

# THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

VOL. XXXVI.—No. 6.]

JUNE, 1928.

[PRICE SIXPENCE NET.

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

### EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT during May showed a slight decline, on the whole, as compared with the preceding month.

There were increases in the numbers of workpeople unemployed in the tinplate, shipbuilding, pottery, boot and shoe, wool textile, linen, and jute industries, and in dock, river, canal, harbour, etc. service. In the coal mining industry there was a considerable increase in the numbers temporarily stopped from the service of their employers, together with a slight increase in the numbers wholly unemployed. On the other hand, the seasonal improvement continued in the building, public works contracting, brick, tile, and cement, and tailoring industries. There was also some improvement in the iron and steel industries, in the glass trades, in textile bleaching, printing and dyeing, and in certain of the food manufacturing industries.

Among the workpeople (aged 16-64 inclusive, and numbering approximately 11,800,000) insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed) in all industries taken together was 9.9 at 21st May, 1928, as compared with 9.6 at 23rd April, 1928, and 8.7 at 23rd May, 1927.

The percentage wholly unemployed was 7.6 at 21st May, 1928, as compared with 7.6 at 23rd April, 1928; while the percentage temporarily stopped was 2.3 as compared with 2.0. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 21st May, 1928, was approximately 1,143,000, of whom 918,000 were men and 165,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 23rd April, 1928, it was 1,094,000, of whom 874,000 were men and 151,000 were women; and at 23rd May, 1927, it was 1,008,000, of whom 811,000 were men and 139,000 were women.

### WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation during May resulted in an increase of £3,500 in the weekly full-time wages of 45,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of nearly £3,000 in those of 31,600 workpeople.

The principal change which occurred in May was an increase in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople employed in the jute industry in Great Britain; the increase varied from 1s. 6½d. to 2s. 3d. per week in the case of adult male timeworkers and from 1s. to 1s. 11d. per week in that of adult female timeworkers, while the rates for pieceworkers were increased by 4 per cent. There was also an increase in the wages of men employed at railway electricity generating stations.

The principal reductions in wages during May affected iron miners in Cumberland, iron miners and blast

furnacemen in North Lincolnshire, iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England, men employed in the cooperage industry, tramwaymen at Liverpool, and plasterers in Scotland.

During the first five months of 1928 the changes reported to the Department in the industries for which statistics have been compiled have resulted in net increases of £13,750 in the weekly full-time wages of 147,000 workpeople, and in net reductions of £117,800 in those of 1,134,000 workpeople. Of the total net reduction, coal mining accounted for over £58,000, and the building and allied industries for £43,000. In the corresponding period of 1927 there were net increases of £23,250 in the weekly full-time wages of 311,000 workpeople, and net reductions of £167,000 in those of 1,120,000 workpeople.

### COST OF LIVING.

At 1st June the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 65 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 64 per cent. a month ago and 63 per cent. a year ago. For food alone the corresponding percentage for 1st June was 56, as compared with 54 a month ago and a year ago.

The rise in these percentages as compared with a month ago was mainly due to increases in the average prices of potatoes and meat.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families, and accordingly, in making the calculations, the changes in the prices of the various items included are combined in proportions corresponding with the relative importance of those items in pre-war working-class family expenditure, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living.

### TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in May, was 23. In addition, 20 disputes which began before May were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The 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 about 21,500, and the aggregate duration of all disputes during May was about 114,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of 2,900 workpeople involved and 30,000 working days lost in the previous month, and with 23,400 workpeople involved and 84,000 days lost in May, 1927.

The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in the first five months of 1928 was about 475,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was about 84,000. The figures for the corresponding period of 1927 were 605,000 days and 53,000 workpeople respectively.



## PROFIT-SHARING AND LABOUR CO-PARTNERSHIP IN 1927.

INQUIRIES have recently been made by the Department as to the operation, in 1927, of schemes of profit-sharing and labour co-partnership known to have been in existence in that year, and statistics compiled from the information obtained are given below, together with comparative figures for earlier years. These statistics are in continuation of those contained in the Report on Profit-sharing and Labour Co-partnership in the United Kingdom issued in 1920 (Cmd. 544) and in annual articles subsequently published in this GAZETTE. The figures relate only to definite schemes under which employees participate in profits on some pre-arranged basis; schemes consisting in the giving of bonuses or gratuities at the discretion of the employer, without any specified basis, and schemes providing for bonuses which depend only on output, sales, etc., and not on profits, are excluded from these statistics.

### ALL SCHEMES IN OPERATION.

The total number of undertakings of all kinds known to have been practising profit-sharing at the end of 1927, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 440. Of these, seven firms had each two separate schemes in operation, and the total number of schemes was therefore 447. About 437,000 workpeople were employed in the businesses concerned, of whom about 235,000 participated, or were entitled to participate, in the benefits of the schemes.

The following Table gives comparative figures for the years 1923-27 as to the numbers of schemes in operation, the numbers of employees covered, and also, so far as the information is available, as to the bonuses paid under these schemes:—

| Year. | Number of firms or societies. | Number of schemes. | Approximate number of employees entitled to participate. | Bonuses paid under schemes for which details are available.* |                          |  |
|-------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|--------------------------|--|
|       |                               |                    |  | Number of schemes.   | Average amount per head. | Average percentage addition to earnings. |
| 1923  | 412                           | 418                | 189,000  | 334  | £ s. d.<br>6 16 4        | Per cent.<br>4.8                         |
| 1924  | 420                           | 426                | 205,000  | 338  | 7 13 2                   | 4.8                                      |
| 1925  | 429                           | 435                | 215,000  | 351  | 9 0 5                    | 5.1                                      |
| 1926  | 432                           | 438                | 223,000  | 354  | 8 16 3                   | 4.4                                      |
| 1927  | 440                           | 447                | 235,000  | 348  | 8 9 0                    | 3.9                                      |

The figures in the above Table include schemes in co-operative societies as well as schemes in ordinary businesses. Detailed particulars for each of these two groups are given below.

### I.—SCHEMES IN BUSINESSES OTHER THAN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

According to the returns received in connection with the inquiries made this year, 287 firms were practising profit-sharing or co-partnership at the end of 1927; seven of these firms had each two separate schemes. In addition there were three schemes as to which no recent returns have been received but which are still in operation so far as is known to the Department, making totals of 290 firms and 297 schemes at the end of 1927, as compared with 281 firms and 287 schemes at the end of 1926. Three other schemes were suspended, though not definitely terminated, at the end of 1927.

The following Table shows, for various groups of industries, the total number of schemes known to have been put into operation, the number discontinued by the end of 1927, and the number remaining in operation at that date:—

| Industry or Business.                                  | Total Number of Schemes known to have been started. | Number of such Schemes discontinued by end of 1927. | Number of such Schemes temporarily suspended at end of 1927. | Number of Schemes still in operation at end of 1927. |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| Agriculture ...  | 30  | 25  | ...  | 5  |
| Glass, chemical, soap, oil, paint, etc. ...            | 29  | 13  | 1  | 15   |
| Engineering, shipbuilding and other metal ...          | 82  | 38  | ...  | 44   |
| Textile ...  | 42  | 12  | 1  | 29   |
| Food and drink (manufacture) ...                       | 60  | 27  | ...  | 33   |
| Paper, printing, book-binding, publishing, etc. ...    | 59  | 35  | 1  | 23   |
| Gas, water, & electricity supply† ...                  | 65  | 12  | ...  | 53   |
| Insurance, banking, and other financial businesses ... | 9   | ...   | ...  | 9  |
| Merchants, warehousemen and retail traders ...         | 98  | 53  | ...  | 45   |
| Other businesses ...                                   | 103   | 62  | ...  | 41   |
| Total ...  | 577   | 277   | 3  | 297  |

For those firms whose schemes still remained in operation at the end of 1927, particulars are given in the following Table as to the numbers of persons employed and the numbers of such persons participating in the schemes:—

\* Schemes in operation under which no bonus was earned are included.  
† The firms in this group are almost entirely gas companies.

| Industry or Business.                                  | Schemes in operation at end of 1927. |                    |                            |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--|
|  | Number of Firms.                     | Number of Schemes. | Total Number of Employees. | Approx. Number of Employees entitled to participate. |
| Agriculture ...  | 5                                    | 5                  | 700                        | 300  |
| Glass, chemical, soap, oil, paint, etc. ...            | 15                                   | 15                 | 52,000                     | 29,700   |
| Engineering, shipbuilding and other metal ...          | 42                                   | 44                 | 67,700                     | 23,900   |
| Textile ...  | 29                                   | 29                 | 46,800                     | 19,900   |
| Food and drink (manufacture) ...                       | 31                                   | 33                 | 43,400                     | 28,500   |
| Paper, printing, book-binding, publishing, etc. ...    | 22                                   | 23                 | 7,700                      | 5,400  |
| Gas, water, and electricity supply* ...                | 53                                   | 53                 | 49,500                     | 41,900   |
| Insurance, banking, and other financial businesses ... | 9                                    | 9                  | 37,200                     | 33,000   |
| Merchants, warehousemen and retail traders ...         | 44                                   | 45                 | 40,400                     | 11,200   |
| Other businesses ...                                   | 40                                   | 41                 | 64,000                     | 14,700   |
| Total ...  | 290                                  | 297                | 409,400                    | 208,500  |

From the figures given it will be seen that profit-sharing has been tried in a wide variety of industries; in nearly every industry, however, the number of schemes known to have been started is very small in comparison with the total number of firms engaged in the industry; and in all industries taken together nearly one-half of the schemes started have come to an end. On the other hand, in the gas industry, a large proportion of the principal company-owned undertakings have introduced schemes; comparatively few of these schemes have been abandoned, and a number have been in operation for 20 years or longer.

The number of workpeople employed by the 290 firms with schemes in operation at the end of 1927 was approximately 409,000, of whom about 208,000 were eligible to participate in the benefits conferred by the schemes. In the previous year the number participating in the schemes then in force was approximately 198,000, out of a total of about 422,000 persons employed. The large proportion of employees of the firms concerned who did not come within the profit-sharing arrangements is in part due to the fact that participation in many schemes rests upon certain qualifications, such as the attainment of a certain age, or employment with the firm for a minimum number of years; but to a much greater extent it results from the fact that the figures given include a considerable number of schemes which admit employees to participation in the profits only to the extent that they are able and willing to deposit savings with the firm or to purchase shares in the undertaking. Further information as to these schemes is given below.

### Types of Scheme.

In view of the variety of different profit-sharing arrangements which are included in the statistics, particulars are given in the following Table, of the numbers of existing and discontinued schemes of various types, together with the numbers of workpeople covered by each type of existing scheme:—

| Type of Scheme.†  | Schemes in existence at end of 1927. |  |  | Number of Schemes discontinued by end of 1927. |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
|   | Number of Schemes.                   | Total Number of Workpeople employed in 1927. | Approx. Number of Employees entitled to participate in 1927. |  |
| "Share issue" schemes, i.e., schemes consisting in the issue to employees of share capital, either free, or on specially favourable terms as to price or dividend ... | 59                                   | 132,500                                      | 31,400   | 18   |
| "Deposit" schemes, i.e., schemes under which interest, varying with the profits, is allowed on deposits made by employees   | 26                                   | 81,900                                       | 11,300   | 6  |
| Other schemes, analysed by methods of paying bonus:   |                                      |  |  |  |
| (a) Bonus paid in cash, or credited to a savings or deposit account ...   | 119                                  | 97,800                                       | 82,800   | 181  |
| (b) Bonus retained in a provident, superannuation, or other similar fund ...  | 13                                   | 8,200  | 7,900  | 10   |
| (c) Bonus paid in shares or invested in capital of the undertaking† ...   | 34                                   | 46,100                                       | 37,200   | 16   |
| (d) Bonus paid in other ways; combinations of above systems; and method of payment unknown ...  | 46                                   | 42,900                                       | 37,900   | 46   |
| Total ...   | 297                                  | 409,400                                      | 208,500  | 277  |

Some particulars of the duration of those schemes of the above types which were still in existence in 1927 are shown below:—

\* The firms in this group are almost entirely gas companies.  
† Where a scheme was modified, after its introduction, it has been classified according to its latest form.  
‡ In some of these schemes employees may receive part or the whole of their subsequent bonuses in cash, etc., after a given period or after they have accumulated a given amount of capital.

| Type of Scheme.  | Number in existence at end of 1927. | Number of such Schemes which were started— |               |               |                |               |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
|  |                                     | Before 1901.                               | 1901 to 1910. | 1911 to 1918. | 1919 and 1920. | 1921 to 1927. |
| "Share issue" Schemes ...  | 59                                  | 1  | 6             | 11            | 24             | 17            |
| "Deposit" Schemes ...  | 26                                  | 3  | 4             | 5             | 6              | 8             |
| Other Schemes:—  |                                     |  |               |               |                |               |
| (a) Bonus paid in cash, or credited to a savings or deposit account ...                        | 119                                 | 15   | 12            | 28            | 32             | 32            |
| (b) Bonus retained in a provident, superannuation, or other similar fund ...                   | 13                                  | 2  | ...           | 1             | 5              | 5             |
| (c) Bonus paid in shares or invested in capital of the undertaking* ...                        | 34                                  | ...  | 7             | 6             | 8              | 13            |
| (d) Bonus paid in other ways; combinations of above systems; and method of payment unknown ... | 46                                  | 7  | 9             | 7             | 8              | 15            |
| Total ...  | 297                                 | 28   | 38            | 58            | 83             | 90            |

Reference was made in a previous paragraph to the fact that in many schemes profit-sharing is only available to those employees who are prepared to purchase shares in the undertaking or to deposit savings with the firm. In the case of the share-purchase schemes the employee is usually offered shares on terms more favourable than those open to the ordinary investor. The mere holding of shares by an employee is not in itself regarded, for the purpose of the Department's statistics, as an example of profit-sharing; but where specially favourable terms are accorded to the employee-investor the scheme is included in the statistics as being an example of profit-sharing, although of a rather special and limited kind. Similarly those schemes which give to employees who deposit money with the firm a guaranteed minimum rate of interest together with a further dividend varying with profits are treated as examples of profit-sharing, although not of the normal type. These two special types of arrangement account for 85 of the existing schemes and for 24 of the defunct schemes included in the Table.

The most prevalent type of scheme is the simple arrangement under which a cash bonus is paid to employees, the amount of the bonus representing a specified proportion of the net profits or of the profit remaining after a fixed minimum rate of interest or dividend has been paid on capital; in some cases the bonus is a sum which automatically rises or falls with the rate of dividend on the capital. In the gas companies' schemes the bonus usually takes the form of a percentage on wages varying inversely with the price charged for gas, which itself usually regulates the rate of dividend payable on capital; but in a number of the more recent gas companies' schemes the bonus varies directly with the rate of dividend on capital, or is a fixed percentage of the amount paid in such dividends.

Cash bonus schemes (including schemes where the bonus is placed in a deposit or savings account from which the employee may freely withdraw) represent about 40 per cent. of the existing and about 65 per cent. of the discontinued schemes. In contrast with these schemes are those under which the whole, or part, of the employee's bonus is not obtainable in cash form; bonuses retained in such schemes are either placed in a provident, superannuation, etc., fund, or more frequently are invested on behalf of the employee in the capital of the undertaking.†

### Co-partnership Schemes.

Schemes which encourage employees to acquire shares or other capital in the undertakings with which they are connected, and in this and in other ways to obtain some share in the control of the business, are frequently referred to under the description "co-partnership." It is therefore interesting to notice that among the 297 existing schemes included in the statistics, there are 125 which provide for some form of shareholding by employees, while of the 277 defunct schemes, 45 provided such arrangements.

One form of shareholding has already been mentioned: that in which shares are issued to employees on specially advantageous terms. This type of arrangement has become prominent in recent years. 77 such schemes are known to have been introduced, of which 59 are still in force, 41 of these having been started since the end of the war. Although the firms with these schemes in operation employ about 133,000 workers, only about 31,000 participate. An entirely different type of shareholding scheme, and one in which a substantial majority of the workers employed normally participate, is that in which a share of profits is set aside for the employees, but is wholly retained for investment in the firm's capital, or is so retained for a prescribed period or until the employees have acquired a prescribed amount of capital. Of such schemes 50 are known to have been started; 34 of these are still in operation, and 21 of them date from after the war. Gas companies provide much the largest section of these bonus-capitalisation schemes, accounting for 23 out of the 34 schemes of this type; and practically all of the pre-war schemes of this type are those in gas companies.

In addition to the above schemes, which may be regarded as wholly co-partnership in character, a further 43 schemes are included in the Department's statistics in which some definite part (usually one-half) of the bonus is capitalised, the other part being paid in cash, or retained in a provident fund, &c. Of these 43 schemes, 11 have been terminated and 32 are still in operation; 23 of these 32 schemes are in operation in gas companies.

### Bonuses Paid.

In the case of 212 schemes in operation in 1927, particulars are available as to the bonuses paid or credited to employees in that

\* See note † to previous Table.

year. These particulars are summarised, for various industry groups, in the Table given below. Certain firms were unable to supply details of bonuses paid or credited. In addition to excluding such cases, the Table excludes schemes based upon the purchase of shares by employees, since it is usually impracticable to state the amount of the bonus in schemes of this character.

Note.—The figures include "Deposit" schemes, on the assumption that the bonus in these schemes is the supplementary interest, over and above the fixed minimum rate, paid on deposits; but the figures in italics show the effect of excluding these schemes.

| Industry or Business.                                 | Number of schemes to which particulars relate. | Number of employees entitled to participate. | Average amount of bonus per head in 1927.* | Average percentage addition to earnings in 1927.* |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| Agriculture ...                                       | 4  | 200  | £ s. d.<br>0 3 4                           | Per cent.<br>0.2                                  |
| Glass, chemical, soap, oil, paint, etc. ...           | 9  | 25,700                                       | 5 12 3                                     | 3.5   |
| Engineering, shipbuilding and other metal ...         | 30   | 14,900                                       | 2 13 5                                     | 1.6   |
| Textile ...   | 23   | 11,600                                       | 3 2 8                                      | 2.0   |
| Food and drink (manufacture) ...                      | 22   | 12,600                                       | 2 7 11                                     | 2.3   |
| Paper, printing, book-binding, publishing, etc. ...   | 18   | 11,200                                       | 2 12 9                                     | 2.6   |
| Gas, water, and electricity supply ...                | 25   | 27,300                                       | 5 13 6                                     | 3.9   |
| Insurance, banking and other financial businesses ... | 19   | 4,800  | 9 1 0                                      | 6.6   |
| Merchants, warehousemen and retail traders ...        | 18   | 4,700  | 9 7 9                                      | 6.8   |
| Other businesses ...                                  | 26   | 11,400                                       | 5 3 1                                      | 4.0   |
| Total ...   | 212  | 169,300                                      | 8 19 7                                     | 3.9   |
| Total (1926) ...                                      | 187  | 159,200                                      | 9 9 11                                     | 4.1   |

The results of the same schemes, classified according to the rate of bonus paid, are shown below:—

| Percentage addition to earnings. | Number of schemes to which particulars relate. | Total number of employees. | Number of employees entitled to participate. | Amount of bonus paid (or credited) in 1927. |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|---|
| Nil ...                          | 54   | 106,300                    | 42,200                                       | £ Nil                                       |
| Under 2 per cent. ...            | 42   | 47,500                     | 35,100                                       | Nil   |
| 2 and under 4 per cent. ...      | 13   | 7,700                      | 5,500  | 11,000                                      |
| 4 " 6 " ...                      | 9  | 4,000                      | 3,800  | 8,300                                       |
| 6 " 8 " ...                      | 26   | 46,700                     | 40,700                                       | 301,400                                     |
| 8 " 10 " ...                     | 43   | 41,100                     | 33,400                                       | 242,400                                     |
| 10 " 12 " ...                    | 42   | 40,700                     | 33,000                                       | 240,200                                     |
| 12 " 14 " ...                    | 7  | 8,500                      | 7,300  | 79,000                                      |
| 14 " 16 " ...                    | 10   | 11,200                     | 10,000                                       | 118,300                                     |
| 16 " 18 " ...                    | 9  | 3,400                      | 3,200  | 56,400                                      |
| 18 " 20 " ...                    | 9  | 7,100                      | 5,500  | 95,000                                      |
| 20 per cent. or over ...         | 2  | 300                        | 300  | 4,800                                       |
| Percentage not stated ...        | 8  | 2,600                      | 1,900  | 77,400                                      |
| Total ...                        | 18   | 30,000                     | 19,300                                       | 534,600                                     |
| Total (1926) ...                 | 12   | 21,300                     | 18,300                                       | 530,100                                     |

The average amount of bonus paid in 1927 was a little below the level of the previous year. As in 1926, in about one-quarter of the total number of schemes for which returns were received, no bonus was available owing to insufficient profits having been made. Indeed, in each of the past seven years a considerable proportion—ranging from one-fifth to one-third—of all the schemes covered have failed to yield a bonus.

In 1927, and also in 1926, the highest amount of bonus was paid in the small group of insurance, banking, etc., businesses, the bonuses in this group averaging £26 per head in 1927 and nearly £24 in 1926. In the case of one very large firm in this group which pays especially high bonuses, no particulars are available as to the percentage addition to earnings which the bonuses represent, and it is accordingly impossible to give an average percentage which would be representative of the group as a whole. A number of firms in other industries, also, were able to give the amount of bonus, but not the percentage rate of bonus; and for this reason the average percentages shown in the Table above are not strictly comparable with the figures representing the average amounts of bonus per head. In 1926 and 1927, in particular, the average percentage rate of bonus would doubtless be higher were it possible to include particulars for these schemes.

The results for the various other industry groups in 1927 reveal features similar in general to those for the previous year. As was the case in 1926, a high rate of bonus was paid by firms engaged in merchandising and dealing, and the next highest rate by undertakings engaged in paper manufacture, printing, bookbinding, etc.; while

\* Schemes under which no bonus was earned are included for the purpose of calculating the average amount of bonus per head and the percentage addition to earnings; but in calculating the latter figure it has been necessary to omit certain cases in which a bonus was earned but the percentage could not be stated.  
† Not available.



for the few agricultural schemes the bonuses paid were almost negligible. The most noteworthy change as between 1926 and 1927 was in the group of firms engaged in the manufacture of food and drink; the bonuses in this group averaged £8 5s. 7d. in 1926 but only £5 13s. 6d. in 1927.

*New Schemes in 1927.*

Fourteen new schemes have come to the notice of the Department as having been introduced in 1927. These schemes are briefly summarised below:—

| Industry or Business.            | Approximate total number of employees. | Type of scheme.   |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| General drapery ...              | 2,000                                  | Six per cent. cumulative participating preference shares issued to employees on favourable terms.   |
| Asbestos manufacture.            | 1,500                                  | Issue of shares to employees on favourable terms and on basis of weekly instalments.  |
| Clothing, outfittings, etc.      | 850                                    | A fixed percentage of the net profits is paid in the form of a cash bonus, providing such profits do not fall below a fixed standard. The bonus is paid to employees with three years' service, and is divided according to wages.  |
| Electricity supply               | 760                                    | Issue of cumulative preference shares to employees on favourable terms.   |
| Brewing, etc. ...                | 620                                    | Bonus is equivalent to 2½ per cent. of the net profits, subject to the rate of dividend on ordinary shares not falling below a given level. Employees participate according to wages and salaries; one-half of the bonus is payable in cash and one-half is retained by the Company and invested in National Savings Certificates.  |
| Brick manufacture                | 270                                    | Each employee with one or more year's service receives a bonus in cash equivalent to the dividend which would be payable on five ordinary £1 shares for each year of service up to a maximum of ten years.  |
| Gas manufacture...               | 230                                    | Bonus on wages at the same rate as that by which the dividend on the Company's 3½ per cent. converted stock exceeds the fixed standard rate. Part of bonus may be withdrawn, the remainder being retained for investment in the Company's stock.  |
| Brewing, etc. ...                | 230                                    | Issue of employees' shares on favourable terms.   |
| House furnishing...              | 100                                    | "Scheme" shares given to employees according to length of service and merit. A sum consisting of a fixed percentage of the increase of profits over a certain level is set aside each year for payment of dividend on these shares.   |
| Gas manufacture...               | 80                                     | A sum varying from 5 per cent. to 6½ per cent. of the amount paid in dividend on ordinary and debenture stock, together with a sum varying inversely with the price charged for gas, is credited to employees in equal shares. One-half of bonus may be paid in cash or left on deposit at 5 per cent., the other half being retained for investment in the Company's ordinary stock. |
| General drapery and outfittings. | 60                                     | Employees with 5 or more years' service credited with nominal capital equal in amount to one month's salary for each year of service. Dividend is paid on this nominal capital at the same rate as on the Company's ordinary shares.  |
| Gas manufacture...               | 50                                     | Bonus on wages and salaries at a rate varying inversely with the price charged for gas, but with a minimum rate of 5 per cent. Bonuses are declared in June and in December; the June bonus is retained for investment in the Company's stock and the December bonus is withdrawable. The scheme is worked in conjunction with a contributory pension scheme.                         |
| Merchants...                     | 40                                     | A bonus in cash is paid as a percentage on annual wages received, at the same rate as the dividend paid on ordinary shares.   |
| Mineral water manufacture.       | 30                                     | On a standard dividend of 10 per cent. on capital a sum equal to 5 per cent. on wages is distributed as bonus to employees, the percentage on wages rising or falling 1 per cent. for each 1 per cent. increase or decrease in the rate of dividend. With certain exceptions, employees receive equal shares of the bonus.  |

It is of interest to note that one-half of the new schemes described above provide for some form of capital holding by employees. In four cases the capital is subscribed for by the employees, the favourable terms of issue constituting the profit-sharing element in the scheme; while in three cases there is an ordinary bonus depending on profits, part of this bonus being retained for investment in the firm's capital.

*Schemes terminated: Causes of termination.*

Three schemes were reported to the Department as having been definitely terminated during 1927; details of these schemes are given below:—

| Date of starting. | Industry or Business.           | Approximate total number of employees. | Reasons given by employers for termination.                                |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| 1897              | Shipbuilding, engineering, etc. | 13,000                                 | Diminution of profits and other financial reasons.                         |
| 1895              | Paper manufacture               | 110                                    | Transfer of business.  |
| 1925              | Builders' merchants             | 20                                     | Substitution of a bonus system having no definite relationship to profits. |

It is to be observed that the reasons assigned for the discontinuance of many profit-sharing schemes do not necessarily imply that the schemes, as such, had proved of little value. For example, many schemes are known to have been discontinued solely on account of a change of ownership; while in other cases it has been found desirable to substitute other arrangements which, while favourable to the employees, do not come within the category of profit-sharing schemes.

The following Table analyses by cause of termination, and by duration, all the schemes known to the Department to have been started and subsequently discontinued:—

| Cause of Discontinuance (as reported by the firms concerned).                             | Numbers of Schemes which lasted |                      |                       |                        |                        |                   |                   | Total Schemes Discontinued by end of 1927. |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
|   | Under 2 years.                  | 2 and under 5 years. | 5 and under 10 years. | 10 and under 15 years. | 15 and under 20 years. | 20 years or over. | Period not known. |  |
| Apathy of employees and dissatisfaction of employers with results ...                     | 8                               | 25                   | 22                    | 9                      | 6                      | 4                 | 3                 | 77   |
| Dissatisfaction of employees ...  | 2                               | 4                    | 3                     | 3                      | 2                      | 2                 | ...               | 16   |
| Diminution of profits, and losses or want of success ...                                  | 5                               | 19                   | 8                     | 7                      | 4                      | 4                 | 1                 | 48   |
| Enterprise abandoned; death of employer; liquidation or dissolution of business, etc. ... | 8                               | 12                   | 4                     | 6                      | 6                      | 5                 | 1                 | 42   |
| Changes in, or transfer of, business  | 2                               | 7                    | 10                    | 6                      | 4                      | 8                 | ...               | 37   |
| Substitution of increased wages, or shorter hours, or other benefits... ..                | ...                             | 8                    | 10                    | 5                      | 1                      | 4                 | ...               | 28   |
| Other causes; cause not known or indefinite ... ..  | 5                               | 3                    | 6                     | 6                      | 2                      | 1                 | 6                 | 29   |
| Total ... ..  | 30                              | 78                   | 63                    | 42                     | 25                     | 28                | 11                | 277  |

*Comparison with previous years.*

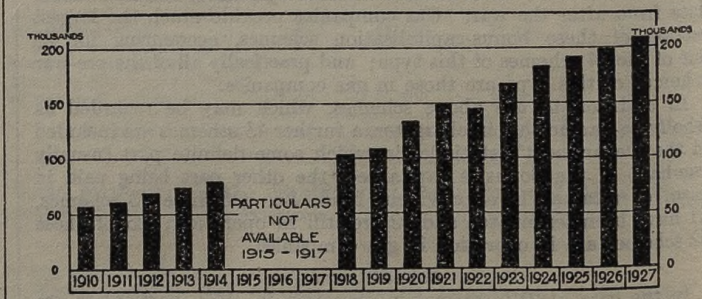
The following Table shows the total number of firms known to have been practising profit-sharing or co-partnership at the end of each of the years 1910-27, the number of schemes in operation in connection with these firms, and the approximate number of employees entitled to participate under the schemes. The Table also gives particulars, so far as these are available, of the average bonus paid in each year; but, as already explained, it is not possible in the case of a number of schemes to obtain statistics of bonuses paid, and the figures given, therefore, relate only to certain schemes for which this information is available.

| Year. | Number of Firms practising Profit-sharing. | Number of Schemes in operation. | Approximate Number of employees entitled to participate. | Schemes for which details are available as to Bonuses paid or credited.* |                                   |   |
|-------|--|---------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|
|       |  |                                 |  | Number of schemes.   | Average amount of Bonus per head. | Percentage addition of Bonus to earnings. |
| 1910  | 120  | 121                             | 57,000   | 76   | £ s. d.                           | Per cent.                                 |
| 1911  | 124  | 125                             | 61,000   | 89   | +                                 | 5.0                                       |
| 1912  | 136  | 138                             | 68,000   | 98   | 5 0 6                             | 5.9                                       |
| 1913  | 147  | 149                             | 73,000   | 111  | 5 6 0                             | 5.9                                       |
| 1914  | 160  | 164                             | 79,000   | 117  | 5 4 9                             | 6.7                                       |
| 1915  | 161  | 165                             | +  | 99   | 3 18 0                            | 5.3                                       |
| 1916  | 154  | 159                             | +  | 101  | 3 4 3                             | 4.6                                       |
| 1917  | 158  | 164                             | +  | 105  | 3 15 2                            | 5.3                                       |
| 1918  | 165  | 170                             | 103,000  | 107  | 3 13 9                            | 5.1                                       |
| 1919  | 213  | 217                             | 109,000  | 121  | 5 0 7                             | 4.9                                       |
| 1920  | 251  | 257                             | 135,000  | 158  | 9 18 2                            | 6.4                                       |
| 1921  | 253  | 259                             | 149,000  | 180  | 6 13 11                           | 3.6                                       |
| 1922  | 262  | 267                             | 145,000  | 186  | 6 7 11                            | 4.0                                       |
| 1923  | 264  | 270                             | 168,000  | 188  | 7 5 6                             | 5.1                                       |
| 1924  | 267  | 273                             | 183,000  | 191  | 8 2 0                             | 5.0                                       |
| 1925  | 275  | 281                             | 191,000  | 203  | 9 12 6                            | 5.3                                       |
| 1926  | 281  | 287                             | 198,000  | 207  | 9 8 4                             | 4.4                                       |
| 1927  | 290  | 297                             | 208,000  | 212  | 8 19 7                            | 3.9                                       |

As judged by the numbers of schemes in operation and by the numbers of employees participating, the profit-sharing movement has made almost continuous progress during the period covered by these figures. The years of greatest progress in the establishment of new schemes during the period were 1919 and 1920, when there was a net addition of 87 schemes and of 32,000 participating employees. During the succeeding years progress has been slower, but in the last two years there has been a net increase of 16 schemes and of 17,000 workpeople participating.

The variations from year to year in the numbers of employees known to be working under profit-sharing arrangements are illustrated in the following diagram:—

NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE COVERED BY PROFIT-SHARING SCHEMES IN OPERATION IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AT THE END OF EACH YEAR.



\* Schemes under which no bonus was earned are included. † Statistics not available.

Expressed as a percentage addition to the wages of the recipients, the average bonus for the whole period 1910-27 represents an addition of 5.0 per cent. During this period the average for any year has never exceeded a figure of 6.7, and has never fallen below 3.6.

The historical aspect of the profit-sharing movement may be further illustrated by the following Table, which gives particulars of schemes started, schemes discontinued, and schemes still in operation, classified by the date of starting of the schemes:—

| Period in which started. | Total number of schemes known to have been started. | Number of such schemes discontinued (or suspended*) by end of 1927. | Schemes still in operation at end of 1927. |                            |  |
|--------------------------|---|---|--|----------------------------|--|
|                          |   |   | Number of schemes.                         | Total number of employees. | Approx. number of employees entitled to participate. |
| Before 1881              | 35  | 31  | 4  | 1,700                      | 800  |
| 1881-1890                | 80  | 69  | 11   | 17,100                     | 13,900   |
| 1891-1900                | 78  | 65  | 13   | 8,900                      | 7,500  |
| 1901-1910                | 82  | 44  | 38   | 87,500                     | 54,700   |
| 1911-1918                | 95  | 37  | 58   | 56,300                     | 24,700   |
| 1919                     | 57  | 18  | 39   | 35,000                     | 22,400   |
| 1920                     | 56  | 12  | 44   | 58,800                     | 16,600   |
| 1921                     | 14  | 1   | 13   | 27,900                     | 11,800   |
| 1922                     | 12  | 1   | 11   | 3,300                      | 2,700  |
| 1923                     | 18  | 1   | 17   | 29,000                     | 22,800   |
| 1924                     | 13  | ...   | 13   | 31,200                     | 12,800   |
| 1925                     | 12  | 1   | 11   | 31,100                     | 5,400  |
| 1926                     | 11  | ...   | 11   | 15,700                     | 10,000   |
| 1927                     | 14  | ...   | 14   | 5,900                      | 2,400  |
| Total...                 | 577   | 280*  | 297  | 409,400                    | 208,500  |

Of the 297 schemes in existence at the end of 1927, 28 were started in or before the year 1900; 173 of the schemes date from 1919 or later. On the other hand, a large proportion of the defunct schemes were of early origin, and only 33 of the total of 277 defunct schemes had been started since the end of the war.

II.—SCHEMES IN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

At the end of 1927, 150 co-operative societies were known to the Department to have in operation definite profit-sharing systems. Many other societies are understood to pay to their employees additional remuneration in the form of bonuses on output, commission on sales, &c., but such arrangements are not regarded as coming within the scope of the Department's statistics on profit-sharing, and are accordingly excluded from the figures given below.

