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EMPLOYMENT, DISPUTES, WAGES, AND PRICES IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT.

THE depression in employment, which had become exceptionally severe at the end of March in consequence of the continued decline in trade, was rendered much more acute, during April, by the increasing shortage of fuel resulting from the general stoppage of work at the coal mines. In most of the great coal-using industries employment was greatly reduced, and in some cases, *e.g.*, pig-iron, tinplate, and pottery manufacture, it was almost at a standstill. In agriculture and in the building trades, however, employment generally was fairly well maintained throughout the month.

The percentage unemployed among members of Trade Unions (mainly of skilled workpeople) from which returns are received rose from 10·0 (or 10·5 excluding coal mining, for which no figures are available for April) to 17·6 at the end of April, and the percentage unemployed among the 12,000,000 workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act rose from 11·3 at 24th March to 15·0 at 29th April. The number of workpeople registered at the Employment Exchanges as unemployed at 29th April was approximately 1,854,000, of whom 1,261,000 were men, 448,000 were women, and the remainder were boys and girls. At 24th March, the corresponding number was 1,414,000, of whom 936,000 were men and 365,000 were women.

In addition to those unemployed, 524,000 males and 553,000 females were registered as working systematic short time at 29th April in such a manner as to entitle them to benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Act or the Out-of-Work Donation Scheme. At 24th March, the corresponding numbers were 382,000 males and 457,000 females.

The number of vacancies notified by employers to the Exchanges and unfilled at the end of April was 34,000, of which 10,000 were for men and 21,000 for women. At the end of March the total was 41,000, of which 12,000 were for men and 25,000 for women.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in April, was 44; in addition, 54 disputes which began before April were still in progress at the beginning of that month. Of the total of 98 disputes in progress at some time during the month, by far the most important was that involving almost all the workpeople in the coal-mining industry, which began on 1st April and continued throughout the month. Particulars with regard to this dispute are given on page 255.

The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in April (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was nearly 1,200,000, as compared with 31,000 in the previous month, and 140,000 in April, 1920. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during the month was nearly 24,000,000 working days,

as compared with 469,000 days in March, 1921, and 880,000 days in April, 1920.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are collected, changes in rates of wages reported to the Department as having been arranged to come into operation in April affected over 1,165,000 workpeople, of whom about 1,147,000 sustained decreases, amounting to over £270,000 in their weekly wages, and over 18,000 received increases, amounting to about £2,700 a week.

Of the total number of workpeople affected by reductions, over 900,000 had their wages reduced under sliding scale arrangements by which wages are automatically regulated in accordance with variations in the cost of living, as indicated by the index number of retail prices published in this Gazette, or (in the iron and steel trades) with the selling prices of iron or steel. The principal reductions under cost-of-living sliding scales affected railway workers, whose wages were reduced by 4s. per week; wool textile workers in Yorkshire, who sustained a reduction of about 4 per cent. on current wage rates; workpeople in the textile dyeing, bleaching, finishing, &c., trades, in whose case the reductions amounted, in Yorkshire, to about 12 per cent. on the current rates, and in Lancashire and Scotland to 9s. 8d. and 5s. 9d. per week for men and women respectively. Under sliding scales dependent on selling prices there were reductions in the wages of blast-furnacemen and iron and steel workers in various districts.

Other important reductions which came into operation during April affected workpeople engaged on civil engineering constructional work, whose wages were reduced by amounts varying from 2d. to 4d. per hour, and men employed in the heavy chemical trade and in the vehicle building and wheelwright trades, in which there was a reduction of generally 2d. per hour. There were also decreases in the wages of workpeople in the glass bottle and soap and candle trades, and of carters in London and Scotland.

A summary of the principal changes in rates of wages which have occurred during the present year is given on page 256.

RETAIL PRICES.

At 30th April the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics prepared by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was 128 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 133 per cent. at 1st April. As was the case in the previous month, the decrease was mainly due to reductions in the prices of food, but clothing also continued to decline in price. For further particulars reference should be made to the article on page 237.

The statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the average pre-war standard of living of the working classes. 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 expenditure, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living.

NATIONAL STOPPAGE OF WORK IN COAL MINES.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE for April* contained an account of the progress of the coal dispute up to the rejection by the Miners' Federation of the proposals put forward by the Prime Minister at his meeting with the Central Committee of the Mining Association and the Executive Committee of the Miners' Federation on the 12th April. A statement as to the character of these proposals, and a summary of the schemes for the future settlement of wages in the industry, submitted to the Government just prior to the stoppage by the owners and miners respectively, were given, together with an account of the proposed intervention in the dispute of the two other members of the Triple Alliance, up to the point when the decision by their Joint Conference to call a strike of their members at 10 p.m. on the 15th April was taken.

ACTION BY MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On the evening of the 14th April, a group of private Members of the House of Commons requested the Mining Association for information on the effect on miners' actual earnings of the proposed reductions in wages. Accordingly, Mr. Evan Williams, President of the Association, attended and addressed them. After hearing his statement, Mr. Frank Hodges was invited to make a similar statement on behalf of the miners. In the course of the discussion which followed this speech, it appeared that it might still be possible to get the miners to agree to a temporary settlement of the wages question on a district basis, provided that this were arranged without prejudice to future negotiations for a national settlement and a national profits pool. In view of this apparent fresh ground for discussion, the Prime Minister on the following day extended an invitation to the owners and the miners to meet him for further consideration of the wages question. Any suggestion which Mr. Hodges had made at the meeting with Members of the House of Commons was not, however, considered by the Executive of the Miners' Federation to have emanated officially from them. At their meeting of the 15th April the proposal for a temporary settlement of the wages question was repudiated by a majority of the members; and the Prime Minister's invitation to meet him again was declined. This left the miners in their former position, but Mr. Hodges' tentative proposal, warmly seconded as it had been by Mr. J. H. Thomas, speaking for the other two members of the Triple Alliance, had apparently altered the situation so far as sympathetic action was concerned; and the events which are recorded below were the outcome. It appeared, at first, that a further result would be the resignation by Mr. Hodges of the secretaryship of the Miners' Federation. He did, in fact, formally tender his resignation, but was unanimously requested by the Executive Committee to withdraw it in the interests of the whole movement, and he agreed to do so.

THREATENED STRIKE BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

The decision of the railwaymen and transport workers to call out their members on strike was communicated to the Prime Minister by letter on the 13th April. In acknowledging the letter, the Prime Minister requested to be informed of the grounds upon which these unions had "determined to inflict such a serious blow on their fellow countrymen." Accordingly, representatives of the National Union of Railwaymen, headed by Mr. J. H. Thomas, and of the National Transport Workers' Federation, headed by Mr. H. Gosling, met the Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet on the morning of the 14th April. Mr. Gosling and Mr. Thomas placed before the Prime Minister the grounds of the decision of the railwaymen's and transport workers' executives to call a strike on the following day, indicating that they were convinced of the justice of the miners' demands. The Prime Minister, in reply, differentiated between the miners' demands for a national wages settlement and a national profits pool, and again stated what, in the view of the Government, were the fundamental objections to the second demand. The railwaymen and transport workers' representatives expressed themselves as unable to reverse their decision, and finally withdrew, it being understood that the threatened strike would take place, but in the evening of the same day, the meeting referred to above between Mr. Hodges and a group of private members of the House of Commons took place; and on the following day the Prime Minister was informed by letter that at a joint meeting of representatives of the National Union of Railwaymen, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, and the National Transport Workers' Federation on the 15th April it had been decided to cancel the strike. The following statement with regard to this change of policy was issued by the joint executives on the 16th April:—

* Pages 174 to 176.

"The Joint Conference of the National Union of Railwaymen, the National Transport Workers' Federation and the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen has found itself compelled to cancel the strike notices for the withdrawal of labour of their respective members at and from 10 p.m. on the 15th April.

"In consequence of the confusion which confronted the conference on Friday morning (the 15th April), no reasonable hope remained of securing a spontaneous and united action of the three bodies which was so essential to give to the Miners' Federation the assistance it sought.

"A partial and hopelessly incomplete sympathetic stoppage would have weakened the power of the three organisations without contributing any material assistance to the miners. Up to Thursday evening, there was every hope of a tremendous display of working class solidarity, but circumstances which had transpired since that time destroyed the firm ground upon which the call of the strike action was based.

"The Conference profoundly regrets the creation of the changed situation. No other course was open to it than to arrive regretfully at the conclusion to call off the strike of its members."

This decision disposed of the immediate possibility of a sympathetic strike of railwaymen and transport workers, but it was understood that organised financial assistance would be rendered to the miners, and this has proved to be the case.

ATTITUDE OF OTHER LABOUR BODIES.

The Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress, the National Executive of the Labour Party and the members of the Parliamentary Labour Party met on the 14th April, and pledged their support to the miners, a joint committee being appointed to keep in close touch with the Triple Alliance. On the same day the National Federation of General Workers also announced that they would support the miners. But in neither case was there any pledge of strike action. The joint committee met on the 18th April and decided to postpone the conference of the three bodies, which it had been intended should meet on the 20th April, until the 22nd, when the miners' delegate conference would have re-assembled. At this meeting it was decided to issue an appeal to all sections of Labour to render financial assistance to the miners. The Committee remained in being to watch events.

Some discontent at the decision of the executives of the National Union of Railwaymen and the National Transport Workers' Federation to cancel the strike of their members was expressed during the following week; but no sectional action took place.

FEELING IN THE DISTRICTS.

The members of the executive committee of the Miners' Federation returned to their several districts on the 16th April, and during the following week the opinion of the districts on the question of maintaining the original demands put forward by the Federation was ascertained at mass meetings preparatory to the re-assembling of the National Delegate Conference on the 22nd April. Practically the whole of the districts passed resolutions in favour of adherence to the original demands for a national wages settlement and a national profits pool or levy on tonnage. The Northumberland miners, however, expressed their desire that the Government's offer of assistance towards a temporary wages settlement should be examined more closely, provided that the questions of a National Wages Board and a National Pool were left over for future negotiations; and the Cannock Chase miners were in favour of a temporary settlement along the lines of the Government's offer.

RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE OWNERS, THE MEN AND THE GOVERNMENT.

The executive of the Miners' Federation re-assembled on the 21st April to receive the reports of the district meetings. They also had under consideration a letter from the Prime Minister inviting them to meet the Central Committee of the Mining Association and himself at the Board of Trade on the following day, in order to consider jointly several proposals made during the week through the medium of the Press, both by the two parties to the dispute and by other persons not parties to it, with a view to reaching a basis for a settlement. At the miners' National Delegate Conference which re-assembled on the 22nd April, the delegates re-affirmed the Federation's adherence to their original demands, but at the same time it was agreed to accept the Prime Minister's invitation. The Mining Association came to the same decision, and the meeting took place on the afternoon of that day. The owners were represented by their Central Committee, the miners by their Executive Committee, and the Prime Minister was accompanied by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the President of the Board of Trade, the Minister of Labour and the Secretary for Mines.

The Prime Minister addressed the meeting, and appealed to both sides to sit down together and investigate the wages

question. After some discussion, the Conference adjourned until the 25th April, it being arranged that, in the meantime, the owners should prepare and submit a paper showing in greater detail the effect of their proposals upon the remuneration of the miners and upon their own profits. This paper, which was submitted to the Prime Minister and the Miners' Federation in writing on the 24th April, contained a revised offer and was brought before the resumed Conference on the 25th April,* but as further information with regard to the effects on wages of the financial returns of the industry for March was found to be necessary, it was agreed to adjourn until the following day.

THE PROPOSALS OF THE MINING ASSOCIATION.

At the meeting of the 26th April, the completed proposals of the coalowners were the subject of close discussion. They included the outline scheme for a permanent settlement of the wages question already submitted to the Government on the 26th March, and draft proposals for a temporary arrangement during the present period of abnormal trade depression and of transition in the industry, together with an elaborate statistical statement of the actual effect of the proposals on wages, district by district, based on the assumption that the owners abandon at present the whole of their surplus profits, but that the ratio which they propose between standard profits and standard wages is taken into calculation.

The temporary scheme, while retaining the principle of district variations in the reduction of wages, contained certain new proposals. It provided that for a period of three months, reductions in wages in each area should be of uniform amount per shift worked for all workmen in the area, and should not in any area exceed such an amount as might be fixed by the Government, the owners and the men for each of the three months respectively, no payment to be made for days not worked. It also provided that the monthly ascertainment to determine the wages payable in the various areas should be made upon the basis of the durable scheme, on the understanding that:—

- (1) The owners in the aggregate in any area should waive all share in the surplus revenue of the area, if the taking of such share would have the effect of reducing the rate of wages in the previous month, as well as their standard profits either in whole or in part, if, by the taking of either the whole or part, the men in their area would on the area results for the month be suffering a reduction in wages of more than the maximum amount fixed for the month under the scheme.
- (2) That the Government should, where necessary, make such a contribution to any area, as would prevent the reduction, after the operation of the above, being more than the maximum amount fixed for the month.
- (3) That the temporary period should extend to the 31st July, 1921, while for the purpose of accounting, the March results in each area would be applicable to May and June, and the May results to July. After the 31st July, 1921, the permanent scheme would come into operation, and the wages paid in each area would then depend solely upon the financial ability of the industry to pay them.

The paper stated that the areas under contemplation were:—

- (1) Scotland.—Fife and Clackmannan, the Lothians, Lanarkshire and Ayrshire.
- (2) Northumberland.—Northumberland.
- (3) Durham.—Durham.
- (4) Midlands.—Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire, North Wales, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, South Derbyshire, North Staffordshire, Cannock Chase, South Staffordshire and Worcestershire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, and Shropshire.
- (5) Southern.—Forest of Dean, Somerset, Bristol, and Kent.
- (6) South Wales.—South Wales and Monmouth.

There was no suggestion as to what the maximum reduction in each area should be, as the owners considered this was a matter for determination in consultation between the Government and the two parties concerned, since it depended upon the amount of assistance which the Government were prepared to give to the industry. The statistical table prepared by them was intended to facilitate the ascertainment as to what was the deficit which the Government assistance would be required to make good on the principle, previously agreed between the owners and the miners, of taking a certain standard wage and establishing a certain ratio of standard profit to that standard wage, and on the principle previously proposed by the owners that they should abandon all surplus profits during the agreed temporary

* This and the subsequent meetings were presided over by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

period. It gave in detail, in fact, the average reductions in wages per person in each area which would be necessary on these two principles so far as the coalowners alone were concerned.

ATTITUDE OF THE MINERS' FEDERATION TO THESE PROPOSALS.

The Miners' Executive did not regard these modified proposals of the coal owners with favour. Mr. Hodges stated to the Conference that it would not be useful from their point of view to pursue negotiations along these lines. He pleaded that the Government should abandon any further consideration of figures on a district basis, and discuss the deficit in the industry as a whole. He estimated that even if the owners gave up the whole of their profits, the resulting deficit, if it were to be made good out of wages, would involve a reduction in wages of 4s. 1½d. per shift per person employed, whereas the miners' national scheme would not permit more than an average reduction of 2s. a shift per person. He further contended that by accepting a reduction of 2s. a shift per person the miners would be assisting to wipe off the deficit, calculated on the March figures, at the rate of £30,000,000 a year, and the sacrifice by the owners of their standard profits calculated on the standard wage would yield an amount equivalent to £18,000,000 a year; the owners and miners jointly would therefore account for £48,000,000 of the annual deficit, but the Government would still be required to find the remaining £31,000,000 per annum. Mr. Hodges emphasised the fact that his suggestion involved assistance by the Government at the rate of £30,000,000 per annum, and that he was not asking for this amount in perpetuity but only for as long as the temporary period lasts. The actual amount paid to the industry would depend on the period of time which would elapse before the industry could support itself.

The miners' position at this meeting was that they should not accept as a temporary settlement something which was related to district settlements, or any deduction which would force their wages below the cost-of-living level, and they maintained their demand that the Government should render assistance adequate to prevent this until such time as the industry became normal.*

THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS.

