 hours less than full time in the week ended 24th May, 1924.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT with seamen during May continued moderate on the whole. At a few ports the supply of deck hands was reported to be inadequate, especially in the early part of the month.

On the Thames the demand for men improved until the middle of May and declined afterwards, being described as moderate at the end of the month. On the Tyne it was moderate, and fell off at the end of May.

The demand was moderate on the Clyde and quiet at Leith. At Belfast it declined, and was described as poor at the end of the month.

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

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

Table showing Dock and Riverside Labour employment data by Principal Ports (England & Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland) including Number of Seamen Shipped at the Ports shown.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT among dock labourers during May remained moderate generally. Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, harbour and dock service 25.3 per cent. were unemployed at 26th May, compared with 24.9 per cent. at 28th April.

London.—The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at the docks and at the principal wharves in each week of the month:—

Table showing Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London, categorized by Period and location (In Docks, At Wharves making Returns, Total).

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in May was 1,102, as compared with 1,151 in the previous month and with 865 in May, 1923.

East Coast.—Employment with coal trimmers on the Tyne and Wear was moderate. With other classes of workers it was slack and showed a decline as compared with the previous month.

Western and Southern Ports.—At Liverpool employment continued fair. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the Clearing Houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 26th May was 15,101, compared with 15,316 in the four weeks ended 28th April, and with 14,502 in May, 1923.

At the South Wales ports employment was slack with coal trimmers and fair with other classes of workers. At Plymouth and other South Western ports it was slack, and at Southampton moderate.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Glasgow employment continued fair. It was fairly good at Aberdeen, being somewhat better than in April. It was moderate at Leith and slack at Dundee in both cases showing a decline as compared with the previous month. At Belfast it was fair.

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

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

THE number of persons remaining on the "live registers" of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland—i.e., of applications for employment outstanding from workpeople—at 26th May, 1924, was 1,022,370, of whom 767,071 were men, 33,430 boys, 190,516 women, and 31,353 girls. Compared with 28th April, there was a decrease of 30,102, which was distributed as follows:—Men, 23,404; women, 3,504; juveniles, 3,194.

During the four weeks ended 26th May the number of vacancies filled by Employment Exchanges was 89,864, of which 50,815 were for men, 21,014 for women, and 18,035 for juveniles.

The following Table summarises the work of the Exchanges during the four weeks ended 26th May, 1924:—

Table summarising the work of Employment Exchanges during the four weeks ended 26th May, 1924, including Week ended, Applications from Employers, Vacancies Filled, and Applications outstanding at end of week.

A detailed analysis of the figures in the preceding paragraph is not yet available, but statistics for the four weeks ended 5th May are dealt with below:—

Applications from Workpeople.—The total number of 686,530 applications from workpeople during the four weeks ended 5th May showed a daily average of 32,692. Of this daily average, men accounted for 20,879, women for 8,490, and juveniles for 3,323. In the preceding month the corresponding averages were:—Men, 18,961; women, 8,240; juveniles, 2,521.

Vacancies Notified.—During the four weeks ended 5th May there were 99,244 vacancies notified, representing a daily average of 4,726. Of this daily average, 2,483 were for men, 1,330 for women, and 913 for juveniles, compared with a daily average during the previous month of 2,669 men, 1,236 women, and 819 juveniles.

Vacancies Filled.—The total number of vacancies filled during the period was 82,217—the daily average of 3,915 showing no change compared with the average for the preceding statistical month. Of this daily average, men accounted for 2,204, women for 959, and juveniles for 752. The corresponding figures for the previous month were:—Men, 2,391; women, 868; and juveniles, 656.

Juveniles.—During the period, 35,514 applications were received from boys and 34,264 from girls. The number of vacancies notified for boys was 10,154, and 8,346 vacancies were filled. In the case of girls, 9,013 vacancies were notified, and 7,442 were filled. Of the total vacancies filled by juveniles, 33.0 per cent. were filled by applicants who obtained their first situations since leaving school.

Statistics relating to Building Trades (men), and to Domestic Service occupations (women), for the four weeks ended 5th May have been summarised under the principal occupations, and the outstanding features are dealt with below.

In the building trades 8,634 vacancies were notified for men and 7,183 vacancies were filled. The principal occupations concerned were:—Carpenters, 1,919 vacancies notified and 1,529 filled; bricklayers, 864 vacancies notified and 490 filled; painters, 3,130 vacancies notified and 2,852 filled; and builders' labourers, 1,065 vacancies notified and 994 placings.

The number of men on the "live register" in the building trades was 50,460 at 5th May, compared with 52,651 at 7th April.

The number of vacancies notified for women in domestic service for the four weeks ended 5th May was 16,310. Of this number, 9,006 were for resident domestic servants, 3,530 for non-resident domestic servants, 3,844 for charwomen, and 2,251 for waitresses; other domestic occupations accounting for 777.

Of the 11,022 vacancies filled, 2,672 were placings in resident domestic service, 2,489 as non-resident, 3,417 as charwomen, and 4,452 as waitresses.

The total number of women remaining registered on 5th May for work in domestic service was 30,916, compared with 31,999 on 7th April.

Dock Labourers and Coal Porters.—The figures above, except those in the first three paragraphs, are exclusive of dock labourers and coal porters. The number of casual jobs found for men in these occupations during the period of four weeks ended 5th May was 2,155.

The figures exclude workpeople on systematic short time, but include workpeople "suspended" or "stood off." For Great Britain alone the figures, as published in the Press, show that on 26th May, 1924, there were on the registers 754,600 men, 194,900 women, and 66,200 juveniles, as compared with 947,900 men, 267,900 women, and 72,000 juveniles at 31st December, 1923. These figures include 34,000 persons on 26th May, 1924, and 35,500 on 31st December, 1923, who were employed on a basis of systematic short time, but were not actually at work on the date in question.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons remaining on the "Live Registers" at the Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 26th May, 1924. In certain cases—e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc., the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Large table showing the number of persons remaining on the Live Registers at 26th May, 1924, categorized by Area (London, South Eastern Division, South Western Division, Midlands Division, North Eastern Division, North Western Division, Scotland Division, Wales Division, Northern Ireland) and including Men, Women, Juveniles, Total, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 28th Apr., 1924.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes, involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in May in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 56, as compared with 46 in the previous month and 49 in May, 1923. In these new disputes about 28,000 workpeople were involved (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 8,000 workpeople were involved in 30 disputes which began before May, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 86, involving about 36,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during May of about 398,000 working days.