About 28,000 workpeople are employed by the 150 societies mentioned above, and over 26,000 of these workpeople participated, or were entitled to participate, in the schemes. Thus, in contrast with many schemes in ordinary businesses, profit-sharing when practised by co-operative societies applies in nearly all cases to virtually the whole of the workers employed.

Statistics are given in the following Table as to the numbers of schemes known to have been in operation in each of the years 1923 to 1927, and as to the bonuses paid under all but a few of these schemes; separate figures are shown for each type of co-operative society:—

| Year.                                   | Number of schemes in operation. | Approx. number of employees entitled to participate. | Bonuses paid under schemes for which details are available.† |  |                                   |  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|
|   |                                 |  | Number of schemes to which particulars relate.               | Number of employees entitled to participate. | Average amount of bonus per head. | Average percentage addition to earnings. |
| <i>Agricultural Societies.</i>          |                                 |  |  |  |                                   |  |
| 1923                                    | 48                              | 500  | 48   | 500  | 3 5 9                             | 3.0                                      |
| 1924                                    | 51                              | 500  | 49   | 500  | 2 17 1                            | 2.5                                      |
| 1925                                    | 51                              | 600  | 48   | 600  | 1 19 10                           | 1.7                                      |
| 1926                                    | 48                              | 500  | 46   | 500  | 2 0 6                             | 1.6                                      |
| 1927                                    | 48                              | 500  | 39   | 400  | 1 12 0                            | 1.3                                      |
| <i>Industrial Productive Societies.</i> |                                 |  |  |  |                                   |  |
| 1923                                    | 49                              | 8,200  | 49   | 8,200  | 4 17 5                            | 4.3                                      |
| 1924                                    | 50                              | 8,300  | 49   | 8,300  | 5 4 9                             | 4.9                                      |
| 1925                                    | 50                              | 8,500  | 50   | 8,500  | 4 18 6                            | 4.6                                      |
| 1926                                    | 50                              | 8,700  | 50   | 8,700  | 5 0 11                            | 4.5                                      |
| 1927                                    | 49                              | 8,900  | 48   | 8,900  | 5 3 1                             | 4.6                                      |
| <i>Retail Distributive Societies.</i>   |                                 |  |  |  |                                   |  |
| 1923                                    | 51                              | 12,800   | 49   | 12,500                                       | 3 13 5                            | 3.0                                      |
| 1924                                    | 52                              | 13,200   | 49   | 12,900                                       | 4 1 6                             | 3.2                                      |
| 1925                                    | 53                              | 14,500   | 50   | 13,900                                       | 4 13 8                            | 3.6                                      |
| 1926                                    | 53                              | 15,500   | 51   | 15,400                                       | 4 17 1                            | 3.9                                      |
| 1927                                    | 53                              | 16,900   | 49   | 16,200                                       | 4 18 0                            | 4.2                                      |
| <i>Totals—All Societies.</i>            |                                 |  |  |  |                                   |  |
| 1923                                    | 148                             | 21,500   | 146  | 21,200                                       | 4 2 6                             | 3.5                                      |
| 1924                                    | 153                             | 22,000   | 147  | 21,700                                       | 4 9 10                            | 3.8                                      |
| 1925                                    | 154                             | 23,600   | 148  | 23,000                                       | 4 14 2                            | 3.9                                      |
| 1926                                    | 151                             | 24,700   | 147  | 24,600                                       | 4 17 3                            | 4.1                                      |
| 1927                                    | 150                             | 26,300   | 136  | 25,500                                       | 4 18 7                            | 4.3                                      |

*Agricultural Societies.*—The agricultural societies form the smallest group, measured by the numbers of employees working under profit-sharing conditions. Thirty-two of these 48 societies are of the type

\* Three suspended schemes are included; these were started in 1912, 1917 and 1919, respectively. † Schemes in operation under which no bonus was earned are included.

known as *Requirement Societies*,\* whose main function is to supply their members with seeds, manures, utensils, or other requirements for the carrying on of agriculture; of the remainder, twelve are of the type known as *Produce Societies*,\* these being chiefly concerned with the marketing of members' produce; and four are *Service Societies*,\* which supply their members with some service connected with agriculture, e.g., auctioning of produce, transport, etc.

With one exception, the schemes in force with all of these agricultural societies provide for a bonus to employees consisting of a fixed proportion of the net profits; and in all cases the bonus is paid in cash. As is the case with non-co-operative agricultural schemes, the rates of bonus paid in recent years have been noticeably small, amounting to less than 2 per cent. on wages in each of the years 1925 to 1927; 14 societies paid no bonus in 1927, and in 7 of these societies no bonus was paid in each of the years 1925-1927.

*Industrial Productive Societies.*—Of the 49 productive societies in 1927, 48 were workers' productive societies; the remaining society (employing about 2,000 workpeople) was a baking society. The schemes adopted by the majority of productive societies provide for a specified proportion of the profits to be set aside for the workers, but in a number of cases the employees receive a bonus on wages at a rate which varies with the rate of dividend declared upon customers' purchases. A large proportion of the schemes in the productive societies are of the co-partnership type; of the 49 schemes, 9 provide that the employees' bonuses are to be wholly retained for investment in the society's share capital, while 26 schemes provide for the whole bonus to be so retained until the employee has to his credit a stated amount of capital. In the case of four other societies some part of the bonus is similarly retained for investment; and in three cases, the whole or part of the bonus is used for provident, etc., purposes; thus in the case of only 7 of these 49 societies is the bonus paid out wholly in cash.

The productive societies are mainly engaged in the printing, boot and shoe, and other clothing, and textile industries. The following Table shows the numbers of societies in each of these industry groups in 1927, together with particulars of the bonuses paid in that year:—

| Industry.                       | Number of schemes. | Number of employees entitled to participate. | Bonuses paid or credited in 1927.† |  |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
|                                 |                    |  | Average amount per head.           | Average percentage addition to earnings. |
| Textile ... ..                  | 6                  | 840  | £ s. d.                            | Per cent.                                |
| Boot and shoe ... ..            | 17                 | 1,540  | 3 9 0                              | 3.1                                      |
| Other clothing ... ..           | 3                  | 2,940  | 3 13 3                             | 2.6                                      |
| Printing, bookbinding, etc. ... | 14                 | 1,020  | 6 2 7                              | 7.0                                      |
| Other industries ... ..         | 9                  | 2,560  | 2 17 0                             | 1.7                                      |
| Total ... ..                    | 49                 | 8,900  | 6 8 4                              | 4.7                                      |

Failure to earn sufficient profits to provide a bonus is a feature frequently found among these productive societies. In 1927 no bonuses were available in 22 of the societies, of which 3 were in the textile group, 7 in the boot and shoe group, and 9 in the printing and bookbinding group; indeed in 14 of the 49 societies no bonus has been available during the whole of the five years 1923-1927. Nevertheless, owing to the fact that the schemes in these societies usually provide that employees shall receive a substantial share of profits, when realised, the average rate of bonus was in every year above the level of that paid in the other classes of society.

*Retail Distributive Societies.*—The societies classified under this title, although primarily engaged in retail distribution, in nearly every case engage to some extent in production; and the profit-sharing arrangements apply almost invariably to the productive as well as the trading sections. The type of scheme which is most common among these societies consists in paying the employees, out of such profits as may remain after meeting various specified charges, "not less than ¼d. in the £ on gross sales and ¼d. in the £ on net profits"; but a number of societies pay a bonus on wages at a rate which is regulated by the rate of dividend declared upon customers' purchases. Where the former arrangement is in force, it will be obvious that a part—and usually by far the larger part—of the supplementary payment is merely a collective commission on sales and is, therefore, outside the scope of these statistics. Accordingly, in such cases only that part of the bonus which is regulated by the amount of profits is included in the figures shown in this article.

The co-partnership type of scheme is practically non-existent in the retail distributive societies, bonuses being almost invariably paid out in cash. These bonuses, when averaged, show a steady increase throughout the period 1923-1927, and are in marked contrast with the results of the agricultural societies, the average for which fell steadily throughout this period.

THE KING'S ROLL NATIONAL COUNCIL.

At the invitation of the Minister of Labour, the Rt. Hon. the Earl Jellicoe, G.C.B., O.M., G.C.V.O., has kindly consented to accept the Chairmanship of the King's Roll National Council in succession to the late Earl Haig.

\* The classification into these types may, in certain cases, be somewhat arbitrary, as certain societies may exercise more than one function. † Schemes under which no bonus was earned are included.



## RAILWAY ACCIDENTS AND CASUALTIES IN 1927.

THE Ministry of Transport have issued the Annual Returns\* relating to railway accidents in Great Britain during the year 1927. It should be noted that, while all accidents to persons other than railway servants are included, only those accidents to railway servants which cause the servant injured to be absent from his ordinary work for at least one whole day are required to be reported.

The figures in the following summary relate to railway and contractors' servants only. Only five fatal, and 87 non-fatal, accidents to contractors' servants were reported during the year.

The returns distinguish train accidents (collisions, derailments, etc.); other accidents caused by the movement of vehicles (shunting accidents, men killed or injured while working or standing on the line, etc.); and accidents not connected with the movement of railway vehicles. The numbers of railway and contractors' servants killed in these three classes of accidents in 1927 were two, 200, and 44, respectively; and the numbers injured were 117, 3,177, and 16,631, respectively.

The following Table shows the classes of railway servants among whom the largest numbers of accidents occurred in 1927:—

| Class of Service.                           | "Train" and "Movement" Accidents. |          | Other Accidents. |          | Total.  |          |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------|------------------|----------|---------|----------|
|   | Killed.                           | Injured. | Killed.          | Injured. | Killed. | Injured. |
| Engine drivers and motor-men ...            | 18                                | 370      | 2                | 774      | 20      | 1,144    |
| Firemen ...                                 | 9                                 | 518      | 1                | 929      | 10      | 1,447    |
| Engine cleaners ...                         | 1                                 | 89       | 1                | 596      | 2       | 685      |
| Locomotive shedmen...                       | 2                                 | 49       | ...              | 499      | 2       | 548      |
| Guards (goods and mineral) and brakemen ... | 18                                | 523      | ...              | 370      | 18      | 893      |
| Porters (goods) ...                         | 1                                 | 130      | 2                | 2,804    | 3       | 2,934    |
| Shunters, yardsmen, etc.                    | 18                                | 661      | ...              | 314      | 18      | 975      |
| Loaders and sheeters...                     | 2                                 | 19       | 1                | 837      | 3       | 856      |
| Checkers ...                                | ...                               | 19       | 1                | 713      | 1       | 732      |
| Capstanmen and capstanlads ...              | 2                                 | 96       | 1                | 37       | 3       | 133      |
| Carriage cleaners ...                       | 1                                 | 17       | ...              | 360      | 1       | 377      |
| Carters and vanguards                       | ...                               | 11       | 3                | 498      | 3       | 509      |
| Guards (passenger) ...                      | 3                                 | 70       | ...              | 138      | 3       | 208      |
| Labourers ...                               | 8                                 | 49       | 1                | 956      | 9       | 1,005    |
| Mechanics and artisans                      | 9                                 | 48       | 10               | 1,064    | 19      | 1,112    |
| Permanent-way men...                        | 65                                | 177      | 6                | 3,129    | 71      | 3,506    |
| Porters (passenger) ...                     | 12                                | 154      | 2                | 1,095    | 14      | 1,249    |
| Signal fitters and telegraph wiremen ...    | 10                                | 15       | 2                | 135      | 12      | 150      |
| Signalmen and signal-box lads ...           | 8                                 | 29       | 1                | 226      | 9       | 255      |
| All other classes ...                       | 15                                | 239      | 5                | 1,080    | 20      | 1,319    |
| Total, railway servants ...                 | 202                               | 3,283    | 39               | 16,554   | 241     | 19,837   |
| Contractors' servants                       | ...                               | 10       | 5                | 77       | 5       | 87       |
| Totals, 1927 ...                            | 202                               | 3,293    | 44               | 16,631   | 246     | 19,924   |
| Totals, 1926 ...                            | 161                               | 2,980    | 37               | 15,493   | 198     | 18,473   |

Fatal accidents in 1927, for all classes taken together, represented a rate of one to every 2,840 railway servants employed. They exceeded one per thousand employed in only six classes:—goods guards and brakemen, permanent-way men, signal fitters and telegraph wiremen, capstanmen and capstanlads, shunting horse drivers, and watchmen; the last three classes are all small, containing only 1,842 persons, 630, and 519, respectively.

Accidents, both fatal and non-fatal, to railway servants showed a substantial increase in 1927 as compared with 1926, but were fewer than in either 1924 or 1925. The average rate for all accidents (fatal and non-fatal) per thousand persons employed was 29.3 in 1927, as compared with 26.9 in 1926 and 30.6 in 1925. The highest rates for all accidents occurred among goods porters (149 per thousand employed); loaders and sheeters (105 per thousand); horse drivers, shunting (79 per thousand); capstanmen and capstanlads (74 per thousand); engine cleaners (70 per thousand); checkers (60 per thousand); goods guards and brakemen (55 per thousand); shunters, yardsmen, etc. (54 per thousand); permanent-way men (54 per thousand).

## POOR-LAW RELIEF IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

First Quarter of Year 1928.

A STATEMENT† has been issued by the Ministry of Health showing the number of persons‡ in receipt of poor-law relief in England and Wales in the quarter ending in March, 1928, with some particulars as to the number of "unemployed" persons included.

The increase in the figures during the last quarter of 1927 was followed by a decrease, which began in the second week of January, and continued in each week but one of the quarter. The total number of persons‡ in receipt of poor-law relief in England and Wales at the end of March, 1928, was 1,183,000, equivalent to 301 per 10,000 of the estimated population. This compares with 1,236,000 at the end of December, 1927; with 1,241,000 at the end of March, 1927; and with 644,000 at the end of March, 1914.

\* H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. net.

† H.M. Stationery Office; price 4d. net.

‡ Excluding lunatics in county and borough asylums, persons in receipt of domiciliary medical relief only, and casuals, totalling to approximately 127,000.

The totals include large numbers who would ordinarily be employed; nearly all the relief given to these persons is domiciliary. The following Table gives comparative figures for persons in receipt of domiciliary relief in England and Wales for the months of February, 1928, and of February and November, 1927; the figures represent averages of the numbers in receipt of relief on each Saturday of the respective months:—

| Classes of persons in receipt of domiciliary relief.*   | England and Wales. |   |
|---|--------------------|---|
|   | Numbers.           | Numbers per 10,000 of the estimated population. |
| 1. (a)—Unemployed persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts ...                           | 101,000            | 26  |
| (b)—Wives and dependent children of above persons ...   | 263,000            | 67  |
| 2. Unemployed persons not insured, but registered at an Employment Exchange, and their dependants ... | 35,000             | 9   |
| 3. Other persons ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation, and their dependants...               | 96,000             | 24  |
| 4. Totals of above three classes:—  |                    |   |
| February, 1928 ...  | 495,000            | 126   |
| November, 1927 ...  | 481,000            | 123   |
| February, 1927 ...  | 580,000            | 149   |
| 5. All other persons in receipt of domiciliary relief*—   |                    |   |
| February, 1928 ...  | 479,000            | 122   |
| November, 1927 ...  | 470,000            | 121   |
| February, 1927 ...  | 485,000            | 125   |
| 6. Totals (all persons in receipt of domiciliary relief)*:—   |                    |   |
| February, 1928 ...  | 974,000            | 248   |
| November, 1927 ...  | 951,000            | 244   |
| February, 1927 ...  | 1,065,000          | 274   |

The 495,000 persons recorded in the first three classes in February, 1928, included 132,000 men, 117,000 women, and 246,000 children; as compared with 131,000 men, 113,000 women, and 237,000 children in November, 1927.

The total number of persons in receipt of poor-law relief in 105 poor-law unions that are mainly agricultural or pastoral (excluding five unions in which coal mining is an important industry) was only 16,500 at the end of March, 1928; and the average number of persons in receipt of domiciliary relief in these 105 unions during the four weeks ended February, 1928, who were returned as being ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation, or as being the wives and dependent children of such persons, was only 1,000.

## SIXTIETH ANNUAL CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

THE Sixtieth Annual Congress of Delegates from Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom was held at West Hartlepool on the 28th, 29th and 30th May, 1928, and was attended by 1,662 delegates representing 535 Societies. There were also representatives from various other bodies in the United Kingdom and from co-operative organisations in Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Holland, Poland, Switzerland and Ukraine. The Congress was convened by the Co-operative Union of Great Britain and Ireland, a federation of about 1,260 societies with an aggregate membership of some 5,100,000. The Congress President was Mr. A. Whitehead, General Secretary of the Co-operative Union.

The President, in his inaugural address, after reviewing the progress of the co-operative movement since 1886, drew attention to certain features of the present situation which, in his view, require examination. Among these are the failure of the movement, in recent years, to secure an increasing proportion of the trade of its members, the growth of credit trading, and the increasing overlapping and competition among different societies. He advocated a determined effort to reduce the number of uneconomic, undeveloped and unprogressive societies by a series of bold amalgamations effected within definite periods of five years, and suggested, as a first step, the appointment of a special committee to survey the movement and ascertain the facts. The Congress subsequently adopted a Resolution recommending that a committee with this object should be set up.

After consideration of the report of the Labour Committee a resolution was passed expressing pleasure that the year had been free from serious industrial disputes in co-operative trade and industry, and in the successful working of the new co-operative conciliation machinery. A resolution suggesting alterations in the regulations governing the Conciliation Board on the ground that societies concerned in disputes were not sufficiently represented was lost.

In connection with the political activities of the movement a resolution to rescind the agreement with the Labour Party, designed to secure co-operation for political purposes between the two national executives, was lost; while a resolution expressing the view that in any society where the members have declined to support the Co-operative Party the latter shall not run a parliamentary candidate unless they have already been successful at a previous election was carried. The Co-operative Party brought forward resolutions, which were passed, dropping the capital levy and proportional representation from the party's programme.

A report of a committee of enquiry into municipal trading set up by the Co-operative Union in 1927 was considered and accepted. This report recommended that, "in relation to the distributive

\* Excluding persons in receipt of domiciliary medical relief only

trades the policy of development by co-operative societies offers the most practical and satisfactory way of extending collectivist principles in meeting the needs of the community," and urged co-operative societies to extend their distributive trade and to sell as near cost as possible. The recommendations of the committee are to be communicated to the Labour Party with a view to their discussion and the securing of an understanding with that Party.

A resolution was passed authorising the Union to request the Co-operative Wholesale Society to undertake retail trade in areas where present facilities are not sufficient. Other resolutions dealt with extensions of the educational work of the movement, and the representation of societies at the Congress.

## AGRICULTURAL WORKERS IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

ACCORDING to the Agricultural Statistics for 1927 (Part I\*), which have been issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the total number of workers returned as employed on agricultural holdings above one acre in extent in England and Wales on 4th June, 1927, was 774,449, as compared with 794,899 in 1926 and with 803,338 in 1925. The returns do not include the occupier or his wife, or domestic servants; but they do include members of his family working on the holding.

The following Table gives the totals for each of the last three years, distinguishing regular and casual workers:—

| Classes of Workers.       | 1927.   | 1926.   | 1925.   |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>Regular Workers:—</b>  |         |         |         |
| Males:                    |         |         |         |
| 21 years old and over ... | 452,835 | 455,904 | 441,944 |
| Under 21 years old ...    | 134,238 | 135,508 | 137,469 |
| Women and girls ...       | 62,629  | 62,949  | 59,940  |
| <b>Casual Workers:—</b>   |         |         |         |
| Males:                    |         |         |         |
| 21 years old and over ... | 67,078  | 79,193  | 90,870  |
| Under 21 years old ...    | 18,034  | 19,738  | 23,878  |
| Women and girls ...       | 39,635  | 41,607  | 49,237  |
| Total, all Workers ...    | 774,449 | 794,899 | 803,338 |

It will be seen that the reduction in 1927 was more than double that in 1926; the total reduction in the two years was nearly 29,000. The heaviest reduction was in casual workers; but, for the first time since 1923, there has also been a reduction in the number of adult male regular workers.

## JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS.

1. The National Council of the Pottery Industry met on the 4th April at Stoke-on-Trent.

Before the commencement of the business of the meeting the Chairman and other members of the Council made sympathetic references to the great loss sustained by the death of Mr. S. Clowes, M.P., who for many years, as Secretary of the National Pottery Workers' Society, had taken such a prominent part in the industry and in the establishment of the National Council.

An invitation from the Chief Inspector of Factories for members of the Council to visit the Home Office Industrial Exhibition was accepted.

A return was submitted showing that, from the 20th October, 1924, to the 25th January, 1928, 585 boys and 1,965 girls had been placed in various pottery occupations through the agency of the Local Juvenile Employment Bureau.

Other matters dealt with were: Merchandise Marks Inquiry; transport facilities—Midland motorways; collection of dust; electric kiln firing; and unemployment.

At the conclusion of the meeting an address was given by Mr. A. W. Flux, C.B., of the Board of Trade Statistical Department, bearing on the value of the statistical information regarding an industry as a whole to individual manufacturers in that industry.

2. At a meeting of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Paint, Colour and Varnish Industry, held on 16th May, the following resolution, submitted by the Employees' Side, as an alternative to pursuing a general application for an advance in wages, was carried unanimously:—

"That the National Joint Industrial Council appoint a Sub-Committee to fully inquire and report at the earliest opportunity as to the advisability of instituting a Grading Scheme in the Paint, Colour and Varnish Trade."

3. At a meeting of the Artificial Stone Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee on the 23rd May, the question was raised as to the title under which this body had been working for some years, and it was suggested and unanimously agreed that the Committee should be reconstituted as a Joint Industrial Council. The title of the Council will be the Joint Industrial Council for the Cast Stone Industry.

## GUIDE TO OFFICIAL STATISTICS.

THE sixth annual volume of the Guide to Current Official Statistics† has been issued by the Permanent Consultative Committee on Official Statistics. The aim of the Guide is to render readily accessible to an inquirer the wealth of statistical material, on a wide range of topics, contained in the numerous Government publications issued year by year.

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

† H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. net (1s. 4d. post free).

The central feature of the Guide is a detailed subject index so constructed as to enable the inquirer to discover in a few minutes not only which publications contain statistics bearing on his subject, but also their precise scope and the dates and localities to which they relate.

## SURVEY OF TEXTILE INDUSTRIES.

THE Committee on Industry and Trade have issued a Survey of Textile Industries\* as Part III of their Survey of Industries.

The present volume forms one of the four parts into which the Survey of Industries prepared by the Committee is divided.† The first and second parts discuss certain factors in industrial and commercial efficiency which are common to industry in general, and contain much information relating to the individual industries which are surveyed (from the point of view of their internal organisation and their overseas trade) in the present volume.

The "Survey of Textile Industries" is divided into three sections dealing with the cotton, the woollen and worsted, and the artificial silk industries respectively, and is based partly on official data, partly (and generally speaking preponderantly) on information supplied by the trades themselves, and partly on the results of other official and unofficial inquiries.

The volume, which contains 328 pages, constitutes the most comprehensive statement of the kind that has been brought together in recent times, describing as it does the conditions under which each of the three great industries dealt with has grown up; the development of its main branches as measured by the numbers employed, volume and value of production, and growth of overseas trade; the structure and organisation of the industry; its situation with regard to such special problems as the supply of raw materials, the development of scientific research, standardisation, selling organisations, international agreements, etc.; and its whole position in relation to foreign competition, whether in overseas markets or at home.

This survey and that of the metal industries, taken with the studies of general factors in industrial efficiency, are absolutely essential, in the Committee's view, to a just appreciation of the position and tendencies of British trade and industry as a whole, and the Committee hope that the Survey of Industries, taken as a whole, will facilitate the study of each industry's problems in the light of those faced (and, it may be, surmounted) by others.

## WAGES IN NORWAY IN 1926-1927.

THE Norwegian Central Statistical Office has recently published the annual Report‡ for 1927 containing statistics of wages, collected from employment exchanges, employers' associations and other sources.

There is stated to have been a decrease generally during 1926-1927, in rates of wages and average earnings, in continuance of a corresponding movement in 1925-26.

The following Table gives examples, extracted from the Report, of the average hourly rates of wages of adult male time-workers in July, 1927, in certain industries in the five largest towns in Norway:—

| Industry and Occupation.    | Oslo.           | Bergen.      | Trondhjem.   | Stavanger.   | Drammen.     |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Building:</b>            |                 |              |              |              |              |
| Carpenters and joiners ...  | Kroner. \$ 1.54 | Kroner. 1.54 | Kroner. 1.55 | Kroner. 1.54 | Kroner. 1.54 |
| Bricklayers ...             | 1.61            | 1.61         | 1.61         | 1.61         | 1.61         |
| Bricklayers' labourers ...  | 1.47            | 1.47         | 1.47         | 1.47         | 1.47         |
| Painters ...                | 1.61            | 1.61         | 1.61         | 1.54         | 1.61         |
| <b>Engineering:</b>         |                 |              |              |              |              |
| Skilled men ...             | 1.31            | 1.27         | 1.28         | 1.27         | 1.24         |
| Labourers ...               | 1.14            | 1.11         | 1.03         | 1.02         | 1.08         |
| <b>Food, etc.:</b>          |                 |              |              |              |              |
| Brewery workers ...         | 1.43-1.56       | 1.48-1.62    | 1.39         | 1.25         | 1.43-1.56    |
| Canning factory workers ... | ...             | 1.12         | 1.08         | 1.08         | ...          |
| <b>Boot and Shoe:</b>       |                 |              |              |              |              |
| Factory workers ...         | 1.42            | 1.43         | 1.02         | 1.30         | 1.42         |

The following Table shows the average earnings (including piece-rate earnings) in the paper, lumber and sawmilling, engineering, and mining industries in 1926 and 1927, based on information supplied by the employers' associations:—

| Industry.                               | 1926.            | 1927.            | Percentage decrease in 1927 as compared with 1926. |
|---|------------------|------------------|--|
| <b>Paper (day or shift earnings):</b> † |                  |                  |  |
| Cellulose factories ...                 | Kroner. \$ 12.40 | Kroner. \$ 10.60 | 14.5   |
| Paper factories ...                     | 11.92            | 10.12            | 15.1   |
| Woodpulp grinding factories ...         | 12.24            | 10.29            | 15.9   |
| <b>Sawmilling (shift earnings):</b> ‡   |                  |                  |  |
| Yard workers ...                        | 12.65            | 11.08            | 12.3   |
| Sawyers ...                             | 13.75            | 11.03            | 19.8   |
| Sawyers' labourers ...                  | 11.42            | 10.17            | 10.9   |
| <b>Engineering (hourly earnings):</b> † |                  |                  |  |
| Skilled workers ...                     | 1.87             | 1.51             | 19.2   |
| Labourers ...                           | 1.57             | 1.28             | 18.5   |
| <b>Mining (hourly earnings):</b> ‡      |                  |                  |  |
| Underground and surface workers ...     | 1.54             | 1.35             | 12.3   |

\* H.M. Stationery Office; price 3s. 6d. net.

† Notices of Parts I, II and IV appeared in the issues of this GAZETTE for February, 1927 (page 49), April, 1928 (pages 123-4), and May, 1928 (page 165) respectively.

‡ Lönninger, 1927. Central Statistical Office, Oslo, 1928.

§ The exchange value of the Norwegian krone is approximately 1s. 1½d.

¶ Wages given relate to 4th quarter in 1926 and second half in 1927.

‡ Wages given refer to 3rd quarter in both 1926 and 1927.



## CHANGES IN WAGES IN DENMARK SINCE 1914.

COMPARATIVE statistics of wages in Denmark in 1914, and in the fourth quarter of 1926 and 1927, compiled from returns of the Danish Employers' Association, are published in the journal\* of the Danish Statistical Department, from which the following summary is taken:—

| District and Class of Worker. | Average Hourly Earnings. |                 |                 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                               | 1914.                    | Oct.-Dec. 1926. | Oct.-Dec. 1927. |
| <i>Copenhagen.</i>            |                          |                 |                 |
| Skilled males ... ..          | Kroner.† 0.671           | Kroner.† 1.78   | Kroner.† 1.72   |
| Unskilled males ... ..        | 0.475                    | 1.36            | 1.35            |
| Females ... ..                | 0.323                    | 0.89            | 0.88            |
| All workers ... ..            | 0.544                    | 1.38            | 1.36            |
| <i>Provinces.</i>             |                          |                 |                 |
| Skilled males ... ..          | 0.548                    | 1.43            | 1.41            |
| Unskilled males ... ..        | 0.408                    | 1.21            | 1.19            |
| Females ... ..                | 0.257                    | 0.80            | 0.79            |
| All workers ... ..            | 0.449                    | 1.22            | 1.20            |
| <i>Whole Country.</i>         |                          |                 |                 |
| Skilled males ... ..          | 0.613                    | 1.61            | 1.58            |
| Unskilled males ... ..        | 0.455                    | 1.27            | 1.26            |
| Females ... ..                | 0.296                    | 0.86            | 0.85            |
| All workers ... ..            | 0.502                    | 1.30            | 1.28            |

The average hourly earnings in each group are obtained by dividing the total amounts paid out in wages (both time and piece-work) in the quarter by the aggregate number of hours worked. The principal branches of industry covered by the inquiry are the metal and engineering trades, building, pottery, glass and stone, food preparation, printing and paper, textile and chemical; and the data relate to wage-earners of 18 years of age and over.

## WAGES AND HOURS IN THE UNITED STATES: FOUNDRIES AND MACHINE SHOPS, 1927.

THE March issue of the Monthly Labour Review, published by the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics, contains a summary of the results of a survey of the wages and hours of labour of workpeople in foundries and machine shops in the United States in June-September, 1927. The information was collected from 417 foundries employing 38,986 workpeople (including 439 females) and 526 machine shops employing 86,771 workpeople (including 1,470 females) in 28 States.

The following Table shows, for male workers in some of the principal occupations, the average full-time weekly hours of labour, the average hourly earnings, and the average full-time weekly earnings:—

| Occupation.<br>(Male Workers.)             | Average full-time hours per week. | Average earnings per hour. | Average full-time earnings per week. |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Foundries.</i>                          |                                   |                            |                                      |
| Chippers and rough grinders ... ..         | 51.1                              | Dollars. 0.537             | Dollars. 27.44                       |
| Core makers ... ..                         | 50.4                              | 0.755                      | 38.05                                |
| Moulders, hand, bench ... ..               | 50.5                              | 0.789                      | 39.84                                |
| Moulders, hand, floor ... ..               | 49.9                              | 0.820                      | 40.92                                |
| Moulders, machine ... ..                   | 50.4                              | 0.752                      | 37.90                                |
| Pattern makers ... ..                      | 50.3                              | 0.830                      | 41.75                                |
| Labourers ... ..                           | 52.1                              | 0.492                      | 25.63                                |
| All occupations† ... ..                    | 51.1                              | 0.626                      | 31.99                                |
| <i>Machine Shops.</i>                      |                                   |                            |                                      |
| Assemblers ... ..                          | 50.1                              | 0.653                      | 32.72                                |
| Bench hands and fitters ... ..             | 49.5                              | 0.662                      | 32.77                                |
| Boring mill hands and operators ... ..     | 50.7                              | 0.727                      | 36.86                                |
| Drill press hands and operators ... ..     | 50.1                              | 0.605                      | 30.31                                |
| Lathe hands and operators, engine ... ..   | 50.7                              | 0.695                      | 35.24                                |
| Lathe hands and operators, turret ... ..   | 50.0                              | 0.675                      | 33.75                                |
| Machinists ... ..                          | 49.3                              | 0.728                      | 35.89                                |
| Milling-machine hands and operators ... .. | 49.7                              | 0.685                      | 34.04                                |
| Toolmakers ... ..                          | 49.7                              | 0.756                      | 37.57                                |
| Labourers ... ..                           | 50.4                              | 0.456                      | 22.98                                |
| All occupations ... ..                     | 50.1                              | 0.629                      | 31.51                                |

It is stated that comparison with the results of an inquiry into hours and earnings in 1923 shows that, with regard to foundries, hours decreased 2.5 per cent. between 1923 and 1927; earnings per hour increased 11.8 per cent.; while full-time earnings per week increased 9.1 per cent. In machine shops, full-time hours per week decreased 1.4 per cent. during the same period; earnings per hour increased 11.8 per cent.; and full-time earnings per week increased 10.2 per cent.

\* Statistiske Efterretninger, 11th May, 1928. Copenhagen.

† The exchange value of the Danish krone is approximately 1s. 1½d.

‡ Including occupations not separately specified in this Table.

## COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS IN THE NETHERLANDS IN 1927.\*

ON 1st June, 1927, 857 collective agreements were in force in the Netherlands, covering 16,800 undertakings and 266,300 workers. More than half the workers (145,562) were covered by five national agreements. The following is a brief analysis of the chief provisions of the agreements:—

**Hours.**—Weekly working hours as fixed by collective agreements in 1927 were less than 48 for 4.2 per cent. of the workers, 48 for 84.3 per cent., over 48 and up to 50 for 3.1 per cent., and over 50 for 8.4 per cent.

**Wages.**—For 163,094, or 61 per cent., of the workers time rates of wages only were fixed, and for 101,801, or 38 per cent., piece rates as well as time rates were fixed. A guaranteed time rate was fixed for 67,877 of the piece-workers. A minimum output was fixed in two agreements, those of the typographers and the engravers, covering 13,528 workers. In 88 agreements covering 176,787 workers part of the wage was paid in kind, free houses, fuel, working clothes, board and lodging, etc. The following are shown as illustrating the weekly wage rates current in 1927, the 1914 figures being added for comparison:—

| Year.           | Weekly wage rates (in florins).† |              |              |        |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------|
|                 | Machine Compositor.              | Book-binder. | Brick-layer. | Baker. |
| Amsterdam ... { | 1914 17.67                       | 13.20        | 17.49        | 14.00  |
| 1927 39.36      | 35.04                            | 38.40        | 35.00        |        |
| Rotterdam ... { | 1914 17.10                       | 13.20        | ...          | 14.00  |
| 1927 38.40      | 34.08                            | 38.40        | 35.00        |        |
| The Hague ... { | 1914 17.10                       | 13.20        | 18.15        | 13.65  |
| 1927 36.40      | 34.08                            | 38.40        | 35.00        |        |

**Other Provisions.**—In 71 agreements, covering 55,255 workers, provision was made for the payment of children's allowances; in 17 of these, covering 11,271 workers, the allowances are paid from funds established by employers and workers.