It was not found possible to reach any agreement at the meeting on the 26th April, and it was, therefore, agreed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should meet the two parties separately on the following day. At these meetings, an offer made by the Government was explained, and at a further meeting with the Executive Committee of the Miners' Federation on the 28th April, the Chancellor of the Exchequer submitted precisely and finally the terms of the offer. He stated that:—

- (1) The Government were prepared to come to the assistance of the mining industry at the present time with a grant of £10,000,000.
- (2) They proposed that in the month of May no greater reduction should take place in the wage of any miner in any district than 3s. a shift, and in the month of June no greater reduction should take place than 3s. 6d. a shift.
- (3) The remainder of the sum of £10,000,000 should thereafter be divided between the months of July and August, two thirds in the month of July, and one-third in the month of August, to increase wages in those districts where the district wage would otherwise fall below the point of proposed maximum reduction.
- (4) The Government during the temporary period would, if the miners so decided, distribute the grant so that there would be a uniform reduction in all districts, and to enable this to be done, the owners had consented to the collection by the Government of surplus wages in districts which could pay these, and their distribution in the relatively poorer districts.
- (5) This offer must be conditional on the conclusion of a durable agreement to operate in the industry on the cessation of Government assistance, for at least one year, and to be, after this, terminable only at three months' notice from either side.
- (6) The Government's view, with regard to the proposed national pool or levy, that it must be considered a political issue and one involving legislation, remained unaltered.

* Mr. Hodges has, since this meeting, definitely suggested that any financial assistance offered by the Government to the Miners should be related to the cost of living. He states in a letter to the *Times*, 4th May, 1921, that the miners' wages on the 31st March stood at 163 per cent. above pre-war wages. They are now prepared to accept a reduction of 2s. a day, which is 30 per cent. on pre-war wages, and would, therefore, bring wages to 133 per cent. above the pre-war standard, or exactly to the level of the cost of living as shown by the official figures for April, 1921. To provide against a greater reduction than this, the Government would be called upon to render assistance at the rate of £36,000,000 per annum, until such time as the cost of living falls below the present level. If by the end of the year, the cost of living figure has fallen from 133 to 100 per cent. above the pre-war standard, the Government assistance could come to an end, since by that time, he maintains, the state of the industry would be such that it could itself bear a rate of wages equal to 100 per cent. above the pre-war standard.

It was further intimated that the Government would accept the institution of a National Wages Board, which should arrive at an agreed schedule of districts, determine the principles upon which wages should be adjusted in the districts and act as a Court of Appeal in any case in which there was a complaint that those principles were not being followed. The Government also tentatively proposed that the fixing of the ratio between standard profits and wages was a question eminently susceptible of decision by reference to some person or persons in whom both sides would have confidence.

REFERENCE OF PROPOSALS TO THE MINERS' NATIONAL DELEGATE CONFERENCE.

The proposals put before the Miners' Executive Committee by the Government were then reported to the Miners' National Delegate Conference which had remained in session while the negotiations were proceeding, and they were rejected by a large majority, the following resolution being passed:—

"This Conference rejects the Government's proposals as they do not concede the fundamental principles of a National Wages Board and a National Pool for which we stand."

The Conference concluded on the same day, the 28th April, and the delegates returned to their several districts.

SCHEMES FOR A NATIONAL LEVY.

Various proposals for the institution of some form of levy or pool to enable all pits to pay wages at a more or less uniform level have been advanced during the month chiefly through the medium of the Press.

Mr. Frank Hodges has, since the beginning of the dispute, considerably elaborated his scheme for a national levy imposed upon every ton of coal raised, the levy to be a first charge on production, out of which would be created a pool from which the poorer districts would be assisted to pay wages up to the national level agreed upon between the Mining Association and the Miners' Federation. Mr. Hodges argues that as the levy would be an item in the cost of production, and the ratio of wages to profits would be at least 100 to 20, the burden of it would be principally borne by wages. The levy moreover would not, as has been contended, inaugurate a pernicious system of subsidising inefficient collieries, since the National Coal Board, proposed by the Federation, functioning in a directive capacity, would have power to prevent this.

Another scheme which has been put forward proposes a partial levelling of district wages by means of a limited levy, the levy to be collected on the same principle as that advocated by Mr. Hodges, and paid into a central fund, but the incidence of its distribution to be different. The object of the pool in this case would be limited to improving, as far as the fund allows, the wage rates of less fortunate districts, assuming that wages and profits in each district are fixed at what that district can afford after taking the levy into account. It would not be used to make good deficiencies in particular collieries nor to improve profits. It is contended that this scheme would not diminish the incentive to efficiency in individual collieries since it would leave the profits of each mine dependent still on the success with which the mine was worked. It is in effect a pooling of wages with an additional contribution from profits.

Both these schemes have met with criticism on the ground that normally the incidence of payment of the levy, since it is a levy on output, would fall on the consumer. When this cannot occur, e.g., on a falling market, the incidence, it is said, will be on the industry, and the proportions of it to be borne by wages and profits respectively will vary with the financial condition of the industry, from time to time, sometimes falling almost wholly on wages and at others wholly on profits. Another objection, it is considered, would be that, under a tonnage levy scheme, the colliery producing at the highest rate is penalised by having to pay more into the pool than a colliery which is producing less, and thus the incentive to efficiency is diminished. With regard to the incidence of distribution of the levy, Mr. Hodges' scheme has been pronounced economically unsound, since he apparently contemplates that the pool would be used to some extent to enable unprofitable pits to continue working. The second scheme has been criticised for providing no justification for asking owners to contribute to the levy from their profits, since the proceeds of the pool, thus conceived, would be devoted solely to levelling up wages in the poorer districts and not to assisting the owners of unprofitable mines.

Two schemes for the averaging of wages as distinct from any pooling of profits have been put forward to meet the weaknesses considered inherent in the proposals dealt with above. These propose that the pool shall be a wages pool only, the men in each district receiving or foregoing, as the case may be, the difference between their wages calculated on a national average and their wages calculated on a district average. The object here is to level up wages as between district and district without having recourse to a tonnage levy and without affecting profits, once the ratio of profits to wages has been fixed, and also to secure that wages in the industry are distributed in accordance with the miners' desires while the principle of district rates is retained.

THE STATE OF EMERGENCY.

FURTHER PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY: 30th APRIL, 1921.

An account was given in the April LABOUR GAZETTE of the issue for the first time on the 31st March last of a "proclamation of emergency" under the Emergency Powers Act, 1920,* in view of the then "immediate threat of cessation of work in coal mines." The Act provides that no such Proclamation may remain in force for more than one month, without prejudice, however, to the issue of another Proclamation at or before the end of that period. Accordingly, the Proclamation of the 31st March, and, with it, the Emergency Regulations, 1921, ceased to have effect on the 30th April.

On the 30th April, therefore, in view of the "continued cessation of work in coal mines," a further "proclamation of emergency" was made and the "Emergency Regulations (No. 2), 1921" were put into force by Order in Council. In accordance with the provisions of the Emergency Powers Act, the occasion of the new Proclamation and the terms of the new Regulations were communicated to both Houses of Parliament, and on the 4th May each House passed a Resolution in the following terms:—

"That the Regulations made by His Majesty in Council under the Emergency Powers Act, 1920, by Order dated the 30th April, 1921, shall continue in force, subject, however, to the provisions of Section 2 (4) of the said Act."

This latter edition of the Emergency Regulations is substantially the same as the former; but some additional powers are taken for the various departments of State concerned. For example, the powers conferred in the previous regulations upon the Minister of Transport with regard to tramways and light railways, are extended so that he may by order specifically restrict the traffic on any tramway or light railway; the Board of Trade have now power to restrict or prohibit the use of excursion or pleasure steamers, and to enforce lighting restrictions on the occupiers of premises as well as on the gas or electric light companies; while the Secretary of State may now by order direct that the time for general purposes in Great Britain shall be two hours in advance of Greenwich mean time.

The principal Government Department to make use of the Emergency powers thus conferred upon it has been the Board of Trade, which has given Directions through the Secretary for Mines chiefly with regard to the supply, consumption and movement of coal. This Department has also made arrangements with the National Association of British and Irish Millers, under which the price of G.R. Baking Flour per 280 lb. sack is limited, and by which the wholesale distribution of flour may be regulated; and an Emergency Kitchens Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Sir John Miller, K.C.S.I., to deal with the situation in those districts where the prolongation of the emergency has deprived or may deprive small householders of the coal required for cooking food.

It should be mentioned in addition, however, that certain local government authorities have permanent statutory powers and duties conferred or imposed upon them which are of particular importance with regard to the relief of distress arising out of the present emergency. The two groups of authorities chiefly concerned are the Boards of Guardians, and the Local Education Authorities; the latter bodies taking action under the Education (Provision of Meals) Acts. The provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921,† have rendered unnecessary the adoption of such emergency unemployment measures, as were put in operation at the time of the coal dispute last year.

TRADE UNION AND OTHER CONFERENCES.

SCOTTISH TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

The 24th Annual Session of the Scottish Trades Union Congress was held at Aberdeen from the 20th to the 23rd April. Considerable time was spent discussing the dispute in the coal mining industry, and the failure of the Triple Alliance to carry out their strike policy. Resolutions were passed expressing full support for the miners, condemning the Government's attitude towards the present

* An account of the provisions of this Act appeared in the LABOUR GAZETTE, November, 1920, at page 597.

† See LABOUR GAZETTE, March, 1921, at p. 120.

dispute, and declaring in favour of nationalisation of the mines and the railways. The Irish question was also discussed, and a resolution was adopted calling upon the Government to take immediate steps to summon a constituent assembly of the Irish people with a view to a peaceful settlement, and demanding that the "Army of Occupation" should be withdrawn.

Other resolutions upon questions of Government policy were in favour of legislation on the 44-hour week for shop assistants, and of the suspension of the 10 per cent. increase in the rents of working class dwellings, which becomes permissible after the 2nd July, 1921.

The position of the employees of the Co-operative Societies was discussed on resolutions instructing the Parliamentary Committee to approach the co-operative movement for the purpose of establishing machinery to settle disputes with their employees. A resolution was adopted approving trade union amalgamations, and also a resolution that "in view of eventualities in industrial disputes, some scheme of finance, commissariat, communication and transport should be organised to protect the interests of the workers and safeguard the supply of foodstuffs."

The annual session of the Congress for 1922 will be held at Inverness.

THE CO-OPERATIVE UNION.

A special national conference convened by the Co-operative Union was held in the Central Hall, Westminster, on the 19th April, under the presidency of Alderman F. Hayward, and was attended by 850 delegates. The chief object of the conference was to consider the report and recommendations of the Special Committee on Taxation with regard to the Corporation Profits Tax, together with amendments sent in by societies. The Special Committee recommended that they should be empowered "to suggest to the Chancellor of the Exchequer the adoption of one of the following alternatives:—

- (1) The abolition of all direct taxation on trade, such as the Excess Profits Duty and Corporation Profits Tax, and in their stead, reliance upon income tax, super-tax and death duties.
- (2) The abolition of Corporation Profits Tax and the substitution of a tax on net turnover after deducting all payments by way of discount, bonus, and dividend on purchases.
- (3) If the Corporation Profits Tax be retained, it should be recognised in all taxation that the surpluses of co-operative societies arising from mutual trading are not profits, and the consequent exemption of such surpluses."

An amendment supported by 28 societies (including the Liverpool, London and Manchester and Salford Societies) advocated the rejection of the second recommendation, and recommended, *inter alia*, that "all members of the Co-operative Union should refuse to pay the Corporation Profits Tax, or any other form of taxation that affects the principle of mutual trading." This amendment, after considerable discussion, was rejected by 1,688 votes to 1,179; and a resolution was adopted declaring that "inasmuch as we consider the Corporation Profits Tax to be an infringement of the principle of mutual trading, that societies resist the tax to the utmost limit of the law." The first and third recommendations of the committee were ultimately adopted, but the second was rejected by a substantial majority.

The conference also adopted a resolution protesting against their specially trained accountants being excluded from the list of public auditors if they are not members of one of the Institutes of Chartered Accountants (England, Scotland or Ireland) or of the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF LABOUR WOMEN.

A National Conference of Labour Women was held in Manchester on April 27th and 28th, under the auspices of the National Labour Party, and organised by the Standing Joint Committee of Women's Organisations.* Miss Margaret Bondfield presided at the conference, which was attended by about 500 delegates, representing chiefly the women's sections of local Labour Parties, but including also delegates from national Labour organisations, containing women members, who are affiliated to the Labour Party, or to the Standing Joint Committee.

The most important resolution adopted by the conference was that embodying a recommendation that the constitution of the National Labour Party should be amended to provide that the four women members of the National Executive of the party should be nominated by the women's sections of local Labour Parties, and elected at the annual national conference of Labour women by the delegates of the women's sections. This resolution was carried by 210 votes to 156. There was considerable discussion on various resolutions dealing with problems arising from the present conditions of women in industry. The most important were

those calling upon the Government to introduce immediately legislation giving effect to the provisions of the "Maternity Convention" adopted by the Washington International Labour Conference; and to set up, without delay, Trade Boards in all industries where the workers demand such protection; condemning the attitude of the Government towards the Workmen's Compensation Act; and demanding that the Hours of Employment Bill shall provide for the inclusion of the hours of attendance at continuation classes in the normal working day and week.

Other resolutions of a general character were also discussed, dealing with questions of foreign policy, Ireland, unemployment and housing.

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS AND INTERIM INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS, &C.

DURING the five weeks ending 1st May, 1921, meetings were reported of 32 Joint Industrial Councils, 4 District Councils, 6 Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees, and 17 various Sub-Committees.

A Joint Industrial Council has been established for the growing industry in Guernsey. In response to an application for formal recognition, the Minister of Labour has signified that he is prepared to regard this Council as representative of the growing industry in Guernsey, and as a channel of communication in appropriate cases between the Home Government (through the Governor) and the industry.

In consequence of the withdrawal of the Employers' Associations from the Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Administrative, Technical and Clerical Services (England and Wales), this body adjourned, *sine die*, on 28th April. The principal factors of the situation thus created have been difficulties that have arisen in regard to the fixation of grading and wages, and the lack of support given to the Provincial Councils by local authorities. The Ministry of Labour have been requested to convene an early meeting of the Employers' Associations, with a view to reconstituting the National Council; and the officers of the Council have been authorised to take any necessary action with a view to calling a further meeting of the Council.

WAGES REDUCTIONS.

As a result of the general industrial situation, attention has been concentrated upon the questions of wages and employment, to the exclusion of other matters. Wage reductions have been agreed on during the period in question by the joint bodies in five industries, namely, the Cocoa, Chocolate, &c., Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee; the Joint Industrial Councils in the Gloves, Soap and Candles, and Wool industries; and the Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services Provincial Council for Northumberland and Durham.

In the case of the Wool Council, this is the fourth successive month in which wage reductions have been made in accordance with the sliding scale based on the cost of living. In the flour milling industry, the question of wage reductions has been postponed by mutual consent, on the understanding that the workers will render such assistance as is possible, in order to keep the mills running during the national emergency.

Negotiations on the subject of wage reductions are proceeding on 15 other Councils and Reconstruction Committees.

WAGES, WORKING CONDITIONS, &C.

The Joint Industrial Council for National Health Insurance Committees has agreed upon a minimum scale of salary for clerks to committees, which it is proceeding to recommend to the Ministry of Health.

Working conditions in the cement manufacturing industry have now been codified and adopted by the Joint Industrial Council. The code provides, among other things, that an annual holiday of one week with pay, in addition to national holidays, shall be given to workers of upwards of one year's standing, provided that not more than seven days have been lost in the preceding 12 months.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

The management and costings committee of the Building Council has now under consideration a draft report on a supplementary scheme for unemployment insurance. It is suggested that a total benefit of 36s. per week, inclusive of the State payment, should be provided on a basis of joint contribution.

The consideration of a contracting-out scheme by a committee of the Iron and Steel Wire Manufacturing Council is proceeding, with the assistance of the Employment Department of the Ministry of Labour.