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

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in May.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in May.	Aggregate Duration of all Disputes in Working Days in progress in May.
	Started before 1st May.	Started in May.	Total.		
	Mining and Quarrying ..	7	9		
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	6	11	17	3,800	32,000
Textile ..	2	9	11	2,500	20,000
Woodworking and Furnishing	2	2	1,500	33,000
Building, Decorating, Contracting, etc. ..	3	6	9	1,400	29,000
Public Administration Services ..	4	6	10	1,500	27,000
Other ..	8	13	21	2,800	33,000
Total, May, 1924 ..	30	56	86	36,200	398,000
Total, April, 1924 ..	21	46	67	51,000	471,000
Total, May, 1923 ..	41	49	90	48,000	807,000

Causes.—Of the 56 disputes beginning in May, 18, directly involving 4,000 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages; 15, directly involving 4,000 workpeople, on other

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS DURING MAY, 1924.

Occupations and Locality. †	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object. ‡	Result. ‡
	Directly.	Indirectly. †	Began.	Ended.		
	MINING AND QUARRYING :—					
Coal miners, etc.—Wakefield (near)	2,015		1923, 4 Dec.	1924, ..	Dispute respecting wages, alleged victimisation and other grievances.	No settlement reported.
Coal miners, etc.—Tredegar (near)	1,800	9,000	1924, 20 May	4 June	Alleged victimisation of a workman, the men demanding dismissal of an overman.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
			28 May	4 June		
Quarrymen and settmakers—North Wales.	2,000	..	14 April	31 May	For advance in wages of 7½ per cent.	Modified advance granted by smaller firms. Work resumed at remaining firm pending negotiations.
METAL, ENGINEERING, ETC. :—						
Steel millmen, melters, steam service men, etc., and maintenance men—Glasgow.	1,095	193	11 May	28 May	Against proposed introduction of a system of contracting for the loading, etc., of plates.	Work resumed on old terms pending negotiations.
WOODWORKING AND FURNISHING :—						
Furnishing trades operatives—Liverpool.	1,200	..	6 May	..	For advance in wages of 1¼d. per hour.	No settlement reported.
BUILDING, DECORATING, ETC. :—						
Building trades operatives—Londonderry.	600	..	1 May	12 June	For advance in wages of 2d. per hour (labourers 4d. per hour).	Advance of 2d. per hour granted to both craftsmen and labourers by two instalments.
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SERVICES :—						
Paviors, masons, labourers, etc., employed in Paving, etc., and Tramways Departments—Manchester.	1,460	..	12 Mar.	6 June	Against proposed substitution of civil engineering rates of wages and hours of labour, with certain modifications, for those observed in the building trades.	Temporary settlement effected; work to be resumed on 16th June.
Bricklayers, masons, labourers, etc., on municipal housing schemes, etc., Manchester.	500	..	31 Mar.	6 June	In sympathy with employees of the Paving, etc., and Tramways Departments.	..

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople and those which lasted less than one day have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.
 † In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. Workpeople involved in more than one dispute are counted more than once in the totals; the extent of such duplication is, however, very slight.
 ‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.
 || Estimated number.
 ¶ Workers at the municipal electrical power station, to the number of 23, struck in sympathy on 15th May, and this resulted in the stoppage of several factories on 23rd May, others being closed on 31st May following a strike of carters. Some thousands of shirt and collar workers, etc., were thus rendered idle.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in May in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate increase of about £275,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 1,350,000 workpeople and in a reduction of £3,700 in the weekly wages of 45,000 workpeople.

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

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ..	1,173,000	2,000	£ 250,000	£ 225
Iron and Steel ..	87,500	—	2,000	—
Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal ..	34,000	4,500	13,500	200
Woodworking ..	25,500	4,500	4,900	650
Transport ..	14,500	9,000	2,200	425
Other ..	12,500	25,000	2,600	2,200
Total ..	1,347,000	45,000	275,200	3,700

Under the terms of a new national agreement in the coal mining industry (see page 194) wages were increased in the principal districts. The increase resulting from the revision of the percentage additions to basis rates amounted to over 11 per cent. on the rates previously paid in districts where wages were at the minimum as defined in the agreement of 1921; in other districts the increase on the previous rates varied from 3 per cent. (in Northumberland) to 12 per cent. (in Yorkshire and the East Midland area). There were further increases in the wages of lower-paid workers in a number of districts, resulting from a provision that the wages of an adult able-bodied workman were not to fall below a sum represented by adding 40 per cent. to the "standard wages" of the lowest paid class of day-wage workmen in the district. Subsistence wages and allowances were increased by one-eighth in those districts in which such payments had previously been made.

The principal change in the iron and steel group was an increase of 1½ per cent. on the standard rates (equivalent to about 1 per cent. on current rates) of steel smelters and millmen in various districts in England and Scotland, with corresponding increases in the wages of a large number of subsidiary classes of workers whose wages are regulated in accordance with changes under the smelters' sliding scale.

In the other metal trades the principal increases affected men employed in the ship-repairing trade in the Thames and Mersey districts, the increases in the two districts amounting respectively to 6s. and 10s. per week. Men employed in the marine engineering trade at Belfast received increases amounting in the case of skilled workers to 5s. per week. Men employed in lead manufacture received an increase of 1d. per hour. There were small reductions, under cost of living sliding scales, in the wages of metallic bedstead makers and of penmakers at Birmingham. In the woodworking group there was an increase of 1d. per hour on all existing rates in the vehicle building trade in England and Wales. Coopers received an increase, and furniture trade operatives in Scotland had their wages reduced. There were increases in the wages of road transport workers in the Liverpool district and at Leeds and Huddersfield. Similar classes of men at various towns in Scotland sustained a reduction.

In trades other than the above the principal increases affected textile workers in the Glasgow district, sugar refinery workers at Greenock, and building trade operatives at Belfast. There were decreases, under cost of living sliding scales, in the wages of machine calico printers and of hosiery workers at Hawick.

The minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were reduced for certain classes of workpeople employed in the brush and broom trade in Great Britain, for male workers in the coffin furniture trade in Great Britain, and for female workers in the retail bespoke tailoring trade and the retail branch of the hat, cap and millinery trade in Northern Ireland.

