

ERRATA.

In the SUPPLEMENT to the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for May, 1931, on page 2 of the "Statistics forming the basis of the charts illustrating the course of trade, output, etc. etc.," the following corrections should be made in the figures relating to *Shipbuilding—Merchant Vessels commenced during 1st Quarter of 1931* :—

For 241·9 substitute 32·7

For 92·1 substitute 12·4

The curve in the corresponding chart should also be amended in accordance with the revised figures.

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

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

THERE was little change in employment during the first three weeks of May. Some improvement occurred immediately before Whitsuntide, but in a large number of establishments in the Midlands and North of England, the holiday stoppages extended throughout the last week of the month.

Among workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together was 20·8 at 18th May,* 1931, as compared with 20·9 at 27th April, 1931, and 15·0 at 26th May, 1930. For males alone the percentage at 18th May, 1931, was 21·9, and for females 17·9. At 27th April, 1931, the corresponding percentages were 22·0 and 18·0.

Insured Persons in Work in Great Britain.—It is estimated that on 18th May, 1931, there were approximately 9,380,700 insured persons aged 16 to 64 in work in Great Britain. This was 24,000 more than a month before, but 464,500 less than a year before.

Numbers Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).—At 18th May, 1931, there were 1,840,562 persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 7,608 less than a month before, but 676,094 more than a year before. The total on 18th May, 1931, included 1,341,212 men, 53,859 boys, 401,221 women, and 44,270 girls. It was made up approximately of 1,266,920 insured persons who had paid at least 30 contributions during the preceding two years, and therefore satisfied the full contributions condition for the receipt of unemployment benefit; 477,190 insured persons who had paid less than 30 contributions during the preceding two years; and 96,450 uninsured persons. The claimants for benefit, numbering 1,668,095, included 1,274,700 men, 19,000 boys, 364,970 women, and 9,425 girls, who had been on the Register under one month.

Numbers Temporarily Stopped.—At 18th May, 1931, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 383,847 men, 12,084 boys, 145,991 women and 8,985 girls, who were on short time or were otherwise suspended from work on the definite understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment. The total of 550,907 was 6,071 less than a month before, but 41,286 more than a year before.

Numbers Unemployed normally in Casual Employment.—At 18th May, 1931, there were on the Registers in Great Britain 112,882 men, 302 boys, 2,269 women and 15 girls, who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration; these are mainly employed in dock, harbour, river and canal service. The total of 115,468 was 503 more than a month before, and 19,506 more than a year before.

Industries in which Principal Variations occurred.—The seasonal improvement continued in the building and allied industries and in most of the clothing trades. The numbers unemployed also decreased, prior to

Whitsun, in the cotton industry, in textile bleaching, dyeing and finishing, in shipping service, in hotel and boarding house service, and in the distributive trades. Unemployment increased, however, in coal mining, slate quarrying, general and marine engineering, ship-building and ship repairing, tinplate manufacture, and in the wool textile and jute industries.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported during May resulted in an estimated decrease of about £30,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 225,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £800 in those of 29,000 workpeople.

The largest groups of workpeople affected by reductions were those employed in the pottery, tinplate, and jute industries. The majority of pottery workers sustained a reduction of 10 per cent. on current wages; tinplate workers had their wages reduced by amounts equivalent to between 4½ and 5 per cent. on current rates; and for jute workers there were reductions in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts. Other important bodies whose wages were reduced included coal miners in South Derbyshire, Siemens steel workers in South-West Wales, bleaching, dyeing, etc., operatives in Scotland and Northern Ireland, road vehicle builders, coopers, tanners and curriers. There were increases in the wages of coal miners in North Staffordshire, and of iron miners and blastfurnacemen in Lincolnshire.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st June, 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 45 per cent. above the level of July, 1914; as compared with 47 per cent. a month ago, and 54 per cent. a year ago. The fall in the index number since 1st May was due to reductions in the prices of several articles of food, especially tea, butter, bacon, milk and cheese, and of coal. For food alone the increase over the level of July, 1914 was 27 per cent., compared with 29 per cent. a month ago, and 38 per cent. a year ago.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families. Accordingly, the changes in the prices of the various articles included are combined proportionately to the relative importance of those items in pre-war working-class family expenditure, and no allowance is made for any changes in the standard of living.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in May was 33. In addition, 21 disputes which began before May were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in May (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 18,500, and the aggregate duration of all disputes in May was about 214,000 working days.

* As Whit Monday fell on 25th May, the monthly statistics of unemployment among insured workpeople relate to 18th May.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

The Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance was appointed by Royal Warrant of 9th December, 1930, "to enquire into the provisions and working of the Unemployment Insurance scheme, and to make recommendations with regard to (i) its future scope, and the provisions which it should contain, and the means by which it may be made solvent and self-supporting; and (ii) the arrangements which should be made outside the scheme for the unemployed who are capable of and available for work." The Commission have presented their first Report,* including a Majority Report, signed by the Chairman (His Honour Judge Holman Gregory, K.C.) and by four other members of the Commission (Professor Henry Clay, Dr. H. J. W. Hetherington, Mr. E. C. P. Lascelles, and Mr. H. M. Trouncer, F.I.A.), and a Minority Report, signed by Councillor W. Asbury and by Mrs. C. D. Rackham.

MAJORITY REPORT.

The signatories of the Majority Report observe that the Commission are concerned with the whole problem of the provision to be made for the able-bodied unemployed, and that many questions have still to be considered. They are therefore constrained to confine the recommendations of the interim Report to the matters which have been represented to them as urgent, viz. :—(i) the increasing indebtedness of the Unemployment Fund, (ii) the increasing cost to the Exchequer of "transitional" benefit, and (iii) the suggestion that unemployment benefit is being paid to certain classes of persons in circumstances which the Unemployment Insurance scheme was never intended to cover. In order to make clear the essential facts of the present situation, they preface their proposals with a short survey of (i) the extent of unemployment, (ii) the development of Unemployment Insurance, (iii) the provisions now in force, and (iv) the finances of the Unemployment Fund, and the cost of unemployment benefit to the Exchequer.

THE EXTENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

In a brief survey of the extent of unemployment the Report calls attention to the fact that for some years unemployment has been heaviest in a group of depressed industries.

It emphasises the fact that the most serious element in the situation is the average level of unemployment, over the last ten years, of 12·2 per cent., which represents a "persistent and obdurate" problem. The Commission suggest that it would be unwise to treat this experience as transitory, or to assume that it over-values the risk that has to be provided for in the next few years. Owing to the effects of the world-wide depression the present level of unemployment is much higher than 12·2 per cent. There is no assurance that it will fall appreciably in the next few months, and for the purpose of adjusting the finances of the Unemployment Fund to present circumstances the Commission do not feel justified in anticipating an average live register of less than 2,500,000.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

In the section dealing with the development of Unemployment Insurance the Majority Report shows how "in the course of frequent amending legislation, there has been a progressive relaxation, amounting practically to the abandonment of the principles upon which the original insurance scheme was framed," and that "successive Governments, confronted by an unprecedented mass of unemployment, have . . . used the scheme as a means of dealing with a situation for which it was not suited."

THE PROVISIONS NOW IN FORCE.

The Report sets forth the provisions at present in operation in regard to (i) the insurance scheme proper, (ii) "transitional" benefit, and (iii) public assistance (out-door relief).

At the request of the Royal Commission, a detailed analysis of the persons applying for "transitional" benefit was made in February, 1931. The results are set forth in an appendix to the Report; the chief points to be noted are stated as follows :—

- (i) The disproportionate number of "transitional" benefit claimants in certain depressed industries, notably coal mining in the case of men, and cotton in the case of women;
- (ii) The comparatively small proportion of workers in receipt of "transitional" benefit in the southern divisions of the country, and the concentration of women "transitional" benefit claimants in the textile districts of Lancashire (North-Western Division);
- (iii) In February, 1931, about 37 per cent. of the men were 50 years of age or over; 68·5 per cent. of the women were married, and of these, 46·3 per cent. were under 30 years of age;
- (iv) On 31st January, 1931, nearly half of the men and more than half of the women had paid no contributions, and nearly three-quarters of both men and women had paid less than eight contributions, in the preceding twelve months.

Under the heading of public assistance it is pointed out that one effect of the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1930 has been to reduce very considerably the number of persons in receipt of poor relief, by transferring to unemployment benefit (mainly "transitional" benefit) large numbers of persons who had previously been disallowed or were not eligible for benefit. The decrease between March and

July, 1930, in the total number of unemployed persons and their dependants in receipt of out-door relief was from 233,920 to 109,226 in England and Wales, and from 66,172 to 32,058 in Scotland. Since then, however, the numbers of the able-bodied unemployed in receipt of out-door relief have gradually increased.

FINANCES OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT FUND, AND COST OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT.

When the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1920 came into operation the Unemployment Fund had a credit balance of over £22,000,000. In July, 1921, this reserve was exhausted, and recourse was had to borrowing. The outstanding debt of the Fund on 23rd May, 1931, was £82,810,000.

Assuming an average live register of 2,500,000, the annual income of the Fund from contributions would be £44,550,000; and the annual payments for insurance benefit alone (i.e., without counting "transitional" benefit) would be £84,000,000 (viz., £61,250,000 to insured persons; £13,250,000 to dependants; £5,000,000 cost of administration; and £4,500,000 interest on debt). The deficit would thus be £39,450,000, without taking into consideration the cost of transitional benefit. The additional cost of transitional benefit is estimated for a full year to amount to £35,000,000.

The Majority Report comments on the seriousness of the financial position thus disclosed, especially when considered in conjunction with other State expenditure on social services. Excluding war pensions, the contribution of the State to social services has increased, since 1910, from £28,500,000 to £126,000,000 in 1927, and to £158,600,000 (estimated) in 1930. If account be taken also of loans to the Unemployment Fund the growth of the charge for Unemployment Insurance is still more pronounced. In the last financial year borrowing amounted to £36,440,000. If this sum were included, the total State contributions to social services for 1930-31 would be raised to about £195,000,000, and the contribution to Unemployment Insurance alone would be £73,000,000.

RECOMMENDATIONS: INTERIM MEASURES.

The Majority consider that to make the Unemployment Insurance scheme "solvent and self-supporting" (as suggested in the Royal Commission's terms of reference) is, in present circumstances, an objective which cannot be fully realised without much greater changes in the provisions of the scheme than they are prepared to recommend. They emphasise, however, the importance of taking immediate measures to arrest the further deterioration of the scheme, and to put an end as nearly as possible to borrowing by the Unemployment Fund. This has recently been on a scale far exceeding the probable capacity of the Fund to repay, and the debt is now increasing annually at a rate which equals the annual income of the Fund. They propose certain changes in the scheme which are thus summarised in the Report :—

Unemployment Insurance Scheme (apart from "transitional" benefit) :—

- (i) A limit upon the period for which benefit may be paid of 26 weeks within the period of twelve months following the date of application.
- (ii) An increase in the weekly rates of contributions, so that, in the case of the adult man, each of the three parties (the worker, the employer, and the Exchequer) pays 9d., with appropriate increases in the rates of contribution for other classes.
- (iii) The Report stated that, if these changes are made, the most favourable rates of benefit which the income of the Unemployment Fund can provide, with a level of unemployment of 2,500,000, are as follows :—

Age—	Ordinary Rates of Benefit.	
	Males.	Females.
Over 21... ..	15	13
18-21	12	10
17-18	7	6
16-17	5	5

Dependants' Benefit : 8s. a week for an adult dependant, and 2s. a week for a dependent child.

"*Transitional*" *Benefit*.—The "transitional" period to be extended, as an interim measure, subject to the following amendments :—

- (i) The rates of "transitional" benefit should be fixed at the scale recommended for insurance benefit (see above).
- (ii) A claimant for "transitional" benefit should be required to prove, at the beginning of each benefit quarter, that he has paid not less than eight contributions during the preceding two years, or not less than 30 contributions during the period of six years immediately preceding the date of his application [instead of 30 contributions at any time, as at present].
- (iii) The amount of benefit to be paid to certain classes of workers* should be considered in relation to certain of their other resources.

* *Viz.*, single persons (both young persons aged 18-21 and adults, including widows and widowers, without dependent children) who are residing with parents or relatives to whom, having regard to all the circumstances, they could reasonably look for support during unemployment; married women living with their husbands who are in employment, and whose incomes are sufficient to justify the withholding of transitional benefit from the wife (with a similar limitation for married men whose wives are in employment); persons who are in receipt of workmen's compensation, of service pensions (other than for War disability) or of other fixed income (other than income from savings).

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY ON PORT LABOUR.

THE Report* has now been published of the Committee appointed by the Minister of Labour in May, 1930, "to inquire into employment and unemployment in the port transport services in Great Britain, and to make recommendations thereon, with special reference to decasualisation and the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Scheme in its application to port transport workers."

The first part of the Report is devoted to a survey of the conditions of employment of those port workers who are actually engaged in handling cargoes afloat and ashore, and of workers immediately ancillary thereto. It is pointed out that within the grades reviewed there are many distinct occupations, ranging from unskilled to highly skilled. Owing to sudden and unpredictable fluctuations in traffic, employment, in general, is essentially casual; an oversupply of workpeople seeking odd work is attracted to the industry, with chronic under-employment as a frequent result.

The recognition of the evils of this situation and of the inability of individual action to overcome them led to concerted effort by employers and port workers' organisations in some ports to establish registration schemes, the initial objects of which were to regulate the pool of workers who, while adequate in number and qualifications to meet all likely demands, could have a preference, valid throughout a port, over general unemployed, and thereby secure greater certainty of livelihood.

This method of controlling the supply of labour was first established in the port of Liverpool, and has since been adopted and is now in operation in 30 ports, the principal exceptions being Glasgow and the Tyne and Wear ports. Nearly 90,000 port workers—over two-thirds of the total number in the country—are directly covered by these schemes.

Most of the schemes are administered by Committees representative of employers and workpeople, generally with a Ministry of Labour official as secretary. Employment record books are used, at most ports, as tokens of registration; and the policy is pursued, with varying degrees of thoroughness, of limiting registration to those workers who can prove that they have real ground for claiming port work as their regular occupation.

The Report examines the methods of recruiting and engaging labour, and gives an outline of the experiments made at some ports in connexion with the latter problem.

The Committee were impressed by the progress made towards the regularisation of employment, and affirm that a jointly administered registration scheme is the only satisfactory foundation upon which to build hopes of eventual decasualisation. They recommend that immediate steps should be taken to develop such schemes, and outline the administrative principles upon which they should be operated. It is also recommended that a new Standing Advisory Committee be established by the National Joint Council for Dock Labour for the purpose of encouraging and assisting in accomplishing the proposed reforms.

The second part of the report deals with the application of the Unemployment Insurance Acts to port transport workers. The statutory conditions and administrative rules are examined in the light of the conditions of employment in the industry, and attention is drawn to certain peculiarities and anomalies. Thus, it is pointed out that the fact that the normal spell of work is usually of less than a week's duration results, on the one hand, in a large proportion of the workers having an exceptionally good contributions record (a contribution being payable in respect of employment for a week or part of a week), and, on the other hand, in large numbers frequently receiving unemployment benefit in respect of parts of weeks in which they may possibly have earned high wages. The rule for determining continuity of unemployment, it is stated, produces undesirable anomalies and also leads to absenteeism: it was asserted in evidence that men frequently make themselves inconspicuous at the "call stands" in order to avoid being engaged, and thus maintain the continuity of their unemployment and their title to benefit. The difficulty of applying certain other conditions, such as those relating to availability for work, is also indicated.

The Committee are not unanimous as to the measures that should be adopted to deal with these features, but they are of opinion that much could be done by consultation between the Ministry of Labour and the proposed Standing Advisory Committee towards bringing about improvements and general simplification in procedure.