* See LABOUR GAZETTE, July, 1920, page 358.

in thirteen cities of Canada, in each year from 1901 to 1920. The particular trades selected are considered typical of a sufficiently wide range of employment to make their publication of value. So far as possible the rates shown for any year are those prevailing in the month of September. The figures are based on information obtained by Departmental officers and correspondents, on copies of collective agreements, and on returns furnished to the Department by trade union officials and employers.

On the basis of these rates index numbers are calculated showing the trend of wages in each group of trades during the period covered.

The Summary table below, which is compiled from the fuller one presented in the Report, gives the index numbers showing the relative wages per hour and per full week as compared with 1913 in each of the five groups, and for all occupations taken together.

INDEX NUMBERS OF RATES OF WAGES. (1913 = 100.)

Table with 7 columns: Year, Building Trades, Metal Trades, Printing Trades, Tramways, Steam Railways, Average. It is divided into Hourly Rates and Weekly Rates sections.

The indices relating to the building trades rates are based on rates for 7 occupations (bricklayers, carpenters, electrical workers, painters, plumbers, stonecutters, labourers), those for the metal trades on 5 (blacksmiths, boiler-makers, ironmoulders, machinists, sheet-metal workers), those for the printing trades on 2 (hand compositors and cylinder pressmen), those for tramways on rates of conductors and motormen, and those for steam railways on 6 (goods train conductors, brakemen, engine-drivers and firemen, telegraphers and section men). The last column is computed from the simple averages for the 21 groups taken together.

A further table gives the following index numbers based on sample rates of wages for unskilled labour in factories, for miscellaneous factory trades and for the lumbering industry. The first series is formed from 35 rates paid in 15 different towns the second from 72 rates for occupations in cotton mills, the furniture, coachmaking, harness and saddlery, boot and shoe, tobacco, meat packing and pulp and paper trades; and the third from 15 rates paid to workers in the lumbering and sawmilling trades.

INDEX NUMBERS OF SAMPLE RATES OF WAGES. (1913 = 100.)

Table with 7 columns: Year, Unskilled Labour in Factories, Miscellaneous Factory Trades, Lumbering and Sawmilling. It is divided into Hourly Rates and Weekly Rates sections.

* Since January 1st, 1918, members of crews on freight trains have been paid at a rate per mile, 100 miles (or less), or 8 hours (or less) as the standard for a day's work, with provision for overtime at time and a half. Prior to January 1st, 1918, the standard day was on the basis of 10 hours, with regular rates for overtime.

STANDARD WAGES AND HOURS IN THE UNITED STATES, 1907-1920.

The March issue of the Monthly Labour Review of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics gives index numbers showing the movement year by year, from 1907 to 1920, of rates of wages and of hours of labour in a full week according to trade union wage scales in certain trades. The index numbers of wages are based on the union minimum rates as provided in agreements with employers. In some instances a considerable number of members are actually paid, by individual arrangement, more than the union agreements specify. The average wage received by union men, therefore, to some extent exceeds the prevailing union rate. From the two sets of figures in combination a third set has been calculated by the Bureau, indicating for each year the rates of wages per full week. In the following Table the indices for 1913 are taken as the standard (=100):—

Table with 4 columns: Year, Rates of Wages per hour, Full-time Hours per week, Rates of Wages per week full time.

The figures relate to May of each year and apply only to persons employed at time-rates. The trades covered include baking, building and structural iron working, road transport, stone-quarrying and working, metal working, machine woodworking, printing and bookbinding. From the Table it would appear that hourly rates of wages in these trades taken together were 99 per cent. higher in 1920, while full-time hours per week have fallen by 6 per cent., the net result being an increase of 89 per cent. in the earnings for a full week.

WHITE PHOSPHORUS IN MATCH-MAKING. BERNE CONVENTION ADOPTED BY AUSTRIA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA.*

The Austrian and Czechoslovakian Legations at Berne have informed the Swiss Federal Council of the adherence of their respective Governments to the International Convention of 26th September, 1906, prohibiting the use of white phosphorus in the match-making industry. Up to the present the following States have signed this Convention:—Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Spain, France, Great Britain and Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and Tunisia.

REDUCTION OF BONUSSES FOR JAPANESE SEAMEN.†

ACCORDING to a statement in the Japan Advertiser of 20th January last, the expenses of certain Japanese shipping companies were reported to be 8.50 yen per ton per month, at the present time as against 3.30 yen in 1915 and 1916, 3.80 yen in 1917, 5.50 yen in 1918, and 7.50 yen in 1919. The increase was felt with extraordinary intensity owing to the great depression prevailing in shipping. As a result it has become necessary for shipping companies to cut their working expenses as much as possible, and for this purpose some companies have replaced their seamen with others receiving lower wages, while in other cases the Japanese have been superseded by Chinese and Koreans.

Some time ago the Japanese Shipowners' Union, the members of which include practically all the shipping concerns of importance in Japan, agreed to restrict high cost of living bonuses and other extra allowances to not more than 40 per cent. of the salaries or wages. They now find it necessary to make even further reductions, and it is proposed to reduce the existing rate by half. It is expected that an agreement between the shipping companies will soon be reached.

* Feuille Féderale, 13th and 27th April, 1921. † Daily Intelligence, 18th March, 1921. International Labour Office, Geneva.

STATISTICS OF RETAIL PRICES.

RETAIL PRICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

STATISTICS FOR 30th APRIL, 1921.*

SUMMARY: AVERAGE INCREASES SINCE JULY, 1914.

Principal articles of Food ... 132% All Items included ... 128%

FOOD.

During April there was a further fall in the retail prices of food, the average increase at 30th April in the cost of the pre-war working-class dietary being about 132 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 138 per cent. at 1st April. With the exception of fish, which was slightly dearer, all the principal articles of food contributed to this decline, butter, margarine, eggs, bacon and milk showing the largest reductions in price.

In the following Table is given a comparison of average prices of the articles of food included in these statistics in July, 1914, at the beginning of November, 1918 (just before the Armistice) and on 30th April, 1921* :—

Table with 6 columns: Article, Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated), Average Inc. (+) or Decrease (-) at 30th April, 1921, as compared with July, 1914, 1st Nov., 1918, 30th April, 1921.

The following Table gives a percentage comparison of the level of prices at 30th April in relation to the prices of July, 1914, November, 1918, and 1st April, 1921 :—

Table with 6 columns: Article, Average Percentage Increase at 30th April, 1921, as compared with July, 1914, Corresponding figure for United Kingdom at 1st Nov., 1918, 1st April, 1921.

* 1st May being Sunday, the prices relate to the previous day. Since the date to which the returns relate there have been considerable reductions in the prices of some articles, especially milk, butter and bacon. † If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the Returns quote the price for another kind locally representative.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, special enquiries have been made into the increases which have taken effect under the operation of the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920. The results of these enquiries showed that the average increase in the rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st October, 1920, was about 39 per cent. Since that date there have been further increases in rates in some places, and the proportion of cases in which the increases permitted by the Act have been collected has also risen, with the result that at 30th April, 1921, the average increase since July, 1914, in the rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings was about 44 per cent. Of this percentage, about one-half is accounted for by increases in local rates and water charges, and of the remainder, five-sixths is on account of the landlords' responsibility for repairs.

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 30th April the level of retail prices of clothing, quality for quality, taking goods of the kind purchased by the working classes, averaged about 210 per cent. higher than in July, 1914, as compared with between 220 and 230 per cent. at 1st April. The reductions recorded during April were distributed over all the items of clothing included in the statistics.*

In the fuel and light group, the average increase in the retail prices of coal since July, 1914, was about 160 per cent. at 30th April. For gas the increase was nearly 100 per cent., for lamp oil about 210 per cent., and for candles (cheap kinds) about 180 per cent., while matches show a still greater increase. The last three items have, however, relatively small influence on the average movement in the fuel and light group, in which the average increase at 30th April is estimated at nearly 150 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 (estimated at an average of about 110 per cent.), the resultant figure for 30th April, 1921, is about 128 per cent.† as compared with 133 per cent. for 1st April.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1921 as in 1914) is to show the increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the average pre-war standard of living of the working classes (i.e., the average 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 re-adjustments 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 some 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.

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

Table with 9 columns: Month (beginning of), 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921.

* A special article giving details of the changes since July, 1914, in the prices of the various items of clothing included in these statistics was given on pages 178-179, of the LABOUR GAZETTE for April. † If the amount of increased taxation on commodities is deducted, the average increase at 30th April, 1921, was about 8 per cent. less.

NOTE.—The LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1921, contained a full account of the scope and method of compilation of the above statistics.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

The number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, was about 12,000,000 on 29th April, 1921, and the number registered as totally unemployed at that date was 1,799,242, or 15.0 per cent., as compared with 1,335,206, 11.3 per cent. at 24th March, 1921.

Payment of unemployment benefit or out-of-work donation is conditional on the "lodging" of an unemployed person's insurance book or donation policy.

The following Table shows, by industries, the number of persons whose unemployment books or out-of-work donation policies remained lodged on 29th April, 1921: (1) in respect of total unemployment, and (2) in respect of short time. The persons included under (2) are employed in establishments where, owing to the depression in trade, the number of working days has been reduced on a systematic basis, in such a manner as to entitle claimants to benefit under the Act or to out-of-work donation*:-

Table with columns: Industry, Total Unemployment (Males, Females, Total), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 24th March, 1921, Short Time (Number of Short-Time Workers claiming U.I. Benefit and Donation on 29th April, 1921), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 24th March, 1921. Rows include Building, Works of Construction, Engineering Trades, etc.

* Persons working only one day short-time per week, or reduced hours each day or on certain days, are not eligible for benefit and are not included. † The decreases recorded this month are accounted for by the fact that while claiming out-of-work donation applicants were classified by occupation on the transfer to unemployment benefit they were classified, so far as possible, in accordance with the industry in which they are engaged.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE Unions with a net membership of 1,338,731 reported 235,737 (or 17.6 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of April, 1921, compared with 10.0 per cent. at the end of March, 1921, and 0.9 per cent. at the end of April, 1920. In addition, large numbers were on short time. In the following Table figures are given for various groups of Unions:-

Table with columns: Trade, Membership at end of April, 1921, Unemployed at end of April, 1921 (Number, Percentage), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with Month ago, Year ago. Rows include Building and Shipbuilding, Miscellaneous Metal, Textiles, etc.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

[NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and not the total numbers employed in the various industries. The comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates relate to the same firms at each date.]

COAL MINING.

A GENERAL stoppage of work at coal mines throughout the United Kingdom began on 1st April and was still in progress at the end of the month. The usual monthly statistics as to the number of workpeople employed in coal mining and as to the number of days worked are therefore not available for April. Particulars of the dispute from which the stoppage resulted are given on pages 228 and 255.

The exports of coal, coke and manufactured fuel during April, 1921, amounted to 660,747 tons, or 1,449,678 tons less than in March, 1921, and 5,944,467 tons less than in April, 1913.

IRON, SHALE AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

THE cessation of work at coal mines resulted in the closing down of nearly all iron mines during April. Shale miners continued to be well employed, on the whole, during the month.

Employment was again very bad at tin mines, very little work being done, while at lead and zinc mines it continued slack. At quarries producing limestone for blast furnaces employment was bad, the stoppage in the coal mining industry having resulted in the closing down of many of these quarries. The adverse effect of the dispute was also felt, in many instances, at other quarries, where employment, on the whole, was worse than in the previous month.

MINING.

Iron.—The usual statistics are not available owing to the fact that nearly all the iron mines closed down during April in consequence of the dispute in the coal mining industry.

Shale.—Returns received from firms employing 3,095 workpeople during the fortnight ending 23rd April show a decrease of 1.8 per cent. in the number employed, as compared with the previous month, but an increase of 1.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the mines was 6.00, as compared with the same figure in the previous month* and in April, 1920.

Tin.—Employment at tin mines remained as in March. Very little work was done during the month, and where mines remained open employment was slack.

Lead and Zinc.—At these mines, including some which also produce fluorspar, employment remained slack. The dispute at lead mines in Lanarkshire continued during April.

QUARRYING.

Limestone.—During April employment at quarries producing limestone for blast furnaces was bad. Owing to trade depression and to the cessation of work at coal mines, a large number of these quarries closed down during the month, whilst others worked either on short time or with reduced staffs. At quarries producing limestone other than for blast furnaces employment was only fair, on the whole, and was adversely affected by the coal dispute.

Sandstone.—At sandstone quarries, producing material for grindstones, employment was fairly good. At other sandstone quarries it showed a marked decline, and was only moderate, short time being worked in a number of cases.

Granite (road materials, setts, etc.).—Employment was moderate, generally, at quarries producing granite for setts; it continued fairly good at other granite quarries, but in some cases was adversely affected by the coal mining dispute.

Slate.—Slate quarriesmen continued to be well employed, on the whole, during April.

Basalt and Whinstone (road materials).—At basalt quarries employment remained good on the whole. At whinstone quarries it was reported as good in a number of districts, but in the Mid and West Lothians and in other localities it was bad, being affected by the cessation of work at coal mines.

* The figures in this article show only the total number of days on which shale or stone was got from the mines and quarries included in the returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed worked every day the mines or works were open.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Table with columns: Trade, Workpeople included in the Returns for April, 1921, April, 1921 (Days Worked per week by Mines, No. Mills Working, Shifts Worked), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with Month ago, Year ago. Rows include Iron Mining, Shale, Pig Iron, Tinplate and Steel Sheet, Iron and Steel.

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Table with columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople (Week ended 23rd April, 1921, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago), Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople (Week ended 23rd April, 1921, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago). Rows include Textiles, Boot and Shoe, Shirt and Collar, etc.

* Short time and broken time are not reflected in the figures. In the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is generally met by short-time working.

† The percentage is based on returns relating to carpenters and plumbers.

‡ In these figures coal mining is excluded in April, 1921 and included in March, 1921 and April, 1920. If coal mining is excluded throughout, the percentage increase is 7.1 over March, 1921, and 18.5 over April, 1920.

§ Owing to the dispute in the coal mining industry, almost all the iron mines were closed.

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

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to the number of workpeople employed and the number of days worked by the quarries in the fortnight ended 23rd April :-

Table with columns for No. of Workpeople employed at Quarries, Average No. of Days worked per week by Quarries, and various comparison metrics (Month ago, Year ago).

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

The depression which prevailed in this industry in March was made much more acute by the stoppage at the coal mines, and at the end of April only 11 furnaces were reported to be in blast.

The production of pig-iron in April, 1921, as returned by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 60,300 tons as compared with 386,000 tons in March, and 671,000 tons in April, 1920.

The imports of iron-ore in April, 1921, amounted to 123,583 tons, or 133,741 tons less than in March, 1921, and 573,447 tons less than in April, 1913.

The exports of pig-iron in April, 1921, amounted to 11,048 tons, or 2,037 tons more than in March, 1921, but 90,365 tons less than in April, 1913.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued bad and showed a marked decline as compared with both the previous month and a year ago. Many works were reported to be either entirely closed or working short time.

Table with columns for DEPARTMENTS (Open Hearth Melting, Furnaces, etc.), No. of Workpeople employed, and various comparison metrics.

* See note at foot of previous column on page 241. † The increase in the average shown, as compared with a month ago, is due to the closing of some quarries which were formerly working short time.

Table with columns for DISTRICTS (Northumberland, Cleveland, etc.), No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns, and various comparison metrics.

The production of steel ingots and castings, as returned by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to only 68,000 tons in April, 1921, compared with 359,100 tons in the previous month, 794,000 tons a year ago.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

THE decline in employment in these trades continued during April, and was accentuated by the shortage of coal. There were marked increases in the numbers unemployed and on short time.

The following Table† shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople claiming unemployment benefit or out-of-work donation at 29th April, 1921 :-

Table with columns for Division, Number of Unemployment Books and Out-of-Work Donation Policies remaining Lodged at 29th April, 1921, and various comparison metrics.

The number of persons claiming unemployment insurance benefit or out-of-work donation in respect of days of work lost owing to systematic short time† was 114,111 on 29th April, compared with 69,532 on 24th March.