Of the increases taking effect in May, fifty-three, amounting to nearly £252,500 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices or the proceeds of the industry; four, amounting to nearly £1,900 per week, were arranged by standing joint bodies of employers and workpeople; seven, amounting to £900 per week, were arranged by arbitration or mediation; two, amounting to £15 per week, took effect under cost of living sliding scales; and the remaining thirty-five cases, amounting to £20,000 per week, were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties. In eight cases, involving nearly £700 per week, the increases were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. Of the decreases, twenty-three, amounting to £3,300 per week, took effect under cost of living sliding scales; three, amounting to £800 per week, took effect under Trade Board Orders (including £600 per week which took effect under cost of living sliding scales, incorporated above); two, amounting to £500 per week, were arranged by standing joint bodies of employers and workpeople (the whole of which took effect under cost of living sliding scales, incorporated above), while of the remaining two cases, one took effect under a sliding scale based on selling prices, and the other was arranged by arbitration.

Summary of Changes in January—May, 1924.

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
	Mining and Quarrying ..	1,121,000	87,000	£ 302,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ..	53,000	50	9,200	5
Iron and Steel ..	65,000	31,000	6,300	2,750
Engineering, Shipbuilding, etc. ..	34,500	300	13,900	70
Other Metal ..	54,500	5,500	8,400	850
Textile ..	20,000	82,000	1,250	1,825
Clothing ..	2,250	13,000	150	1,360
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	27,500	4,000	4,000	450
Woodworking ..	49,000	250	6,900	380
Building and Allied Trades ..	470,000	250	49,600	60
Transport ..	350,000	13,500	48,000	800
Public Utility Services ..	205,000	1,650	25,100	250
Other ..	34,750	5,250	5,300	400
Total ..	2,477,500	247,500	480,100	13,550

In the corresponding five months of 1923 there were net reductions of £340,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 2,350,000 workpeople and net increases of over £100,000 in the weekly wages of 760,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

The only change reported affected bakers at Dundee.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1924.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
AGRICULTURE.				
Agriculture	North Northumberland	12 May	Agricultural labourers	Rates previously in operation extended up to 11 May, 1925—viz. (for a week of 52½ hours): male workers—32s. for adults and for juveniles varying from 7s. at under 14 years to 30s. at 20 years; female workers—20s. for adults and for juveniles varying from 6s. at under 14 years to 18s. at 17 years.†
	Cheshire	1 May	Male agricultural labourers	Rates previously in operation extended up to 31 October—viz. (for a week of 54 hours): 32s. for adult workers and for juveniles varying from 10s. at 14 and under 15 to 20s. at 18 and under 19 and to 27s. at 20 and under 21 years.†
	Carnarvonshire	13 May	Male agricultural labourers	Rates previously in operation extended—viz., stockmen (for a week of 60 hours): those boarded and lodged at farm, † 25s. 6d. at 16 and under 17, increasing to 33s. 6d. at 20 years and over; those living out, 35s.; other workers, 20 years and over, 30s. for a week of 50 hours.†

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, police, agricultural labourers, domestic servants, shop assistants, and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to provide a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of general changes in the current rates of wages of agricultural labourers, shop assistants, and clerks are included in the list of principal changes reported. The statistics relate to full-time rates of wages, and do not take into account the effect of short-time working.
 † The rates were agreed upon by the local Conciliation Committee set up under the Corn Production Acts (Repeal) Act, 1921.
 ‡ These rates are subject to a deduction for board and lodging.

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
AGRICULTURE—(continued).				
Agriculture (contd.)	Denbighshire and Flintshire	1 M.Y.	Male agricultural labourers ...	Rates previously in operation extended up to 30 November—viz., adult stockmen and horsemen for a week of 61 hours, 33s.*; other adult workers for a week of 50 hours, 27s. 1d.*; juveniles—varying from 3d. per hour at 16 years to 6d. per hour at 20 years.†
	Merionethshire and Montgomeryshire	1 May	Male agricultural labourers ...	Rates* adopted up to 31 October for adult workers of 32s. for a week of 60 hours for stockmen and 30s. for a week of 54 hours for other workers, and for juveniles varying from 15s. at 16 years to 28s. at 20 years.†
	East Lothian ...	28 May	Agricultural labourers ...	Increase of 1s. per week. Standard rates after change: men, 34s.; women, 21s.†
	Midlothian and West Lothian	28 May	Agricultural labourers ...	Increase of 1s. per week for men and 6d. per week for women. Standard rates after change: men, 35s. to 39s.; women, 19s. to 20s.†
	Glasgow District§	28 May	Agricultural labourers (married men)	Increase of 1s. per week. Standard rate after change, 38s. to 40s.†
MINING AND QUARRYING.				
Coal Mining	Northumberland	1 May		Increase of 6.77 per cent. on standard base rates of 1879, making wages 131.62 per cent. above the standard of 1879, and subsistence wage previously fixed for lower paid men increased by one-eighth (6s. 9½d. per day to 7s. 7.69d. per day).
	Durham ...	1 May		Increase of 12.07 per cent. on standard base rates of 1879, making wages 128.67 per cent. above the standard of 1879, and subsistence wage previously fixed for lower paid men increased by one-eighth (6s. 8½d. per day to 7s. 6.56d. per day).
	Cumberland ...	1 May		Increase of 14.44 per cent. on standard base rates of March, 1921, making wages 44.44 per cent. above the standard of March, 1921, and subsistence wages and allowance¶ previously fixed increased by one-eighth, making subsistence allowance for workers 21 years and over 7s. 5½d. per shift.
	Yorkshire and East Midland Area**	1 May		Increase of 18.97 per cent. on standard base rates of 1911, making wages 77.44†† per cent. above the standard of 1911.
	Lancashire, Cheshire and North Staffordshire	1 May		Increase of 14.66 per cent. on standard base rates of 1911, making wages 46.66 per cent. above the standard of 1911, and subsistence allowances previously fixed for lower paid day-wage workers increased by one-eighth, making subsistence allowance for workers 21 years and over 1s. 1½d. per shift, provided that gross daily wage does not exceed 8s. 9d. per shift.
	South Staffordshire and Salop	1 May	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Increase of 14.66 per cent. on standard base rates of 1911, making wages 46.66 per cent. above the standard of 1911, and subsistence wage previously fixed for lower paid men increased by one-eighth (5s. 6d. per day to 6s. 2d. per day).
	North Wales ...	1 May		Increase of 14.66 per cent. on standard base rates of 1911, making wages 46.66 per cent. above the standard of 1911.
	South Wales and Monmouthshire	1 May		Increase of 14.22 per cent. on standard base rates of 1915, making wages 42.22 per cent. above the standard of 1915, and subsistence wages and allowances§§ previously fixed for lower paid workers increased by one-eighth, making subsistence wage for workers, over 21 years, 8s. 0½d. per shift paid.
	Scotland ...	1 May		Increase of 10.54 per cent. on standard base rates of 1888, making wages 157.99 per cent. above the standard of 1888, and subsistence allowances previously fixed for lower paid men increased by one-eighth, making subsistence allowance for male workers 18 years and over 1s. 1½d. per shift worked, provided that gross daily wage does not exceed 7s. 10½d.
	Durham ...	1 May		Increase of 12.07 per cent. on standard base rates, making wages 128.67 per cent. above the standard, and subsistence wages previously fixed for lower paid men increased by one-eighth (6s. 8½d. per day to 7s. 6.56d. per day).
Coke and By-Products Manufacture	South Yorkshire...	1 May	Cokemen and by-product workers	Increase of 18.97 per cent. on standard base rates, making wages 77.44 per cent. above the standard. Decrease¶¶ of 8 per cent. on standard base rates, leaving wages 65 per cent. above the standard. Rates after change: coke fillers, 6s. 2d. per day; rammers and pipe fitters, 6s.; trammers, 4s. 9d.; pug mill men and labourers, 5s. 4d.; plus in each case 65 per cent.
	West Yorkshire ...	1st full pay in May		
Other Mining	North Lincolnshire	4 May	Ironstone miners and quarrymen	Increase¶¶ of 2½ per cent. on standard rates of 1909, making wages 58½ per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift.
Gypsum Mining	Gotham, Cropwell Bishop and Newark-on-Trent	May	Gypsum miners, mill hands, and stone dressers	Decrease of 5d. in the £ on earnings. Rates after change: millhands and stone dressers at Gotham, 64s. per week less 6s. 5d. in the £; dayworkers at Cropwell Bishop, 60s. per week less 6s. 5d. in the £.
Quarrying, etc.	Portland ...	1 May	Banker masons and mason machinists employed in saw mills and stone yards	Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7½d.).