Six members of the Committee recommend the adoption of a scheme which was submitted by the Transport and General Workers' Union, providing for a minimum weekly income, pensions, registration and distribution of employment under one statutory authority, as, in their view, "it offers a complete solution of the casual labour problem in the industry." This scheme is not supported by the other members of the Committee. Six members recommend certain modifications of the general scheme of Unemployment Insurance, including (a) the reintroduction of a rule making the receipt of benefit dependent on the payment of a stipulated number of contributions, and limiting the amount payable in any insurance year; (b) special regulations regarding payment of benefit in respect of under-employment as distinguished from total unemployment; and (c) the imposition of a "means" and a "time" limitation on the payment of transitional benefit.

The appendices to the Report include a record of the existing registration schemes, information and statistics regarding the receipt of unemployment benefit by better-paid casual workers, and a report by the Government Actuary on the scheme submitted by the Transport and General Workers' Union.

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 6d. net.

* *First Report of the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance.* Cmd. 3872. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. net (1s. 1½d. post free).

(iv) That a worker should not be allowed transitional benefit who refuses to accept, on fair terms and conditions, an offer of work suited to his capacities.

Anomalies.—Under this heading the Majority make the following recommendations to deal with unreasonable claims "that are adding to expenditure and bringing the scheme into disrepute" :—

(i) Workers who habitually work for only two days or less in each week, and are unable to satisfy the statutory authorities that they are normally employed in regular insurable employment for the other days of the week, should not be regarded as "unemployed" within the meaning of the Unemployment Insurance Acts.

(ii) Casual workers and short-time workers in receipt of high earnings should be entitled to benefit in accordance with the following formula, viz., that in respect of any period comprising both days of employment and days of unemployment, the amount of benefit payable for the days of unemployment shall be not more than the full amount of benefit which would be payable for the whole period, less half the earnings received for the period.

(iii) A married woman should be entitled to benefit only if she has satisfied the statutory authorities :—

(a) That she has not abandoned insurable employment; and

(b) that, having regard to her industrial experience and to the industrial circumstances of the district, she can reasonably expect to obtain insurable employment in the district in which she is residing.

(iv) A seasonal worker should be entitled to benefit in the off-season only if he can prove to the satisfaction of the Court of Referees :—

(a) that he has in the past worked in the off-season for a reasonable time in some insurable occupation; and

(b) that, having regard to the industrial circumstances of the district, he can reasonably expect to obtain insurable work in the off-season in the district in which he is residing.

On the assumption of a live register of 2,500,000, the Report estimates that these recommendations would reduce the annual deficit of the Unemployment Fund from £39,450,000 to £7,650,000, of which £4,500,000 would be the interest on the debt. The reduction of £31,800,000 is divided as follows :—Limit of period of insurance benefit to 26 weeks, £9,100,000; increase in contributions, £9,000,000; reduction in ordinary rate of benefit, £7,600,000; reduction in allowance for dependants, £1,100,000; other recommendations, mentioned under head of "anomalies," £5,000,000.

The cost of "transitional" benefit, after allowing for the transfer to transitional benefit of £9,100,000 now being paid as ordinary benefit, would be reduced from £44,100,000 to £34,000,000. The cost of the provision to be made by the Exchequer, by direct contribution and by borrowing, would be reduced from £89,300,000 to £59,650,000, if the recommendations were adopted.

MINORITY REPORT.

The signatories of the Minority Report (Councillor Asbury and Mrs. Rackham) suggest that any proposals involving large issues of policy should have been reserved for the final Report. They also fear that any attempt to balance the Fund under existing circumstances can only result in worsening the condition of the unemployed. They therefore recommend that (with the exception of some alterations referred to later under the heading of "anomalies") no changes be made in the existing Unemployment Insurance scheme, or in "transitional" benefit, until the Commission has presented its final Report.

They recognise that the Unemployment Fund does not balance, but they do not accept the position that the main object at the present time is a scheme under which income and expenditure can be made to balance. In their opinion the chief purpose to be kept in view is to maintain the unemployed on a level of subsistence at least no lower than that at which they are to-day. They regret that recourse was had to borrowing, and in their view the cost of unemployment insurance, in so far as it is not met by contributions to the Unemployment Fund, should be met by general taxation.

They proceed to examine the proposals of the Majority *seriatim*, and state their reasons for disagreeing with them. Under the heading of "anomalies," they agree with the Majority in regard to the treatment of intermittent and of seasonal workers. Mr. Asbury also agrees with the proposals regarding married women. Mrs. Rackham, however, appends a note explaining her reasons for disagreeing with these proposals.

As regards casual workers and short-time workers, they say :— "The formula proposed in the Majority Report under this heading appears to us to make an effective contribution towards the solution of the particular difficulties associated with these classes of workers. It will reduce the amount of benefit in cases where exceptionally high earnings are received for a short spell of work, without affecting the position of the low-paid worker. It introduces, however, an entirely new principle, and it could not be brought into operation without considerable readjustment of the existing arrangements. We do not think, therefore, that it is suitable for inclusion among recommendations intended to cover only a temporary period."

REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR FOR THE YEAR 1930.

THE seventh Annual Report of the Ministry of Labour, dealing with the work of the Ministry during the year 1930, has recently been issued.* A summary of some of the more important matters referred to in the Report is given below.

EMPLOYMENT.

An increase of unemployment in the last quarter of 1929 foreshadowed a very grave depression which continued without intermission throughout the whole of 1930. The average percentage of unemployment amongst insured workpeople in 1930 was 15.9, as compared with 10.3 in 1929; the percentage for 1930 was higher than in any of the last ten years except 1921, when it was 16.6.

This increase of unemployment affected practically all industries, and formed part of a world-wide economic disturbance. The depression was, however, especially severe in certain industries, particularly cotton, which has been affected to an increasing extent by foreign competition in the export markets on which the industry is dependent for the disposal of the bulk of its product. The falling-off in purchasing power both at home and abroad, and the unsettled state of India and China, added to the difficulties of the industry in 1930. The average rate of unemployment was 36.9 per cent., compared with 13.2 per cent. in 1929. The deep depression in the textile trades was one of the reasons for the proportionately greater increase of unemployment amongst females than amongst males, which was a noticeable feature of the position in 1930.

Unemployment was also very severe in the iron and steel industry and in shipbuilding, in which the average percentages unemployed for the year were 34.0 and 33.2 per cent. respectively. Coal mining, on the other hand, although continuing to suffer from the severe unemployment which has characterised the industry since 1926, did not show so great a relative decline as most of the other basic industries in 1930.

Two important groups which suffered less severely than other industries were the distributive group, which accounts for one in seven of the insured population, and the printing, publishing and bookbinding group.

A geographical analysis of the unemployment figures again shows great divergences: the annual averages range from 8.1 per cent. in London and 8.0 per cent. in the South-Eastern division to 25.8 per cent. in the North-Western division and 25.9 per cent. in Wales. It is pointed out in the Report that the so-called "drift to the south" does not mean that there has been a great transference of works from the north to the south, but that there has been a sharp and sudden contraction, since the war, in the old basic industries traditionally connected with the north and with South Wales—coal mining, iron and steel manufacture, heavy engineering and shipbuilding, and the cotton and wool textile industries; while the types of manufacturing enterprise which are spreading over the south and the Midlands have not expanded rapidly enough to avoid acute difficulties of adjustment.

Employment Exchanges.—The number of vacancies filled by the Employment Exchanges again showed a large increase, and reached 1,732,144, nearly double the number filled as recently as in 1923. The trade groups in which the largest numbers of vacancies for men were filled by Employment Exchanges were:—public works contracting; general labourers; building; transport trades; and engineering, in the order named. These five groups accounted for 65 per cent. of the total number of vacancies filled. Other trade groups with more than 20,000 men's vacancies filled were:—shipbuilding; commercial occupations; agriculture; mining and quarrying; gas, water, etc.; and domestic service, in the order named.

The trade groups with the largest number of women's vacancies filled were:—domestic service; cotton; dress; commercial occupations; and miscellaneous textiles: the same groups, in the same order, as in 1929. Domestic service alone accounted for nearly 40 per cent. of the women's vacancies filled.

A specialised Exchange for the London building trades, and a special Women's Exchange (mainly for the needle-working trades and for shop assistants), have been in existence for some years; in 1930 a special Exchange was opened in London for the hotel and catering trades. Special provision for the employment of women, particularly in domestic service, has also been made at Liverpool and at Glasgow.

Industrial Transference Scheme.—Early in the year, steps were taken to increase the number of men from the depressed areas received at the Transfer Instructional Centres; and, in appropriate cases, attendance at a Centre was made a condition for the receipt of unemployment benefit.

The number of men transferred under the Industrial Transference Scheme fell from 32,000 in 1929 to 30,000 in 1930. This was partly due to the general depression, and partly to the diminution, during the latter part of the year, in the number of vacancies for transferred men on State-aided schemes.

King's National Roll.—The number of employers on the King's National Roll (who are pledged to employ a percentage of disabled men, normally 5 per cent. of their total staff) was about 26,000 at the end of 1930; they were employing approximately 371,500 disabled men. Most Local Authorities, Royal Warrant holders, and public utility undertakings of appreciable size were on the Roll.

* Cmd. 3859. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2s. 6d. net (2s. 9d. post free).

Unemployment Relief Works.—As a result of a conference of Local Authorities held by the Prime Minister in June, 1930, the terms and conditions of grant for schemes of work for the relief of unemployment undertaken under Part II of the Development (Loan Guarantees and Grants) Act, 1929, were materially altered; in particular, the compulsory employment, in certain cases, of a proportion of men from the depressed areas was abolished, though Local Authorities were asked to take a proportion of such men wherever possible. Improved terms were also announced for works in connection with the Ministry of Transport road programmes.

Oversea Settlement.—The number of persons who made application through the Department for settlement or employment oversea in 1930 was 4,531, and the number accepted was 1,623, nearly all land workers for Canada. These figures are exclusive of a very small number of applicants under various Canadian Family Settlement schemes. The economic difficulties in the Dominions were such as to render impracticable any considerable flow of migrants from this country during 1930, and for this reason no special schemes of assistance, on the lines of those which operated in 1929, were instituted to facilitate the migration of families or of young single men who were not in a position to pay the £10 ocean passage rate to Canada. The requisitions from the Australian State Governments were confined to a very limited number of young single women for domestic work and of boys for farm work.

TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT.

Training for Oversea Employment.—The assisted emigration of young single men to Australia was entirely suspended during 1930; and it became clear during the year that Canada could not absorb the number requisitioned for that Dominion. Though the number of men who applied for training for oversea settlement in 1929-30 was 6,341, only 1,820 were accepted by the Dominion representatives, and only 928 men trained in the "oversea" training centres actually sailed for Canada; while 186 men who had completed their training were not allowed to sail and had to be sent home.

Government Training Centres.—At these centres men are trained in the elements of specific trades for employment in this country. In order to avoid the risk of training men in excess of the absorptive capacity of the several trades, additional courses of instruction were instituted where possible. Special attention continued to be given to the depressed mining areas; but the areas of recruitment, and the age limits, were extended in 1930.

It is pointed out in the Report that, in a time of rapid industrial change such as the present, the problem is presented of districts whose main means of livelihood have collapsed, and of trades and industries whose demand for labour has been substantially reduced, thus leaving a surplus of men with little chance of further employment in their own trade. Sooner or later, men who are surplus to one district or industry no doubt become absorbed in others, but often at the expense of much deterioration and hardship. The training scheme provides a way by which the process of absorption can be facilitated.

Twelve centres were open during the whole or part of 1930—three residential and nine non-residential. The number of men admitted to training at these twelve centres during the year was 8,608, and the cumulative total admitted since the respective centres opened was 24,726. The number who completed training, or were placed in employment during the course, was 17,719, and the number who passed into employment was 15,983, or over 90 per cent. of those who completed training.

Transfer Instructional Centres.—Prolonged unemployment has robbed many men both of the physical fitness and of the attitude of mind which would enable them to hold employment under ordinary industrial conditions. To restore such men's employability the Department opened during 1929 five centres, called Transfer Instructional Centres, in which men are given a course of instruction limited to twelve weeks.

Both the number of centres and the number of men coming forward for training showed a considerable increase in 1930; this was partly owing to the fact that, as from March, 1930, insurance officers had power to require attendance at a centre, in certain cases, as a condition for the receipt of benefit. The ten centres open at the end of the year were capable of dealing with about 9,000 men a year.

The cumulative total of men admitted to the centres up to the end of 1930 was 13,404; of whom 8,138 were placed in employment or found work on their own account; 626 completed the course but were not placed in employment; 305 were transferred to a training centre; 3,516 were dismissed, or voluntarily relinquished training; and 819 were in training at the end of the year.

Women's Training and Employment.—At the end of the year, the work of the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment fell under three heads:—(i) the provision of domestic training in home training centres, with which are included centres for older women and for hotel waitresses (see below); (ii) the provision under the Individual Vocational Training scheme for training individual women in short-hand and typewriting, comptometer operating, midwifery, nursery nursing, cookery and institutional housekeeping; and (iii) the provision of outfits for women to enable them to take up resident domestic situations.

In the 37 non-residential home training centres which were in operation during the year there was accommodation for the training of about 4,000 women and girls in the course of a year. The number in training on 27th December was 1,002. Twelve of the centres were in Durham and Tyneside, twelve in South Wales, others in Lanarkshire, at Wigan and at Workington, at Leeds and at Sheffield, etc.

A residential centre was opened at Leamington in January, 1930, and another was to be opened at Appleton Hall, near Warrington, early in 1931. Courses were also provided for hotel cooks at Glasgow, for waitresses at Leeds, and for older women (aged 35 to 45) at Sheffield, at Burnley, and at Govan.

The total number of women and girls admitted to training at all the centres and courses during the year was 5,548 (adults, 2,986; juveniles, 2,562); of whom 3,524 entered domestic employment after completion of training, 58 found other work, 212 were not placed for various reasons, and 1,121 were in training at the end of the year.

JUVENILES.

The number of boys and girls under 16 available for employment continued to fall during the year, owing to the reduced birth-rate during the war. The reduction has not, however, as yet affected the numbers available for employment over the age of 16, at which age boys and girls become insured if they are employed in an insurable occupation. The number of boys insured in July, 1930, was 590,000, and the number of girls insured 446,000, as compared with 583,000 and 435,000 respectively, in the previous July.

As in previous years, the distributive trades continued to employ many more insured boys and girls than any other group of industries, the proportion being 21.8 per cent. for boys and 24.2 per cent. for girls. The next most important industries (in descending order) for boys were:—coal mining; general engineering; building; the construction and repair of motor vehicles; printing, publishing, and bookbinding; and cotton. For girls they were:—cotton; tailoring; laundries; hotels and clubs; printing, publishing, and bookbinding; dress and mantle making; metal industries; and woollen and worsted.

There was a sharp rise in the rate of unemployment among insured boys and girls during the year, the average monthly rate for 1930 being 5.7 per cent. (boys, 5.5; girls, 6.0), as compared with 3.3 per cent. in 1929. This, however, was little more than a third of the rate among adults, which was 16.8 per cent.

The distribution of unemployment among boys and girls continued to vary widely according to locality. The average monthly percentage was only 2.5 for boys and 1.9 for girls in London; but it rose to 9.5 for boys and 11.0 for girls in the North-Western Division, owing to the depression in the cotton industry, and to 9.5 for boys and 9.8 for girls in Wales.

There was a slight reduction in the number of placings of juveniles by Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux in 1930, as compared with 1929, owing to the accentuated depression; but the number has increased nearly three-fold—from 113,670 to 308,954—if 1930 be compared even with a year so recent as 1922.

