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March

1940

# THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

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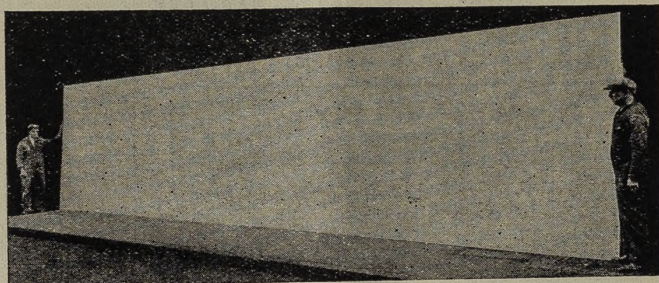


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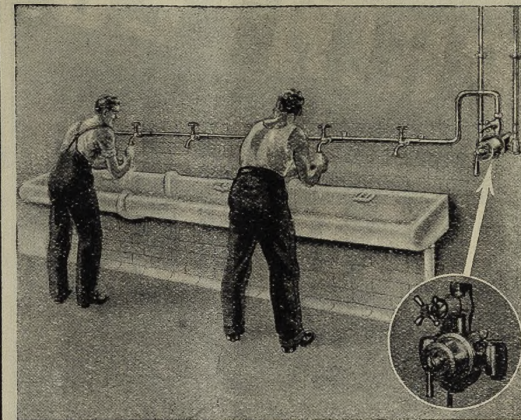
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# THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

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

### EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

ALTHOUGH weather conditions had in general improved by 12th February, when the monthly count of the numbers unemployed was taken, the effect of long-continued frost and snow in causing temporary unemployment was still more marked at that date than when the previous count was taken on 15th January. Outdoor work was still hindered in many areas, and short deliveries of materials or inability to transport output had dislocated working conditions in a large number of cases. There was, nevertheless, a drop of 80,145 in the number wholly unemployed and casuals between the two dates, but the number temporarily stopped increased by 65,349, leaving a net reduction of 14,796.

During the fortnight following 12th February the continuance of better weather enabled much of the dislocation to be remedied and there was a large drop, estimated at about 200,000, in the numbers registered.

As compared with 13th February, 1939, the number unemployed at 12th February, 1940, was lower by 392,618.

Detailed figures for 12th February are given below.

*Numbers Wholly Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).—*At 12th February, 1940, there were 1,141,358 persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 78,145 less than at 15th January, 1940, and 397,154 less than at 13th February, 1939.

*Numbers Temporarily Stopped.—*At 12th February, 1940, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 315,072 persons who were on short time or otherwise temporarily suspended from work. This was 65,349 more than at 15th January, 1940, and 23,392 more than at 13th February, 1939.

*Numbers unemployed normally in Casual Employment.—*At 12th February, 1940, there were on the registers in Great Britain 47,670 unemployed persons who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration. This was 2,000 less than at 15th January, 1940, and 18,856 less than at 13th February, 1939.

*Applicants for Benefit or Allowances.—*The total of 1,504,100 persons on the registers at 12th February, 1940, included 1,348,231 applicants for benefit or allowances and 155,869 non-claimants.

*Percentages Unemployed.—*Among insured persons, aged 16-64, the percentage unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 12th February, 1940, was 10.3 as compared with 10.2 at 15th January, 1940, and 13.1 at 13th February, 1939. For persons insured under the general scheme the corresponding percentages were 10.2 at 12th February, 1940, the same as at 15th January, 1940, as compared with 13.3 at 13th February, 1939. For persons within the agricultural scheme the percentages were 11.1, 9.7 and 9.9 respectively.

*Industries in which the Principal Variations occurred.—*There were reductions, between 15th January and

12th February, in the numbers unemployed in tailoring and dressmaking, hotel and boarding house service, the distributive trades, Local Government service, printing and bookbinding, motor vehicle, cycle and aircraft manufacture, and laundry service. On the other hand, there were increases in the numbers temporarily suspended from work in agriculture, horticulture, etc., coal mining, building and public works contracting, iron and steel and tinplate manufacture, the brick and tile industry, stone quarrying, ship building and repairing, and textile bleaching, dyeing, etc.

### WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in February are estimated to have resulted in an increase of about £437,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 2,800,000 workpeople, and in a decrease of about £17,000 in those of 190,000 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople whose wages were increased included men and boys in the engineering industry, shipbuilders and ship repairers, building trade operatives, men employed by civil engineering contractors, boot and shoe operatives, pottery workers, and wool textile operatives in Yorkshire. In the coal mining industry there were reductions in rates of wages in Northumberland, Yorkshire and the Forest of Dean, and a net increase in Leicestershire.

The changes reported in the first two months of 1940 are estimated to have resulted in a net increase of about £700,000 a week in the full-time wages of 4,738,000 workpeople, and in a net decrease of £3,600 in those of 141,000\* workpeople.

### COST OF LIVING.

At 1st March, the average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 79 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 77 per cent. at 1st February.

The index figure for food was the same at 1st March as at 1st February, viz., 61 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, increases during February in the prices of eggs, margarine and cheese being counterbalanced by decreases in those of bacon and fish.

Among items other than food, the principal changes were increases in the prices of clothing and coal.

### TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in February, was 57. In addition, 14 disputes which began before February were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workpeople involved in these 71 disputes, including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, was 41,000, and the aggregate duration of the disputes in February was about 168,000 working days.

\* Of the 190,000 workpeople whose rates of wages were reduced in February, 49,000 had received an increase of a greater amount in January.



## FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

### REPORT BY THE STATUTORY COMMITTEE.

THE Unemployment Insurance Statutory Committee are required by statute to present to the Minister of Labour, by the end of February in each year, a Report on the financial condition of the Unemployment Fund at the previous 31st December. They are required to report separately with regard to the general and the agricultural accounts of the Fund. The Reports for 1939 have now been published.\*

#### GENERAL ACCOUNT.

Since 1935 the Unemployment Insurance Statutory Committee have adopted the principle of adjusting the finance of the Unemployment Fund with a view to equating income and expenditure over the period of a trade cycle, for which they have assumed an average length of eight years. For this purpose the Committee made assumptions as to the rate of unemployment in each of the eight years 1936 to 1943, and on the assumption made for 1939, the expenditure of the Fund during that year would have exceeded the income by about £8,250,000. In fact the income has exceeded the expenditure by about £16,750,000, so that the Fund was £25,000,000 better off than if those anticipations had been realised. The question whether this sum, or any part of it, could be regarded as a disposable surplus was, in the view of the Committee, the first and main problem for their consideration.

The Committee approach the problem first, by considering how the excess of income over expenditure in 1939 came into being, and they conclude that the whole of the unexpected gain cannot be treated as a normal incident of unemployment insurance. Part of it at least was of the nature of war profits due to the improvement in employment resulting from defence expenditure. A more important line of approach is to consider the prospects of the Fund during and after the war, and on this question the Committee conclude that the balance in the Fund will continue to grow during the war, but that the end of the war is likely to be followed, as the end of the last war was, by severe unemployment, the cost of which will fall primarily on the Unemployment Fund. In view of these conclusions, the Committee state that if their powers were confined to those originally conferred upon them, they would have to end their Report by stating their inability to express any opinion as to whether or not the Fund was likely to continue to be more than reasonably sufficient to discharge its liabilities. They consider, however, that the position is affected both by the existence of a large debt of the Unemployment Fund and by the extended powers conferred on them in 1938 for dealing with it. (The Unemployment Insurance Act, 1938, authorised the use of accumulated balances, other than disposable surpluses, for repayment of debt, with power to re-borrow in case of necessity.) It is in their view, anomalous for the Fund to carry simultaneously a large accumulated balance and a large unpaid debt, and they therefore recommend that from the present balance of the Unemployment Fund a sum of £37,000,000 should be allocated to the repayment of debt. They consider this to be a reasonable mid-way course between optimism and pessimism, and to provide without excessive risk, both against the wastefulness of carrying unduly large reserves and against imprudent dissipation of such reserves. The effect of the repayment will be to make a net improvement in the income and expenditure account of the Fund of about £1,100,000. This gain can be regarded legitimately as a disposable surplus.

In considering the use which should be made of this surplus, the Committee point out that it is not appropriate for them to take account directly of such matters as the cost of living or the rates of assistance fixed from time to time by the Unemployment Assistance Board: they have no power to recommend changes in contributions or benefits merely on the ground that the value of money has altered. The Committee add, however, that once it has become clear that the Unemployment Fund has a surplus for distribution, such considerations as a change in the cost of living are not irrelevant to the decision as to what is the best use of such a surplus. Having regard to such considerations, the Committee conclude that the best use of the surplus at their disposal is to increase the rate of benefit for dependent children. The sum available as a disposable surplus, viz. £1,100,000 a year, is sufficient to provide an additional benefit of one shilling a week in respect of each of the first two dependent children, and they recommend that it should be used for that purpose.

One member of the Committee (Mr. G. W. Thomson) added a note of reservation expressing the view that a much smaller sum, perhaps £10,000,000 should have been used for repayment of debt, and that there should have been a general increase in rates of benefit. He also expressed the view that the question of abolishing the "waiting period" should be reconsidered.

#### AGRICULTURAL ACCOUNT.

The income of the agricultural account continued to be in excess of expenditure during 1939. The excess during the year amounted to £623,351, and there was a balance in the account at the end of the year of £3,397,222. The Committee state that the greater part of the existing difference between income and expenditure arises from the failure of the agricultural scheme to cover more than 50 per cent. of all the recorded unemployment in agriculture. The Committee had recommended in their Report for 1938 that an enquiry should be made into the causes of this phenomenon, but the investigation which was undertaken by the Ministry of Labour could not be

completed before the outbreak of war. All that can be said is that the situation is obscure and that it is impossible to propose a definite remedy during the war.

In the Committee's view, however, it is reasonable to conclude that the Unemployment Fund in respect of its agricultural account is likely to have some surplus of income over expenditure on its present basis, even after allowing for a prospective increase in the proportion of total unemployment that ranks for benefit. The excess is not likely to be great, but the Committee consider that it justifies them in making a recommendation for increases in the rate of benefit for dependent children under the agricultural scheme, equivalent to that proposed by them under the general scheme, i.e. an increase of benefit of 1s. per week in respect of each of the first two dependent children. In order to prevent the advantage of this increase from being taken away in all cases, the Committee also propose that the maximum limit of total benefit be raised from 33s. to 35s. a week.

The Minister of Labour announced in the House of Commons on 14th March that the Government had decided to accept the recommendations of the Committee, and that the necessary draft Order would shortly be laid before Parliament for approval.

## GOVERNMENT TRAINING CENTRES.

GOVERNMENT Training Centres, which since 1925 have played an important part in teaching unemployed men a trade and fitting them for a useful job, are faced in war-time with a new problem, and are concentrating on training semi-skilled men who can assist in increasing the output of vital industries. Despite the number of men at present unemployed there is, at the same time, an urgent demand for skilled labour. Men who have lost their employment owing to the dislocation caused by the war cannot, at present, take up alternative employment in industries which are urgently in need of additional labour because they lack the necessary skill. By taking a course of training such men may rapidly fit themselves to play a full part in the National effort.

The Centres give a thorough practical training in a number of trades where there is a demand for workers. At present, attention is concentrated chiefly on various engineering trades and the courses include engineering, draughtsmanship, fitting, instrument making, machine operating, sheet metal working, and electric and oxy-acetylene welding. The courses normally last about six months, though the draughtsmanship course lasts for nine months. The training is carried out under something like workshop conditions so that it is, in every respect, a preparation for industrial work. In addition to practical work there are lectures on problems of the kind with which skilled workmen have to deal. The trainee who completes his course successfully is not a fully skilled workman but he is well on the way to becoming one. He usually enters industry at improver's rate of pay and a capable man is likely, after a certain amount of experience, to work his way up to fully skilled status.

Admission to the Centres is, at present, normally confined to men aged 18 (for engineering trades only), men aged 19 (for training as fitters, instrument makers and draughtsmen only) and to men between the ages of 25 and 45 (for all the courses available). Men between the ages of 20 and 25 may be admitted, however, if they produce a medical certificate showing that they are unfit for military service or discharge papers showing that they have been discharged from His Majesty's Forces on medical grounds. Further, men over 45 may be accepted for training if they are fit and handy. In particular, older men who have at some time had work in some capacity in engineering or an allied industry and men who have been interested in mechanical things as a hobby will be considered. The need for skilled men is great and all applications will be carefully considered.

Men entitled to unemployment benefit and men receiving allowances from the Unemployment Assistance Board continue to receive their benefit or allowances during training, while in certain cases men who are eligible neither for assistance nor benefit are admitted and receive allowances which put them in the same financial position as if they were receiving benefit or assistance. Men who are accepted for training may, however, be disqualified for receiving benefit if they abandon their course without just cause or are dismissed for misconduct. The ordinary benefit and allowances rates are supplemented by a training allowance which is calculated to leave trainees with 5s. a week for incidental expenses after they have paid for full board and lodging. All men in training receive a free mid-day meal at the Centre on each day of attendance including Saturdays. Extra provision is also made for the dependants of unemployed men in addition to the usual rates. Fares are paid from the men's home to the Centre and to their place of employment or their home when they complete the course, and in appropriate cases men who are placed in employment away from their home areas may have their families and household effects removed to the area of their employment free of charge. In appropriate cases a tool kit is supplied free to men who secure employment in the trade in which they have been trained within twelve months after completing their course.

The need for trained men in the engineering industries is great and whilst the Government Training Centres cannot do more than supply a comparatively small proportion of the demand they do play a useful part in supplying men who have received an intensive course of instruction and who can quickly take up responsible positions.

## HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

A REPORT\* has recently been prepared by the Home Office relating to the hours of work of women and young persons in factories during the first five months of the war.

The Report begins by reviewing the position with regard to the hours of such workers during the years 1914 to 1918. In 1914, under the provisions of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, women and young persons could be employed for 60 hours a week in non-textile factories and for 55½ hours in textile factories, while in some cases women could be employed for longer hours on overtime. On the outbreak of war the system was adopted of granting Emergency Orders to individual firms for short periods, permitting longer hours to be worked, amounting in many cases to 70 or more per week. During the first six months about 3,000 such orders were made. In March, 1915, a general Order was made for works engaged on armaments and processes incidental thereto, permitting a maximum of 65 or 67½ hours and also allowing the working of shifts involving night work in certain cases. By the end of 1915 general Orders, numbering 20, had been made authorising rather shorter hours in other industries. It became apparent that continuous overtime adversely affected both the quality and the quantity of the work and following a Report by the Health of Munitions Workers Committee a revised general Order was made in September, 1916, limiting the employment of women to 60 hours and of boys over 16 to 65 hours by day and 63 by night. Restrictions were also put on night work. The tendency to reduce hours continued and by 1917 it was the exception for women and girls to be employed for as long as 60 hours a week.

After the war the normal weekly hours of labour were reduced in most industries under the provisions of collective agreements between organisations of employers and workpeople, and the Factories Act of 1937, which came into force on 1st July, 1938, fixed 48 hours as the maximum working week for women and young persons.

With the outbreak of the present war it became necessary to work substantial overtime. At the outset the various Government Departments were allowed to inform their contractors that, where necessary, they were authorised to work overtime subject to a maximum of 60 hours a week, and to make certain changes in starting and stopping times. They were required, however, to approach the local factory inspector with a view to obtaining an Order from the Home Office. This temporary arrangement was terminated at an early stage and authority to depart from the provisions of the Factories Act can now only be obtained through the factory inspectors and the Home Office. On receipt of an application the inspector visits the factory and reports on the nature of the work, the classes of workpeople affected and the details of the proposals, in order that a decision may be reached as to what modifications should be allowed. The general practice is to issue Orders limited to short periods.

The extent of the relaxation permitted is summarised as follows: Orders in respect of 2,459 factories permitted, in almost every case, a maximum of 57 hours for women and young persons over 16. Many factory occupiers found it possible to reduce the hours by re-organisation, and when applying for renewals proposed 54 hours or less. In 239 cases renewal was not requested. Permission to work on Sunday, other than on a shift system, has rarely been applied for, but it has been granted in a few cases of emergency for particular days. In the case of 299 factories permission has been granted to work two shifts, usually from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. (six turns a week) and from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. (five turns a week, or six in cases of extreme urgency). At 57 factories employment of women at night has been permitted, but in nearly all these cases the Orders provide for employment on 5 nights during the week and for a short Saturday. In the case of two-shift workers and night workers it is required that welfare and transport facilities shall be provided. Twelve factories have been allowed to modify the statutory arrangements applicable to certain industries with regard to the employment of youths over 16 on shift work; and 30, in other industries, have been permitted to adopt a system of shift-working. In all, 62 applications for permission to employ women or young persons at night have been refused and in no case are girls under 18 or boys under 16 allowed to work at night.

In the case of persons under 16, the weekly hours permissible under the Factories Act had been reduced in most industries to 44 as from 1st July, 1939. Short-term Orders were granted to 439 establishments in the engineering and shipbuilding industries to allow the employment of boys under 16 for 47 or 48 hours. A large proportion of these Orders were not renewed and at the end of five months only 133 Orders were in operation.

In the case of 133 factories the requirements of the Factories Act have been modified to allow shorter hours on five days of the week and a longer day on Saturday, in order to meet difficulties arising out of the lighting restrictions. With the coming of summer time these Orders will have served their purpose. In addition an Order was in force from November, 1939, to February, 1940, permitting a variation in the hours in the pottery industry.

There has recently been a tendency towards the standardisation of emergency hours in some industries, and towards the end of the period under review Orders were made allowing up to 54 hours in factories for the making of certain articles of clothing, 54 hours in the wool textile industry, and 55½ hours in cotton spinning and weaving.

The Report adds that it is the policy of the Government while authorising, where necessary, hours which would not be permissible in peace time, not to authorise hours which are found in the light of experience and of scientific investigation to be detrimental to health or efficient production.

\* Cmd. 6182. H.M. Stationery Office. Price 3d. net.

## THE TRADE BOARDS AND ROAD HAULAGE WAGES (EMERGENCY PROVISIONS) ACT, 1940.

THIS Act, which received the Royal Assent on 20th February, 1940, empowers the Minister of Labour and National Service, during the present emergency, to modify or suspend by regulations the operation of any of the provisions of the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, and the Road Haulage Wages Act, 1938, so as to adapt to war time conditions the existing statutory system of Trade Boards and Road Haulage Wages Boards. The penal clauses of the original statutes and the powers of the Boards as the rate fixing authorities are unaffected. Regulations have now been made under the Act.

So far as Trade Boards are concerned the emergency regulations\* allow of a reduction of the period of notice required for variations of minimum rates from not less than two months to not less than 14 days. They provide for relaxations in regard to the quorum required to enable a Trade Board to function and relieve Trade Boards of the obligation to consult district trade committees, where such committees have been set up, before proceeding with variations of rates. There are also other simplifications in the procedure of Trade Boards.

As regards the Road Haulage Central Wages Board, the principal effect of the emergency regulations† is to reduce the period of notice required for alteration in the statutory remuneration fixed by the Board to not less than 21 days. Each Area Board must within the period of 21 days have an opportunity of considering and reporting upon the proposals. The regulations also provide amongst other things relaxations regarding the numbers forming a quorum.

## TRADE BOARDS ACTS: APPLICATION TO FURNITURE MANUFACTURING.

THE Minister of Labour and National Service has made a Special Order applying the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, to the furniture manufacturing trade. The text of the Order is reproduced on page 100 of this issue.

## SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES.

### FURTHER REGISTRATIONS.

ON 1st January, 1940, a Proclamation was made by His Majesty the King, under the National Service (Armed Forces) Act, directing that, with certain exceptions, all male British subjects within Great Britain who were not already registered under the Act or under the Military Training Act, and who had reached the age of 19 but had not reached the age of 28, were liable to be called up for service in the Armed Forces of the Crown.