* These rates are subject to deductions in cases where board and lodging are provided. The deductions provided for in the two areas are as follows:—
Denbighshire and Flintshire: Full board and lodging, 7 days, 14s.; 6 days, 12s. 6d.; board only, 7 days, 12s.; 6 days, 10s. 3d. Merionethshire and Montgomeryshire: Adult workers—board and lodging, 16s.; board only, 13s.; juveniles—board and lodging, from 10s. to 16s. per week (according to age).
† The rates were agreed upon by the Local Conciliation Committee set up under the Corn Production Acts (Repeal) Act, 1921.
‡ The increase took effect under an agreement arrived at between the local branch of the National Farmers' Union of Scotland and the Scottish Farm Servants' Union.

§ Viz., the districts of Dumbarton, West Stirling, Mid and Lower Wards of Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire.

|| The above increases took effect under the agreement recently made between the Mining Association and the Miners' Federation, whereby the basis for determining wages by the proceeds of the industry, as fixed in July, 1921, was revised and the minimum percentage which might be paid on standard wages (district basis rates plus the district percentage payable in July, 1914) was increased from 20 per cent. to 33½ per cent. In all districts it was arranged that the wages of an adult able-bodied wage workman should not fall below a sum represented by adding 40 per cent. to the "standard wages" of the lowest paid class of day-wage workman in the district. Full details are not yet available as to the lowest rate thus fixed in all districts. The agreement further provided that in districts where subsistence wages or allowances were paid such wages and allowances should in each case be increased by one-eighth.

¶ Particulars of the subsistence wages and allowances previously paid were given on p. 295 of the August, 1923, GAZETTE.

¶¶ Viz., Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Cannock Chase and Warwickshire.

†† In the case of West Yorkshire the surface workers' percentage addition to the 1911 standard from 1st May was 75.78 for the Eastern Area and 72.44 for the Western Area.

‡‡ Particulars of the subsistence allowances previously paid were given on p. 377 of the September, 1922, GAZETTE.

§§ Particulars of the subsistence wages and allowances previously paid were given on p. 415 of October, 1922, GAZETTE, and p. 295 of August, 1923, GAZETTE.

¶¶ Particulars of the subsistence allowances previously paid were given on p. 80 of February, 1922, GAZETTE.