Sickness benefits were payable to 232,203 of the workers covered by agreements. The benefit amounted to from 51 to 75 per cent. of wages in agreements covering 172,259 workers, to more than 75 per cent. in agreements covering 52,213 workers, while for the remainder the amount was either not definitely fixed or was below 50 per cent. The period for which benefit is payable varied, but for more than 58 per cent. of the workers covered it amounted to 13 weeks per annum.

For 109,302, or 41 per cent., of the total number of workers covered by collective agreements, provision was made for holidays, varying as a rule between 6 and 11 days, for which over 90 per cent. of the workers were paid full wages; while in the other cases a holiday allowance was granted.

Arrangements for the appointment of an arbitration court to settle disputes were included in 691 agreements, covering 92 per cent. of the workers. In 1920 the corresponding figure was only 60 per cent.

## WAGES AND HOURS MOVEMENTS IN GERMANY.

**Mining.**—Conciliation proceedings which were instituted early in May, consequent upon notice being given by the miners' unions to terminate the district agreements for the Upper Silesian coal and ore-mining industries and for the pithead coke works, resulted in the issue on 22nd May of three awards, providing for a general increase of 7 per cent. in the wages of coal miners and the levelling of the wages of coke workers up to the rates payable to miners. Surface workers in the ore-mining industry are to receive increases of 5-6 pennings an hour, while the wages of underground workers are to be raised by 9 per cent. In the case of workers paid on tonnage rates, the shift wage is in future to be regarded as a minimum. These awards, which became operative as from 1st June and are not terminable until 31st May, 1929, have been declared binding.

A recent award for the Aix-la-Chapelle hard coal industry, granting increases of 7 per cent. in the case of underground workers and of 5 per cent. for surface workers, has also been declared binding.

**Textiles.**—In February last, the Württemberg textile workers' union gave notice to terminate on 31st March the general and wages agreements. Conciliation proceedings which were instituted resulted in the issue of an award providing for the retention of the 54-hour week previously in force, with an increase of 4 pennings in the basic hourly wage. This award was rejected by the workers' delegates, and, as the Stuttgart conciliation officer declined to pronounce it binding, the negotiations were re-opened. Towards the end of May, a further award was issued whereby the maximum weekly hours were reduced to 51 (three additional hours a week may, however, be worked subject to agreement with the works council), while the basic hourly wage was increased by 5 pennings. This award has been declared binding.

**Transport.**—The strike which commenced on 1st May last in the Rhine transport industry is still in progress despite the efforts of the local conciliation authorities and of the Federal Minister of Labour to bring about a settlement. Conciliation proceedings which were instituted at the Federal Ministry of Labour resulted in the issue,

\* De Vakbeweging, April, 1928. Amsterdam.

† The exchange value of the Dutch florin is approximately 1s. 8d.

## SOCIAL INSURANCE IN FRANCE: NEW LEGISLATION.\*

PROVISION was made for a comprehensive compulsory scheme of social insurance on a contributory basis in France by an Act of 5th April, 1928. The Bill which thus becomes law has been before Parliament for seven years, having been first introduced in March, 1921. The Act will not come into force until ten months after the necessary administrative regulations have been issued, for which a period of one year is allowed. An undertaking was given by the Government that, in the interim period of 22 months, such amending legislation as was considered desirable would be introduced to meet certain justifiable objections of the critics of the scheme.

**Scope.**—The risks covered by the Act are sickness, invalidity, old age, death and maternity, with some provision for orphans of insured persons and for the payment of the social insurance contributions of unemployed insured persons. Previously, all these forms of social insurance were separate: not all forms were compulsory, and the contributory system was in force only in certain cases. All persons whose total annual remuneration (excluding family allowances) does not exceed 15,000 francs are to be liable to compulsory insurance. The maximum of 15,000 francs is increased, according to a fixed scale, for workers with dependent children. In addition, independent artisans, small employers, unsalaried intellectual workers and, in general, all those who, while not actually drawing a wage or salary, live mainly on the product of their labour, may become voluntary contributors, subject to the same limits of remuneration as apply to compulsorily insured persons; as may also the non-wage or salary-earning wives of insured persons. It is estimated that about 8½ million insured persons will be covered by the Act.

Employees of the State, the departments and communes, railways and tramways, miners and slate quarrymen, and registered seamen and other persons on board ship are to continue to be covered by the insurance legislation or regulations which apply to them at present. Rules for the co-ordination of these various systems with the general system of social insurance are to be laid down in a special law.

**Contributions.**—Funds are to be derived mainly from a contribution of 10 per cent. of the wages of each insured person (subject to a maximum of 15,000 francs) paid half by the worker and half by the employer. In addition, provision is made for a State contribution equal to that provided in the 1926 Budget for workers' pensions (227 million francs) and now merged in the present scheme, and for departmental and communal contributions equal to half the savings effected by them on poor law relief as a result of the new system. Voluntarily insured persons must pay the full contribution themselves, the amount varying between 5 and 10 per cent. at the choice of the worker, and benefits varying in proportion to the contribution.

**Benefits.**—Details regarding benefits are to be fixed in administrative regulations, and during the transitional period they are to vary according to the age of the worker on becoming compulsorily insured and the number of contributions paid. Sickness benefit, in general, is to include medical treatment, drugs, etc., and cash benefit equal to half the average daily wage for a maximum period of six months. A similar amount is to be paid to insured women for six weeks before and six weeks after confinement on condition that they cease work for that period, and a special monthly nursing allowance is to be paid to nursing mothers for a maximum period of one year. The amount of invalidity and old age pensions varies greatly during the transitional period; when the scheme is in full operation, the old age pension, granted at the age of 60, is to be not less than 40 per cent. of the average annual remuneration over the whole contribution-period. Family allowances for dependent children are to be paid in addition to benefit. The death insurance provisions guarantee to the legal representatives of the insured person the payment at his death of a lump sum fixed at 20 per cent. of his average annual remuneration.

## THE NEW EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE SYSTEM IN ITALY.†

THE employment exchange system in Italy is undergoing reorganisation. A Royal Decree of 29th March, 1928, provides for a scheme which will supersede the system established by decrees of November 1918 and October 1919, under which State grants were given to bodies doing employment exchange work, whether formed by provinces or communes, by workers and employers jointly or separately, or by philanthropic societies; provincial councils, under the chairmanship of a magistrate, supervised their administration. Although the decrees of 1918 and 1919 have remained in force, almost all the employment exchanges set up by municipalities and provinces have ceased to function, partly because when the rate of unemployment was low their usefulness did not justify the expense of their upkeep, partly because the Fascist trade unions have assumed public utility functions.

The new decree provides for the establishment of employment exchanges for separate categories of workers, to be set up at the offices of the workers' trade associations. Each exchange is to be established by decree of the Minister of Corporations, in agreement with the Minister of National Economy, after consultation with the corporations concerned, where such exist. Exchanges are to be administered by a commission under the chairmanship of the secretary (presumably the local secretary) of the Fascist Party and

\* See this GAZETTE for March, 1928, page 84.

† Voluntary Sickness Insurance. Studies and Reports, Series M (Social Insurance), No. 7, published in the United Kingdom for the International Labour Office by P. S. King & Sons, Ltd. (Orchard House), 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1; price 8s.

\* Journal Officiel, 12th April, 1928. Paris.

† Report by the Italian Government to the International Labour Conference, Eleventh Session, Report of the Director, Second Part, Geneva, and Gazzetta Ufficiale, 18th May, 1928. Rome.



composed of equal numbers of representatives of the employers' and workers' trade associations concerned. The commission will appoint the employment exchange officials from among such leaders of the workers' associations as may be proposed as candidates.

The control and co-ordination of the employment exchanges within each province will be carried out by the Labour and Social Welfare Section of the Provincial Economic Council. A delegate of the Ministry of Corporations will be appointed chairman of each Labour and Social Welfare Section, and the membership will be composed of representatives of employers' and workers' associations in equal numbers, and certain officials with a consultative vote. The regional and national co-ordination of the exchanges will devolve on the Ministry of Corporations, in agreement with the Ministry of National Economy and such other Ministries as may be interested.

To ensure that no workers are engaged except through the public exchanges, the Minister of Corporations may by decree prohibit any private person from acting as intermediary for the purpose of placing workers of specified categories in employment, even if his services are given gratuitously. Persons acting as intermediaries in contravention of the decree will be liable to fine or imprisonment.

Employers are prohibited, on pain of a fine, from availing themselves of the services of any intermediary, and from engaging workers who are not registered at an employment exchange. They are at liberty to select from among registered unemployed persons, giving preference to members of the Fascist Party and of the Fascist trade unions.

The decree further lays down a scale of penalties which will be incurred by employers who omit to inform the exchange of workers engaged or discharged by them, and by workers who fail to register at the exchange when unemployed or to inform the exchange when they obtain work, or who accept employment without being registered at an exchange.

## LEGAL HOURS OF LABOUR AND MINIMUM WAGE LEGISLATION FOR WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES.

A BULLETIN\* of the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labour gives particulars of the State laws, in regard to hours of employment, minimum wages and home work, affecting working women in the various States as at 1st August, 1927.

As regards hours of labour, it appears that in four States—Alabama, Florida, Iowa and West Virginia—there exists no legislation limiting the daily or weekly working hours of women in any industry. In all other States women's hours of labour are regulated in specific industries or occupations, but within widely varying limits.

The shortest period to which hours of work are limited is 8 hours a day in 10 States—Arizona, California, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York,† Utah and Washington—the District of Columbia and the Territory of Porto Rico. California has the most inclusive legislation and has limited the hours of work for practically all women workers, except in agriculture and domestic service. In this group of States the maximum weekly hours vary between 48 and 60, including overtime allowances. An 8½-hour day is the maximum for certain occupations in towns with a population of 500 or over in North Dakota, and in some occupations for all parts of Wyoming; but whereas, in the former, the weekly maximum is 48 hours, in the latter this becomes 56 hours. In Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, and Wisconsin, women employed in specified industries or occupations are restricted to a 9-hour day and a working week varying between 48 and 53 hours, except in Idaho, where no weekly maximum hours are fixed by law.

The weekly hours show considerable variation in those States in which a 10-hour day is the legal maximum for certain groups of women workers, that is to say, in Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, Wisconsin. In two States, Georgia and South Carolina, these laws cover only the textile factories. Mississippi includes all manufacturing workers under its 55-hour-week law, and has in addition a 60-hour-week law for women covering all occupations. New Hampshire has a 10½-hour day and a 54-hour week for some women workers; Vermont a 10½-hour day and a 56-hour week; Tennessee a 10½-hour day and a 57-hour week; North Carolina a 11-hour day and a 60-hour week for men and women employed in textile mills; while South Carolina, with a limit for women cotton workers of 10 hours a day, permits women in mercantile establishments to work up to 12 hours a day, and fixes no limit in other occupations. Five States have laws which limit the weekly hours only of certain women workers; these are Connecticut and Minnesota 53 hours; Maine and New York 54 hours; and Oregon 56 hours for student nurses and 48 hours for clerical workers. Forty-three States in all limit the number of hours that women may work, but in many of these the number of industries or occupations affected is so small as to concern only a small proportion of all working women in the State. Only 18 States have provided legally for rest days, one shorter working day in the week, or time for meals or for rest periods. Night work is prohibited for women in certain industries or occupations in 16 States and in the Territory of Porto Rico.

\* Bulletin No. 63 of the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labour, 1927. Washington.  
† The New York Act was passed on 30th March, 1927, to become effective on 1st January, 1928, and refers to workers in factories, laundries and mercantile establishments only; see this GAZETTE for February, 1928, page 49.

Minimum wage laws affecting women are in force in only 9 States, in two of which, South Dakota and Utah, the minimum wage is fixed by law in specified industries and occupations. In the other 7 States, boards or commissions have been created, with power to investigate the various occupations or industries in which women are employed, and to establish minimum rates for each or all of them. This has been done for one or more groups of workers in all these States, except Colorado, where the commission has never functioned. The awards of the boards or commissions have the force of law except in Massachusetts, where they can be enforced only through the strong support of public opinion. California has set up the highest rate fixed in any award, the minimum wage being 16 dollars a week for women in all industries.

## SWEDISH UNEMPLOYMENT CENSUS, 1927.

On 5th May, 1927, a census was taken of the unemployed in all towns and industrial communes and in certain important agricultural communes in Sweden. The results of this census are contained in a Report\* recently published by the Swedish Department for Social Affairs. The population of the centres covered by the census was about 4 million, or two-thirds of the total population of the country.

**Extent of Unemployment.**—The number returned as unemployed on 5th May, 1927, was 64,075 (62,095 men and 1,980 women). It was necessary, however, to exclude certain categories of persons such as those unemployed on account of incapacity, those who were employed on work of a casual nature, persons unemployed by reason of labour disputes, military service or for other reasons. After deducting these, the total was reduced to 59,922 (58,066 men and 1,856 women). The proportion of the population unemployed was 1.4 per cent., in the towns covered by the enquiry, 1.6 per cent. in the industrial communes, and 1.3 per cent. in the agricultural communes.

**Ages of the Unemployed.**—The average age of the unemployed was 32.8 years (32.9 for men and 30.0 for women). The following Table shows the distribution of the unemployed over the various age-classes, distinguishing the sexes:—

| Age Class.        | Men.    |           | Women.  |           | Total.  |           |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|
|                   | Number. | Per Cent. | Number. | Per Cent. | Number. | Per Cent. |
| 14-20 years ...   | 11,125  | 19.2      | 598     | 32.2      | 11,723  | 19.6      |
| 21-30 " ...       | 20,991  | 36.2      | 559     | 30.1      | 21,550  | 36.0      |
| 31-40 " ...       | 9,810   | 16.9      | 248     | 13.4      | 10,058  | 16.8      |
| 41-50 " ...       | 6,868   | 11.8      | 238     | 12.8      | 7,106   | 11.9      |
| 51-60 " ...       | 5,378   | 9.3       | 148     | 8.0       | 5,526   | 9.2       |
| 60 years and over | 3,574   | 6.1       | 58      | 3.1       | 3,632   | 6.0       |
| Age not stated... | 320     | 0.5       | 7       | 0.4       | 327     | 0.5       |
| Total ...         | 58,066  | 100.0     | 1,856   | 100.0     | 59,922  | 100.0     |

Of the 11,723 persons in the age class, 14 to 20 years, 8,153 were 18 years of age or over, 3,046 were 16 or 17 years, and 524 were 14 or 15 years of age.

**Distribution according to Industry.**—Of the male unemployed, 17.6 per cent. of the total belonged to the building trades, 14.7 per cent. to the metal and engineering industry, 13.3 per cent. to forestry and 10.3 per cent. to the lumber and sawmilling industry. Of the women, 22.4 per cent. were commercial and office employees, 17.0 per cent. domestic servants, while 13.4 per cent. were without any special occupation.

**Causes of Unemployment.**—The principal causes of unemployment were reductions of staff, and the closing down of establishments or works, affecting 59.2 and 9.9 per cent. respectively of the total number of unemployed coming within the scope of the enquiry. Of those remaining, 5.8 per cent. had never had employment and 11.4 per cent. gave no reason for their unemployment.

**Duration of Unemployment.**—The duration of unemployment was as shown in the Table below:—

| Period of Unemployment.        | Men.    |           | Women.  |           | Total.  |           |
|--------------------------------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|
|                                | Number. | Per Cent. | Number. | Per Cent. | Number. | Per Cent. |
| Less than 1 week               | 701     | 1.2       | 30      | 1.6       | 731     | 1.2       |
| 1 to 5 weeks ...               | 4,438   | 7.7       | 153     | 8.3       | 4,591   | 7.7       |
| 5 to 9 " ...                   | 4,137   | 7.1       | 86      | 4.6       | 4,223   | 7.0       |
| 9 to 13 " ...                  | 1,974   | 3.4       | 94      | 5.1       | 2,068   | 3.5       |
| 3 to 6 months...               | 8,839   | 15.2      | 320     | 17.2      | 9,159   | 15.3      |
| 6 to 9 " ...                   | 7,171   | 12.4      | 198     | 10.7      | 7,369   | 12.3      |
| 9 to 12 " ...                  | 2,452   | 4.2       | 86      | 4.6       | 2,538   | 4.2       |
| 1 to 2 years ...               | 6,645   | 11.4      | 155     | 8.4       | 6,800   | 11.4      |
| 2 to 3 " ...                   | 3,426   | 5.9       | 77      | 4.1       | 3,503   | 5.8       |
| Over 3 years ...               | 5,762   | 9.9       | 103     | 5.5       | 5,865   | 9.8       |
| Not specified or indeterminate | 12,521  | 21.6      | 554     | 29.9      | 13,075  | 21.8      |
| Total ...                      | 58,066  | 100.0     | 1,856   | 100.0     | 59,922  | 100.0     |

For those for whom it was possible to determine the actual periods of unemployment, the average duration was 15.5 months. Among seasonal workers it is to be noted that in the case of 70 per cent. of their number the average duration did not exceed nine months.

For the purposes of this census, the duration of unemployment was taken as the sum of those periods of unemployment following upon the cessation of the last regular employment.

\* Arbetslöshetsräkningen och de lokala Arbetslöshetsundersökningarna i Sverige år 1927. Stockholm, 1928.

## CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING: STATISTICS FOR 1st JUNE.

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| All Items included ... | 65% |
| Food only ...          | 56% |

### FOOD.

At 1st June the average level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food showed a slight advance as compared with 1st May. There was a further increase, of about 1d. per 7 lbs., in the average price of potatoes, and meat and bacon were also somewhat dearer than a month earlier. On the other hand, the average prices of butter and milk showed a slight reduction.

As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was about 56 per cent. at 1st June, 1928, as compared with 54 per cent. a month ago, and a year ago.

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

| Article.                 | Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest ½d.) |                | Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st June, 1928, as compared with |                |
|--------------------------|---|----------------|--|----------------|
|                          | July, 1914.   | 1st May, 1928. | July, 1914.  | 1st May, 1928. |
| Beef, British—           | s. d.   | s. d.          | s. d.  | s. d.          |
| Ribs ...                 | 0 10  | 1 4½           | 1 5  | +0 7           |
| Thin Flank ...           | 0 6½  | 0 9            | 0 9½   | +0 2½          |
| Beef, Chilled or Frozen— |   |                |  |                |
| Ribs ...                 | 0 7½  | 0 10½          | 0 10½  | +0 3           |
| Thin Flank ...           | 0 4½  | 0 5½           | 0 5½   | +0 0½          |
| Mutton, British—         |   |                |  |                |
| Legs ...                 | 0 10½   | 1 6½           | 1 7  | +0 8½          |
| Breast ...               | 0 6½  | 0 10½          | 0 10½  | +0 4           |
| Mutton, Frozen—          |   |                |  |                |
| Legs ...                 | 0 6½  | 0 11½          | 0 11½  | +0 4½          |
| Breast ...               | 0 4   | 0 5            | 0 5  | +0 1           |
| Bacon (streaky)* ...     | 0 11½   | 1 2½           | 1 3½   | +0 4           |
| Flour ... per 7 lb.      | 0 10½   | 1 4½           | 1 4½   | +0 6½          |
| Bread ... per 4 lb.      | 0 5½  | 0 9½           | 0 9½   | +0 3½          |
| Tea ...                  | 1 6½  | 2 5            | 2 5  | +0 10½         |
| Sugar (granulated) ...   | 0 2   | 0 3½           | 0 3½   | +0 1½          |
| Milk ... per quart       | 0 3½  | 0 5½           | 0 5½   | +0 2           |
| Butter—                  |   |                |  |                |
| Fresh ...                | 1 2½  | 1 11           | 1 10½  | +0 7½          |
| Salt ...                 | 1 2½  | 1 9½           | 1 9½   | +0 0½          |
| Cheese† ...              | 0 8½  | 1 2½           | 1 2  | +0 5½          |
| Margarine ...            | 0 7   | 0 7½           | 0 7½   | +0 0½          |
| Eggs (fresh) ... each    | 0 1½  | 0 1½           | 0 1½   | +0 0½          |
| Potatoes ... per 7 lb.   | 0 4½  | 0 9½           | 0 10½  | +0 5½          |

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

| Article.   | Average Percentage Increase at 1st June, 1928, as compared with July, 1914. |                           |                  | Corresponding General Average for 1st May, 1928. |
|--|---|---------------------------|------------------|--|
|  | Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).                                      | Small Towns and Villages. | General Average. |  |
| Beef, British—                                     | Per cent.   | Per cent.                 | Per cent.        | Per cent.  |
| Ribs ...   | 74  | 70                        | 72               | 68   |
| Thin Flank ...                                     | 44  | 42                        | 43               | 39   |
| Beef, Chilled or Frozen—                           |   |                           |                  |  |
| Ribs ...   | 42  | 40                        | 41               | 40   |
| Thin Flank ...                                     | 10  | 15                        | 12               | 11   |
| Mutton, British—                                   |   |                           |                  |  |
| Legs ...   | 84  | 80                        | 82               | 80   |
| Breast ...   | 65  | 57                        | 61               | 56   |
| Mutton, Frozen—                                    |   |                           |                  |  |
| Legs ...   | 71  | 64                        | 68               | 66   |
| Breast ...   | 23  | 25                        | 24               | 22   |
| Bacon (streaky)* ...                               | 37  | 37                        | 37               | 32   |
| Fish ...   | 115   | 90                        | 102              | 104.   |
| Flour ...  | 57  | 61                        | 59               | 58   |
| Bread ...  | 63  | 61                        | 62               | 61   |
| Tea ...  | 66  | 62                        | 59               | 59   |
| Sugar (granulated) ...                             | 56  | 60                        | 63               | 64   |
| Milk ...   | 56  | 65                        | 60               | 63   |
| Butter—  |   |                           |                  |  |
| Fresh ...  | 51  | 55                        | 53               | 58   |
| Salt ...   | 50  | 50                        | 50               | 52   |
| Cheese† ...  | 62  | 63                        | 62               | 64   |
| Margarine ...                                      | 9   | 4                         | 6                | 7  |
| Eggs (fresh) ...                                   | 28  | 19                        | 23               | 18   |
| Potatoes ...                                       | 139   | 99                        | 119              | 95   |
| All above articles of Food (Weighted Increase) ... | 57  | 54                        | 56               | 54   |

\* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

† The description of cheese specified for a quotation is Canadian or American, but where such cheese is seldom sold in a locality the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

### RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts indicate that the average increase in the rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st June, 1928, was approximately 51 per cent. Of the total increase about two-fifths is accounted for by increases on account of rates and water charges, and about two-fifths is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Acts falling within the remaining one-fifth.

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st June the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged approximately 120 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group, the prices of coal at 1st June averaged between 70 and 75 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, and those of gas about 50 per cent. above the pre-war level. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches) the average increase at 1st June, as compared with July, 1914, was between 65 and 70 per cent.

### ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st June is, approximately, 65 per cent.\* over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 64 per cent. at 1st May, 1928, and 63 per cent. at 1st June, 1927.

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

## SUMMARY TABLE: 1918 TO 1928.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month, 1918 to 1928:—

Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items. (Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.)

| Month.    | 1918    | 1919    | 1920 | 1921 | 1922 | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 | 1926 | 1927 | 1928 |
|-----------|---------|---------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Jan. ...  | 85-90   | 120     | 125  | 165  | 92   | 78   | 77   | 80   | 75   | 75   | 68   |
| Feb. ...  | 90      | 120     | 130  | 151  | 88   | 77   | 79   | 79   | 73   | 72   | 66   |
| Mar. ...  | 90      | 115     | 130  | 141  | 86   | 76   | 78   | 79   | 72   | 71   | 64   |
| April ... | 90-95   | 110     | 132  | 133  | 82   | 74   | 73   | 75   | 68   | 65   | 64   |
| May ...   | 95-100  | 105     | 141  | 128  | 81   | 70   | 71   | 73   | 67   | 64   | 64   |
| June ...  | 100     | 105     | 150  | 119  | 80   | 69   | 69   | 72   | 68   | 63   | 65   |
| July ...  | 100-105 | 105-110 | 152  | 119  | 84   | 69   | 70   | 73   | 70   | 66   | ...  |
| Aug. ...  | 110     | 115     | 155  | 122  | 81   | 71   | 71   | 73   | 70   | 64   | ...  |
| Sept. ... | 110     | 115     | 161  | 120  | 79   | 73   | 72   | 74   | 72   | 64   | ...  |
| Oct. ...  | 115-120 | 120     | 164  | 110  | 78   | 75   | 76   | 76   | 74   | 67   | ...  |
| Nov. ...  | 120-125 | 125     | 176  | 103  | 80   | 75   | 80   | 76   | 79   | 69   | ...  |
| Dec. ...  | 120     | 125     | 169  | 99   | 80   | 77   | 81   | 77   | 79   | 69   | ...  |

### NOTE.

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

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



## EMPLOYMENT IN MAY.

## GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT during May showed a slight decline, on the whole, as compared with the preceding month.

There were increases in the numbers of workpeople unemployed in the tinplate, shipbuilding, pottery, boot and shoe, wool textile, linen, and jute industries, and in dock, river, canal, harbour, &c., service. In the coal-mining industry there was a considerable increase in the numbers temporarily stopped from the service of their employers, together with a slight increase in the numbers wholly unemployed. On the other hand the seasonal improvement continued in the building, public works contracting, brick, tile, and cement, and tailoring industries. There was also some improvement in the iron and steel industries, in the glass trades, in textile bleaching, printing and dyeing, and in certain of the food manufacturing industries.

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts (aged 16 to 64 inclusive and numbering approximately 11,800,000), and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 21st May, 1928 (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed) was 9.9, as compared with 9.6 at 23rd April, 1928, and 8.7 at 23rd May, 1927. For males alone the percentage at 21st May, 1928, was 11.4, as compared with 11.0 at 23rd April, 1928; for females the corresponding figures were 5.9 and 5.7. The percentage wholly unemployed at 21st May, 1928, was 7.6, the same percentage as at 23rd April, 1928. The total number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 21st May, 1928, was approximately 1,143,000, of whom 918,000 were men and 165,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 23rd April, 1928, it was 1,094,000, of whom 874,000 were men and 151,000 were women; and at 23rd May, 1927, it was 1,008,000, of whom 811,000 were men and 139,000 were women.

## EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—In the coal-mining industry employment continued slack and showed a further decline. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 26th May, 1928, was 929,958, a decrease of 0.6 per cent. as compared with April; the average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 26th May, 1928, was 4.70, as compared with 4.98 in April.

In iron-mining employment continued slack. In the shale mines in West Lothian there was a small increase, as compared with April, in the number of workpeople employed at the mines from which returns were received, but a decrease of about 6 per cent. as compared with May, 1927. Employment at limestone quarries was again good in the Buxton district, and improved to fair in the Weardale district; a slight improvement was also reported from the Clitheroe district. At whinstone quarries in the East of Scotland it remained moderate, but showed a decline compared with the previous month. At the slate quarries in North Wales it improved to good. At chalk quarries employment remained slack. At china clay quarries in Devon and Cornwall it continued fairly good; at tin mines it was good on the whole, and showed an improvement on the previous month.

**Manufacture of Pig-iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.**—In the pig-iron industry employment continued bad. Of 437 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of May, 1928, was 148, as compared with 149 at the end of April, 1928, and with 184 in May, 1927. At iron and steel works employment continued slack, but showed a slight improvement; short-time working was reported from many districts. Employment in the tinplate trade showed a decline. The arrangement made in November for stabilising prices and regulating output, whereby each works was to stop for three weeks in every thirteen, was still in operation. In the week ended 26th May, 321 mills were reported to be in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 384 in the week ended 28th April, 1928, and with 343 at the end of May, 1927. In steel sheet manufacture employment continued fair. The number of sheet mills working was 121 at the end of May, 1928, as compared with 123 in April, 1928, and with 127 in May, 1927.

**Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Industries.**—In engineering employment was still quiet. It was fairly good in electrical and locomotive engineering and fair on motor vehicle work. In marine engineering it continued bad, and much short time working prevailed in textile machinery manufacture. In shipbuilding and ship-repairing employment remained very bad, and, on the whole, showed a further slight decline.

In the other metal trades employment continued moderate to fair on the whole. It was fairly good in the nut and bolt, lock and latch, and tube trades; fair in the hollow-ware, cutlery, file, sheet metal, needle and fishing tackle, and wire manufacturing trades; moderate in the brasswork and jewellery and plated ware trades; and slack or bad in the chain and anchor, metallic bedstead, and stove and grate trades.

**Textile Industries.**—In the cotton industry employment showed a further slight decline in the spinning department. In the American spinning section approximately 30 per cent. of the spindles were reported as stopped during the month, but in the Egyptian spinning section full time employment generally continued. In the weaving department employment continued slack except on fine and fancy cloths. In all departments and in nearly all districts employment was at a rather lower level than in May, 1927.

In the wool textile industry employment showed a slight decline both in the worsted and in the woollen sections. In the carpet section there was little change.

In the hosiery trade employment was fairly good, but some short time was reported; in the silk and artificial silk trades, taken together, it continued fairly good; in the lace trade employment was generally slack; in linen manufacture it was also slack and showed a further decline; in the jute industry it was good on the whole. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc. trades employment was still generally slack, with much short time, but showed some improvement.

**Clothing Industries.**—Employment both in the retail bespoke, and in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke branches of the tailoring trade showed a further seasonal improvement and was fairly good on the whole. In the dressmaking and millinery trades there was also a seasonal improvement and employment was good in most districts. It continued fairly good in the shirt and collar and in the corset trades.

In felt hat making it continued fair. In the boot and shoe industry it showed a further decline in nearly all districts, with an increase both in the numbers unemployed and in the amount of short-time working.

**Leather Trades.**—Employment in the leather trades showed little change on the whole. In the tanning and currying sections it remained good; it continued moderate in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather sections, and good with saddlery and harness makers.

**Building, Woodworking, etc.**—Employment in the building trades showed a further seasonal improvement, and, except with plasterers, was fair to fairly good with skilled operatives in most districts; with unskilled workers it remained moderate. As regards individual occupations, it showed a further improvement and was generally good with painters, fairly good with bricklayers, carpenters and masons, and slack in many districts with plasterers; it showed a decline with slaters, and plumbers and was moderate to fair generally. With tradesmen's labourers it continued moderate. In brick manufacture employment showed a further slight improvement.

Employment in the furnishing trades continued fairly good; with coachbuilders it was still good; and with millwrights it continued fair and was slightly better than in April.

**Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.**—With paper makers employment continued fairly good generally, and full time employment was reported in most districts. With letterpress printers it remained fair on the whole. There was some improvement in London, but a decline at Manchester and Leeds, while at Birmingham employment was reported as bad and at Glasgow as slack; with electrotypers and stereotypers employment continued fairly good. With lithographic printers employment continued fair in most districts; at Liverpool and Manchester, however, it was reported as bad. In bookbinding employment continued fair.

**Pottery and Glass.**—Employment in the pottery industry showed little general change as compared with the previous month. In the best china ware and in the sanitary ware sections it continued fairly good; in other branches of the industry there was still much short-time working. In the glass trades employment was generally slack, especially in the bottle-making section; but a slight improvement was shown in all sections.

**Agriculture and Fishing.**—In agriculture in England and Wales the supply of labour was generally adequate, but in some districts there was a difficulty in obtaining skilled labour. In Scotland the supply of labour was sufficient for requirements except in Dumbarton, Renfrew and South Ayrshire, where there was a shortage of skilled women dairy workers, while in Skye there was a general shortage of labour. In the fishing industry employment was still moderate, but showed a further improvement.

**Dock Labour and Seamen.**—With dock labourers employment was generally slack and showed a slight decline; with seamen it was moderate to fair: the number of engagements being considerably higher than in the previous month; at most of the ports the supply of seamen was adequate for requirements.

## SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

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

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

## (a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL INDUSTRIES.

| Industry.                       | Workpeople included in the Returns for May, 1928. | May, 1928. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a |              |
|---------------------------------|---|------------|---|--------------|
|                                 |   |            | Month before.                           | Year before. |
|                                 |   |            | Days.                                   | Days.        |
|                                 |   |            | per week                                | per week     |
|                                 |   |            | by Mines.                               |              |
| Coal Mining ... ..              | 929,958   | 4.70       | - 0.28                                  | + 0.07       |
| Iron " " " " " "                | 6,617   | 5.78       | - 0.03                                  | + 0.21       |
| Shale " " " " " "               | 2,537   | 5.97       | + 0.02                                  | + 0.22       |
| Pig Iron ... ..                 | ...   | ...        | Number.                                 | Number.      |
| Tinplate and Steel Sheet ... .. | ...   | ...        | - 65                                    | - 28         |
| Iron and Steel ... ..           | 67,238  | 357,432    | + 0.5                                   | - 9.6        |

## (b) OTHER INDUSTRIES.

| Industry.            | Number of Workpeople Employed. |   |              | Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople. |   |              |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------|
|                      | Week ended 26th May, 1928.     | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before. | Year before. | Week ended 26th May, 1928.          | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before. | Year before. |
| Textiles:—           |                                | Per cent.                               | Per cent.    | £                                   | Per cent.                               | Per cent.    |
| Cotton ... ..        | 81,660                         | - 0.4                                   | - 3.2        | 149,900                             | - 0.7                                   | - 5.1        |
| Woolen ... ..        | 64,101                         | - 0.3                                   | - 2.0        | 133,470                             | - 1.1                                   | - 5.8        |
| Worsted ... ..       | 91,693                         | + 1.1                                   | + 0.3        | 180,819                             | - 1.6                                   | + 2.5        |
| Carpet ... ..        | 9,957                          | + 0.6                                   | + 5.5        | 19,136                              | - 0.1                                   | + 5.8        |
| Boot and Shoe ... .. | 51,064                         | + 1.7                                   | + 0.3        | 114,657                             | - 1.8                                   | - 9.2        |
| Pottery ... ..       | 10,831                         | + 0.3                                   | + 0.2        | 20,674                              | + 1.8                                   | + 0.2        |
| Brick ... ..         | 8,571                          | + 1.1                                   | - 8.3        | 23,074                              | + 2.0                                   | - 12.1       |

## UNEMPLOYMENT SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS.

The following Table shows the variations in the rates of unemployment at 21st May, 1928, among insured persons in the respective divisions into which the country is divided for the purpose of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts:—

| Divisions.              | Estimated Numbers Insured aged 16-64 inclusive, at July, 1927. (Totals.) | Percentage Unemployed at 21st May, 1928. |          |        | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a |              |
|-------------------------|--|--|----------|--------|--|--------------|
|                         |  | Males.                                   | Females. | Total. | Month before.  | Year before. |
| London ... ..           | 2,091,260  | 6.1                                      | 3.0      | 5.1    | - 0.2  | - 0.2        |
| South-Eastern ... ..    | 849,410  | 5.0                                      | 2.9      | 4.5    | - 0.4  | + 0.4        |
| South-Western ... ..    | 807,100  | 8.1                                      | 4.1      | 7.2    | - 0.2  | + 0.9        |
| Midlands ... ..         | 1,733,280  | 10.0                                     | 6.5      | 9.0    | + 1.0  | 0.6          |
| North-Eastern ... ..    | 1,961,560  | 15.7                                     | 6.2      | 13.7   | + 0.6  | + 1.5        |
| North-Western ... ..    | 2,090,390  | 12.1                                     | 8.1      | 10.8   | ...  | + 1.4        |
| Scotland... ..          | 1,268,170  | 13.1                                     | 6.1      | 11.2   | + 0.1  | + 1.2        |
| Wales ... ..            | 607,580  | 22.5                                     | 6.7      | 21.0   | + 1.5  | + 5.4        |
| Northern Ireland ... .. | 249,000  | 18.5                                     | 16.4     | 17.7   | + 3.8  | + 5.2        |
| Special Schemes         | 126,250  | 1.8                                      | 0.4      | 1.3    | - 0.1  | ...          |
| TOTAL ... ..            | 11,784,000   | 11.4                                     | 5.9      | 9.9    | + 0.3  | + 1.2        |

## UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

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

| Date.           | Percentages Unemployed among Insured Workpeople. |           |                                 |                       |        | Numbers (Insured and Uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges, etc. |           |
|-----------------|--|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|--|-----------|
|                 | Males.   | Fe-males. | Wholly Unem-ployed and Casuals. | Tempo-rarily Stopped. | Total. | Date.  | Numbers.  |
| 1927.           |  |           |                                 |                       |        | 1927.  |           |
| 23 May ... ..   | 10.0   | 5.3       | 6.6                             | 2.1                   | 8.7    | 30 May ... ..  | 1,015,000 |
| 20 June ... ..  | 10.1   | 5.3       | 6.5                             | 2.3                   | 8.8    | 27 June ... ..   | 1,032,000 |
| 25 July ... ..  | 10.4   | 5.8       | 6.6                             | 2.6                   | 9.2    | 25 July ... ..   | 1,055,000 |
| 22 Aug. ... ..  | 10.4   | 6.3       | 6.8                             | 2.5                   | 9.3    | 29 Aug. ... ..   | 1,076,000 |
| 26 Sept. ... .. | 10.5   | 5.9       | 6.9                             | 2.4                   | 9.3    | 26 Sept. ... ..  | 1,075,000 |
| 24 Oct. ... ..  | 10.8   | 6.0       | 7.2                             | 2.3                   | 9.5    | 31 Oct. ... ..   | 1,132,000 |
| 21 Nov. ... ..  | 11.3   | 6.4       | 7.6                             | 2.4                   | 10.0   | 28 Nov. ... ..   | 1,172,000 |
| 19 Dec. ... ..  | 11.3   | 5.9       | 7.7                             | 2.1                   | 9.8    | 19 Dec. ... ..   | 1,127,000 |
| 1928.           |  |           |                                 |                       |        | 1928.  |           |
| 23 Jan. ... ..  | 12.2   | 6.8       | 8.3                             | 2.4                   | 10.7   | 30 Jan. ... ..   | 1,199,000 |
| 20 Feb. ... ..  | 12.0   | 6.3       | 8.2                             | 2.2                   | 10.4   | 27 Feb. ... ..   | 1,139,000 |
| 26 Mar. ... ..  | 11.0   | 5.7       | 7.7                             | 1.9                   | 9.6    | 2 Apr. ... ..  | 1,071,000 |
| 23 Apr. ... ..  | 11.0   | 5.7       | 7.6                             | 2.0                   | 9.6    | 30 Apr. ... ..   | 1,171,000 |
| 21 May ... ..   | 11.4   | 5.9       | 7.6                             | 2.3                   | 9.9    | 21 May ... ..  | 1,143,000 |

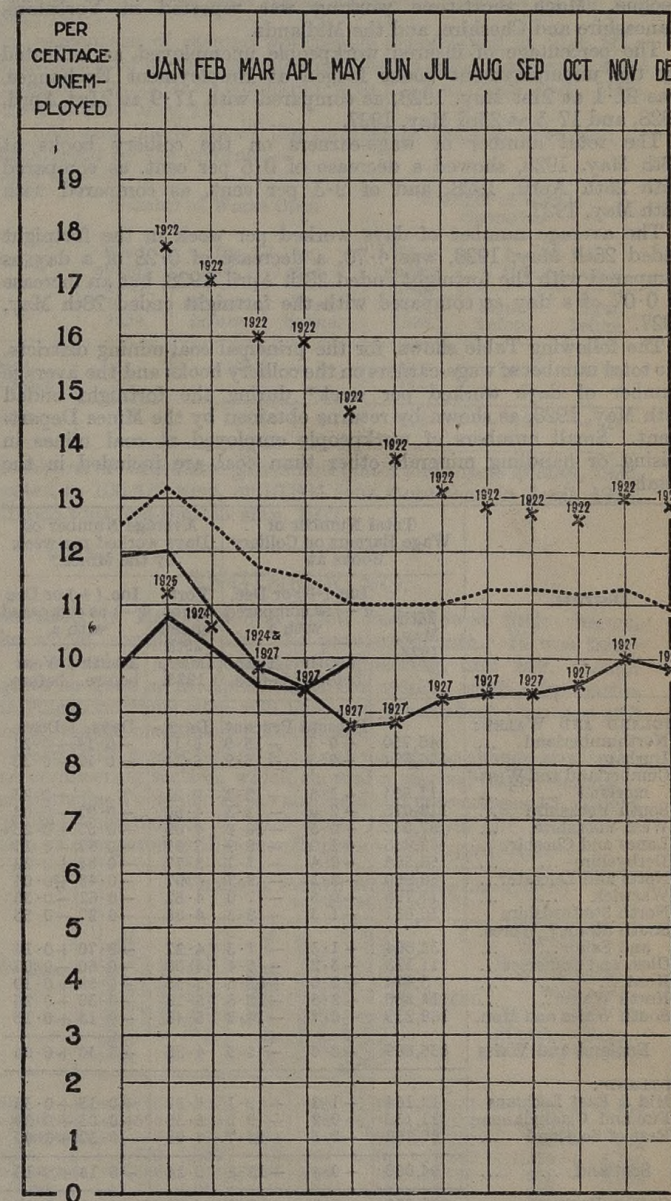
## UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

## GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

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

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

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



## NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

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

| Area.                            | Men.  | Boys.  | Women. | Girls. | Total.   |   |
|----------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|----------|---|
|                                  |       |        |        |        | Num-ber. | Per-centages of Numbers Insured at July, 1927.* |
| South-Eastern:                   |       |        |        |        |          |   |
| (a) London ... ..                | 1,619 | 4,914  | 2,575  | 4,621  | 13,729   | 0.66  |
| (b) Rest of South-Eastern ... .. | 1,472 | 2,255  | 1,135  | 1,683  | 6,545    | 0.77  |
| South-Western ... ..             | 1,071 | 2,103  | 906    | 1,485  | 5,565    | 0.69  |
| Midlands ... ..                  | 976   | 3,650  | 1,016  | 3,237  | 8,879    | 0.51  |
| North-Eastern ... ..             | 1,119 | 4,724  | 1,456  | 2,985  | 10,284   | 0.52  |
| North-Western ... ..             | 1,044 | 4,114  | 1,324  | 3,748  | 10,230   | 0.49  |
| Scotland ... ..                  | 1,019 | 3,167  | 923    | 2,302  | 7,411    | 0.58  |
| Wales ... ..                     | 407   | 1,609  | 388    | 571    | 2,975    | 0.49  |
| GREAT BRITAIN ... ..             | 8,727 | 26,536 | 9,723  | 20,632 | 65,618   | 0.58  |

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

\* Aged 16-64 inclusive.



DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople employed given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and not the total numbers employed in the various industries.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT continued slack during May, and showed a further decline. Much short-time working was reported in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, and the Midlands.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 21.1 at 21st May, 1928, as compared with 17.9 at 23rd April, 1928, and 17.3 at 23rd May, 1927.

The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 26th May, 1928, showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. as compared with 28th April, 1928, and of 9.3 per cent. as compared with 28th May, 1927.

The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 26th May, 1928, was 4.70, a decrease of 0.28 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 28th April, 1928, but an increase of 0.07 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 28th May, 1927.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal-mining districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked per week\* during the fortnight ended 26th May, 1928, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department.

Table with columns for Districts, Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at 26th May, 1928, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a, Average Number of Days worked per week by the Mines.\*

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 26th May, 1928, was 1.09 days per week, of which 1.04 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 26th May, 1928, was reported to the Mines Department as 19,190,600 tons, as compared with 17,678,600 tons in the four weeks ended 28th April, 1928, and 20,355,600 tons in the four weeks ended 28th May, 1927.

The exports of coal, including that shipped for the use of steamers engaged in the foreign trade, and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 6,183,100 tons in May, as compared with 5,379,200 tons in April, 1928, and with 6,507,600 in May, 1927.

The numbers and percentages unemployed among insured workpeople in the respective areas at 21st May, 1928, and the increases or decreases in the percentages, as compared with 23rd April, 1928, and 23rd May, 1927, are shown in the following Table.

\* The figures in this and the following article show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short time) on which coal, iron, etc., were got from the mines included in the returns.

† Including Cannoek Chase.

Table with columns for Area, Insured Persons Recorded as Unemployed at 21st May, 1928, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during May continued slack. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the iron ore and ironstone mining industry, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 14.7 at 21st May, 1928, as compared with 13.1 at 23rd April, 1928, and 7.9 at 23rd May, 1927.

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

Table with columns for Districts, Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns, Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.\*

SHALE MINING.

The number of workpeople employed in the West Lothian mines during the fortnight ended 26th May, 1928, by firms making returns was 2,537, showing an increase of 1.1 per cent. compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 6.4 per cent. compared with May, 1927.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during May continued bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 13.2 at 21st May, 1928, as compared with 14.0 at 23rd April, 1928, and with 11.6 at 23rd May, 1927.

\* See footnote \* in previous column.

According to returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, 148 furnaces were in operation at the end of May, compared with 149 at the end of April, and 184 at the end of May, 1927.

Returns received from 79 firms employing 18,135 workpeople at the end of May showed a decrease of 1.2 per cent. as compared with April, and of 13.1 per cent. as compared with May, 1927.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in operation at the end of May, 1928, April, 1928, and May, 1927:—

Table with columns for District, Total Number of Furnaces, Number of Furnaces in Blast, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a

The production of pig iron in May amounted to 591,500 tons, as compared with 563,100 tons in April, 1928, and 720,100 tons in May, 1927.

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT in May continued slack, but showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month. Short-time working was reported from many districts.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 20.5 on 21st May, 1928, as compared with 21.2 on 23rd April, 1928, and 16.6 on 23rd May, 1927.

According to returns received from firms employing 67,238 workpeople in the week ended 26th May, 1928, the volume of employment in that week (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed, combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each department) increased by 0.5 per cent. as compared with April, 1928, but showed a decrease of 9.6 per cent. as compared with May, 1927.

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

Table with columns for DEPARTMENTS, No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns, Aggregate number of Shifts.\*

\* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the works were in operation, taken in conjunction with the numbers of men employed.

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 752,700 tons in May, 1928, as compared with 644,100 in April, 1928, and 884,600 in May, 1927.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET INDUSTRIES.

EMPLOYMENT in the tinplate industry showed a decline. The arrangement made in November for stabilising prices and regulating output, whereby a minimum selling price was agreed upon and provision made for each works to stop for three weeks out of every thirteen, was still in operation.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed at 21st May, 1928, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 33.0, as compared with 13.8 at 23rd April, 1928, and 19.9 at 23rd May, 1927.

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

Table with columns for Works, Number of Works Open, Number of Mills in Operation, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in May, 1928, amounted to 108,419 tons, or 10,804 tons more than in April, 1928, but 16,683 tons less than in May, 1927.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT in May was still quiet, and showed little change, on the whole, compared with the previous month. It was fairly good in electrical and locomotive engineering, and fair, though not quite so good as in April, on motor vehicle work.

Compared with a year before, the most noticeable change was in the marine engineering section, which showed a marked improvement.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 21st May, 1928, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before:—

Table with columns for Division, Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 21st May, 1928, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a

On the North-East Coast employment remained bad. In Yorkshire and Lincolnshire some improvement was shown, and employment was moderate, on the whole. In Lancashire and Cheshire it was still bad, on the whole, much short time being worked in the textile machinery section; in electrical engineering and on

\* Revised figures.



locomotive work conditions were fair, and in the motor vehicle section employment, though only moderate, continued to improve.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district employment continued moderate, on the whole, but showed a decline in motor engineering; in electrical engineering it continued fairly good. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district conditions were fair, and showed an improvement. In London and the Southern Counties employment remained fairly good generally, and good on electrical and motor vehicle work.

In Scotland employment remained slack; in Wales it was still bad, though showing some improvement; in Northern Ireland it remained bad, showing little general change.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT remained very bad during May, and showed a further decline on the whole, notwithstanding some improvement on repair work. As compared with a year before the number of insured persons in the industry recorded as unemployed showed a slight decrease, but as there had been a reduction in the total numbers insured classified as belonging to the industry, the percentage rate of unemployment was slightly higher than in May, 1927.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 21st May, 1928, and the increase or decrease as compared with 23rd April, 1928, and with 23rd May, 1927:—

Table with 6 columns: Divisions, Total Number of Insured Workpeople at 21st May, 1928, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers Unemployed as compared with a Month before, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage Unemployed at 21st May, 1928, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a Month before, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a Year before.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

DURING May employment showed a slight decline both in the worsted and in the woollen sections of the industry. In the carpet section there was little change. As compared with a year ago it was better in the worsted section (except in the wool-sorting and combing section), but worse in the woollen section. In the carpet section there was a decided improvement.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed (including those temporarily stopped), as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 8.7 on 21st May, 1928, as compared with 7.1 on 23rd April, 1928, and with 8.5 on 23rd May, 1927.

Worsted Section.—In this section employment was slack, and showed a further decline as compared with the previous month. In the week ended 26th May the returns received from employers showed that 16 per cent. of the operatives in the worsted section, taken as a whole, worked short time,\* losing about 10 hours each on the average; on the other hand, 5 per cent. worked overtime, to the extent of about 6½ hours each.

Employment showed a further decline in the wool sorting, preparing, and combing departments; as in April, the merino section was better employed than the crossbred and preparing sections, which were very slack. In these sections, as a whole, employment was bad, and worse than it had been for a considerable time. About 29 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns lost an average of 15 hours each in short time during the week ended 26th May; while about 2 per cent. worked 9 hours each in overtime.

With worsted spinners there was also a further decline, especially at Keighley, and in the Huddersfield and Stanningley districts: 18 per cent. of the operatives were working short time, with a loss on the average of 9 hours each; while 5 per cent. were working overtime, to the extent of 6 hours each. With worsted weavers there was a renewed depression, only partly due to seasonal causes; all districts were affected, but especially Bradford and Halifax. There was no change in the fine cloth trade of Huddersfield, in which the seasonal change comes somewhat later than in other sections. About 8 per cent. of the worsted weavers were losing 8½ hours each in short time\* during the week ended 26th May; while about 4 per cent. worked 7 hours each in overtime.

Woollen Section.—In this section there was a decline, and employment at the end of the month was described as bad; the decline was most marked in the spinning section. Employers' returns for the week ended 26th May showed that about 31 per cent. of the spinners, and about 32 per cent. of the weavers,\* worked short time, losing, on an average, about 8 hours and 9 hours, respectively. On the other hand, 12 per cent. of the spinners, and 4 per cent. of the weavers, worked overtime, to the extent of 9 hours and 5½ hours each, respectively. Taking the woollen section as a whole, about

29 per cent. of the operatives were losing an average of about 9 hours each in short time\* during the week ended 26th May; while about 7 per cent. worked overtime to the extent of 8 hours each.

In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley district a number of firms introduced short time, and others discharged operatives. In the Calder Vale there was no change in the long-continued depression. In the Dewsbury and Batley district there was a decline in the spinning section, but little change in weaving; some overtime was reported at Batley, but at Dewsbury a number of mills were working only three days a week. In the Morley district employment continued moderate to fair. In the blanket trade of Batley, Dewsbury, Mirfield, and Ravensthorpe, the ordinary seasonal decline took place; at Witney the operatives were still well employed. At Stockport employment with woollen workers was fairly good. In the flannel trade of Rochdale and Saddleworth employment remained moderate to good.

In Scotland employment continued fairly good generally, but some short time was reported at Galashiels.

Carpet Section.—Employment in this section was fairly good on the whole. At Kidderminster it was fair, but not quite so good as in April; some overtime, however, was worked in several large departments. At Halifax, Liversedge, and Sowerby Bridge there was some under-employment, but few operatives were wholly unemployed. At Bridgeton (Glasgow), and at Johnstone, employment remained good. The employers' returns for the week ended 26th May showed that about 10 per cent. of the operatives were on short time, with a loss, on the average, of about 12 hours each; while about 5 per cent. worked overtime, to the extent of 6 hours each.

The following Table summarises the returns received from employers:—

Large table with multiple columns: Divisions, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with the previous month, etc.

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

\* See note \* in previous column. † Most of the districts are indicated by the names of their principal towns, but neighbouring towns and areas are included in each case.

The following Table shows, by districts and departments, the percentage increase or decrease in the numbers employed in the week ended 26th May, 1928, by those firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the numbers employed by the same firms in the week ended 28th April, 1928:—

Table showing percentage increase or decrease in numbers employed by districts and departments (Wool Sorting and Combing, Spinning, Weaving, Other Depts., All Depts. including not specified).

Table showing percentage increase or decrease in numbers employed as compared with the previous month for Wool and Woollen sections, categorized by districts and departments.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal wool textile trade centres at 21st May, 1928:—

Table showing numbers of men and women on registers of Employment Exchanges, categorized by departments and including Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep's or lambs' were 59,876,300 lbs. in May, 1928, compared with 54,642,900 lbs. in April, 1928, and 36,506,800 lbs. in May, 1927.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 4,551,300 lbs., compared with 3,728,100 lbs. in April, 1928, and with 4,495,700 lbs. in May, 1927.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 11,788,600 square yards, compared with 9,969,600 square yards in April, 1928, and 11,406,300 square yards in May, 1927.

The exports of blankets were 80,566 pairs, 87,014 pairs and 80,607 pairs in May, 1928, April, 1928, and May, 1927.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

DURING May employment showed a further slight decline in the spinning department. In the section spinning American cotton approximately 30 per cent. of the spindles were reported to be stopped during the month. In the Egyptian spinning section

full-time employment generally continued, although depression was reported in some branches. In the weaving department, employment continued slack, except with operatives engaged on fine and fancy cloths; there was a further slight decline at some centres. In all departments, and in nearly all districts, employment was at a rather lower level than in May of last year.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed (including those temporarily stopped), as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 9.8 on 21st May, 1928, as compared with 10.1 at 23rd April, 1928, and with 6.9 at 23rd May, 1927.

At Ashton, Royton, Shaw, Failsworth and Farnworth employment in the section spinning American cotton showed no improvement. At Oldham there was little change in the employment position, which remained bad; the curtailment of production in the spinning section by short time and other forms of under-employment was about the same as in April. In the weaving section in the Oldham district, employment was slack, and rather worse than in the previous month, except with velvet weavers, who reported employment as fair. At Stalybridge, Stockport and Rochdale employment continued bad, and showed a slight decline. At Hyde there were fluctuations, sections of workers being suspended for periods of from three to six days a week. At Bury employment was bad with spinners, while with weavers there was much under-employment, the operatives being engaged on less than their full quota of looms. At Bolton employment was fair with card-room workers, but not so good as in April; it continued good with spinners; with weavers, employment was bad, and worse than in April; short time was reported with quilt weavers. Employment with spinners was good at Leigh.

At Preston the manufacturing section was fairly well employed; some short time was worked in mills engaged on coarse cloths or ordinary plain calicoes, but operatives employed on fine plain cloths, dobbies and jacquard effects were more regularly employed. At Chorley under-employment continued, approximately to the same extent as in April. At Blackburn the extreme depression previously reported continued, and grew worse, largely in consequence of the poor demand for goods for the Indian market. At Darwen a slight improvement was reported, but there were still about 8,000 looms idle, and under-employment was prevalent; preparatory workers were still very irregularly employed. At Accrington operatives employed by firms making light and fancy cloths were fairly well employed, but several stoppages of entire mills for three weeks or more were found necessary by manufacturers of material for the Indian market. At Burnley employment was moderate, but much better than at Blackburn. At Nelson there was much under-employment; at the end of the month employment was affected by a dispute. An improvement was reported at Great Harwood. With weavers in the Rossendale Valley employment was very bad, and worse than in the previous month; about half the operatives were affected by under-employment in various forms.

In Yorkshire employment continued bad. At Hebden Bridge there was a decline, and short time was general; there was also a decline in the Silsden and Skipton districts; at Todmorden there was a slight improvement; while at Sowerby Bridge the improvement previously reported was maintained.

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

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

Returns from firms employing about 76,000 operatives in the week ended 26th May showed that about 12 per cent. were on short time in that week, with a loss of about 16½ hours each on the average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal cotton trade centres at 21st May, 1928:—



| Department.                      | Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 21st May, 1928. |        |        |                      |        |        | Total. |
|----------------------------------|---|--------|--------|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                                  | Wholly Unemployed.  |        |        | Temporarily Stopped. |        |        |        |
|                                  | Men.  | Women. | Total. | Men.                 | Women. | Total. |        |
| Card and Blowing Room ...        | 644   | 2,369  | 3,013  | 720                  | 3,581  | 4,301  | 7,314  |
| Spinning ...                     | 3,507   | 1,903  | 5,410  | 3,149                | 4,104  | 7,253  | 12,663 |
| Beaming, Winding and Warping ... | 470   | 1,636  | 2,106  | 895                  | 7,030  | 7,925  | 10,031 |
| Weaving ...                      | 1,679   | 3,125  | 4,804  | 1,441                | 4,906  | 6,347  | 11,151 |
| Other Processes                  | 364   | 95     | 459    | 266                  | 336    | 602    | 1,061  |
| Total ...                        | 6,664   | 9,128  | 15,792 | 6,471                | 19,957 | 26,428 | 42,220 |

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 121,691,300 lbs. in May, 1928, compared with 130,074,300 lbs. in April, 1928, and with 117,666,000 lbs. in May, 1927.

The exports of cotton yarn were 14,066,800 lbs. in May, 1928, compared with 13,752,800 lbs. in April, 1928, and with 22,817,600 lbs. in May, 1927.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 288,934,700 square yards, as compared with 314,773,200 square yards in the previous month, and with 413,615,200 square yards in May, 1927.

**BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.**

The decline in employment reported last month continued during May, and became more marked in nearly all districts; employment was not so good as in May, 1927, and was decidedly below the average for the time of year. The numbers unemployed and the amount of short-time working showed an increase as compared both with the previous month and with May, 1927. The Whitsuntide holiday was extended by many firms.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 10.0 on 21st May, as compared with 7.5 on 23rd April and with 6.4 on 23rd May, 1927.

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

| Department.                               | Number of Workpeople.      |                           |               | Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. |                           |               |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
|   | Week ended 26th May, 1928. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a |               | Week ended 26th May, 1928.          | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a |               |
|   |                            | Month before.             | Year before.* |                                     | Month before.             | Year before.* |
| England and Wales:—                       |                            | Per cent.                 | Per cent.     | £                                   | Per cent.                 | Per cent.     |
| London ...                                | 1,864                      | - 4.0                     | - 2.5         | 3,969                               | - 8.2                     | - 7.0         |
| Leicester ...                             | 8,336                      | - 2.1                     | - 2.2         | 21,408                              | - 2.0                     | - 10.9        |
| Leicester County District ...             | 1,518                      | - 2.0                     | - 0.4         | 3,085                               | - 7.6                     | - 13.9        |
| Northampton ...                           | 6,642                      | - 0.8                     | + 1.4         | 15,232                              | - 2.2                     | - 10.0        |
| Northampton County District ...           | 8,332                      | - 2.2                     | + 0.3         | 18,548                              | - 2.1                     | - 7.4         |
| Kettering ...                             | 3,544                      | - 0.3                     | + 1.1         | 8,952                               | + 3.7                     | - 7.8         |
| Stafford and District ...                 | 2,658                      | - 0.4                     | - 2.2         | 5,924                               | + 6.8                     | - 10.1        |
| Norwich and District ...                  | 4,424                      | - 1.2                     | - 5.0         | 9,133                               | - 1.1                     | - 13.3        |
| Bristol, Kingswood and District ...       | 1,438                      | + 1.7                     | - 6.6         | 2,403                               | + 6.9                     | - 19.7        |
| Leeds and District ...                    | 1,857                      | - 1.4                     | + 1.8         | 4,147                               | + 0.4                     | - 4.2         |
| Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley) ... | 5,618                      | - 0.6                     | + 4.4         | 12,184                              | - 3.4                     | - 6.3         |
| Birmingham and District ...               | 991                        | - 0.6                     | - 3.5         | 1,983                               | + 3.1                     | + 0.1         |
| Other parts of England and Wales ...      | 1,952                      | - 1.7                     | + 0.4         | 3,727                               | - 6.8                     | - 7.9         |
| England and Wales                         | 49,174                     | - 1.4                     | - 0.5         | 110,695                             | - 1.5                     | - 9.4         |
| Scotland ...                              | 1,890                      | - 10.0                    | + 6.0         | 3,962                               | - 11.1                    | - 2.3         |
| Great Britain ...                         | 51,064                     | - 1.7                     | - 0.3         | 114,657                             | - 1.8                     | - 9.2         |

Employment in London showed a decline, but was fair, on the whole. At Leicester there was a further decline, and employment was slack; nearly 42 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns were on short time in the week ended 26th May, losing about 11 hours each on the average. There was also a further decline at Hinkley, and employment was very slack. At Northampton employment was very slack; it was a little worse than in the previous month, and nearly 32 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns received lost about 16 hours each, on the average, in the week ended 26th May.

Employment was moderate, on the whole, at Higham and Rushden, Wellingborough, Kettering, and most of the smaller centres in Northamptonshire; there was some decline at most establishments, and short time was prevalent, though not as a rule to the same extent as in the county town; in some establishments full time and even a little overtime was worked.

Employment at Stafford continued moderate, but was little affected by short time; at the neighbouring centre of Stone there was a slight improvement. At Norwich employment was slack, particularly in the turnshoe section, and there was an increase in the number of women workers unemployed.

In the Bristol and Kingswood district employment remained very quiet, with a large proportion of the workpeople on short time; some of the light shoe factories, however, were fairly well employed. At Street, employment was moderate, and showed a further decline. In the Leeds district employment was fair with some firms engaged

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

on sports goods; in the heavy trade it remained slack. In the slipper trade in the Rossendale Valley, employment was depressed, partly owing to seasonal causes, and some short-time working was reported; employment was, however, fairly good at Bury. Some short time was reported at Preston.

In Scotland there was a marked decline, and employment was slack or bad at all centres except Kilmarnock, where it was fairly good.

Returns from firms employing about 50,400 operatives in the week ended 26th May showed that over 32 per cent. of these operatives were working short time in that week, losing, on an average, nearly 12½ hours each; on the other hand, nearly 5 per cent. were on overtime, to the extent of about 5 hours each on the average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal centres of the boot and shoe industry at 21st May, 1928:—

| Department.                      | Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 21st May, 1928. |        |        |                      |        |        | Total. |
|----------------------------------|---|--------|--------|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                                  | Wholly Unemployed.  |        |        | Temporarily Stopped. |        |        |        |
|                                  | Men.  | Women. | Total. | Men.                 | Women. | Total. |        |
| Boot and Shoe Manufacture:       |   |        |        |                      |        |        |        |
| Preparing Department ...         | 95  | 36     | 131    | 79                   | 33     | 112    | 243    |
| Rough Stuff Department ...       | 283   | 17     | 300    | 191                  | 4      | 195    | 495    |
| Clicking Department ...          | 735   | 5      | 740    | 877                  | 1      | 878    | 1,618  |
| Closing Department ...           | 7   | 585    | 592    | 12                   | 1,214  | 1,226  | 1,818  |
| Making Department ...            | 1,116   | 23     | 1,139  | 1,174                | 30     | 1,204  | 2,343  |
| Finishing Department ...         | 791   | 189    | 980    | 643                  | 183    | 826    | 1,806  |
| Slipper Making ...               | 244   | 44     | 288    | 283                  | 356    | 639    | 927    |
| Clog Making ...                  | 17  | ...    | 17     | 2                    | 1      | 3      | 20     |
| Repairing and Hand-sewn Work ... | 348   | ...    | 348    | 29                   | ...    | 29     | 377    |
| TOTAL ...                        | 3,636   | 899    | 4,535  | 3,290                | 1,822  | 5,112  | 9,647  |

The exports of boots and shoes in May, 1928, amounted to 128,186 dozen pairs, or 7,456 dozen pairs more than in April, 1928, and 28,514 dozen pairs more than in May, 1927.

**BUILDING.**

EMPLOYMENT during May showed a further seasonal improvement. Except in the case of plasterers, it was fair to fairly good in most districts with skilled operatives, but was reported as poor or bad at a few centres; it remained moderate with unskilled workers. Employment showed a decline, on the whole, as compared with May, 1927, but there was some improvement in Northern Ireland.

As regards individual occupations, employment again improved with carpenters and with bricklayers and masons and was generally fairly good. Employment was better with plasterers, but was still slack in many districts; it declined somewhat with slaters and plumbers and was moderate to fair, on the whole. There was a further improvement with painters and employment was generally good; it remained moderate with tradesmen's labourers. As compared with May, 1927, employment was considerably worse with plasterers, and also showed a decline with each of the other classes.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were recorded as unemployed at 21st May, 1928, together with the increase or decrease in the percentages as compared with the previous month and with May, 1927:—

| OCCUPATIONS.                           | *Estimated Number of Insured Workpeople at July, 1927. | Total Numbers Unemployed at 21st May, 1928. | Number included in Previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped. | Per-centage Unem-ployed. | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with a |              |           |
|--|--|---|--|--------------------------|---|--------------|-----------|
|  |  |   |  |                          | Month before.   | Year before. | Per cent. |
|  |  |   |  |                          |   |              |           |
| Carpenters ...                         | 128,090  | 8,589                                       | 224  | 6.7                      | - 1.6   | + 3.3        |           |
| Bricklayers ...                        | 72,170   | 3,655                                       | 175  | 5.1                      | - 1.2   | + 3.8        |           |
| Masons ...                             | 23,390   | 1,545                                       | 64   | 6.6                      | - 0.9   | + 2.1        |           |
| Slaters ...                            | 5,850  | 509   | 16   | 8.7                      | + 1.1   | + 3.7        |           |
| Plasterers ...                         | 21,080   | 2,443                                       | 63   | 11.6                     | - 2.3   | + 9.3        |           |
| Painters ...                           | 109,080  | 4,228                                       | 70   | 3.9                      | - 1.3   | + 0.5        |           |
| Plumbers ...                           | 32,600   | 3,051                                       | 123  | 9.4                      | + 0.5   | + 1.7        |           |
| Labourers to above ...                 | 252,230  | 28,849                                      | 730  | 11.4                     | - 1.1   | + 2.5        |           |
| All other occupations ...              | 162,720  | 22,202                                      | 781  | 13.6                     | - 0.7   | + 2.7        |           |
| Total ...                              | 807,210  | 75,071                                      | 2,246  | 9.3                      | - 1.1   | + 2.7        |           |
| DIVISIONS.                             |  |   |  |                          |   |              |           |
| London ...                             | 163,620  | 10,598                                      | 7  | 6.5                      | - 0.8   | + 0.5        |           |
| South-Eastern ...                      | 127,050  | 5,267                                       | 42   | 4.1                      | - 0.9   | + 1.4        |           |
| South-Western ...                      | 100,310  | 7,630                                       | 100  | 7.6                      | - 1.2   | + 3.0        |           |
| Midlands ...                           | 91,380   | 8,023                                       | 577  | 8.8                      | - 1.2   | + 3.0        |           |
| North-Eastern ...                      | 103,420  | 16,056                                      | 749  | 15.5                     | - 1.6   | + 5.7        |           |
| North-Western ...                      | 106,900  | 12,359                                      | 427  | 11.6                     | - 0.8   | + 3.9        |           |
| Scotland ...                           | 72,650   | 6,066                                       | 157  | 8.3                      | - 0.8   | + 1.8        |           |
| Wales ...                              | 28,280   | 6,278                                       | 181  | 22.2                     | - 3.3   | + 10.1       |           |
| Northern Ireland ...                   | 13,600   | 2,788                                       | 6  | 20.5                     | - 0.8   | - 3.1        |           |
| Great Britain and Northern Ireland ... | 807,210  | 75,071                                      | 2,246  | 9.3                      | - 1.1   | + 2.7        |           |

\* Aged 16-64 inclusive.

**BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.**

Returns from Local Authorities in 139 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 15,799,000, show that in May, 1928, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £5,215,900, as compared with £4,262,800 in April, 1928, and £4,831,700 in May, 1927. Of the total for May, 1928, dwelling-houses accounted for £3,121,700; factories and workshops for £398,700; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £441,500; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,254,000.

**BRICK INDUSTRY.**

EMPLOYMENT during May showed a further slight improvement. In the Peterborough district it was reported to be good.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 10.4 at 21st May, 1928, as compared with 11.2 at 23rd April, 1928, and 5.3 at 23rd May, 1927.

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

| Districts.  | Number of Workpeople.      |                           | Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. |                           | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|   | Week ended 26th May, 1928. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | Week ended 26th May, 1928.          | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a |           |           |           |
|   |                            |                           |                                     |                           |           |           |           |
|   |                            | Per cent.                 | £                                   | Per cent.                 | Per cent. | Per cent. |           |
| Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire ... | 1,846                      | + 0.2                     | - 11.0                              | 4,468                     | - 0.4     | - 20.8    |           |
| Midlands and Eastern Counties ...                         | 5,057                      | + 1.6                     | - 7.1                               | 14,370                    | + 2.7     | - 9.6     |           |
| South and South-West Counties and Wales ...               | 1,479                      | + 0.6                     | - 10.7                              | 3,729                     | + 1.7     | - 12.1    |           |
| Scotland ...  | 189                        | + 1.1                     | + 11.8                              | 507                       | + 6.5     | + 9.3     |           |
| TOTAL ...   | 8,571                      | + 1.1                     | - 8.3                               | 23,074                    | + 2.0     | - 12.1    |           |

Returns from employers relative to short-time working, exclusive of time lost on account of bad weather, showed that, of 8,524 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, 19 per cent. were working on an average 7½ hours less than full time in the week ending 26th May, 1928; on the other hand, 8 per cent. were on overtime to the extent of 6½ hours each on the average.