There was a great development during the year in the system of approved courses of instruction for unemployed boys and girls. Under section 15 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1930, which came into force on 13th March, the Minister is required to make arrangements with Local Education Authorities for the provision, so far as practicable, of approved courses of instruction for insured contributors under the age of 18 who claim benefit; and such claimants may be required to attend a course as a condition for the receipt of benefit. Owing to the opening of fresh Junior Instruction Centres and Classes, and the rapid increase in the numbers of boys and girls unemployed, the total numbers in attendance rose rapidly, from 7,340 in the week ended 8th January to 16,322 in the week ended 3rd December. The total number of boys and girls who attended centres or classes during the year was about 88,300. Over 300,000 boys and girls have passed through the centres in the last five years.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

Four Unemployment Insurance Acts were passed during the year 1930; three of these merely increased the borrowing limits of the Unemployment Fund by successive stages to £70,000,000, but the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1930*, which came into force on 13th March, made considerable changes in the administration of the unemployment insurance scheme. It abolished the condition for the receipt of benefit which required a claimant to prove that he was "genuinely seeking work"; it also abolished the condition applicable to claimants for "transitional" benefit that they must show that they had had a reasonable period of insurable employment in the last two years; it transferred the cost of "transitional" benefit from the Unemployment Fund to the Exchequer; and it made an important change in the method of adjudication of claims to benefit.

By relieving the ordinary revenue of the Unemployment Fund of the cost of "transitional" benefit, the Act of 1930 enabled the ordinary revenue of the Fund to meet its outgoings when a substantially larger number of people were unemployed. Had the average live register in 1930 been no higher than the average of the preceding three years, which was 1,191,014, the Fund would probably have been able to pay its way. In fact, the live register, which had averaged 1,217,792 in October, 1929, increased largely round about Christmas, 1929, and continued to increase almost without intermission throughout 1930. The total expenditure from the Unemployment Fund during the year 1930 was £86,606,499, of which about £16,725,000 was in respect of "transitional" benefit, and £69,881,499 in respect of ordinary benefit, administration, interest on debt, etc. This was much greater than the expenditure in any previous year, and more than double the expenditure in 1927. The ordinary income of the Fund from contributions during 1930 was £45,248,040. The debt of the Fund rose from £37,850,000 on 31st December, 1929, to £59,990,000 on 31st December, 1930.

The total expenditure from the Fund (including "transitional" benefit), at the rate which was being incurred in December, 1930, when the live register averaged about 2,300,000, was about

* 20 Geo. 5, ch. 16; see the issues of this GAZETTE for November and December, 1929 (pages 399 and 438-9), and for February and March, 1930 (pages 50 and 84).

£110,000,000 for a full year, made up of ordinary benefit, £79,000,000; "transitional" benefit, £20,500,000; cost of administration, £6,500,000; and interest on debt, £4,000,000. The total amount of £99,500,000 shown as being spent on benefit may be sub-divided as follows:—benefit paid at adult rates, £72,500,000; dependants' benefit, £20,750,000 (adult dependants, £15,250,000; children £5,500,000); benefit paid to young persons, £5,500,000; benefit paid to juveniles, £750,000.

The Minister gave formal decisions on questions of insurability in 48 cases. Mr. Justice Roche gave judgment on various questions referred by the Minister to the High Court, for decision whether employments were insurable, on 13th January and on 15th April; particulars were published in the issues of this GAZETTE for February and for June, 1930 (pages 76-7 and 230).

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION).

Fresh responsibilities were placed upon the Ministry and the Industrial Court under the Road Traffic Act, 1930. Under section 19 of the Act, the Minister is responsible for certifying whether organisations applying for variations of the periods of time for which drivers on certain types of vehicles may remain on duty are proper bodies to do so. Under section 93 it is provided that the wages paid by the holder of any road service licence to persons employed by him in connection with the operation of a public service vehicle, and the conditions of their employment, shall not be less favourable to them than the wages which would be payable and the conditions which would have to be observed under a contract which complied with the requirement of any resolution of the House of Commons for the time being in force applicable to contracts with Government Departments.

Joint Industrial Councils.—The work of the Northern Counties District Wool Textile Industrial Council was suspended in consequence of a dispute in the wool textile industry;* whilst the Midland Hosiery Dyeing and Bleaching Joint Industrial Council was reorganised, following the secession of an important section of the trade, and became known as the Midland District Council of Hosiery Dyers and Finishers. Otherwise, the activities of the various Councils were well maintained.

In the flour milling industry, there was created an assistance and re-settlement fund, by the aid of which workmen displaced as a result of rationalisation have been provided with relief and the means of re-setting in new careers or businesses. The Council for the industry also agreed upon a scheme for pensioning men in the industry on reaching the age of 65. Further particulars of these arrangements were given in the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1931 (page 9).

A very successful Welfare Exhibition was held under the joint control of the Home Office and the National Council for the Pottery Industry.

Court of Inquiry.—One Court of Inquiry was constituted during the year, the Rt. Hon. Lord MacMillan being appointed to be a Court of Inquiry in connection with the matters in dispute between the parties to the Northern Counties District (and Allied) Textile Industrial Council. The Court, which was appointed on 7th January, 1930, and reported on 28th February, reached the conclusion that a reduction of wage rates was imperative, and set out in detail the amendments of the wages system which, in the Court's view, were required. Particulars of the Report, and of the dispute which subsequently occurred in the industry, were given in the issues of this GAZETTE for March, May, June, and July, 1930 (pages 84, 163, 202 and 244).

Conciliation and Arbitration Cases.—Eighty-four cases were settled in 1930 with the assistance of the Ministry under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, and the Conciliation Act, 1896. This was ten less than in 1929, and the smallest number since 1914.

Forty-three awards were issued by the Industrial Court on cases referred to them under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, making a total of 1,488 awards issued since the establishment of the Court.

TRADE BOARDS.

There was no change during the year in the list of trades to which the Trade Boards Acts were applied.

As the result of an inquiry into remuneration, hours of employment, etc., in the catering trade in 1929, the Minister gave notice, on 6th August, 1930, of her intention to apply the Trade Boards Acts to that trade. A number of objections were received, and the Minister appointed Sir Arthur Colefax, K.B.E., K.C., to hold a public inquiry. His report was received on 31st December. Meanwhile, certain interested parties obtained from the High Court rules nisi to prohibit the Minister from making an order in the proposed terms. The rules were made absolute on 5th February, 1931. The Minister appealed, and the writ of prohibition was set aside by the Court of Appeal on 27th March, 1931.† An appeal from the judgment of the Court of Appeal to the House of Lords has now been entered.

The number of Trade Boards in operation at the end of the year was 45. The number of meetings of Boards and Committees held during the year was 209, as compared with 219 in 1929; fourteen of the Boards did not meet at all.

At a large majority of the Board meetings questions of minimum rates of wages were the principal matters dealt with. At three meetings, Boards were concerned with effecting the abolition or modification of sliding-scale schemes of minimum rates based on changes in the cost-of-living index figure, and at five meetings

* See the issues of this GAZETTE for May, June and July, 1930 (pages 163, 202 and 244).

† See the issues of this GAZETTE for August, 1930 (Minister's notice of intention); for September, 1930 (report of investigation into remuneration, etc.); for January, 1931 (report on public inquiry); for February and April, 1931 (rules nisi in Divisional Court and in Court of Appeal, respectively).

with questions of redefinition of scope. Motions were carried, by agreement or by vote, to propose reductions in the minimum rates on six Boards. In no case was a general increase in minimum rates granted, but in three trades increases were made in the minimum rates for certain classes of workers.

Arrears of wages amounting to £30,384 were paid to 6,812 workers employed in 2,857 establishments, as compared with £24,859 in 1929, paid to 5,214 workers, employed in 2,336 establishments. In the great majority of cases of under-payment arrears of wages due to workers were obtained without recourse to legal proceedings. The workers to whom arrears of wages were paid represent 3.0 per cent. of the workers whose wages were examined.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR.

The Report gives an account of the proceedings at the fourteenth session of the International Labour Conference, held at Geneva from 10th to 28th June, 1930. The following draft conventions and recommendations were adopted by the Conference:—(a) draft convention concerning forced or compulsory labour; (b) recommendation concerning indirect compulsion to labour; (c) recommendation concerning the regulation of forced or compulsory labour; (d) draft convention concerning the regulation of hours of work in commerce and offices; (e) recommendation concerning the regulation of hours of work in hotels, restaurants and similar establishments; (f) recommendation concerning the regulation of hours of work in theatres and other places of public amusement; (g) recommendation concerning the regulation of hours of work in establishments for the treatment or the care of the sick, infirm, destitute, or mentally unfit.

The Conference also adopted nine resolutions, one deciding to place the questions of the hours of work in coal mines and the hours of work in lignite mines on the agenda of the 1931 session, and three others in connection with the abortive convention concerning the hours of work in coal mines.

A Preparatory Technical Conference on conditions of work in coal mines, attended by representatives of the principal coal-producing countries of Europe, was held at Geneva in January, 1930. The Conference considered a draft convention regarding hours of work which had been prepared by the International Labour Office. Agreement was arrived at on certain of the articles; on others it was not possible to find a formula which would command a majority. Certain other questions were referred to the International Labour Office for further study.

HEAD MASTERS' EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE: REPORT FOR 1930.

THE Annual Report for 1930 of the Employment Committee of the Incorporated Association of Head Masters of Public Secondary Schools, in co-operation with the Ministry of Labour, has been issued.*

During the year 1930, the number of boys applying for advice was 3,325, as compared with 3,192 during the year 1929. Over 14,000 interviews were given to boys and their parents, an increase of more than 3,000 over the year 1929. Yet in spite of this increased activity, the number of boys placed in employment by the Committee (1,329) showed a decrease of 198 over the previous year; while the number awaiting employment at the end of the year was 1,048, an increase of 350 over the number at the end of the previous year.

Thirty-nine schools were visited by the officers of the Committee, at which addresses on the Committee's work were delivered to senior forms, or boys were interviewed and advised generally. Lectures on careers for boys from individual or grouped schools were again given during the year 1930.

The Report states that the reduction in placings has been due to the general unsatisfactory state of employment in London, and to the fall in the demand of firms for staff through the progress of mechanisation and other causes. The reduction was confined to the second half of the year; the number of placings during the first six months showed an actual improvement over the corresponding period of 1929. Not only was there this reduction in new placings, but in addition a number of boys, many with excellent references, who had previously found openings through the Committee, lost their posts owing to business depression or to the introduction of machines.

COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBER.

In answer to a question in the House of Commons on 11th June, asking the Minister of Labour when the last revision of the cost-of-living index number took place, and whether she would consider an inquiry into the items and weighting of the items considered in arriving at the number, the Minister replied as follows:—

"There has been no general revision of the basis of the cost-of-living index number. The Government have recently had the question under careful consideration, but they are not satisfied that this is an opportune time for collecting the information as to family expenditure which would be necessary for the purpose of establishing a new basis, or that the advantages to be gained by revising the index number would not, in present conditions, be more than counterbalanced by the disadvantages. In these circumstances, it is considered to be inexpedient to take any action for the present."

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net (2½d. post free).

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES AND LABOUR REQUIREMENTS OF THE BEET-SUGAR INDUSTRY, 1930-31.

ACCORDING to information supplied by the sugar beet factories, the area under cultivation of sugar beet during the years 1928-29, 1929-30 and 1930-31 was 178,047 acres, 230,553 acres and 348,500 acres respectively. Though the expansion in the area under cultivation during 1930-31 over 1929-30 was just over 51 per cent., no new factories were opened, but extensions were made to several of those already working in order to cope with the increased supply of sugar beet.

Labour requirements for the industry fall into two groups: (1) "field" workers for cultivation (singing and hoeing) and harvesting (lifting and topping) and (2) factory workers. The most recent information as to the proportion of workers who may be classed as "casuals" relates to 1929, when approximately one-third of the "field" workers and one-half of the factory workers engaged for the sugar beet "campaign" were casual seasonal workers.

Prior to the commencement of the growing season last year, steps were taken by the Ministry of Labour, in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Beet Sugar Factories' Committee, to secure a greater degree of co-operation between the growers and Employment Exchanges. Arrangements involving the setting up of special labour clearing machinery, the careful selection of all unemployed workers registered at the Local Offices who had previous experience upon the sugar beet crop, and the provision of facilities for the speedy transference of labour from district to district, were made early in the season, in order to ensure, as far as possible, that an adequate supply of suitable labour should be available in all districts.

A model piece-work contract for seasonal labourers, devised by the Factories' Committee, was sent by the Committee to all growers, together with a leaflet describing the special arrangements made at Employment Exchanges to ensure the availability of suitable workpeople. An officer of the Ministry of Labour was appointed specially to supervise the labour supply arrangements for growers in the Eastern counties, where the biggest demand had to be met. The scheme was made widely known, by publicity and other means, among those whose co-operation was necessary to its success.

The arrangements in general worked satisfactorily. Investigation of complaints received during the season from a number of farmers that adequate labour of a suitable character was not available, showed in many instances that the vacancies in question had not been notified to Exchanges. In a few cases there was a reluctance on the part of growers to dispense with Irish labour, which they had been accustomed to employ and which they had found both efficient and cheap. The Exchanges were in all cases able to offer suitable workpeople and to secure the co-operation of the employers in notifying future requirements to the local Exchange.

While it has been possible to obtain fairly accurate information as to the total number of workpeople employed in factories, such information is not available in respect of the separate operations in "field" work, or of the total number of casual workers employed in "field" work. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has no official data on which an estimate can be based, but the following Table has been compiled from information supplied by the factories to that Department:—

	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Workers (casuals) employed in "field" work	18,000	23,000	35,000
Workers employed in factories ...	8,227	8,889	9,900

The number of workpeople placed in employment in the industry through the Employment Exchanges during 1930-31 increased very considerably over the number so placed in 1929-30. The total figure (including both men and women) was 10,130 in 1930-31 as against 6,584 in 1929-30, an increase of 3,546, or nearly 54 per cent. Of the total number placed only 320 were women, of whom 318 were placed with the growers, an increase of 277 over 1929-30. There was an increase both in the numbers placed with the growers and in the factories, as is shown by the following comparative Table:—

Number of Applicants (Men and Women) found employment by Employment Exchanges.

Year.	"Field" Work.			Factories.	All operations.
	Hoeing and Singling.	Lifting and Topping.	Total.		
1930-31	2,774	3,149	5,923	4,207	10,130
1929-30	1,709	1,573	3,282	3,302	6,584
Increase	1,065	1,576	2,641	905	3,546

Of the 5,923 persons placed through Employment Exchanges in "field" work, 2,346, or roughly two-fifths, were persons who were known, normally, to obtain casual agricultural employment; the remainder, i.e., 3,577, which, it may be assumed, consists largely of persons who do not normally find employment of an agricultural nature, shows an increase of 1,846 over the corresponding figure for 1929-30. There was also a considerable increase in the number of vacancies in field work filled by persons resident in towns as distinct from those living in country districts. The number of "towns men" who took such employment during 1930-31 was 766, as compared with 252 in 1929-30. The number of workers transferred to meet

the demand for field labour in other districts was 427. This is nearly three times the number for whom work was found in other districts in 1929-30.

Comparison of the numbers placed in 1930-31 and in previous years shows that the placings through Employment Exchanges have more than kept pace with the increase in the total numbers employed in the industry, as far as these are ascertainable. The increase in the total number (estimated) of workpeople employed in "field" work in 1930-31, over 1929-30, was 52 per cent. The number of workpeople placed by Exchanges in "field" work in 1930-31 increased by 80 per cent. over the number so placed in 1929-30. The number of workpeople employed in factories in 1930-31 increased 11 per cent. over 1929-30; the corresponding increase in the number placed by Exchanges in factories was 27 per cent.