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

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

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
GLASS, BRICK, CHEMICAL, POTTERY, ETC., TRADES.				
Glass Working	Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield, Huddersfield and York	*	Decorative glassworkers ...	Increase of ½d. per hour for timeworkers. Standard rate after change, 1s. 7½d.
	West Cumberland and North Lancashire	2nd full pay in May	Workpeople (excluding skilled craftsmen and bricklayers on maintenance work) employed at blastfurnaces	Increase of ¼ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 39½ per cent. above the standard, plus, in some cases, an output bonus. Minimum rates after change: general labourers, 4s. 10d., plus 39½ per cent.; shift labourers, 5s., plus 39½ per cent.
IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE.				
Pig Iron Manufacture	North Lincolnshire	4 May	Engineers, electricians, apprentices, improvers, etc., employed on maintenance work at ironstone mines, blast-furnaces and in steel works	Increase of 2½ per cent. on standard rates of 1909, making wages 58½ per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift. Minimum rate after change for labourers: 3s. 8d., plus 58½ per cent., plus 1s. 1d. per shift.
	England and West of Scotland§	4 May	Men employed in steel smelting shops:— Melters, pitmen, slagmen, ladlemen, furnace helpers, etc., and gas producermen and charge wheelers	Increase of 1 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 39½ per cent. above the standard, plus a tonnage bonus. Rates after change: patternmakers, 44s.; boiler-smiths, 43s.; fitters, turners, smiths, electricians and armature winders, 42s.; machine men (millers, borers, planers, etc.), 30s. to 38s.; strikers (after one year's service), 32s. 6d.; plus, in each case, 39½ per cent. and a tonnage bonus.
	England and West of Scotland§	4 May	Semi-skilled workers and labourers:— Men on 8-hour shifts	Increase of 1½ per cent. on the standard of 1905, making wages 41½ per cent. (basic process) and 16½ per cent. (acid process) above the standard.
	England and Scotland	4 May	Men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week	Increase of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 41½ per cent. above the standard.
	Certain districts in England, also West of Scotland¶	4 May	Roll turners ...	Increase of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making the total decrease in such advance since 1 May, 1921, about 78 per cent.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	North of England	4 May	Bricklayers and masons employed at blastfurnaces and in iron and steel works in England and in steel works in West of Scotland	Increase of 1½ per cent. on basis rate, making wages 11.375d. per hour, plus 41½ per cent., plus a tonnage bonus.
	North-East Coast Area**	4 May	Engineers, electricians, strikers, motor attendants, arc lamp trimmers, boiler-makers and patternmakers employed at blastfurnaces and in iron and steel works.	Increase of 1½ of total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making the total decrease in such advance since 1 May, 1921, about 78 per cent.
	Workington ...	4 May	Bricklayers' labourers employed at blastfurnaces and in iron and steel works.	Increase of 0.10d. per hour (10.35d. to 10.45d.).
	Scunthorpe ...	4 May	Semi-skilled workers, labourers, etc., in puddling forges and rolling mills:— Men on 8-hour shifts	Increase of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 41½ per cent. above the standard.
	West of Scotland...	4 May	Men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week	Increase of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making the total decrease in such advance since 1 May, 1921, about 78 per cent.
	Workington ...	4 May	Men employed on direct production in steel rolling mills	Increase of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 41½ per cent. above the standard.
	Workington ...	4 May	Steel millmen, engineers' labourers and general labourers	Increase of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 41½ per cent. above the standard.
	Workington ...	4 May	Engineers employed in steel works	Increase of 1½ per cent., making wages 42s. per week, plus 41½ per cent., plus a tonnage bonus.
	Scunthorpe ...	4 May	Steel millmen, wagon builders and repairers, engineers' labourers and general labourers	Increase of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 41½ per cent. above the standard.
	Scunthorpe ...	4 May	Bricklayers' and joiners' labourers employed at blastfurnaces and in iron and steel works	Increase of 0.12d. per hour. Rate after change, 10.58d. or 10.59d. per hour.
	Scunthorpe ...	4 May	Men employed in steel rolling mills:— Millmen, gas producermen, enginemmen, crane-men and firemen	Increase of 1½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 41½ per cent. above the standard.
	Scunthorpe ...	4 May	Semi-skilled workers and labourers	Increase of 1½ of the total advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30 April, 1921, making the total decrease in such advance since 1 May, 1921, about 78 per cent.
	Scunthorpe ...	4 May	Bricklayers' labourers employed in steel works	Increase of 0.09d. per hour (9.57d. to 9.66d.).

* The increase was originally arranged to take effect from the beginning of April; in some cases, however, owing to a trade dispute, there was a stoppage of work, the men not resuming until early in May.

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

‡ The scale percentage on bonus earnings paid to keepers, slaggers, fillers, enginemmen, etc., is 77 in the Workington Area and 72 in the Furness Area.

§ The change applied to firms who are members of the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, those in England being situated principally in the North East Coast District, Cumberland, Lancashire, South and West Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and the Midlands.

¶ The men on 8-hour shifts referred to are those who do not receive allowance hours and/or extra payment for night shift during the normal week. The men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week are mainly men employed in engineering shops or working with craftsmen who receive the allowances or extra payments mentioned.

¶¶ This change took effect under an arrangement made by the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association, the West Coast Ironmasters' Association and the Lincolnshire Ironmasters' Association with the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers.

¶¶¶ Except certain men employed at Newburn and West Hartlepool.