**POTTERY INDUSTRY.**

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed little general change as compared with the previous month; in the best china-ware and in the sanitary ware sections it continued fairly good; in other branches of the industry there was still much short-time working. At Worcester also, short-time working continued. In the stoneware section in Scotland employment was again reported to be bad, but slightly better than during the previous month.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 14.3 at 21st May, 1928, as compared with 12.8 at 23rd April, 1928, and with 12.4 at 23rd May, 1927.

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

| BRANCHES.                                  | Number of Workpeople.      |                           | Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. |                           | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|  | Week ended 26th May, 1928. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | Week ended 26th May, 1928.          | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a |           |           |           |
|  |                            |                           |                                     |                           |           |           |           |
|  |                            | Per cent.                 | £                                   | Per cent.                 | Per cent. | Per cent. |           |
| China Manufacture ...                      | 1,269                      | + 0.7                     | + 4.2                               | 2,549                     | + 1.0     | + 11.3    |           |
| Earthenware Manufacture ...                | 7,742                      | + 0.3                     | + 0.1                               | 14,672                    | + 1.9     | - 1.1     |           |
| Other Branches (including unspecified) ... | 1,820                      | + 0.2                     | - 2.0                               | 3,453                     | + 2.1     | - 1.6     |           |
| TOTAL ...                                  | 10,831                     | + 0.3                     | + 0.2                               | 20,674                    | + 1.8     | + 0.2     |           |
| DISTRICTS.                                 |                            |                           |                                     |                           |           |           |           |
| North Staffordshire ...                    | 8,284                      | + 0.1                     | + 1.7                               | 14,495                    | + 2.2     | + 0.9     |           |
| Other Districts ...                        | 2,547                      | + 1.0                     | - 4.6                               | 6,179                     | + 0.8     | - 1.5     |           |
| TOTAL ...                                  | 10,831                     | + 0.3                     | + 0.2                               | 20,674                    | + 1.8     | + 0.2     |           |

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that of 10,272 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 3,712, or 36.0 per cent., were working on an average about 14½ hours less than full time in the week ended 26th May, 1928.

**PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.**

EMPLOYMENT in the paper trade remained fairly good generally, and most districts again reported full time; some short time, however, was still worked in the Blackburn, Bolton and Darwen districts.

In the letterpress printing trade, employment remained fair, on the whole. There was some improvement in London, but a decline at Glasgow, Manchester, Birmingham and Leeds, employment at

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

Birmingham being reported as bad, and at Glasgow as slack. Electrotypers and stereotypers continued to be fairly well employed. The improvement in the lithographic printing trade noted in April was maintained during May, and employment, on the whole, was fair, though it was reported as bad at Liverpool and Manchester. With lithographic artists, employment was again fair, on the whole; it showed some improvement in London, and at Leeds and Manchester.

In the bookbinding trade, employment continued fair.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and bookbinding industries was 4.3 at 21st May, compared with 4.4 at 23rd April, and 4.8 at 23rd May, 1927. In the paper and paper-board industry, the percentage was 4.1 at 21st May, compared with 3.9 at 23rd April, and 5.8 at 23rd May, 1927. In the cardboard box, paper bag, and stationery industries the percentage was 4.2 at 21st May, compared with 4.4 at 23rd April, and 4.9 at 23rd May, 1927.

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

| Unions.   | No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1928. | Percentage Unemployed at end of |              |            | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a |              |
|---|---|---------------------------------|--------------|------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
|   |   | May, 1928.                      | April, 1928. | May, 1927. | Month before.                     | Year before. |
|   |   |                                 |              |            |                                   |              |
| Letterpress Printing:                                 |   |                                 |              |            |                                   |              |
| London Counties ...                                   | 40,058  | 4.1                             | 4.8          | 5.5        | - 0.7                             | - 1.4        |
| Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire | 16,764  | 4.4                             | 4.1          | 4.3        | + 0.3                             | + 0.1        |
| Midlands and Eastern Counties ...                     | 10,872  | 3.0                             | 2.5          | 2.7        | + 0.5                             | + 0.3        |
| Scotland ...  | 7,096   | 5.3                             | 4.8          | 5.4        | + 0.5                             | - 0.1        |
| Other Districts ...                                   | 10,738  | 2.9                             | 3.0          | 3.8        | - 0.1                             | - 0.9        |
| Total ...   | 85,528  | 4.0                             | 4.2          | 4.7        | - 0.2                             | - 0.7        |
| Lithographic Printing                                 | 10,878  | 3.1                             | 3.3          | 3.5        | - 0.2                             | - 0.4        |
| Bookbinding ...                                       | 20,212  | 3.6                             | 3.6          | 4.8        | ...                               | - 1.2        |

**DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.**

EMPLOYMENT during May was generally slack and somewhat worse than in the previous month.

Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, dock and harbour service, 32.3 per cent. were recorded as unemployed at 21st May, 1928, as compared with 30.1 per cent. at 23rd April, 1928, and with 25.8 per cent. at 23rd May, 1927.

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

| Period. | Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves |  |  |  |
|---------|--|--|--|--|
|---------|--|--|--|--|



Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment was good at Leith and fair at Glasgow, showing some improvement in each case as compared with the previous month.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT during May was moderate to fair on the whole; the number of engagements was considerably higher than in the previous month.

Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 21st May, 1928, was 14·8, compared with 15·0 at 23rd April, 1928, and 14·4 at 23rd May, 1927.

The demand for men on the Thames improved from quiet to good, but declined towards the end of May, when it was described as very moderate. On the Tyne it declined in the first half of the month, but increased subsequently, being reported to be fair in the closing stages.

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:—

Table showing Number of Seamen\* shipped in by Principal Ports (England & Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland) for May 1928, compared with previous periods. Includes columns for Principal Ports, May 1928, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Year before, Five Months ended (May 1928, May 1927).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

COMPOSITION OF STATISTICS.

On page 222 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published weekly in the Press, and monthly in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives figures relating to the 21st May, 1928, for the total of each group included in these statistics.

Table showing Composition of Statistics with columns for Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total and rows for Unemployed—Special Schemes, Claims admitted or under consideration, Claimants disqualified, Insured non-claimants on main file, Uninsured persons on Register, Two months' file, Persons on Register (lines 2-5), Books Lodged (lines 1-4 and 6).

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

DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT.

Prior to 19th April, 1928, the date on which the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1927, came into force, claims to unemployment benefit were decided either (a) by the Insurance Officer, with a right of appeal to a Court of Referees, and in certain cases to the Umpire or (b) by the Minister of Labour, on the recommendation of Local Employment Committees.

From 19th April, 1928, all claims to benefit are dealt with by the machinery of the Insurance Officer, Courts of Referees and Umpire, and statistics will be published in the GAZETTE each month showing the working of this machinery.

In comparing these statistics with those previously published in the GAZETTE it should be noted that the latter relate only to the working of the Local Employment Committees and do not include cases dealt with by the Insurance Officers. During March, 1928, 25,494 claims to benefit were disallowed by the Insurance Officers, and the number disallowed either by the Insurance Officers or by the Local Employment Committees during the month prior to 19th April, 1928, was approximately 70,000.

The following Table gives the number of claims to benefit made at Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux during the four weeks ended 14th May, 1928, the average number of claims current at all Local Offices in Great Britain during that period, and an analysis of the decisions by the Insurance Officers, of the recommendations of Courts of Referees, and decisions by the Umpire, on claims considered by them during the period 19th April to 14th May inclusive:—

Table showing Number of Claims (Males, Females, Total) for Fresh and Renewal claims made, Average number of claims current, and Disallowances by Insurance Officers.

Table showing Recommendations of Courts of Referees with columns for Total cases considered, Recommended for allowance, Recommended for disallowance, and rows for Permanent provisions, Transitional provisions, and Total.

Table showing Decisions by Umpire with columns for Cases referred by Insurance Officer, Appeals by Associations, Appeal by Claimants, and rows for Allowed, Disallowed, Total.

Table showing Decisions by Umpire (continued) with columns for Cases referred by Insurance Officer, Appeals by Associations, Appeal by Claimants, and rows for Allowed, Disallowed, Total.

It should be noted that the disallowances by Insurance Officers are those recorded during the period and relate in a proportion of cases to claims made earlier. A similar remark applies to the figures relative to Courts of Referees and the Umpire.

\* Period of four weeks ended 14th May, 1928. † This condition at present operates only in the case of juveniles under 18 years of age.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

The following Table shows approximately the receipts of, and payments from, the Unemployment Fund in the periods specified, and the liabilities of the Fund:—

Table showing Unemployment Fund receipts and payments from Four weeks ended 26th May, 1928; Four weeks ended 28th April, 1928; Four weeks ended 28th May, 1927.

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

WORK OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.\*

At 21st May, 1928, the number of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 1,101,026; in Great Britain and Northern Ireland it was 1,143,300.

Statistics for men, boys, women and girls, separately, are given below:—

Table showing Work of Employment Exchanges with columns for 21st May, 1928, 30th April, 1928, and rows for Persons normally in regular employment, Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total, Great Britain, Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The following Table gives particulars relating to certain branches of the work of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the four weeks ended 28th May, 1928.

Table showing Work of Employment Exchanges with columns for Week ended, Applications from Employers, Vacancies Filled, Number of Work-people on Registers.

\* The term "Employment Exchange," as used in this connection, includes Ministry of Labour Employment Exchanges and Branch Employment Offices, and also Juvenile Employment Bureaux under the control of Local Education Authorities which are exercising powers under Sec. 107 of the Education Act, 1921, and Sec. 6 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923.

† "Vacancies filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B placings) in which the work of the Exchanges was limited; for instance, obtaining for an employer former employees, or placing the same men on relief works in alternate weeks.

‡ The figures include, in addition to those wholly unemployed, persons "suspended" or "stood off," and those who, although employed on a basis of systematic short time, 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 registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 21st May, 1928.

Large table showing Number of Persons on Register at 21st May, 1928, by Area (London Division, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Great Britain and Northern Ireland) with columns for Men, Women, Juveniles, Total, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 30th April, 1928.

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



UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

The statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on the 21st May, 1928, and the increase or decrease at that date in the total percentages unemployed compared with a month earlier, a year ago, and three\* years ago, respectively.

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

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

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

This last item determines in the main the difference between the total number of unemployed persons given in the following Table and the figure given on page 221 showing the total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges. The difference would be greater were it not that this latter figure includes uninsured persons who are maintaining registration. These do not appear in the figures of "books lodged," which relate solely to insured persons.

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

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

Special Note. Persons aged 65 and over.

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

NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 21ST MAY, 1928.

| INDUSTRY.  | GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.    |          |         |                      |          |        |         |          |         | GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.                                  |          |         |
|--|--|----------|---------|----------------------|----------|--------|---------|----------|---------|--|----------|---------|
|  | WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals). |          |         | TEMPORARY STOPPAGES. |          |        | TOTAL.  |          |         | WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, AND CASUALS. |          |         |
|  | Males.                                 | Females. | Total.  | Males.               | Females. | Total. | Males.  | Females. | Total.  | Males.   | Females. | Total.  |
| Fishing ... ..   | 2,778                                  | 134      | 2,912   | 63                   | 43       | 106    | 2,841   | 177      | 3,018   | 2,836  | 177      | 3,013   |
| Mining :-  |  |          |         |                      |          |        |         |          |         |  |          |         |
| Coal Mining ... ..   | 160,845                                | 483      | 161,328 | 83,885               | 405      | 84,290 | 244,730 | 888      | 245,618 | 244,702  | 888      | 245,590 |
| Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying ... ..   | 1,537                                  | ...      | 1,537   | 559                  | ...      | 559    | 2,096   | ...      | 2,096   | 2,057  | ...      | 2,057   |
| Lead, Tin and Copper Mining ... ..   | 811                                    | 5        | 816     | 20                   | ...      | 20     | 831     | ...      | 836     | 822  | ...      | 827     |
| Stone Quarrying and Mining ... ..  | 2,739                                  | 6        | 2,745   | 480                  | 4        | 484    | 3,219   | 10       | 3,229   | 2,984  | 10       | 2,994   |
| Slate Quarrying and Mining ... ..  | 298                                    | ...      | 298     | 105                  | ...      | 105    | 403     | ...      | 403     | ...  | ...      | 403     |
| Mining and Quarrying not separately specified ... ..   | 1,115                                  | 97       | 1,212   | 218                  | 10       | 228    | 1,333   | 107      | 1,440   | 1,296  | 107      | 1,403   |
| Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging ... ..  | 688                                    | 9        | 697     | 52                   | 1        | 53     | 740     | 10       | 750     | 725  | 10       | 735     |
| Non-Metalliferous Mining Products :-   |  |          |         |                      |          |        |         |          |         |  |          |         |
| Coke Ovens and By-Product Works  | 1,273                                  | 13       | 1,286   | 185                  | ...      | 185    | 1,458   | 13       | 1,471   | 1,457  | 13       | 1,470   |
| Artificial Stone and Concrete Manufacture ... ..   | 1,946                                  | 50       | 1,996   | 251                  | 17       | 268    | 2,197   | 67       | 2,264   | 2,189  | 66       | 2,255   |
| Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works ... ..   | 1,060                                  | 52       | 1,112   | 75                   | 4        | 79     | 1,135   | 56       | 1,191   | 1,107  | 54       | 1,161   |
| Brick, Tile, etc. Making ... ..  | 6,194                                  | 621      | 6,815   | 1,503                | 230      | 1,733  | 7,997   | 851      | 8,848   | 7,557  | 851      | 8,408   |
| Pottery, Earthenware, etc. ... ..  | 1,918                                  | 1,770    | 3,688   | 2,827                | 3,496    | 6,323  | 4,745   | 5,266    | 10,011  | 4,743  | 5,266    | 10,009  |
| Glass Trades :-  |  |          |         |                      |          |        |         |          |         |  |          |         |
| Glass (excluding Bottles and Scientific Glass) Manufacture ... ..  | 1,648                                  | 226      | 1,874   | 456                  | 28       | 484    | 2,104   | 254      | 2,358   | 2,091  | 254      | 2,345   |
| Glass Bottle Making ... ..   | 2,016                                  | 138      | 2,154   | 677                  | 13       | 690    | 2,693   | 151      | 2,844   | 2,688  | 151      | 2,839   |
| Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, etc. :-   |  |          |         |                      |          |        |         |          |         |  |          |         |
| Chemicals Manufacture ... ..   | 4,327                                  | 633      | 4,960   | 578                  | 155      | 733    | 4,905   | 788      | 5,693   | 4,867  | 787      | 5,654   |
| Explosives Manufacture ... ..  | 513                                    | 269      | 782     | 64                   | 72       | 136    | 577     | 341      | 918     | 575  | 341      | 916     |
| Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture ... ..   | 552                                    | 122      | 674     | 27                   | 6        | 33     | 579     | 128      | 707     | 579  | 128      | 707     |
| Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture ... ..  | 2,969                                  | 645      | 3,614   | 1,031                | 84       | 1,115  | 4,000   | 729      | 4,729   | 3,988  | 710      | 4,698   |
| Metal Manufacture :-   |  |          |         |                      |          |        |         |          |         |  |          |         |
| Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces) Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges ... .. | 2,515                                  | 18       | 2,533   | 552                  | 1        | 553    | 3,067   | 19       | 3,086   | 3,067  | 18       | 3,085   |
| Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc. ... ..   | 15,386                                 | 135      | 15,521  | 22,971               | 91       | 23,062 | 38,357  | 226      | 38,583  | 38,345   | 226      | 38,571  |
| Manufacture of Tin Plates ... ..   | 2,734                                  | 144      | 2,878   | 753                  | 70       | 823    | 3,487   | 214      | 3,701   | 3,446  | 214      | 3,660   |
| Manufacture of Tin Plates ... ..   | 900                                    | 63       | 963     | 8,164                | 1,012    | 9,176  | 9,064   | 1,075    | 10,139  | 9,061  | 1,075    | 10,136  |
| Iron and Steel Tube Making ... ..  | 1,758                                  | 100      | 1,858   | 1,277                | 19       | 1,296  | 3,035   | 119      | 3,154   | 3,032  | 119      | 3,151   |
| Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manufacture ... ..   | 1,172                                  | 199      | 1,371   | 840                  | 75       | 915    | 2,012   | 274      | 2,286   | 2,012  | 274      | 2,286   |
| Engineering, etc. :-   |  |          |         |                      |          |        |         |          |         |  |          |         |
| General Engineering; Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding ... ..   | 38,090                                 | 1,109    | 39,199  | 15,711               | 497      | 16,208 | 53,801  | 1,606    | 55,407  | 52,884   | 1,599    | 54,483  |
| Electrical Engineering ... ..  | 2,686                                  | 643      | 3,329   | 461                  | 98       | 559    | 3,147   | 641      | 3,788   | 3,109  | 641      | 3,750   |
| Marine Engineering, etc. ... ..  | 6,239                                  | 23       | 6,262   | 634                  | 1        | 635    | 6,873   | 24       | 6,897   | 5,860  | 21       | 5,881   |
| Constructional Engineering ... ..  | 1,985                                  | 34       | 2,019   | 652                  | 12       | 664    | 2,637   | 46       | 2,683   | 2,633  | 46       | 2,679   |
| Construction and Repair of Vehicles :-   |  |          |         |                      |          |        |         |          |         |  |          |         |
| Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft ... ..  | 10,662                                 | 943      | 11,605  | 2,891                | 295      | 3,186  | 13,553  | 1,238    | 14,791  | 13,440   | 1,234    | 14,674  |
| Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc. ... ..   | 1,228                                  | 84       | 1,312   | 235                  | 30       | 265    | 1,463   | 114      | 1,577   | 1,431  | 114      | 1,545   |
| Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tram-car Building ... ..   | 2,697                                  | 26       | 2,723   | 2,473                | 25       | 2,498  | 5,170   | 51       | 5,221   | 5,152  | 51       | 5,203   |

\* See footnote \* on page 225.

| INDUSTRY.   | GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.    |          |        |                      |          |        |        |          |        | GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.                                  |          |        |
|---|--|----------|--------|----------------------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--|----------|--------|
|   | WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals). |          |        | TEMPORARY STOPPAGES. |          |        | TOTAL. |          |        | WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, AND CASUALS. |          |        |
|   | Males.                                 | Females. | Total. | Males.               | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males.   | Females. | Total. |
| Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ...                               | 47,056                                 | 116      | 47,172 | 2,835                | 15       | 2,850  | 49,891 | 131      | 50,022 | 45,932   | 120      | 46,052 |
| Metal Trades :-   |  |          |        |                      |          |        |        |          |        |  |          |        |
| Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding ... ..        | 6,617                                  | 470      | 7,087  | 2,605                | 250      | 2,855  | 9,222  | 720      | 9,942  | 9,142  | 720      | 9,862  |
| Electrical Wiring and Contracting ...                             | 1,045                                  | 18       | 1,063  | 96                   | 2        | 98     | 1,141  | 20       | 1,161  | 1,064  | 20       | 1,084  |
| Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture ... ..       | 2,907                                  | 1,268    | 4,175  | 453                  | 170      | 623    | 3,360  | 1,438    | 4,798  | 3,352  | 1,438    | 4,790  |
| Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making                              | 2,190                                  | 675      | 2,865  | 1,715                | 357      | 2,072  | 3,905  | 1,032    | 4,937  | 3,898  | 1,032    | 4,930  |
| Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture ... ..      | 934                                    | 742      | 1,676  | 479                  | 192      | 671    | 1,413  | 934      | 2,347  | 1,413  | 934      | 2,347  |
| Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture ... ..                   | 1,360                                  | 760      | 2,120  | 389                  | 153      | 542    | 1,749  | 913      | 2,662  | 1,741  | 913      | 2,654  |
| Heating and Ventilating Apparatus                                 | 369                                    | 10       | 379    | 57                   | 1        | 58     | 426    | 11       | 437    | 426  | 11       | 437    |
| Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture ... ..       | 1,215                                  | 924      | 2,139  | 455                  | 467      | 922    | 1,670  | 1,391    | 3,061  | 1,654  | 1,390    | 3,044  |
| Metal Industries not separately specified ... ..                  | 7,371                                  | 4,072    | 11,443 | 2,704                | 1,066    | 3,770  | 10,075 | 5,138    | 15,213 | 9,937  | 5,129    | 15,066 |
| Textile Trades :-   |  |          |        |                      |          |        |        |          |        |  |          |        |
| Cotton ... ..   | 9,656                                  | 13,252   | 22,908 | 8,884                | 23,563   | 32,447 | 18,540 | 36,815   | 55,355 | 18,537   | 36,778   | 55,315 |
| Woolen and Worsted ... ..   | 3,985                                  | 3,111    | 7,096  | 5,094                | 8,711    | 13,805 | 9,079  | 11,822   | 20,901 | 9,048  | 11,791   | 20,839 |
| Silk and Artificial Silk ... ..                                   | 728                                    | 809      | 1,537  | 555                  | 1,428    | 1,983  | 1,283  | 2,237    | 3,520  | 1,275  | 2,213    | 3,488  |
| Linen ... ..  | 3,722                                  | 7,787    | 11,509 | 1,733                | 4,273    | 6,006  | 5,455  | 12,060   | 17,515 | 474  | 1,713    | 2,187  |
| Jute ... ..   | 1,285                                  | 1,877    | 3,163  | 72                   | 192      | 264    | 1,358  | 2,069    | 3,427  | 1,358  | 2,066    | 3,424  |
| Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making ... .. | 486                                    | 739      | 1,225  | 104                  | 332      | 436    | 590    | 1,071    | 1,661  | 477  | 921      | 1,398  |
| Hosiery ... ..  | 441                                    | 1,617    | 2,058  | 391                  | 3,094    | 3,485  | 832    | 4,711    | 5,543  | 802  | 4,639    | 5,441  |
| Lace ... ..   | 234                                    | 176      | 410    | 275                  | 208      | 483    | 509    | 384      | 893    | 508  | 384      | 892    |
| Carpet Manufacture ... ..   | 260                                    | 323      | 583    | 166                  | 393      | 559    | 426    | 719      | 1,145  | 426  | 719      | 1,145  |
| Textile Industries not separately specified ... ..                | 619                                    | 1,567    | 2,186  | 244                  | 1,222    | 1,466  | 863    | 2,789    | 3,652  | 775  | 2,224    | 2,999  |
| Textile, Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc. ... ..                 | 2,945                                  | 1,019    | 3,964  | 5,748                | 2,459    | 8,207  | 8,693  | 3,478    | 12,171 | 8,226  | 2,695    | 10,921 |
| Leather and Leather Goods :-                                      |  |          |        |                      |          |        |        |          |        |  |          |        |
| Tanning, Currying and Dressing ...                                | 1,709                                  | 328      | 2,037  | 446                  | 104      | 550    | 2,155  | 432      | 2,587  | 2,154  | 432      | 2,586  |
| Saddlery, Harness and other Leather Goods Manufacture ... ..      | 825                                    | 571      | 1,396  | 181                  | 346      | 527    | 1,006  | 917      | 1,923  | 989  | 914      | 1,903  |
| Clothing Trades :-  |  |          |        |                      |          |        |        |          |        |  |          |        |
| Tailoring ... ..  | 2,206                                  | 1,783    | 3,989  | 92                   | 467      | 559    | 2,298  | 2,250    | 4,548  | 2,204  | 2,187    | 4,391  |
| Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery ... ..                      | 474                                    | 1,452    | 1,926  | 19                   | 435      | 454    | 493    | 1,887    | 2,380  | 482  | 1,642    | 2,124  |
| Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait) Manufacture ... ..            | 473                                    | 276      | 749    | 110                  | 220      | 330    | 583    | 496      | 1,079  | 582  | 496      | 1,078  |
| Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Making ... ..      | 385                                    | 2,255    | 2,640  | 46                   | 1,661    | 1,707  | 431    | 3,916    | 4,347  | 325  | 1,448    | 1,773  |
| Dress Industries not separately specified ... ..                  | 528                                    | 302      | 830    | 118                  | 505      | 623    | 646    | 807      | 1,453  | 635  | 807      | 1,442  |
| Food, Drink and Tobacco :-  |  |          |        |                      |          |        |        |          |        |  |          |        |
| Food Industries not separately specified ... ..                   | 5,212                                  | 1,500    | 6,712  | 4,546                | 2,488    | 7,034  | 9,758  | 3,988    | 13,746 | 9,575  | 3,976    | 13,551 |
| Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades                               | 6,664                                  | 2,292    | 8,956  | 262                  | 164      | 426    | 6,926  | 2,456    | 9,382  | 6,394  | 2,325    | 8,719  |
| Grain Milling ... ..  | 1,428                                  | 120      | 1,548  | 157                  | 27       | 184    | 1,585  | 147      | 1,732  | 1,496  | 143      | 1,639  |
| Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making ...                            | 1,596                                  | 2,267    | 3,863  | 312                  | 2,442    | 2,754  | 1,908  | 4,709    | 6,617  | 1,833  | 4,680    | 6,513  |
| Food Industries not separately specified ... ..                   | 4,222                                  | 3,902    | 8,124  | 143                  | 458      | 601    | 4,365  | 4,360    | 8,725  | 4,279  |          |        |



NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AGED 16-64 INCLUSIVE, AT JULY, 1927. (Males, Females, Total), PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 21ST MAY, 1928. (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH (23RD APRIL, 1928, 23RD MAY, 1927, 25TH MAY, 1925), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGE AT 21ST MAY, 1928.

\* See note on page 225.

Table with columns: GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AGED 16-64 INCLUSIVE, AT JULY, 1927. (Males, Females, Total), PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 21ST MAY, 1928. (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH (23RD APR. 1928, 23RD MAY, 1927, 25TH MAY, 1925), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGE AT 21ST MAY, 1928. Industries include Food, Drink and Tobacco; Building and Construction of Works; Other Manufacturing Industries; Gas, Water and Electricity Supply; Distributive Trades; etc.

\* Comparison is made with May, 1925, as the figures for two years before were affected by the dispute in the coal-mining industry.

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS DURING MAY IN NUMBERS OF UNEMPLOYED.

The following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 21st May, 1928, differed from the figures for 23rd April, 1928, to the extent of 1,000 or more:-

Table with columns: Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 21st May, 1928, as compared with 23rd April, 1928. (Males, Females, Total), Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 21st May, 1928, as compared with 23rd April, 1928. (Males, Females, Total). Industries include Building, Textile Bleaching, Pottery, etc.



CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics\* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in May in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate increase of about £3,500 in the weekly full-time wages of 45,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of nearly £3,000 in those of 31,600 workpeople.

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

| Group of Industries.                  | Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by |            | Amount of Change in Weekly Wages. |            |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
|                                       | Increases.                                   | Decreases. | Increases.                        | Decreases. |
| Textile ... ..                        | 38,500                                       | 1,700      | £ 2,900                           | £ 65       |
| Woodworking, etc. ...                 | ...  | 7,700      | ...                               | 1,480      |
| Building and Allied Industries ... .. | 4,500  | 3,700      | 410                               | 400        |
| Other ... ..                          | 2,000  | 18,500     | 190                               | 1,015      |
| Total ... ..                          | 45,000                                       | 31,600     | 3,500                             | 2,950      |

The principal change in the textile group affected workpeople employed in the jute industry in Great Britain, for whom the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were increased by 1s. 6½d. or 2s. 3d. per week in the case of adult male timeworkers and by amounts varying from 1s. to 1s. 11d. per week in that of adult female timeworkers, while the rates for pieceworkers were increased by 4 per cent.

The principal change in the woodworking group affected coopers, whose wages were reduced by 1d. per hour and 6½ per cent. on basis rates in the case of timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively.

In the building group there was a reduction of ¼d. per hour in the wages of plasterers in Scotland. At Belfast certain classes of men received an increase of ¼d. per hour and others sustained a reduction of similar amount.

In the other industrial groups the principal bodies of workpeople affected by reductions included iron ore miners in Cumberland, whose wages were reduced by 1d. per shift, iron miners and blast-furnace workers in North Lincolnshire, who sustained reductions of varying amounts, iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England, in whose case the reduction was equivalent to about 4 per cent. on current wages, and tramway men at Liverpool, whose wages were reduced by 1s. per week. There was an increase of

2s. per week in the wages of men employed at railway electricity generating stations.

Of the total increase of £3,500 per week, over £2,600 took effect under Trade Board Orders; nearly £200 took effect as a result of arbitration; and the remainder was the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople.

Of the total reduction of £2,960 per week £1,850 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales, including £1,450 under scales agreed upon by Joint Industrial Councils; £100 took effect under other arrangements made by joint bodies of employers and workpeople; nearly £500 took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices; £140 took effect under an arbitration award; and the remainder was the result of direct negotiation between the parties. Reductions preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work accounted for over £200 of the above amounts.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY-MAY, 1928.

| Group of Industries.                              | Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net |            | Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages. |            |
|---|--|------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
|   | Increases.                                       | Decreases. | Increases.                            | Decreases. |
| Mining and Quarrying ...                          | 5,000  | 390,000    | £ 680                                 | £ 58,900   |
| Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ...         | 200  | 3,350      | 15                                    | 530        |
| Iron and Steel ...                                | 34,500   | 63,000     | 1,170                                 | 4,350      |
| Engineering, and Shipbuilding and Other Metal ... | 1,000  | 36,000     | 145                                   | 2,050      |
| Textile ...                                       | 38,500   | 84,500     | 2,800                                 | 2,800      |
| Clothing ...                                      | ...  | 30,000     | ...                                   | 1,520      |
| Woodworking, etc. ...                             | 3,200  | 10,250     | 290                                   | 1,750      |
| Building and Allied Industries                    | 25,500   | 467,000    | 2,300                                 | 43,100     |
| Gas, Water and Electricity Supply ...             | 30,850   | 550        | 5,800                                 | 60         |
| Transport ...                                     | 1,150  | 9,350      | 100                                   | 530        |
| Public Administration ...                         | 7,000  | 12,000     | 440                                   | 900        |
| Other ...   | 100  | 28,000     | 10                                    | 1,310      |
| Total ...   | 147,000  | 1,134,000  | 13,750                                | 117,800    |

In the corresponding five months of 1927, there were net increases of £23,250 in the weekly full-time wages of 311,000 workpeople, and net reductions of £167,000 in those of 1,120,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported in May.

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

| Industry.              | Locality.                           | Date from which Change took effect. | Classes of Workpeople.  | Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)  |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Agriculture            | Durham ... ..                       | 14 May                              | Male casual labourers 19 years and over.  | Minimum rate of 6d. per hour fixed.†  |
|                        | Herefordshire ...                   | 1 May                               | Male agricultural labourers (other than those 21 and over employed as bailiffs, wagoners, stockmen or shepherds). | Minimum rates previously in operation extended up to 30th April 1928, but for a week of 54 hours in summer and 48 hours in winter (in lieu of 53 hours in summer and 48 in winter as previously arranged).†   |
|                        | Anglesey and Caer-narvonshire.      | 13 May                              | Male workers 16 years and over employed as horsemen, cowmen, shepherds or hswmyn (bailiffs).                      | Minimum rates previously in operation extended, but for a week of 60 hours (in lieu of 58 hours as previously arranged).†   |
|                        | Merionethshire and Montgomeryshire. | 2 May                               | Male agricultural labourers ...   | Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week in the minimum rates. Minimum rates after change: stockmen, teamsters, carters and shepherds 21 and over, 33s. per week of 60 hours; other workers 21 and over, 30s. per week of 54 hours; workers under 21, per week of 60 hours, 9s. 6d. at under 15, increasing each year to 29s. 6d. at 20.†   |
| Iron Mining            | Cumberland... ..                    | 7 May                               | Workpeople employed at iron ore mines.  | Decreases of 1d. per shift in the bargain price (8s. 2d. to 8s. 1d.), of 1d. per shift for other underground and surface workers, and of ¼d. per shift for youths under 18 years of age. Rates after change: shiftmen, winding enginemen, blacksmiths and joiners, 8s. 1d. per shift; mineral shot borers, 8s. 1d., plus 3d. per foot bored; pumping enginemen, loco and crane drivers, 7s. 7d.; leading labourers, 6s. 11d.‡   |
|                        | North Lincolnshire...               | 6 May                               | Ironstone miners and quarrymen...   | Decreases of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 16 per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift. Additional bonuses paid to lower-paid day-wage men increased by 1d. per shift, making bonuses as follows:—Base rates of 3s. 8d. to 3s. 11½d., 1s. 1d. per shift; 4s. to 4s. 1½d., 1s. per shift; 4s. 2d. to 4s. 3½d., 10d. per shift; 4s. 4d. to 4s. 5½d., 8d. per shift; 4s. 6d. to 4s. 8½d., 7d. per shift; 4s. 9d. to 4s. 10½d., 4d. per shift; 4s. 11d. and 5s., 2d. per shift. Minimum rate after change for general labourers: 3s. 8d. per shift, plus 16 per cent., plus 1s. 1d. per shift, plus bonus of 1s. 1d. per shift. |
| Brick and Tile Making. | Bridgwater ... ..                   | 9 May                               | Dayworkers ... ..   | Decrease of 1s. per week for those 21 and over and of 3d. to 9d. per week for those under 21. Rates after change: 16s. 3d. at 14 increasing each year to 27s. 9d. at 18 and to 44s. 6d. at 21 and over.   |
|                        |                                     |                                     | Pieceworkers ... ..   | Decrease of 5 per cent. in bonus payable on basic rates, leaving wages 127½ per cent. above basic rates.  |
| Glass Bottle Making.   | London ... ..                       | 7 May                               | Glass bottle makers and blowers...  | Decrease of approximately 7½ per cent.  |

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

† In addition to the numbers quoted, wages stand at the same level as at the beginning of the year in the case of over 34,000 workpeople, whose wages have been increased and reduced by equal amounts during the year.

‡ The minimum rates referred to took effect under an Order of the Agricultural Wages Board, under the provisions of the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924.

§ Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.

¶ The minimum wage for miners remained unchanged at 7s. per shift.