OUTPUT, COSTS AND PROCEEDS OF THE COAL-MINING INDUSTRY.

A STATISTICAL summary* of the output, and of the costs of production, proceeds and profits of the coal-mining industry for the quarter ended 31st December, 1930,† prepared by the Mines Department and based partly upon returns made for the purpose of wages ascertainment for certain districts and partly upon other returns supplied by individual colliery owners, shows that at undertakings which produced 57,061,222 tons of saleable coal, or about 96 per cent. of the total quantity raised in the quarter, 52,554,585 tons were disposable commercially.

The net costs, after deducting the proceeds of miners' coal, amounted to £35,812,767, equivalent to 13s. 7.54d. per ton. The proceeds of commercial disposals amounted to £37,170,071, equivalent to 14s. 1.74d. per ton. There was thus a credit balance of £1,357,304 or 6.20d. per ton. An analysis by districts shows that there were credit balances in all districts, except South Wales and Monmouthshire, the highest amounts being 1s. 6.01d. per ton in South Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Cannock Chase and Warwickshire and 1s. 2.41d. in North Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. The debit balance was 6.06d. per ton in South Wales, in which district, however, the results were affected by a wages dispute.

The number of workpeople employed was 849,344, and the number of man-shifts worked was 52,247,839. The average output per man-shift worked was 21.84 cwt., and the average earnings per man-shift worked were 9s. 3.79d.

Information as to the value of allowances in kind is also given in the return, based, so far as Northumberland and Durham are concerned, on returns furnished for the purpose of the wages ascertainment, and, for other districts, on information supplied by the Mining Association of Great Britain. For Great Britain as a whole the average value of such allowances was 4.82d. per shift.

The following Table compares some of the more important figures with those in previous returns:—

Quarter ended	Proportion of Industry covered.	Amount of Saleable Coal raised.	Credit (+) or Debit (−) balance per ton.‡	No. of Workpeople employed.	Output per man-shift worked.	Earnings per man-shift worked.§	
						s. d.	s. d.
1928.	Per cent.	Tons.	s. d.		Cwts.	s. d.	
31st Mar.	97	61,833,281	−0 9.34	921,448	21.24	9	5.02
30th June	97	55,034,291	−1 5.02	890,863	20.98	9	3.09
30th Sept.	96	53,552,053	−1 4.11	859,259	21.13	9	3.25
31st Dec.	96	59,099,369	−0 2.87	850,770	21.80	9	2.84
1929.							
31st Mar.	97	63,851,058	+0 9.15	880,941	22.13	9	2.69
30th June	96	59,422,734	−0 3.43	894,282	21.45	9	2.59
30th Sept.	97	60,497,604	−0 0.22	894,390	21.40	9	2.61
31st Dec.	97	64,872,965	+0 11.29	903,914	21.78	9	2.78
1930.							
31st Mar.	97	64,749,447	+1 1.37	911,218	21.94	9	3.25
30th June	96	55,850,573	−0 1.94	886,229	21.32	9	3.26
30th Sept.	96	54,249,688	−0 2.40	853,477	21.34	9	3.85
31st Dec.	96	57,061,222	+0 6.20	849,344	21.84	9	3.79

HAULAGE ACCIDENTS IN COAL MINES.

THE Safety in Mines Research Board appointed a committee last year to prepare a scheme for investigating possible methods of reducing haulage accidents in coal mines. The Report of this Committee has now been published.¶

The Report contains a brief analysis of the incidence of accidents over a number of years, and a diagram which brings out strongly the remarkable divergence between districts in the accident rate from haulage operations. Equally remarkable divergence was found to exist between collieries in the same district.

In addition to the statistical information, the Report contains proposals for research into various aspects of the haulage accident problem.

* Cmd. 3861. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (1½d. post free).
† In the case of South Wales and Monmouthshire the period covered is the quarter ended 31st January, 1931.
‡ Calculated on the quantity of coal disposable commercially.
§ Excluding the value of allowances in kind.
¶ Safety in Mines Research Board: Report No. 66. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net (7d. post free).

CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

THE sixty-third Annual Congress of delegates from co-operative societies in the United Kingdom was held at Bournemouth on 25th, 26th and 27th May, 1931, and was attended by 1,619 delegates, representing 596 societies. There were also representatives of co-operative organisations from Belgium, Czecho-Slovakia, France, Germany, Russia and Sweden. The Congress was convened by the Co-operative Union of Great Britain and Ireland, a federation of 1,221 societies, with an aggregate membership of over six millions. The Congress President was Mr. W. J. Salmon, J.P.

The President in his inaugural address touched on many aspects of the co-operative movement. He paid particular attention to the proposed "national authority" for the movement, speaking against the concentration of power in the hands of a small number of persons; to wages policy, advocating good wages as a "sound economic proposition"; to co-operative service and prices; and to the value of loyalty to the movement's trading federations. He concluded his address by an appeal for co-operative support for a policy of worldwide disarmament.

The Report of the Central Board of the Co-operative Union was presented to Congress and discussed by the delegates.

The Chairman of the Labour Committee, in moving the adoption of that Committee's section of the Report, said that the work of the Committee was receiving increasing recognition from societies, and he hoped that more societies would realise the benefit of the collective experience of the movement. Notwithstanding the economic pressure on societies there had been little disturbance in wages and hours during the year. During the year thirty cases had been referred to the National Conciliation Board, and in the main general satisfaction had been obtained. The Report contains an appeal for the extension of the Hours and Wages Boards in areas where machinery is at present non-existent. There are at present about 600 societies, with about 5½ million members and 150,000 employees, affiliated to the Boards, and some 620 societies, with about 625,000 members and 25,000 employees, not affiliated.

In introducing the Report of the Central Education Committee of the Union the Chairman said that junior, intermediate and women's classes were slightly reduced in number, but adult classes as a whole had increased by nearly 20 per cent., and technical classes by more than 20 per cent. Altogether there were more than 52,000 students. The Report covered for the first time the work of the new Joint Committee on Technical Education formed by the Union and the Co-operative Wholesale Society, which was stated to have made considerable progress.

In moving the adoption of the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, the Chairman of the Committee gave a comprehensive review of the Committee's activities. He stated that they had continued to press for the establishment of Trade Boards for the distributive trades. He referred to the evidence given by the Committee before the Commissioner enquiring into the proposal for a Catering Trade Board, and stated that evidence had been given before the Select Committee on Hours of Shop Assistants to show how the movement was operating a week of 48 hours, and in some cases of 44 hours.

The Chairman of the Co-operative Party, in moving the adoption of the Party's Report, pointed out that for the first time since the inception of the Party they could claim to represent the majority of the movement. The Report states that the 423 affiliated societies have 3,282,000 members, as compared with 2,878,000 members of the 890 societies not affiliated. The Chairman said that the past year had been remarkable in the fact that society after society was establishing its local party, parties were forming federations, and they could see the national machinery of a co-operative party evolving.

The Congress also received the Report of the Special Committee of Enquiry appointed by the 1930 Congress on the future government of the Co-operative Union. Majority and minority reports were moved and seconded and, on the recommendation of the Central Board, were referred to the sections of the Union for discussion during the ensuing Congress year, to be brought before the 1932 Congress, together with the necessary amendments of rules, for adoption or otherwise.

Other matters discussed by the Congress included the relations between the movement and agriculture, the work of the International Co-operative Alliance, and the limitation of armaments.

STATISTICS OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

A SECOND volume of Statistical Tables relating to British and Foreign Trade and Industry (1924-1930), which has been issued by the Board of Trade,* contains a detailed survey of the principal statistics relating to production, trade, employment, and prices in the following industries of the United Kingdom and the principal competing countries:—coal; iron and steel; general engineering; shipbuilding and marine engineering; motors and cycles, and rubber tyres; electrical machinery, goods and apparatus; cotton and manufactures of cotton; wool and manufactures of wool; flax, hemp and cordage; artificial silk; hosiery; leather, hides and skins; boots and shoes; chemicals, fertilisers, dyes and drugs; paper, wallpaper, and stationery; pottery; soap and certain crude vegetable oils; sugar, cocoa, and sugar goods; tobacco. Sections are also included giving information regarding imports and exports, production, and employment in "safeguarded" industries, and regarding home production and imports of foodstuffs.

* Statistical Tables relating to British and Foreign Trade and Industry (1924-1930). Part II. Principal Industries, Production and Trade. Cmd. 3849. H.M. Stationery Office; price 7s. 6d. net (8s. post free).

HOURS OF WORK IN OFFICES, HOTELS, RESTAURANTS, THEATRES, Etc.

PROPOSED ACTION BY H.M. GOVERNMENT REGARDING DRAFT CONVENTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

THE International Labour Conference adopted, at its fourteenth session, held in June, 1930, a draft Convention concerning the Regulation of Hours of Work in Commerce and Offices, and Recommendations concerning (i) the Regulation of Hours of Work in Hotels, Restaurants, and Similar Establishments; (ii) the Regulation of Hours of Work in Theatres and Other Places of Public Amusement; and (iii) the Regulation of Hours of Work in Establishments for the Treatment or the Care of the Sick, Infirm, Destitute or Mentally Unfit. The texts of the draft Convention and of the Recommendations have been published in a Command Paper.*

It is now announced† that H.M. Government in the United Kingdom proposes to inform the Secretary-General of the League of Nations of the decisions set out below with regard to the above draft Convention and Recommendations.

Draft Convention.—As indicated in the reply made to the questionnaire on this subject circulated by the International Labour Office before the fourteenth session of the International Labour Conference, the policy of H.M. Government throughout has been to join in any international action calculated to produce effective results in the direction of safeguarding the hours and conditions of all classes of employees. H.M. Government considered, however, that, before taking any steps to regulate the hours of work of these classes of workers, it was necessary to make a detailed investigation of the circumstances in which each class of work is carried on in the various countries, and that only when the facts were known could a decision be reached as to the action to be taken by the International Labour Organisation. In fact, investigations of this kind have been and are being carried out already in this country; as, for instance, that now being conducted by the Select Committee on Shop Assistants, and the inquiries made in 1925 and 1929 into the wages and hours in all branches of the catering trade, in connection with the proposal to apply the Trade Boards Acts.

The International Labour Conference, however, decided to adopt a draft Convention covering a wide field of employment, based on such information as had been submitted to it. In the opinion of H.M. Government this draft Convention covers too wide a range of occupations to be included in any single instrument, and permits such a variety of exceptions as to render it unsuitable as a basis for international regulation. In these circumstances H.M. Government are not prepared to ratify this Convention.

Recommendations.—These Recommendations are integrally bound up with the draft Convention already dealt with. They postulate acceptance of its provisions as applicable to these additional classes of workers, as a preliminary to the ascertainment of the facts in this and in other countries. This is opposed to the policy of H.M. Government as set out above, and in these circumstances the Recommendations cannot be accepted.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF LABOUR STATISTICIANS.

THE Fourth International Conference of Labour Statisticians was held at the International Labour Office, Geneva, from 20th to 23rd May, 1931. The number of countries represented was 26, including the United States, which, though not a member of the International Labour Organisation, is interested in the technical and social aspects of its work.

The Conference, recognising the value of the information as to wages and prices which has in the past been collected by the International Labour Office for the purpose of calculations relating to the purchasing power of wages in different countries, made a number of recommendations with the object of improving the bases and methods of compilation of such statistics.

It further recommended that the Governing Body of the International Labour Office should place the question of the supply of the data required for the purpose of these international comparisons of wages and cost of living on the agenda of a future session of the International Labour Conference, with a view to the framing of a Convention binding the Governments which ratify it to collect and supply the information at regular intervals.

It also recommended that a small committee of experts representing the competent national statistical authorities should be set up, to assist the Office in developing and publishing wage and cost-of-living statistics, and in preparing for future international conferences.

WAGES AND HOURS OF WORK IN COAL MINING IN 1929: INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON.

THE International Labour Office has recently completed the third of a series of inquiries into wages and hours of work in the coal mining industry. The inquiry relates to the year 1929, and a summary of the results obtained appears in the May, 1931, issue of the "International Labour Review." As in the case of the earlier inquiries,

only the information relating to European countries has been utilisable as a basis for international comparisons. All three inquiries have, moreover, been confined to bituminous and anthracite coal mining to the exclusion of lignite mining, while non-manual workers and workers in ancillary establishments (coke ovens, briquette factories, etc.) have, wherever possible, been excluded. The two earlier inquiries, relating to the years 1925 and 1927, were the subject of articles in this GAZETTE for July, 1928, November, 1929, and January, 1930. The present inquiry has been carried out on similar lines to those previously adopted; but the results, so far as wages are concerned, have been presented from the point of view of the labour cost of production.

The following Table shows the relative importance of net money wages and other elements of earnings of all workers (in percentages of total labour costs) in 1929:—

Country and District.	Labour costs other than net money wages.							Net money wages.
	Workmen's insurance contributions.	Allowances in cash.	Free and cheap coal.	Other allowances in kind.	Payment for holidays.	Employers' insurance contributions.	Total.	
Great Britain ...	2.4	...	2.4	1.4	...	5.3	11.5	88.5
Belgium ...	2.0	1.9	4.7	...	...	4.3	11.9	88.1
Czechoslovakia ...	5.5	2.5	5.8	1.0	2.1	9.2	26.1	73.9
France ...	4.8	2.9	1.9	8.6	...	7.2	25.4	74.6
Germany:								
Ruhr ...	11.7	2.6	1.3	...	2.4	11.9	29.9	70.1
Upper Silesia ...	12.1	2.5	2.5	...	1.8	12.9	31.4	68.6
Saxony ...	12.0	1.1	2.1	...	2.2	13.1	30.5	69.5
Netherlands ...	6.1	3.8	0.6	1.5	1.9	9.6	23.5	76.5
Poland ...	7.0	4.7	3.6	5.1	2.3	9.6	32.3	67.7
Saar ...	7.1	5.7	2.9	0.2	1.5	7.2	24.6	75.4

The relative average output of saleable coal per man-shift, and the relative average labour cost per ton of saleable coal in 1929, are shown in the following Table, expressed as index numbers, the average labour costs having, for this purpose, been reduced to a common currency, Swiss francs:—

Relative Levels of Average Output per Man-Shift and Average Labour Cost per Ton of Saleable Coal in 1929. (Base: Great Britain = 100.)

Country and District.	Average Output per Man-Shift (all Workers).	Average Labour Cost per Ton of Saleable Coal (all Workers).	
		Excluding	Including
		Employers' Contributions to Social Insurance.	
Great Britain ...	100	100	100
Belgium	120	118
Czechoslovakia	92	70
France	63	106
Germany:			
Ruhr	115	84
Upper Silesia	125	58
Netherlands	108	90
Poland	115	43
Saar	73	109

The following Table indicates for all European countries covered by the inquiry the hours of work of underground and surface workers in 1929, showing separately for the former the individual time spent in the mine and the time spent at the face:—

Country and District.	Underground workers.				Surface workers.	
	Individual time spent in the mine.		Hours spent at face, less travelling time and breaks.		Actual hours of work excluding breaks.	
	Day or Shift.	Week.	Day or Shift.	Week.	Day.	Week.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.
Belgium ...	8 0	48 0	6 20	38 0	8 0	48 0
Czechoslovakia ...	7 28	44 48	5 36	33 36	7 45	46 30
France† ...	7 52	47 12	6 35	39 30	7 59	47 54
Germany‡ ...	...	...	...	...	8 0	48 0
Great Britain ...	8 0	44 15	6 15	33 45	7 45	46 30
	8 30	50 0	6 45	40 30	8 35	51 30
	8 19	47 28	6 34	37 5	8 4	48 22
Weighted Average	8 10	47 0	6 10	35 0	...	...
Netherlands ...	Saturday 6 10		Saturday 4 10			
Poland:						
Upper Silesia ...	8 2½	48 12	6 18	37 48	8 0	48 0
Dombrowa and Cracow.	8 30	49 0	6 16	35 46	8 0	46 0
	Saturday 6 30		Saturday 4 26			
Saar ...	7 30	45 0	6 15	37 30	7 30¶	45 0¶
					8 0	48 0

* Less than 0.1 per cent.