Men of 20, 21, 22 and 23 having already been registered, a further Registration took place on 9th March, relating in the main to the following new classes:—

- men reaching the age of 20 between 1st January, 1940 and 9th March, 1940, both dates inclusive;
- men who reached the age of 24 during the year 1939.

The provisional total number of men who registered on 9th March was 323,572.

Further registrations will be held on 6th April and 27th April, relating to men reaching the age of 20 since 9th March, 1940, and to men who reached the ages of 25 and 26 during 1939.

## NATIONAL JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL.

THE National Joint Advisory Council held its fifth meeting on 6th March, under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Labour and National Service.

The Council considered the difficulties likely to arise in connection with holiday arrangements this year. The general feeling of the Council was that it was desirable that, in the absence of further unforeseen circumstances, holidays should be granted and taken in the normal way this year. The Council felt that every possible opportunity should be used to spread over the incidence of holidays as far as local and industrial circumstances permit.

The Council also considered the problem of encouraging the transference of skilled workers from non-essential work to essential war work where their skill can be fully utilised.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on 3rd April.

## VOLUNTARY SERVICE: APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

THE Prime Minister has appointed an Advisory Committee with the following terms of reference:—

To consider the contribution which voluntary effort—other than that connected with the provision of hospital treatment—can make towards meeting problems arising out of the war and affecting the maintenance of the well-being of the civilian population, and how the services of voluntary bodies can be utilised to the best advantage for this purpose; and to advise and to make recommendations to his Majesty's Government on these matters.

The Chairman of the Committee is Lord Rushcliffe and the Secretary is Mr. John Beresford, 22a, Queen Anne's Gate, London, S.W.1.

\* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1940, No. 315, H.M. Stationery Office, price 1d. net (1½d. post free).

† Statutory Rules and Orders, 1940, No. 314, H.M. Stationery Office, price 1d. net (1½d. post free).



## UTILISATION OF THE SUPPLY OF LABOUR IN FRANCE.

ADDITIONAL measures have been taken by the French Government, in furtherance of its plans for the utilisation of all available supplies of labour during the present emergency, under a Decree dated 23rd February, 1940, and two Decree-Laws dated 28th and 29th February, 1940. In virtue of these measures, summaries of which are given below, agriculture is declared to be an indispensable national service, and all agricultural workers in France are made subject to requisition; the employment of women in certain occupations and branches of activity becomes obligatory; and provision is made for the employment and occupational training of young persons in order to secure an adequate supply of skilled labour.

**Requisitioning of Agricultural Undertakings and Agricultural Workers.**—By the Decree dated 23rd February, 1940, all agricultural undertakings in France are recognised as being indispensable for the satisfaction of the requirements of the country, and heads of agricultural undertakings, agricultural workers and rural handicraftsmen of all kinds are, therefore, made subject to requisition *en masse*, and held at the disposal of the Agricultural Production Committee in each Department. Industrial and commercial undertakings and the public services are forbidden, under penalty, to employ any persons covered by the Decree, and the persons in question are required to confine their principal activity to agriculture and forestry. Subject to certain reservations as regards persons in respect of whom individual requisition orders have been issued, agricultural workers are, however, free to change their place of employment on condition that they remain in the agricultural or forestry industry and notify the Director of Agricultural Services within eight days of the change.

Workers subject to requisition under the Decree are not entitled to any special monetary allowance, but will continue to receive the benefits of the current social legislation. In appropriate cases, their conditions of pay may be determined by the Departmental Agricultural Production Committee.

Release from requisition may be granted by the Prefect of the Department, in consultation with the Departmental Agricultural Production Committee. Children and young persons who desire to undergo a course of general or agricultural training are entitled to release as of right. Persons covered by the Decree are not thereby relieved of their military service obligations.

**Compulsory Employment of Women.**—The Decree-Law dated 28th February, 1940, provides that, during the period of hostilities, the employment of female labour is to be made obligatory in certain occupations and branches of activity. The occupations and branches of activity concerned and the proportions of female workers to be employed are to be specified in an Order to be issued by the Minister of Labour.

Except with the consent of the authorities, no male workers liable for military service may be allocated, under the regulations governing the retention in civil employment (*affectation spéciale*) of men of military age, to any employment in respect of which the proportion of female workers to be employed has been fixed at 50 per cent. or more; and the position of male workers who have already been so allocated is to be reviewed.

Male workers displaced as a result of the employment of women under the present Decree-Law may be transferred to work of national importance (in the first place, to munitions, aircraft, or naval construction work); or, if their services have not been made subject to requisition, they may find work for themselves. The release of male labour is to be regulated by the Minister of Labour, due regard being had to the state of health, age and family responsibilities of the persons concerned. Male workers displaced from their employment will be entitled to re-instatement on the cessation of hostilities, under the same conditions as those laid down for mobilised and requisitioned workers.

A voluntary census of all available female labour is to be taken within two months, and the results of the census will be centralised at the Ministry of Labour. Women and girls who are desirous of accepting employment will be medically examined before being placed on the register of persons available for employment. Applications for employment will be satisfied in an order of priority to be prescribed by the Minister of Labour, account being taken of the family responsibilities of the women concerned, and, in the case of married women, of the positions of their husbands with regard to military service. Centres for accelerated courses of occupational training for women are to be established by the Ministry of Labour.

If the demand for female labour exceeds the supply resulting from voluntary applications, the Minister of Labour may order a compulsory census of all available female labour to be taken. In such case, the services of women and girls who are suitable for employment will be made subject to individual requisition under conditions to be laid down in a Decree to be issued by the Prime Minister and Minister of Labour.

**Employment and Occupational Training of Young Persons.**—Under the Decree-Law dated 29th February, 1940, no undertaking may, under penalty, employ an apprentice who has been bound by an apprenticeship contract with another undertaking, unless the contract has been terminated under the conditions prescribed in the relevant provisions of the Labour Code. In the same manner, no undertaking may employ a child who has been attending a recognised technical school, unless he has ceased attendance on account of a change in the place of residence of his family or of *force majeure* duly certified by the principal of the school.

On leaving technical schools or centres for accelerated occupational training, young persons 16 years of age or over may be made subject to requisition for work of national importance. Before any requisition order is issued, however, the competent authority must submit for the approval of the Technical Education Committee for the Department the plan by which it is proposed to distribute the young persons

concerned among the several undertakings engaged on work of national importance. No young person may be required to work outside the locality in which his family resides, or adjoining localities, except with the consent of his family or guardian. The family or guardian of a young person may appeal against a requisition order to the Departmental Technical Education Committee, which will decide whether the order is to be upheld, cancelled or modified.

If a collective order of requisition is issued in respect of the whole staff of an undertaking, the order is to cover apprentices who have terminated their period of apprenticeship within the undertaking and young persons who have completed courses of accelerated occupational training organised by the undertaking, unless such apprentices and young persons have been individually allocated to other undertakings.

Young persons who have no regular occupation and are not receiving instruction or serving a period of apprenticeship may be required to undergo occupational training as soon as they attain the age of 16 years. Young persons of 16 years or over who are employed in an industrial or commercial undertaking in an unskilled capacity may be required to take an employment corresponding to their occupational experience or, alternatively, to undergo occupational training.

## COMPULSORY LABOUR SERVICE ACT IN SWEDEN.

COMPULSORY labour service has been introduced, in principle, into Sweden by an Act dated 30th December, 1939, which is to remain in force until 31st March, 1941. It will not, however, have practical effect until it is applied, as a whole or in part, by the issue of Royal Orders. In addition to introducing the principle of compulsory labour service, the Act makes contingent provision for restricting the freedom of the employer to engage labour and of the worker to change his employment.

Under the Act, in time of war or danger of war or of emergency caused by war, the public employment exchanges may be placed under the direction of Provincial Labour Boards, which, under a National Labour Board, are to be set up to carry out the provisions of the Act, and employers may be required to engage workers exclusively through the public employment exchanges. Certain undertakings may be granted preferential treatment in obtaining their supplies of labour. Workers may be forbidden to change their employment or to leave their work without special permission.

Retired persons who are in receipt of a pension as ex-servants of the State, but who are not yet 70 years of age, may, if their health and capacity permit, be required to take up work of the same kind as, or similar to, that in which they were formerly engaged. Compulsory labour service may be imposed upon young persons between the ages of 16 and 19 years. It is contemplated that service of this kind will be called for in emergencies, e.g., in order to save a threatened harvest.

Finally, a general obligation to perform compulsory labour service appropriate to their health and capacity may be imposed upon all persons between the ages of 16 and 70 years, inclusive. Such service may be used for the production of munitions of war, the maintenance of the national supplies of food and fuel, transport and other work of public importance. The general obligation to render service may, in practice, be limited to persons in certain occupations, age-groups or localities, or with specified degrees of family responsibility. The Act does not apply to persons who perform military service or are engaged in air defence. Special regulations are to be issued defining the measure in which civil servants may be required to perform compulsory labour service in forms other than that of the compulsory extension of their period of employment. In special circumstances, the Provincial Labour Boards are authorised to grant exemption from all kinds of compulsory labour service.

Every opportunity is to be given to persons to volunteer for labour service before it is made obligatory. After the services of such volunteers have been utilised, compulsion will be applied, in the first instance, to persons whose incomes are not likely to suffer in consequence, and, ultimately, to all the persons liable.

A special wages committee, representative of employers and workers, is to be set up to deal with questions respecting the wages and other working conditions of persons subject to compulsory labour service. These conditions will, in general, be those prescribed by legislation, agreement or custom in the undertakings to which the persons are drafted. Loss of income or extra expenses incurred as a result of compulsory labour service may be compensated, wholly or in part, by grants from the State. As in the case of compulsory military service, persons who are called upon to perform compulsory labour service may not, in consequence, be discharged from their situations.

## WAGES AND PRICES IN ITALY.

A MEETING of the Italian Central Corporative Committee, presided over by Signor Mussolini, was held at Rome on 9th March, 1940, to consider, *inter alia*, the adjustment of wages to the rise of the cost of living in Italy. The Committee recorded its opinion that any increase in wages which is not accompanied by a stabilisation of the prices of essential commodities must inevitably prove valueless. It resolved, therefore, that the maximum prices of articles of food and fuel and of necessary services should be maintained until 31st July, 1940, at the level fixed by the Interministerial Prices Committee, and, further, that there should be a general increase in wages of between 10 and 15 per cent., to be realised by negotiations between the parties concerned and to take effect from 25th March, 1940. The last general wage increase in Italy took place in March, 1939 (see this GAZETTE for April, 1939).

## EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—GENERAL REVIEW.

ALTHOUGH weather conditions had in general improved by 12th February, when the count of the unemployed was taken, the effect of long-continued frost and snow in causing temporary unemployment was still more marked at that date than when the previous count was taken in January. Outdoor work was still hindered in many areas, and short deliveries of materials or inability to transport output had dislocated working conditions in a large number of cases. There was, nevertheless, a drop of 80,145 in the numbers wholly unemployed (including casuals) in Great Britain between the two dates, but the number temporarily stopped increased by 65,349, leaving a net reduction of 14,796.

During the fortnight following 12th February the continuance of better weather enabled much of the dislocation to be remedied, and there was a large drop, estimated at about 200,000, in the numbers registered.

As compared with 13th February, 1939, the number unemployed at 12th February, 1940, in Great Britain was lower by 392,618.

The following Table gives an analysis of the numbers of persons on the registers at 12th February, 1940, with comparative figures for 15th January, 1940, and 13th February, 1939:—

	Wholly Unemployed (Including Casuals).	Temporarily Stopped.	Total.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 15th Jan., 1940.
GREAT BRITAIN.				
Men ... ..	804,966	253,533	1,058,499	+ 21,041
Boys ... ..	33,489	5,653	39,142	- 2,448
Women ... ..	300,556	52,566	353,222	- 26,759
Girls ... ..	50,017	3,220	53,237	- 6,850
Total ... ..	1,189,028	315,072	1,504,100	- 14,796
Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with:				
15th January, 1940	- 80,145	+ 65,349	- 14,796	—
13th February, 1939	- 416,010	+ 23,392	- 392,618	—

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.				
Men ... ..	861,742	254,913	1,116,655	+ 20,407
Boys ... ..	36,399	5,633	42,032	- 2,590
Women ... ..	317,267	54,376	372,243	- 27,841
Girls ... ..	51,546	3,348	54,894	- 6,843
Total ... ..	1,266,954	318,930	1,585,884	- 16,667
Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with:				
15th January, 1940	- 81,605	+ 64,938	- 16,667	—
13th February, 1939	- 421,659	+ 21,241	- 400,418	—

Unemployment decreased between 15th January and 12th February in tailoring and dressmaking, hotel and boarding house service, the distributive trades, Local Government service, printing and bookbinding, motor vehicle, cycle and aircraft manufacture, and laundry service. On the other hand, there were increases in the numbers temporarily suspended from work in agriculture, horticulture, etc., coal mining, building and public works contracting, iron and steel and tinplate manufacture, the brick and tile industry, stone quarrying, ship building and repairing, and textile bleaching, dyeing, etc.

The following Table shows the numbers of unemployed persons, aged 14 and over, on the registers of Employment Exchanges in each administrative division at 12th February, 1940, and the increases or decreases compared with 15th January, 1940:—

Division.	Numbers on Register at 12th Feb., 1940.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 15th Jan., 1940.	Division.	Numbers on Register at 12th Feb., 1940.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 15th Jan., 1940.
London ... ..	281,773	- 26,859	Scotland ... ..	184,269	- 764
Eastern ... ..	88,129	+ 6,879	Wales ... ..	120,984	+ 4,776
Southern ... ..	93,886	- 3,817	Great Britain	1,504,100	- 14,796
South-Western	46,027	- 7,558	N. Ireland	81,784	- 1,871
Midlands ... ..	99,066	+ 8,751	Gt. Britain and N. Ireland..	1,585,884	- 16,667
N.-Midlands	88,537	+ 8,181			
North-Eastern	125,592	+ 961			
North-Western	247,424	- 12,776			
Northern ... ..	128,413	+ 7,430			

The numbers unemployed decreased considerably in the London, North-Western, South-Western and Southern Divisions; but there were marked increases in the Midlands, North-Midlands, Northern and Eastern Divisions and in Wales.

Among insured persons, aged 16-64, the percentage unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 12th February, 1940, was 10.3, as compared with 10.2 at 15th January, 1940, and 13.1 at 13th February, 1939. For persons within the general scheme the corresponding percentages were 10.2 at 12th February, 1940, 10.2 at 15th January, 1940, and 13.3 at 13th February, 1939. For persons within the agricultural scheme the percentages were 11.1, 9.7 and 9.9 respectively.

## CHANGES IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—In the coal mining industry the numbers temporarily stopped showed an increase, mainly as the result of the severe weather conditions; shortages of skilled workers were again

reported from some districts. The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople aged 16-64 was 8.1 at 12th February, 1940, as compared with 7.2 at 15th January, 1940, and 13.5 at 13th February, 1939.

Employment in the iron mining industry showed a slight decline. The percentage unemployed was 6.7 at 12th February, 1940, as compared with 5.6 at 15th January, 1940, and 22.8 at 13th February, 1939. Employment declined at stone quarries but improved slightly at slate quarries; it was very poor in both industries, mainly owing to the continued bad weather, which also resulted in some further decline in employment in other mining and quarrying industries.

**Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.**—Employment in the pig iron industry showed little change and remained very good. The percentage unemployed at 12th February, 1940, was 6.2, compared with 6.0 at 15th January, 1940, and 17.9 at 13th February, 1939.

In iron and steel manufacture there was some further increase in the number of persons temporarily suspended from work in some districts; this was due in part to transport difficulties caused by the severe weather. At 12th February, 1940, the percentage unemployed among insured persons was 10.0, as compared with 7.7 at 15th January, 1940, and 17.1 at 13th February, 1939.

In the tinplate industry there was a further decline in employment. The number of tinplate mills in operation, at works in respect of which information has been received, was 306 in the week ended 17th February, 1940, as compared with 351 a month before and 251 a year before. The percentage rate of unemployment among insured persons was 19.6 at 12th February, 1940, compared with 12.4 at 15th January, 1940, and 34.1 at 13th February, 1939.

**Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal Industries.**—In the engineering industry the numbers unemployed showed little change on the whole. The numbers recorded as unemployed in general and electrical engineering decreased slightly, but in constructional engineering there was a decline in employment in most districts. There was no appreciable change in marine engineering. In motor vehicle, cycle and aircraft manufacture there was a further general improvement in employment. Shortages of skilled labour still persisted in practically all branches of the engineering industry, and further extensions of overtime and night shift working occurred. The percentage unemployed among insured persons in the engineering industry as a whole (excluding motor vehicle, cycle and aircraft manufacture) at 12th February, 1940, was 3.3, the same as at 15th January, as compared with 7.9 at 13th February, 1939. At these dates the corresponding percentages in the motor vehicle, cycle and aircraft industry were 3.4, 3.8 and 4.8 respectively.

Employment in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industry showed a slight decline due partly to bad weather. Shortages of skilled workers were again reported from some areas. The percentage unemployed among insured persons was 10.2 at 12th February, 1940, as compared with 9.4 at 15th January, 1940, and 22.8 at 13th February, 1939.

There was a further increase in the numbers unemployed in most of the other metal industries. Employment improved slightly, however, in the jewellery and plated ware trade, the stove, grate, pipe and general ironfounding industry, and in the manufacture of heating and ventilating apparatus.

**Textile Industries.**—In the cotton industry there was little change at 12th February in the numbers unemployed, either in the spinning or in the weaving section, as compared with 15th January. Transport difficulties, due to adverse weather conditions, caused temporary stoppages in certain areas. Shortages of skilled workers were reported both in the spinning and in the weaving sections. The percentage unemployed among insured persons in the industry as a whole was 6.3 at 12th February, 1940, as compared with 6.4 at 15th January, 1940, and with 19.9 at 13th February, 1939. In the preparing and spinning departments, the corresponding percentages were 6.0, 6.0 and 18.6, and in the manufacturing department they were 6.6, 6.8 and 21.3.

In the wool textile industry employment continued at a high level, and overtime was widely worked. It was stated that shortages of skilled workers and of juveniles were becoming more acute. The percentage unemployed at 12th February, 1940, was 3.4, compared with 3.6 at 15th January, 1940, and 13.5 at 13th February, 1939. In the carpet industry employment continued good; the percentage unemployed at 12th February, 1940, was 6.4, compared with 6.6 at 15th January, 1940, and 9.6 at 13th February, 1939.

Employment in most of the other textile industries showed little change, but there was a decline in the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc. trades. Shortages of skilled labour in the hosiery industry were again reported.

**Clothing Trades.**—In the tailoring trades employment improved; a decrease in the numbers unemployed occurred in all Divisions, and the general shortage of skilled machinists continued. Employment improved further in the dressmaking and millinery trades and in the hat and cap trade. In the other dress industries employment showed little change. In the clothing trades as a whole (exclusive of the boot and shoe industry) the percentage rate of unemployment among insured workpeople at 12th February, 1940, was 8.3, as compared with 10.5 at 15th January, 1940, and 11.3 at 13th February, 1939.

In the boot and shoe industry the numbers unemployed showed little change on the whole. At 12th February, 1940, the percentage unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 5.0, the same as at 15th January, 1940, as compared with 9.9 at 13th February, 1939.