On the Tyne and Wear employment was bad generally and worse than in March; short time, involving in many cases a loss of 3 or 4 days per week, was general, and large additions were made to the number of workpeople entirely unemployed.

In the Manchester district there was much slackness, and conditions were worse than in the previous month. Employment continued to be bad at Liverpool, with much short time. At Crewe employment was moderate, but works were closed on Saturdays.

At Nottingham employment continued to decline, half-time only being worked. Similar conditions prevailed at

* See note at foot of previous column. † Owing to changes in the industrial classification of a number of insured persons, consequent upon the operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, as from 8th November, 1920, the figures in this Table are not strictly comparable with those in issues of the LABOUR GAZETTE prior to that of December, 1920.

Lincoln and Gainsborough. At Grantham the majority of men were working only 1 1/2 days per week. Employment continued to decline at Derby, where the majority of establishments were on short time, amounting in some cases to a loss of 3 days a week.

At Norwich, Bedford and Luton employment continued to decline; short time became general and reductions in staffs were effected. It remained slack at Ipswich, Colchester and Chelmsford, and at the first-named town there were a large number of workpeople discharged.

In London and the Southern Counties employment was generally bad, and worse than in the previous month; at Swindon, however, it continued to be fair. In South Wales it continued to decline; most establishments were working short time or with reduced staffs.

In the Glasgow district it was worse than in the previous month, and short time prevailed. At Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen the decline continued; ironmoulders at Dundee, who in March were fairly well employed, now being affected by the general depression.

At Belfast employment was bad with all sections and showed a further decline. It was also bad at Cork.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades showed a further decline during April, and was very slack. The stoppage of work by the ship joiners continued throughout the month and the coal shortage, resulting in curtailment of power supplies and shortage of materials, also seriously affected employment.

The following Table* shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople claiming unemployment benefit or out-of-work donation at 29th April, 1921 :-

Table with columns for Division, Number of Unemployment Books and Out-of-Work Donation Policies remaining Lodged at 29th April, 1921, and various comparison metrics.

The number of persons claiming unemployment insurance and out-of-work donation in respect of time lost owing to systematic short time† was 10,111 at 29th April, compared with 1,874 at 24th March.

On the Tyne and Wear employment continued to decline and, towards the end of the month, when the effect of the coal strike was more acutely experienced, it became very slack; a large proportion of the workpeople were unemployed and of the remainder many were on short time, frequently working alternate weeks only.

On the Tees employment was reported as bad and worse than in the previous month. On the east coast, it remained slack. With barge builders on the Thames employment continued to be very good, but with other sections of workpeople it was again slack.

At Southampton there was a further decline and employment was described as bad. Conditions at Swansea and Avonmouth showed signs of improving, but, at the remainder of the Bristol Channel ports employment was very bad, at some yards being confined mainly to apprentices.

The decline on the Mersey continued, and at Barrow employment was quiet. On the Clyde the effects of the joiners' strike grew more pronounced and employment generally continued to decline, the numbers of unemployed being steadily augmented from week to week.

At Dundee employment was very slack, short time being general. * Owing to changes in the industrial classification of a number of insured persons, consequent upon the operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, as from 8th November, 1920, the figures in this Table are not strictly comparable with those in issues of the LABOUR GAZETTE prior to that of December, 1920.

† See Table and * note relating to systematic short time claimants on page 240.

Employment at Belfast was bad with most classes of workpeople, but at Cork it was fair, although the previous month's standard was not maintained.

According to Lloyd's Register Quarterly Shipbuilding Returns, the gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in the United Kingdom at the end of March, 1921, amounted to 3,798,593 tons, as compared with 3,703,916 tons at the end of December, 1920, 3,394,425 tons at the end of March, 1920, and 2,063,694 tons at the end of March, 1913.

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

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry, which was already very bad, was further affected by the national stoppage in the coal-mining industry, and by the end of the month only thirty-five mills were in operation.

The number of workpeople in these trades whose unemployment books or out-of-work donation policies were lodged at Employment Exchanges at 29th April was 26,871. In addition, there were 1,250 claimants for benefit in respect of systematic short time.*

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

Table with columns for Works, Number of Works open, Number of Mills in operation, and various comparison metrics.

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in April, 1921, amounted to 23,326 tons, or 753 tons more than in March, 1921, but 86,470 tons less than in April, 1913.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was very slack, on the whole, during April, and was worse than in the preceding month; short time was worked to a very considerable extent. Employment in a large number of centres was adversely affected by the stoppage at coal mines.

Brasswork.—Employment during April was very slack and worse than in the previous month. The principal trade union reported that of its 35,350 members 4,800 were wholly unemployed, whilst the remainder 10,500 were working only 24 hours per week.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—Employment at Blackheath and Halesowen was again very bad, while at Darlaston it was reported as quiet. At Birmingham, employment continued fair with shoe rivet and wire nail makers, but was slack, and worse than in March, with cut nail makers who were reported to be working, on an average, only 3 days a week.

Cutlery, Tools, Bits, Stirrups, etc.—At Sheffield employment in the file trade was bad and worse than in March, and the large majority of the workpeople were reported to be on short time. A large amount of short time was also worked in the cutlery trades at Sheffield; employment with spring knife workers was reported as bad and worse than in March, but in other sections of the cutlery trades, taken as a whole, it was fair.

* See Table and * note relating to systematic short time on page 240.

at Walsall it was very bad and worse than in the previous month. At Redditch employment was fair with needle and fish hook makers, and fairly good with makers of fishing tackle: it was reported however, that many factories in these trades were working only three days per week.

Tubes.—Employment continued quiet at Wednesbury. At Birmingham there was a decline; employment was very slack, staffs having been reduced in some cases, and short time working increased during the month. At Landore employment was reported as very slack and worse than in March.

Chains, Anchors, etc.—At Cradley employment continued bad among anchor smiths and shipping tackle and shackle makers, and was again very bad with cable chain and block chain makers. Employment continued slack with anvil and vice makers at Dudley, where short time was reported as general. It was quiet in the axle and spring trade at Wednesbury.

Steel Metal.—Employment was bad and worse than in March in the majority of districts, and a good deal of short time was worked. In the Lye, Bilston, and Dudley districts, and at Wolverhampton, employment with iron plate workers was reported as very bad, while at Birmingham it was very slack, with a three day working week in operation.

Wire.—Employment was very slack in most districts, and large numbers were reported as unemployed at Warrington, Sheffield and Birmingham. A considerable amount of short time was again worked.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment was bad and worse than in March with stove grate workers at Sheffield and Leeds. It was estimated that nearly three-quarters of the stove grate workers throughout the country were on short time during the month, many working only three or four days per week.

Hollow-ware; Locks and Latches.—Employment among galvanised hollow-ware makers was reported as very bad in the Midlands generally, and rather worse than in the preceding month. The trade union estimated that those still in employment were working, on an average, only three days per week. At Wolverhampton, however, employment was fair with galvanised tank and hollow-ware makers, but was slack with cast iron and tin and enamel hollow-ware makers. Employment was reported as very bad in the Wolverhampton and Willenhall lock and latch trade, most firms working only 25 to 30 hours per week.

The exports of hardware in April, 1921, amounted to 8,205 cwt., or 230 cwt. more than in March, 1921, but 15,971 cwt. less than in April, 1913.

The exports of hollow-ware in April, 1921, amounted to 879 tons, or 8 tons less than in March, 1921, and 2,256 tons less than in April, 1913.

COTTON TRADE.

NOTWITHSTANDING some improvement in demand, employment in the cotton trade continued bad during April, and was much worse than in March.

There was a considerable increase in the number of operatives totally unemployed. For those remaining in employment, organised short time continued in the spinning section (generally not more than 24 hours a week being worked in the American branch and 35 hours in the Egyptian branch), and curtailment of production continued, in various forms, in the weaving section. This lack of response to the improvement in demand was chiefly due to the scarcity of fuel, consequent on the coal stoppage, which brought the works of many spinning and manufacturing firms to a complete standstill, while others were fast approaching that condition.

The number of workpeople whose unemployment books or out-of-work donation policies were lodged at Employment Exchanges on 29th April was 81,369. In addition there were 323,329 claimants for benefit in respect of systematic short-time working.

Employment at Oldham was reported as bad at the end of April, both in the spinning and in the manufacturing departments; signs of improvement which were showing themselves during the month were neutralised by the effects of the coal dispute. In the Ashton, Stockport, and Rochdale districts, which are chiefly devoted to spinning, employment also continued bad. In all the above districts a large number of firms had to close down indefinitely, their supply of coal having been exhausted.

In the Bolton district employment continued bad, or very bad, in all departments. In the Leigh, Chorley, and Manchester districts employment with spinners continued very depressed; the majority of mills in the Manchester district were working three days a week.

In all the principal weaving districts, including Burnley, Blackburn, Preston, Nelson, and Darwen, employment con-

tinued bad. In the Burnley district the number of operatives employed was less than half the number employed in April of last year, and their aggregate earnings, in spite of an advance in wages during the interval, showed a reduction of over 60 per cent.

It was reported that 80 per cent. of the cotton workers in Yorkshire were either stopped entirely or working very short hours.

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

Table with columns: DEPARTMENTS, Week ended 23rd April, 1921, Number of Workpeople, Total wages paid to all Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, etc.

The following Table summarises the statistics of imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton, and the exports of cotton yarn, finished thread and piece goods in April, 1921, in comparison with March, 1921, and April, 1913:—

Table with columns: Description, April, 1921, March, 1921, April, 1913, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, April, 1913.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADE.

At the end of April employment was very bad. It was worse than a month earlier, in practically all branches of the industry, largely owing to the effects of the coal dispute. Many woollen and worsted spinners and manufacturers had closed down altogether until further notice, no further curtailment of production by means of short time being possible.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT was very bad, and worse than a month earlier.

In the Huddersfield district a number of firms were obliged to close down, for varying periods, as the result of the coal dispute; firms with more than one mill were concentrating their work in one of them. In the Leeds district there was a very marked decline; signs of improvement which had begun to appear were not realised owing to shortage of fuel. Many of the workpeople in this district were working only 18 hours a week.

In the heavy woollen district (Dewsbury, Batley, &c.) employment was very depressed; short time was general, and several firms were temporarily closed down.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by increases in rates of wages. † Thousands of square yards. ‡ Thousands of linear yards.

In the Stockport and Rochdale districts employment was bad; the operatives in the Stockport district worked on the average 26½ hours a week, the same as in the previous month.

In Scotland employment was bad, with much unemployment and short time; it was reported that only about half the looms at Hawick were working at the end of the month, and many of these for only two or three days a week; some firms which had previously run for five days a week found it necessary to reduce to three.

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

Table with columns: DEPARTMENTS, Week ended 23rd April, 1921, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, etc.

WORSTED TRADE.

In this trade also employment was very depressed in all the principal districts.

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

Table with columns: DEPARTMENTS, Week ended 23rd April, 1921, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, etc.

In the wool-sorting departments employment was extremely bad; one-fourth of the trade union operatives were unemployed at the end of April, and 95 per cent. of the remainder were on short time. In the wool-combing section employment continued bad, with general short time.

In the Bradford and Keighley districts employment showed a further decline, and was bad, with much short time and unemployment. In the Bradford district 95 per cent. of the power-loom overlookers were working 24 hours per week or less at the end of April. In the Keighley and Halifax districts there was also a decline; and in the Huddersfield district there was a very marked decline in the numbers employed as compared with a month earlier.

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

The following Table summarises the statistics of imports (less re-exports) of raw wool, and the exports of wool flannels, delaines and blankets in April, 1921, in comparison with March, 1921, and April, 1913:—

Table with columns: Description, April, 1921, March, 1921, April, 1913, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, April, 1913.

LINEN TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the linen trade was very bad. Short time was general, and many works were entirely closed down throughout the month.

The number of workpeople in the flax, linen and hemp trades whose unemployment books or out-of-work donation policies were lodged at Employment Exchanges at 29th April was 21,424. In addition, there were 41,747 claimants for benefit in respect of systematic short time working.

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

Table with columns: DEPARTMENTS, Week ended 23rd April, 1921, Number of Workpeople, Total wages paid to all Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, etc.

Returns received from firms in Ireland employing 10,688 workpeople showed that nearly 65 per cent. of the workpeople were working short time, averaging about 20 hours less than full time in the week ended 23rd April. In Scotland similar returns from firms employing 3,257 workpeople showed that practically all were working short time, averaging about 18 hours less than full time.

Exports of linen piece goods in April, 1921, amounted to 2,757,500 square yards, as compared with 2,113,800 square yards in the previous month and 18,548,900 linear yards in March, 1913.

Imports (less re-exports) of flax in April, 1921, amounted to 1,974 tons, as compared with 1,953 in March, 1921, and 10,770 (of which 8,947 tons were from Russia) in April, 1913.

JUTE TRADE.

In Dundee and the surrounding districts employment in the jute trade was bad in April and the slight improvement which was reported towards the end of March was not maintained.

The number of workpeople whose unemployment books or out-of-work donation policies were lodged at Employment Exchanges at 29th April was 5,718. In addition, there were 26,569 claimants for benefit in respect of systematic short time working.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages. † Thousands of square yards. ‡ Thousands of linear yards.

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

Table with 7 columns: Departments, Week ended 23rd April, 1921, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, Per cent., Total wages paid to all workpeople, Week ended 23rd April, 1921, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, Per cent.

The exports of jute yarn of British manufacture were 1,088,100 lbs. in April, compared with 1,406,300 lbs. in March, and with 3,846,100 lbs. in April, 1913.

HOSIERY TRADE.

DURING April employment in this trade was very slack and showed a considerable decline on the previous month. Unemployment and short time were general.

In the Leicester district employment remained bad; more than one-half of the operatives reported upon were on short time, losing from 8 to 30 hours a week.

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

Table with 7 columns: District, Week ended 23rd April, 1921, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, Per cent., Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople, Week ended 23rd April, 1921, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, Per cent.

Returns from firms employing over 6,000 workpeople showed that in the week ending 23rd April over 70 per cent. of these employees worked, on the average, about 23 hours less than full time.

The exports of cotton hosiery in April, 1921, amounted to 31,374 dozen pairs, as compared with 38,529 dozen pairs in March, 1921, and 45,064 dozen pairs in April, 1913.

The exports of woollen hosiery in April, 1921, amounted to 68,768 dozen pairs, as compared with 64,918 in March, 1921, and 149,978 in April, 1913.

SILK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in this trade was bad during April and was worse than in the previous month, partly owing to the effect of the coal dispute. The number of workpeople whose unemployment books or out-of-work donation policies were lodged at Employment Exchanges at 29th April was 2,476.

In the Macclesfield, Leek and Congleton districts, employment was bad, and showed a further decline; a large number of operatives were on short time, many working only three or four days in each week; in addition large numbers were unemployed.

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

as slack in Suffolk and Essex, though showing a very slight improvement in Essex.

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

Table with 7 columns: BRANCHES, District, Week ended 23rd April, 1921, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, Per cent., Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Week ended 23rd April, 1921, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, Per cent.

Reports received from certain firms relating to short time showed that about 85 per cent. of their workpeople worked short time to the extent of 20 hours each on the average during the week ending 23rd April.

The following Table summarises the statistics of imports (less re-exports) of raw and thrown silk, spun silk yarn and silk broadstuffs, and the exports of spun silk yarn and silk broadstuffs in April, 1921, in comparison with March, 1921, and April, 1913:—

Table with 6 columns: Description, April, 1921, March, 1921, April, 1913, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, April, 1913.

LACE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the lace trade during April was very bad and showed a marked further decline. The number of workpeople whose unemployment books or out-of-work donation policies were lodged at Employment Exchanges at 29th April was 6,191.

At Nottingham the effect of the coal dispute was very marked. All three sections, levers, curtain and plain net were very depressed; many firms closed down and those working were only running about half-time.

In Scotland employment continued very bad and short time was general.

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

Table with 7 columns: Branches, Districts, Week ended 23rd April, 1921, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, Per cent., Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Week ended 23rd April, 1921, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, Per cent.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by increases in rates of wages. † Thousands of square yards. ‡ Thousands of linear yards.