† For underground workers, the figures refer to hewers on the morning shift.

‡ The German Government state that they have no official data relating to the average winding time, travelling time underground and breaks, and, therefore, they do not indicate the individual time spent in the mine and the time spent at the face.

§ When the hours exceed 8, additional work and breaks (if any) are included. Some workers with a longer day than 8 hours, work only 8 hours on Saturday.

¶ Includes a statutory break of 30 minutes introduced on 6th April, 1926, by the Polish Mines Department.

¶ The shorter periods are worked by those whose work is closely connected with extraction.

GERMAN ADVISORY COMMISSION ON UNEMPLOYMENT.

SECOND REPORT: CREATION OF WORK.

THE First Report of the German Advisory Commission on Unemployment, which was summarised in this GAZETTE for April, 1931 (page 136), dealt with measures for the combating of unemployment through the wider distribution of the available work by means of the reduction of working hours and the restriction of the exercise of secondary occupations. The Second Report, which is dated 29th April, 1931, is concerned with the possibility of creating additional opportunities of work.

Normally, after a period of depression, the stimulus for trade recovery, it is stated, is derived from private enterprise, through the influx of fresh capital resources. As private initiative in Germany is not, at the present time, in a position to supply this stimulus, the Commission consider that activity must be promoted and employment stimulated by means of long-term loans, mainly foreign, raised on the security of public credit and applied to the execution of comprehensive schemes of work of a productive nature.

The spheres in which the Commission recommend that employment should be provided are the following: electricity and gas supply; transport and communications; land improvement and rural development; agricultural settlement and housing construction. The schemes of work contemplated by the Commission could, in certain circumstances, be carried out by means of the suggested loans without assistance from public funds. In other circumstances, where the work takes the form of productive relief work of the nature contemplated under the unemployment insurance system, the monies so raised might be supplemented by assistance from public funds.

The Commission are opposed to the subsidising of private undertakings by grants in aid of wage or interest charges. They approve the plan of the Public Works Company* for raising a foreign loan on its assets, although, owing to political difficulties, it has not yet been possible to put the plan into effect.

The Commission recommend the provision of work by the local authorities responsible for administering poor relief for the able-bodied unemployed not in receipt of standard or emergency benefit. They regard labour conscription as undesirable, but recommend the institution of a system of voluntary labour service as a means of combating the harmful effects of enforced idleness. The Commission uphold the principle that the grant of benefit should be conditional upon the performance of work, subject to specified conditions, and advocate the further development of training facilities for unemployed persons.

THIRD REPORT: UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, ETC.

THE Third (and final) Report of the German Advisory Commission on Unemployment, dated 28th May, 1931, is concerned with the present organisation of the direct relief of unemployment under the unemployment insurance, emergency benefit and poor relief systems, and a general consideration of the measures necessary to enable the heavy financial burdens imposed on these systems during the present period of acute unemployment to be met. In reviewing the general employment situation the Commission considered it not improbable that the average number of unemployed during the current year will amount to 4.5 million, and they, therefore, felt compelled to limit their proposals to measures which will be immediate in their results and will enable the unemployment relief system to be more readily adapted to meet the requirements of severe economic crises. Two members of the Commission dissented from this view. The recommendations of the Commission are summarised below.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

The unemployment insurance scheme was designed to be a self-supporting insurance institution, financed, in principle, solely from the contributions of employers and workers. Notwithstanding all the difficulties associated with any attempt to cover the risk of unemployment by a system based on the principle of insurance, the Commission recommend that the present organisation of unemployment relief on an insurance basis should be retained. They reject on grounds of principle proposals for the introduction of a means test into unemployment insurance. The present scheme should, therefore, not be transferred to a relief basis, but, with a view to restoring its financial solvency, the following measures should be adopted:—(i) the waiting period should be extended for all classes of unemployed persons, the present maxima of 14, 7 and 3 days being raised to 21, 14 and 7 days respectively; (ii) the rates of benefit should be temporarily reduced; (iii) the conditions relating to proof of willingness to work should be made more stringent, and unemployed persons should no longer be permitted to refuse work on the ground that it is unsuitable in view of their training or previous employment; (iv) the scope of the scheme should be limited by the exclusion, in principle, of persons engaged in home industry; (v) benefit should be paid to seasonal workers at specially reduced rates; the benefit period for such persons should be reduced and the qualifying period extended; (vi) the finances of the scheme should be supplemented under a general programme for the regulation of the national finances, and those classes of the population who are favourably situated from the social and economic point of view should be required to make sacrifices in common with the unemployed workers; (vii) the Federal Employment Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance Board should have greater powers to secure the balancing of income and expenditure.

* A private company, with public utility status, which is a responsible authority for the provision of extended financial assistance for productive relief works under the Unemployment Insurance Scheme. See this GAZETTE for October, 1930, page 364.

EMERGENCY BENEFIT.

The emergency benefit scheme provides for the grant of extended benefit to unemployed persons who (a) have exhausted their title to ordinary unemployment benefit, or (b) have not completed the normal qualifying period for unemployment benefit. The scope of the scheme may be adapted by the Federal Minister of Labour from time to time according to the requirements of the labour market; at present it covers, in principle, all persons over 21 years of age who have exhausted their claim to standard unemployment benefit. The grant of benefit is subject to proof of need, and the necessary funds are provided as to four-fifths by the Reich and one-fifth by the communes. The Commission are of the opinion that the scheme is a valuable institution as providing an intermediate stage between insurance and poor relief, and are, therefore, opposed to any proposals for its unification with the poor relief system. Its scope should be adapted in the fullest possible measure to the prevailing employment situation, with a view to the relief of the burden thrown on the communes in the provision of poor relief to able-bodied persons suffering from long-term unemployment. Furthermore, the whole cost of the scheme should be borne by the Reich. Finally, the Commission recommend that the existing rates of benefit should not be reduced, apart from any reduction automatically brought about by the reduction in the rates of ordinary benefit, but that fuller advantage should be taken of the existing possibilities for the strict application of the means test.

RELIEF OF UNEMPLOYMENT BY THE REDUCTION OF WORKING HOURS IN GERMANY.

THE German Advisory Commission on Unemployment recommended in its First Report, of which a summary was given at page 136 of the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1931, that the German Government should take powers to reduce working hours, in suitable cases, to 40 a week, as a means of spreading the available work over a larger number of persons. Chapter II of Part Three, dealing with Unemployment, of the Federal President's Second Order of 5th June, 1931, for the Safeguarding of the National Finances and Economic Structure, gives effect to this recommendation.

The Federal Government, with the approval of the Reichsrat, may order that, in individual industries, branches of industry and commerce, or for individual groups of workers, the normal working hours, in undertakings employing, as a rule, at least ten manual workers or at least ten non-manual workers, shall be reduced. The working hours, so reduced, may be 40 or more a week, and may be averaged over a period of six weeks. The working of overtime by collective agreement between employers and workers, which is permissible under Clauses 2 and 5 of the Working Hours Order of 14th April, 1927, is to be subject to the sanction of the competent authorities. Before an Order is issued, it must be ascertained whether the reduction in working hours is technically and economically possible, and whether the supply of labour is sufficient to enable the reduction to be carried out. The Federal Government, with the approval of the Reichsrat, is to issue detailed regulations for the application of the reduction in working hours.

AMENDMENT OF THE GERMAN EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT.

ON 5th June, 1931, the President of the German Reich signed the Second Order of the Federal President for the Safeguarding of the National Finances and Economic Structure. The Order, which is issued under the emergency powers granted by Article 48, paragraph 2, of the Federal Constitution, is in seven parts, dealing with (1) the Amendment of the Order of the Federal President of 1st December, 1930, (2) the Safeguarding of the Budget, (3) Unemployment, (4) the Burden of Public Assistance on the Communes, (5) Social Insurance and Public Assistance, (6) Housing, and (7) Trade and Economic Policy. Part 3, Unemployment, is divided into four chapters, dealing with (a) unemployment insurance and emergency benefit, (b) working hours, (c) emergency income tax, and (d) a special guarantee fund for export credits.

The amendments to the Employment Exchanges and Unemployment Act made by the Order affect the finances of the employment exchanges and unemployment insurance scheme, the rates of benefit, and the rules governing the issue of benefit; and, in the main, they follow the recommendations made in the Second and Third Reports of the German Advisory Commission on Unemployment (see above).

Finance.—The Executive Committee at the Head Office of the Employment Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance Board is given the power to order, with the approval of the Federal Minister of Labour, that a charge shall be made for certain classes of placings, when their cost exceeds the average for general placing work. The Executive Committee, when there is a danger that the current income of the Federal Employment Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance Board (the Federal Board) will not meet the current expenditure, must take immediate steps to secure a financial balance. It may, for this purpose, alter the rates of contribution, reduce the rates of benefit (but not below the emergency benefit rates), and shorten the period of ordinary benefit*. The

* For unemployment insurance purposes, the Executive Committee is composed of the President of the Federal Board, as Chairman, with five employers' and five workers' representatives.

* Cmd. 3693. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. net (1s. 1d. post free).
† Cmd. 3874. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (1½d. post free).

decisions of the Executive Committee require the approval of the Federal Government, who may themselves take the necessary action, if the Executive Committee has not reached decisions within a time limit fixed by the Federal Government, or has reached decisions which are not approved by the Federal Government. The clauses of the Preliminary Fiscal Reform Act of 28th April, 1930, providing for grants and loans from the Federal Exchequer to meet the deficits of the Federal Board, are not to be applied.

Underground Coal Miners.—The Federal Government may, for a specified time, release underground coal miners and their employers either wholly or partially from the obligation to pay unemployment insurance contributions, if by this means an appropriate reduction in the price of coal will be brought about. The unemployment insurance of the miners will not be affected by this measure. Their wages, however, will be reduced by the amount of the reduction in their unemployment insurance contributions. The loss in contributions to the Federal Board will be made up by the Federal Exchequer. (The present rate of unemployment insurance contribution is 6½ per cent. of the basic wage for health insurance purposes, divided equally between employer and worker.)

Refundment of Emergency Benefit.—Emergency benefit is the German form of the British transitional benefit. Persons who have been in receipt of emergency benefit are to be required to refund the amount which they have received as principal emergency benefit (i.e., excluding the amount received as dependants' allowances), as soon as they are in possession of sufficient means and if the refundment will not inflict undue hardship. In principle, refundment may be demanded when they have been in steady employment for at least three months. The Federal Minister of Labour is to issue regulations hereon.

Rates of Benefit.—The weekly rates of principal benefit have been reduced in proportions ranging from 6.7 per cent. in Wage Class I to 14.3 per cent. in Wage Class XI, or in amounts ranging from 40 Reichspfennigs to 3.15 Reichsmarks. The old and new rates of benefit are shown in the following Table:—

Wage Class.	Unit Wage in Reichsmarks.	Weekly Rates of Principal Benefit.			
		Old.		New.	
		Percentage of Unit Wage.	Amount in Reichsmarks.	Percentage of Unit Wage.	Amount in Reichsmarks.
I	8	75	6.00	70	5.60
II	12	65	7.80	60	7.20
III	16	55	8.80	50	8.00
IV	21	47	9.87	42	8.82
V	27	40	10.80	35	9.45
VI	33	40	13.20	35	11.55
VII	39	37.5	14.63	32.5	12.68
VIII	45	35	15.75	30	13.50
IX	51	35	17.85	30	15.30
X	57	35	19.95	30	17.10
XI	63	35	22.05	30	18.90

The maximum rates of principal benefit together with dependants' allowances remain unchanged; but, as the dependant's allowance is 5 per cent. of the unit wage, the maximum rates of benefit in Wage Classes IV to XI will now be paid to persons with six or more dependants, instead of to persons with five or more dependants, as formerly.

The rates of emergency benefit will be correspondingly reduced, the highest weekly rate of principal benefit for persons without dependants being 11.55 (instead of 13.20) Reichsmarks and for persons with one or more dependants 12.68 (instead of 14.63) Reichsmarks, to which the dependants' allowances must be added.

Further reductions in benefit will be brought about by the following rules:—

(a) Assignment to a wage class for purposes of benefit is to be based on the average earnings during the last 13 (instead of 26) weeks preceding the first claim for benefit after the qualifying period has been served. (In recent months, there has been a general reduction in wages in Germany.) Formerly, the assignment to a wage class for benefit purposes of a person who had been working short time was based on his normal full-time earnings, but this rule no longer applies when the actual weekly working hours were more than 40. If they were less than 40 hours, the earnings for 40 hours as a maximum are to be taken as a basis.

(b) Persons employed in seasonal trades are to receive as ordinary benefit the rates of emergency benefit for a period of 20 (instead of 26) weeks. If they are subsequently admitted to emergency benefit, the maximum duration of this benefit is to be prolonged by six weeks.

(c) Married women will receive ordinary benefit only if they are in need. The emergency benefit means test will be applied.

(d) Alterations have been made in the rules governing the deduction from benefit of certain social allowances and pensions. In particular, disabled ex-service men's pensions are no longer excepted.

(e) Unemployed persons who have not yet reached the age of 21 (formerly 16) years can claim benefit only if they have no legal right of family maintenance.

(f) Benefit can be refused for six weeks when it appears from given circumstances that the unemployed person is unwilling to work or is unemployed by his own fault.

Waiting Period.—The normal waiting period has been increased from 14 to 21 days for persons without dependants; from 7 to 14 days for persons with one to three dependants; and from 3 to 7

days for persons with four or more dependants. The waiting period rules have also been made more severe in other directions.

Usual or Former Domicile.—Provision is made for the transfer, in certain circumstances, of an unemployed person to the employment exchange of his usual or former place of domicile for the purpose of the payment of benefit.

Refusal of Work.—An unemployed person can no longer refuse work on the ground that he cannot be expected to take it having regard to his former training and employments.

Compulsory Work (Pflichtarbeit).—The stipulation that the issue of benefit is conditional upon the performance of socially useful work, if available, which was formerly restricted to persons under 21 years of age and to recipients of emergency benefit, may be extended to all persons.

Voluntary Labour Service.—The main principles are laid down of a system of voluntary labour service, to be promoted by the Federal Employment Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance Board by means of funds from the unemployment insurance scheme.

The foregoing are the chief amendments of the German unemployment insurance scheme. They come into force on 29th June, 1931, and are to be in general operation by 13th July, 1931, at latest. The Federal Government, with the approval of the Reichsrat, may, on the proposal of, or after consulting, the Executive Committee of the Federal Board, amend the Employment Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance Act, in order to simplify the structure and administration of the Federal Board and the application of the Act, provided that none of the essential principles of the Act are thereby removed.

WAGES AND HOURS MOVEMENTS OVERSEAS.

FRANCE.

Textile Industry.—Some 120,000 textile workers in the Roubaix-Tourcoing area ceased work on 18th May following a refusal by the trade unions to agree to a reduction in wages proposed by the Textile Consortium.* In an attempt to find a possible basis for agreement, the employers had offered to postpone for at least three months discussion of the question of a 10 per cent. reduction, provided the workers agreed to the immediate withdrawal of the bonuses termed *primes de présence* granted in September, 1930.† This proposal, which represented in effect an immediate reduction in wages of approximately 4 per cent., was not accepted by the workers.