Leather Trades.—In the leather tanning, currying and dressing trade (including fur dressing) the numbers unemployed showed little change as compared with a month ago. In other sections of the industry unemployment showed a slight decrease. The percentage rate of unemployment in the leather trades as a whole decreased from 5.7 at 15th January, 1940, to 5.3 at 12th February, 1940; at 13th February, 1939, the corresponding figure was 10.2.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—There was a further increase in the numbers unemployed in the building industry at 12th February, 1940, mainly as a result of the bad weather. The increase was most marked among carpenters, but also affected bricklayers, masons and slaters and tilers; there was, however, a substantial decrease in the number of plumbers recorded as unemployed. In the building industry, as a whole, the percentage unemployed at 12th February, 1940, was 26.4, as compared with 25.6 at 15th January, 1940, and 20.1 at 13th February, 1939.

In brick manufacture the numbers unemployed showed a further considerable increase. The percentage unemployed rose from 13.2 at 15th January, 1940, to 17.3 at 12th February, 1940; the figure for 13th February, 1939, was 12.8.

Employment in the furnishing trades showed a slight improvement; in the sawmilling industry, however, it declined slightly; in coach-building there was little change.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper-making industry showed little change as compared with January and was better than a year ago. There was some improvement in employment in the printing and bookbinding industries, but short-time working continued. The percentage unemployed in the paper and paper-board industries was 3.4 at 12th February, 1940, the same as at 15th January, 1940, compared with 6.5 at 13th February, 1939. The corresponding figures for printing and bookbinding were 10.7, 11.4 and 8.2 respectively; for the cardboard box, paper bag and stationery industries they were 5.7, 6.3 and 6.6 respectively.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery industry employment showed a slight improvement. The percentage unemployed among insured persons, aged 16-64, was 19.6 at 12th February, 1940, compared with 21.0 at 15th January, 1940, and with 23.4 at 13th February, 1939.

Employment in the glass trades showed a further slight decline, affecting both the bottle-making section and other sections.

Fishing.—Employment with fishermen showed little change. The percentage rate of unemployment in the fishing industry at 12th February, 1940, was 23.1, compared with 24.1 at 15th January, 1940, and 32.8 at 13th February, 1939.

Dock Labourers and Seamen.—Employment among dock labourers fluctuated somewhat, but was better than a month ago, on the whole. The percentage unemployed in dock, harbour, river and canal service was 20.9 at 12th February, 1940, compared with 21.5 at 15th January, 1940, and with 27.6 at 13th February, 1939. In harbour, river and canal service the corresponding percentages were 8.6, 6.9 and 10.9; in dock, wharf and lighterage (port transport) service, they were 23.2, 24.3 and 30.6.

Employment among seamen showed a further slight improvement. Shortages of ratings, chiefly deck hands and engineers, were again reported from several ports. The percentage unemployed in shipping service was 16.8 at 12th February, 1940, as compared with 17.4 at 15th January, 1940, and with 25.7 at 13th February, 1939.

UNEMPLOYMENT SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS.

The following Table shows, for each administrative division, the estimated numbers of insured persons, aged 16-64, at July, 1939, and the percentages of these totals represented by the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 12th February, 1940:—

Table with 7 columns: Division, Estimated Numbers Insured at July, 1939 (Males, Females), Percentages Unemployed at 12th February, 1940 (Males, Females, Total), and Inc (+) or Dec (-) on 15th Jan., 1940.

I.—GENERAL SCHEME.\*

Table showing unemployment percentages for various divisions (London, Eastern, Southern, etc.) under the General Scheme, with columns for Males, Females, and Total percentages.

\* The Special Schemes for the banking and insurance industries, for which divisional figures are not available, are shown separately.

Table with 5 columns: Division, Estimated Numbers Insured at July, 1939 (Males, Females), Percentages Unemployed at 12th February, 1940 (Males, Females, Total), and Inc (+) or Dec (-) on 15th Jan., 1940.

II.—AGRICULTURAL SCHEME.

Table showing unemployment percentages for various divisions (London, Eastern, Southern, etc.) under the Agricultural Scheme, with columns for Males, Females, and Total percentages.

III.—GENERAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCHEMES.\*

Table showing unemployment percentages for various divisions (London, Eastern, Southern, etc.) combining both General and Agricultural Schemes, with columns for Males, Females, and Total percentages.

UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

(1) NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED ON REGISTERS.

The following Table shows the numbers of unemployed persons (insured and uninsured) on the registers of Employment Exchanges at one date in each month since February, 1939:—

Table showing the number of unemployed persons on registers by date (1939-1940) and by sex/age group (Men 18 and over, Boys 14-17, Women 18 and over, Girls 14-17, Total 14 and over).

Great Britain.

(2) PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AMONG INSURED PERSONS.

The following Table shows the percentages† unemployed among insured persons, aged 16-64, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at one date in each month since February, 1939:—

Table showing unemployment percentages among insured persons by date (1939-1940) and by sex/age group (General and Agricultural Schemes, Agricultural Scheme).

\* See footnote \* in previous column.

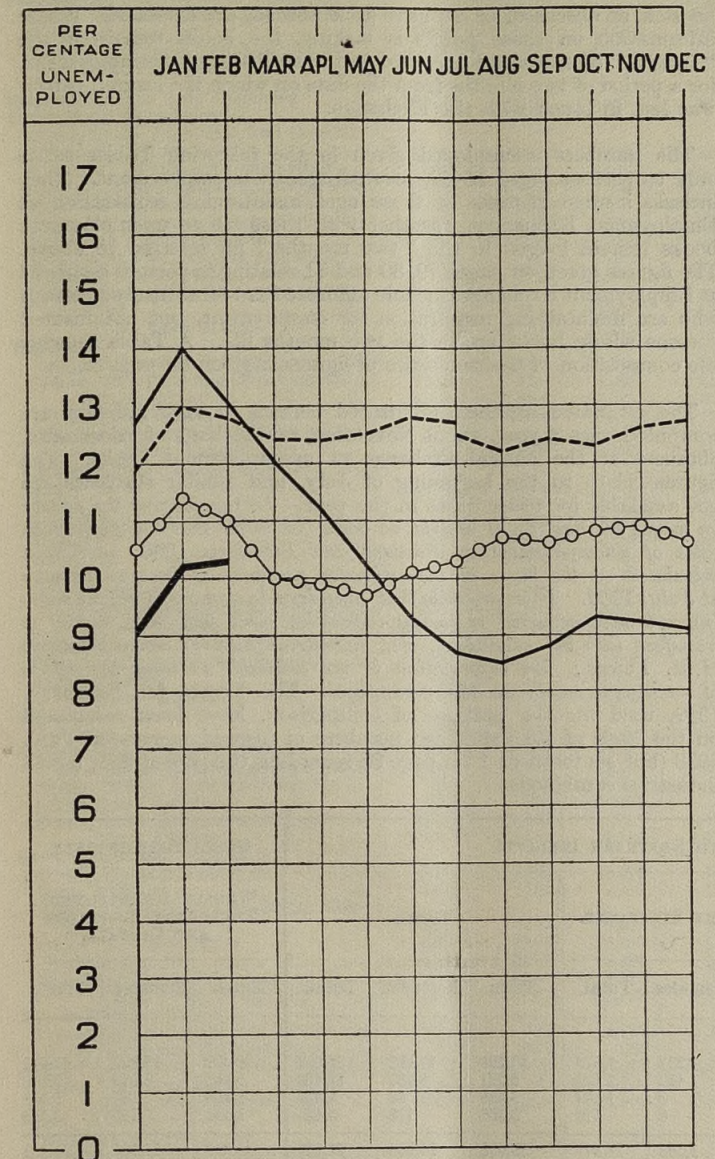
† Up to and including June, 1939, these are revised percentages calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers insured at the dates referred to; those for later months are based on the estimated numbers insured at the beginning of July, 1939, and may be subject to slight revision.

‡ Including the Special Schemes for the banking and insurance industries.

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AMONG INSURED PERSONS, AGED 16-64, IN GT. BRITAIN AND N. IRELAND.

1940. ————— 1938\*. - - - - - Mean for 1924-29†. ○-○-○-○-○



COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

ANALYSIS FOR 12TH FEBRUARY, 1940.

Table showing the composition of unemployment statistics by sex and age group (Men 18 and over, Boys 18 years and under, Women 18 years and over, Girls 18 years and under, Total).

\* From July, 1938, the figures include persons in the domestic employments brought into insurance in April, 1938; the effect of this is shown by the two points for July, 1938. † Excluding the period April, 1926, to March, 1927, and excluding agricultural workers, for whom no figures were available. ‡ See explanation on page 82.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

The Table below shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and for the principal towns therein, the number of unemployed persons registered at Employment Exchanges on 12th February, 1940:—

Large table showing the number of unemployed persons registered at Employment Exchanges on 12th February, 1940, by division and principal town, with columns for Men, Women, Juveniles, Total, and Inc (+) or Dec (-) on 15th Jan., 1940.

\* The figures for Rutherglen are included.



UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG INSURED PERSONS, AGED 16-64, AT 12th FEBRUARY: INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS.

The statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons, aged 16-64, insured against unemployment at July, 1939, and the total number and percentage of such persons unemployed on 12th February, 1940, distinguishing those wholly unemployed (i.e., out of a situation) from those temporarily stopped (i.e., suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment).

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed persons. The principal classes of excepted employments are indoor private domestic service, employment otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 a year, employment as female professional nurse, and, subject to certain qualifications, employment in the teaching profession and in the police forces. Employment under public or local authorities, railways and public utility companies may, in certain circumstances, also be excepted. Persons aged 65 and over, and certain other classes, are excluded from insurance. The Unemployment Insurance Acts do not apply to persons serving in an established capacity in the permanent service of the Crown. Some persons employed in agricultural occupations are also outside the scope of the agricultural scheme, including sons, daughters, and other near relatives of the employer, persons not working under a contract of service, and persons engaged in such casual harvesting work as hop-picking, or gathering flowers, fruit, peas or potatoes (unless they normally undertake other insurable work). Persons not domiciled in Great Britain, such as Irish migratory labourers, are not included in the figures. Prior to September, 1934, juveniles under 16 years of age were also excepted, and they are excluded from the statistics in these Tables; particulars of the numbers of these juveniles recorded as unemployed at 12th February, 1940, however, are given on page 86.

An unemployment book, on which is recorded the industry in which he is employed, is issued to every insured person, and this book must be lodged at an Employment Exchange whenever the insured person makes a claim for unemployment benefit or for an unemployment allowance, or registers as unemployed without claiming benefit or an allowance.

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

The numbers unemployed given in the following Tables relate only to persons, aged 16-64, insured against unemployment. They include insured persons of those ages maintaining registration at Employment Exchanges, together with those whose unemployment books remain lodged in the "two months" file referred to above. The figures given on pages 79, 80 and 81 relating to persons registered at Employment Exchanges include uninsured as well as insured persons who are maintaining registration for employment, but not insured persons whose books are in the two months file. A Table showing the composition of the two series of figures is given on page 81.

The estimated numbers of insured persons in each industry are computed once a year, about November, on the basis of information obtained at the annual exchange of unemployment books. The figures relate to the beginning of July, and similar statistics are not available for other dates in the year. In considering the figures on pages 84 and 85 it should be borne in mind that the percentage rates of unemployment at January and February, 1940, have been calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers of insured persons at July, 1939. It is probable that considerable changes in the numbers insured have occurred in many industries since that date, owing to transfers into the munitions, etc., industries and to recruitment for H.M. Forces; but information is not available to show the effects of such movements on the percentages. The figures for February, 1939, used for the purpose of comparison, have been calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers of insured persons at July, 1938 (but see footnote † on page 85 regarding the percentages for all industries combined).

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals), TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, TOTAL, and GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. Rows include Agricultural Scheme, Fishing, Mining, Non-Metalliferous Mining Products, Brick, Tile, Pipe, etc., Pottery, Glass, Chemicals, Paints, Oils, etc., Metal Manufacture, Engineering, etc.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals), TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, TOTAL, and GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. Rows include Construction and Repair of Vehicles, Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing, Other Metal Industries, Textiles, Leather, Leather Goods, Fur, Clothing, Food, Drink and Tobacco, Woodworking, Paper, Printing, etc., Building and Contracting, Other Manufacturing Industries, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply, Transport and Communication, Distributive Trades, Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance, Miscellaneous Trades and Services.

\* Persons insured under the Special Schemes for the banking and insurance industries are included in these figures. † Including 49,832 casuals (males, 48,057; females, 1,775). Of these, 453 males and 34 females were insured under the Agricultural Scheme.



Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS, AGED 16-64, AT JULY, 1939, PERCENTAGES AT 12TH FEBRUARY, 1940, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 15TH JAN. 1940, 13TH FEB. 1939, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 12TH FEB. 1940.

\* See footnote \* on page 85.

† See footnote † on page 85.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS, AGED 16-64, AT JULY, 1939, PERCENTAGES AT 12TH FEBRUARY, 1940, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals), TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, TOTAL, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 15TH JAN. 1940, 13TH FEB. 1939, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 12TH FEB. 1940.

\* The percentages of unemployment shown for individual industries have been computed by relating the numbers unemployed at 12th February to the numbers insured at July, 1939. In many industries there have probably been considerable changes, since that date, in the numbers insured, owing to transfers into the munitions, etc. industries and into H.M. Forces; but information is not available to show how far the percentages given would be affected by such transfers. † Persons insured under the Special Schemes for the banking and insurance industries are included in these figures. ‡ The percentage for all industries and services combined for February, 1939, used for the comparison, is the revised figure based on the estimated number insured at that date—see article on page 409 of the December, 1939, issue of this GAZETTE. The percentages for January and February, 1940, are based on the numbers insured at July, 1939.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED.

The following Table shows, for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the variations in unemployment in those industries in which the total numbers of insured persons, aged 16-64, recorded as unemployed at 12th February, 1940, differed from the figures for 15th January, 1940 by 1,000 or more:—

Table with columns: Industry, Males, Females, Total, Industry, Males, Females, Total. It lists industries like Pottery, Earthenware, etc., Agriculture, Horticulture, etc., Building, etc., and shows the change in the number of unemployed persons.



JUVENILE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

DIVISIONAL ANALYSES: JUVENILES UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE.

UNEMPLOYED JUVENILES ON REGISTERS.

The following Table shows the numbers of juveniles, under 18 years of age, on the registers of Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux in each administrative division at 12th February, 1940 :-

Table with 6 columns: Division, Aged 14 and 15, Aged 16 and 17, Total, Aged 14 and 15, Aged 16 and 17, Total. Rows include London, Eastern, Southern, etc.

INSURED JUVENILES RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED.

The Table below shows the numbers of insured juveniles, under 18 years of age, recorded as unemployed in each administrative division at 12th February, 1940.

These figures include not only insured juveniles on the register, but also those whose unemployment books were in the "two months' file" (see the paragraph below the Table in the next column). The effect of the inclusion of the "two months' file" is especially marked in the case of the London Division.

Table with 6 columns: Division, Aged 14 and 15, Aged 16 and 17, Total, Aged 14 and 15, Aged 16 and 17, Total. Rows include London, Eastern, Southern, etc.

JUVENILES ATTENDING AUTHORISED COURSES OF INSTRUCTION.

The following Table shows the numbers of juveniles, under 18 years of age, in attendance at authorised courses of instruction in each administrative division in February, 1940 :-

Table with 7 columns: Division, Week ended 21st Feb., 1940, Month ended 21st Feb., 1940, Total number of individuals who have attended Junior Instruction Centres and Classes, Other Educational Institutions, Total number of individuals who have attended Junior Instruction Centres and Classes since 1st April, 1939. Rows include London, Eastern, Southern, etc.

\* Comparable figures for other educational institutions are not available. † Of these, two classes were temporarily closed.

INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS: JUVENILES UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE.

The Table below shows for each group of industries, and for the principal industries, the numbers of insured boys and girls under 16 years of age recorded as unemployed in Great Britain, and in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, at 12th February, 1940 :-

Table with 5 columns: Industry, Great Britain (Boys, Girls), Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Boys, Girls). Rows include Agricultural Schemes, Fishing, Mining, Non-Metallic Mining Products, etc.

The figures above include those boys and girls whose unemployment books were in the "two-months' file" of lodged books, i.e., boys and girls who had registered as unemployed at some date within the previous two months and were not known to have found work, but were not maintaining registration as applicants for employment.

\* Persons insured under the Special Schemes for the banking and insurance industries are included in these figures.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official and other information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the statistics relating to this country; and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 79-80 to compare the actual level of employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland with that in other countries.]

BELGIUM.\*

RETURNS received by the National Employment and Unemployment Office from approved unemployment insurance funds with a total membership of 1,012,680 showed that 17.1 per cent. of these were totally unemployed in November, 1939, as compared with 16.7 per cent. in October, 1939, and 15.5 per cent. in November, 1938. In addition, 13.2 per cent. were employed intermittently in November, 1939, as compared with 13.6 per cent. in October, 1939, and 16.1 per cent. in November, 1938. In November, 1939, 19.8 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days were lost through unemployment, as compared with 18.7 per cent. both in the preceding month and in November, 1938.

IRELAND.†

The number of persons on the live registers of the Employment Exchanges fell from 118,461 at 27th January, 1940, to 117,394 at 24th February, 1940. At 27th February, 1939, the corresponding figure was 105,457.

NETHERLANDS.‡

Figures compiled by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchanges show that, of 592,406 members of subsidised unemployment funds making returns for the week ended 30th December, 1939, 25.3 per cent. were unemployed during the whole week and 3.5 per cent. for less than 6 days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month the percentages were 17.5 and 2.3, and in the last week of December, 1938, 34.2 and 4.7. At the end of December, 1939, 345,452 applicants for work were registered at public Employment Exchanges, of whom 270,811 were unemployed; at the end of the previous month the corresponding totals were 282,360 and 211,634, and at the end of December, 1938, 452,356 and 433,646.

SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES.

Denmark.§—According to returns received by the Danish Statistical Department from approved unemployment funds with a total membership of approximately 496,000, 33.3 per cent. of this membership were unemployed at the end of February, 1940, as compared with 30.1 per cent. at the end of January, 1940, and 27.1 per cent. at the end of February, 1939.

Norway.\*\*—Returns furnished by ten trade unions with a total membership of 94,840 show that 21.9 per cent. of this membership were unemployed at the end of December, 1939, as compared with 16.6 per cent. at the end of November, 1939, and 26.2 per cent. at the end of December, 1938.

Sweden.††—Of a total of approximately 705,000 members covered by the returns of the reporting trade unions, 14 per cent. were unemployed at the end of January, 1940, as compared with 15.2 per cent. at the end of the previous month, and 14.9 per cent. at the end of January, 1939.

SWITZERLAND.‡‡

At the end of December, 1939, 29,535 applications for employment (19.0 per thousand of the employed population according to the census of 1930) were registered at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 23,670 (14.7 per thousand) at the end of November, 1939, and 91,257 (63.5 per thousand) at the end of December, 1938. The monthly figures for 1939 are not fully comparable with those for 1938 owing to the exclusion from the statistics as from January, 1939, of applicants for work provided with employment, in their normal occupation, on relief works.

UNITED STATES.§§

According to returns received by the Bureau of Labour Statistics from employers, covering over one-half of the aggregate number of wage-earners in manufacturing industries, the number of workpeople employed at the middle of December, 1939, showed an increase of 0.2 per cent., as compared with the previous month. Aggregate weekly earnings in the establishments covered rose during the same period by 2.1 per cent. If the average monthly index of employment in manufacturing industries for the three years 1923-1925 be taken as 100, the corresponding index for December, 1939, was 104.0, as compared with 103.8 for the previous month, and 94.0 for December, 1938.

At the end of December, 1939, 5,729,484 applications for employment were registered at the Public Employment Exchanges, an increase of 1.8 per cent. as compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 20.6 per cent. as compared with December, 1938.