Returns from firms employing over 3,000 workpeople showed that in the week ending 23rd April 89 per cent. of these employees were working short time, the average number of hours worked during the week being 21 hours less than full time.

SHIRT AND COLLAR TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during April was bad and worse than in March. More than three-fifths of the workpeople covered by the returns received worked short time during the month, losing on an average between 18 and 19 hours a week.

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

Table with 7 columns: District, Week ended 23rd April, 1921, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, Per cent., Total wages paid to all Workpeople, Week ended 23rd April, 1921, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, Per cent.

In London employment continued bad generally, and over four-fifths of the operatives worked, on an average, nearly 17 hours per week less than full time during the month. Employment with shirt-makers in Lancashire, Cheshire and Yorkshire was bad, and worse than in the previous month.

At Glasgow employment was slack on the whole, and worse than in March; over three-fifths of the workpeople worked short time to an average extent of about 21 hours per week.

Employment with shirt and collar makers in Ireland was bad generally, and was worse than in the previous month. Short time was less prevalent than in other parts of the United Kingdom, but nearly one-fifth of the workpeople in the Londonderry and Belfast districts lost, on an average, between 19 and 20 hours per week.

CARPET TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the carpet trade during April was bad at Kidderminster, moderate at Sowerby Bridge and good at Brighouse. In Scotland, employment continued bad.

The number of workpeople in the carpet and rug trades whose unemployment books or out-of-work donation policies were lodged at Employment Exchanges at 29th April was 2,074.

Returns received from firms employing 7,769 workpeople in the week ending 23rd April and paying £14,476 in wages showed a decrease of 2·2 per cent. in the number employed and of 25·0 per cent.* in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago.

More than two-thirds of the workpeople covered by the Returns received worked short time during the month, their loss of time averaging 19 hours per week.

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

BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

DURING April, employment in all sections of these trades became very bad, and was much worse than in the previous month. The number of workpeople in these trades whose unemployment books or out-of-work donation policies were lodged at Employment Exchanges at 29th April was 11,345.

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

Table with 7 columns: Trades, Districts, Week ended 23rd April, 1921, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, Per cent., Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Week ended 23rd April, 1921, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, Per cent.

Reports received from firms employing 18,332 workers showed that in the week ending 23rd April 83 per cent. of these employees worked, on the average, 21 hours less than full time.

TAILORING TRADES.

BESPOKE.

London.—Employment during April varied, but was moderate on the whole. A further slight improvement was shown as compared with the previous month. Returns from firms paying £9,673 to their workpeople (indoor and outdoor) during the four weeks ended 23rd April showed an increase of 4·2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 6·4 per cent.* as compared with a year ago.

Other centres.—Employment in most provincial centres was moderate. A further slight improvement was shown, although it was still very slack. In Bradford and Huddersfield employment was fair, on the whole, but very quiet for this season of the year.

READY MADE.

During April employment in this branch of the trade continued very slack; the improvement which had begun to take place in March, and which was being maintained during the early part of the month, being stopped by the shortage of power due to restricted coal supplies.

In Leeds employment was slack and much short time was worked, varying in amount from 11 to 35 hours per week. Some factories worked only one-third of the normal time owing to fuel and light difficulties.

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

PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

The state of employment in the paper, printing and book-binding trades during April showed a further decline as compared with the previous month...

The number of workpeople in the paper, printing, publishing and bookbinding trades whose unemployment books or out-of-work donation policies were lodged at Employment Exchanges at 29th April was 30,004.

With letterpress printers employment was not so good as in March, and short time was reported from the majority of provincial centres.

Employment in the bookbinding trade was generally bad, and showed a further slight decline as compared with the previous month.

In the paper trade much unemployment was reported, and several mills were reported to be partially closed down.

The following Table summarises the Returns from Trade Unions relating to employment in April:—

Table with columns: No. of Members of Unions at end of April, 1921; Percentage Unemployed at end of April, Mar., April, 1920; Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a Month ago, Year ago.

The following Table summarises the information received from these employers who furnished Returns as to the number of workpeople and the wages paid in the week ended 23rd April, 1921:—

Table with columns: Number of Workpeople, Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, Per cent., £, Per cent.

The following Table summarises the statistics of imports of wood pulp and paper, and the exports of paper in April, 1921, in comparison with March, 1921, and April, 1913:—

Table with columns: Description, April, 1921, March, 1921, April, 1913, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Apr., 1913.

GLASS TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades during April was very bad and much worse than in the previous month. Short time was prevalent in most districts and many firms had closed their works through shortage of coal.

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

The number of workpeople whose unemployment books or out-of-work donation policies were lodged at Employment Exchanges at 29th April was 11,350.

Employment with glass bottle makers was bad. At Birmingham flint glass cutters reported employment as very slack, and with flint glass makers and plate glass bevelers employment was bad...

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

Table with columns: BRANCHES, DISTRICTS, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago.

Returns from firms employing 4,804 workpeople showed that in the week ending 23rd April 34 per cent. of these employees were working on the average 17 hours less than full time.

The exports of glass bottles during April, 1921, amounted to 29,656 gross, or 3,017 gross more than in March, 1921, but 55,818 gross less than in April, 1913.

The exports of all other manufactures of glass during April, 1921, amounted to 31,448 cwts., or 4,674 cwts. less than in March, 1921, and 60,504 cwts. less than in April, 1913.

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades declined rapidly during April and was generally slack owing to the shortage of coal. By the end of the month the great majority of firms had been compelled to close down...

The number of workpeople in these trades whose unemployment books or out-of-work donation policies were lodged at 29th April was 39,605. In addition, there were 3,972 claimants for benefit in respect of systematic short time working.

The following Table summarises the information received from employers for the week ended 23rd April:—

Table with columns: BRANCHES, DISTRICTS, Number of Workpeople, Total wages paid to all workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago.

Of nearly 4,500 workpeople covered by the returns received relating to short time working, about two-thirds worked, on the average, 19 hours per week short of full time during the week ended 23rd April.

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

The exports of chinaware, earthenware and pottery in April, 1921, amounted to 383,689 cwts., or 93,202 cwts. more than in March, 1921, and 4,318 more than in April, 1913.

FOOD PREPARATION TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the food preparation trades during April showed a slight decline from the previous month, and in many of the principal centres of the trade it was bad. Owing to the miners' dispute and the consequent shortage of fuel, many firms were working short time...

In the sugar refining industry employment was only moderate; returns from firms employing 3,859 workpeople showing that, in the week ended 23rd April, 35 per cent. of the workpeople were working about 10 hours less than full time.

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

Table with columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople, Total wages paid to all workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry showed a decline and at the end of the month was slack, many trawlers being laid up owing to scarcity of coal due to the coal miners' dispute.

The number of fishermen whose unemployment books or out-of-work donation policies were lodged at Employment Exchanges at 29th April was 6,627. In addition there were 64 claimants for benefit in respect of systematic short time working.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of fish landed in the United Kingdom in April, 1921, compared with April, 1920:—

Table with columns: Quantity of fish landed, Value, April, 1921, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with April, 1920.

East, South and West Coasts.—Employment in the Tees and Hartlepool district was adversely affected by a dispute and was only moderate. At Hull it continued moderate with fishermen and was fair with fish dock labourers and fish curers.

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

Yarmouth employment was slack. At Lowestoft it was moderate with fishermen and fish curers and fair with fish dock labourers.

Scotland.—Employment was fair at Aberdeen and bad at Macduff. At Peterhead employment was moderate among fishermen and bad among fish dock labourers and fish curers.

AGRICULTURE.*

ENGLAND AND WALES.

The favourable weather during April enabled good progress to be made, and all outdoor work was well advanced at the end of the month.

Very little change occurred in the labour situation, the supply being generally adequate, with some local exceptions as regards skilled workers.

Local shortages of skilled men were reported in one or two districts in Lancashire and Cheshire, also in Yorkshire and in some of the Midland and Eastern counties.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR

EMPLOYMENT with dock labourers during April was considerably affected by the stoppage in the coal mining industry; at the majority of ports it was very slack, and worse than in the previous month.

The number of workpeople in the canal, river, harbour, dock and wharf service whose unemployment books or out-of-work donation policies were lodged at Employment Exchanges at 29th April was 61,899.

London.—Employment in London continued slack, and was worse than in the previous month and much worse than a year ago. The average daily number of labourers employed at the docks and the principal wharves was about 25 per cent. below that for the corresponding period last year.

Table with columns: Period, Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal wharves in London, In Docks, At Wharves making Returns, Total Docks and Principal Wharves.

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in April was 1,519, as compared with 1,453 in March and 2,616 in April, 1920.

East Coast.—Employment on the Tyne with tugboatmen declined, and was slack. With steam packet men and other transport workers on the Tyne and Wear and harbour workers at Blyth it was very slack, and worse than in March.

Southern and Western Ports.—Employment continued very slack at Plymouth. At the Bristol Channel ports it was very bad, and worse than a month ago.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Glasgow employment was bad, and worse than in March, and at Dundee it was slack. At Belfast it continued very bad, and there was a further decline at Cork and Waterford.

* Based on information supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Returns from trade unions indicate a somewhat smaller degree of unemployment among members in March than in February.

Table with columns: Unions, Membership reported on at end of Mar., 1921, Percentage of Membership Unemployed. (Mar., 1921, Feb., 1921, Mar., 1920).

Employment Exchanges report a slight decrease in the number of persons applying for situations. For every 100 situations registered as vacant for men, there were 228 applications on the average, as against 251 in February.

According to returns from 6,507 Sickness Insurance Societies, with an aggregate membership of 12,542,992, the number of persons whose premiums for compulsory insurance against sickness were being paid (and who were therefore assumed to be employed) increased by 0.7 per cent.

CANADA.*

Unemployment in January.—Returns relating to unemployment in January were received by the Canadian Department of Labour from 1,538 labour organizations having a total membership of 197,928.

Table with columns: Group of Trades, Membership reporting on 31st Jan., 1921, Percentage Unemployed at end of Month (Jan., 1921, Dec., 1920, Jan., 1920).

Employment at end of March.—A return furnished by the Employment Service of Canada shows that during the week ending April 2nd, reports were received by the Canadian Department of Labour from 5,199 firms with a total pay-roll of 590,808 persons.

* The Labour Gazette, March, 1921, Ottawa, Canada.

NORWAY.*

Unemployment in February.—The percentage of members reported as unemployed at the end of February in certain trade unions making returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics was 13.1, as compared with 10.5 in the previous month, and 1.9 in February, 1920.

Table with columns: Group of Trades, Membership (Feb. 28, 1921, Jan. 31, 1921, Feb. 29, 1920), Percentage Unemployed (Feb. 28, 1921, Jan. 31, 1921, Feb. 29, 1920).

DENMARK.†

Unemployment in March.—According to returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange, out of a total of 293,585 workpeople covered by the returns 23.6 per cent. were unemployed on 1st April, as compared with 23.2 per cent. on 25th February, and 6.7 per cent. at the end of March, 1920.

Table with columns: Trades, Number of Workpeople included in Returns for 1st April, 1921, Percentage Unemployed (1st April, 1921, 25th Feb., 1921, 28th Mar., 1920).

SWEDEN.‡

Unemployment in February and March.—The percentage of members unemployed in Swedish trade unions at the end of February, 1921, was 20.8, as compared with 20.2 at the end of January, 1921, and 7.5 on 1st March, 1920.

Table with columns: Unions, Membership reporting on 28th Feb., 1921, Percentage Unemployed (28th Feb., 1921, 31st Jan., 1921, 1st Mar., 1920).

Returns relating to March have been received from public employment exchanges. For every 100 vacancies reported by employers during that month there were 240 applications for employment by workpeople.

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Bureau of Statistics. † Statistiske E/terretninger, 29th April, 1921. Copenhagen. ‡ Societal Meddelanden, No. 5, 1921. (Journal of the Swedish Department for Social Affairs) Stockholm

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes, involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in April, was 44, as compared with 42 in the previous month and 134 in April, 1920.

The following Table classifies the disputes by groups of trades:—

Table with columns: Groups of Trades, Number of Disputes in progress in April (Started before 1st April, Started in April, Total), Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in April, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in April.

Causes.—Apart from the coal mining dispute (as regards which see pages 228 and 174), 26 of the 43 new disputes,

directly involving about 7,000 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 7, directly involving nearly 2,000 workpeople, on other wages questions; and 10, directly involving over 1,000 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—During April settlements were effected in the case of 17 new disputes, directly involving about 3,000 workpeople, and 18 old disputes, directly involving about 4,000 workpeople.

DISPUTES IN FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1920 AND 1921.†

Table with columns: Groups of Trades, Jan. to April, 1920 (No. of Disputes, Number of Workpeople involved, Aggregate Duration), Jan. to Apr. 1, 1921 (No. of Disputes, Number of Workpeople involved, Aggregate Duration).

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS IN APRIL, 1921.

Table with columns: Occupations and Locality, Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute (Began, Ended), Cause or Object, Result.

* 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.

† Considerable numbers of other workers are reported to have been rendered idle as a result of the strike of ship joiners, but the information at present available is insufficient to enable a trustworthy estimate of the total number to be made.

‡ In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information.

§ 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 dispute affecting painters at Aberdeen (see LABOUR GAZETTE for April, page 202) also continued throughout April.

** Estimated number of workpeople originally involved. A number of joiners, etc., have since obtained work in the building trades.

†† Date at which dispute began in the West of Scotland; in most of the English towns involved the commencing date was 14th March, and at Aberdeen 4th April.

‡‡ At Aberdeen the dispute remained unsettled until May

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics (see Note in next column) the changes in rates of wages arranged to come into operation in April affected about 1,165,000 workpeople, of whom about 1,147,000 sustained decreases amounting to over £270,000 weekly, and over 18,000 received increases amounting to £2,700 a week. The groups of trades in which the workpeople affected by these changes were employed are as shown below:—

Table with 4 columns: Groups of Trades, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages (Increases, Decreases).

In the iron and steel trades there were considerable reductions in wages in certain districts under arrangements whereby wages are automatically adjusted in accordance with the selling prices of iron and steel. The most important of these reductions affected blast furnace workers in Cleveland, Northamptonshire, North Staffordshire, Nottinghamshire, and the West of Scotland; steel sheet millmen in England and Wales; iron and steel workers in the Midlands; and steel millmen in the West of Scotland. The reductions in these cases ranged from 20 per cent. to 66 per cent. on basis rates, equivalent to about 7 per cent. to 17½ per cent. on current wages. For blastfurnacemen and iron and steel workers in South Wales there was a small increase.

The reductions reported in the textile trades generally took effect under sliding scales, by which wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices. Wool textile operatives in Yorkshire sustained a decrease of 10 per cent. calculated on basis rates (about 4 per cent. off current wages) for time-workers and a corresponding decrease for pieceworkers. Men and women employed in the dyeing, bleaching, finishing, etc., trades in Lancashire and Scotland had their wages reduced by 9s. 8d. and 5s. 9d. per week respectively, and in Yorkshire by 32 per cent. calculated on basis rates (equivalent to about 12 per cent. on current wages).

In the transport trades railwaymen in the traffic grades had their wages reduced by 4s. per week under sliding scale arrangements. A first instalment of 2s. per week (to be followed by another 2s. in May), was taken off the wages of a large number of carters in London, and carters in Scotland had their wages reduced by 3s. or 3s. 6d. per week.

There was a reduction generally of 2d. per hour for men in the heavy chemical trades in England and Wales, and of 6s. 9d. per week for men in the same trades in Scotland.

In trades other than the above the principal reductions in wages during April affected principally men employed on civil engineering constructional work (whose wages were reduced by a total of from 2d. to 4d. per hour), and men employed in the vehicle building and wheelwright trades (a general reduction of 2d. per hour).

Of the changes taking effect in April, one, affecting 3,000 workpeople, was arranged by arbitration; 2, affecting 12,000 workpeople were arranged by conciliation; 57, affecting 919,000 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales, and the remaining 80 changes, affecting 231,000 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, or took effect as the result of Orders under the Trade Boards Acts. In 13 cases, involving 7,200 workpeople, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppages of work.