GERMANY.

Coal Mining Industry.—The conciliation award of 6th May last, which, as reported in the last issue of this GAZETTE (page 175), in effect prolonged until 31st May, 1932, the existing covering agreement for the Ruhr coal mining industry, has been declared binding by the Federal Minister of Labour. It had previously been rejected by the employers, primarily on the ground that it did not provide for the elimination of the clause establishing, in principle, a seven-hour working day for underground workers. Preliminary negotiations regarding the conclusion of a fresh wage agreement are fixed to take place towards the middle of June, consequent upon the notification by the employers of their intention to terminate the present agreement at 30th June. At this date also the wage agreement for the Aix-la-Chapelle coal mining industry is to be terminated by the employers.

Iron and Steel Industry.—The covering agreement regulating the working conditions, other than wages and hours, of some 150,000 workers in the North-West Group of the heavy iron and steel industry is, by agreement reached between the parties in conciliation proceedings, to be prolonged without change until 31st May, 1932. The agreement stipulates that negotiations shall take place in July next between the employers and workers regarding the conclusion of a fresh wage agreement, the employers having intimated their intention of terminating the present agreement at 30th September next.

Metal and Engineering Industry.—A threatened dispute in the metal and engineering industry in the Gladbach-Rheydt area has been averted by the acceptance by both employers and workers of a conciliation award providing for an 8 per cent. reduction in wages. The award is to be operative until 31st October next. In Saxony, the employers gave notice to terminate, at 31st May, the wage agreement together with the supplementary agreement for foundry workers, and advanced demands for considerable wage reductions. In subsequent conciliation proceedings an award was issued providing for the basic wage rates for time and piece-workers to be reduced from 78 and 77 pfennigs to 76 and 75 pfennigs respectively. For the Bautzen district these rates are to be lower by 2 pfennigs. The award, if accepted or enforced, will be operative until 30th November next.

NORWAY.

Various Industries.—The lock-outs in various industries, referred to in the issues of this GAZETTE for April (page 135) and May (page 176), are still in progress. In the case of the dispute in the paper industry, conciliation proceedings have not yet been resumed. Conciliation proposals involving a reduction of from 5 to 10 per cent. in wages have been submitted for all the other industries concerned, but have been rejected by both employers and workers.

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for May, 1931, page 175.

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for September, 1930, page 325.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

THERE was little change in employment in the first three weeks of May. Some improvement occurred immediately before Whitsuntide, but in a large number of establishments in the Midlands and North of England holiday stoppages extended throughout the last week of the month.

The seasonal improvement continued in the building and allied industries, and in most of the clothing trades. The numbers unemployed also decreased, prior to Whitsun, in the cotton industry, in textile bleaching, dyeing and finishing, in shipping service, in hotel and boarding-house service and in the distributive trades.

Unemployment increased, however, in coal-mining, slate quarrying, general and marine engineering, shipbuilding and ship-repairing, tinplate manufacture and in the wool textile and jute industries.

A slight improvement was experienced prior to Whitsuntide, in all divisions except Wales and Scotland, but employment was still very bad in the Northern part of the country and bad in the Midlands.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among the workpeople, numbering approximately 12,400,000 insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 18th May,* 1931, (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed), was 20.8, as compared with 20.9 at 27th April, 1931, and with 15.0 at 26th May, 1930. The percentage wholly unemployed at 18th May, 1931, was 16.3, the same percentage as at 27th April, 1931; while the percentage temporarily stopped was 4.5, as compared with 4.6. For males alone the percentage at 18th May, 1931, was 21.9, and for females, 17.9; at 27th April, 1931, the corresponding percentages were 22.0 and 18.0.

At 18th May, 1931, the numbers of persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain were 1,840,562 wholly unemployed, 550,907 temporarily stopped, and 115,468 normally in casual employment, making a total of 2,506,937. This was 13,176 less than a month before, but 736,886 more than a year before. The total included 1,837,941 men, 66,245 boys, 549,481 women and 53,270 girls.

The 1,840,562 wholly unemployed included approximately 1,266,920 insured persons, who had paid at least 30 contributions during the preceding two years, and therefore satisfied the full contributions condition for the receipt of unemployment benefit; 477,190 insured persons, who had paid less than 30 contributions during the preceding two years; and 96,450 uninsured persons. The wholly unemployed claimants for benefit, numbering 1,668,095, included 1,274,700 men, 19,000 boys, 364,970 women and 9,425 girls, who had been on the Register for less than one month.

In Great Britain and Northern Ireland the total number of persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges at 18th May 1931, was 2,579,683, and at 1st June, 1931, it was 2,702,066.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment in the coal-mining industry declined and was bad. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 23rd May, 1931, showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. as compared with 25th April, 1931, and of 7.8 per cent. as compared with 24th May, 1930. The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 23rd May, 1931, was 4.72, a decrease of 0.39 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 25th April, 1931, but an increase of 0.07 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 24th May, 1930.

In the iron mining industry employment remained bad. In the West Lothian shale mines it was fairly good. In the limestone quarries in the Cleveland area employment was bad; in the Clitheroe area it continued steady; in the Buxton area it was still bad. In the slate quarries in North Wales it was bad, with much short-time working. At chalk quarries employment was very slack. At tin mines it was bad. At china clay quarries it improved slightly, but was still bad.

Pig Iron, Iron and Steel and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment showed a slight improvement but was still very bad. Of 394 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of May was 80, as compared with 78 at the end of April, and 141 at the end of May, 1930.

At iron and steel works employment showed a further slight improvement but was still very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 44.8 at 18th May, 1931, as compared with 45.1 at 27th April, 1931, and 30.2 at 26th May, 1930.

In the tinplate industry employment showed a decline and was very bad; it also continued very bad in steel sheet manufacture.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and metal industries.—In engineering employment remained bad and showed a slight decline, on the whole. There was a further decline in general and in marine engineering and a further improvement in constructional and electrical engineering and in the motor vehicle section. In general, textile, marine and constructional engineering employment continued very bad, being particularly depressed in the marine and textile sections. In the motor vehicle section it remained bad. In electrical engineering employment was slack, but better than in other sections.

* As Whit Monday fell on 25th May, the monthly statistics of unemployment among insured workpeople relate to 18th May.

In shipbuilding and ship-repairing employment remained very bad and showed a further decline in most districts, though in some of the ship-repairing districts a slight improvement was shown.

In the other metal trades employment remained slack on the whole. It was moderate in the hollow-ware trade: slack in the sheet metal, tube, brasswork, wire manufacturing, nut and bolt, metallic bedstead, needle and fishing tackle, and jewellery and plated ware trades; and bad in the cutlery, file, edge tool, and chain and anchor trades.

Textile Industries.—In the cotton industry, although there was a slight reduction in the numbers unemployed prior to Whitsun, employment continued bad, and in many cases extended holidays were taken at Whitsuntide. The percentage of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed was 37.5 at 18th May, 1931, as compared with 38.2 at 27th April, 1931, and with 39.1 at 26th May, 1930.

In the wool textile industry employment continued very slack in all the principal centres, and showed a slight decline both in the worsted and in the woollen sections. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 27.0 at 18th May, 1931, as compared with 25.7 at 27th April, 1931 and 22.3 at 26th May, 1930. In the carpet trade there was a slight improvement but employment was still slack, on the whole.

Employment in the hosiery trade remained bad, on the whole; in the lace trade it showed little change and remained slack. In the silk and artificial silk industries employment showed little change and remained bad, on the whole. In the jute trade employment showed a decline and was very bad; in the linen trade it showed little change and remained bad. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing etc. trades employment showed an improvement, but was still very bad, with much short-time working.

Clothing Industries.—Employment in the retail bespoke and in the readymade and wholesale bespoke branches of the tailoring trade continued to improve and was fair, on the whole. In the dress-making and millinery trades it was good. In the shirt and collar trade there was some slight improvement but employment was only moderate; in the corset trade it was fair; and in the glove trade it remained slack. In felt hat manufacture employment showed little change and remained moderate.

In the boot and shoe industry employment showed little change, on the whole, apart from the slightly increased activity which is usual before the Whitsuntide holiday, and with most firms it remained moderate. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 18.3 at 18th May, 1931, as compared with 18.4 at 27th April, 1931, and with 13.9 at 26th May, 1930.

Leather Trades.—Employment showed a slight decline and was slack in all sections.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—In the building trades employment continued to improve but was still slack, on the whole. The improvement was experienced in all the administrative divisions of Great Britain. As regards individual occupations employment was better with each class of operative: it was slack to moderate with bricklayers, masons and painters; very slack with carpenters, slaters and tradesmen's labourers; and bad with plasterers and plumbers. In brick manufacture employment continued to improve and was moderate, on the whole.

Employment in the furnishing trades showed little change and remained slack; it also continued slack, though improving slightly, with mill sawyers and coachbuilders.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—In the paper-making industry employment showed little general change and remained moderate. With letterpress printers it continued moderate on the whole. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment continued fairly good outside the London area, where it was reported as bad. With lithographic printers it showed a further decline and was bad or slack at most centres. With lithographic artists it remained moderate, on the whole; and with bookbinders it continued slack.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery industry employment in North Staffordshire continued bad, on the whole, with much short-time working. At Derby and Worcester employment was quiet, although a slight improvement was reported at the latter centre. At Bristol employment was steady. In the stoneware section in Scotland it continued bad.

In the glass trades employment in the bottle-making section showed little change and remained bad; in other sections there was a slight improvement but employment was still slack.

Fishing.—With fishermen employment remained bad, on the whole, but there was some improvement towards the end of the month.

Dock Labourers and Seamen.—Employment with dock labourers remained very slack. With seamen also it remained slack on the whole; the demand in the early part of the month was slightly higher than of late, but after the Whitsuntide holidays there was a general falling off.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

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

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

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL INDUSTRIES.

Industry.	Workpeople included in the Returns for May, 1931.	May, 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month before.	Year before.
			Days.	Days.
			4.72	+ 0.39
Coal Mining ...	861,170	5.13	+ 0.03	- 0.25
Iron " ...	6,570	5.95	+ 0.02	- 0.02
Shale " ...	2,531			
			Number.	Number.
			+ 2	- 61
Pig Iron ...			- 44	- 172
Tinplate and Steel Sheet				
			Per cent.	Per cent.
			+ 1.7	- 28.8
Iron and Steel ...	49,579			

(b) OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Industry.	Number of Workpeople Employed.			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd May, 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.	Week ended 23rd May, 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Textiles :-						
Cotton ...	64,006	- 1.5	- 3.7	104,358	- 0.9	+ 1.8
Woolen ...	51,424	- 1.2	+ 5.2	96,904	- 2.9	+ 4.8*
Worsted ...	75,054	- 0.6	+ 43.6†	131,749	+ 1.2	+ 52.4*†
Carpet ...	9,442	+ 0.2	- 5.6	16,654	+ 4.7	- 4.4
Boot and Shoe ...	62,652	- 0.9	- 2.5	140,454	+ 0.3	- 5.0
Pottery ...	10,033	+ 1.1	- 9.4	16,424	- 4.8*	- 16.8*
Brick ...	9,567	+ 1.7	- 7.8	24,972	+ 1.9	- 12.5

UNEMPLOYMENT SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS.

The following Table shows the variations in the rates of unemployment at 18th May, 1931, among insured persons in the respective divisions into which the country is divided for the purpose of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts :-

Divisions.	Estimated Numbers Insured, at July, 1930. (Totals).	Percentage Unemployed at 18th May, 1931.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a	
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Month before.	Year before.
London ...	2,255,620	12.8	8.5	11.4	- 0.2	+ 4.1
South-Eastern ...	2,237,770	11.7	7.7	10.8	- 0.3	+ 3.8
South-Western ...	864,400	14.1	9.3	13.1	- 0.6	+ 3.8
Midlands ...	1,847,230	19.4	19.9	19.6	- 0.4	+ 5.8
North-Eastern ...	2,020,760	27.5	19.3	25.7	- 0.8	+ 7.4
North-Western ...	2,181,890	26.6	28.3	27.2	+ 0.2	+ 3.7
Scotland ...	1,507,810	29.1	21.3	26.9	+ 0.9	+ 9.5
Wales ...	592,620	36.1	16.3	34.1	+ 2.9	+ 6.4
Northern Ireland ...	286,000	31.0	24.6	28.5	- 0.6	+ 5.6
Special Schemes	139,700	4.3	1.1	3.3	+ 0.1	+ 1.0
Total ...	12,405,700	21.9	17.9	20.8	- 0.1	+ 5.8

UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

The following Table shows, month by month from May, 1930, the percentages unemployed among insured workpeople, and the approximate number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges, etc., in Great Britain and Northern Ireland :-

Date.	Percentages Unemployed among Insured Workpeople.					Numbers (Insured and Uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges, etc.	
	Males.	Females.	Wholly Unemployed and Casuals.	Temporarily stopped.	Total.	Date.	Number.
1930.						1930.	
26 May ...	15.2	14.4	10.8	4.2	15.0	26 May	1,823,000
23 June ...	15.6	14.6	10.8	4.6	15.4	30 June	1,947,000
21 July ...	17.0	15.8	11.3	5.4	16.7	28 July	2,072,000
25 August ...	17.3	16.5	12.1	5.0	17.1	25 Aug.	2,106,000
22 September ...	18.0	16.8	12.7	4.9	17.6	29 Sept.	2,230,000
27 October ...	19.4	16.8	13.9	4.8	18.7	27 Oct.	2,308,000
24 November ...	19.8	17.2	14.8	4.3	19.1	24 Nov.	2,359,000
22 December ...	20.7	18.8	14.9	5.3	20.2	29 Dec.	2,725,000
1931.						1931.	
26 January ...	22.1	19.9	16.5	5.0	21.5	26 Jan.	2,671,000
23 February ...	22.6	19.6	16.7	5.0	21.7	23 Feb.	2,694,000
23 March ...	22.7	18.4	16.5	5.0	21.5	30 Mar.	2,655,000
27 April ...	22.0	18.0	16.3	4.6	20.9	27 Apr.	2,594,000
18 May ...	21.9	17.9	16.3	4.5	20.8	1 June	2,702,000

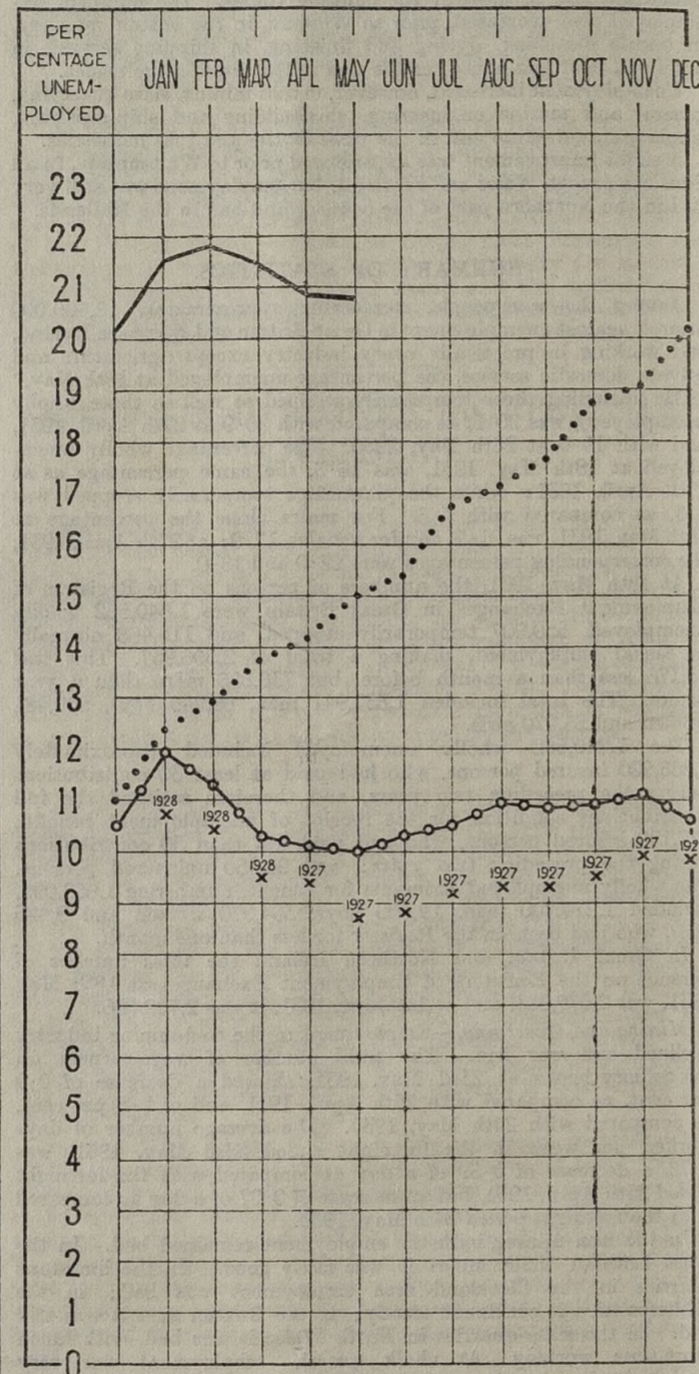
* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.
† Comparison is affected by the dispute in 1930.