\* Revue du Travail, February, 1940. Brussels. † Information supplied by the Department of Industry and Commerce, Dublin. ‡ Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, 31st January, 1940. The Hague. § Statistiske Efterretninger, 6th March, 1940. Copenhagen. ¶ Provisional figure. \*\* Information supplied by the Central Bureau of Statistics, Oslo. †† Information supplied by the Department for Social Affairs, Stockholm. ‡‡ La Vie Economique, January, 1940. Berne. §§ Information supplied by the Department of Labour; Employment Security Review, February, 1940; American Federationist, February, 1940, Washington; and The Conference Board Economic Record, 10th February, 1940, New York.

According to the estimates of the American Federation of Labour, the total number of unemployed persons in the United States in December, 1939, was 9,379,000, as compared with 9,369,000 in November, 1939, and 10,335,000 in December, 1938. The National Industrial Conference Board assesses the total number of unemployed persons in December, 1939, at 8,428,000 as compared with 8,335,000 in November, 1939, and 9,304,000 in December, 1938.

CANADA.\*

At the end of January, 1940, 11.3 per cent. of the aggregate membership (approximately 247,000) of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 11.4 per cent. at the end of December, 1939, and 15.9 per cent. at the end of January, 1939.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the periods for which the rise is measured, suggest the need for caution in drawing conclusions from a comparison between the figures for any two countries or cities.

I.—FOOD.

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

Table with 6 columns: Country, July 1936, July 1937, July 1938, July 1939, Latest figures available (Rise, Date). Rows include Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Other European Countries, etc.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Table with 6 columns: Country, Items on which computation is based, July 1936, July 1937, July 1938, July 1939, Latest figures available (Rise, Date). Rows include Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Other European Countries, etc.

\* Information supplied by the Department of Labour, Ottawa. † Exceptions to this are: Finland, Italy (Rome), January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Portugal, South Africa, 1914; Egypt, Germany, 1913-1914; Netherlands, 1911-1913; Canada, 1913; Australia (all items), November, 1914. The Australian percentages for all items are weighted averages for the six capital cities. The percentages are calculated on prices in the ordinary currency. ‡ Figure for August. § The method of calculation was revised in 1937. ¶ Figure for June. \*\* Fuel and light are also included in these figures. †† The method of calculation was revised during the latter half of 1936. ‡‡ A = Food; B = House-rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and Light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items. §§ Figure for July to September. ¶¶ Figure for April to June.



CHANGES IN RETAIL PRICES AND COST OF LIVING.

Summary of Index Figures for 1st March.

Average Increase since July, 1914 ...	61%	Food	79%	All Items
Average Increase since 1st February, 1940:—		Index points	Nil	2
		Per cent.	Nil	1*

FOOD.

The average level of retail food prices at 1st March was approximately the same as at 1st February. There were increases, during the month, in the price of eggs, cheese, and the higher-priced grades of margarine (the price of the cheapest grades remaining unchanged). On the other hand, there were general reductions in the prices of bacon, averaging about 1½d. per lb. and there was some decline, on average, in the prices of fish. The prices of the other articles of food included in the statistics showed little or no change during the month.

The following Table compares the average retail prices in the United Kingdom generally at 1st March, 1940, as shown by the returns collected for the purpose of these statistics, with the corresponding prices at 1st February, 1940, and 1st September, 1939:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest ½d.) at—			Percentage Inc. or Dec. (—) at 1st March, 1940 compared with	
	1st Mar., 1940.	1st Feb., 1940.	1st Sept., 1939.	1st Feb., 1940.	1st Sept., 1939.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs ...	1 3½	1 3½	1 2½	—	10
Thin Flank ...	0 9½	0 9½	0 7½	—	25
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs ...	1 0½	1 0½	0 9½	—	33
Thin Flank ...	0 6	0 6	0 4½	—	25
Mutton, British—					
Legs ...	1 5½	1 5½	1 3½	—	13
Breast ...	0 8	0 8	0 7½	—	8
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs ...	1 0	1 0	0 10½	—	15
Breast ...	0 4	0 4	0 4	—	—
Bacon† ...	1 6½	1 8½	1 3	—	23
Fish ...					
per 7 lb.	1 1½	1 1½	1 1½	—	2
per 4 lb.	0 8½	0 8½	0 8½	—	6
Tea ...	2 5½	2 5½	2 4	—	1
Sugar (granulated) ...	0 4½	0 4½	0 3	—	49
Milk ... per quart	0 7	0 7	0 6½	—	2
Butter—					
Fresh ...	1 7	1 7	1 4½	—	14
Salt ...	1 6½	1 6½	1 3½	—	23
Cheese‡ ...	1 2	1 1½	0 10	—	5
Margarine ...	0 7½	0 6½	0 6½	—	8
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 2½	0 2	0 2	—	41
Potatoes ... per 7 lb.	0 7½	0 7	0 6½	—	13

Of the average rise of 1½d. per lb., since 1st September, in the price of sugar, 1d. per lb. is due to the increased duty provided for by the last Budget.

The following Table shows the average percentage increases or decreases in prices at 1st September, 1939, 1st February, 1940, and 1st March, 1940, respectively, as compared with July, 1914:—

Article.	Average Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) since July, 1914, at—		
	1st September, 1939.	1st February, 1940.	1st March, 1940.
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs ...	44	59	59
Thin Flank ...	15	43	44
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—			
Ribs ...	32	74	75
Thin Flank ...	1	24	24
Mutton, British—			
Legs ...	48	66	67
Breast ...	14	24	25
Mutton, Frozen—			
Legs ...	51	73	73
Breast ...	—3	—2	—3
Bacon† ...	35	80	65
Fish ...	116	191	180
Flour ...	26	29	46
Bread ...	42	47	62
Tea ...	52	61	118
Sugar (granulated) ...	46	118	97
Milk ...	92	98	97
Butter—			
Fresh ...	13	30	30
Salt ...	7	32	32
Cheese‡ ...	16	55	62
Margarine ...	—8	—6	2
Eggs (fresh) ...	58	111	122
Potatoes ...	33	46	50
All above articles (Weighted Average)	38	61	61

\* A rise of 2 points on a total of 177 for "all items" (the figure for July, 1914, being 100) is equivalent to a little more than 1 per cent.  
 † The description of bacon specified for quotation is streaky, but where this kind was seldom being sold the returns relate to another kind, locally representative.  
 ‡ Mostly Canadian or New Zealand cheese, but in some districts the returns relate to another kind, locally representative.

On the basis of the figures in the foregoing Table, the average level of retail prices of food at 1st March was approximately the same as at 1st February, but showed a rise of nearly 17 per cent. (23 points on a total of 138) since the beginning of September, 1939.

ITEMS OTHER THAN FOOD.

There has been no change since the beginning of September, 1939, in the general level of working-class rents (including rates). As compared with July, 1914, the average increase is estimated at about 62 per cent.

As regards clothing, information collected from representative retailers in a number of the principal towns indicates that at 1st March the prices of clothing of the kinds generally bought by working-class families averaged about 3 per cent. higher than at 1st February, and about 28 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939. For men's suits and overcoats, the average increase during February was about 2 per cent.; for woollen materials, underclothing and hosiery the increase was about 4 per cent.; for cotton materials and hosiery it was about 4 per cent.; and for boots and shoes it was about 2 per cent. Owing to the wide range of quotations, to changes in qualities, and to the variations in the extent to which different articles have been affected by price changes, it is not possible to make an exact comparison over a long period of years, but on the basis of such information as is available it is estimated that at 1st March the average rise over the level of July, 1914, was about 165 to 170 per cent.

In the fuel and light group, prices of coal at 1st March were, on the average, between 1 and 2 per cent. higher than at 1st February, 1940, about 9 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 11 per cent. higher than in July, 1914; for gas the corresponding percentages were 1, 17 and 80 respectively. Prices of candles rose by 8 per cent. during February, while those of lamp oil and matches showed little change. For the fuel and light group as a whole, the average level of prices at 1st March was between 1 and 2 per cent. higher than at 1st February, 13 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 105 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

As regards other items included in these statistics, there were increases during February in the prices of soap, averaging about 8 per cent., and of domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, averaging between 1 and 2 per cent. The prices of soda, newspapers, tobacco and cigarettes, and fares remained generally unchanged, during the month. For the "miscellaneous" group of items, as a whole, the average level at 1st March was between 1 and 2 per cent. higher than at 1st February, about 8 per cent. above that at 1st September, 1939, and about 93 per cent. above the level of July, 1914.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in working-class family expenditure prior to August, 1914, the resultant general average increase at 1st March, 1940, is approximately 79 per cent. over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 77 per cent. at 1st February, 1940, and 55 per cent. at 1st September, 1939. The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken at each date) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the standard of living prevailing in working-class families prior to August, 1914, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living since that date, or for any economies or re-adjustments in expenditure which may have been effected since the outbreak of the war.

The rise of 24 points since the beginning of September, 1939 (i.e., from 155 to 179 when July, 1914, is taken as 100) is equivalent to about 15½ per cent. Of these 24 points, between 1½ and 2 points are due to the increases, since that date, in the taxes on sugar and tobacco.

SUMMARY TABLE: ALL ITEMS.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month, 1920 to 1940:—

Year.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1920	125	130	130	132	141	150	152	155	161	164	176	169
1921	165	151	141	133	128	119	119	122	120	110	103	99
1922	92	88	86	82	81	80	84	81	79	78	80	80
1923	78	77	76	74	70	69	70	71	72	76	80	81
1924	77	79	78	73	73	72	73	73	74	76	76	77
1925	80	79	79	75	73	72	73	70	72	74	79	79
1926	75	72	72	68	67	68	70	70	72	74	69	69
1927	75	72	71	65	64	63	66	64	65	67	67	68
1928	68	66	64	64	64	65	65	65	65	66	67	67
1929	67	65	66	62	61	60	61	63	64	65	67	67
1930	66	64	61	57	55	54	55	57	57	56	57	55
1931	53	52	50	47	47	45	47	45	45	45	46	48
1932	47	47	46	44	43	42	43	41	41	43	43	43
1933	42	41	39	37	36	36	38	39	41	41	43	44
1934	42	41	40	39	37	38	41	42	43	43	44	44
1935	43	42	41	39	39	40	43	43	43	45	47	47
1936	47	47	46	44	44	44	46	46	47	48	51	51
1937	51	51	51	52	52	55	55	55	55	55	60	60
1938	59	57	56	54	56	55	59	56	56	55	56	56
1939	55	55	53	53	53	53	56	55	55	65	69	73
1940	74	77	79									

A detailed account of the method of compilation of these statistics, "The Cost of Living Index Number: Method of Compilation," is obtainable, price 3d. net (3½d. post free), from H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the cover of this GAZETTE.

TRADE DISPUTES IN FEBRUARY.\*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in February in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 57, as compared with 73 in the previous month and 68 in February, 1939. In these 57 new disputes about 28,000 workpeople were directly involved, and 11,000 workpeople indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 1,800 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 14 disputes which began before February and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 71, involving 40,800 workpeople, and resulting in a loss, during February, estimated at 168,000 working days.

In the following Table is given an analysis, by groups of industries, of all disputes in progress in February:—

Industry Group.	Number of Disputes in progress in Month.			Number of Workpeople Involved in all Disputes in progress in Month.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month.
	Started before beginning of Month.	Started in Month.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying ...	3	22	25	26,000	119,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	6	14	20	8,200	20,000
Building, etc. ...	1	5	6	2,100	10,000
Other ...	4	16	20	4,500	19,000
Total, February, 1940 ...	14	57	71	40,800	168,000
Total, January, 1940 ...	3	73	76	56,800	108,000
Total, February, 1939 ...	9	68	77	28,400	116,000

Causes.—Of the 57 disputes beginning in February, 16, directly involving 6,200 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages, and 10, directly involving 13,600 workpeople, on other wage questions; one, directly involving 300 workpeople, on a question relating to working hours; 14, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons;

13, directly involving 2,700 workpeople, on other questions respecting working arrangements; and 2, directly involving 2,100 workpeople, on questions of trade union principle. One stoppage of work, directly involving 100 workpeople, was in support of workers involved in another dispute.

Results.—Final settlements of disputes which terminated during February have been effected in the case of 47 disputes, directly involving 12,100 workpeople. Of these disputes, 12, directly involving 1,900 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 24, directly involving 4,600 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 11, directly involving 5,600 workpeople, resulted in a compromise. In the case of 7 other disputes, directly involving 2,600 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1940 AND 1939.

Industry Group.	January and February, 1940.			January and February, 1939.		
	No. of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Fishing and Agriculture ...	2	2,100	13,000	4	900	41,000
Mining and Quarrying ...	46	65,000	178,000	44	25,400	69,000
Engineering ...	12	9,500	21,000	14	9,000	26,000
Shipbuilding ...	9	1,000	2,000	6	1,100	4,000
Other Metal ...	18	4,000	14,000	12	1,100	4,000
Textile ...	9	2,600	9,000	7	1,200	9,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	2	3,800	7,000	2	300	5,000
Building, etc. ...	7	1,800	12,000	19	3,400	33,000
Transport ...	3	900	2,000	4	500	1,000
Other ...	22	5,100	18,000	13	1,800	5,000
Total ...	130	95,800	276,000	125	44,700	197,000

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING FEBRUARY.

Occupations and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.†	Began.	Ended.		
COAL MINING:— Colliery workpeople—Stepps, Lanarkshire (one colliery). Colliery workpeople—Lanarkshire and parts of Dumbartonshire and West Lothian. Colliery workpeople—Yorkshire ...	1,000	...	12 Jan.	17 Feb.	For reinstatement of three men dismissed as a disciplinary action.	Three dismissed men reinstated after one week's suspension.
	26,000	...	29 Jan.	29 Jan.	In sympathy with workpeople involved in above dispute.	
IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE:— Fitters, turners, machinemen, electricians, blacksmiths, etc., employed in steel manufacture—Motherwell, Lanarkshire (one firm).	350	100	20 Feb.	20 Feb.	Alleged violation of embargo on overtime by foremen electricians.	Work resumed; embargo on overtime withdrawn.
ENGINEERING:— Workpeople employed in aircraft manufacture—Birmingham (one firm). Electricians and other workpeople employed in aircraft manufacture—Coventry (one firm).	1,196	...	22 Feb.	26 Feb.	Against management's refusal to continue to permit workpeople to make tea during working hours.	Tea wagons to be sent round workshops by management at specified times.
	2,500	...	26 Feb.	2 Mar.	Claim on the part of electricians for basic rate of 2s. 6d. per hour plus national bonuses.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
SHIPBUILDING:— Electricians—Glasgow (one firm)...	454	...	19 Feb.	20 Feb.	Against employment of labourers on work claimed by electricians.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
MOTOR, ETC., ACCESSORIES MANUFACTURE:— Workpeople employed in manufacture of motor and cycle accessories—Birmingham (one firm).	2,500§	...	26 Feb.	29 Feb.	Workpeople's objection to proposed new terms for determining the output basis in computing wages rates, on the ground that these terms involved a reduction in earnings.	Amicable settlement effected.
LINEN MANUFACTURE:— Weavers, winders and ancillary workers—Belfast (one firm).	1,450	...	26 Feb.	...	Refusal to work with non-unionists.	No settlement reported.
BOOT AND SHOE MANUFACTURE:— Boot and shoe trade operatives—near Leicester (one firm).	1,670	...	14 Feb.	24 Feb.	For payment of piecework rates alleged to be appropriate to work on Government contracts.	Agreement effected after reference of dispute to sub-committee of Leicestershire and Rutland Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade.
BUILDING:— Navvies, bricklayers and labourers—near Manchester (one firm).	1,074	...	20 Feb.	21 Feb.	Demand by navvies for advance in wages, and by navvies and bricklayers for payment of travelling allowances.	Advance in wages of ½d. per hour granted to navvies.
TRANSPORT:— Motor drivers, vanguards, engineers, etc.—London (one firm).	577	...	5 Feb.	6 Feb.	Refusal of fitters to work under a foreman who had previously been a motor driver.	Foreman transferred to other work.

\* 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, etc.) exceeded 100 days.

† i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred but not themselves parties to the disputes.  
 ‡ Stoppages began and ended on various dates, mainly between 15th February and 2nd March.  
 § Estimated number.  
 || Approximately 210 workpeople ceased work on 14th February but resumed on 15th February. The stoppage recurred on 19th February, and the total number of workpeople involved increased to 1,670 on 21st February.



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

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics,\* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in February in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an increase estimated at about £436,800 in the weekly full-time wages of 2,806,700 workpeople and in a decrease of £17,000 in those of 190,000 workpeople.

The particulars are analysed by industry groups below:—

Industry Group.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Estimated Amount of change in Weekly Wages	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ...	34,500	190,000	£ 3,200	£ 17,000
Engineering, Shipbuilding, Ship-repairing and Metal	1,259,200	—	268,500	—
Textile ...	209,600	—	32,500	—
Building ...	888,700	—	87,200	—
Other ...	414,700	—	45,400	—
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>2,806,700</b>	<b>190,000</b>	<b>436,800</b>	<b>17,000</b>

In the coal mining industry there were changes in the percentage additions to basis rates in a number of districts, but these changes were partly or wholly counterbalanced by changes in the flat-rate wage additions. The combined effect of these changes was that in Northumberland, Yorkshire and the Forest of Dean there were net reductions in wages; in Leicestershire there was a net increase, while in North Derbyshire, Cannock Chase, North Staffordshire and North Wales there was no change on balance. In Nottinghamshire the percentage was increased, with retrospective effect from 1st January, the flat-rate addition remaining unchanged.

In the metal group there were general increases of 5s. a week for men in the engineering, shipbuilding, ship-repairing, and certain other metal industries, with smaller increases, according to age, for apprentices, boys and youths. Other workpeople in this group whose wages were increased included blastfurnacemen in most districts, workpeople employed in steel sheet rolling, steel workers at Sheffield and in South West Wales, tinplate workers, workpeople employed in iron and steel wire manufacture, and brassworkers in Yorkshire.

In the textile group the principal increase affected wool textile workers in Yorkshire, whose wages were increased under a cost-of-living sliding scale by approximately 7½ per cent. for timeworkers and by 6½ per cent. for pieceworkers. Other increases affected wool textile workers in the West of England, flannel workers at Rochdale, and silk workers at Leek and Macclesfield.

In the building group building trade operatives generally received increases amounting to ½d. an hour in England and Wales, and to 1d. an hour for craftsmen and ½d. an hour for labourers in Scotland. There was also an increase of ½d. an hour for men employed by civil engineering contractors.

In the other industry groups, the principal increases affected boot and shoe operatives, whose wages were advanced by 3s. and 2s. a week on time rates for men and women respectively and by approximately 4 per cent. on current rates for pieceworkers, and pottery workers for whom there were flat-rate increases of 4d. a day for men, 3d. for women and 2d. for juniors.