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

Industry	Locality	Date from which change took effect	Classes of Workpeople	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
			ENGINEERING, SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.	
	Thames District ...	14 May	Workpeople employed in ship-repairing trade	Increase of 6s. per week for workers other than rivet heaters under 21, rivet heaters 18 to 21 years of age to receive an increase of 4s., and those under 18, 2s. Rates after change: patternmakers, 73s. per week; sheet-metal workers, joiners, shipwrights, smiths, riggers, painters, plumbers, fitters, turners, electricians and sawyers, 69s.; galley-men and fiers, 62s. 6d.; drillers, 61s.; hammermen, 57s.; platers, 86s. 10d.*; riveters, 79s. 7d.*; holders-up, 73s. 5d.*; burners, 93s. 6d.; welders, 98s.; electric welders, 117s.; machine caulkers, 89s.; electricians' assistants, fitters' mates, plumbers' mates, platers' helpers and general labourers, 54s.; rivet heaters, over 21 years, 51s.; rivet heaters, 18 to 21 years, 46s.; rivet heaters, under 18 years, 28s. Increase of 6s. per week (60s. to 66s.).
Engineering, Shipbuilding and Ship-repairing	London (certain firms)†	14 May	Sailmakers	Increase of 10s. per week. Rates after change: angle iron smiths and platers, 70s.; caulkers and riveters, 64s.; holders-up, 58s.; hand drillers, 53s. 6d.; ship joiners, 67s.; ship plumbers, 64s. 2d.; shipwrights, 64s.; ship painters, 60s. 6d.; fitters, turners and sheet metal workers, 61s. 6d.; smiths, 62s.; patternmakers, 63s. 6d.; french polishers and upholsterers, 74s.; platers' helpers, labourers, boilermen and firemen, 50s. 6d. Increase of 10s. per week (50s. to 60s.).
	Mersey District ...	1 May	Workpeople employed in the ship-repairing trade (including engineers)	Increase of 10s. per week. Rates after change: angle iron smiths and platers, 70s.; caulkers and riveters, 64s.; holders-up, 58s.; hand drillers, 53s. 6d.; ship joiners, 67s.; ship plumbers, 64s. 2d.; shipwrights, 64s.; ship painters, 60s. 6d.; fitters, turners and sheet metal workers, 61s. 6d.; smiths, 62s.; patternmakers, 63s. 6d.; french polishers and upholsterers, 74s.; platers' helpers, labourers, boilermen and firemen, 50s. 6d.
	Southampton ...	27 Feb.	Sailmakers	Increase of 10s. per week (50s. to 60s.).
			Boiler scalers, men in black gangs and donkeymen (firemen and trimmers)	Increase of 10s. per week (50s. to 60s.).
	Clyde District ...	1 May	Boiler scalers	Increase of 10s. per week (50s. to 60s.).
	Belfast ...	1 May	Workpeople employed in marine engineering	Increase of 10s. per week (50s. to 60s.).
			OTHER METAL TRADES.	
Lead Manufacture	Great Britain ...	Pay in week ending 17 May	Workpeople other than smelters and desilverizers	Increase of 1d. per hour in minimum rates, and a proportionate increase to other grades and in piece rates. Minimum time rates (adults) after change: Group 1 districts, 1s. 1d.; Group 2 districts, 1s. 0d.; Group 3 districts, 1s. 11d.
			Smelters and desilverizers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour or of such less amount as may be necessary to raise the minimum base rate to 1s. 11d. per hour for Group 1 towns.†
Metallic Bedstead Manufacture	Birmingham, Smethwick, Dudley, Bilston, Manchester, Warrington, Sowerby Bridge, Keighley and Glasgow	1 May	Workpeople employed in the metallic bedstead trade	Decrease of 1s. per week for men 18 years and over, of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. per week for boys under 18 years and girls under 18 but over 16 years. Rates after change: Men—cupola men, 1s. 3d. per hour (56 hours); frame setters, 1s. 4d. per hour (48 hours); stockfitters in charge, 85s. per week; stockfitters (second hands, able to fit all classes of stocks), 70s. per week; stockfitters (improvers, not less than three years' experience), 30s. per week; bending, 1s. 3d. per hour; cutting off and other sections, 1s. 1d. per hour; less 12½ per cent. in each case, and subject to the addition of a bonus of 14s. per week. Women, 18 years and over—wrappers and lacquerers, 7d. per hour; colour painters and transferrers, 8d. per hour; plus, in each case, a bonus addition of 7s. per week.
Manufacture of Steel and Metal Pens and Other Small Ware	Birmingham and District	Pay day following 5 May	Male timeworkers over 21 years of age	Decrease of 1s. 4d. per week for skilled men and charge hands, and of 1s. per week for others. Rates after change: toolmakers, over 25 years of age, 79s. 4d. and 69s. 10d.; toolmakers, 21 to 25 years, 59s. 10d.; charge hands, 71s. 10d. or 63s. 10d.; other workers, 49s.
			Male timeworkers under 21 years of age	Decrease of amounts, varying according to age, from 3d. to 9d. per week.
			Apprentices	Decrease of amounts, varying according to age, from 2d. to 6d. per week.
			Female dayworkers and learners	Decrease of amounts, varying according to age, from 2d. to 5d. per week. Rate after change, for dayworkers 18 years and over, 24s. 8d. per week.
			Female pieceworkers	Decrease of 5d. per week in the basic piecework rate (26s. 7d. to 26s. 2d.).
Harness Furniture Manufacture	Walsall	First pay day in week ending 17 May	Men employed in the harness furniture making trade (except those employed in the spring hook and swivel section)	Increase of 5 per cent. on basis time and piece rates. Rates after change for timeworkers: dressers and flers, 11d. to 1s. 1d. per hour, plus 15 per cent.; polishers, 11d. to 1s. 1d. per hour, plus 15 per cent.
Spring Manufacture	Sheffield	1st full pay after 18 April 1st full pay after 18 May	Laminated spring fitters and vicemen, smiths and strikers	Decrease of 1s. per week in flat rate bonus.
Jute	Aberdeen, Barrow-in-Furness, Dundee and Taysport	26 May	Female workers employed on hessian weaving	Standard general minimum piece rate for double loom weavers on Hessians fixed under the Trade Boards Acts at 15 per cent. less than the standard general minimum piece rate for single loom weavers (instead of 20 per cent. as formerly provided). (See also p. 229).

* Including a speed allowance of 20 per cent. on basic rates.
† Members of River Thames Dry Dock Proprietors' and Ship Repairers' Association.
‡ A further increase of 1s. per day (Monday to Friday) and 6d. per day (Saturday) takes effect from the beginning of the first full pay in June.
§ Group 1.—London, Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham, Newcastle, Glasgow, Liverpool, Huddersfield, Warrington, Bolton, St. Helens, Swansea and Edinburgh. Group 2.—Plymouth, Chester and Bradwell. Group 3.—Aberdeen, Bagillt, Exeter, Skipton, Ireland and other local districts.
¶ This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
¶¶ It is provided in the Trade Board Order that if this date does not correspond with the beginning of the period for which wages are paid by an employer who pays wages at intervals not exceeding seven days, the rates shall become effective as from the beginning of the next full pay period, but not later than 1st June.