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

| Industry.                                | Locality.   | Date from which Change took effect. | Classes of Workpeople.   | Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)  |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Pig Iron and Iron and Steel Manufacture. | West Cumberland and North Lancashire, North Lincolnshire and certain firms in the Leeds District. | 2nd full pay in May. 6 May          | Keepers, slagers, fillers, enginemen, etc., employed at blastfurnaces.   | Decrease* of 1 per cent. on output bonus earnings, leaving the percentage payable 38 in the Workington Area and 33 in the Furness Area.†  |
|  | North Lincolnshire  | 6 May                               | Blastfurnacemen ... ..   | Decrease* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 16 per cent. above the standard, plus 1s. 1d. per shift. Additional bonuses paid to lower-paid day-wage men increased by 1d. per shift (making bonuses and labourers' rate as shown for ironstone miners on previous page).  |
|  | North of England ...  | 28 May                              | Engineers, electricians, apprentices, improvers, etc., employed on maintenance work at blast-furnaces and in steel works.  | Decrease* of 1 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 20 per cent. above the standard, plus a tonnage bonus.  |
| Ship Repairing                           | Barrow-in-Furness ...   | 28 May                              | Merchant millmen ... ..  | Decrease* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 19½ and 17 per cent. above the standard for puddlers and mill men respectively.   |
|  | Bristol ... ..  | 10-11 May                           | Fitters, turners, blacksmiths, copersmiths and patternmakers.  | Decrease* of 5 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 20 per cent. above the standard.  |
| Gas Retort Making, etc.                  | Great Britain and Northern Ireland.†  | 1 May                               | Retort setters and bricklayers employed by outside contractors on certain classes of work in gas works.‡   | Increase of 2s. per week. Rate after change: 65s. per week, plus the current bonus of 5s. per week.   |
|  |   |                                     | Workpeople employed in the preparing, spinning or weaving of (a) jute, or (b) jute and any other fibre except flax and hemp:—Male loom tenters 21 and over with recognised full charge. Other male workers (except those employed on hessian weaving). | Increases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see page 197 of May GAZETTE):—<br>Increase in minimum time rate of 2s. 3d. per week (56s. 8d. to 58s. 11d.).<br>Increases in minimum time rates of from 8½d. to 1s. 6½d. per week. Minimum rates after change: under 16 years, 15s. 11½d., increasing to 36s. 7d. at 18 and under 21, and to 40s. 7½d. at 21 and over.<br>Increase in general minimum piece rates of 4 per cent. for male and female workers; and increases in the guaranteed time and general minimum time rates for male workers of from 8d. to 1s. 6½d. per week. Guaranteed time and general minimum time rates for male workers:—under 16 years, 15s. 11½d., increasing to 36s. 7d. at 19 and under 21, and to 40s. 7½d. at 21 and over.<br>General minimum piece rates fixed to be the same as those applicable to other areas mentioned above. |
| Jute                                     | Great Britain ...   | 7 May                               | Female workers employed on hessian weaving in the areas of Aberdeen, Barrow-in-Furness, Dundee, and Payport, and male workers employed on hessian weaving in all districts.  | Increase in minimum time rates varying, according to size of bobbin and number of spindles, from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 11d. per week for single spinners, and from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 10d. per week for double spinners.   |
|  |   |                                     | Female workers employed on hessian weaving in the areas of Dysart and Kirkcaldy.   | Increase in the minimum time rate of 1s. 2d. per week (29s. 8½d. to 30s. 10½d.).<br>Increase in the minimum rate of 1s. 6d. per week (37s. 6d. to 39s.).<br>Increase in the minimum time rates of 8½d., 10½d., or 1s. per week. Minimum time rates after change: under 16 years, 15s. 11½d., 15 and under 18, 21s. 8½d.; 18 and over, 25s.†   |
| Dyeing and Finishing.                    | Macclesfield ... ..   | Pay day in week ending 12 May.      | Female timeworkers:—Spinners other than orra (or spare) spinners.  | Increase in the minimum piecework basis time rate of ¼d. per hour (7½d. to 7½d.).   |
|  |   |                                     | Orra (or spare) spinners 18 years and over. Spinning shifting mistresses.  | Decreases** of from 3d. to 1s. per week. Rates after change: 15s. 3d. at 14 years, increasing each half-year to 29s. 6d. at 18, 42s. 9d. at 21, and 48s. 3d. at 22½.  |
| Calico Printing and Engraving.           | Great Britain and Northern Ireland.   | 1st pay day in June.††              | Machine calico printers ... ..   | Decrease** of 6d. per week (28s. 3d. to 27s. 9d.).  |
|  |   |                                     | Engravers employed in calico print works:—Pentagraphers and impressioners.   | Supplementary cost-of-living wage reduced** from 46-20 per cent. to 44-80 per cent. on basis wages, the flat-rate bonuses of 19s. per week for journeymen and 13s. per week for apprentices remaining unchanged.  |
| Calendering, etc.                        | Dundee ... ..   | Pay day in week ending 26 May.††    | Sketch makers, clammers, machine engravers, plate cutters, etchers, and hand engravers (not stipplers).  | Increase in basic rates of 3s. per week for those in receipt of basic rates of not more than 39s., and of 2s. per week for those in receipt of over 39s. Minimum rates after change: England, 38s.; Scotland, 37s., plus, in each case, cost-of-living wage of 29s. 2d.   |
|  |   |                                     | Die cutters and stipplers ...  | Increase in basic rates of 3s. per week for those in receipt of basic rates of not more than 44s., and of 2s. per week for those in receipt of over 44s. Minimum rate after change: 45s., plus cost-of-living wage of 29s. 2d.  |
| Coopering                                | Great Britain; also Belfast and Londonderry.  | 1st pay day after 5 May.            | Workpeople employed in calendering and dyeing establishments.  | Increase of approximately 4 per cent.   |
|  |   |                                     | Woodcutting machinists and sawyers.  | Decrease** of ¼d. per hour (1s. 6½d. to 1s. 6d.).   |
| Coopering                                | Great Britain; also Belfast and Londonderry.  | 1st pay day after 5 May.            | Coopers ... ..   | Decrease** of 1d. per hour for timeworkers and 6½ per cent. in percentage addition for pieceworkers (making piecework rates generally 75½ per cent. above pre-war rates). Rates after change: London, 1s. 1d.; Birmingham, Liverpool, Northwich, Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, Manchester, Cardiff, Swansea, Water-hampton, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Greenock, Leith, Paisley, Stirling, Livingston, Alloa, Londonderry, and Belfast, 1s. 6d.; other districts, 1s. 5d.‡‡   |

\* Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.  
† The percentage addition to the day and tonnage basis rates remained at 16 in accordance with an arrangement made in October, 1925.  
‡ The change took effect under the terms of an Agreement made between the Society of British Gas Industries and the Amalgamated Union of Building Workers. It was also agreed that, as from 1st May, 1928, the special additional rate of 1d. per hour should also be paid to retort setters and bricklayers working on retort-house brickwork when the retort house formed part of the same contract as the retort bench.  
§ Viz., work of new construction, repairs or renewals of carbonizing and gas-making plant, and the building or repairing of retort stacks and chimneys.  
¶ Viz., the weaving of all hessian, floorcloth and linoleum goods, other than those woven in looms the reed space of which is 32 inches or narrower.  
‡ Female weaving learners are to receive, for a period of learnership not exceeding two months, 13s. 1d. per week at under 16 years, 13s. 11½d. at 16 and under 18, and 14s. 7½d. at 18 years and over.  
†† Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.  
‡‡ In respect of the preceding pay period.  
§§ The change applied to workpeople employed by members of the Federation of Calico Printers, under an arrangement made between the Federation and the United Society of Engravers, Great Britain and Ireland.  
¶¶ The change took effect under an agreement arrived at by the Joint Industrial Council for the Cooperage Industry. The change did not apply to Burton-on-Trent, where wages are governed by a local agreement.



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

| Industry.  | Locality.                                | Date from which Change took effect. | Classes of Workpeople.  | Particulars of Change.<br>(Decreases in italics.)  |   |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Paper Box Making.                                      | Northern Ireland ...                     | 11 May                              | Male workers 21 years and over employed as forme makers, cutters (including shears and guillotine) and machine minders.   | Minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Act (Northern Ireland), 1923, at 36s. per week for those with less than two years' experience, 46s. for those with two but less than five years' experience, and 54s. for those with five or more years' experience. (See page 197 of May GAZETTE.)   |   |
|  |  |                                     | Other male workers 21 years and over.   | Minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Act (Northern Ireland), 1923, at 32s. per week during first year of employment after 21 years, and at 39s. per week thereafter. (See page 197 of May GAZETTE.)  |   |
|  |  |                                     | Male workers under 21 years of age  | New scale of minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Act (Northern Ireland), 1923, starting at 10s. per week during first six months of employment, and increasing each six months to 23s. during seventh six months, and to 26s. thereafter until the attainment of 21 years of age. (See page 197 of May GAZETTE.)                                  |   |
|  |  |                                     |   | Female learners ... ..   | New scale of minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Act (Northern Ireland), 1923, starting at 8s. per week during first six months of employment, increasing each six months to 22s. during eighth six months. (See page 197 of May GAZETTE.) |
|  | Building                                 | North - East Coast District.*       | 5 May   | Plasterers ... ..  | Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 9½d. to 1s. 8½d.).*   |
|  |  | Leeds ... ..                        | 5 May   | Plasterers ... ..  | Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 9½d. to 1s. 8½d.).†   |
|  |  | Blackburn ... ..                    | 18 May  | Plasterers ... ..  | Decrease of ½d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7½d.).‡  |
|  |  | Bideford ... ..                     | 12 May  | Building trade operatives ...  | Decrease of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 5d.; labourers, 1s. 1d.  |
|  |  | Torquay ... ..                      | 1 May   | Bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, woodcutting machinists, slaters, plumbers, painters and labourers.  | Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 7d.; labourers, 1s. 2½d.§  |
|  |  | Scotland                            | 1 May   | Plasterers ... ..  | Decrease of ½d. per hour. (1s. 9d. to 1s. 8½d.)   |
| Ballymena ... ..                                       |  | 1 May                               | Joiners, plumbers and painters ...  | Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 6½d.).  |   |
| Belfast, Bangor, Carrickfergus, Holywood, and Lisburn. |  | 1 May                               | Carpenters and joiners, slaters and painters.   | Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 8½d.).  |   |
|  |  | 1 May                               | Plumbers ... ..   | Decrease of ½d. per hour (1s. 9d. to 1s. 8½d.).  |   |
|  |  | 8 May                               | Bricklayers ... ..  | Decrease of ½d. per hour (1s. 9d. to 1s. 8½d.).  |   |
| Electricity Supply (Railways).                         | Great Britain ...                        | 1st pay after                       | Adult male workers (excluding electrical fitters, etc., engaged on installation work, and other craftsmen whose wages are regulated by movements in their respective trades) employed in electricity generating stations and sub-stations of railway companies. | Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change in London: switchboard attendants (up to 5,000 kw.), 75s., (5,000 kw. and over), 89s.; turbine mechanics, 76s.; drivers, 70s.; stokers, leading, 74s.; others, 68s.; trimmers, 61s.; electrical fitters on maintenance work, 72s. 6d.; electricians' mates, 59s. 6d.; plus 4s. per week for shift workers.¶ |   |
|  |  | 7 May.                              |   |  |   |
|  |  | Larne ... ..                        | 1 May   | Joiners, stonecutters, slaters and painters.   | Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7½d.).   |
|  | Tramways Undertakings.                   | Liverpool ... ..                    | 1 May   | Drivers, conductors and shed assistants.   | Decrease** of 1s. per week. Rates after change: motormen, 61s. 5d. to 63s. 9d.; conductors, 56s. 8d. to 61s. 5d.; shed assistants, 56s. 11d. to 61s. 9d.  |
|  | Port, Harbour, and River Authorities.    | Reading, Oxford and Weybridge.      | 3 May   | Regular men employed by the Thames Conservancy.  | Decrease** in bonus of 1s. per week.  |
|  | Dock, Wharf, etc. Labour.                | North-West Coast††                  | 1 May   | Coal trimmers ... ..   | Decrease of 2½ per cent. on tariff rates, leaving wages at tariff rates, less 3½ per cent.  |
|  | Local Government (Non-Trading Services). | Hartlepool and Thornaby-on-Tees.    | 1 May   | Manual workers ... ..  | Decrease** of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: Hartlepool—general labourers, 1s. 1½d.; roadmen, 1s. 3½d.; refuse collectors, 1s. 2½d.; street sweepers, 1s. 1½d.; Thornaby—labourers, 1s. 2d.; day scavengers, 1s. 0½d.                          |
|  |  | York...                             | 3 May   | Manual workers ... ..  | Decrease** of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: labourers, carters, refuse collectors, 1s. 2½d.; day scavengers, 1s. 1½d.; night scavengers and carters, 1s. 3½d.   |
|  | Leather Belt Manufacture.                | Great Britain ...                   | 1st pay day in May.   | Workpeople employed in leather belt manufacture.   | Percentage payable on base-rates embodied in agreement of November, 1922, reduced** from 67 to 64. Rates after change for timeworkers: skilled—London, 1s. 3½d.; Provinces, 1s. 2½d.; semi-skilled—London, 1s.; Provinces, 11½d.                  |

\* The change took effect under an agreement made by the National Joint Council for the Plastering Industry. The principal districts affected are: Tyne and Blyth (including Newcastle, Gateshead, North and South Shields, Blyth, Morpeth and Ashington), Sunderland district, Durham, Stanley and district, Tees-side, Staithes, Stokesley, Yarm, Darlington and Bishop Auckland. The National Joint Council for the Building Industry was not a party to the arrangement.

† The change took effect under an agreement arrived at by the National Joint Council for the Plastering Industry. The National Joint Council for the Building Industry was not a party to the arrangement.

‡ This reduction took place following a strike of the workpeople concerned against the terms of the National Agreement under which all classes of building trade operatives were to have their wages reduced by ½d. per hour from 1st February.

§ This change has not yet been approved by the National Joint Council for the Building Industry.

|| The change took effect under an award of the Industrial Court to which the Scottish Master Plasterers' Association and the Scottish National Operative Plasterers' Federal Union were parties. The principal districts affected are as follows: Aberdeen, Airdrie, Alloa, Armadale, Ayr, Bathgate, Clydebank, Coatbridge, Dumbarton, Dundee, Dunfermline, Dunoon, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Forfar, Glasgow, Greenock, Hamilton, Irvine, Kilmarnock, Kirkcaldy, Kirkintilloch, Lanark, Leith, Motherwell, Paisley, Perth, Stirling, Strathaven, and Wishaw.

¶ This increase is the result of an award of the Industrial Court, dated 7th May, which restored to the workpeople the reduction of the same amount operative from 1st April. The award also provides that any changes which may fall due to be made under the cost-of-living sliding scale during the current year shall form the subject of negotiations between the parties under the recognised procedure before becoming operative.

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

†† Including Workington, Whitehaven, Maryport and Silloth.

## CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN JUNE, 1928.

The following groups of workpeople are among those affected by changes in rates of wages already reported as having been arranged to take effect in June. *Increases.*—Building trade operatives at certain towns in the Eastern and Southern Counties. *Decreases.*—Iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands; men employed by electrical contractors in England and Wales; building trade operatives at certain towns in South Wales. Particulars of these and of other changes will be published in the July issue of the GAZETTE.

## TRADE DISPUTES IN MAY.\*

*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 23, as compared with 16 in the previous month and 39† in May, 1927. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 18,700. In addition, about 2,800 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 20 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 43, involving about 21,500 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during May of about 114,000 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 Month. |                   |        | Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month. | Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month. |
|--|--|-------------------|--------|---|--|
|  | Started before beginning of Month.       | Started in Month. | Total. |   |  |
| Mining and Quarrying ...                     | 2  | 4                 | 6      | 2,200   | 13,000   |
| Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding ...     | 3  | 5                 | 8      | 3,100   | 39,000   |
| Textile ...                                  | 1  | 4                 | 5      | 14,400  | 31,000   |
| Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ... | 5  | 6                 | 11     | 1,100   | 24,000   |
| Other Industries ...                         | 9  | 4                 | 13     | 700   | 7,000  |
| Total, May, 1928 ...                         | 20                                       | 23                | 43     | 21,500  | 114,000  |
| Total, April, 1928 ...                       | 24                                       | 16                | 40     | 2,900   | 30,000   |
| Total, May, 1927 ...                         | 15                                       | 39†               | 54†    | 23,400†   | 84,000†  |

*Causes.*—The largest single dispute beginning in May was the lock-out imposed by federated firms in the Nelson cotton weaving industry, which directly involved about 12,000 workpeople (see Table below). Of the remaining 22 disputes beginning in May, 5, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, arose out of proposed

reductions in wages; 7, directly involving 1,700 workpeople, on other wages questions; 5, directly involving 800 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and 5, directly involving 400 workpeople, on other questions.

*Results.*—Settlements were effected in the case of 17 new disputes, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, and 11 old disputes, directly involving 600 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 4, directly involving 800 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 12, directly involving 1,500 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 12, directly involving 1,300 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 2 disputes, directly involving 300 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

## [TOTALS FOR THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1927 AND 1928.†]

| Groups of Industries.                              | January to May, 1927.                |  |   | January to May, 1928.                |  |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|
|  | No. of Disputes beginning in period. | Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress. | Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress. | No. of Disputes beginning in period. | Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress. | Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress. |
| Mining and Quarrying ...                           | 43                                   | 37,600   | 444,000   | 50                                   | 58,200   | 290,000   |
| Bricks, Pottery, Glass, etc. ...                   | 1                                    | 100  | 1,000   | 7                                    | 600  | 19,000  |
| Engineering and Shipbuilding ...                   | 16                                   | 1,200  | 4,000   | 18                                   | 2,400  | 11,000  |
| Other Metal ...                                    | 15                                   | 1,900  | 14,000  | 9                                    | 2,500  | 36,000  |
| Textile ...  | 14                                   | 2,600  | 18,000  | 11                                   | 15,600   | 39,000  |
| Clothing ...                                       | 5                                    | 300  | 1,000   | 4                                    | 200  | 1,000   |
| Woodworking and Furniture ...                      | 7                                    | 100  | 2,000   | 9                                    | 300  | 4,000   |
| Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...       | 21                                   | 7,200  | 112,000   | 24                                   | 2,400  | 53,000  |
| Transport, Commerce, Distribution, and Finance ... | 10                                   | 1,200  | 4,000   | 7                                    | 1,200  | 7,000   |
| Other ...  | 4                                    | 700  | 5,000   | 7                                    | 500  | 7,000   |
| Total ...  | 136†                                 | 52,900†  | 605,000†  | 150                                  | 84,200   | 475,000   |

## PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING MAY, 1928.

| Occupations and Locality.‡  | Approximate Number of Workpeople involved. |              | Date when Dispute |                 | Cause or Object.§  | Result.§  |
|---|--|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--|---|
|   | Directly.                                  | Indirectly.§ | Began.            | Ended.          |  |   |
| COAL MINING INDUSTRY:—<br>Colliery workpeople—Newcastle-on-Tyne (near).                 | 1,067                                      | ...          | 1928.<br>17 May   | 1928.<br>22 May | Dissatisfaction of youths with earnings.   | Work resumed on old conditions.   |
| TINPLATE MANUFACTURE:—<br>Finishing dept. employees, millmen, etc.—Gorseinon, Glam.     | 400  | 1,500        | 30 April          | 19 May          | Dispute arising out of issue of notice of dismissal to certain workmen.  | Amicable settlement effected.   |
| SHIP-REPAIRING:—<br>Rivet heaters and catchers, rivetters, holders-on, etc.—Birkenhead. | 220  | 400          | 2 May             | 8 May           | Dispute as to allowances to be granted for work on an oil vessel.  | Amicable settlement effected.   |
| COTTON INDUSTRY:—<br>Cotton weaving (all occupations)—Nelson.                           | 12,000                                     | 1,800        | 30 May            | ...             | Lock-out by federated firms following strike at one firm for reinstatement of a dismissed weaver.  | No settlement reported.   |
| BUILDING, PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTING, ETC.:—<br>Painters—Plymouth ... ..                  | 350  | ...          | 10 April          | ...             | For advance in wages of 1d. per hour and for the adjustment in future of painters' wages in accordance with those agreed upon for craftsmen by the National Joint Council for the Building Industry. | Painters in the employment of members of the Master Builders' Association resumed work on 11th June, pending negotiations; no settlement reported in the case of members of the Master Painters' Association. |
| Plasterers and plasterers' labourers—Manchester, Salford and District.                  | 319  | ...          | 5 May             | ...             | Against proposed adoption of standard rates of wages and working conditions prevailing in the building industry, involving a reduction in wages.   | No settlement reported.   |

\* 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.

† Revised figures.

‡ 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, but the amount of such duplication is 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.



DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

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

| (a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.         | (b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING. | (c) CASES OF ANTHRAX.                         | (d) CASES OF EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION. | (e) CASES OF CHROME ULCERATION.  |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Among Operatives engaged in—         | Aniline Poisoning ... 4                | Wool ... 3                                    | Pitch ... 8                              | Manufacture of Bichromates ... 2 |
| Smelting of Metals ... 2             | Handling of Horsehair ... 1            | Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins ... 5 | Tar ... 5                                | Dyeing and Finishing ... 1       |
| Plumbing and Soldering ... 1         | TOTAL, ANTHRAX ... 19                  | TOTAL, EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION ... 20      | Paraffin ... 5                           | Chrome Tanning ... 1             |
| Shipbreaking ... 8                   |  |   | Oil ... 7                                | Other Industries ... 1           |
| Printing ... 1                       |  |   | TOTAL, CHROME ULCERATION ... 5           |                                  |
| Tinning of Metals ...                |  |   |  |                                  |
| Other Contact with Molten Lead ...   |  |   |  |                                  |
| White and Red Lead Works ...         |  |   |  |                                  |
| Pottery* ... 3                       |  |   |  |                                  |
| Vitreous Enamelling ... 2            |  |   |  |                                  |
| Electric Accumulator Works ... 2     |  |   |  |                                  |
| Paint and Colour Works ... 1         |  |   |  |                                  |
| Indiarubber Works ...                |  |   |  |                                  |
| Coach and Car Painting ... 1         |  |   |  |                                  |
| Shipbuilding ... 3                   |  |   |  |                                  |
| Paint used in Other Industries ... 4 |  |   |  |                                  |
| Other Industries ... 4               |  |   |  |                                  |
| Painting of Buildings ... 11         |  |   |  |                                  |
| TOTAL OF ABOVE ... 43                |  |   |  |                                  |

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during May, 1928, as killed in the course of their employment, was 176, as compared with 181 in the previous month and with 197 in May, 1927. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in May, 1928, numbered 76, as compared with 39 in the previous month and with 28 in May, 1927.

| RAILWAY SERVICE.                   | Factories and Workshops (continued).                             |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Brakemen and Goods Guards ... 1    | Locomotives, Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft ... |
| Engine Drivers and Motor-men ... 2 | Other Metal Trades ...   |
| Firemen ... 1                      | Shipbuilding ... 6   |
| Guards (Passenger) ...             | Wood ... 2   |
| Permanent Way Men ... 7            | Gas ... 2  |
| Porters ...                        | Electric Generating Stations ... 1                               |
| Shunters ... 1                     | Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ... 4                                   |
| Mechanics ... 2                    | Chemicals, etc. ... 5  |
| Labourers ... 2                    | Food and Drink ... 4   |
| Miscellaneous ... 3                | Paper, Printing, etc. ... 1                                      |
| Contractors' Servants ... 2        | Tanning, Currying, etc. ...                                      |
| TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE ... 21      | Rubber Trades ...  |
|                                    | Other Non-Textile Industries ... 5                               |
|                                    | PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901.                     |
|                                    | Docks, Wharves, etc. ... 8                                       |
|                                    | Buildings ... 15   |
|                                    | Warehouses and Railway Sidings ... 4                             |
|                                    | TOTAL, FACTORY ACTS ... 73                                       |
|                                    | TOTAL (excluding Seamen) ... 176                                 |
|                                    | SEAMEN.  |
|                                    | Trading Vessels, Sailing ...                                     |
|                                    | " " Steam ... 72   |
|                                    | Fishing Vessels, Sailing ...                                     |
|                                    | " " Steam ... 4  |
|                                    | TOTAL, SEAMEN ... 76   |
|                                    | TOTAL (including Seamen) ... 252                                 |

\* Of the three 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.

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, 1928, in the poor-law areas in the thirty-one selected urban areas named below was 704,097, or 4.5 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 9.4 per cent. less than in May, 1927. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 394, 413, and 434 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

| Selected Urban Areas.†                        | Number of persons* in receipt of Poor Law Relief on one day† in May, 1928. |           |          |  | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a |           |
|---|--|-----------|----------|--|--|-----------|
|   | Indoor.  | Out-door. | Total.   | Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population. | Month ago.   | Year ago. |
|   |  |           |          |  |  |           |
| <b>ENGLAND AND WALES.</b>                     |  |           |          |  |  |           |
| <b>Metropolis.</b>                            |  |           |          |  |  |           |
| West District ...                             | 9,046  | 6,416     | 15,462   | 186                                      | - 5  | + 4       |
| North District ...                            | 10,370   | 15,484    | 25,854   | 251                                      | - 10   | - 21      |
| Central District ...                          | 2,247  | 2,364     | 4,611    | 343                                      | - 14   | - 19      |
| East District ...                             | 9,767  | 50,992    | 60,759   | 932                                      | - 72   | - 167     |
| South District ...                            | 19,004   | 61,118    | 80,122   | 408                                      | - 22   | - 56      |
| TOTAL, Metropolis ...                         | 50,737§  | 136,374   | 187,111§ | 405                                      | - 24   | - 52      |
| West Ham ...                                  | 4,403  | 21,313    | 25,716   | 340                                      | - 31   | - 176     |
| <b>Other Districts.</b>                       |  |           |          |  |  |           |
| Newcastle District                            | 2,850  | 25,679    | 28,529   | 562                                      | - 21   | - 22      |
| Stockton and Tees District ...                | 1,343  | 12,319    | 13,662   | 495                                      | - 24   | - 135     |
| Bolton, Oldham, etc.                          | 4,108  | 7,357     | 11,465   | 146                                      | - 5  | - 12      |
| Wigan District ...                            | 1,798  | 14,815    | 16,613   | 366                                      | - 18   | + 50      |
| Manchester District                           | 9,348  | 28,958    | 38,306   | 366                                      | - 18   | - 72      |
| Liverpool District                            | 9,473  | 59,643    | 69,116   | 545                                      | - 43   | - 20      |
| Bradford District ...                         | 1,714  | 5,705     | 7,419    | 201                                      | - 16   | - 18      |
| Halifax and Huddersfield ...                  | 1,474  | 2,946     | 4,420    | 118                                      | - 6  | - 1       |
| Leeds ...                                     | 2,752  | 10,874    | 13,626   | 285                                      | + 9  | + 16      |
| Barnsley District ...                         | 1,004  | 11,344    | 12,348   | 368                                      | - 5  | + 36      |
| Sheffield ...                                 | 2,446  | 22,656    | 25,102   | 488                                      | - 17   | - 91      |
| Hull District ...                             | 1,710  | 14,629    | 16,339   | 510                                      | - 25   | + 23      |
| North Staffordshire                           | 2,359  | 8,941     | 11,300   | 272                                      | - 13   | + 41      |
| Nottingham District                           | 2,186  | 12,421    | 14,607   | 311                                      | - 9  | + 11      |
| Leicester ...                                 | 1,170  | 4,073     | 5,243    | 217                                      | - 1  | + 17      |
| Wolverhampton ...                             | 3,521  | 14,629    | 18,150   | 241                                      | - 10   | - 7       |
| Birmingham ...                                | 7,606  | 16,619    | 24,225   | 259                                      | - 10   | - 15      |
| Bristol District ...                          | 2,405  | 11,340    | 13,745   | 332                                      | - 27   | - 88      |
| Cardiff and Swansea                           | 2,556  | 17,060    | 19,616   | 406                                      | - 31   | - 19      |
| TOTAL, "Other Districts"                      | 61,823   | 302,008   | 363,831  | 348                                      | - 18   | - 19      |
| TOTAL, Districts in England and Wales ...     | 116,963  | 459,695   | 576,658  | 365                                      | - 19   | - 36      |
| <b>SCOTLAND.</b>                              |  |           |          |  |  |           |
| Glasgow District ...                          | 5,846  | 75,984    | 81,830   | 851                                      | + 9  | - 108     |
| Paisley and Greenock District ...             | 757  | 10,558    | 11,315   | 586                                      | - 62   | - 311     |
| Edinburgh ...                                 | 1,629  | 17,723    | 19,352   | 456                                      | - 18   | + 48      |
| Dundee and Dundfermline ...                   | 790  | 4,522     | 5,312    | 246                                      | - 24   | - 11      |
| Aberdeen ...                                  | 478  | 3,477     | 3,955    | 251                                      | - 48   | - 51      |
| Coatbridge & Airdrie                          | 370  | 5,305     | 5,675    | 558                                      | - 12   | + 19      |
| TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts ...    | 9,870  | 117,569   | 127,439  | 621                                      | - 11   | - 73      |
| TOTAL for above 31 Districts in May, 1928 ... | 126,833  | 577,264   | 704,097  | 394                                      | - 19   | - 40      |

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

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

| Assisted Passage Schemes. | Assisted Passages Granted. |                    | Departures in |                    | Total Departures.  |                    |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                           | in May, 1928.              | 1922 to May, 1928. | May, 1928.    | Jan. to May, 1928. | 1922 to May, 1928. | Jan. to May, 1928. |
| To Australia ...          | 1,690                      | 140,803            | 920           | 2,090              | 137,503            | 9,723              |
| " New Zealand ...         | 155                        | 40,681             | 821           | 80                 | 38,855             | 1,069              |
| " Canada ...              | 3,619                      | 66,447             | 16,050        | 4,464              | 65,484             | 9,259              |
| " South Africa ...        | 4                          | 759                | 82            | 20                 | 420                | 72                 |
| Minor Schemes ...         | 80                         | 8,140              | 372           | 68                 | 7,380              | 182                |
| TOTAL ...                 | 5,548                      | 256,830            | 26,245        | 6,722              | 249,642            | 20,305             |

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

\* The figures include dependants, but exclude casuals, lunatics in asylums, registered hospitals and licensed houses, and persons receiving out-door medical relief only. † The figures for England and Wales relate to 26th May, and those for Scotland to 15th May. ‡ These urban areas include more than one poor-law union in the case of England and Wales, except in the Leeds, Leicester, Birmingham, Sheffield and West Ham districts; and more than one parish in the case of Scotland, except in the Aberdeen and Edinburgh districts. § Includes 303 not included in district figures.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

| Country.                                      | Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.* |              |              |              |              | Latest figures available. |  |
|---|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|--|
|   | July, 1924.                                       | July, 1925.  | July, 1926.  | July, 1927.  | Per cent.    | 1928. 1 June              |  |
|   | Rise.   | Date.        |              |              |              |                           |  |
| <b>GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...</b> | Per cent. 62                                      | Per cent. 67 | Per cent. 61 | Per cent. 59 | Per cent. 56 |                           |  |
| <b>FOREIGN COUNTRIES.</b>                     |   |              |              |              |              |                           |  |
| Czechoslovakia ...                            | 737   | 816          | 776          | 862          | 802          | Mar.                      |  |
| Denmark ...                                   | 100   | 110          | 59           | 53           | 52           | Apr.                      |  |
| Egypt (Cairo)† ...                            | 48  | 58           | 58           | 47           | 39           | Mar.                      |  |
| Finland ...                                   | 916   | 1,007        | 967          | 965          | 982          | Apr.                      |  |
| France (Paris)‡ ...                           | 260   | 321          | 474          | 457          | 446          | May                       |  |
| " (other towns) ...                           | 300§  | 351          | 510          | 453          | 422          | Feb.                      |  |
| Germany ...                                   | 54  | 45           | 57           | 51           | 51           | May                       |  |
| Holland (The Hague) ...                       | 67  | 76           | 68           | 72           | 70           | Feb.                      |  |
| Italy (Milan) ...                             | 408   | 502          | 554          | 424          | 416          | Mar.                      |  |
| " (Rome) ...                                  | 369   | 427          | 498          | 425          | 399          | Feb.                      |  |
| Norway ...                                    | 148   | 160          | 98           | 75           | 72           | May                       |  |
| Spain (Madrid)† ...                           | 82  | 90           | 86           | 89           | 75           | Apr.                      |  |
| Sweden (Barcelona)‡ ...                       | 72  | 82           | 63           | 64           | 63           | Apr.                      |  |
| Switzerland ...                               | 59  | 69           | 59           | 57           | 56           | Apr.                      |  |
| United States ...                             | 40  | 56           | 54           | 50           | 49           | Mar.                      |  |
| <b>BRITISH DOMINIONS, &amp;c.</b>             |   |              |              |              |              |                           |  |
| Australia ...                                 | 49†   | 56           | 59           | 52           | 53           | Mar.                      |  |
| Canada ...                                    | 34†   | 42†          | 51†          | 49           | 47           | May                       |  |
| India (Bombay) ...                            | 51  | 52           | 55           | 54           | 40           | Apr.                      |  |
| Native families ...                           | 85  | 88           | 74           | 66           | 62           | Apr.                      |  |
| Irish Free State ...                          | 48  | 51           | 49           | 44           | 44           | Apr.                      |  |
| New Zealand ...                               | 17  | 20           | 16           | 19           | 19           | Apr.                      |  |
| South Africa ...                              | 48  | 51           | 49           | 44           | 44           | Apr.                      |  |

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

| Country.                                      | Items on which Computation is based.† | Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.* |              |              |              |              | Latest figures available. |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|--|
|   |                                       | July, 1924.                                       | July, 1925.  | July, 1926.  | July, 1927.  | Per cent.    | 1928. 1 June              |  |
|   |                                       | Rise.   | Date.        |              |              |              |                           |  |
| <b>GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...</b> | A,B,C,D,E                             | Per cent. 70                                      | Per cent. 73 | Per cent. 70 | Per cent. 66 | Per cent. 65 |                           |  |
| <b>FOREIGN COUNTRIES.</b>                     |                                       |   |              |              |              |              |                           |  |
| Belgium ...                                   | A,C,D,E                               | 393   | 409          | 537          | 690          | 705          | May                       |  |
| Czechoslovakia (Prague) ...                   | A,B,C,D,E                             | 589   | 641          | 618          | 647          | 630          | Mar.                      |  |
| Denmark ...                                   | A,B,C,D,E                             | 114   | 119          | 84           | 76           | 76           | Apr.                      |  |
| Finland ...                                   | A,B,C,D,E                             | 1,032   | 1,094        | 1,018        | 1,081        | 1,089        | Apr.                      |  |
| France (Paris) ...                            | A,B,C,D,E                             | 267‡  | 301‡         | 439‡         | 407‡         | 407          | 1st qr.                   |  |
| Germany ...                                   | A,B,C,D,E                             | 43  | 42           | 50           | 51           | 51           | May                       |  |
| Greece (Athens) ...                           | A,B,C,D,E                             | 1,225   | 1,372        | 1,708        | ...          | 1,866        | Mar.                      |  |
| Holland (Amsterdam) ...                       | A,B,C,D,E                             | 73†   | 79†          | 71†          | 67†          | 69           | Mar.                      |  |
| Italy (Milan) ...                             | A,B,C,D,E                             | 412   | 498          | 549          | 448          | 431          | Mar.                      |  |
| " (Rome) ...                                  | A,B,C,D,E                             | 349   | 395          | 462          | 406          | 377          | Feb.                      |  |
| Luxembourg ...                                | A,C,D                                 | 381   | 415          | 509          | 681          | 695          | Mar.                      |  |
| Norway ...                                    | A,B,C,D,E                             | 151†  | 161†         | 121†         | 103          | 95           | May                       |  |
| Poland (Warsaw) ...                           | A,B,C,D,E                             | ...   | ...          | ...          | 15           | 19           | Mar.                      |  |
| Sweden ...                                    | A,B,C,D,E                             | 71  | 76           | 72           | 69           | 71           | Apr.                      |  |
| Switzerland ...                               | A,B,C,D                               | 68  | 62           | 60           | 60           | 60           | Mar.                      |  |
| United States ...                             | A,B,C,D,E                             | 69†   | 74†          | 75†          | 73†          | 72           | Dec.'27                   |  |
| <b>BRITISH DOMINIONS, &amp;c.</b>             |                                       |   |              |              |              |              |                           |  |
| Australia ...                                 | A,B,C,D,E                             | 42‡   | 44‡          | 47‡          | 45‡          | 47           | 1st qr.                   |  |
| Canada ...                                    | A,B,C,D,E                             | 53†   | 55†          | 57†          | 55†          | 55           | May                       |  |
| India (Bombay) ...                            | A,B,C,D                               | 57  | 57           | 57           | 56           | 44           | Apr.                      |  |
| Native families ...                           | A,B,C,D,E                             | 83  | 88           | 82           | 71           | 70           | Apr.                      |  |
| Irish Free State ...                          | A,B,C,D,E                             | 60§   | 63§          | 61           | 61           | 61           | Apr.                      |  |
| New Zealand ...                               | A,B,C,D,E                             | 32  | 33           | 30           | 32           | 33           | Apr.                      |  |
| South Africa ...                              | A,B,C,D,E                             | 32  | 33           | 30           | 32           | 33           | Apr.                      |  |

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

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The basis of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the statistics relating to this country; and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 212-213 to compare the actual level of employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland with that of other countries. For details of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, reference should be made to the Reports on Statistics of Unemployment issued by the International Labour Office (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7, and Series N., No. 7).]