Of the estimated total increase of £436,800 per week, about £8,650 was due to the operation of sliding scales based on selling prices or on the proceeds of the coal mining industry; £126,700 was due to arrangements made by joint standing bodies (including £81,850 under cost-of-living sliding scales arranged by such bodies); £56,950 was due to the operation of other sliding scales based on the cost of living; and the remaining £244,500 was the result of direct negotiations between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

The whole of the estimated total decrease of £17,000 per week was due to the operation of sliding scales based on the proceeds of the coal mining industry.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1940.†

Industry Group.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net		Estimated Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Coal mining ...	637,200	141,000	£ 60,950	£ 3,600
Other Mining and Quarrying ...	37,700	—	4,400	—
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ...	151,800	—	17,750	—
Iron and Steel ...	906,800	—	8,700	—
Engineering† ...	138,800	—	198,500	—
Shipbuilding ...	230,200	—	32,900	—
Other Metal ...	585,500	—	38,500	—
Textile ...	179,100	—	81,450	—
Clothing ...	136,200	—	18,150	—
Food, Drink and Tobacco Woodworking, Furniture, etc. ...	86,100	—	16,400	—
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	—	—	10,150	—
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	943,700	—	93,850	—
Gas, Water, and Electricity Supply ...	77,500	—	11,700	—
Transport‡ ...	389,600	—	76,150	—
Public Administration Services ...	48,500	—	7,750	—
Other ...	133,000	—	25,300	—
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>4,738,500</b>	<b>141,000</b>	<b>702,600</b>	<b>3,600</b>

In the corresponding two months of 1939, there were net increases of £44,750 in the weekly full-time wages of 611,450 workpeople, and net decreases of £12,550 in those of 120,100 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported during February.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics).
Agriculture	Denbighshire and Flintshire.	16 Feb.	Male workers 21 years and over employed as team-men, cattle-men, cowmen, shepherds or bailiffs.	Increase in minimum rate of 2s. 6d. per week (37s. 6d. to 40s.)§
			Other male workers ...	Increases in minimum rates ranging from 11d. at 15 and under 16 years to 2s. 6d. per week at 21 years and over. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over, 34s. 6d.‡
	Northumberland ...	1 Feb.	Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of 1d. per hour. Minimum rate after change at 18 years and over, 6d. per hour.§
				Decrease of 8.41 in the percentage addition to basis rates, leaving wages 45 per cent. above the basis rates, and flat-rate additions increased from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 7d. per shift for workers 18 and over and from 7d. to 9½d. per shift for workers under 18, resulting in a net decrease in wages.
Coal Mining	South Yorkshire ...	1 Feb.	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines.	Decrease of 10 in the percentage addition to basis rates, leaving wages 36 per cent. above the basis rates, and flat-rate additions increased from 1s. 8d. to 2s. 1d. per shift for underground workers 21 and over and surface workers 22 and over and from 10d. to 1s. 0½d. per shift for workers under those ages, resulting in a net decrease in wages.¶
	West Yorkshire	1 Feb.		Decrease of 5 in the percentage addition to basis rates, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the basis rates for underground workers, 38-34 per cent. for surface workers in the Eastern sub-division and 35 per cent. for surface workers in the Western sub-division, the flat-rate additions previously in operation remaining unchanged.
				16 Feb.
	Derbyshire (except South Derbyshire).	1 Feb.		Decrease of 0.40 in the percentage addition to basis rates, leaving wages 4.32 per cent. above the basis rates, and flat-rate additions increased from 1s. 8.39d. to 1s. 9d. per shift for all workers 21 and over and for workers 18 and over at the coal face, and from 9.69d. to 10d. per shift for all other workers.¶

\* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in the weekly wages and hours of labour exclude changes affecting Government employees, agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of changes in the wages and hours of these classes are shown in the list of principal changes recorded. The estimates of the effects of the changes on weekly wages are based on normal conditions of employment and do not take into account the effect of short-time working, etc.  
 † Of the 190,000 workpeople whose rates of wages were reduced in February, 49,000 had received an increase of greater amount in January.  
 ‡ Changes affecting workpeople employed in railway engineering workshops are included under "Engineering" and not under "Transport."  
 § These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924.  
 ¶ Adult day-wage workers whose basis rate, plus the percentage addition, amount to less than 8s. 9d. per shift (plus 2s. 1d. per shift) are paid, as previously, a subsistence allowance sufficient to bring their wages up to that amount, subject to a maximum allowance of 8d. per shift.  
 § The change in the percentage addition to basis rates was equivalent to the change in the flat-rate addition, with the result that, on balance, there was no change in the total wages payable.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics).
Coal Mining—contd.	South Derbyshire	1 Feb.	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines.	Increase of 1.99 in the percentage addition to basis rates.*
	10 Feb.	Decrease of 1.99 in the percentage addition to basis rates, leaving wages 29 per cent. above the basis rates.*		
	Nottinghamshire ...	1 Jan.	Leicestershire ...	Increase of 5 in the percentage addition to basis rates making wages 80 per cent. above the basis rates, the flat-rate addition of 1s. 8d. per shift for workers 18 and over and 10d. per shift for those under 18, previously paid, remaining unchanged.†
	1 Feb.	Decrease of 3.12 in the percentage addition to basis rates, leaving wages 56.22 per cent. above the basis rates, and flat-rate additions increased from 1s. 8d. to 2s. 1d. per day for workers 21 and over, and from 10d. to 1s. 0½d. per day for other workers, resulting in a net increase in wages.		
	Cannock Chase ...	1 Feb.	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines, other than engine winders, deputies and firemen, examiners and shotfitters.	Increase of 1.3 per cent. in the percentage addition to basis rates making wages 54.61 per cent. above the basis rates for shopmen, mechanics, and surface workers not handling coal, and 52.61 per cent. for all other workers. Flat-rate additions reduced from 1s. 9.76d. to 1s. 8.57d. per day for workers 21 and over, and from 10.88d. to 10.28d. per day for other workers.‡
	North Staffordshire	1 Feb.		Decrease of 1 in the percentage addition to basis rates, leaving wages 46 per cent. above the basis rates, and flat-rate additions increased from 2s. to 2s. 1d. per shift for workers 21 and over and from 1s. to 1s. 0½d. per shift for those under 21.§
	Forest of Dean	12 Feb.	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines, other than master hauliers, underground linemen and engineers.	Decrease of 6.71 per cent. on basis rates of 1919 (equivalent to 5.02 per cent. on standard rates of 1921) leaving the percentage 78.73 per cent. above the basis rates of 1919 (equivalent to 32.39 per cent. above the standard rates of 1921).
				Decrease of 3.23 per cent. on basis rates of 1919 (equivalent to 2.39 per cent. on standard rates of 1921) leaving the percentage 75.5 per cent. above the basis rates of 1919 (equivalent to 30 per cent. above the standard rates of 1921).
	North Wales ...	1 Feb.	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines.	Decrease of 2 in the percentage addition to basis rates, leaving wages 22 per cent. above the basis rates, and flat-rate additions increased from 1s. 10.8d. to 2s. 1d. per shift for workers 21 and over, and from 11.4d. to 1s. 0½d. per shift for those under 21, plus special flat-rate advance given in October, 1937 to lower-paid workers.‡
	England and Wales	1st full pay week in Feb.	Cast stone and cast concrete products workers.	Increase¶ of ½d. per hour.
Cumberland...	5 Feb.	Workpeople employed in and about iron ore mines.	Increase** of 3d. per shift for those 18 years and over and of 1½d. per shift for those under 18 years; miners' minimum wage increased from 8s. 6d. to 9s. 9d. per shift. Shift rates after change: shiftmen (first class or leading), 11s. 9d.; winding engine-men, joiners and blacksmiths, 11s. 6d.; mineral shot-borers, 11s. 6d. plus 3d. per foot bored; pumping engine-men, loco-drivers and crane drivers, 11s.; underground leading labourers, 10s. 10d.; underground miners' bargain price, 11s. 6d.	
Cleveland ...	12 Feb.	Ironstone miners ...	Increase** of 6.75 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 44.75 per cent. above the basis rates. Rates after change for labourers: 5s. 9d. to 6s. 1½d. per shift plus 44.75 per cent.††	
Furness and district	3 Feb.	Iron ore miners ...	Increase** of 2d. per shift for adult dayworkers, and proportional increases for timeworkers; miners' minimum wage increased from 9s. 0½d. to 9s. 1½d. per shift. Shift rates after change: underground miners' bargain price, 10s. 11d.; repairers and men on special day work, 10s. 11d.; engine drivers, 10s. 2d.	
North Lincolnshire...	4 Feb.	Ironstone miners and quarrymen...	Increase** of 3 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 54 per cent. above the standard rates.‡‡	
Leicestershire and the adjoining parts of Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire (excluding Corby), Banbury and district Northamptonshire (excluding Corby).	1st pay in Feb.	Ironstone miners and quarrymen	Increase** of 5 per cent. on standard rates making wages 48.25 per cent. above the standard rates.‡‡	
Other Mining and Quarrying.	West Cumberland ...	5 Feb.	Limestone quarrymen ...	Increase** of 2d. per shift for those 18 years and over and of 1d. per shift for those under 18 years.
	South and West Durham.	12 Feb.	Limestone quarrymen ...	Increase** of 6.75 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 44.75 per cent. above the basis rates. Rates after change for labourers: 5s. 9d. to 6s. 1½d. per shift plus 44.75 per cent.††
	Buxton district (certain firms)§§	Last pay week in Jan.	Limestone quarrymen ...	War bonuses granted of 1½d. per hour to timeworkers 21 years and over working a 48-hour week, of 1½d. per hour to time-workers and pieceworkers 21 years and over working a 45-hour week, and of 1½d. per hour to timeworkers and pieceworkers 21 years and over working a 42-hour week. Workers under 21 years to receive half these amounts.
	Portland ...	1 Feb.	Banker masons, mason machinists, labourers, etc., employed in saw mills and stone yards.	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: banker masons and mason machinists, 1s. 8½d. per hour; smiths and carpenters, 1s. 6½d.; sawyers and skilled labourers, 1s. 4½d.; unskilled labourers, 1s. 3½d.
	Northumberland and Durham.	1 Feb.	Freestone quarrymen ...	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: stone planing machinemen, 1s. 8d. per hour; quarrymen and grindstone turners, 1s. 7½d.; crane drivers, 1s. 4½d.; labourers, 1s. 3d.
	South Wales and Monmouthshire.	1st pay week after 11 Dec., 1939.	Pennant stone quarryworkers (boys and youths).	Increases of 1d. per hour for unskilled boys and youths under 18 years and of 1½d. per hour for those 18 and under 21 years. Rates after change: 6½d. at 15 years increasing to 1s. 1½d. at 20 years.
County of Pembroke	1 Feb.	Roadstone quarryworkers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour for timeworkers and of a proportional amount for pieceworkers. Minimum hourly rates after change: drillers, barring down men and tar mixers, 1s. 3d.; plant men, breakers and loaders, 1s. 2d.; unskilled adult workers, 1s. 1d. ¶¶; unskilled boys and youths, 6½d. at 15 years increasing to 1½d. at 20 years.	
Scotland ...	21 Feb.	Workpeople employed in and about shale mines and oil works.	Increase*** of 4d. per shift for those 18 years and over and of 2d. per shift for those under 18 years.	

\* Flat-rate additions are also paid to underground workers of 2s. 1d. per shift for those aged 21 and over and of 1s. 0½d. for others, and to surface workers of 1s. 7d. per shift for those aged 21 and over and of 9½d. per shift for others.  
 † This increase is the result of an adjustment of the percentage addition to basis rates and supersedes the entry on page 61 of the February issue of this GAZETTE.  
 ‡ Adult able-bodied day-wage workers whose basis wages plus the percentage addition amount to less than 8s. 9d. per shift (plus 1s. 8.57d. per shift) are paid, as previously, a subsistence allowance sufficient to bring their wages up to that amount, subject to a maximum allowance of 6d. per shift.  
 § The change in the percentage addition to basis rates was equivalent to the change in the flat-rate addition, with the result that, on balance, there was no change in the total wages payable.  
 ¶ Flat-rate additions totalling 1s. 7d. per shift are paid to continuous shift men and 1s. 10d. per shift to other workers 18 years and over, the additions for workers under 18 being half these amounts. In addition, the wages of adult able-bodied day-wage workers are not to fall below 6s. 1½d. per shift (plus 1s. 10d. per shift).  
 \*\* This increase is the second of two such increases agreed to at a meeting of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Cast Stone and Cast Concrete Products Industry on 13th December, 1939.  
 †† Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.  
 †‡ Flat-rate advances are also paid of 1s. per shift for adults and of 6d. per shift for youths.  
 §§ Flat-rate advances are also paid of 8d. per shift for adults and of 4d. per shift for youths.  
 ¶¶ Members of the Derbyshire and District Limestone and Roadstone Aggregates Industrial Council.  
 \*\*\* These increases were agreed to by the District Joint Industrial Council for the Pennant Stone Industry for South Wales and Monmouthshire.  
 \*\*\*\* The rates for skilled and semi-skilled workers are 1d. or 2d. per hour above this rate.  
 \*\*\*\*\* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.



PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Pottery Manufacture.	Various districts in England and Scotland.*	1st pay day in Feb.	Workers employed in the pottery trade (excluding those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries).	Flat-rate increases† of 4d. per day or part of any day worked for men, of 3d. for women, and of 2d. for male and female workers under 21 years of age.
	Various districts in England and Scotland.	1st pay day in Feb.	Workers employed in the stone-ware trade.	Flat-rate increases† of 4d. per day or part of any day worked for men, of 3d. for women, and of 2d. for male and female workers under 21 years of age.
Glass Manufacture.	Gateshead, Sunderland and Knottingley.	23 Feb.	Pressed glass makers ...	Increase† of 1s. per week.
	Yorkshire ...	Pay day in week commencing 19 Feb. 19 Feb.	Workpeople employed in glass bottle manufacture (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries). Engineers employed in glass bottle works.	Increase† of 1s. per week for men and of 6d. for youths and females. Increase of 5s. per week.
Chemical Manufacture.	St. Helens and Doncaster.	1 Feb.	Building trade craftsmen employed in glass works.	Increase of ½d. per hour.
	England and Wales (certain firms)‡	Commencement of pay period in week beginning 19 Feb. 1 Feb.	Engineers employed in chemical works.	War bonus increased by 5s. per week for men and by 10d. to 2s. 6d. for juveniles.
Boot and Floor Polish Manufacture.	England and Wales (certain firms)‡	1 Feb.	Building trade operatives employed in chemical works.	Increase of ½d. per hour.
	Scotland§ ...	1 Feb.	Building trade operatives employed in chemical works.	Increase of 1d. per hour.
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	Great Britain	1st full pay period in Feb.	Workpeople employed in the boot and floor polish trade.	Increase in minimum Trade Board rates of 3s. per week for male workers 21 years and over, of 2s. for males 18 years and under 21 and for females 18 years and over, and of 1s. for males and females under 18.
	Cleveland and Durham.	4 Feb.	Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed at blastfurnaces.	Increase† of 6·75 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 53·25 per cent. above the standard rates.**
	Tees-side ...	4 Feb.	Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed at blastfurnaces.	Increase† of 6·25 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 71 per cent. above the standard rates.**
	West Cumberland and North Lancashire.	Commencement of pay period in week beginning 19 Feb. 4 Feb.	Skilled engineers, etc., employed on maintenance work at blastfurnaces.	War bonus increased by 5s. per week for those whose wages are regulated by wages movements in the engineering industry.
	North Lincolnshire...	4 Feb.	Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed at blastfurnaces.	Increase† of 3 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 54 per cent. above the standard rates.**
	Northamptonshire (excluding Corby).	Pay preceding 1st pay day in Feb. 4 Feb.	Workpeople employed at blastfurnaces.	Increase† of 5·5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 53·75 per cent. above the standard rates.**
	North Staffordshire	Commencement of pay period in week beginning 19 Feb. 4 Feb.	Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed at blastfurnaces.	Increase† of 7·5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 55 per cent. above the standard rates.**
	Bilston ...	4 Feb.	Skilled engineers, etc., engaged on maintenance work at blastfurnaces.	War bonus increased by 5s. per week.
	Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire.	Commencement of pay period in week beginning 19 Feb. 1st full pay in Feb.	Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed at blastfurnaces.	Increase† of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 48·25 per cent. above the standard rates.**
	South Wales and Monmouthshire (certain firms)††	Commencement of pay period in week beginning 19 Feb. 1st full pay in Feb.	Skilled engineers employed on maintenance work at blastfurnaces.	War bonus increased by 5s. per week for adults and by 2s. 6d. per week for youths 18 to 21 years of age.
	West of Scotland ...	Commencement of pay period in week beginning 19 Feb.	Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed at blastfurnaces and in melting shops and iron and steel rolling mills.	Increase of 1s. per week for adults and of 6d. per week for youths and boys. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 55s. per week.
	Great Britain.††	5 Feb.	Skilled engineers, etc., employed on maintenance work at blastfurnaces. Skilled engineers, etc., employed on maintenance work at iron puddling forges and mills and sheet mills. Workpeople employed in steel sheet rolling mills:— Adult workers (except general labourers), with basis rates of 36s. 6d. or over per week. Boys and youths ...	War bonus increased by 5s. per week. Increase† of 10 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 77·5 per cent. above the basis rates, and discontinuance of <i>ex gratia</i> payments granted in November, 1939, resulting in net increases of various amounts. Increase† of 10 per cent. on basis rates making wages 77·5 per cent. above the basis rates, and <i>ex gratia</i> payments granted in November, 1939, reduced to 1s. 4d. per week for those under 18, 1s. 10d. for those 18 and under 19, 2s. 3d. for those 19 and under 20, and 2s. 8d. for those 20 and under 21, resulting in net increases of various amounts.
South Yorkshire (certain firms).	Commencement of pay period in week beginning 19 Feb.	Skilled engineers, etc., employed on maintenance work at steelworks.	War bonus increased by 5s. per week.	