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

Industry	Locality	Date from which change took effect	Classes of Workpeople	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
			TEXTILE TRADES—(continued).	
Hosiery Manufacture	Hawick	1st pay day in May	Men and women	Flat rate bonus of 9s. 9d. per week for men and 7s. 6d. per week for women decreased* to 6s. 6d. and 5s. per week respectively, the bonus of 30 per cent. on base rates previously paid remaining unchanged.
Coloured Goods Weaving	Glasgow and West of Scotland	1st pay day in May	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of shirtings, costume cloths and other coloured cotton and woollen goods	Increase of 5 per cent. for tenters and of 7½ per cent. for other workers. Rates after change: tenters (set wage), 65s. 8d. per week plus bonus on production; tapdressers (set wage), 77s. 5d. per week; brush beamers (set wage), 69s. 10d. per week; beamers, twisters, drawers, and warpers, 1s. 4½d. per hour, plus 7½ per cent.; warpers pattern time rate, 1s. 6½d. per hour, plus 7½ per cent.
Textile Dyeing, Printing, etc.	Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Pay preceding 1st day in June	Machine calico printers	Supplementary "cost of living" wage decreased* from 67½ per cent. to 60¾ per cent. on basis wages, the flat rate bonus of 10s. per week for journeymen and 9s. for apprentices remaining unchanged.
	Macclesfield ...	Pay day in week ending 17 May	Male workers employed in the silk dyeing and finishing trades	Decrease* of 6d. per week for those of 15 to 22 years, and of 1s. 1d. per week for those of 22½ years, the rates for those of 14 and 14½ years remaining unchanged. Rates after change: 16s. at 14 years, increasing to 50s. 6d. at 22½ years.
			CLOTHING TRADES.	
			Female workers:— 20 years of age and over with not less than four years' experience in any branch of the trade, employed in certain operations† 19 years of age and over with not less than 4 years' experience, employed as buttonholers, finishers or machinists, other than machinists who do the whole machining on a garment Other workers	New minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, resulting generally in decreases of 1d. to 1½d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: Class A—time, 8½d.; piecework basis time rate, 9½d.; Class B—time, 9½d.; piecework basis time rate, 10½d. (See also p. 229). New minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, resulting generally in decreases of 1d. to 1½d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: Class A—time, 7½d.; piecework basis time rate, 8½d.; Class B—time, 8½d.; piecework basis time rate, 9½d. (See also p. 229). New minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, resulting generally in decreases of ¾d. or 1d. per hour, and minimum piecework basis time rates fixed at 5½d. and 6½d. for Class A and B respectively. Minimum time rates after change: Class A, 5½d.; Class B, 6½d. (See also p. 229). New scale of minimum hourly time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, for Class A and B respectively, starting at 1½d., 1½d., for first year of learnership, and increasing to 4½d., 5d. for fourth year of learnership. (See also p. 229).
Retail Bespoke Tailoring	Northern Ireland	19 May	Learners	Minimum hourly rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts at 7½d. and 7½d. for Class A and B respectively. (See also p. 228).
Hat, Cap and Millinery	Northern Ireland	19 May	Female workers employed in the retail branch:— Other than learners:— 21 years of age and over, with not less than 2 years' experience after learnership those under 21 years, and those who, having attained the age of 21 years, have not had 2 years' experience after learnership; also outworkers Female learners	Minimum hourly rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts at 6½d. and 6½d. for Class A and B respectively. (See also p. 228). Scale of minimum hourly rates fixed for Class A and B respectively, starting at 1½d., 1½d., during 1st year of learnership, and increasing to 5½d., 4½d. during 4th year. (See also p. 228).
			Pieceworkers	Piecework basis time rates previously fixed under the Trade Boards Acts cancelled. (See also p. 228).
			FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES.	
Baking and Confectionery	Liverpool, Birkenhead and Wallasey	19 May	Bakers and confectioners ...	Decrease* of 2s. per week for adults and of 1s. per week for juniors. Rates after change for daywork: forehands and ovenmen, 70s.; tablehands, 64s.
	Various towns in Yorkshire	April	Adult male workers employed by private traders	Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: forehands, 68s. 6d.; doughmakers and ovenmen, 63s. 6d.; tablehands, 58s. 6d.
	Bath	3 May		Decrease* of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 60s. 3d.
	Bristol	3 May		Decrease* of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 61s.
	Bathgate	12 May		Increase of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 74s.; early men, 5s. per week extra.
	Brechin	29 April		Increase of 4s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 68s.
	Dundee	3 May		Increase of 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 74s.¶
	Glasgow**	1st pay day in May	Bakers and confectioners ...	Decrease* of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 75s.
	Greenock	1st pay day in May		Increase of 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 72s. 6d.
	Perth	Pay day in week ending 3 May		Increase of 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 70s.; early men, 5s. per week extra.

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
† Making cassocks, soutanes, clerical cloaks, municipal and judicial robes; on the constructional parts of coats; as vest makers, skirt makers, trouser makers, breeches makers; making ladies' and gentlemen's coats where the garment is made throughout by one worker; as machinists who do the whole machining on a garment.
‡ Class A: Workers employed in (a) areas administered by Rural District Councils, or (b) areas with a population not exceeding 4,000 as returned at the last census, administered by Urban District Councils or other local authorities.
§ Class B: Workers employed in areas other than those specified in Class A.
¶ Class A: Workers employed within the areas of the County Boroughs of the cities of Belfast and Londonderry.
** Class B.—Workers employed in areas other than those specified in Class A.
†† Including Barnsley, Bradford, Bridlington, Doncaster, Halifax, Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury), Harrogate, Huddersfield, Hull, Leeds, Sheffield, Wakefield, York.
‡‡ Particulars of this change so far as it affected certain of the towns mentioned were given in the May issue of the GAZETTE. Confirmation was not then available in regard to all the towns now mentioned.
§§ See also under "Change in Hours of Labour."
¶¶ The change took effect under the terms of an agreement made between the firms concerned and the Scottish Union of Bakers and Confectioners, by which wages were to be regulated in accordance with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices. The decrease did not apply to workpeople employed by firms which are members of the Associated Wholesale Bread Bakers (Glasgow), in whose case a minimum rate of 78s. is paid (see p. 180 of the May GAZETTE).

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

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Food, Drink and Tobacco Trade, Woodworking and Furniture Trades, Building and Allied Trades.

* The following is a list of towns in the respective grades... † A list of towns to which the above Grade minimum rates respectively apply is given below... ‡ These rates were recommended by the Scottish District Joint Industrial Council...

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

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Building and Allied Trades, Transport Trades, Public Utility Services.

* The basis rates include 7s. per week of the war advance previously granted. † The change referred to applies only to those tugboatmen who have in the past followed the Dockers' Awards... ‡ The 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 MAY, 1924—(continued).

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change (Decreases in italics). Rows include Leather Belt Manufacture, Saddlery, Brush and Broom Manufacture, Basket Making, Sack and Bag Making, Coffin Furniture.

CHANGE IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN MAY, 1924.

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Row: Baking, Dundee, 3 May, Bakers and confectioners, Uniform week of 45 hours adopted.

* The decreases took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices. † The rates previously paid remain unchanged for those employed on all cocoa and all other fibre brooms and banisters of any length (except whisk and Piasava brooms and banisters, and bass heads up to 12 in. stock, 30 knots round). ‡ See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages." The hours previously worked were 45 in large bakeries and 46 in small bakeries.

CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN JUNE, 1924.

The following groups of workpeople are affected by changes in wages already reported as having been arranged to take effect in June:—Increases—Workpeople employed in the heavy chemical and the brickmaking industries in England and Wales; iron puddlers and millmen in the West of Scotland; iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands; men employed in the shipbuilding industry in Great Britain; workpeople employed in the flour milling industry; bakers in London; dock labourers; men employed in the merchant shipping service; employees of local authorities in the East Midlands. Decreases—Workpeople employed in the chainmaking and the perambulator and invalid carriage making trades (under cost of living sliding scales embodied in Trade Board Orders). Particulars of the above changes will be included in the July issue of the GAZETTE.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON TRADE.

In certain sections of the iron and steel industry rates of wages are adjusted from time to time, under "sliding scale" agreements, in accordance with changes in the selling prices of specified iron and steel products, as indicated by results of periodical "ascertaintments." The results of recent ascertainment of selling prices of iron are given below:—

Table with columns: Product and District, Price according to last Audit, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) of last Audit, Average Selling Price Per Ton, Previous Audit, A Year ago. Rows include Pig Iron (Cumberland, North Staffordshire, etc.) and Manufactured Iron (North of England, West of Scotland).