FRANCE.\*

The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of the Exchanges at the end of May (2nd June) was 12,327 (8,254 men and 4,073 women). At the end of April the corresponding total was 18,420. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 15,027 (9,976 men and 5,051 women), as compared with 12,529 at the end of April. During the last week of May (ended 2nd June) the Exchanges succeeded in placing 25,628 persons in situations, including 8,642 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for



## NORWAY.

According to information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, out of 16,425 members of trade unions making returns, 19.8 per cent. were unemployed on the last day of March, 1928. The corresponding figure for the end of February was 20.5 per cent., and that for March, 1927, 24.3 per cent.

## SWEDEN.\*

The percentage of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed on 30th April, 1928, was 11.5, as compared with 13.1 per cent. on the last day of the preceding month, and 12.3 per cent. on 30th April, 1927.

## AUSTRIA.

According to the issue of *Statistische Nachrichten* (the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics) for 25th May, 1928, the total number of applicants for work registered at the Employment Exchanges at the end of April, 1928, was 179,638 (including 83,783 in Vienna), as compared with 219,532 at the end of March. The number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit at the end of April was 154,817 (including 69,891 in Vienna), as compared with 193,449 (76,335 in Vienna) at the end of March.

The industrial groups having the greatest number of unemployed were the commercial, metal working, building, clothing, and hotel, etc. service.

## BELGIUM.†

Returns received by the Ministry of Industry and Labour from 162 approved unemployment insurance societies, with a total membership of 612,381, show that 4,838 (0.8 per cent.) of these were totally unemployed on 30th April, 1928. The corresponding percentage at the end of the preceding month was 0.8, and in April, 1927, 1.8. In addition, 17,520 members (2.9 per cent.) were employed intermittently during the month. The total days lost through unemployment in April numbered 256,224, or 1.40 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days; in the preceding month the percentage was 1.56, and in April, 1927, 2.38. The figures relating to April, 1928, are provisional.

## ITALY.‡

According to statistics furnished by the National Social Insurance Fund, 411,785 persons were recorded as unemployed on 31st March, 1928, as compared with 413,383 on 29th February, and 227,947 at the end of March, 1927. The total for March 31st includes 117,411 engaged in agriculture and fishing and 130,098 in the building, road construction, etc. industries. In addition 47,036 persons were partially unemployed at that date, as compared with 58,109 at the end of the preceding month, and 61,699 at the end of March, 1927. In March, 1928, 123,822 insured workers received benefit in respect of a total of 2,096,651 days of unemployment. These totals are stated to be approximate only.

## SWITZERLAND.§

On 30th April, 1928, 6,910 applications for employment (5.3 per thousand of the employed population according to the Census of 1920) were registered at employment exchanges, as compared with 8,265 at the end of the preceding month, and 11,220 at the end of April, 1927. The reduction is stated to be due partly to seasonal causes, and it is pointed out that since 1921 unemployment has always been at its lowest at the end of April. The building, metal, and textile industries again reported the greatest reductions in the numbers unemployed. Offers of situations at the dates mentioned above numbered 4,854, 4,535, and 3,692 respectively.

Returns from 151 unemployment insurance funds show that, out of an aggregate of 253,131 members, 4,803, or 1.9 per cent., were totally unemployed, and 2,553, or 1.0 per cent., partially so, at the end of March, 1928. On 31st December, 1927, the corresponding percentages (based on returns from 152 funds with 248,588 members) were 4.5 and 1.7 respectively.

## UNITED STATES.¶

Figures relating to the volume of employment in April, based on returns from 10,788 establishments in 54 of the chief manufacturing industries, are published by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics. These establishments reported 3,005,964 persons employed in April, 1928, a decrease of 0.5 per cent. as compared with the total for March. The aggregate wages paid for April showed a decrease of 1.4 per cent., as compared with those for March, and the average earnings per head a decrease of 0.9 per cent. A decrease in employment in April, as compared with March, has become customary, the trend having been downward in each of the last five years. The most outstanding decreases in employment were shown in the men's clothing (7.2 per cent.), boot and shoe (5.4 per cent.), confectionery (5.1 per cent.), silk goods (4.7 per cent.), chewing tobacco (4.0 per cent.) and slaughtering and meat packing (3.9 per cent.) industries. Outstanding increases in employment were shown in the ice cream (7.9 per cent.), brick (5.1 per cent.), rubber boot and shoe (3.3 per cent.), cement (3.1 per cent.) and sugar refining (3.0 per cent.) industries.

As compared with April, 1927, there was in the month under review a decrease of 5.4 per cent. in the numbers employed, and

\* Information supplied by the Swedish Department of Social Affairs.

† *Revue du Travail*, 31st May, 1928. Brussels.

‡ *Bollettino Mensile di Statistica*, May, 1928. Rome.

§ *Rapports Economiques et Statistiques sociales*, May, 1928. Berne.

¶ *Employment in Selected Manufacturing Industries*, April, 1928. Washington.

a decrease of 6.9 per cent. in the aggregate wages paid. The most notable decreases in employment were shown in the shipbuilding (28.6 per cent.), petroleum refining (17.6 per cent.), brick, etc. (15.2 per cent.), cast-iron pipe (13.1 per cent.), piano and organ (11.0 per cent.), cement (10.4 per cent.) and steam fittings (10.3 per cent.) industries.

*Index Number of Employment, April.*—If the monthly average index number of employment in manufacturing industries in 1923 be taken as 100, the corresponding figure for April, 1928, is 85.7, as compared with 86.1 in March, and 90.6 in April, 1927.

## CANADA.

For 1st May, 1928, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 6,504 firms, with an aggregate of 883,047 on their pay rolls. On 1st April, 1928, the same firms reported 846,977 employed, and the total for 1st May thus shows an increase of 36,070. If employment in the week ended 17th January, 1920, be represented by 100, the index number of employment for 1st May, 1928, is 105.5, as compared with 101.1 at the beginning of the preceding month, and 100.6 on 1st May, 1927.\*

On 30th April, 1928, 5.2 per cent. of the aggregate membership of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 6.5 per cent. at the end of March, and 6.0 per cent. at the end of April, 1927.†

## NEW ZEALAND.‡

Returns relating to unemployment in the week ending 18th February, 1928, were furnished to the Census and Statistics Office by trade unions having an aggregate membership of 58,048. Of these, 6,605, or 11.4 per cent., were out of work for more than three days during the week, as compared with 9.7 per cent. in the corresponding week in November, 1927, and 9.4 per cent. in that of February, 1927. (These returns are published at quarterly intervals.)

## LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

## Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTIONAL CENTRE—TRAINEE IN RECEIPT OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT AND CERTAIN ALLOWANCES—NOT A "WORKMAN."

THE respondent, Wilfred Watson, then aged 19, was registered at an Employment Exchange in April, 1927, as an unemployed person. In these circumstances he applied to be admitted to a course of instruction at the Government instructional centre, Garrison Lane, Birmingham. The course of instruction to which the respondent was sent as a result of his application was one in metal work, and he commenced his training on 21st April, 1927. On 19th August, 1927, the respondent, in the course of his instruction, injured the top of the thumb of his left hand whilst grinding a punch on a power grindstone. He was detained in hospital a few hours, and the injured thumb was amputated up to the first joint. On the next day, he returned to training as usual, and attended for instruction until 19th October, 1927, when his course terminated.

Throughout his course of instruction the respondent received £1 3s. 6d. a week, made up of unemployment benefit at the rate of 18s. a week, a personal allowance of 2s. 6d., and an allowance for travelling expenses of 3s.; in addition the respondent was provided with a free midday meal on each day of attendance at the centre.

The respondent made an application for a declaration of liability, and on 16th February, 1928, his Honour Judge Dyer, K.C., made an award in favour of the respondent, in the form of a declaration of liability. The Government instructional centre appealed.

For the appellants it was argued that the relationship between the parties was not that of employer and workman.

For the respondent it was contended that he was a workman, on the ground that he was remunerated, and that articles made by the trainees at the centre might be, and sometimes were, sold to the public.

The Master of the Rolls in the course of his judgment said: "There are always certain factors which point in one direction in favour of the workman. Thus in the present case it is pointed out that the man was employed upon work which, be it more or less, had some economic value. . . . In fact, at the moment when this man Watson was injured, he was employed on a piece of work which ultimately would be paid for by somebody who wanted it. It is then said: 'Inasmuch as the fruits of his labour had an economic value it is shown that he must have been engaged in an employment.' Then reference is made to the regular hours, the regular habits, and the control and discipline exercised at the institution. But there are educational institutions where equally there are regular habits, regular hours, and control and discipline, so that those items appear to me entirely equivocal, and not to give any indication either one way or the other. . . . It appears to me that the test which I suggested in the case of *Broome v. the Ministry of Labour* (43 T.L.R. 133), although not exhaustive, is a useful test to bear in mind. Was there or was there not a contract of service? . . . In the present case I apply that test and look at

\* *The May Employment Situation*, 1928. Ottawa.

† Information supplied by the Canadian Department of Labour, Ottawa.

‡ *Monthly Abstract of Statistics*, March, 1928. Wellington.

these documents which I have to interpret. It appears to me upon the face of them that they contain statements such as the conditions applicable to the course of instruction for young unemployed men, the fact that the man remains available for employment, that he is to receive his unemployment benefit, that before he can be eligible to enter he is to be an unemployed person and so registered, which seem to point to the fact that before he enters the institution, and after he has entered the institution, the conditions which are applicable to him while he is there negative the possibility of holding that he was a workman or an employed person acting under a contract of service within the meaning of the Workmen's Compensation Act."

Lord Justice Sankey and Lord Justice Russell concurred. The Appeal was allowed with costs.—*Watson v. Government Instructional Centre, Birmingham. Court of Appeal. 15th May, 1928.*

It has been decided by the Court of Appeal that the effect of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925, has been to alter the law, so as to debar an employer from claiming a reduction in partial compensation by showing that the wages paid for doing the work which the recipient of partial compensation was performing when the accident occurred have since been reduced.

Prior to this decision if an employer could show that there had been a fall in the average weekly earnings in respect of the work which the workman had been doing before he was injured, the employer was entitled to claim a reduction in the partial compensation payable.—*Calow v. Shelton Iron and Steel Company, Limited. Court of Appeal. 22nd May, 1928.*

## Other Recent Decisions of Interest.

## ILLEGAL EMPLOYMENT OF JUVENILES.

Three lads under the age of sixteen years were ordered to pay the costs of summonses which had been issued against them under the Employment of Children Act for selling newspapers.—*Darlington Petty Sessions. 22nd May, 1928.*

## TRADE UNIONS ACT, 1927.—"WATCHING AND BESETTING."

John Kelly, Secretary of the Chester branch of the United Plumbers and Domestic Engineers' Association, was charged under the Trade Unions Act, 1927, for watching and besetting premises at which John Henry Langley was employed.

Langley was stated to be a member of the National Operative Plumbers' Association, and had refused to join the defendant's association. In consequence of this refusal, the defendant went to Langley's employer and secured his dismissal.

For the defence it was submitted that what Kelly had done had not constituted an offence under the Act.

The defendant was committed for trial.—*Rex v. Kelly. Chester Petty Sessions. 16th May, 1928.*

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920-27.

## DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

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

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

The following is a recent decision of general interest:—

**Case No. 815/1928. (11/5/28.) Section 7(1) (iv) of the Principal Act (as amended)—Unable to obtain suitable employment.**

APPLICANTS REFUSED OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT AT PIECE-WORK RATES OF PAY, WHICH WAS CONTRARY TO THE RULES OF THEIR TRADE UNION.

Applicants were offered employment at piece-work rates of pay, and such employment would not affect materially the amount of their weekly earnings. The applicants refused to accept the offer of employment on the grounds that it was contrary to the rules of their society to work for other than hourly rates. No agreement between the prospective employers and the employees' society had, however, been made.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be allowed. The Court were satisfied that applicants were justified in refusing the work offered as it was contrary to their Trade Union principles.

The Insurance Officer disagreed with the Court of Referees and the Umpire gave the following decision:—

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

"I shall adopt in this case the rule enunciated in 754/27† that the only safe course to pursue is to follow strictly the words of the Act of Parliament, and not to be influenced in arriving at a determination by considering questions of policy upon which opinions may differ.

\* Volumes containing selected decisions of the Umpire are published annually by H.M. Stationery Office, the latest being a volume of selected decisions given during the year 1927 (price 7s. 6d. net). Selected decisions are also issued monthly in pamphlet form, and may be obtained, as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription; the latest monthly pamphlet issued is that for April, 1928. Applications should be made to H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

† See Vol. VI, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 47 (Pamphlet No. 2/1927).

"As my attention was particularly drawn to the Decision given in 754/27, I point out that in that case the Umpire was considering the provisions of proviso (c) of Section 7(1) of the 1920 Act, whilst in this case I am considering the provisions of proviso (b) of that Section.

"In the present case the applicants were carpenters and members of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers. One of the rules of this Society is that members must work on time rate only and not on piece work. The applicants, prior to the offer of work hereafter mentioned, had habitually been remunerated on the time rate basis. The applicants' Society has agreements with several large Associations of Employers in which provision is made for the members of the Society being paid on the time rate system.

"On 29th October, 1927, the applicants became unemployed, and on the 23rd February, 1928, they were offered employment at piece-work rate by a Company which builds aeroplanes and omnibuses, which they refused. The work offered was that of carpenters, the occupation for which the applicants had registered.

"At the hearing before me it was not contended that at piece-work rate the applicants would have earned less money per week than if payment had been on the time rate system. The only evidence on this point was that at the former rate they would earn more money than at the latter rate.

"It was argued that as piece-work was contrary to the rules of the applicants' Society and to the agreements which had been made between that Society and the Association of Employers, and was at a rate of wage other than that which the applicants had habitually obtained, the provisions of proviso (b) of Section 7(1) of the 1920 Act applied.

"It should be observed that the employers, who had made the offer of work which was refused, were not members of any employers' association which had entered into an agreement with the applicants' Society.

"The question which I am called upon to determine is, having regard to the fact that the applicants have habitually obtained, as carpenters, in the district in which the work was offered, time rate wages in accordance with the rules of their Society, was the offer of work at piece-work rate an offer of work at a rate of wage lower, or on conditions less favourable, than those which they might reasonably have expected to obtain?

"With regard to the rate of wage. It is immaterial that it is on a different basis to that which the applicants might reasonably have expected to obtain. The only consideration which is warranted by the terms of the proviso is, was the rate lower? I have already pointed out what the evidence on that point is.

"Can it be said that the alteration of the rate of wage rendered the conditions less favourable? I shall assume that if the applicants had accepted this offer of work they would have been expelled from their Society for having been guilty of a breach of its rules.

"It has been held that work offered is not unsuitable because acceptance of the offer would involve committing a breach of Trade Union Rules (see Decisions 47/26\* and 131/26,† and note that the following decisions have been held in 754/27‡ to have been erroneously decided, viz., 2155/20§, 5811/20,|| and 3421/26¶). Had these decisions not been overruled they would not have assisted the applicants in this case, as it was established that in the vehicle building trade, the trade carried on by the employers who offered the work, piece-work rate is generally accepted because the rules of the association of employees in that trade do not prohibit work at that rate.

"For these reasons I am compelled to differ from the Court of Referees and to hold that the applicants are not entitled to benefit. There are no facts which differentiate the cases of these two applicants."

**Case No. 914/28. (30/5/28.) Section 7(1) (iv) of the Principal Act (as amended) and Section 10 of the 1921 (No. 2) Act (as amended)—Genuinely seeking work, and Period of Disallowance.**

APPLICANTS, COLLIERIES, MADE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT IN THEIR IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURHOOD BUT NOT IN OUTLYING DISTRICTS.

The applicants, who were registered as colliers, endeavoured to obtain employment at the collieries in their own district, but only made five calls on prospective employers during a period of ten days.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit be disallowed for a period of three weeks. The Insurance Officer disagreed with the Court of Referees and pointed out that the period of disallowance on the grounds of not genuinely seeking work could not be less than six weeks. He also contended that there was not sufficient ground for the disallowance, having regard to the facts. The colliery where the applicants had been employed closed down on the 1st December, 1927, and the chances of finding work would not have been increased by a greater number of calls. The claim was referred to the Umpire who gave the following decision:—

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

"In my opinion the records of the calls on employers made by these applicants prove that on the dates as from which benefit was disallowed they were genuinely seeking work.

"It has been held that an applicant should not be deemed to be not genuinely seeking work because on one day he makes no effort to obtain work (see Decision 1294/25, not circulated). If an applicant proves that over a period he has been consistently making applica-

\* See Vol. V, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 5 (Pamphlet No. 1/1926).

† See Vol. V, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 14 (Pamphlet No. 1/1926).

‡ See Vol. VI, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 47 (Pamphlet No. 2/1927).

§ See Vol. II, Umpire's Selected Decisions (Pamphlet No. 3).

|| See Vol. III, Umpire's Selected Decisions (Pamphlet No. 30).

¶ See Vol. V, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 219 (Pamphlet No. 9/1926).



tions for work at places where he would be likely to obtain employment, this is evidence that he is genuinely seeking work, and it raises a presumption in the applicant's favour that he has complied with the fourth statutory condition, though this presumption may be rebutted by other evidence.

"With regard to the suggestion which has been made that the applicants should have gone outside the district in which they reside and there made personal application for work, it must be borne in mind that an applicant is entitled to assume that the Employment Exchange will put him in touch with vacancies which occur at a distance. Unless, therefore, it is established that an applicant is aware that there is a strong probability of obtaining work outside the district in which he resides, and that district is at no great distance from his home district, it is unreasonable to hold that he fails to satisfy the fourth statutory condition because he has not made a personal application for work in the outside district. What constitutes the home district and what the outside district is a matter to be determined according to the situation and peculiarities of each district.

"A point has been raised in this case as to the power of the Court of Referees to recommend a disallowance of less than six weeks in a case where they have come to the conclusion that an applicant is not genuinely seeking work.

"Section 10 of the 1921 (2) Act, as amended by the second schedule of the 1924 (2) Act, gives an insured contributor an absolute right to renew his claim after not less than six weeks from disallowance of benefit. This Section, which is conferring a right on an insured contributor, contains nothing which prevents the Court of Referees making a recommendation to the Insurance Officer with regard to the date when he should reconsider the question whether the applicant is genuinely seeking work.

"It has been held that a disallowance of less than six weeks can be recommended by a Court of Referees in cases of disallowance on the ground that the applicant is not capable of work, or not available for work, or not unable to obtain suitable employment (see, for example, Decisions 358/20,\* 4064/20,† 6939/20,‡) and I can see no reason for allowing such a recommendation in those cases, and for not allowing it in cases of disallowance for not genuinely seeking work. Although, in my opinion, there is power to disallow for less than six weeks in cases of not genuinely seeking work, only very exceptional circumstances would justify the exercise of this power."

#### INSURANCE YEAR REGULATIONS, 1928.

**The Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Year) Regulations, 1928,§ dated 5th May, 1928, made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 (10 & 11 Geo. 5, c. 30).**

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

1. The period commencing on the second day of July, 1928 (being the day next after the last day of the preceding Insurance Year) and ending on the seventh day of July, 1929, shall be an Insurance Year.

2. These Regulations may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Year) Regulations, 1928, and shall come into force on the date hereof.

Signed by Order of the Minister of Labour this 5th day of May, 1928.

H. J. WILSON,  
Secretary of the Ministry of Labour.

#### SPECIAL SCHEMES FOR THE INSURANCE AND BANKING INDUSTRIES.

##### SPECIAL ORDERS.

The Minister of Labour has made the following Special Orders under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1927, amending the Special Schemes of unemployment insurance for the Insurance and Banking Industries. The principal effect of these Special Orders is to amend the conditions governing the payment of unemployment benefit under the two Special Schemes in consequence of the passing of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1927.

(i) The Unemployment Insurance (Insurance Industry Special Scheme) (Variation and Amendment) Special Order, 1928, dated 17th April, 1928; published as Statutory Rules and Orders, 1928, No. 311.

(ii) The Unemployment Insurance (Banking Industry Special Scheme) (Amendment) Special Order, 1928, dated 30th March, 1928; published as Statutory Rules and Orders, 1928, No. 310.

These Special Orders having lain before Parliament in accordance with Section 36 (2) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, duly came into force.

Copies of these Special Orders may be purchased from H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front page of this GAZETTE.

\* See Vol. I, *Umpire's Selected Decisions*, page 132.

† See Vol. II, *Umpire's Selected Decisions*, (Pamphlet No. 17).

‡ See Vol. III, *Umpire's Selected Decisions*, (Pamphlet No. 37).

§ *Statutory Rules and Orders*, 1928, No. 375.

#### REFERENCE TO THE HIGH COURT.

PURSUANT to paragraph 6 of the Unemployment Insurance (Determination of Questions) Regulations 1920, the Minister of Labour hereby gives notice of his intention to refer to the High Court for decision the following question that has arisen in an application made to him for his decision under Section 10 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, namely, whether the employment of a person in the following circumstances is or is not employment within the meaning of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920:—

Employment by a City Corporation on the alternate week system under a scheme for employing Board of Guardians test men on public utility work.

Under the Rules of the Supreme Court, Order LVB, Rule 28, any person who claims to be affected by the decision to be given in the above-mentioned case may apply to the Judge for leave to intervene.

The case has been set down in the High Court and, it is hoped, will be heard in the near future.

In the event of any person desiring to intervene, all the necessary information and documents can be obtained by applying to the Solicitor to the Minister of Labour, 6, Richmond Terrace, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

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

##### Recent Proceedings.

##### (A.)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

**ELECTRICAL WORKERS, RAILWAY COMPANIES IN GREAT BRITAIN.**—Electrical Trades Union and National Union of Railwaymen v. Railway Companies. *Difference*.—Claim for an increase in wages of 4d. per hour from 1st January, 1928, and for stabilisation of wages for the year 1928. *Decision*.—Increase not granted, but the reduction of 4d. per hour made as from 1st April under the Sliding Scale Agreement shall cease to operate as from the beginning of the pay week following the date of the award, and any changes that may fall due during 1928 under the same agreement shall only be given effect to after negotiation between the parties. Award issued 7th May, 1928. (1369.)

**ELECTRICAL WORKERS, RAILWAY COMPANIES OPERATING IN LONDON DISTRICT.**—Electrical Trades Union and National Union of Railwaymen v. Railway Companies. *Difference*.—Whether 1d. per hour granted to shift workers under Awards Nos. 648 and 649 is payable to probationers engaged upon shift work in the London area. *Decision*.—On an interpretation of the agreements and awards an allowance to probationers on shift work is not provided for therein; any such allowance can only be made by agreement or award. Award issued 7th May, 1928. (1370.)

**PLASTERERS, LEEDS DISTRICT.**—National Association of Plasterers, Granolithic and Cement Workers v. The Yorkshire Federation of Building Trades Employers. *Difference*.—What is the rate of wages payable to operative plasterers in the Leeds District under Fair Wages Clause of the Municipal Contracts? *Decision*.—Up to 1st February, 1928, not less than 1s. 10d. per hour, from 1st February to 4th May, not less than 1s. 9d. per hour, and from 5th May, not less than 1s. 8d. per hour. Award issued 9th May, 1928. (1371.)

**BOOT, SHOE AND SLIPPER TRADE, ROSSENDALE VALLEY.**—Rossendale Union of Boot, Shoe and Slipper Operatives v. Rossendale Valley Boot, Shoe and Slipper Manufacturers' Association. *Difference*.—Payment for holidays. *Decision*.—Provision shall be made by the parties for a joint holiday fund to which the employers shall contribute 8d. per week in the case of men 21 years of age and over; 4d. per week in the case of women 20 years of age and over, and youths aged 18 and under 21; and 3d. per week in the case of boys (full time) under 18 and girls (full time) under 20. Award issued 14th May, 1928. (1372.)

**YARD CRAFT SERVICE, H.M. DOCKYARDS.**—Trade Union Side v. Official Side, Admiralty Joint Industrial (Whitley) Council. *Difference*.—Claim for an advance of 10s. 6d. per week in the pay of all adult employees in the several ratings of the yard craft service. *Decision*.—No alteration in rates of pay. Award issued 16th May, 1928. (1373.)

**FEMALE SUPERVISING OFFICERS, POST OFFICE.**—Federation of Post Office Supervising Officers v. Post Office. *Difference*.—Interpretation, Award No. 1335, Annual Leave. *Decision*.—That officers appointed to the classes concerned between 15th February, 1926, and 1st January, 1928, should be entitled to leave at the rate of 27 days per annum until 31st December, 1927, and 21 days per annum thereafter. Award issued 16th May, 1928. (1374.)

**RAILWAY SHOPMEN.**—National Union of Railwaymen v. London, Midland and Scottish Railway. *Difference*.—Painters, short shift other than Saturday: interpretation of Award No. 723. *Decision*.—That the hours of duty as arranged by the Company are not in breach of the provisions of Condition 1 of Schedule F, that the payment made is in accordance with the provisions of Condition 2 of Schedule F, and that no overtime rates are payable. Award issued 23rd May, 1928. (1375.)

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

**UPHOLSTERY TRADE: LONDON.**—London Cabinet and Upholstery Trades Federation v. Amalgamated Union of Upholsters. *Difference*.—As to the labour time-allowance for certain work on a particular contract. Sir Harold S. Morris, K.C., appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to act as *Arbitrator* to determine the matter. Award, deciding the correct figure for the contract in question, issued on 12th May, 1928.

**UPHOLSTERY TRADE: LONDON.**—London Cabinet and Upholstery Trades Federation v. Amalgamated Union of Upholsters. *Difference*.—In connection with the amendment of the Working Rules to govern the Upholstery Trade in the London District, 1925. Sir Harold S. Morris, K.C., appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to act as *Arbitrator* to determine the matter. Award issued on 12th May, 1928.

**IRON AND STEEL TRADE: COUNTY DURHAM.**—Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association v. Iron and Steel Trades Confederation. *Difference*.—As to the final total tonnage basic melting rate at a new steel plant. Sir Arthur Colefax, K.B.E., K.C., appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to act as *Arbitrator* to determine the matter. Award, fixing the rate for the plant in question, issued on 15th May, 1928.

**SHIPBUILDING: BARROW.**—Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society v. Barrow Shipbuilders' Association. *Difference*.—Claim for higher rate of payment when using certain rivets. *Board of Arbitration*, consisting of Sir Harold S. Morris, K.C. (Chairman), Mr. A. L. Ayre, and Mr. J. Hamilton (Employers' Representatives), and Councillor George J. Rowe, J.P., and Mr. William Mackie (Workpeople's Representatives), appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to determine the matter. Award.—Claim conceded as from 24th April, 1928. Issued 25th May, 1928.

##### (C.)—OTHER SETTLEMENTS.

**HOSIERY DYEING: DERBY.**—Midland Counties Federation of Hosiery Finishers v. Messrs. William Lowe (Derby), Limited, Derwent Side Dye Works, Derby. *Difference*.—Strike against introduction of the Nottingham piece price list in place of the Leicester list. Negotiations having failed to produce a settlement, the operatives' side of the Midland Hosiery Dyeing Joint Industrial Council gave notice of their refusal to handle goods of any hosiery manufacturer who sent work to the firm. *Settlement*.—Work to be resumed on the terms obtaining prior to dispute and question to be referred to a single Arbitrator appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919. *Agreed*.—17th May, 1928.

#### TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

##### Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.

##### I.—NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

###### Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (England and Wales).

Proposal R.B. (C.M.) 3, dated 22nd May, 1928, to vary minimum rates of wages for certain classes of male and female workers in the area comprising the counties of Gloucestershire (except the County Borough of Bristol), Herefordshire, Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. Objection period expires 22nd July, 1928.

Proposal R.B. (L) 3, dated 25th May, 1928, to vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers in the area comprising the County Borough of Croydon in the County of Surrey. Objection period expires 25th July, 1928.

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

Proposal N.I.B. (N.10), dated 31st May, 1928, to fix and to cancel, respectively, certain general minimum piece-rates, and to vary certain other general minimum piece-rates for female workers in the trade.

The objection period expires in the case of the proposed fixation of rates on 29th June, 1928. In the case of the proposed variation and cancellation of rates the objection period expired on 13th June.

##### II.—PUBLIC INQUIRY.

Sir Harold Morris, K.C., the Commissioner appointed to hold a public inquiry in connection with the Trade Boards (Milk Distributive) Draft Special Order dated 29th February, 1928, held the inquiry in London on 15th May.

The main question argued before the Commissioner concerned the retail sale of milk by farmers and cowkeepers, and whether the Order should be amended in this respect. Other "objections" related to the inclusion of certain incidental operations; the exclusion of dried or condensed milk; the exclusion of transport of goods by common carriers; and the position of establishments engaged in the manufacture of milk products.

The Commissioner, on 21st May, reported that the Order should stand as drafted; and the Special Order has now been issued (see below).

#### III.—SPECIAL ORDER.

##### Milk Distributive Trade.

The Minister of Labour has made a Special Order, the Trade Boards (Milk Distributive) Order, 1928, dated 14th June, 1928, altering the description of the Milk Distributive Trade given in the Appendix to the Trade Boards (Milk Distributive) Order, 1920, as varied by the Trade Boards (Milk Distributive) Order, 1926.

The terms of the Special Order are as set out on page 111 of the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for March, 1928.

An Explanatory Memorandum in respect of the above Order has been issued by the Minister of Labour for the guidance of all concerned.

#### IV.—REGULATIONS.

Consequent upon the making of the Special Order for the Milk Distributive Trade referred to above, the Minister of Labour has issued Regulations dated 14th June, 1928, with respect to the constitution and proceedings of the Milk Distributive Trade Boards for England and Wales and for Scotland respectively, under which he has appointed new Trade Boards with jurisdiction in respect of the trade as now defined. Mr. C. Doughty, K.C., and Mr. J. McDonald, K.C., have been appointed to be Chairmen of the new Trade Boards for England and Wales and for Scotland respectively, and Mr. F. Popplewell, O.B.E., Office of Trade Boards, 1, Whitehall Gardens, London, S.W. 1, to be Secretary of the Boards.

#### OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

**AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.**—*Agricultural Statistics, 1927. Vol. LXII, Part I. Report on the acreage and production of crops and number of live stock in England and Wales.* Ministry of Agriculture. (S.O. publication; price 1s. 3d.) (See page 207.)

**EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY.**—*Education and Industry (a) England and Wales (b) Scotland. Second Reports of the Committees.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publications; price 9s. each.)

**FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.**—*Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year 1927. Part 5. Building Societies.* (S.O. publication; price 3s.)

**HEALTH SERVICES.**—*Ninth Annual Report of the Scottish Board of Health, 1927.* (Cmd. 3112; price 6s. 6d.)

**JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT.**—*Reports of Advisory Committees for Juvenile Employment, 1927.* (i) Bristol; (ii) Glasgow; (iii) Sheffield; (iv) Dundee; (v) Doncaster. Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publications; price 9d., 9d., 6d., 6d., 6d., respectively.)

**MIGRATION.**—*Migration laws and treaties. Volume I. Emigration laws and regulations. Studies and Reports, Series O. (Migration) No. 3.* International Labour Office. (Geneva, 1928; London, P. S. King & Son, Ltd.; price 7s. 6d.)

**MINING.**—*Output and employment at metalliferous mines, quarries, etc., during the quarter ended December 31, 1927.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication; price 4d.)

**OFFICIAL STATISTICS.**—(i) *Guide to current official statistics of the United Kingdom, volume six, 1927.* Permanent Consultative Committee on Official Statistics. (S.O. publication; price 1s.) (See page 207.) (ii) *International Statistical Year-book, 1927.* League of Nations, Economic and Financial Section. (Geneva, 1928; price 7s. 6d.)

**POOR LAW RELIEF.**—*Statement showing the number of persons in receipt of poor law relief in England and Wales in the quarter ending March, 1928, with some particulars as to the number of "unemployed" persons in receipt of such relief.* Ministry of Health (S.O. publication; price 4d.) (See page 206.)

**RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.**—*Returns of accidents and casualties as reported by the several railway companies in Great Britain during the year ending 31st December, 1927.* Ministry of Transport. (S.O. publication; price 1s.) (See page 206.)

**SAFEGUARDING OF INDUSTRIES.**—*Second Report of the Committee on enamelled hollow-ware.* Board of Trade. (Cmd. 3115; price 3d.)