\* Including North Staffordshire, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Worcester, Bristol, Bovey Tracey, Kilmarnock and Bo'ness.  
 † Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.  
 ‡ This increase applied to employees of firms affiliated to the Association of Chemical Employers.  
 § This increase applied to employees of firms affiliated to the Scottish Association of Chemical Manufacturers.  
 || These increases were agreed upon by the Trade Board on 24th January to take effect from a date to be determined by the Minister of Labour and National Service. The employers' side of the Board agreed to recommend, however, that the new rates should be put into effect without waiting for the Minister's Confirming Order, and the increase was conceded by members of the Boot and Floor Polish Manufacturers' Association on the date shown above.  
 ¶ Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.  
 \*\* Flat-rate advances are also paid of 8d. per shift for adults and 4d. per shift for youths.  
 †† Members of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Iron and Steel Manufacturers' Association.  
 ‡‡ This increase affected mainly the employees of firms who are members of the Sheet Trade Board, the principal districts affected being Staffordshire, Cheshire, Tees-side, South Wales and Monmouthshire and the Glasgow district. In the case of general labourers the minimum total wage remained unaltered at 56s. 6d. per week.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.	
Iron and Steel Manufacture—contd.	Sheffield ...	Commencement of pay period in week beginning 19 Feb.	Adult workers employed in open hearth and electric melting departments, rolling mills, forges and press shops, with ancillary men and service men.	Consolidated shift war bonus of 4s. 2d. per shift increased to 5s.	
			Adult workers employed in crucible steel melting departments.	Consolidated shift war bonus increased by 10d. per shift making bonus 3s. 10d. per shift for productive workers and 5s. per shift for data workers, the percentage bonus of 17·5 on the data and tonnage earnings of productive workers remaining unchanged.	
			Boys and youths employed on shifts in the steel trade.	Consolidated shift war bonus increased by 1s. 6d. per week for those under 18 years, and by 2s. 6d. per week for those 18 years and over. Consolidated shift war bonus after change: those under 18 years in receipt of 14s. and less per week, 7s. 6d. per week; those under 18 years in receipt of over 14s. per week, 9s. 6d. per week; those 18 to 21 years, 16s. per week.	
			Daymen 21 years of age and over on a 47-hour week (and under engineering conditions) employed in steel melting departments (Siemens, electric and crucible furnaces), heavy rolling mills, hire rolling mills, forges and tilting shops.	War bonus increased by 5s. per week.	
	South-West Wales	4 Feb.	Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed in Siemens steel manufacture:— Adult workers ...	Building trade operatives employed in steelworks.	Increase of 5s. per week. Rates after change: bricklayers, carpenters, joiners, painters, plumbers, 82s.; labourers, 63s.; navvies, 60s.*
				Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed in Siemens steel manufacture:— Adult workers ...	Increase† of 3·75 in the percentage addition to basis rates, making wages 90·85 per cent. on basis rates up to and including 23s. per week, and varying inversely with the basis rates from 88·35 per cent. on a basis rate of 30s. per week to 30 per cent. on basis rates of 54s. and over per week. In addition, a "make-up" was granted of 1s. 8d. per week for those with a basis rate of 30s. per week and varying inversely with the basis rates to 1d. per week for those with a basis rate of 46s. per week.
				Youths 18 and under 21 years	Increase† of 3·75 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 82·08 per cent. above the basis rates.
				Boys under 18 years ...	Increase† of 3·75 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 45·83 per cent. above the basis rates (plus an <i>ex gratia</i> bonus of 3d. per shift previously paid).
	Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Commencement of the pay period starting in the week beginning 19 Feb.†	Workpeople employed in the engineering and allied industries (except those whose wages are regulated by wage movements in other industries, e.g. building, electrical contracting, etc.):— Adult male workers ...	Bricklayers employed in Siemens steel manufacture.	War bonus increased by 5s. per week, making bonus 27s. for timeworkers and 25s. for pieceworkers.
				Apprentices, boys and youths	Increase† of 10d. per week for those 14 and 15 years of age, 1s. 3d. per week for those 16, 1s. 8d. per week for those 17, 2s. 1d. per week for those 18, and 2s. 6d. per week for those 19 and 20.
				Skilled moulder and skilled core-makers.	Increase of 1s. per week in the basic rate. Rate after change: 50s. plus a war bonus of 22s. 5 per week for timeworkers.
				Metal dressers ...	Increase of 1s. 6d. per week in the basic rate. Rate after change: 41s. plus a war bonus of 22s. 5 per week for timeworkers.
Engineering, Shipbuilding and Ship-repairing.	Halifax (including Hebden Bridge and Sowerby Bridge). Hull ... Keighley ... Grantham district ...	Pay day in the week ending 3 Feb. Pay week commencing 1 Feb. 1 Feb.† Commencement of the pay period starting in the week commencing 19 Feb.	Skilled moulder and skilled core-makers.	Increase of 1s. per week in the basic rate. Rate after change: 50s. per week plus a war bonus of 27s. for timeworkers.	
			Metal dressers ...	Increase† of 4s. per week in the basic rate. Rate after change: 48s. plus a war bonus of 27s. for timeworkers.	
			Skilled moulder and skilled core-makers.	Increase† of 4s. per week in the basic rate. Rate after change: 48s. plus a war bonus of 27s. for timeworkers.	
			Core-makers ...	Increase† of 4s. per week in the basic rate. Rate after change: 48s. plus a war bonus of 27s. for timeworkers.	
Edinburgh, Leith and district.**	All federated shipbuilding and ship-repairing centres in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	1st full pay week following 15 Feb.	Toolmakers ...	Increase of 3s. per week in the basic rate.	
			Toolmakers ...	Minimum rate adopted for fully qualified toolmakers of 1½d. per hour above the recognised district basis time rate for fitters and turners. Rate after change: 50s. 10½d. plus a war bonus of 22s. 5 per week for timeworkers.	
			Blacksmiths, hammermen and apprentices employed in engineering and foundry shops.	Increase† of 1d. per hour. Rates after change include: blacksmiths, 1s. 8½d. per hour; hammermen, 1s. 4½d.	
			Workpeople employed in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industry, with the exception of those whose wages fluctuate in accordance with wages in other industries:— Adult male workers ...	Increase†† of 5s. per week war bonus for all timeworkers and pieceworkers. National uniform rates after change (inclusive of bonus) for principal classes of timeworkers engaged on new work: skilled men, 75s. per week; unskilled men, 56s. The rates in West of England districts and in Aberdeen are 1s. and 2s. per week less respectively in each case.	

\* Men working on chimney and stack work over 40 feet high are to be paid 4s. per week extra, and over 90 feet high, 8s. per week extra. Navvies called upon to do timbering in trenches, pits, etc., are to be paid an "all-in" rate of 63s. per week for the time so employed.  
 † The sliding-scale arrangement warranted no change in the sliding-scale percentage, but it was agreed to anticipate sliding-scale advances to the extent of 3·75 per cent.  
 ‡ Workpeople in the allied industries include those employed by federated firms in railway carriage and wagon building, pressed steel motor-body work, constructional engineering, sheet metal working, gas meter making, scale, beam and weighing machine making in various districts in Great Britain; in the drop forging and stamping, cycle, small arms, small tools, steel casement and sash window, ammunition, axle and spring, cast-iron hollow-ware, furnace, grate and stove, malleable ironfoundry, nail, tank, spring, tube and wire rope, etc., trades in the Birmingham and Wolverhampton districts, and in spindle and flyer making in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire and at Belfast. It was also agreed that from the commencement of the pay week which occurs in the week beginning 5th February, young journeymen and apprentices on losing rates should be raised to the full rate, and apprentices as they complete their apprenticeship will be paid the full district rate of their craft. This arrangement is to apply during the period of hostilities.  
 § Increased to 27s. as from the commencement of the pay day of the firms concerned, but was 14th, 15th or 16th February.  
 ¶ The date varied according to the pay day of the firms concerned.  
 \*\* This increase was the result of an agreement between the Engineering and Allied Employers' (Grantham and District Association) and the National Union of Foundry Workers, which provided that skilled coremakers in this district shall be paid the skilled moulder's rate.  
 †† This increase affected workpeople employed by members of the Edinburgh and District Ironmongers' and Master Blacksmiths' Association.  
 ‡‡ These increases took effect as the result of an agreement between the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.



PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Engineering, Shipbuilding and Ship-repairing—contd.	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	Commencement of the pay period starting in the week beginning 19 Feb.	Fitters, turners, etc., employed in federated shipyards.	War bonus increased by 5s. per week for adults and by 10d. to 2s. 6d. per week for apprentices, boys and youths.
	Hull*	Pay week commencing 22 Feb.	Shipwrights, electricians, etc., employed on repairs to fishing vessels.	Increase of 5s. per week.
	Portsmouth†	Commencement of pay period starting in the week beginning 19 Feb.	Mechanics and labourers employed in the shipbuilding, engineering, etc., industries.	Increases of 5s. per week for adults and of 10d. to 2s. 6d. per week for apprentices, boys and youths. Rates after change for adults: mechanics, 75s. per week; labourers, 55s.
Railway Workshops.	Great Britain (except Great Central Section of the L. and N.E. Railway).	1 Jan.	Railway shopmen employed by main line companies.	Increases of 5s. per week for men, of 3s. per week for women, of 2s. per week for boys and girls aged 18 and under 21 years, and of 1s. per week for boys and girls under 18 years.
	Great Central Section of the L. and N.E. Railway.	Commencement of the pay period starting in the week beginning 19 Feb.	Railway shopmen whose wages are regulated by wage movements in the engineering industry.	War bonus increased by 5s. per week for adults with proportional increases for apprentices, boys and youths.
Constructional Engineering.	Great Britain ...	Commencement of pay period in week beginning 19 Feb.	Workpeople employed on outside steelwork erection.	Increase of 1½d. per hour. Hourly rates after change include: London Area (within a radius of 16 miles from Charing Cross)—erectors, 1s. 9½d.; erectors' helpers, 1s. 7½d.; riveters, 1s. 10½d.; riveters' holders-up, 1s. 9½d.; sheeters, 1s. 11½d.; sheeters' holders-up, 1s. 9½d.; rivet heaters† (adults), 1s. 7½d. Outside London Area—erectors, 1s. 8½d.; erectors' helpers, 1s. 6½d.; riveters, 1s. 9½d.; riveters' holders-up, 1s. 8½d.; sheeters, 1s. 9½d.; sheeters' holders-up, 1s. 8½d.; rivet heaters† (adults), 1s. 6½d.
	Tees-side (certain non-federated firms).	Commencement of pay period in week beginning 19 Feb.	Male workers employed in engineering, boilermaking, bridgebuilding, etc., shops.	War bonus increased by 5s. per week for adults and by 10d. to 2s. 6d. per week for apprentices, boys and youths.
Galvanising.	England and Wales‡	5 Feb.	Workpeople employed in galvanising processes (excluding the process of annealing).	Increase of 10 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 77.5 per cent. above the basis rates, and discontinuance of <i>ex-gratia</i> payments granted in November, 1939, resulting in net increases of various amounts.
			Boys and youths ...	Increase of 10 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 77.5 per cent. above the basis rates, and <i>ex-gratia</i> payments granted in November, 1939, reduced to 1s. 4d. per week for those under 18, 1s. 10d. for those 18 and under 19, 2s. 3d. for those 19 and under 20, and 2s. 8d. for those 20 and under 21, resulting in net increases of various amounts.
Wire Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	1st full pay week in Feb.	Skilled and ancillary workpeople employed in iron and steel wire manufacture.	War bonus increased by 2s. (4s. to 6s.) per week for adult male workers and by proportional amounts for females and youths.
Hollow-ware Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	Beginning of the 1st full pay period beginning on or after 7 Feb.	Male workers (except fusers' helpers in the enamelware section). Fusers' helpers in the enamelware section. Female workers ...	New schedule of minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts resulting in increases of ½d. to 1d. per hour in the general minimum time rates, and of ½d. to 1½d. in the piecework basis time rates. General minimum time rate after change for men, 1s. 1½d. per hour. New minimum time rate adopted under the Trade Boards Acts of 1s. 4½d. per hour, resulting in an increase of 1½d. per hour. New schedule of minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts resulting in increases of ½d. or ¾d. per hour in the general minimum time rates and of ½d. to ¾d. per hour in the piecework basis time rates. General minimum time rate after change for women, 7½d. per hour.
	Brass Manufacture.	Rotherham, Sheffield, Doncaster, Halifax and Dewsbury districts.	Commencement of pay period in week beginning 19 Feb.	Male workers ...
Rivet, Nut and Bolt Manufacture.	Atherton and district. Scotland ...	Commencement of pay period in week beginning 19 Feb.	Male workers ... Workpeople employed in the machine rivet, nut and bolt trade.	War bonus increased by 5s. per week for adults and increases of 10d. to 2s. 6d. per week for apprentices, boys and youths. Increases in war bonus of 5s. per week for men 21 years and over, of 2s. 6d. per week for male workers 18 and under 21 years and for females 18 years and over, of 1s. 8d. per week for boys and girls 16 and under 18 years, and of 10d. per week for boys and girls under 16 years.
Spring Manufacture.	Accrington, Bury and Rochdale.		Spring makers and grinders ...	Increases of 5s. per week for adults (68s. to 73s.) and of 10d. to 2s. 6d. per week for apprentices, boys and youths. Increase of 5s. per week for adults. Rates after change: smiths, 76s. per week; strikers, 62s.
	Sheffield ...	19 Feb.	Laminated spring fitters and vice-men, smiths and strikers.	War bonus of 5s. per week granted. Rate after change: piece price list of September, 1922, plus 22½ per cent. plus 5s. per week.
File Manufacture.		Commencement of the pay period in the week beginning 12 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the file trade:— Datal workers (except grinders and hand cutters). Pieceworkers (except grinders and hand cutters).	Increases in bonus of 4s. (22s. to 26s.) per week of 47 hours for men 21 years and over, and of 3s. (11s. 6d. to 14s. 6d.) per week of 47 hours for women 18 years and over. Discontinuance of the discount of 2½ per cent. from piecework price lists, and the lists net plus a bonus of 2½ per cent. to be paid to men 21 years and over and to girls under 18 years. Rates increased for women 18 years and over from piecework price list plus 5 per cent. to piecework price list plus 10 per cent. Discontinuance of the discount of 2½ per cent. from the piecework price lists and datal rates.**
	Sheffield ...	Commencement of the pay period in the week beginning 29 Jan.	Grinders (men and youths) ...	

\* This increase affected workpeople employed by members of the Hull Fishing Vessel Owners' Association.  
 † This increase affected workpeople employed by members of the Portsmouth and District Engineering and Shipbuilding Employers' Association.  
 ‡ Rivet heaters (adults) if employed in rigging of scaffolding or work usually carried out by an erector receive the erectors' rate whilst so employed.  
 § This increase affected mainly the employees of firms who are members of the Galvanising Conciliation Board.  
 ¶ Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.  
 \*\* It was also agreed that as from the commencement of the pay period in the week beginning 4th March the net list and daywork rates be paid plus a bonus of 2½ per cent.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Edge Tool Manufacture.	Sheffield ...	Commencement of the pay period in the week commencing 12 Feb.	Men employed in the light edge tool trade.	Increase in bonus of 4s. per week.
	Machine Knife etc., Manufacture.		Men employed in the heavy edge tool trade.	Increase in bonus of 4s. per week for pieceworkers and of 5s. for lower paid dayworkers.
Saw Manufacture.	Sheffield ...	Commencement of pay period in week beginning 12 Feb.	Machine knife makers ...	Increase in bonus of 4s. (22s. to 26s.) per week of 47 hours for men 21 years and over.
			Jobbing grinders ...	Increase in bonus of 4s. per week for men 21 years and over, making bonus where calculated on net earnings 45 per cent. plus 14s. per week; where calculated on gross earnings, 50 per cent. plus 14s. per week.
Tube Manufacture.	Sheffield and Chesterfield.	Commencement of pay period in week beginning 19 Feb.	Slacks machine grinders ...	Increase in bonus of 4s. per week for men 21 years and over, making a bonus of 40 per cent. on earnings plus 14s. per week.
			Saw makers, grinders, etc....	Increase in bonus of 4s. (22s. to 26s.) per week for men 21 years and over.
Needle, Fish Hook and Fishing Tackle.	Redditch and district.	6 Feb.	Workpeople employed in tube manufacture.	War bonus increased by 5s. per week for men, and by 10d. to 2s. 6d. per week for apprentices, boys and youths.
			Women and girls employed in the needle, fish hook and fishing tackle industry.	Increase* of 2s. 6d. per week for those 18 years and over and of 1s. 6d. per week for those 16 to 18 years.
Pen Manufacture.	Birmingham and district.	Pay day following 1st Mon. in Feb.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of steel and metal pens and stationers' metal sundries— Male timeworkers 21 years and over. Male timeworkers under 21 years. Apprentices ... Female dayworkers and learners ... Female pieceworkers ...	War bonus increased by 5s. per week for skilled men and charge hands and 1s. per week for others. Rates after change: toolmakers over 25 years, 79s. 4d. and 69s. 10d.; toolmakers 21 to 25 years, 59s. 10d.; charge hands, 63s. 10d. to 71s. 10d.; others, 50s. Increases* of 3d. to 9d. per week. Increases* of 2d. to 6d. per week. Increases* of 2d. to 5d. per week. Rate after change for dayworkers 18 years and over, 28s. 7d. per week. Increase* of 5d. per week in basic piecework rate (29s. 8d. to 30s. 1d.).
				Screw Manufacture.
Rivet and Nail Manufacture.	Birmingham and district, Warrington, Leeds and Sheffield.	1st full week in Dec., 1939.	Male workers employed in the shoe rivet and wire nail trade.	War bonuses granted of 7s. 6d. per week for adults, of 5s. per week for those 18 to 21 years and of 2s. 6d. per week for those under 18 years.
Typefounding.	London ...	23 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the screw making trade.	War bonus increased by 5s. per week for men, and by 10d. to 2s. 6d. per week for apprentices, boys and youths. Rates after change for men: fitters—daywork, 73s. 6d., piecework, 83s.; labourers—daywork, 57s. 6d., piecework, 63s.
Gold, Silver and allied Trades.	London ...	1 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the typefoundries.	Increase* of 1s. per week for male workers and of 6d. per week for female workers. Rates after change: mould makers, 89s.; engineers and justifiers, 81s.; rubbers, 64s.; other workers, 69s.; females, 34s. 6d.
				Workpeople employed in the gold, silver and allied trades.
Tinplate Manufacture.	South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.	4 Feb.	Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed in tinplate manufacture.	Increase† of 3 per cent. on standard basis rates, making wages 15 per cent. above standard basis rates of over 6s. 10½d. per day, and 35.75 per cent. above standard basis rates of 6s. 10½d. or less per day.
				Workpeople employed in the woollen and worsted industry, other than the classes specified below.
Woolen and Worsted Industry.	West Riding of Yorkshire.	Pay day in week ending 2 Mar.†	Pressers and blanket raisers (pieceworkers). Warpers and winders and shawl fringers at Saddleworth.	Cost-of-living wage increased* from 53.2 per cent. to 62.7 per cent. on base rates. Cost-of-living wage increased* from 56.735 per cent. to 66.872 per cent. on base rates for warpers and winders, and from 51.853 to 61.113 per cent. for shawl fringers.
				Wool sorters... Mechanics employed in wool combing and worsted spinning establishments. Enginemmen, firemen and greasers ...
Flannel Manufacture.	West of England ...	1st pay day in Feb.	Workpeople employed in the woolen and worsted industry.	Increase of 2s. 6d. per week for men, of 1s. 6d. for women and of proportional amounts for juveniles. Minimum rates after change for timeworkers include: men 21 years and over—Class A occupations, 58s.; B, 55s.; C, 51s.; D, 48s.; women, 18 years and over—Class A, 31s.; B, 29s. 6d.; C, 28s.
	Rochdale and district		Pay day in week ending 2 Mar.†	Workpeople employed in flannel manufacture.

\* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.  
 † Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.  
 ‡ In respect of the preceding pay period.  
 § For timeworkers the cost-of-living wage is subject to a maximum of either (a) 27s. 2½d. per week or (b) an amount derived from applying the following percentages to the base rates:—72.6 per cent. on the first 51s., 16.323 per cent. on the next 13s., and 7.974 per cent. on any excess over 64s. whichever yields the greater amount.



PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.	
Silk Manufacture.	Leek ...	2 Feb.	Timeworkers:— Men 21 years and over ...	Increase* of 2s. per week. Minimum rates after change: braid spinners, throwers, reelers and knitting depots, 50s.; fully qualified braid speeders and knitting tacklers, 55s. 6d.	
			Women 21 years and over ...	Increase* of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change: 32s. plus for hard silk work bonuses which will yield (as previously) a possible 2s. 6d. per week.	
			Male and female workers 20½ years and under.	Increase* of 2s. per week for men and of 1s. 6d. for women. Basis rates after change: men, 51s.; women, 30s. plus in each case 15 per cent.	
			Pieceworkers ...	Increase* of 2s. per week for men 21 years and over and of 1s. 6d. for youths 20½ years and under. Minimum rates after change: dyers and glossers, 53s. 6d.; mixers, 53s. 6d. to 61s. 6d.	
			Dyers ...	Increase* of 2s. per week.	
Linen Manufacture.	Kirkcaldy ...	13 Jan.	Tenters, dressers, lappers, calendermen and labourers employed in the linen industry.	Increase of 10 per cent. Rates after change include: tenters and dressers, 64s. 9d.; labourers, 50s. 3d.	
			Jute Manufacture.	Calenderers and dyers employed in the jute industry.	Increase of 5 per cent.†
Elastic Web Manufacture.	Leicester ...	19 Feb.	Elastic web weavers and braid hands (male workers).	Bonus on earnings increased* from 15s. to 16s. in the £.	
Calico Printing	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	1st pay day in Mar.‡	Machine calico printers ...	Supplementary wage increased* from 31-05 to 34-65 per cent. on basis wages, and flat-rate bonuses of 19s. and 13s. for journeymen and apprentices increased to 20s. and 14s. respectively.	
Silk Dyeing and Finishing.	Macclesfield ...	Pay day in week ending 10 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the silk dyeing and finishing trade.	Cost-of-living wage increased* from 65 to 74 per cent. on basis rates. Minimum weekly rates after change: men 21 years and over, 55s. 8d., women 18 years and over, 54s. 10d.	
Retail Bespoke Tailoring.	Northern Ireland ...	26 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the retail bespoke tailoring trade.	Increase of 10 per cent. on existing minimum rates.§	
Glove Making	England ...	Week ending 10 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the glove-making industry.	War bonus of 7½ per cent. increased to 10 per cent.	
Waterproof Garment Manufacture.	Manchester and Salford district (certain firms).	1 Feb.¶	Timeworkers ...	Bonus of 12½ per cent. on rates in operation at 3rd September, 1939, increased to 17½ per cent.¶	
			Pieceworkers ...	Bonus of 12½ per cent. on current piece prices (list plus 12½ per cent.) increased to 17½ per cent. for all workers except those employed on Government Coat Capes, for whom the bonus was increased from 5 per cent. to 10 per cent.¶	
Boot and Shoe Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	Pay day in week ending 3 Feb.	Male timeworkers ...	Increase* of 1s. to 3s. per week. Minimum weekly rates after change: 16s. at 15 years increasing each year to 25s. at 17 and then each half year to 64s. at 22 years and over.	
			Female timeworkers ...	Increase* of 1s. to 2s. per week. Minimum weekly rates after change: 16s. at 15 years increasing each year to 24s. 6d. at 17, and then each half year to 42s. at 20 years and over.	
			Pieceworkers ...	Increase* on basic statement prices of 4½ per cent. making 11 per cent. in all.	
Baking	Liverpool and district.	Pay day in week commencing 26 Feb. 5 Feb.	Bakers and confectioners ...	Increase* of 4s. per week for men, of 2s. 8d. for women, and of 1s. or 1s. 6d. for juveniles. Weekly rates after change include: men—day work, foreman, 76s., first and single hands, 72s.; table hands, 66s.	
			North Staffordshire	Bakers and confectioners ...	Increase* of 5s. per week for adult male dayworkers and of 4s. for nightworkers.
			Rhondda, Pontypridd and district.	Bakers and confectioners ...	Increase* of 4s. per week for men, of 2s. 8d. for women and of 1s. or 1s. 6d. for youths. Rates after changes include: men, Trade Board rates, plus 6s. 6d.; women, Trade Board rates plus 2s. 8d.
			Aberdeen ...	Bakers and confectioners ...	Increase* of 1s. per week for journeymen and of 6d. per week for other classes. Rate after change for journeymen, 76s. per week.
			Ayrshire ...	1st pay day in Mar.‡	Bakers and confectioners ...
Flour Milling	Great Britain ...	1st full pay period following 1 Feb.	Mechanics employed in the flour milling industry.	Adoption of scale of weekly rates of 75s., 77s. and 79s. for class A, B and C mills respectively.	
			Workpeople employed in the sugar confectionery and fruit preserving trade.	Increase§ in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts as follows:—	
			Male workers and certain classes of female workers.	Increase§ in general minimum time rates of ¼d. to 1d. per hour and increase in piecework basis time rate of 1d. per hour (1s. 3¼d. to 1s. 4¼d.). Minimum time rate after change, 1s. 2d. at 24 years and over.	
			Other female workers ...	Increase§ in general minimum time rates of ¼d. to 1d. per hour and increase in piecework basis time rate of ¼d. per hour (8¼d. to 8¾d.). Minimum time rate after change, 7¼d. at 21 years and over.	

\* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.  
 † This is the second part of a 12½ per cent. increase granted on rates operative in August, 1939. The first part of the increase (7½ per cent.) took effect on 27th October, 1939.  
 ‡ In respect of the preceding pay period.  
 § These increases took effect under Orders issued under the Trade Boards Acts. Full details of the minimum rates are contained in the Confirming Orders of the Minister of Labour and National Service, obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office.  
 ¶ These increases operated in two instalments of 2½ per cent. each, the first from the date shown and the second from and including wages paid on 1st March, 1940.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Seed Crushing, Compound and Provender Manufacture.	Various districts in Great Britain.	1st pay day in Feb.	Workpeople employed in seed crushing, compound and provender manufacture.	War supplement granted of 4s. per week to men, of proportional amounts for youths and of 2s. per week for women. Minimum weekly rates after change for labourers: seed crushing, 54s. to 60s.; provender manufacture, 49s. to 60s., according to district, plus war supplement in each case.
Provender Manufacture.	Northern Ireland ...	3 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the provender milling industry.	Increase of 4s. per week for men, of 2s. for women and of proportional amounts for juveniles.
Mill-sawing	Manchester, Salford and district and Ashton - under - Lyne.	1 Feb.	Woodcutting machinists employed in steam joinery and sawmill shops.	Increase of ¼d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 8¼d.).
			Woodcutting machinists and sawyers employed in sawmills.	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 6½d. to 1s. 7½d.).
Furniture Manufacture.	Various districts in Great Britain.*	1st pay week in Feb.	Furniture trade operatives ...	Increase of 1d. or 1d. per hour. Rates after change: Edinburgh and Leith—cabinet makers, 1s. 9½d.; french polishers and upholsterers, 1s. 9d.; Peterborough, 1s. 8d.; Ipswich—spindle hands, 1s. 9d., other classes, 1s. 8d.; Sheffield—carpet fitters, 1s. 6½d., other classes, 1s. 8½d.; all other districts, 1s. 8½d.
			Furniture trade operatives, mattress makers and decorative glass workers.	Increase of ¼d. per hour for men, of ¼d. per hour for women polishers and upholsterers and of proportional amounts for apprentices and improvers. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 8½d.; labourers, 1s. 3½d.; women polishers, 1s. 8½d.; glassworkers—bevelers, silverers and cutters, 1s. 8½d.; brilliant cutters, 1s. 9½d.; fitters, 1s. 6½d.; packers, 1s. 5½d.
			Journemen ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour. Standard rates after change, 1s. 7½d.
Building	High Wycombe and district.	Pay day in week ending 2 Mar.	Labourers ...	Wycombe Section, packers, markers-out, and benders, 1s. 6½d.
			Apprentices ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour (1s. 2½d. to 1s. 3d.).
Building	London district (within a 15-mile radius of Charing Cross).	1 Feb.	Bricklayers, stone and marble masons, marble polishers, carpenters and joiners, machinists, slaters and tilers, plasterers, plumbers, painters, french polishers and labourers.	Increase of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: within a 12-mile radius of Charing Cross—masons (fixers), 1s. 11d.; bricklayers, masons (banker hands), carpenters and joiners, wood-cutting machinists, slaters and tilers, plasterers and plumbers, 1s. 10d.; painters, 1s. 9d.; marble polishers, 1s. 8d.; french polishers, 1s. 9½d.; labourers, 1s. 4½d.; 12 to 15 miles from Charing Cross—¼d. per hour less for craftsmen and ¼d. for labourers.
			Derrick, crane, etc., drivers, signalmen, fitters, etc.	Increase of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: within a 12-mile radius of Charing Cross—derrick drivers, 1s. 9d., plus height-money; travelling crane and overhead traveller drivers, and loco drivers, 1s. 7½d.; portable and stationary engine drivers (steam, petrol or electric winches and pumps), 1s. 6½d.; boiler attendants and crane signalmen, 1s. 4½d.; fitters, blacksmiths, 1s. 8½d.; rope runners, 1s. 6d.; 12 to 15 miles from Charing Cross—¼d. per hour less.
			Glaziers ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour for journeymen and of proportional amounts for apprentices. Rate after change for journeymen, 1s. 10d.
			Building trade operatives ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change for craftsmen and labourers respectively: Grade A towns, 1s. 8½d., 1s. 3¼d.; A1, 1s. 8d., 1s. 3¼d.; A2, 1s. 7½d., 1s. 3d.; A3, 1s. 7d., 1s. 2½d.; B, 1s. 6½d., 1s. 2½d.; B1, 1s. 6d., 1s. 1½d.; B2, 1s. 5½d., 1s. 1½d.; B3, 1s. 5d., 1s. 1d.; C, 1s. 4½d., 1s. 0½d.‡
			Building trade operatives (except plasterers and painters).	Increase of ¼d. per hour for craftsmen and ¼d. for labourers. Rates after change for craftsmen and labourers respectively: Grade A districts, 1s. 9½d., 1s. 4½d.; A1, 1s. 9d., 1s. 4d.; A2, 1s. 8½d., 1s. 3½d.; A3, 1s. 8d., 1s. 3½d.; B, 1s. 7½d., 1s. 2½d.; B1, 1s. 7d., 1s. 2½d.¶
Building	Inverness ...	1 Feb.	Carpenters and joiners ...	Increase of 1½d. per hour (1s. 6½d. to 1s. 8d.).
			Plasterers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 9d. to 1s. 10d.).
			Painters ...	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: Grade A towns, 1s. 9½d.; B, 1s. 8½d.; C, 1s. 7½d.
Building	Various towns in Scotland.††	1 Feb.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change for Belfast: plumbers, 1s. 10½d.; other craftsmen, 1s. 9½d.; hodsmen and scaffolders, 1s. 3½d.; labourers, 1s. 2½d.

\* The towns are those in which wage changes follow changes in the building trade, and include Barrow-in-Furness, Chester, Edinburgh, Fenton, Hanley, Ipswich, Lancaster, Leicester, Leith, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Peterborough, Radcliffe, Rochdale, St. Helens, Sheffield, Southport, Stoke-on-Trent and Warrington.  
 † Including Altrincham, Ashton-under-Lyne, Bolton, Bury, Eccles, Flixton, Glossop, Heywood, Irlam, Oldham, Sale, Salford, Stockport, Swinton, Urmston and Wigan.  
 ‡ Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.  
 § For wage purposes the majority of localities have been assigned to the various grades by the National Joint Council for the Building Industry, but the localities so graded are too numerous to be quoted in the space available. Generally speaking the largest towns have been allocated to the highest-paid grades, while small country towns and rural areas are allocated to the lowest-paid. Remaining localities have been classified to the intermediate grades. For certain towns and districts further increases took effect as from 1st February, 1940, as a result of regrading, and in addition certain towns were graded for the first time. The towns and districts which have been regraded are as follows:—MIDLAND REGION—From A1 to A—Kettering, Repton R.D. (S.E. part of); and to be included in the Burton-on-Trent graded district, Shardlow R.D. (part of), Stourbridge Industrial; A3 to A—Ashby-de-la-Zouche U.D. (part); excluding Blackfordby and Willesey; and to be included in the Swadincote graded district, Kettering R.D. (north part of), Tutbury R.D. (part); and to be included in the Burton-on-Trent graded district; A2 to A1—Bingham R.D., Kidderminster R.D. (south part of), Redditch District, Shifnal R.D. (part of), Shrewsbury, Southwell R.D. (part of), Wellington, Worksop R.D. (south part of); A3 to A1—North Kesteven R.D., Worksop R.D. (north part of); A1 to A2—East Retford R.D. (south part of); A3 to A2—Billesdon R.D. (part of), Droitwich R.D. (part of), East Retford, Retford R.D. (part of); the former graded districts of East Retford and East Retford R.D. (part of) to form one graded district, Kidderminster R.D. (west part of), Borough of Wenlock (excluding Much Wenlock Parish); B to A2—Northampton R.D. (south part of); B to A3—Bakewell R.D. (north west part of), Bridgnorth, Cleobury Mortimer, Evesham, Horncastle and Woodhall Spa, Martley R.D. (part of), Much Wenlock Parish, Spilsby R.D. (part of); B1 to A3—Aitcham R.D. (west part), Aitcham R.D. (central part); B1 to B—Bishops Castle, Church Stretton U.D., Ludlow, Tenbury R.D. (west part of). SOUTHERN COUNTIES REGION—From A3 to A2—High Wycombe, Maidenhead; B to A3—Aldershot District (including Farnborough, Farnham and Fleet); B2 to B1—Isle of Wight; B2 to B—New Forest District. NORTH WESTERN REGION—From A2 to A—Holywell; A3 to A2—Denbigh, Market Drayton, Ruthin, St. Asaph; B3 to B1—Montgomeryshire. EASTERN COUNTIES REGION—From A1 to A—Cambridge; A2 to A1—East Horndon; A3 to A2—Arlesey (including Henlow), Baldock, Hitchin, Knebworth, Letchworth, Stevenage, Stotfold, Walkern, Wallington; B1 to B—Biggleswade; B2 to B1—St. Neots; B3 to B—Catfield; B3 to B2—Ely; C to B2—Littleport. SOUTH WALES REGION—From A1 to A—Abergavenny; A2 to A1—Chepstow; B to A3—Crickhowell; B2 to A2—Monmouth Town, Usk. SOUTH WESTERN REGION—From A3 to A2—Stroud; B to A3—Taunton; B2 to A3—Topsham; B1 to B—Weymouth; B2 to B—Cinderford, Lydney, Newent, Newnham; B2 to B1—Liskeard, Looe, Minehead, Salisbury City, St. Austell, Truro, Wellington (Somerset); B3 to B2—Bromyard, Castle Cary, Devizes, Fairford, Stow-on-the-Wold. The differential margins for painters in the graded districts of the South Western Region, of ¼d. or 1d. an hour below the current standard rate, are abolished. The towns graded for the first time are as follows:—NORTH WESTERN REGION—A3—Kimmel. SOUTH WALES REGION—A2—Caerwent; A3—Aberystwyth; B—Cardigan District. SOUTH WESTERN REGION—A2—Pucklechurch; A3—Yealmpton; B1—Bude, Coleraine, Lyneham; B2—Bodmin, Helston, Penhale, St. Agnes, St. Eval.  
 ¶ The Council has also introduced differential margins of 2d. an hour for masons and 1½d. an hour for masons' labourers above the current standard rate (now Grade B1) of Ham Hill to masons and masons' labourers employed at the Ham Hill Masonry Yards, Ham Hill; of 1d. an hour to masons and of ¼d. an hour to masons' labourers above the current standard rate (Grade A3) of Yeovil, to masons and masons' labourers employed at the Hendford Masonry Works, Yeovil; of ¼d. an hour above the current standard rate (Grade B1) to masons and masons' labourers employed at the stoneyards at Box, Corsham and Chippenham.  
 †† For wage purposes the majority of localities have been assigned to the various grades, but the localities so graded are too numerous to be quoted in the space available. Generally speaking the largest towns have been allocated to the highest-paid grades, while small country towns and rural areas are allocated to the lowest-paid. Remaining localities have been classified to the intermediate grades.  
 ‡ In the Glasgow and West of Scotland district it is understood that bricklayers receive 1d. an hour above Grade A rate.  
 § The principal towns include Aberdeen, Airdrie, Alloa, Arbroath, Armadale, Ayr, Barrhead, Bathgate, Clydebank, Coatbridge, Dumbaron, Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Gourock, Greenock, Hamilton, Irvine, Johnstone, Kilmarnock, Kilsyth, Kirkecaldy, Kirkintilloch, Lanark, Largs, Leith, Motherwell, Paisley, Perth, Port Glasgow, Saltcoats, Stirling, Strathaven, and Wishaw.  
 ¶ The principal towns to which the rates are reported to apply are as follows:—Grade A—Aberdeen, Airdrie, Alexandria, Alloa, Ardrossan, Ayr, Barrhead, Beith, Beth, Bridge of Allan, Broxburn, Broughty Ferry, Burntisland, Carnoustie, Clydebank, Coatbridge, Cowdenbeath, Dalkeith, Dumbaron, Dundee, Dunfermline, Dunoon, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Gourock, Grangemouth, Greenock, Haddington, Hamilton, Helensburgh, Irvine, Kilmarnock, Kirkcaldy, Largs, Leslie, Motherwell, Neilston, North Berwick, Paisley, Perth, Prestwick, Renfrew, Rothesay, Saltcoats, Stenhousemuir, Stirling, Troon, Vale of Leven. Grade B—Cupar, Galashiels, Girvan, Hawick, Kirkcubright, Lanark, Peebles, Peterhead, Selkirk, St. Andrews. Grade C—Elgin, Forfar, Forres, Inverness, Nairn and Wick.  
 ††† Including Belfast, Bangor, Lurgan, Lisburn, Newtownards, Holywood, Ballymena, Larne, North Antrim, North Derry, Armagh, Londonderry and Aldergrove.



PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Civil Engineering	Great Britain*	1st full pay week in Feb.	Men employed by civil engineering contractors.	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change for navvies and labourers: County of London, 4s. 4d.; Class 1 districts, 4s. 4d.; 1A, 4s. 3d.; 2, 4s. 3d.; 2A, 4s. 2d.; 3, 4s. 2d.; 3A, 4s. 1d.; 4, 4s. 1d.; 4A, 4s. 0d.; 5, 4s.*
Asphalt	Great Britain	1 Feb.	Asphalt workers	Increase of 1d. per hour in England and Wales and of 1d. in Scotland. Rates after change for London include; spreaders, 4s. 11d.; potmen, 4s. 6d.
	London and district	1 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of mastic asphalt.	Increase of 1d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: crane drivers, 4s. 6d.; charge hands on machines, 4s. 5d.; labourers, 4s. 4d.; night gangs, 4s. 6d.
Exhibition Contracting.	London	1 Feb.	Carpenters and joiners, painters, sprayers and labourers employed by exhibition contractors.	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: carpenters and joiners and sprayers, 4s. 10d.; painters, 4s. 9d.; labourers, 4s. 4d.
Waterworks Undertakings.	Certain undertakings in the Northern Area.†	1st full pay in Feb.	Manual workers except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rate after change for general labourers, 4s. 2d.
Railway Service.	London Passenger Transport Board.	1 Jan.‡	Railway employees:— Conciliation staff Salaried staff	Increase of 4s. per week or 1d. per hour for men, of 3s. per week or 1d. per hour for women, of 2s. per week or 1d. per hour for male juniors 18 to 21 years of age, of 1s. 6d. per week or 1d. per hour for male and female juniors under 18. Increases of £10 per annum or 4s. per week for men, of 3s. per week for women, and of 1s. 6d. per week for male and female juniors.
Commercial Road Transport.	Ashton, Stalybridge, Mossley and district.	Pay day in week commencing 26 Feb.	Horse carters and coal bag salesmen.	Minimum rate adopted of 55s. per week for one-horse drivers, of 60s. for teams and of 59s. for coal bag salesmen.¶
	Manchester Area	Pay day in week commencing 18 Dec.		
	Bristol	1st pay day after 18 Feb.	Horse carters and stablemen	Increase of 5s. per week for carters and 6s. per week for stablemen. Weekly rates after change: one-horse drivers, 64s.; two-horse drivers, 68s. 6d.; three-horse drivers, 70s. 6d.; horse-keepers, 66s.; stablemen, 64s.
National Government Services.	Great Britain	19 Feb.	Various classes of workers employed in H.M. Dockyards and other Admiralty establishments (excluding tradesmen and others whose wages are regulated by those paid in their own industries). Establishments outside London— Men in receipt of standard bonus of 22s. per week. Yardcraftmen Skilled men in the London Area.	Bonus increased to 27s. per week. Bonus increased from 23s. 11d. to 28s. 7d. in London area and from 22s. 9d. to 27s. 5d. elsewhere. Bonus increased from 24s. to 29s. per week.
			Semi-skilled and unskilled men in the London Area.	Bonus increased from 23s. to 28s. per week.
			Apprentices, boys and youths	Increase of 1s. to 2s. 6d. per week according to year of apprenticeship or age.
			Male workers employed in War Department Establishments (including those at Naval Dockyard Stations) who are paid on an engineering trade or similar basis:— Adults Youths	Bonus increased by 5s. per week, making bonus 28s. or 29s. in London and 27s. elsewhere. Bonus increased by 10d. to 2s. 6d. per week according to age.
		19 Feb. fell.	Workpeople employed in Air Ministry Establishments who are paid on an engineering trade basis:— Adult male workers Apprentices and trade lads	Bonus increased by 5s. per week, making bonus 28s. or 29s. in London and 27s. elsewhere. Increase of 1s. to 2s. 6d. per week according to age.
Local Authorities (Non-Trading Services).	Certain Authorities in Kent, Surrey and Sussex.**	1st pay day in Feb.	Male manual workers except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Increase of 3s. per week in the minimum rates and cost-of-living sliding scale† abolished. Minimum rates after change for labourers: Grade 5 areas, 60s.; Grade 4, 55s. 6d.; Grade 3A, 53s. 7d.; Grade 3, 49s. 8d.; Grade 2, 47s. 9d.; Grade 1, 43s. 11d.
Leather Manufacture.	Yorkshire	1 Feb.	Men employed in the tanning, currying and leather dressing industry.	Increase of 1d. per hour for timeworkers and of 7½ per cent. bonus on earnings for pieceworkers. Basic hourly rates after change for skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled timeworkers respectively: 4s. 4d., 4s. 2d., 4s. 2d.
	Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales.	1 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the Persian section of the roller leather industry.	Revised basic rates adopted resulting in increases of various amounts, the arrangement under which wages were regulated by the cost-of-living index number being discontinued. Minimum hourly rates after change include: men—skilled, 4s. 4d., semi-skilled, 4s. 1d. to 4s. 2d.; women, 3s. 9d.
Skip and Basket Making Wholesale Distribution.	Lancashire and Cheshire.	5 Feb.	Skip and basket makers	Increase of 1 per cent. on list prices, making wages 101½ per cent. above the list for both timeworkers and pieceworkers.
	London	Pay day in week ending 17 Jan.	Workpeople employed in the wholesale provision trade.	War bonus granted of 5s. per week for adults and of 2s. 6d. for juveniles. Weekly rates after change: warehousemen and stove loaders, 67s. 6d.; topmen, bale humpers, cutters, rollers and boners, 72s. 6d.; cold storemen, 80s.; cooler storemen, 70s.; juveniles, 22s. 6d. at under 16 years increasing to 57s. 6d. at 20 and under 21; casual men, 15s. per day.
Waste Reclamation.	Great Britain	1st pay day in Feb.	Workpeople employed in the cotton waste reclamation trade.	Increase in minimum Trade Board rates of 1d. per hour for men 21 years and over, of 1d. for women 18 years and over and by proportional amounts for juveniles.††
	Great Britain	31 Jan.	Workpeople employed in the general waste materials reclamation trade.	Increase in minimum Trade Board rates of 1d. per hour for men 21 years and over, of 1d. for women 18 years and over and by proportional amounts for juveniles.††