Changes Taking Effect in January-April, 1921.

The following Table summarises the changes that have occurred since the beginning of 1921.

Table with 4 columns: Groups of Trades, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected (Increases, Decreases), Amount of Net Change per week (Increases, Decreases).

* Excluding workpeople in the direct employment of local authorities who are included under Public Utility Services.

The figures given in the Table include the effects of the reductions which took place in January and February in the wages of about 1,200,000 coal miners under the arrangements made at the end of the strike in October-November, 1920, whereby wages were to rise and fall in accordance with variations in the output of coal. These reductions brought wages at the coal mines back to the level prevailing in October last.

Of the total of over 1,300,000 workpeople affected in other industries, about 900,000 sustained their reductions under the operation of sliding-scale agreements, whereby rates of wages fluctuate in correspondence with variations in the Ministry of Labour cost of living index number. Among these, workpeople in the traffic grades of the railway service, who had received an increase of 1s. a week in January, sustained a decrease of 4s. a week in April. In the wool textile industry there were four successive reductions between January and the end of April, amounting in all to 40 per cent. on basis rates (about 14½ per cent. on current rates) in the case of time workers and to 33-04 per cent. (13½ per cent. on current rates) and 34-78 per cent. (nearly 14 per cent. on current rates) in the case of male and female pieceworkers respectively. Workpeople in the textile bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing trades received an increase in January, followed by a decrease in April, the net result being decreases of 31 per cent. calculated on basis rates (nearly 12 per cent. on current rates) in Yorkshire, and of 9s. 4d. for adult males and 5s. 7d. for adult females in Lancashire and Scotland. Hosiery workers in the Midlands had their bonus on earnings reduced from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 2d. in the shilling. Other classes of workpeople who have sustained reductions under cost of living sliding scale arrangements include carpet workers, metallic bedstead workers in the Midlands, military musical instrument makers in London, gold, silver and allied trades workers in London, asbestos workers in various districts, silk workers at Leek, Macclesfield and Brighouse, dyers and dry cleaners in various districts in England and Scotland, wallpaper makers in various centres, basket makers in Yorkshire, bakers employed by certain firms in London, and workers at electricity generating stations in London.

In iron and steel smelting and manufacture, wages are regulated in most cases by sliding-scale agreements based on the selling price of pig iron or manufactured iron and steel. In certain districts the sliding scales resulted in slight increases in wages early in the year, but a fall in the selling prices has been followed in many cases by reductions, which have resulted in net decreases since the beginning of the year in the wage rates of over 110,000 workpeople. The workpeople affected by these net reductions include blastfurnacemen in Cleveland, Durham and Scotland, iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the North of England, the Midlands and Scotland, and tinsplate workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire, the amount of reduction ranging from 26½ to 69 per cent. on standard rates, or from 7½ to 21 per cent. on current rates.

In the case of the remaining 300,000 workpeople who have sustained reductions, the changes were arranged generally as a result of negotiations between representatives of the employers and workpeople. The bodies of workpeople affected by these reductions include the following:—Heavy chemical workers; soap and candle workers; vehicle builders; warehouse workers (Manchester); glove makers; boys and youths in the engineering and other metal trades (Birmingham and district); women in the engineering trade (Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry); civil engineering construction workers (various districts); road transport workers (London and Scotland); shale miners (Scotland); piano makers (London); glass bottle makers (principal districts); lock, latch and key makers (Midlands); nut, bolt and screw workers (Midlands); engineering and foundry workers (Swansea district); tailors (Liverpool and Birmingham); fishermen (various ports); pottery workers (Scotland); women in the malleable ironfounding trade (Willenhall district); drop forgers (Birmingham); farriers (Glasgow and Edinburgh); edge tool workers (Midlands).

The amount of reduction in the above trades ranges from 2s. 6d. and 1s. 6d. a week in the case of men and women respectively in warehouses at Manchester, and 3s. a week for certain carters in Scotland, to 10s. a week and 6s. a shift in the case of engineers, etc., in the Swansea and Llanelly districts and shale miners in Scotland, respectively.

Hours of Labour.

The principal change during April in recognised hours of labour affected workpeople employed on civil engineering constructional work, whose working week was generally increased by an average for the year of about 1½ hours.

[NOTE.—The statistics given above, both as regards wages and hours, are exclusive of changes affecting Government employees, police, domestic servants, seamen, agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks.]

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1921.

[NOTE.—The following Table relates mainly to changes which came into operation in April, with effect either from that month or from earlier dates. Certain earlier changes, however, of which particulars were received during April, are also included. The weekly rates quoted are in respect of a full ordinary working week and do not take into account the effect of short time working.]

Table with 4 columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)

* The change took effect as the result of an Agreement arrived at by the Civil Engineering Construction Conciliation Board for Great Britain. Under the terms of the Agreement it was provided that the Class to which any particular works belongs should be determined by Sub-Committees of the Board as may be constituted by the Board for that purpose. It was also recommended that the terms of the Agreement should be applied on all works of Civil Engineering Construction undertaken by Local and/or Employing Authorities, and the following bodies are known to have adopted the Agreement:—Corporations of Birmingham, Bradford, Burnley, Cardiff, and Manchester, Fylde Water Board, and Abertillery and District Water Board. † See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour." ‡ The decrease generally took effect from 14th or 15th April. § Including the Counties of Berkshire, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Somerset and Wiltshire and the Isle of Wight. The increases were granted in accordance with recommendations of the No. 7 Area Council of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Granite and Roadstone Quarrying Industry. ¶ The 56s. per week referred to is based on the standard rate, plus 45 per cent.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1921—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES, OTHER METAL TRADES, Brass Trades, Edge Tool Manufacture, Gold, Silver and Allied Trades, Farriery, Nut and Bolt Manufacture, Screw Manufacture, Chain Manufacture, and Ships' Tackle and Oddwork Trades.

* The 55s. per week referred to is based on standard rates, plus 45 per cent. † It was provided, in the case of Coventry, that the minimum rate for workers 18 years and over entering the trade for the first time should be 8d. per hour during the first two months. ‡ The firms referred to belong to the Galvanising Conciliation Board.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1921—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for OTHER METAL TRADES, TEXTILE TRADES, and Wool Textile Industry.

* The change took effect under an arrangement made by the Birmingham and Wolverhampton District Association of the Engineering and National Employers' Federations. † The increase took effect under an agreement made by the Joint Industrial Council for the Bobbin and Shuttle Making Industry, dated 8th November, 1920. ‡ The new scale, which took effect under arrangements made by the Birmingham and Wolverhampton District Association of the Engineering and National Employers' Federations, applied also to the engineering trade and was described in full on p. 204 of the April LABOUR GAZETTE. The rates do not apply to apprentices already serving, or to youths 15 years and over advanced to work as stampermen in the drop forging industries. § The above percentage is paid on the full basic rates up to 34s. 6d., on higher rates it is subject to a maximum of 48s. 7d. per week for basic rates up to 43s. 14d., and on rates above 43s. 14d. is paid on 80 per cent. of the basic rates. ¶ Employed by members of the British Wool Federation. ** A slightly lower rate is paid to men who receive payment for holidays. †† In the Saddleworth district, where the previous percentages varied from those in other districts, the percentages were reduced to 114'46 for weavers, to 103'38 for other female pieceworkers, and for timeworkers under 21 years of age to amounts varying from 92'84 to 121'42; in this district the "cost of living wage" is subject to maxima of 44'56s. for adult male time and pieceworkers, 27'9s. for female timeworkers, and 35'13s. for female pieceworkers.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1921—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Wool Textile Industry— (continued).	Wales	Pay preceding 1st pay day in May.	Workpeople employed in the flannel industry.	"Cost of living wage" reduced, under sliding scale, from 145 per cent. on basic rates to 135 per cent. for time-workers and from 116 per cent. to 108 per cent. for piece-workers. Minimum time-rates after change (including "cost of living wage"): men, 21 years and over, 58s. 10d.; stokers, 63s. 8d.; tuners, 69s. 5d.; wool sorters, 66s. 7d.; women, 19 years and over, 29s.
	Brighouse	Pay preceding 1st pay day in May.	Workpeople employed in the silk spinning industry.	"Cost of living wage" reduced under sliding scale, from 145 per cent. to 135 per cent. on current basic rates (subject to a maximum net decrease of 3s. 5d. per week). Inclusive rates after change: Males: 1st framers, 86s. 10d., warehousemen, 78s., boilermen and machinemens, 80s.; females: gassers, 56s. 8d., warpers, 46s. 5d., reelers, 40s., winders, 39s.; piece-workers 15 per cent. above time-rates. Decreases, under sliding scale, of 2s. per week for men 22 years of age and over, of 1s. 6d. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 1s. per week for male juniors under 22 years and for girls under 18 years. Minimum time rates after change: Men 22 years and over: pickers, 61s., braid-workers, 62s. 6d., fully qualified braid speeders and knitting tacklers, 69s.; millmen, 63s., weavers, 67s.; women 18 years and over, 37s. 6d.
Silk Industry	Leek	8 April	Workpeople employed in the silk manufacturing industry.	Decreases, under sliding scale, of 4s. per week for adult males, of 3s. per week for adult females, and of 2s. per week for juniors under 18 years of age.
	Macclesfield	2nd pay day in April.	Workpeople employed in the weaving and general sections of the silk industry (including enginemen and firemen but excluding tacklers). Thrown silk workers Hand loom weavers	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 4s. per week.
Textile Bleaching, Dyeing, Finishing, &c.	Bradford	Pay preceding 1st pay day in May.	Workpeople employed in the grey room and stock, pattern, making-up and packing departments.	"Cost of living wage" reduced, under sliding scale, from 145 per cent. to 135 per cent. on current basic rates.* Total minimum rate after change for men 24 years and over, 79s. 8d.
	Yorkshire (except Hebden Bridge District).	Pay preceding 1st pay day in May.	Workpeople employed in the dyeing and finishing trades.	"Cost of living wage" reduced, under sliding scale, from 165 per cent. on basic rates to 133 per cent. for time-workers, from 132 per cent. to 106½ per cent. for piece-workers (except pressers), and from 99 per cent. to 79½ per cent. for hand pressers. Minimum rates after change for timeworkers:—Bradford Dyers' Association: men, 21 and over, 28s., plus 3 per cent., plus 133 per cent. on total; other firms: men, 21 years and over, 30s. 3d., plus 133 per cent.; women, 18 years and over, 18s., plus 133 per cent.
Hebden Bridge and District.	Pay preceding 1st pay day in May.	Males	Workpeople employed in fustian dyeing, finishing, and cutting trades:— Timeworkers:	"Cost of living wage" reduced, under sliding scale, from 49s. 11d. per week to 40s. 3d. for workers 21 years of age and over; from 39s. 7d. per week to 31s. 11d. for those 16 to 20 years; from 28s. 1d. per week to 22s. 7d. for those 16 and under 18 years; and from 21s. 5d. per week to 17s. 3d. for those under 16 years.
			Females	"Cost of living wage" reduced, under sliding scale, from 29s. 8d. per week to 23s. 11d. for workers 18 years of age and over; from 23s. 1d. per week to 18s. 7d. for those 16 and under 18 years; and from 18s. 2d. per week to 14s. 8d. for those under 16 years.
Lancashire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire.	Pay preceding 1st pay day in May.	Males	Workpeople employed in the bleaching, dyeing, calico printing, and finishing trades (except waste bleachers, machine calico printers, engravers, and mechanics, &c., employed in repair and maintenance of plant):—	"Cost of living wage" reduced, under sliding scale, from 49s. 11d. per week to 40s. 3d. for workers 21 years of age and over; from 39s. 7d. per week to 31s. 11d. for those 18 to 20 years; from 28s. 1d. per week to 22s. 7d. for those 16 and under 18 years; and from 21s. 5d. per week to 17s. 3d. for those under 16 years. Minimum time-rate after change for those 21 years and over, 28s. plus 40s. 3d.
			Females	"Cost of living wage" reduced, under sliding scale, from 29s. 8d. per week to 23s. 11d. for workers 18 years of age and over; from 23s. 1d. per week to 18s. 7d. for those 16 and under 18 years; and from 18s. 2d. per week to 14s. 7d. or 14s. 8d. for those under 16 years. Minimum time-rate after change for those 18 years and over, 18s. plus 23s. 11d.
Leek	8 April	Males employed in the silk dyeing industry.	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 2s. per week for those 22 years of age and over and of 1s. per week for those under 22 years. Minimum time-rates after change: Dyers and glossers, 22 years, 65s.; 22½ years and over, 67s.; adult mixers, 67s. to 75s.; dyeing machinemens, 67s. 6d. to 69s. 6d.	
Macclesfield	Pay day in week ending 23 April.	Women and girls employed in the silk dyeing and finishing industry.	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 3s. per week for adults and of 2s. per week for juniors under 18.	
Scotland	Pay preceding 1st pay day in May.	Males	All workpeople employed in the bleaching, dyeing, calico printing and finishing trades (except waste bleachers, machine calico printers, engravers and mechanics, &c., employed in repair and maintenance of plant):	"Cost of living wage" reduced, under sliding scale, from 49s. 11d. per week to 40s. 3d. for workers 21 years of age and over, from 37s. 11d. per week to 30s. 7d. at 20; from 34s. 8d. per week to 27s. 11d. at 19; from 29s. 8d. per week to 23s. 11d. at 18; from 24s. 9d. per week to 19s. 11d. at 17; from 21s. 5d. per week to 17s. 3d. at 16; from 18s. 2d. per week to 14s. 8d. at 15; and from 16s. 6d. per week to 13s. 4d. at 14 years. Minimum time-rate after change for those 21 years and over, 25s., plus 40s. 3d.
			Females	"Cost of living wage" reduced, under sliding scale, from 29s. 8d. per week to 23s. 11d. for workers 21 years of age and over; from 28s. 1d. per week to 22s. 7d. at 20 years; from 26s. 6d. per week to 21s. 3d. at 19; from 24s. 8d. per week to 19s. 11d. at 18; from 21s. 6d. per week to 17s. 3d. at 17; from 18s. 2d. per week to 14s. 8d. at 16; from 14s. 10d. per week to 12s. at 15; and from 13s. 2d. per week to 10s. 8d. at 14 years. Minimum time rate after change for those 21 years and over, 15s. plus 23s. 11d.