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

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

Plain Curve - - - - - = 1931.
Dotted Curve - - - - - = 1930.
Chain Curve - - - - - = Mean for 1923-25 and 1927-29.

× The crosses indicate the minimum monthly percentages unemployed during the years 1923-25 and 1927-30. The maximum percentages in February to December of those years occurred in 1930. In January the maximum percentage of 13.3 occurred in 1923.



NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

APPLICATIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS RECEIVED AT LOCAL OFFICES OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR IN GREAT BRITAIN DURING MAY, 1931.

Area.	Men.				Women.				Total.	Per-centage of numbers Insured at July, 1930.
	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.		
London ...	1,288	4,754	1,902	4,296	12,240	0.54				
South-Eastern ...	1,154	2,370	958	1,685	6,167	0.66				
South-Western ...	966	2,021	880	1,590	5,457	0.63				
Midlands ...	2,692	3,642	465	1,657	8,456	0.46				
North-Eastern ...	1,190	4,298	1,033	2,911	9,432	0.47				
North-Western ...	891	3,836	976	3,591	9,294	0.43				
Scotland ...	1,030	2,859	742	2,395	7,026	0.54				
Wales... ..	475	1,453	368	570	2,866	0.48				
GREAT BRITAIN ...	9,686	25,233	7,324	18,695	60,938	0.51				

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

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople employed given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and not the total numbers employed in the various industries. In the comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates the figures relate to the same firms at each date, and cover all the wage-earners, irrespective of age, sex, or occupation, employed by these firms. In comparing the earnings in different industries, it should be remembered that any averages calculated from these figures will be affected not only by the variations in the state of employment and in rates of wages, but also by differences in the proportions of males to females, of adults to juveniles, and of skilled to unskilled workers in the respective industries.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during May was bad, and showed a decline as compared with the previous month.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 27.0 at 18th May, 1931, as compared with 26.1 at 27th April, 1931, and 22.1 at 26th May, 1930. The percentage wholly unemployed increased by 0.7 from 17.0 to 17.7, and the percentage temporarily stopped by 0.2 from 9.1 to 9.3.

The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 23rd May, 1931, showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. as compared with 25th April, 1931, and of 7.8 per cent. as compared with 24th May, 1930.

The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 23rd May, 1931, was 4.72, a decrease of 0.39 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 25th April, 1931, but an increase of 0.07 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 24th May, 1930.

The following Table shows, for the principal coalmining districts, the total number of wage earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked per week* during the fortnight ended 23rd May, 1931, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals.

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per week by the Mines.	
	23rd May, 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before.	Fortnight ended 23rd May, 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before.
		Year before.	23rd May, 1931.	Year before.
ENGLAND AND WALES:				
Northumberland ...	44,157	- 1.8	4.86	- 0.61
Durham ...	116,224	- 2.0	4.50	- 0.50
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	9,322	- 1.2	4.0	+ 0.05
South Yorkshire ...	111,528	- 1.3	4.65	- 0.11
West Yorkshire ...	50,095	- 1.0	4.30	- 0.47
Lancs. and Cheshire ...	70,068	- 1.4	4.26	- 0.83
Derbyshire ...	53,011	- 0.3	4.24	- 0.20
Notts. and Leicester ...	60,269	+ 0.4	4.13	- 0.56
Warwick ...	17,125	+ 0.5	5.30	- 0.35
North Staffordshire ...	23,993	- 0.2	4.48	- 0.75
South Staffs., Worcs. and Salop ...	29,906	- 0.5	4.59	- 0.76
Glos. and Somerset ...	9,587	+ 1.7	4.96	- 0.41
Kent ...	5,579	+ 1.1	5.50	+ 0.06
North Wales... ..	14,065	- 1.3	4.8	- 0.13
South Wales and Mon.	158,879	+ 0.6	4.40	- 0.33
England and Wales	773,808	- 0.7	4.71	- 0.42
SCOTLAND:				
Mid. & East Lothians	12,865	- 1.3	4.66	- 0.25
Fife and Clackmannan	20,740	- 1.3	5.02	+ 0.12
Rest of Scotland ...	53,757	- 2.9	4.77	- 0.15
Scotland ...	87,362	- 2.3	4.81	- 0.11
GREAT BRITAIN ...	861,170	- 0.9	4.72	- 0.39

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 23rd May, 1931, was 1.02 of a day per week, of which 0.97 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The figures for the fortnight ended 25th April, 1931, were 0.63 of a day per week, of which 0.59 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties; the corresponding figures for the fortnight ended 24th May, 1930, were 1.13 of a day per week, and 1.10 of a day per week, respectively. The average non-winding time for the May and April, 1931, periods, was about one-quarter of a day per week, as compared with between one-fifth and one-quarter of a day per week during the May, 1930, period.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 23rd May, 1931, was reported to the Mines Department as 18,223,800 tons, as compared with 17,115,100 tons in the four weeks ended 25th April, 1931, and 19,778,100 tons in the four weeks ended 24th May, 1930.

The numbers and percentages unemployed among insured workpeople in the respective areas at 18th May, 1931, and the increases

* The figures in this and the following article show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short time) on which coal, iron, etc., were got from the mines included in the returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons worked every day the mines were open. Mines not working are omitted in computing the average number of days worked.
† Including Cannock Chase.

or decreases as compared with 27th April, 1931, and 26th May, 1930, are shown in the following Table :-

Area.	Insured Persons Recorded as Unemployed at 18th May, 1931.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Total percentages as compared with a		
	Numbers.	Percentages.	Month before.	Year before.	Month before.	Year before.	
Great Britain ...	188,999	100,252	17.7	9.3	27.0	+ 0.9	+ 4.9
England and Wales... ..	160,937	91,567	17.0	9.6	26.6	+ 0.5	+ 4.4
Scotland... ..	28,062	8,685	23.1	7.1	30.2	+ 4.1	+ 8.9
Principal Districts in England and Wales :-							
Northumberland ...	8,379	2,019	16.1	3.9	20.0	+ 3.9	+ 6.8
Durham ...	37,155	8,247	24.2	5.4	29.6	- 1.3	+ 15.2
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	2,257	438	19.1	3.7	22.8	- 6.9	+ 2.3
Yorkshire ...	20,045	20,988	11.2	11.8	23.0	- 7.1	+ 4.1
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	15,841	8,913	17.4	9.8	27.2	+ 4.7	- 2.3
Derbyshire ...	4,802	8,758	7.6	13.9	21.5	- 3.8	+ 1.9
Notts. and Leicestershire	6,235	5,567	9.4	8.4	17.8	- 6.6	+ 0.5
Warwickshire Staffs., Worcester and Salop ...	733	46	6.0	0.4	6.4	- 0.1	+ 0.7
Glos. and Somerset ...	9,509	4,558	13.4	6.5	19.9	+ 3.5	...
Kent ...	1,786	420	15.0	3.6	18.6	- 3.2	+ 1.8
North Wales ...	347	7	6.5	0.1	6.6	+ 1.2	+ 3.1
South Wales and Monmouth ...	52,304	31,498	22.7	13.7	36.4	+ 8.1	+ 3.3

The exports of coal, including that shipped for the use of steamers engaged in the foreign trade and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 4,907,000 tons in May, 1931, as compared with 5,022,900 tons in April, 1931, and with 6,762,700 tons in May, 1930.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

EMPLOYMENT remained bad during May. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, in the iron ore and ironstone mining industry was 33.0 at 18th May, 1931, as compared with 32.3 at 27th April, 1931, and 12.7 at 26th May, 1930.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.			Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.*		
	Fortnight ended 23rd May, 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before.	Year before.	Fortnight ended 23rd May, 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before.	Year before.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland ...	2,959	- 0.1	- 26.6	4.96	+ 0.29	+ 0.17
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	2,303	- 4.2	- 20.1	5.56	- 0.15	- 0.44
Other Districts ...	1,308	+ 6.3	- 19.3	4.77	- 0.17	- 0.98
ALL DISTRICTS	6,570	- 0.4	- 23.0	5.13	+ 0.03	- 0.25

SHALE MINING.

The number of workpeople employed at the West Lothian mines during the fortnight ended 23rd May, 1931, by firms making returns was 2,531, showing an increase of 0.6 per cent. as compared with April, 1931, and an increase of 0.3 per cent. as compared with May, 1930. The average number of days worked per week* in the period by the mines making returns was

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during May showed a slight improvement but was still very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 35.0 at 18th May, 1931, as compared with 35.9 at 27th April, 1931, and with 19.0 at 26th May, 1930.

According to information received from the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, 80 furnaces were in operation at the end of May, 1931, as compared with 78 at the end of April, 1931, and 141 at the end of May, 1930. In the case of 68 firms, employing 11,696 workpeople at the end of May, 1931, the returns showed an increase of 3.8 per cent. in the numbers employed compared with April, 1931, but a decrease of 36.9 per cent. compared with May, 1930.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in operation at the end of May, 1931, April, 1931, and May, 1930:—

Districts.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in Blast.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		May, 1931.	April, 1931.	May, 1930.	Month before.	Year before.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Durham and Cleveland	93	22	21	33	+ 1	- 11
Cumberland and W. Lancs.	43	8	8	11	...	- 3
Parts of Lancs. and Yorks. (including Sheffield) and North Wales	26	5	5	11	...	- 6
Derby, Leicester, Notts. and Northants	53	21	21	26	...	- 5
Lincolnshire	25	7	7	15	...	- 8
Staffs., Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick	44	8	7	12	+ 1	- 4
South Wales and Monmouthshire	21	2	2	6	...	- 4
England and Wales	305	73	71	114	+ 2	- 41
SCOTLAND	89	7	7	27	...	- 20
GREAT BRITAIN	394	80	78	141	+ 2	- 61

The production of pig iron in May, 1931, amounted to 346,500 tons, compared with 323,200 tons in April, 1931, and 614,500 tons in May, 1930.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET INDUSTRIES.

In the tinplate industry employment showed a decline and was very bad. In the week ended 23rd May, 1931, 261 tinplate mills were in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 300 in the week ended 25th April, 1931, and with 396 in the week ended 31st May, 1930.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 46.9 at 18th May, 1931, as compared with 43.4 at 27th April, 1931, and with 24.5 at 26th May, 1930.

In steel sheet manufacture employment continued very bad. In the week ended 23rd May, 1931, 61 mills were in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 66 in the week ended 25th April, 1931, and with 98 in the week ended 31st May, 1930.

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

Works.	Number of Works Open.		Number of Mills in Operation.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	Week ended 23rd May, 1931.	Month before.	Week ended 23rd May, 1931.	Month before.	Year before.	Year before.
Tinplate ...	51	- 6	261	- 39	- 135	- 37
Steel Sheet	8	+ 1	61	- 5	- 37	- 37
TOTAL ...	59	- 5	322	- 44	- 172	- 172

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in May, 1931, amounted to 55,364 tons, or 4,628 tons less than in April, 1931, and 43,578 tons less than in May, 1930.

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT in May showed a further slight improvement but remained very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 44.8 at 18th May, 1931, as compared with 45.1 at 27th April, 1931, and 30.2 at 26th May, 1930.

At certain firms, employing 49,579 workpeople, from which returns were received for the week ended 23rd May, 1931, the volume of employment in that week (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed, combined with the number of shifts* during which work was carried on in each department) increased by 1.7 per cent. as compared with the week ended 25th April, 1931, but decreased by 28.8 per cent. as compared with May, 1930. The average number of shifts during which the works were open was 5.0 in the week ended 23rd May, 1931, as compared with 5.0 in April, 1931, and 5.3 in May, 1930.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by Firms making returns.		Aggregate number of Shifts.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
	Week ended 23rd May, 1931.	Month before.	Year before.	Week ended 23rd May, 1931.	Month before.	Year before.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ...	4,560	+ 0.2	- 31.1	25,082	- 1.1	- 33.8
Puddling Forges ...	1,352	+ 101.5	- 24.5	4,510	+ 92.4	- 34.8
Rolling Mills ...	17,941	+ 0.5	- 26.4	79,675	- 0.6	- 32.8
Forging & Pressing	1,718	+ 4.1	- 36.3	8,579	+ 9.3	- 37.7
Founding ...	6,567	+ 1.7	- 17.5	34,972	- 1.6	- 22.5
Other Departments	6,868	+ 2.5	- 16.7	36,869	- 0.1	- 19.6
Mechanics, Labourers ...	10,673	+ 3.1	- 24.2	57,458	+ 4.7	- 27.0
TOTAL ...	49,579	+ 2.9	- 24.5	247,145	+ 1.7	- 28.8
DISTRICTS.						
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland	10,128	- 0.8	- 29.3	52,736	- 5.3	- 32.1
Sheffield & Rotherham	15,312	- 1.4	- 13.7	77,216	- 1.8	- 17.8
Leeds, Bradford, etc.	452	+ 37.0	- 14.9	1,829	+ 17.2	- 21.8
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire	4,533	- 0.4	- 6.1	20,153	- 9.4	- 20.1
Staffordshire	4,689	+ 6.5	- 14.0	24,502	+ 5.2	- 16.1
Other Midland Counties	3,088	+ 17.5	+ 15.0	16,671	+ 20.1	+ 11.4
Wales and Monmouth	4,353	+ 20.6	- 47.2	22,319	+ 23.7	- 47.3
England and Wales	42,555	+ 3.1	- 20.9	215,426	+ 1.0	- 24.6
Scotland	7,024	+ 1.4	- 40.6	31,719	+ 6.6	- 48.2
GREAT BRITAIN	49,579	+ 2.9	- 24.5	247,145	+ 1.7	- 28.8

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns received from the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 435,100 tons in May, 1931, as compared with 397,400 tons in April, 1931, and 691,900 tons in May, 1930.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT remained very bad during May and showed a further decline in most districts, though in some of the ship-repairing centres there was a slight improvement. In the North-Eastern division, and in Scotland and Wales, more than 60 per cent. of the insured workpeople were recorded as unemployed. Compared with a year ago, when employment was already bad, there was a heavy decline, especially in the principal shipbuilding districts.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 18th May, 1931, and the increase or decrease as compared with 27th April, 1931, and 26th May, 1930:—

Divisions.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 18th May, 1931.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers Unemployed as compared with a		Percentage Unemployed at 18th May, 1931.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
London	3,755	+ 45	+ 1,221	39.1	+ 0.5	+ 15.6
South-Eastern	1,056	- 17	+ 392	14.1	- 0.2	+ 5.0
South-Western	4,717	- 621	+ 1,116	22.2	- 2.9	+ 5.3
Midlands	143	+ 5	- 17	43.3	+ 1.5	- 10.0
North-Eastern	39,295	+ 815	+ 19,859	64.4	+ 1.4	+ 32.2
North-Western	14,837	+ 591	+ 5,581	51.5	+ 2.1	+ 19.5
Scotland	35,522	+ 1,711	+ 19,985	63.0	+ 3.0	+ 35.2
Wales	4,595	+ 346	+ 284	62.3	- 4.7	+ 7.0
Northern Ireland	6,790	+ 264	+ 4,177	54.7	+ 2.1	+ 33.0
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	110,710	+ 2,447	+ 52,598	54.1	+ 1.2	+ 25.7

* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the works were in operation, taken in conjunction with the number of men employed. No account is taken of time lost by individuals owing to absenteeism, etc., and it is not intended to imply that the number of shifts shown were actually worked by all the men employed. Works closed are omitted in computing the average number of shifts.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during May remained bad and showed a slight decline on the whole. There was a further decline in general and in marine engineering and a further improvement in constructional and electrical engineering and in the motor vehicle section. In general, textile, marine and constructional engineering employment continued very bad, being particularly depressed in the marine and textile sections. In the motor vehicle section it remained bad. In electrical engineering employment was slack, but better than in other sections.