Pig Iron.—The rise in the ascertained price of Cumberland pig iron for the two months March and April resulted in an increase of 1/4 per cent. on the standard rates in the wages of blastfurnacemen in West Cumberland and North Lancashire. The increased ascertained price, however, did not warrant any change in the bargain price or minimum wage of iron ore miners in the Furness district. The March and April ascertainment for Cumberland warranted no changes in the wages of iron ore miners or limestone quarrymen. The advance in the selling price of North Staffordshire pig iron resulted in an increase of 1/4 per cent. on standard rates in the wages of blastfurnacemen. The wages of blastfurnacemen in Nottinghamshire and parts of Derbyshire and of ironstone miners in Leicestershire and the adjoining districts of Lincolnshire were increased by 1/4 per cent. as a result of the above ascertainment. In Northamptonshire the rise in the ascertained selling price resulted in an increase of 2 1/2 per cent. on standard rates in the wages of ironstone miners and blastfurnacemen. The wages of ironstone miners and blastfurnacemen in North Lincolnshire were increased by 2 1/2 per cent. as a result of the increased selling price. In the West of Scotland the rise in the ascertained price resulted in an increase of 2 per cent. on standard rates in the wages of blastfurnacemen.

Manufactured Iron.—The ascertained price for the two months March and April warranted no change in the wages of puddlers and millmen in the North of England. In the West of Scotland the wages of iron puddlers and millmen were increased, with effect from 2nd June, by 2 1/2 per cent. as a result of the rise in the ascertained price for March and April.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

The number of assisted passages granted during May, 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 with columns: Assisted Passages Granted in May, 1924, Total Assisted Passages Granted (1922 and 1923, Jan.-May, 1924), Departures in May, 1924, Total Departures (1922 and 1923, Jan.-May, 1924). Rows include Assisted Passage Schemes (Australia, New Zealand, Canada, etc.) and Minor Schemes.

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

* Stated to the nearest farthing. † 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 May, 1924, was 49. Three deaths— all due to lead poisoning—were reported during the month, two in the pottery industry and one as a result of contact with molten lead. In addition, three cases of lead poisoning among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during May, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

Table with columns: (a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING. Among Operatives engaged in—, (b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING. Rows include Smelting of Metals, Plumbing and Soldering, Shipbreaking, 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 May, 1924, was 236, as compared with 203 in the previous month and with 189 a year ago.

Table with columns: RAILWAY SERVICE, MINES, QUARRIES over 20 feet deep, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. Rows include Brakemen and Goods, Guards, Engine Drivers, Firemen, 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 two were females. § In addition to these cases reported under the Act, one case of anthrax among dock labourers was reported. ¶ 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 May, 1924, in the thirty-one selected areas named below was 778,439, or 4.1 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 11.7 per cent. less than in May, 1923.

In the twenty-five selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in May, 1924, was 641,048, or 4.10 per cent. of the estimated population.

Recipients of indoor relief in the thirty-one districts in May numbered 122,030, or 2.1 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 1.0 per cent. less than in May, 1923.

Twenty-six districts showed decreases and four districts showed increases in the number per 10,000 relieved in May, 1924, as compared with the previous month.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Areas, Indoor, Outdoor, Total, Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a, Month ago, Year ago. Rows include ENGLAND & WALES, METROPOLIS, WEST HAM, OTHER DISTRICTS, SCOTLAND, and TOTAL.

* The figures for England and Wales relate to 31st May, and those for Scotland to 15th May.

† 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 for May, 1923, have been revised.

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.

I.—FOOD.

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

Table showing Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914 for various countries (United Kingdom, Foreign Countries, British Dominions, &c.) across years 1920-1923, with latest figures available.

* 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.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN THE COST OF FOOD, TOGETHER WITH (SO FAR AS POSSIBLE) HOUSE-RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD REQUIREMENTS, AS COMPARED WITH JULY, 1914.†

Table showing Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914 for various countries (United Kingdom, Foreign Countries, British Dominions, &c.) across years 1920-1923, with latest figures available.

* 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.

COMPARATIVE REAL WAGES

IN LONDON AND CERTAIN CAPITAL CITIES ABROAD IN APRIL, 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.

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

Table showing Index Numbers of Comparative Real Wages for various occupations (Building Trades, Unskilled, Skilled, etc.) across cities like London, Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, etc.

Do. 1st March, 1924; Do. Year ending 1st Feb., 1924; Do., 1914.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF IN BELGIUM: NEW DECREE. §

A FURTHER Royal Decree was signed on 15th May, 1924, modifying the Decree of 18th February, 1924, dealing with the organisation of unemployment relief measures.

Provisional figures. † Based on prices and wages for the first two weeks of the month. ‡ Based on twelve monthly index numbers where these are available; the Berlin figure is the mean of five monthly indices, Madrid of seven, New York and Paris of nine, and Sydney of three, while the Copenhagen figure is the mean of three quarterly indices.

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.

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in May.—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of Employment Exchanges on 24th May was 9,381 (6,198 men and 3,183 women).

The latest returns show that 5 departmental and 18 municipal unemployment funds were in operation throughout France on 30th May, the number of persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit through their agency being 805 (734 men and 71 women).

GERMANY.†

Employment in April.—The condition of the labour market continued satisfactory on the whole, but there were certain signs of weakness. The increase in the number of vacancies notified by employers was less than in preceding months; in some industries there was even a perceptible decline in this respect, which, however, was counterbalanced by increases in other directions.

Reports from trade unions showed a further improvement in regard to unemployment among members of these organisations. On 26th April out of an aggregate membership of 3,825,581 in 37 unions making returns 396,864, or 10.4 per cent. were out of work, as compared with 16.6 per cent. in the preceding month and 7.0 per cent. in April, 1923.

Percentages for the principal unions included in the foregoing totals are given in the Table:—

Table showing Unemployment in Belgium by Unions, Membership reported on at end of April, 1924, and Percentage Unemployed at end of Month (April, 1924, Feb., 1924, April, 1923).

The above figures relate to total unemployment. Statistics relating to short time working showed an improvement in the month under review as compared with March. Out of 3 1-3 million members of trade unions 5.8 per cent. were working short time on 26th April as against 9.9 per cent. at the end of March.

The number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of out of work benefit continued to decline, falling from 462,775 on 15th April to 310,898 on 1st May and 243,268 on 15th May.

* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 31st May, 1924. Paris. † Reichs-Arbeitsblatt, 1st June, 1924. Berlin.

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