* The above percentage is paid on the full basic rates up to 34s. 6d.; on higher rates it is subject to a maximum of 46s. 7d. per week for basic rates up to 43s. 1½d.; and on rates above 43s. 1½d. is paid on 80 per cent. of the basic rates.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1921—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Textile, Bleaching, Dyeing, Finishing, etc. (cont'd).	Scotland	First full pay after 25 April.	Workpeople under 21 years of age employed in the bleaching, dyeing, calico printing and finishing trades (except waste bleachers, machine calico printers, engravers and mechanics, etc., employed in repair and maintenance of plant).	Previous "cost of living" scale cancelled, and new scale adopted under which "cost of living" wage, except for females of 19 and 20, is the exact index figure percentage of actual basis wage, resulting in decreases (based on a "cost of living" index figure of 165 per cent.) of from 1s. 8d. to 9s. 11d. per week for males and from 1s. 7d. to 4s. 11d. per week for females under 19 years. For females 19 and 20 years of age the "cost of living wage" was reduced by 3s. 2d. and 1s. 7d. respectively and is calculated on slightly higher amounts than the actual basis rates. (See Award on p. 270.)
	Great Britain	2 April	Timeworkers: Males 21 years of age and over Female homeworkers Pieceworkers: Males Female homeworkers engaged in hand braiding. Timeworkers: Males 21 years of age and over (certain classes).	Minimum time rate increased, under Trade Boards Acts, from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d. per hour. (See Order on p. 213 of LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1920.) Minimum time rate increased, under Trade Boards Acts, from 8d. to 8½d. per hour. (See Order on p. 213 of LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1920.) Piecework basis time rate increased, under Trade Boards Acts, from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d. per hour. (See Order on p. 213 of LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1920.) New scale of minimum piece rates fixed, under Trade Boards Acts, resulting in an average increase of about 6 per cent. on previous rates. (See Order on p. 213 of LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1920.) Minimum time rates increased, under Trade Boards Acts, from 1s. 7½d. to 1s. 8½d. per hour for hand hacklers, from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d. per hour for Italian and Russian hemp breakers, and to rates varying from 1s. 3½d. to 1s. 5d. per hour for workers employed in the line and twine making sections of the trade. (See Order on pp. 462 and 463 of LABOUR GAZETTE for August, 1920.) Minimum time rates increased, under Trade Boards Acts, from 9½d. to 9d. per hour for slippers and bundlers, and from 8½d. to 9d. for ballers. (See Order on pp. 462 and 463 of LABOUR GAZETTE for August, 1920.) New scale of minimum piece rates fixed, under Trade Boards Acts, for hand hankling, resulting in an average increase of about 10½ per cent., and piecework basis time rate increased from 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d. per hour for Italian and Russian hemp breakers and line makers. (See Order on pp. 462 and 463 of LABOUR GAZETTE for August, 1920.)
Rope, Twine, and Net making.	Dorset and Somerset	2 April	Females (other than homeworkers) 18 years of age and over employed in the twine making section. Pieceworkers (males) (certain classes)	Minimum time rates increased, under Trade Boards Acts, from 9½d. to 9d. per hour for slippers and bundlers, and from 8½d. to 9d. for ballers. (See Order on pp. 462 and 463 of LABOUR GAZETTE for August, 1920.) New scale of minimum piece rates fixed, under Trade Boards Acts, for hand hankling, resulting in an average increase of about 10½ per cent., and piecework basis time rate increased from 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d. per hour for Italian and Russian hemp breakers and line makers. (See Order on pp. 462 and 463 of LABOUR GAZETTE for August, 1920.)
CLOTHING TRADES.				
Boot and Shoe Repairing.	Belfast	1 March	Workpeople employed in the boot and shoe repairing trade.	New list of piece prices adopted resulting in an average decrease of 10 per cent. on current rates.
	Birmingham	18 April	Workpeople employed in the retail bespoke tailoring trade. Workpeople employed in the bespoke tailoring trade:— Male timeworkers Pieceworkers	Decrease of 1½d. per "log" hour for males, and a corresponding decrease for females. Rates after change for males (ordinary work) 1s. 0½d. per "log" hour. Decreases in minimum rates of 6s., 5s. 6d., and 4s. per week for three grades of workers. Minimum rates after change, 86s., 80s., and 76s., the last rate to be regarded as applying to old and slow workers. Decreases of 2d., 1½d., and 1d. per "log" hour (London "log") for men in Grade 1, 2, and 3 shops respectively, also system to be adopted experimentally for three months whereby male and female workers combined to receive total log earnings in the proportion of 4ths to the man and 3ths to the woman, each worker being paid individually by the employer. "Log" rates* after change: Grade 1 shops, 1s. 1d.; Grade 2, 1s. 0½d.; Grade 3, 1s. 0d. Decrease of 10 per cent. in amount payable on rates fixed by National Agreement of 1919, leaving wages 12½ per cent. above these rates. Minimum time rates after change: skilled men, 60s. plus 12½ per cent.; women 20 years and over, 8d. per hour plus 12½ per cent.; minimum piecework basis time rate for skilled men, 1s. 6d. per hour plus 12½ per cent.
Tailoring	Liverpool	1st pay after 25 April.	Pieceworkers	Withdrawal of percentage payable (usually 12½) on rates fixed by National Agreement of 1919. Minimum time rates after change: skilled men, 60s.; women 20 years and over, 8d. per hour; minimum piecework basis time rate for skilled men, 1s. 6d. per hour.
Glove Manufacture.	Certain districts in England.†	Week ending 9 April.	Employees in leather section Employees in fabric section	Decrease of 10 per cent. in amount payable on rates fixed by National Agreement of 1919, leaving wages 12½ per cent. above these rates. Minimum time rates after change: skilled men, 60s. plus 12½ per cent.; women 20 years and over, 8d. per hour plus 12½ per cent.; minimum piecework basis time rate for skilled men, 1s. 6d. per hour plus 12½ per cent.
	England and Scotland.‡	Pay day in week ending 22 April.	Workpeople employed in the dyeing and dry cleaning trade.	Decreases under sliding scale of 2s. per week for males earning 40s. per week or more, of 1s. 6d. per week for males and females earning 30s. per week or more, and of 1s. per week for males and females earning less than 20s. per week. Rates after change: timeworkers: men, skilled dyers, 80s. or 85s.; dyers (one colour), 75s.; wet or dry cleaners, finishers, glazers and other skilled workers, 70s.; labourers, 65s.; women, 18 years, 29s. 6d., 21 years, 37s. 6d.; boys, 18 years, 37s. 6d.
Dyeing and Dry Cleaning.	Ireland	11 April	Certain classes of female workers employed in the linen and cotton handkerchief and household goods and linen piece goods trade.	Minimum time rate fixed, under Trade Boards Acts, at 8½d. per hour for those 18 years of age and over, other than learners, and piecework basis time rate fixed for all workers (including homeworkers) at 9d. per hour. (See Order on p. 216 of LABOUR GAZETTE for April.)
			TRANSPORT TRADES.	
Railway Service.	United Kingdom	1 April	Railway servants in traffic grades (except clerical and supervisory staffs, station masters, etc., and men receiving the bonus of 12½ per cent. or 7½ per cent.):— Males Females	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 4s. per week for engine drivers, motormen, firemen, adult engine cleaners and all male adults in other grades, and of 2s. per week for engine cleaners and all wages grades under 18 years of age. Decrease, under sliding scale, of 2s. per week for women and of 1s. per week for girls. Decrease, under sliding scale, of £20 per annum or 8s. per week for adults, and of £10 per annum or 4s. per week for junior clerks.
			1 April	Railway male clerical staffs, station masters, goods agents and assistants, passenger and parcel agents, inspectors, foremen and other male supervisory staffs (other than those in charge of men receiving the bonus of 12½ per cent. who are themselves in receipt of such bonus), traffic control staff, etc.

* These "log" rates are subject to machine deductions if any.
† The decreases took effect under the terms of a resolution passed by the Joint Industrial Council for the Glove Making Industry. The principal districts affected were Worcester, North Devon, Yeovil and Oxford.
‡ The change took effect under an agreement previously made between the National Federation of Dyers and Cleaners and the Amalgamated Society of Dyers, Bleachers, Finishers, and Kindred Trades.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1921—(continued).

Trade.	Locality	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
TRANSPORT TRADES—(continued).				
Railway Service (continued).	Great Britain	1 April	Staff employed at docks owned by railway companies (other than supervisory, dredging, grabbing, power-house and tug-boat men).	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 4s. per week.
		1 April	Male dock supervisory staff employed by all railway owned docks (excluding inspectors or foremen working in charge of shopmen, etc., who are receiving the bonus of 12½ per cent. and who are in receipt of such bonus themselves).	Decrease, under sliding scale, of £20 per annum or 8s. per week.
		1 April	Women and girl clerks employed in the railway service.	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 6s. per week for those 18 years and over, and of 3s. per week for those under 18 years of age.
		1 April	Female part time workers— Office cleaners and charwomen .. Gatekeepers (wives of Companies' servants.)	Decreases, under sliding scale, of 1s. 6d. per week for those in receipt of war wage of less than 9s. per week, of 2s. per week for those with war wage of 9s. and under 15s., and of 2s. 6d. per week for those with war wage of 15s. per week and over. Decrease, under sliding scale, of 1s. 6d. per week.
Carting Industry.	London*	29 April	Workpeople employed in the road transport industry	Decrease of 2s. per week. Rates after change: horse drivers: one horse, light, 63s. per week; one horse, heavy, 68s.; two horse, light, 69s.; two horse, heavy, 72s.; steam wagon drivers, 81s.; mates, 66s.; petrol lorry drivers up to 15 cut., 61s.; 15 cut. to 40 cut., 73s.; over 2 tons, 81s.; mates, 66s. per week.*
	Various towns in Scotland†	11 April	Drivers (horse and mechanical), stable and garage hands, mates and trailer men in the carting industry (other than those employed by Co-operative Societies).	Decrease of 3s. per week for those 18 years and over, and of 1s. 6d. per week for those under 18.†
Dock Labour ..	Arbroath, Brechin Broughty Ferry, Dundee, Forfar, Montrose, Grimsby	9 April	Workpeople employed in the carting industry (including coal carters).	Decrease of 3s. 6d. per week. †
		2 April	Fish lumpers	Decrease of 2s. per day. Rates after change: 11s. to 14s. per day.
AGRICULTURE AND FISHING.				
Agriculture ..	County of Forfar and part of County of Perth.‡	1 March	Agricultural workers (except foresters, market gardeners, and nurserymen):— Males	Minimum rates fixed, under Corn Production Act, of 36s. per week at 18 but under 21 years, of 6d. per hour at 17 to 18 years, of 4d. at 16 to 17 years, of 4d. at 15 to 16 years, and of 3d. at under 15 years.
			Females	Minimum rates fixed, under Corn Production Act, of 4d. per hour at 16 and under 17 years, 3d. per hour at 15 to 16 years, and 3d. at under 15 years.
			Foresters	Minimum rates fixed, under Corn Production Act, of 35s. at 21 years and over, and of 30s. at 18 but under 21 years.
			Market gardeners:— Males	Minimum rates fixed, under Corn Production Act, of 37s. 6d. per week for those 21 years and over, of 35s. per week for those 18 but under 21 years, 6d. per hour for those 17 to 18 years, 4d. per hour at 16 to 17 years, 4d. per hour at 15 to 16 years, and 3d. per hour at under 15.
			Females	Minimum hourly rates fixed, under Corn Production Act, of 6d. at 17 years and over; 4d. at 16 to 17; 3d. at 15 to 16, and 3d. at under 15 years.
			Nurserymen: Males	Minimum hourly rates fixed, under Corn Production Act, of 7d. at 21 years and over; 6d. at 18 to 21 years; 5d. at 17 to 18; 4d. at 16 to 17; 4d. at 15 to 16, and 3d. at under 15 years.
			Females	Minimum hourly rates fixed, under Corn Production Act, of 6d. at 17 years and over; 4d. at 16 to 17; 3d. at 15 to 16, and 3d. at under 15 years.
			Men 18 years of age and over	Increases in minimum rates, under Corn Production Act, of 5s. per week to able-bodied skilled ploughmen, cattlemen and orramen, of 6s. per week to shepherds (in charge of a hirsel of sheep) and of 5s. 6d. per week to other workers. Minimum rates after change: ploughmen, cattlemen, and orramen, 47s.; shepherds, 53s.; others, 42s. 6d.
			Women 17 years of age and over	Increase, under Corn Production Act, of 2s. 6d. per week in minimum rates. Minimum rates after change: skilled women, 29s. 6d.; others, 27s. 6d.
			Shepherds, ploughmen and cattlemen ..	Minimum weekly rates† fixed, under Corn Production Act, 1917, of 43s. for experienced workers 21 years and over, and of 40s. 6d. and 38s. for those from 18 to 21 years with not less than 4 years' and less than 4 years' experience respectively.
Other males	Minimum weekly rates fixed, under Corn Production Act, 1917, of 17s. 9d. for those from 14 to 16 years, 24s. at 16 to 18 years, 34s. 6d. at 18 to 21 years, and of 35s. 6d. at 21 years and over.			
Byrewomen and dairymaids of 16 years and over employed wholly or mainly in agriculture.	Minimum rate of 29s. 6d. per week fixed under Corn Production Act, 1917.			
Other females	Minimum rates fixed, under Corn Production Act, 1917, of 17s. 9d. per week for those from 14 to 16 years, 21s. 3d. per week from 16 to 18 years, and of 4s. 2d. per day for those 18 years of age and over			

* The decrease took effect under arrangements made between the London Cartage and Haulage Association and the Motor Transport Employers Association on the one side, and the United Vehicle Workers' Union and the National Union of Vehicle Workers on the other side. A further decrease of 2s. per week was arranged to take effect from 13th May.

† This decrease took effect under an Agreement between the Horse Owners' and Carting Contractors' Federation of Scotland, and the Scottish Horse and Motormen's Association. Full details as to the towns affected by this decrease are not yet available, but it has been reported that the reduction took effect in the following localities—Aberdeen, Alloa, Ayr, Coatbridge, Edinburgh and Leith, Glasgow, Kilmarnock, Kirkcaldy, Paisley, Perth, Stirling and West Calder. A further decrease of 2s. per week has been agreed upon when "Cost of Living" figure falls to 130 per cent. above pre-war level.

‡ A further reduction of 1s. 6d. per week has been agreed upon to take effect on 7th May.

§ Viz. Central District, Perth District, Blairgowrie District, Western District (Parishes of Ardoch, Dunblane and Lecropt, Kincardine, Kilmadock, Port of Menteith).

|| County of Argyll, County of Bute (including Arran) and part of County of Perth (i.e. Highland District, Western District, Parishes of Callander Aberfoyle, Balquhider, and Killin).