\* For wage purposes the majority of localities have been assigned to the various grades, but the localities so graded are too numerous to be quoted in the space available. Generally speaking the largest towns have been allocated to the highest-paid grades, while small country towns and rural areas are allocated to the lowest-paid. Remaining localities have been classified to the intermediate grades.  
† Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.  
‡ The undertakings affected are mainly those affiliated to the Northern Area Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Undertakings Industry.  
§ These advances were granted with retrospective effect to 1st January, 1940.  
¶ The towns included in the area are Salford and district, Altrincham, Buxton, Crewe, High Peak, Macclesfield, Northwich and Warrington.  
‡‡ These rates are the result of Agreement between the Employers Associations and the Trade Unions concerned and provide for a working week of 48 hours, minimum rates for overtime and holidays with pay.  
§§ The Authorities affected are mainly those affiliated to the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities Non-Trading Services (Manual Workers).  
†† These increases affected mainly workpeople employed by members of the British Cotton Waste Association.  
‡‡ These increases were agreed upon by the Trade Board on 31st January, to take effect from a date to be determined by the Minister of Labour and National Service. The employers' side of the Board agreed to recommend, however, that the new rates should be put into effect without waiting for the Minister's Confirming Order and many employers conceded the increase as from 31st January.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople, other than seamen\*, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, whose deaths from accidents in the course of their employment occurred or were reported in February, was 211, as compared with 238† in the previous month, and with 262‡ in February, 1939.

MINES AND QUARRIES.†	Under Coal Mines Acts:—	FACTORIES—continued.
Underground	63	Paper, Printing, etc.
Surface	9	Rubber
Metalliferous Mines	1	Gas Works
Quarries	2	Electrical Stations
		Other Industries
<b>TOTAL, MINES AND QUARRIES</b>	<b>75</b>	
		<b>WORKS AND PLACES UNDER ss. 105, 107, 108, FACTORIES ACT, 1937.</b>
<b>FACTORIES.</b>		Docks, Wharves, Quays and Ships
Clay, Stone, Cement, Pottery and Glass	1	Building Operations
Chemicals, Oils, Soap, etc.	6	Works of Engineering Construction
Metal Extracting and Refining	11	Warehouses
Metal Conversion and Founding (including Rolling Mills and Tube Making)	12	
Engineering, Locomotive Building, Boilermaking, etc.	11	<b>TOTAL, FACTORIES ACT</b>
Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motor and other Vehicles, and Aircraft Manufacture	4	<b>RAILWAY SERVICE.</b>
Shipbuilding	5	Brakemen, Goods Guards
Other Metal Trades	3	Engine Drivers, Motormen
Cotton	1	Firemen
Wool, Worsted, Shoddy	3	Guards (Passenger)
Other Textile Manufacture	1	Labourers
Textile Printing, Bleaching and Dyeing	1	Mechanics
Tanning, Currying, etc.	1	Permanent Way Men
Food and Drink	8	Porters
General Woodwork and Furniture	3	Shunters
		Other Grades
		Contractors' Servants
		<b>TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE</b>
		<b>Total (excluding Seamen) 211</b>

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

The Table below shows the number of cases and deaths in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during February, under the Factories Act, 1937, or under the Lead Pitting (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926:—

I. Cases.	II. Deaths.
<b>LEAD POISONING.</b>	<b>LEAD POISONING.</b>
Among Operatives engaged in—	Other Contact with Molten Lead
Smelting of Metals	1
Plumbing and Soldering	Pottery
Shipbreaking	Vitreous Enamelling
Printing	
Other Contact with Molten Lead	<b>TOTAL</b>
White and Red Lead	3
Pottery	
Vitreous Enamelling	
Electric Accumulator Works	<b>TOTAL</b>
Paint and Colour Works	1
Coach and Car Painting	
Shipbuilding	
Other Industries	
Painting of Buildings	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
9	3
<b>OTHER POISONING</b>	<b>ARSENICAL POISONING</b>
Arsenical	1
Aniline	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
2	1
<b>ANTHRAX.</b>	
Wool	
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
3	4

\* Statistics of fatal accidents to seamen are not available.  
† For mines and quarries, weekly returns are furnished and the figures cover the 4 weeks ended 2nd March, 1940, in comparison with the 5 weeks ended 3rd February, 1940, and the 4 weeks ended 25th February, 1939.  
‡ Revised figure.  
§ Cases include all attacks reported during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES.

The following Table shows the results of recent ascertainsments of selling prices of pig-iron and of manufactured iron and steel, on the basis of which the rates of wages of certain classes of workers in the iron and steel industry and some other industries are regulated:—

Product and District.	Period covered by last Audit.	Average selling-price per ton* according to last Audit.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) compared with	
		Previous Audit.*	A Year Ago.*	Previous Audit.*	A Year Ago.*
Pig-Iron:—	1939.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
West Cumberland	Oct.-Dec.	107 9	+ 5 10½	- 12 1	- 12 1
Lincolnshire	Oct.-Dec.	81 10	+ 2 5½	- 15 3½	- 15 3½
Nottingham District	Oct.-Dec.	88 6	+ 5 1½	- 6 11	- 6 11
Northamptonshire	Oct.-Dec.	88 8	+ 5 5½	- 2 4½	- 2 4½
North Staffordshire	Oct.-Dec.	89 1½	+ 6 0	- 1 7½	- 1 7½
Manufactured Iron:—					
West of Scotland	Nov.-Dec.	257 2½	+ 9 7½	- 12 5½	- 12 5½
Steel:—					
South-West Wales	Oct.-Dec.	154 5½	+ 13 1	+ 3 6½	+ 3 6½

In accordance with the provisions of the agreements under which wages are regulated, the ascertainsments resulted in increases in the wages of blastfurnacemen in West Cumberland and North Lancashire; blastfurnacemen, ironstone miners and quarrymen in North Lincolnshire; blastfurnacemen, ironstone miners and limestone quarrymen in Northamptonshire (excluding Corby); blastfurnacemen in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire; blastfurnacemen in North Staffordshire; and ironstone and limestone quarrymen in Leicestershire and the adjoining parts of Lincolnshire. In the case of Siemens steel workers in South-West Wales it was agreed to grant an increase in wages although no change was warranted by the ascertainment. In the case of iron puddlers and millmen in the West of Scotland there was no change in wages, as the amount of the increase warranted under the sliding scale had been paid from an earlier date. For details of the changes in wages, see pages 92 and 93 of this issue.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

The following Table shows, approximately, the income and expenditure of the Unemployment Fund† in Great Britain for the periods stated:—

	Four weeks ended 24th Feb., 1940.	Four weeks ended 27th Jan., 1940.	Four weeks ended 25th Feb., 1939.
<b>(1) General Account.</b>			
Contributions received from:—	£	£	£
Employers	1,653,000	1,632,000	1,640,000
Employed persons	1,652,000	1,631,000	1,614,000
Exchequer	1,657,000	1,632,000	1,624,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	85,000	423,000	100,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,047,000</b>	<b>5,318,000</b>	<b>4,978,000</b>
Benefit	3,867,000	3,458,000	4,413,000
Cost of Administration	423,000	431,000	388,000
Accrued Charge for Debt Service†	297,000	297,000	309,000
Miscellaneous Payments	32,000	32,000	28,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>4,624,000</b>	<b>4,218,000</b>	<b>5,138,000</b>
Debt Outstanding‡	77,082,000	77,082,000	81,530,000
<b>(2) Agricultural Account.</b>			
Contributions received from:—	£	£	£
Employers	31,000	24,000	28,000
Employed persons	31,000	24,000	27,000
Exchequer	31,000	24,000	27,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	5,000	27,000	6,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>98,000</b>	<b>99,000</b>	<b>88,000</b>
Benefit	185,000	143,000	139,000
Cost of Administration	12,000	9,000	10,000
Miscellaneous Payments	—	—	1,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>197,000</b>	<b>152,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>

UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES.

For the period of four weeks ended 24th February, 1940, expenditure on unemployment allowances (excluding the cost of administration) amounted to approximately £2,055,000 compared with £2,068,000 during the four weeks ended 27th January, 1940, and £2,869,000 during the four weeks ended 25th February, 1939.

As from 6th September, 1939, the class of persons to whom allowances may be paid under the Unemployment Assistance Act, 1934, was extended by the provisions of the Unemployment Assistance (Prevention and Relief of Distress) Regulations, 1939. Owing to this extension, the figures for January and February, 1940, are not strictly comparable with those for February, 1939.

\* Stated to the nearest farthing.  
† A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually (see H.C. 24 of 1939 for the period ended 31st March, 1938).  
‡ Statutory provision was made for the repayment (including interest) of the debt outstanding on 1st July, 1934 (amounting to £105,780,000) by half-yearly payments of £2,500,000 commencing on 30th September, 1934. Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1938, an additional sum of £20,000,000 was repaid on 31st March, 1938, and thereafter the half-yearly payment was reduced to £2,006,250. A further sum of £3,000,000 was repaid on 31st March, 1939, and the half-yearly payment was reduced to £1,931,787.



## SPECIAL ORDER. \*

## FURNITURE MANUFACTURING TRADE.

The Trade Boards (Furniture Manufacturing) Order, 1940. Special Order, dated March 5, 1940, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Sections 1 and 2 of the Trade Boards Act, 1918, and by virtue of the Provisions of the Minister of National Service Order, 1939 (S.R. & O. 1939, No. 1118), applying the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 (9 Edw. 7. c. 22) and 1918 (8 and 9 Geo. 5. c. 32) to the Furniture Manufacturing Trade.

Whereas the Minister of Labour is empowered under and by virtue of subsection (2) of section 1 of the Trade Boards Act, 1918, to make a Special Order applying the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, to any specified trade to which they do not at the time apply if of opinion that no adequate machinery exists for the effective regulation of wages throughout the trade and that accordingly having regard to the rates of wages prevailing in the trade or in any part of the trade it is expedient that the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, should apply to that trade.

And whereas the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, do not apply to the trade specified in the Appendix to this Order.

And whereas by virtue of the provisions of the Minister of National Service Order, 1939, the functions exercisable by the Minister of Labour under the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, are now being exercised concurrently by the Minister of National Service and the Minister of Labour and the Minister of National Service is authorised to describe himself as the Minister of Labour and National Service.

And whereas by the said Order it is provided that so far as may be necessary for such concurrent exercise any reference to the Minister of Labour in any of the documents therein specified passed or made before the date of that Order shall be construed as a reference to the Minister of Labour and National Service.

And whereas the Minister of Labour and National Service is of the aforesaid opinion.

Now, therefore, the Minister of Labour and National Service by virtue of the powers and provisions aforesaid and of all other powers in that behalf hereby makes the following Special Order:—

1. The Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, shall apply to the trade specified in the Appendix hereto.†

2. (i) This Order may be cited as the Trade Boards (Furniture Manufacturing) Order, 1940.

(ii) The Interpretation Act, 1889,‡ applies to the interpretation of this Order as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

(iii) This Order shall come into force on the fifth day of March, 1940.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Labour and National Service this fifth day of March in the year one thousand nine hundred and forty.

T. W. PHILLIPS,  
Secretary of the Ministry of Labour  
and National Service.

## NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

## Toy Manufacturing Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal Y.(21), dated 9th February, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages including holiday remuneration. Objection period expires 9th April, 1940.

## Aerated Waters Trade Board (England and Wales).

Proposal A.(15), dated 12th February, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages, including holiday remuneration. Objection period expires 9th April, 1940.

Pin Hook and Eye and Snap Fastener Trade Board (Great Britain). Proposal O.(20), dated 13th February, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages including holiday remuneration. Objection period expires 13th April, 1940.

## Boot and Floor Polish Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal B.P.(9), dated 14th February, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages including holiday remuneration. Objection period expires 13th April, 1940.

## Baking Trade Board (England and Wales).

Proposal B.K.(3), dated 16th February, 1940, relating to holidays with pay. Objection period expires 16th April, 1940.

## Road Haulage Central Wages Board.

Proposal R.H.(3), dated 1st March, 1940, to amend the statutory remuneration of road haulage workers employed on road haulage work in connection with motor goods vehicles operating under A or B licences granted under the Road and Rail Traffic Act, 1933. Objections period expires 22nd March, 1940.

\* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1940, No. xxx. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (1½d. post free).

† The Appendix is identical with the "Appendix to Draft Special Order" printed on page 40 of the January issue of this GAZETTE.

‡ 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

## CONFIRMING ORDERS.

## Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order F.(20), dated 21st February, 1940, confirming the variation of general minimum time rates, piecework basis time rate, overtime rates and holiday remuneration for male and female workers, and specifying 26th February, 1940, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

## REGULATIONS.

## Furniture Manufacturing Trade Board (Great Britain).

Regulations dated 5th March, 1940, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Section 11 of the Trade Boards Act, 1909, with respect to the Constitution and proceedings of the Trade Board.

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

## Recent Proceedings.

## INDUSTRIAL COURT AWARDS.

SURGERY ASSISTANTS AND SENIOR SURGERY ASSISTANTS: H.M. DOCKYARDS AND OTHER NAVAL ESTABLISHMENTS AT HOME.—The Admiralty Industrial Civil Servants' Federation asked for a ruling in connection with paragraph 8 of Award No. 1700 regarding Sunday duty. The Court ruled that all duty performed in excess of one hour on any Sunday shall be paid for at double time rate.—Award No. 1747; dated 5th February, 1940.

PACKERS, PORTERS: H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS, SUPPLIES DIVISION, PARK ROYAL.—The trade union side of the Miscellaneous Trades Joint Council for Government Departments asked for an interpretation of paragraph 6 of Award No. 1729 regarding rates of pay. The Court ruled that service in one grade does not count for the incremental purposes of another grade.—Award No. 1748; dated 5th February, 1940.

RAILWAY SHOPMEN: FITTER, LONDON MIDLAND AND SCOTTISH RAILWAY, POPLAR.—The National Union of Railwaymen claimed that a grade II fitter should be graded as grade I under the provisions of paragraph 43 of Award No. 728. The grading of fitters is specifically dealt with in Schedule B of Award No. 728, and the Court ruled that the present case did not fall to be dealt with under the provisions of paragraph 43.—Award No. 1749; dated 5th February, 1940.

RAILWAY SHOPMEN: MACHINIST, LONDON MIDLAND AND SCOTTISH RAILWAY: CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER'S AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT, CREWE.—The National Union of Railwaymen claimed that a grade III machinist should be graded as grade II. The Union contended that the machine on which the man is employed requires greater skill in its operation than that on which he was employed when he was originally graded as grade III, and that he works without special supervision. The Company stated that the man's work is confined to the machine sawing of rails. The Court ruled that the present classification of the man should not be changed.—Award No. 1750; dated 5th February, 1940.

DRIVERS AND CONDUCTOR: PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES, ESSEX.—The Transport and General Worker's Union made representations to the effect that Messrs. W. Norfolk & Sons, Nayland, Essex, were not complying with the requirements of Section 93 (1) of the Road Traffic Act, 1930. The Court ruled that, in order to comply with the provisions of Section 93 (1), the wages and conditions of employment to be observed by the Company in connection with the operation of their public service vehicles should be not less favourable than those set out in the schedule to the Award.—Award No. 1751; dated 26th February, 1940.

## OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

[Note.—The prices are net, and do not include postage.]

HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS.—Report on hours of employment of women and young persons in factories during the first five months of the War. Home Office. [Cmd. 6182; price 3d.]

MINING.—Provisional statement (subject to correction) of the number of deaths caused by accidents in and about the mines and quarries of Great Britain, together with the Isle of Man, during the year 1939. Mines Department. [S.O. publication; price 2d.]

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.—(1) Unemployment Fund Accounts, 1938, showing the receipts and payments for the year ended 31st March, 1939, together with the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [H.C. 22; price 2d.] (2) Reports of the Unemployment Insurance Statutory Committee on the Financial Condition of the Unemployment Fund on the 31st December, 1939. Ministry of Labour [H.C. 81; price 6d.]

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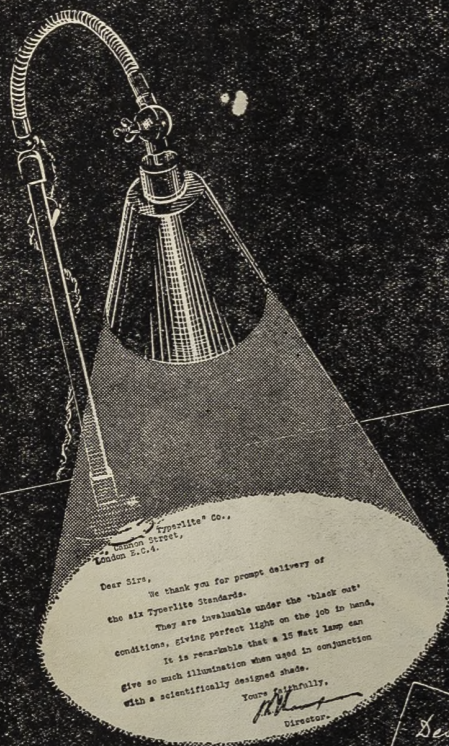
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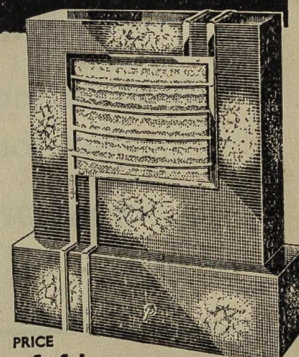


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