Contains particulars of numbers employed, and of wages in this and in foreign countries.

**SAFETY.**—*Industrial Safety Congress organised jointly by the Home Office and the National "Safety First" Association, and held in Caxton Hall, Westminster, and at the Home Office Industrial Museum, Westminster, London, March 20th, 1928. Report of proceedings.* Home Office. (S.O. publication; price 9d.)

**STATISTICAL ABSTRACT.**—*Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom for each of the fifteen years from 1912 to 1926, seventy-first number.* Board of Trade (in conjunction with the Ministry of Labour and the Registrars-General). (Cmd. 3084; price 6s. 6d.)

**TEXTILE INDUSTRIES.**—*Survey of textile industries, cotton, wool, artificial silk, being Part III of a survey of industries.* Committee on Industry and Trade. (S.O. publication; price 3s. 6d.) (See page 207.)

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.**—*Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1927. (a) Decisions given by the Umpire respecting claims to benefit during the month of April, 1928.* U.I. 440. Pamphlet No. 4/1928. (b) *Vol. VI. Selected decisions given during the calendar year 1927, with index.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publications; price 6d. and 7s. 6d. respectively.)



## GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

## LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, MAY, 1928.

## ADMIRALTY.

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

Devonport: Erection of Electrical Fitting Shop: A. N. Coles & Son, Ltd., Plymouth.—Portland: Heating Apparatus: Heywood & Bryett, London, S.E.—Portsmouth: Extension of "Errol Hall": J. Croad, Gosport.—Creosoted Timber: Gabriel Wade & English, Northam, Southampton; W. Crundall & Co., Ltd., Dover.—Steel Rails: Bolekow, Vaughan & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—Creosoted Sleepers: Burt, Boulton & Haywood, Ltd., London, E.C.—H.M. Naval Establishment Abroad: Steel Water-Tank: Clayton, Son & Co., Ltd., Hunslet, Leeds.

## (Contract and Purchase Department.)

Battery Gear: Tudor Accumulator Co., Ltd., Dukinfield.—Cable Clips: Hawkers, Ltd., Birmingham; J. Lawton & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; E. Showell & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—Cables, Electric: British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Helsby; The General Electric Co., Ltd., Southampton; Glover & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., North Woolwich; Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., Charlton, Kent.—Charger Cases: Hugh Stevenson & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—Cooler: Reavell & Co., Ltd., Ipswich.—Condenser Units: Sparklets, Ltd., London, N.; Condenser Boxes and Condensers: The Park Royal Engineering Co., Ltd., London N.W.—Drives, Variable Speed, for Planing Machines: Stothert & Pitt, Ltd., Bath.—Enamels: Robert Ingham Clark & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Colthurst & Harding, Ltd., Bristol; Gross, Sherwood & Heald, Ltd., Barking, Essex; London Varnish & Enamel Co., Ltd., London, E.—Electric Light Installation: G. E. Taylor & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Firebricks: Glenboig Union Fireclay Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—Fireclay: Bonnybridge Silica & Fireclay Co., Ltd., Bonnybridge; Castleary Fireclay Co., Ltd., Castleary, near Glasgow; J. T. Price & Co., Ltd., Stourbridge.—Flour: Spillers, Ltd. (W. Vernon & Sons, Br.), London, E.C.; S. P. Mumford & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; J. & H. Robinson, Ltd., London, S.E.; Spillers, Ltd. (W. Vernon & Sons, Br.), Liverpool.—Gears, Variable Speed: Variable Speed Gear Co., Ltd., Crayford, Kent.—Glycerine: United Kingdom Glycerine Producers' Association, Ltd., London, E.C.—Iron, Firebar: Hull Forge Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Hull.—Jiggers, Launching and Embarking: MacTaggart Scott & Co., Ltd., Loanhead, Edinburgh.—Kit Bags, Seamen's: Thos. Briggs (London), Ltd., London, N.—Lamps, Electric: General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.—Lathes, Commutator Turning and Bending: John Lang & Sons, Ltd., Johnstone, Glasgow.—Lathes, Heavy-Duty Engine: Denhams Engineering Co., Ltd., Halifax, Yorks.—Lathes, Hexagon Turret: Alfred Herbert, Ltd., Coventry; H. W. Ward & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Lathes, High-Speed Screwcutting Gap: John Lang & Sons, Ltd., Johnstone, Glasgow.—Lathe, Surfacing and Screwcutting: Dean Smith & Grace, Ltd., Keighley, Yorks; Ward Haggas & Smith, London, S.W.—Machines, Drilling, Tapping, etc.: W. Muir & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—Machines, Slitting: Butler Machine Tool Co., Ltd., Halifax, Yorks.—Mackintoshes, Blue: C. Mackintosh & Co., Ltd., Manchester; D. Moseley & Sons, Ltd., Manchester; W. Wolstencroft & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—Meat and Vegetable Rations: E. Lazenby & Son, Ltd., London, W.—Paper, Non-absorbent: Packing Materials Association, Ltd., Manchester.—Pumps, Electrically-driven: Stothert & Pitt, Ltd., Bath.—Regulators, Automatic Feed: Contraflo Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Resistances: Electro Mechanical Brake Co., Ltd., West Bromwich.—Snatch Blocks: Fellows Bros., Ltd., Cradley Heath.—Suet: Hugon & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—Surgical Dressings: Vernon & Co., Ltd., Preston, Warrle; Cotton Co., Ltd., Manchester.—Steel-Wire Hawers: Binks Bros., Ltd., Millwall, E.—Steel-Wire Ropes: Binks Bros., Ltd., Millwall, E.; British Ropes, Ltd., London, W.; Dixon & Corbitt and R. S. Newall & Co., Ltd., Gateshead-on-Tyne; E. Elliot & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; R. Hood Haggie & Son, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington; Wrights Ropes, Ltd., Birmingham.—Timber for Cases: A. & G. Paterson, Ltd., Aberdeen.—Torpedo Boat Destroyer: Parsons Marine Steam Turbine Co., Ltd., Wallsend-on-Tyne. (Hull: J. I. Thornycroft & Co., Ltd., Southampton).—Transformers: Ferranti, Ltd., Hollinwood, Lancs; Foster Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; W. H. Wilson, Surbiton, Surrey.—Twine: The Port Glasgow & Newark Sailcloth Co., Ltd., Port Glasgow; The Pymore Mill Co., Ltd., Bridport; John Holmes & Sons, Ltd., East Ardsley; The Belfast Ropework Co., Ltd., Belfast; Jameson & Co., Ltd., Hull; Rendall & Coombs, Bridport.—Valves, W/T: General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.; Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End, Middlesex.—W/T Tuners: Gambrell Bros., Ltd., London, S.W.; The Plessey Co., Ltd., Ilford.—Wireless Fittings (Metal): Highton & Son, Ltd., London, E.; J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Sir James Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; Mechans, Limited, Glasgow; The Park Royal Engineering Co., Ltd., London, N.W.; W. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.

## WAR OFFICE.

Acid, Sulphuric, etc.: Spencer, Chapman & Messel, Ltd., London, E.—Aluminium Alloy Bars: The British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Prescot.—Asbestos Cement Sheet: Turner Bros. Asbestos Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Asbestos Protected Metal Sheets: Wolverhampton Corrugated Iron Co., Ltd., Ellesmere Port, near Birkenhead.—Batteries and Cells: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London S.E.; India Rubber & Gutta Percha Tel. Wks. Co., Ltd., London, E.

Blankets, G.S.: Rawden, Briggs & Co., Ltd., Dewsbury.—Boxes, Ammunition: Brownlee & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Falcon Aircraft Co., Slough.—Brass Bar: King's Norton Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Brushes, Hair: G. B. Kent & Sons, Ltd., Hemel Hempstead.—Brushes, Shaving: W. J. Withers, London, S.E.—Brushes, Tooth: W. R. Tilbury & Son, London, E.—Bushes: Weybridge Motor Engineering Co., Ltd., Weybridge.—Cable, Electric: Callender's Cable & Construction Co., Ltd., Leigh, Lancs; Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.—Cartons, Ammunition: Hugh Stevenson & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—Cases, Mattress, M.S.: C. Groom, Ltd., London, E.C.—Cases, Mattress, S.S.: T. Briggs (London), Ltd., London, E.C.—Casks, Vat: Edwards & Co., London, S.E.; W. Ryan & Co., London, E.—Castings: A. Baird & Son, Ltd., Hamilton, near Glasgow.—Cement, Portland: Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., Northfleet, Kent, etc.—Chassis, Medium, 6-wheeled: J. I. Thornycroft & Co., Ltd., Basingstoke; Karrier Motors, Ltd., Huddersfield; Guy Motors, Ltd., Wolverhampton; Crossley Motors, Ltd., Manchester; Albion Motor Car Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Leyland Motors, Ltd., Leyland.—Combs, Hair: Aberdeen Comb Works Co., Ltd., Aberdeen.—Cooking Apparatus and Spares: Richmond Gas Stove & Meter Co., Ltd., Warrington; Adams & Sons, London, S.W.—Copper Ingot: H. Gardner & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; The Anglo Metal Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Covers, Waterproof Lorry: C. Groom, Ltd., London, E.C.—Cylinders: J. G. Carrick & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—Dowels, Tan: D. & R. Duke, Brechin; Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee; A. Blyth & Co., Kirkcaldy.—Duck, Linen: W. Lumsden & Son, Freuchie, Fife; Lamb & Scott, Ltd., Brechin; Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen; Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee; A. Blyth & Co., Kirkcaldy; D. & R. Duke, Brechin.—Fire Extinguishers: Pyrene Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Fire Hydrants: Ham, Baker & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Forks, Table: T. Wilkinson & Sons, Birmingham.—Frames, Aerial: J. M. Dangerfield, London, S.E.—Gear Planing Machine: J. Parkinson & Son, Shipley.—Goggles: Wm. Stephens & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Grinding Machine: B.S.A. Tools, Ltd., Birmingham.—Holdalls, Web: Mills Equipment Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Knives, Table: Sheffield Steel Products, Ltd., Sheffield.—Mattresses, Officers', and Covers: Hampton & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W.—Mattresses, S.S.: E. H. Price, Hadleigh.—Motor Cars: Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Coventry.—Motor Spares: Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—Ovens, Baking: S. A. Rhodes, Ltd., Manchester.—Paint, White Lead: Cookson Lead & Antimony Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Picric Powder: Nobel Industries, Ltd., Derby.—Pontoons: Harland & Wolff, Ltd., Bootle.—Ranges, Cooking: Dobbie, Forbes & Co., Larbert; Smith & Wellstood, Ltd., Bonnybridge; Gillespies, Ltd., Bonnybridge.—Razors, Safety: Gillette, Safety Razor Ltd., Slough.—Shalloon: C. B. Brook & Co., Ltd., Bradford; J. W. Whitworth & Co., Ltd., Luddenden Foot, Yorks.—Shoes, Canvas: Stead & Simpson, Ltd., Leicester.—Silk Cloth: E. Wilman & Sons, Ltd., Hadfield, Lancs; Ireland & Wishart, Ltd., Kirkcaldy.—Spoons: Atkinson Bros., Ltd., Sheffield.—Steam Lorry: Clayton Wagons, Ltd., Lincoln.—Steel Bars, Bright Drawn: Steel Nut & Joseph Hampton, Ltd., Wednesbury.—Steel Billet: Vickers-Armstrong, Ltd., Sheffield or Openshaw.—Steel Joists: Dorman Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—Steel, Tool: Samuel Osborn & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.—Surgical Dressings: R. Bailey & Sons, Ltd., Stockport; Robinson & Sons, Ltd., Chesterfield; A. Berton, Ltd., London, E.C.; T. J. Smith & Nephew, Ltd., Hull; Vernon & Co., Ltd., Preston; The Warde Cotton Co., Ltd., Manchester.—Tartan, Blue: Colbeck Bros., Ltd., Wakefield.—Ticken, Linen: Wm. Ewart & Son, Ltd., Belfast.—Timber, Yellow Deal: Montague L. Meyer, Ltd., London, E.C.—Tyres and Tubes: Dunlop Rubber Co., Birmingham; British Goodrich Rubber Co., Leyland; St. Helen's Cable & Rubber Co., Slough.—Vehicles, 4-tracked—Crossley-Kegresse Spares: Crossley Motors, Ltd., Manchester.—Zinc: The British Metal Corporation, Ltd., London, E.C.; H. Gardner & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Works Services: Building Works and Services: Woolwich, Royal Arsenal, Reconstruction of T Pier: Holloway Bros. (London), Ltd., London, S.W. Norwich, Artificers' Work: C. A. Green & Sons, Ltd., Ipswich. Didcot, Foxhall Camp, Fencing and Gates: Baynes (Reading), Ltd., Theale, Berks. Exeter and Okehampton, Periodical Services: Fred. Holdsworth, Ltd., Shipley, Yorks. Brighton, Preston Barracks, Internal Painting: S. Lupton & Sons, Bradford. Kneller Hall and Kingston Barracks, Painting: Arundel (Painters), Ltd., Bradford. Woolwich, Grand Depot Barracks, Painting; Woolwich, Royal Herbert Hospital, and R.A.M.C. Officers' Mess, Painting: W. G. Beaumont & Sons, London, E. Hire of Camp Materials: F. R. Hipperson, London, E.C. Chatham, Periodical Painting: Sheerness, Periodical Painting: Bagnall & Sons, Ltd., Shipley, Yorks.

## AIR MINISTRY.

Accumulators: Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, E.—Acetylene, Dissolved: Allen, Liversidge, Ltd., London, S.W.—Aerial Reels: Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., London, S.E.—Aircraft: Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—Aircraft Appliances: H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.—Aircraft Modification: Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil, Somerset.—Aircraft Photographic Film: Kodak, Ltd., London, W.C.—Wellington & Ward, Ltd., Elstree, Herts.—Aircraft, Repairs: Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.—Aircraft, Spares: Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Parkside, Coventry; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex; H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames; A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Newton Heath, Manchester; Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge, Surrey.—Aircraft Wheels

and Tyres: Palmer Tyre Co., London, E.C.—Airscrews and Cases: Aircrow Co., Weybridge, Surrey.—Buildings and Works Services: Artificers' Works (Sealand and Altrincham): F. Butterworth, Blackley, Manchester. Conversion to Hospital (Halton): Fleet & Roberts, Aylesbury, Bucks. Outfall Drain (Cardington): J. F. Blair & Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Painting (Henlow): A. Bagnall & Sons, Shipley, Leeds. W.O.'s Quarters (Bicester): Hinkins & Frewin, Ltd., Oxford.—Cable and Boxes: W. T. Glover & Co., Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester.—Cable, Electric: British Insulated Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.; General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—Cable, Wire: G. G. G. & Robson, Ltd., Sunderland; J. Shaw, Ltd., Sheffield.—Colours, Identification, Nitro: Cellon (Richmond), Ltd., Richmond, Surrey.—Dope, Cellulose Acetate: British Celanese, Ltd., London, S.W.; R. Ingham, Clarke & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; Nobel Chemical Finishes, Ltd., Slough, Bucks.—Dope, Covering Nitro: Nobel Chemical Finishes, Ltd., Slough, Bucks.—Engines, Aircraft: Armstrong-Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; Rolls-Royce, Ltd., Derby.—Engines, Aircraft, Development Test on: Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—Engine, Aircraft, Development, Running-on and Reduction Gears: Rolls-Royce, Ltd., Derby.—Engines, Aircraft, Hand-starting Magnets: British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Coventry.—Engines, Aircraft, Sectioning: Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—Engines, Aircraft, Spares: Armstrong-Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—Engines, Aircraft, Type Test: Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—Frocks, Khaki Drill: Compton, Sons & Webb, Ltd., London, E.; G. Glanfield & Son, Ltd., London, E.—Indicators, Air-Speed: S. Smith & Sons (M.A.), Ltd., London, N.W.—Petrol Pump, Engine-driven: D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—Radiators, Aircraft: Serek Radiators, Ltd., Birmingham.—Radium Compound: Ralucor, Ltd., London, E.C.—Rolls-Royce Spares: Rolls-Royce, Ltd., Derby.—Shorts, Gymnasium: Douglas Waime & Co., Ltd., London, E.—Skates, Side-tracking: Eagle Engineering Co., Ltd., Warwick.—Stands, Engine-erecting: Monarch Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—Tanks, Portable: F. Braby & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—Trestles: Supermarine Aviation Works, Ltd., Southampton.—Trojan Bodies: W. J. Reynolds, London, E.—Trojan Chassis: Trojan, Ltd., Croydon.—Valves, W/T: A. C. Cossor, Ltd., London, N.—Varnish-remover: W. J. Bush & Co., Ltd., London, E.

## H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

Cord: Belfast Ropework Co., Ltd., Belfast; Wrights Ropes, Ltd., Birmingham.—Envelopes: Chapman & Co. (Balham), Ltd., London, S.W.; McCorquodale & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Ink, Duplicating: Ellams Duplicator Co., Ltd., Bushey, Herts.—Paper (of various descriptions): J. Brown & Co., Ltd., Penicuik, Midlothian; Caldwell Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Inverkeithing, Fife; A. Cowan & Sons, Ltd., Penicuik, Midlothian; R. Craig & Sons, Ltd., Caldercruix, Lanark; J. Cropper & Co., Ltd., Kendal, Westmorland; Wm. Joynson & Son, St. Mary Cray, Kent; London Paper Mills Co., Ltd., Dartford, Kent; Olive & Partington, Ltd., Glossop; Olives Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Bury, Lancs.; Portals, Ltd., Whitechurch, Hants.—Printing, Ruling, Binding, etc.: Posters (Empire Marketing Board): Dobson Molle, Ltd., Edinburgh.—Stencils: Ellams Duplicator Co., Ltd., Bushey, Herts; D. Gestetner, Ltd., London, N.—Tape: J. North Hardy & Son, Ltd., Manchester.

## POST OFFICE.

Apparatus, Telegraphic: Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.—Apparatus, Telephonic: Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., Beeston, Notts; General Electric Co., Ltd., Telephone Works, Stoke, Coventry; Plessey Co., Ltd., Ilford, Essex; Revo Electric Co., Ltd., Tividale, Tipton, Staffs; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Sterling Telephone & Electric Co., Ltd., Dagenham, Essex; Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—Apparatus, Protective: Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.—Arms, Wood: British Australian Timber Co., Ltd., London, E.; Millars Timber & Trading Co., Ltd., Purfleet, Essex.—Bags, Gunny: W. Westover & Sons, London, E.—Battery Stores: General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Bodies for Motor Vans: Bonalack & Sons, London, E.; W. H. Perry, Ltd., London, N.; W. & T. Robson, Ltd., London, E.C.—Boxes, Packing: William Bridgwater & Sons, Birmingham; G. W. Davies, Ltd., London, S.E.; Thames Board Mills, Ltd., Purfleet, Essex.—Cable Various: British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Helsby and Prescot; Callender's Cable & Construction Co., Ltd., Belvedere, Kent; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown, Middlesex; General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry; W. T. Glover & Co., Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester; Hackbridge Cable Co., Ltd., Hackbridge, Surrey; W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.; Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., Charlton, Kent; Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, E.—Calcium Carbide: W. Moyes & Sons, Glasgow.—Casks: Receiver & Manager, Tyson & Co. (Millwall), Ltd., London, E.—Castings, Joint Box: Jones & Attwood, Ltd., Stourbridge; United Steel Cos., Ltd. (Thos. Butlin & Co.), Wellingborough; Joseph Williamson & Company, Ltd., Wellingborough.—Chassis for Vans: Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—Clocks: Magneta Time Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Coils, Loading (to encase): Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, E.—Ducts: Albion Clay Co., Ltd., Woodville, Burton-on-Trent; Donington Sanitary Pipe & Fire Brick Co., Ltd., Moira, Burton-on-Trent; Hepworth Iron Co., Ltd., Hazlehead, Sheffield; Jas. Oakes & Co. (Riddings Collieries), Ltd., Jacksdales, Notts; Oates & Green, Ltd., Halifax; Standard Brick & Terra Cotta Co., Ltd., Buckley.—Handcarts, Joints: Bradford Patent Truck & Trolley Co., Bradford.—Handlamps, Electric: Ward & Goldstone, Pendleton, Manchester.—Kiosks: D. G. Somerville & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—Lamps, Electric: General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.—Lamps Torch-

blowing: T. E. Bladon & Son, Ltd., Birmingham.—Lorries: Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—Paper: Olives Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Bury; Reed & Smith, Ltd., Cullompton, Devon.—Paper, Telegraph: Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., Dunstable & Watford.—Pipe, Mild Steel: John Russell & Co., Ltd., Walsall; Stewart & Lloyds, Ltd., Halesowen.—Rope, Hemp: Frost Bros., Ltd., London, E.—Saddles for Cycles: Lycett Saddle & Motor Accessories Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—String: John Holmes & Sons, Ltd., East Ardsley, Wakefield; Jute Industries Ltd., Dundee; William Waites Sons & Atkinson (1922), Ltd., Leeds.—Tape, Linen: Geo. Hattersley & Sons, Ltd., Keighley.—Tents, Jointers: Adam & Lane and Neave, Ltd., London, E.—Troughing, Wood: Calders, Ltd., London, S.E.—Twine: Porter Bros., Ltd., Liverpool.—Vans: Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—Wallboards: Venesta, Ltd., London, E.—Wire, Copper, Binding: E. & E. Kaye, Ltd., Ponders End, Middlesex.—Wire, Copper, Soft: Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton.—Wire, Copper, Tinned: Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown, Middlesex.—Wire, Flameproof: Macintosh Cable Co., Ltd., Derby; Reliance Electric Wire Co., London, E.C.

Cable-Manufacture, Supply, Drawing-in and Jointing: Rochdale-Halifax (No. 2): British Insulated Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.—Conduits—Laying: Manchester (York Street—Rusholme Road): J. E. Turner, Heywood, Lancs. Wallington (Surrey); Kingston (Scheme I); Luton; Enfield (Eversley Park); J. A. Ewart, Ltd., London, S.W. Ravensbourne—Bromley South; High Barnet; Boscombe: H. Farrow, Ltd., London, N.W. Riverside (Stamford Brook Area); Dorchester; Palmers Green (Myddleton Road); Guildford (Surrey): O. C. Summers, London, N. Stowmarket; Ashton-in-Makerfield; Grampound Road and Perranarworthal (Cornwall); Dunster: J. F. Hodge, Rednal, near Birmingham. Manchester—Chester (Section I): J. W. Thornley & Sons, Farnworth, near Bolton. Nottingham—Loughborough (Section I); (Section II): C. S. Tomlinson, Alfreton, Derbyshire. Dundee—Aberdeen (Section I); (Section IV); (Section V); Banbury (Oxon) and High Wycombe (Bucks): W. Dobson (Edinburgh), Ltd., Edinburgh. Dundee—Aberdeen (Section II); (Section III): Pemberton and Upholland (Lancs); Windermere: Norwest Construction Co., Ltd., Litherland, Liverpool. Dundee—Aberdeen (Section VI): J. McLaren, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne. Putney—Wandswoth; Wimbleton—Ridgway; Kensington Auto. Area (Sydney Street, Park Walk, etc.); Bourne End (Wycombe): J. E. Billings & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Eastry (Kent): G. E. Taylor & Co., London, E.C. Leicester and Evington; Ilkeston (Notts): Whittaker Ellis, Ltd., London, S.W. Birmingham—Nuneaton (Section I); (Section II): W. Turner (Ardrwick), Ltd., Manchester. Newhaven and Rippe (Sussex): Bridgwater Bros., Ashted, Surrey. Liverpool—Culwys Bay, (Section II); Dunstable: Moore & Rowley, Northfield, Birmingham. Sunderland—Sheraton: Fordyce Bros., Middlesbrough. Grantham—Sleaford; Wolverhampton West: Martin & Element, Ltd., Smethwick, Staffs. Salisbury; Southend-on-Sea: Hodge Bros. (Contra), Ltd., Northfield, Birmingham. Edinburgh—Liberton—Loanhead—Lasswade Junction; Tillicoultry: Adam Duncan, Glasgow. Riverside (The Grove), W.: A. Thomson & Co. (London), Ltd., London, W.C. Andover (Hants): J. Mowlem & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Congleton; Chandler Bros., Middlesbrough.—Loading Manholes: Manchester Preston: W. Turner (Ardrwick), Ltd., Manchester.—Telephone Exchange Equipment: Mumbles (Swansea Multi Exchange Area); Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-Contractors: Small Electric Motors, Ltd., Beckenham, S.E., for Dynamotor. Deal: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Anfield (Liverpool); Streatham; Castleton (Rochdale Multi Exchange Area); Heywood (Rochdale Multi Exchange Area); Littleborough (Rochdale Multi Exchange Area); Milnrow (Rochdale Multi Exchange Area); Norden (Rochdale Multi-Exchange Area); Shaw (Rochdale Multi-Exchange Area); Whitworth (Rochdale Multi-Exchange Area); Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Wiggins, Teape & Co., Ltd. (Dover); Relay Automatic Telephone Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Ventilating Plant: Metropolitan Telephone Exchange: Matthews & Yates, Ltd., Swinton, near Manchester.

## CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Asbestos Cement Sheets: British Fibrocement Works, Ltd., London, W.C.; Turner Bros., Asbestos Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Asbestos Sheets: Bell's Polite & Everite Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—Axlebox Bodies: Birmingham Railway Carriage and Wagon Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Bandages: R. Bailey & Son, Ltd., London, W.C.—Belting: Reddaway, F., & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—Blankets: T. and D. Lee & Sons, Dewsbury.—Boilers: Ruston & Hornsby, Ltd., Lincoln.—Bolt Screwing Machines: Kendall & Gent, 1920, Ltd., Manchester.—"Bonmax" and "Bonply" Sheets: Bayliss, Jones & Bayliss, Ltd., London, E.C.—Boots: Stephen Walker, Walgrave, Northants.—Boring and Turning Mill: Webster & Bennett, Ltd., Coventry.—Brake Material: Westinghouse Brake and Saxby Signal Co., Ltd., London, N.—Brass Containers: J. Lawton & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—Brass Sheets: Muntz's Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Cable: Wood, Henry & Co., Ltd., Saltney, near Manchester.—Calico: Ashton Bros., & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—Canvas: Waterproofing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Car: Crossley Motors, Ltd., Manchester.—Cement: T. Beynon & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Chassis: Albion Motor Car Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., London, W.; Guy Motors, Ltd., Wolverhampton; Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham.—Clothing: D. Gurteen & Sons, Haverhill; North British Rubber Co., London, W.; D. Payne & Sons, Hinckley.—Coal: H. C. Vivian & Co., Cardiff; Watts, Watts & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Conversion Equipment: Stone, J., & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Copper: British Metal Corporation, Ltd., London, E.C.—Culverts: Wall's, Ltd., Birmingham.—Disinfectant: Manlove, Allott & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—



**Door and Window Fittings:** J. Beresford & Son, Ltd., Birmingham; J. Gibbons, Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Drawing Materials:** Allott, Jones & Co., Ltd., Liverpool; Cooke, Troughton & Sims, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Drill:** J. H. Greenhow & Co., Manchester; Hampson, Hughes & Co., Manchester; Holman Bros, Ltd., Camborne, Cornwall.—**Drugs:** Boots Pure Drug Co., Ltd., Nottingham; Howards & Sons, Ltd., Ilford.—**Ducts:** Doulton & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Electric Welding Accessories:** Quasi-Arc Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Engines:** Ransomes, Simms & Jefferies, Ltd., Ipswich.—**Expanded Metal:** Wm. Jacks & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Trussed Concrete Steel Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Fans:** Verity's, Limited, London, W.C.—**Fire Equipment:** Merryweather & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Fire Extinguishers:** Foamite Firefoam, Ltd., London, W.—**Fish-bolts:** Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Furnace Fronts:** Wallsend Slipway & Engineering Co., Wallsend-on-Tyne.—**Furniture:** Lawn & Alder, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Gauze:** Wardle Cotton Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Granulators:** F. Parker & Co., Ltd., Leicester.—**Iodoform:** Southall Bros. & Barclay, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Iron:** Dorman, Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Laboratory Apparatus:** Baird & Tatlock, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Lathes:** A. Herbert, Ltd., Coventry; H. W. Ward & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Line Materials:** Bullers, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Locomotives:** Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; W. G. Bagnall, Ltd., Stafford; Stephenson, R., & Co., Ltd., Darlington.—**Locomotive Spares:** Beyer, Peacock & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Superheater Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Vulcan Foundry Co., Ltd., Newton-le-Willow, Lancs.—**Machinery:** T. Robinson & Sons, Ltd., Rochdale.—**Metal Doors and Windows:** Crittall Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Mixing Machines:** Phoenix Engineering Co., Ltd., Chard.—**Oil:** John Etherington, London, S.E.; Vacuum Oil Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; C. C. Wakefield & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Paint:** Torbay Paint Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Paper:** Carrongrove Paper Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Corke, Sons & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Olives Paper Mill Co., Bury; Wiggins, Teape & Alex. Pirie (Sales), Ltd., London, E.—**Phosphor-Bronze:** Phosphor Bronze Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Pipes:** A. & J. Main & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Thos. Piggott & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Staveley Coal & Iron Co., Ltd., near Chesterfield; Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Planing Machine:** Craven Bros., Manchester, Ltd., Reddish, Stockport.—**Pumps:** Worthington-Simpson, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Railway Track:** F. Theakston, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Road Rollers:** Aveling & Porter, Ltd., Rochester; Barford & Perkins, Ltd., Peterborough.—**Serge:** Hobson & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Signalling Apparatus:** Railway Signal Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Sprayers:** Wm. Weeks & Co., Ltd., Maidstone.—**Static Transformer:** Metropolitan-Vickers Co., Manchester.—**Stationery:** Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Steel:** P. & W. Maclellan, Ltd., Glasgow; Wolverhampton Corr. Iron Co., Ltd., Ellesmere Port, near Birkenhead.—**Steelwork:** Horseley Bridge and Engineering Co., Ltd., Tipton, Staffs; J. Lysaght, Ltd., Bristol; F. Morton & Co., Ltd., Liverpool; Patent Shaft and Axletree Co., London, S.W.—**Superheaters:** Superheater Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Surgical Instruments:** Down Bros., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Switchgear:** British Thomson Houston Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Tablets:** Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tar:** J. E. C. Lord (Manchester), Ltd., Manchester.—**Telegraph Ironwork:** Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Telegraph Poles:** J. Spencer, Ltd., Wednesbury.—**Telephone Apparatus:** Ericssons Telephones, Ltd., London, W.C.; General Electric Co., Stoke, Coventry.—**Tin:** Capper, Pass & Son, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tools:** V. & R. Blakemore, London, E.C.; Vickers, Armstrongs, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Transmission-Line Material:** Callender's Cable & Construction Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tryparsamide:** May & Baker, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Tyres, Carriage and Wagon:** H. Bessemer & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Monkbridge Iron & Steel Co., Leeds.—**Tyres, Motor:** Avon India Rubber Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Underframes:** Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagon Co., London, S.W.—**Wagons:** Leeds Forge Co., Ltd., Leeds; R. Y. Pickering & Co., Ltd., Wisahaw, Lancashire.—**Water Level Indicators:** Glenfield & Kennedy, Ltd., Kilmarnock.—**Waterworks Materials:** Cochrane & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough-on-Tees; Nicholson & West, Ltd., Halifax; Stanton Ironworks Co., Ltd., near Nottingham.—**Wire:** Elliott's Metal Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Henley's Telegraph Works, London, E.C.; Rd. Johnson, Clapham & Morris, Ltd., Manchester; Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley, near Wellington, Salop; F. Smith & Co., Manchester; Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington.

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& Sons, Ltd., London, S.W. Deal Telephone Exchange—Asphalter: Excel Asphalte Co., Ltd., London, W.; Steelwork: Measures Bros. (1911), Ltd., London, S.E. Dollis Hill, Cricklewood, N.W., Research Station—Erection of Central Block: Wilson Lovatt & Sons, Ltd., Wolverhampton. Egham, Staines, P.O., etc.—Erection: Bunning & Fitton-Adams, Ltd., Godalming. Heywood Employment Exchange—Plasterer: John Hamer & Sons, Bury. H.M. Stationery Office, S.E.—Alterations: Fairweather & Ranger, London, W.C. Hounslow Telephone Exchange—Alterations: A. J. Thair, Isleworth. Hull P.O.—Concrete Piles: Sangwin, Ltd., Hull; Mason: Quibell & Son, Ltd., Hull; Steelwork, etc.: King & Co., Ltd., Hull. Kenilworth P.O., etc.—Slater: Wormells, Coventry. Lambeth, S.E., County Court—Asphalter: T. Faldo & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Steelwork: Redpath, Brown & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Louth P.O., etc.—Erection: R. M. Phillips, Brigg. Lyme Regis P.O., etc.—Erection: Jesty & Baker, Weymouth. Manchester Telephone Exchange—C.I. Panels, etc.: Carron & Co., London, E.C. Mitcham P.O., etc.—Plasterer: F. Blundell, Harrow. Newcastle-on-Tyne, "Central" Telephone Exchange—Painter, etc.: M. Alexander & Sons, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Plasterer: Newman Bros. (Newcastle), Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Plumber, etc.: J. H. Shouksmith & Co., Ltd., York; Smith, etc.: M. Aynsley & Sons, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Tiler: Dawber, Townsley & Co., Ltd., Hull. Redhill Sorting Office—Asphalter: Ragusa Asphalte Paving Co., Ltd., London, W. Rochford, Essex, Telephone Exchange—Erection: J. C. Flaxman & Sons, Ltd., Southend-on-Sea. Southbourne, Bournemouth, Telephone Exchange—Roof Covering: F. McNeill & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. South Kensington, S.W., Science Museum—Glass to roofs of Lanterns: The Standard Patent Glazing Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Stanmore, Middlesex, Telephone Exchange—Asphalter: Permanite, Ltd., London, E.; Steelwork: Cook & Co., London, E.C. Wandsworth, S.W., Telephone Exchange—Erection: Triangular Construction Co., Ltd., East Molesey.—**Engineering Services:** Manchester, "City" Telephone Exchange—Economiser: E. Green & Son, Ltd., Wakefield. Mitcham P.O., etc.—Heating: Cannon & Hefford, London, S.E. Rampton, Retford, State Institution—Heating, etc.: A. Grindrod & Co., Sheffield.—**Miscellaneous:** Casements (Steel), etc.: John Thompson Beacon Windows, Ltd., Wolverhampton. Fire Extinguishers, etc.: Read & Campbell, Ltd., London, S.W. Furniture (Domestic, Office, etc.): Avery & Vincent, Southall; G. Betjemann & Sons, Ltd., London, N.; Harris & Sheldon, Ltd., London, E.C.; Roneo, Ltd., London, E.C.; The Tan Sad Chair Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; White, Allom & Co., London, W. Manhole Covers: Carron Co., Carron.

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\* April contracts.

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

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

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