¶ These rates are subject to an addition of 2s. 6d. per week for each dog which the worker is required to keep and feed.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1921—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
AGRICULTURE AND FISHING—(continued).				
Fishing	Hull	2 April	Crews of steam trawlers*— Skippers and mates	"Trip money" previously paid, varying according to gross amount of catch, withdrawn, and rates of payment adopted for skippers of 1½ shares of 14 shares plus lump sum bonus of £100, together with a further bonus of £100 provided that they remain 12 months in same vessel, plus 20 per cent. of any profits accruing after the provision of all expenses and charges (i.e., owners' profits, insurance, depreciation and bonuses), and for mates of 1 share of 14 shares plus lump sum bonus of £25 provided they remain in vessel for 12 months.*
			Chief engineers	Decrease of 8s. per week in standard wage, "sea bonus" of 6s. per day previously granted, withdrawal, and poundage on net earnings increased from 2d. to 3d. Rates after change: 77s. per week plus 3d. in the £ on net earnings.*
			Second engineers	Increase of 1s. 6d. per week in standard wage but "sea bonus" of 6s. per day previously granted, withdrawal. Rate after change: 66s. 6d. per week plus 2d. in the £ on net earnings.*
			Trimmers	Decrease of 18s. per week in standard wage for men on Iceland boats, and of 15s. per week for men on North Sea boats, "sea bonus" of 3s. per day previously granted, withdrawal and poundage of 1d. on net earnings granted. Rate after change: 42s. per week plus 1d. in the £ on net earnings.*
			Boatswains	Increase of 4s. per week in standard wage, but "sea bonus" of 6s. per day previously granted, withdrawal; poundage on net earnings increased from 3d. to 4d. Rate after change: 49s. per week plus 4d. in the £ on net earnings.*
			Deckhands, cooks, and fishermen-trimmers.	Increase of 2s. per week in standard wage, but "sea bonus" of 6s. per day previously granted, withdrawal. Rates after change: 42s. per week plus 2d. in the £ on net earnings; fishermen-trimmers to receive 20s. extra for trimming there and back.*
			Crews of fish-carrying boats†— Skippers, mates, boatswains, deck hands and cooks.	"Sea bonus" of 6s. per day previously granted, withdrawn, and trip money reduced from £6 to £5 for skippers, from £4 to £3 10s. for mates, and from 15s. to 10s. for deck hands, the trip money for others remaining unchanged. Rates after change: skippers, £5 per week plus £5 trip money plus 1s. in the £ on net earnings; mates, £3 15s. per week plus £3 10s. trip money plus 1d. in the £ on net earnings; boatswains, £3 15s. per week plus 15s. trip money plus 4d. in the £ on net earnings; deck hands, £3 10s. per week plus 10s. trip money plus 4d. in the £ on net earnings; cooks, £3 15s. per week plus 5s. trip money plus 3d. in the £ on net earnings.*
			Engineers	Decrease of 20s. per week in standard wage, and "sea bonus" of 6s. per day previously granted, withdrawn. Rates after change: first engineers, £8 per week plus £1 trip money; second engineers, £7 per week plus £1 trip money.
			Firemen	Decrease of 7s. 6d. per week in standard wage, and "sea bonus" of 3s. per day previously granted, withdrawn. Rate after change: 40s. per week plus 10s. trip money.
			Crews of steam trawlers*— Skippers	"Trip money" and bonus previously paid conditional on "grossing" certain amounts varying with length of vessel, withdrawn, and lump sum bonus of £100 granted together with a further bonus of £100 provided they remain in vessel 12 months, plus 20 per cent. of any profits accruing after the provision of all expenses and charges (i.e., owners' profits, insurance, depreciation and bonuses).*
Mates	Bonus of 10s. per £100 gross previously granted, withdrawn, and lump sum bonus of £25 granted, provided that they remain 12 months in vessel.*			
Chief engineers	Decrease of 8s. per week in standard wage, "sea bonus" of 6s. per day withdrawn, and poundage on net earnings increased from 2d. to 3d. Rate after change: 77s. per week plus 3d. in the £ on net earnings.			
Second engineers	Increase of 1s. 6d. per week in standard wage, but "sea bonus" of 6s. per day withdrawn. Rate after change: 66s. 6d. per week plus 2d. in the £ on net earnings.			
Trimmers and firemen	Decrease of 27s. per week in standard wage to men on Iceland boats, and of 24s. per week to men on other boats, "sea bonus" of 6s. per day withdrawn, and poundage of 1d. on net earnings granted. Rate after change: 42s. per week plus 1d. in the £ on net earnings.			
Boatswains	Rate* of 49s. per week adopted plus 4d. in the £ on net earnings; "sea bonus" of 6s. per day withdrawn.			
Deck hands, decky-trimmers and cooks.	Rate* of 42s. per week adopted plus 2d. in the £ on net earnings; "sea bonus" of 6s. per day withdrawn.			
Crews of steam trawlers*— Skippers and mates	Rates of payment adopted for skippers, of 1½ shares of 14 shares plus lump sum bonus of £100, together with a further bonus of £100 provided that they remain 12 months in same vessel, plus 20 per cent. of any profits accruing after the provision of all expenses and charges (i.e., owners' profits, insurance, depreciation, and bonuses), and for mates, of 1 share of 14 shares plus lump sum bonus of £25, provided that they remain in vessel 12 months.*			
Engine room hands	Rates adopted of 77s. per week plus 3d. in the £ on net earnings for chief engineers; 66s. 6d. per week plus 2d. in the £ on net earnings for second engineers, and of 42s. per week plus 1d. in the £ on net earnings for trimmers and firemen.			
Deck crews	Rates adopted of 49s. per week plus 4d. in the £ on net earnings for boatswains, and of 42s. per week plus 2d. in the £ on net earnings for deck hands, decky-trimmers, and cooks.			
Crews of steam trawlers*— Skippers and mates	"Trip money," bonus, etc., withdrawn and rates of payment adopted for skippers of 1½ shares of 14 shares plus lump sum bonus of £100, together with a further bonus of £100 provided that they remain 12 months in same vessel, plus 20 per cent. of any profits accruing after the provision of all expenses and charges (i.e., owners' profits, insurance, depreciation, and bonuses), and for mates of 1 share of 14 shares plus lump sum bonus of £25, provided that they remain in vessel 12 months.*			

* Skippers and mates provide their own food; owners provide food for remainder of crew.
† All sections of crew provide their own food.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1921—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Agriculture and Fishing, Paper, Printing and Allied Trades, Furniture and Woodworking Trades, and Vehicle Building.

* Skippers and mates provide their own food; owners provide food for remainder of crew. † Including Barnsley, Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, Huddersfield, Keighley and Leeds. ‡ The amounts of the decreases are to be reconsidered on or before May 23rd. § The towns included in each group are as follows:—Group A.—Alverthorpe, Ainsworth, Altrincham, Aston, Accrington, Aberdare, Ashton, Birmingham, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Bromley Cross, Barnsley, Basford, Batley, Bingley, Birstal, Blackburn, Bradford, Bristol, Bath, Cardiff, Crewe, Cheadle, Carlton, Cleckheaton, Chesterfield, Chorlton, Chorley, Colwyn Bay, Denton, Dewsbury, Didsbury, Dudley, Droylsden, Erdington, Fleetwood, Gateshead, Glossop, Great Crosby, Gildersome, Guiseley, Greenfield, Great Harwood, Hadfield, Handforth, Handsworth, Hazel Grove, Heywood, Higher Ince, Hindley, Hollingworth, Hyde, Halifax, Haslingden, Huddersfield, Heckmondwike, Hull, Keighley, Long Eaton, Luddenhopt, Littleborough, Leigh, Leeds, Leicester, Llandudno, Manchester, Middleton, Monkwearmouth, Mossley, Morley, Mytholmroyd, Maclesfield, Monmouth, Merton, Newport (Mon.), Newcastle, North Shields, Nottingham, Normanton, Oldbury, Ossett, Oldham, Pennington, Prescot, Pontypridd, Preston, Rawdon, Rotherham, Rochdale, Reddish, Radcliffe, Sowerby Bridge, Salford, Shipley, Sale, Smethwick, South Shields, Sunderland, Sialybridge, Stockport, Stratford-on-Avon, Sutton Coldfield, Sheffield, St. Helens, Swansea, Tipton, Wallsend, Walsall, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton, Werneth, Warrington, Wigan, Wilmslow, Wakefield, Yeading. Group B.—Alnwick, Bacup, Barrow, Bishop Auckland, Blyth, Biggleswade, Bridgewater, Bournemouth, Brighouse, Burton, Cheltenham, Chester-le-Street, Church, Colne, Congresbury, Derby, Darlington, Darwen, Durham, Earlestown, Gloucester, Grantham, Hartlepool, Houghton-le-Springs, Huntingdon, Kidderminster, Kettering, Lincoln, Longwood, Loughboro', Lytham, Mansfield, Middlesbrough, Milnsbridge, Morpeth, Newark, Nelson, Newton-le-Willows, Northampton, Peterborough, Padiham, Rawtenstall, Ripon, St. Anne's, Shirehampton, Shrewsbury, Stamford, Southampton, Stockton-on-Tees, Scarborough, Sandbach, Thornaby, Thurston, Warwick, Weston-super-mare, Wylam, Windle, Wombwell, Wigston Magna, Yarm, York, Yeovil. Group C.—Caerphilly, Chester, Clayton West, Denby Dale, Evesham, Holmfrith, Kirkheaton, Knutsford, Llandudno, Llandilo, Llanelli, Llantrisant, Maryport, Meltham, Morniston, Nantwich, Pengam, Penrith, Porth, Redditch, Rhondda, Ross, Skelmanthorpe, Slaithwaite, Upholland, Whalley, Whitehaven, Worcester, Workington, Wrexham. Group D.—Alsager, Ammanford, Bolton by Bowland, Chafburn, Chitheroe, Garstang, Gisburn, Gorseinon, Heanor and District, Holderness, Lancaster, Malton, Morecambe, Ormskirk, Rainford, Retford, Selby, Whitby.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1921—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Class of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Furniture and Woodworking Trades, Chemical, Glass, Brick, Pottery, Etc., Trades, and Food, Drink, and Tobacco Trades.

* The towns affected, besides London, included the following, against each of which is inserted in brackets the new minimum rate for skilled grades:— Bedford (1s. 9d.), Biggleswade (1s. 10d.), Chester (1s. 9d.), Derby (1s. 11d.), Dover (1s. 10d.), Godalming (1s. 9d.), Guildford (1s. 9d.), Huddersfield (1s. 11d.), Hull (1s. 11d.), Ipswich (1s. 9d.), Leicester (1s. 11d.), Liverpool (2s.), Lowestoft (1s. 11d.), Manchester (1s. 11d.), Northampton (1s. 9d.), Norwich (1s. 11d.), Oldham (1s. 11d.), Reading (1s. 9d.), Stockport (1s. 11d.). Maximum rates have been defined for Liverpool, Manchester, Oldham and Stockport, which are now 2s. 4d. per hour for Liverpool and 2s. 3d. for the other three towns. In the case of Bedford, Northampton and Reading, it is understood that negotiations are pending in regard to the determination of new rates. † The rates generally paid are 2d. or 2½d. per hour in excess of the above minimum rates. ‡ Airdrie, Alexandria, Barhead, Bells'ill, Cambuslang, Clydebank, Coatbridge, Dumbarton, Dunoon, Falkirk, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Kirkintilloch, Larkhall, Milngavie, Motherwell, Paisley, Port Glasgow, Renfrew, Rothesay, Rutherglen, Shettleston, Strathaven, and Wishaw. § The increase took effect under an arrangement made between the Association of Glass Bottle Manufacturers of Great Britain and Ireland and the National Federation of Glass Bottle Workers. In the Glasgow district the change took effect from 11th April. ¶ The change took effect under an arrangement made by the Soap and Candle Trades Joint Industrial Council. ** Viz., Birmingham, Bristol, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Warrington, and Widnes. †† These rates are subject to the addition of 6½ per cent. incorporated bonus plus bonus of 25 per cent. on earnings. ††† Under the terms of the sliding scale agreement a wage for tablehands of 80s. was taken as corresponding with a cost of living figure of 170 per cent. above the pre-war level. For every 10 points rise or fall in this figure wages were to be increased or reduced by 2s. 6d. per week for adult male journeymen, the first alteration not to take place until the figure was between 150 and 155. As the rate actually in operation for tablehands before the sliding scale was adopted was 77s. the decrease necessary to bring the rate down to the required scale figure was 2s.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1921—(continued).

Table with 5 columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of change. It is divided into sections for 'FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES', 'MISCELLANEOUS TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS', and 'PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES'.

* A complete list of the Undertakings concerned is not yet available, but it is known that the rates have been adopted by the following Undertakings:-- Kettering, Leicester, Mansfield and Northampton.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1921—(continued).

Table with 5 columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of change. It is divided into sections for 'PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES' and 'Local Authority Services'.

* The minimum rates quoted above were granted, from the date shown, in accordance with recommendations made in October by the North and East Ridings of the County of York Provincial Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities (non-trading services, manual workers).

CHANGE IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1921.

Table with 5 columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of change. It includes one entry for 'Works of Construction' in Great Britain.

MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

THE total number of cases* of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during April, 1921, was 32.

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING. Among Operatives engaged in—

Table listing occupational diseases: Smelting of Metals, Plumbing and Soldering, Printing, File Cutting and Hardening, Tinning of Metals, etc.

(b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING.

Table listing other forms of poisoning: Mercurial Poisoning, Barometer and Thermometer Making, etc.

(c) CASES OF ANTHRAX—

Table listing anthrax cases: Wool, Handling of Horsehair, Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins, etc.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.†

THE number of workpeople other than seamen reported as killed in the course of their employment during April, 1921, was 132, as compared with 187 in the previous month and 241 a year ago.

The distribution of such fatal accidents among the various trades is as follows:—

Table showing distribution of fatal accidents by trade: RAILWAY SERVICE, MINES, QUARRIES, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, etc.

Table showing distribution of fatal accidents by industry: Gas, Wood, Clay, Stone, &c., Chemicals, Laundries, etc.

* Cases include all attacks reported to the Home Office during the month and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.

POOR-LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

(Data supplied by the Ministry of Health in England and the Board of Health in Scotland.)

THE number of persons relieved on one day in April, 1921, in the 31 selected areas named below, corresponded to a rate of 220 per 10,000 of population, showing an increase of 29 per 10,000 on the previous month, and of 88 per 10,000 on a year ago.

Compared with March, the total number relieved increased by 51,519 (or 15.1 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients of relief increased by 275 (or 0.2 per cent.), and the number of outdoor recipients increased by 51,244 (or 22.8 per cent.).

Compared with April, 1920, the total number relieved increased by 157,820 (or 67.3 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients increased by 8,897 (or 8.3 per cent.), and the number of outdoor recipients increased by 148,923 (or 117.4 per cent.).

Six districts showed increases ranging from 82 to 112 per 10,000, fourteen from 20 to 58 per 10,000, and in six districts the increases were under 20 per 10,000 of population.

Main table showing poor-law relief statistics by region: ENGLAND & WALES, METROPOLIS, WEST HAM, OTHER DISTRICTS, SCOTLAND.

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

LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, ETC.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT: FAILURE TO GET UP IN TIME FOR MORNING'S WORK: HURRYING TO WORK INSUFFICIENTLY CLOTHED AND FED: ENGINE DRIVER CONTRACTS PNEUMONIA.

A workman incapacitated by injury is entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, only where the injury was caused by an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment.

It was the duty of an engine driver on a railway to take out a train at 5.0 in the morning. One of the cleaners employed at the same station used to awaken him in time to start his work, but this was a private arrangement between the men.

The County Court Judge made an award in favour of the claimants, holding that the knocking up of the driver early in the morning was an incident of his employment; and that he contracted pneumonia through exposure arising out of and in the course of his employment.

Against this award the company appealed successfully to the Court of Appeal in Ireland. The claimants appealed to the House of Lords.

The House of Lords, while not deciding that the failure to call the driver in time could be an accident within the meaning of the Act, held that if such failure could be considered an accident it was not an accident in the course of the employment of the deceased.

(2) Emergency Legislation.

CORN PRODUCTION ACT: MINIMUM RATE OF WAGES FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKMEN: WHO ARE "WORKMEN" ? MILKMAIDS.

By the Corn Production Act, 1917, it is provided that any person who employs a workman in agriculture shall pay wages to such workman at a rate not less than the minimum rate fixed in the manner provided.

A farmer employed three young women as milkmaids. They did no other work for the farmer, were only employed part time, and were paid 12s. a week each.

Proceedings were taken against the farmer in a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for unlawfully paying these three "workmen" at a rate less than the minimum rate fixed under the Act.

The High Court held that "employment in agriculture" means employment on the land.

The Act does not touch the class of servant concerned in the case, who did nothing whatever on the land. Therefore the Justices were right, and the appeal failed.

WAGES (TEMPORARY REGULATION) ACTS, 1918-19: LIMITATION OF OPERATION: APPEALS FROM MUNITIONS TRIBUNALS: JURISDICTION OF COURTS AFTER EXPIRATION OF TIME LIMITED.

The Wages (Temporary Regulation) Act, 1918, which came into force on 21st November, 1918, provided that during six months from that date any person who employed a workman of a class to which a prescribed rate of wages was applicable should pay that workman at a rate not

less than that rate or such other rate as might be substituted therefor as provided by the Act. Any contravention of this provision was an offence to be dealt with by the local munitions tribunals.

Proceedings were taken under the Act before a local tribunal against a railway company for paying certain workmen at a rate less than the prescribed minimum.

The High Court said that though it was unfortunate that through a flaw in the Acts of Parliament, and a want of foresight in their drafting, proceedings which had begun for an offence could not be completed.

The application was therefore refused.—The King v. Ellis—King's Bench Division—5th April, 1921.

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

THE INDUSTRIAL COURT CONSTITUTED UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919.

Engineering, Shipbuilding, and Other Metal Trades.

RIVETERS.—Boilermakers' and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society v. Tyne Shipbuilders' Association, Wear Shipbuilders' Association, Tees and Hartlepool Shipbuilders' Association. Decision—In applying the Court's decision No. 614, dated 7th February, 1921, the workmen concerned should do ordinary water-tight work to which no extra payment is attached unless instructed to the contrary.

Textile Trades.

TEXTILE PIECEWORKERS—DRYSDALE, MURRAY & Co.—National Union of General Workers v. Drysdale, Murray & Co., Tillicoultry. Decision—The claim that piece-workers under 18 years of age should receive an advance under the terms of Industrial Court decision No. 521 (Textile Workers—Hillfoots) is not upheld.

Transport Trades.

CANAL BOATMEN.—Employers' Side of Midland Canal Boatmen's Wages Board v. Men's Side of the Board. Decision—A reduction in wages is to take place by withdrawing the additions to the rates of the men concerned payable as from 24th May, 1920, consequent upon the advance of 8s. 6d. a week on the basis of a 54 hours' working week.

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