Employment was much below the level of a year ago in all sections and in all areas, the greatest decline being in marine engineering.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 18th May, 1931, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before:—

Division.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 18th May, 1931.						Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	General Engineering: Enginework, Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	Month before.	Year before.
London	9,127	1,541	247	387	4,409	15,711	- 438	+ 7,664
South-Eastern	7,056	1,090	279	144	2,964	11,533	- 67	+ 6,783
South-Western	4,638	271	683	155	3,202	8,949	+ 45	+ 4,816
Midlands	19,295	4,165	194	1,423	22,859	47,936	- 698	+ 21,131
North-Eastern	59,130	1,236	11,453	1,802	2,074	85,755	+ 1,308	+ 24,590
North-Western	50,504	4,009	1,271	848	3,793	59,157	+ 1,143	+ 25,044
Scotland	28,022	727	9,582	2,116	1,935	42,382	+ 978	+ 24,577
Wales	2,077	90	38	228	594	3,027	+ 178	+ 1,240
Northern Ireland	2,351	56	2,878	28	345	5,658	- 80	+ 3,738
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	162,000	13,245	25,551	7,131	42,181	250,108	+ 2,369	+ 119,583
	Percentages Unemployed at 18th May, 1931.							
London	10.6	10.7	30.9	11.0	10.8	10.8	- 0.3	+ 5.1
South-Eastern	14.7	13.2	11.3	24.0	10.4	13.1	- 0.1	+ 7.6
South-Western	12.9	7.6	10.7	26.7	11.3	12.0	+ 0.1	+ 6.3
Midlands	21.4	14.4	12.6	20.7	23.2	21.2	- 0.3	+ 9.2
North-Eastern	33.7	14.9	51.9	25.3	14.9	33.2	+ 0.7	+ 14.6
North-Western	39.3	18.2	29.0	28.6	17.5	35.7	+ 0.7	+ 14.2
Scotland	37.0	23.7	48.7	37.9	17.6	36.9	+ 0.9	+ 21.5
Wales	37.4	22.5	27.1	32.6	27.5	33.8	+ 2.0	+ 14.1
Northern Ireland	33.8	14.0	45.5	70.0	16.0	35.7	- 0.5	+ 23.0
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	27.4	14.7	42.5	25.5	17.1	24.6	+ 0.2	+ 11.6
Ditto, April, 1931	26.8	14.9	41.7	27.5	17.3	24.4	-	-
Ditto, May, 1930	14.9	7.1	13.8	15.5	10.2	13.0	-	-

On the North-East Coast employment showed a further decline in marine engineering and was very bad. In Yorkshire and Lincolnshire employment remained bad, and showed a decline on the whole. In Lancashire and Cheshire it continued bad or very bad in all sections; in textile engineering the depression continued, with much short-time working.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district employment showed a slight improvement but remained bad in the general and motor vehicle sections and slack in electrical engineering. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district employment continued slack on the whole. In London and the Southern Counties employment continued quiet, but was much better than in the other districts.

In Scotland and Wales employment declined in general engineering and was generally very bad. In Northern Ireland it continued very bad, but was rather better than in the previous month.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT continued bad in all sections. At 18th May there was a slight decline in the number of insured workpeople unemployed as compared with 27th April, but in many cases there were extended stoppages at Whitsuntide.

The percentage of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 37.5 at 18th May, 1931, as compared with 38.2 at 27th April, 1931, and with 39.1 at 26th May, 1930.

At Ashton-under-Lyne a slight improvement was reported immediately before the Whitsuntide stoppage, but employment was still bad. At Stockport short time continued, but the position on the whole was described as fairly satisfactory; at Stalybridge, less short time was reported; at Hyde there was a declining tendency; at Glossop employment remained bad.

At Oldham there was no material change in the very depressed conditions prevailing in the spinning section; the total effect of unemployment and of under-employment in various forms in this section was estimated at 51 per cent. for the whole of the month; many mills were closed down. Employment in the manufacturing section

was also very bad. At Royton the slight improvement previously reported continued. At Bolton employment remained bad or slack in all the principal departments, though there was a slight improvement with a few firms in the weaving department; in the week ended 16th May, 37.4 per cent. of the operative cotton spinners were working less than half time, as compared with 39 per cent. in the week ended 25th April. At Leigh employment with spinners continued bad, but there was a slight improvement in the weaving section. At Rochdale there was no material change in the depressed conditions. At Bury irregular short time working continued. An improvement was reported in the cotton doubling section at Nottingham.

At Preston there was little change; a number of mills were closed down, some for temporary stoppages, others indefinitely. At Chorley the improvement reported last month continued; the section manufacturing goods for the Indian market, however, remained in a precarious position. At Blackburn employment showed little general change; the slight improvement recently recorded, which was due to a seasonal increase in demand for the home market, was not maintained. At Darwin employment was still very bad; irregular short time working continued. At Great Harwood and at Clayton-le-Moors, which are largely engaged in the India trade, depressed conditions continued; it was estimated that 30 per cent. of the looms in the Great Harwood area were idle. At Burnley employment was very bad, and showed a further decline. At Colne a further slight improvement was recorded, but at Nelson the improvement reported last month was not maintained. In the Rossendale Valley employment continued very bad, with a large amount of under-employment; several mills extended the holiday stoppage at Whitsuntide.

In Yorkshire employment on the whole remained very bad; 63 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns for the week ended 23rd May were on short time, losing 11.4 hours each, on the average. The slight improvement, however, reported last month at Hebden Bridge continued. At Huddersfield and in the Keighley area short time working was prevalent, and at Todmorden the depression continued.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd May, 1931.	Month before.	Year before.	Week ended 23rd May, 1931.	Month before.	Year before.
Preparing ...	9,591	+ 0.4	- 2.7	14,635	+ 3.8	+ 7.7
Spinning ...	19,071	+ 0.2	- 4.0	27,604	+ 1.5	+ 5.7
Weaving ...	24,611	- 3.0	- 4.3	39,917	- 2.9	- 1.2
Other ...	7,112	+ 1.0	+ 1.7	15,802	+ 1.2	+ 2.8
Not Specified ...	5,621	- 9.3	- 9.4	6,400	- 11.7	- 9.0
TOTAL ...	64,006	- 1.5	- 3.7	104,358	- 0.9	+ 1.8
DISTRICTS.						
Ashton ...	3,142	+ 1.7	- 16.4	4,979	+ 15.6	+ 0.5
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde ...	6,659	- 2.9	- 17.0	10,478	- 0.6	- 14.0
Oldham ...	8,323	+ 1.2	+ 0.4	13,554	+ 0.8	+ 5.3
Bolton and Leigh ...	12,520	- 3.5	+ 0.3	19,694	- 1.8	+ 7.9
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden ...	6,221	+ 6.1	- 9.6	10,062	+ 4.0	- 4.5
Manchester ...	3,577	- 10.8	+ 1.6	5,528	- 9.7	+ 7.4
Preston and Chorley ...	5,288	- 1.4	+ 14.5	9,157	+ 5.0	+ 25.9
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen ...	4,881	- 4.4	+ 8.3	8,458	- 4.2	+ 10.2
Burnley and Padiham ...	2,860	- 11.4	- 9.8	5,517	- 14.3	- 8.6
Colne and Nelson ...	3,197	- 0.1	- 8.5	6,353	- 4.5	- 13.3
Other Lancashire Towns	1,666	+ 0.1	+ 2.6	2,106	+ 6.9	+ 17.1
Yorkshire Towns ...	2,794	+ 4.6	- 12.1	4,138	+ 1.9	- 6.9
Other Districts ...	2,878	+ 5.2	- 0.1	4,304	+ 5.8	+ 4.4
TOTAL ...	64,006	- 1.5	- 3.7	104,358	- 0.9	+ 1.8

Returns from firms employing about 61,000 operatives in the week ended 23rd May showed that about 23 per cent. were on short time in that week, with a loss of about 14 hours each, on an average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal cotton trade centres at 18th May, 1931:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blowing Room ...	+ 13	- 12	+ 1	- 264	- 875	- 1,139	- 1,138
Spinning ...	...	+ 86	+ 86	- 851	- 499	- 1,350	- 1,264
Bearing, Winding and Warping ...	+ 104	- 84	+ 20	- 16	+ 48	+ 32	+ 52
Weaving ...	- 66	+ 253	+ 187	+ 326	+ 683	+ 1,009	+ 1,196
Other Processes ...	- 5	- 31	- 36	+ 14	+ 90	+ 104	+ 68
Total ...	+ 46	+ 212	+ 258	- 791	- 553	- 1,344	- 1,086

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 63,448,300 lbs. in May, 1931, compared with 69,972,200 lbs. in April, 1931, and with 81,391,700 lbs. in May, 1930.

The exports of cotton yarn were 10,686,200 lbs. in May, 1931, compared with 10,832,100 lbs. in April, 1931, and with 12,448,900 lbs. in May, 1930.

The exports of cotton piece goods in May 1931, were 141,488,500 square yards, compared with 135,193,300 square yards in the previous month, and 218,088,800 square yards in May, 1930.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT continued very slack in all the principal centres. The slight improvement reported last month was not maintained; on the contrary, there was a slight decline both in the worsted and in the woollen sections. In the carpet trade there was a slight improvement on the whole, but employment was still very slack.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the woollen and worsted industries, including those temporarily stopped, was 27.0 at 18th May, 1931, as compared with 25.7 at 27th April, 1931, and with 22.3 at 26th May, 1930.

Worsted Section.—Employment continued bad, and showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month.

At Bradford there was an increase in short time working due to completion of orders. At Huddersfield and Halifax there was little change; at Keighley some firms were fairly busy, but the majority extended the holiday stoppage at Whitsuntide. In the worsted section as a whole, returns from employers for the week ended 23rd May showed that about 38 per cent. of the operatives worked short time,* losing 12 hours each on an average; about 5 per cent were on overtime to the extent of about 7 hours each.

With wool sorters employment was bad, it was worse than in April, and worse also than a year ago. In the combing department there was a decline in all sections; the merino section continued to be the best employed, but there was short time running in all sections. About 32 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns in the sorting, combing and preparing departments lost, on an average, about 14 hours each in short time in the week ended 23rd May; about 6 per cent. were on overtime, to the extent of 10 hours each.

In the worsted spinning department employment was very slack, except with spinners of fine yarns at Halifax, who continued to be fairly well employed; employment generally was worse than in the previous month. About 40 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time in the week ended 23rd May, losing, on an average, 11 hours each; about 5 per cent. were on overtime, to the extent of 6½ hours each.

In the worsted weaving department there was a slight decline. About 40 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time in the week ended 23rd May, losing, on an average, 12 hours each;* there was very little overtime.

Woollen Section.—Employment was bad, and worse than in April. Employers' returns for the week ended 23rd May showed that 43 per cent. of the workers both in the spinning and in the weaving departments were on short time,* losing 10 to 11 hours on the average in each department. In the woollen section as a whole about 45 per cent. of the operatives lost, on an average, about 11 hours each in short time* in the week ended 23rd May; in the spinning department 7½ per cent. of the operatives worked overtime to the extent of 8 hours each, but there was little overtime in the other departments.

In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley district there continued to be much unemployment and some short time working; though, as usual, there was also a little overtime, and one or two firms were on night shifts. In the Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) employment was very slack generally, and showed a decline as compared with April; though some firms at Batley reported a little seasonal activity. In the rag and shoddy trade employment continued very poor. In the Leeds district employment was bad, and showed a decline as compared with a month earlier; depression continued at Otley, but at Morley there was some improvement.

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

In the Stockport district a slight improvement was reported in the employment of woollen workers; a small amount of machinery which had been idle for some time was re-started, and better time was worked. At Rochdale employment with flannel workers continued poor, with much short time. Some overtime, however, was worked in the flannel trade at Todmorden.

In the West of England employment continued slack at most centres. Blanket manufacturers at Witney, however, were reported as busy.

In Wales employment remained slack; in Cardiganshire the majority of the smaller mills were either closed or working short time.

In Scotland employment continued slack, and showed little change; at Galashiels the output was estimated at only 40 to 45 per cent. of full capacity.

Carpet Section.—Employment continued slack, but was somewhat better on the whole than a month earlier. At Kidderminster employment was reported as bad, and worse than a year ago; over 1,100 operatives were on short time; a small amount of overtime, however, was worked in the Axminster section. In Yorkshire employment was described as poor. In Scotland employment generally was slack; though here also there was fair employment with some firms in the Axminster section.

In the carpet industry as a whole, 45 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns were on short time in the week ended 23rd May, losing 9½ hours each on an average; very little overtime was recorded.

The following Table summarises the returns received from employers:—

Departments :	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 23rd May, 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.)	Week ended 23rd May, 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.)
WORSTED SECTION :						
Wool Sorting and Combing ...	11,483	+ 0.2	89.6	£ 25,621	+ 1.2	80.0
Spinning ...	34,660	- 0.7	82.7	49,550	- 3.0	75.1
Weaving ...	17,775	- 1.8	85.9	32,413	- 1.6	76.8
Other Depts. ...	9,381	+ 1.4	95.0	21,041	+ 1.1	80.1
Not specified ...	1,754	+ 1.1	98.3	3,124	+ 2.0	70.0
Total—Worsted	75,054	- 0.6	85.9	131,749	- 1.2	77.4
WOOLLEN SECTION :						
Wool Sorting ...	872	- 4.1	71.2	1,868	- 4.5	71.9
Spinning ...	11,644	- 1.3	80.7	22,493	- 4.6	75.9
Weaving ...	21,112	- 1.9	87.5	35,356	- 3.6	84.1
Other Depts. ...	15,754	+ 0.7	87.0	33,185	- 1.7	84.6
Not specified ...	2,042	+ 4.7	71.5	4,002	+ 3.5	74.6
Total—Woollen	51,424	- 1.2	84.8	96,904	- 2.9	82.4
CARPET SECTION ...	9,442	+ 0.2	101.3	16,654	+ 4.7	96.0
Total—Wool Textile Industry ...	135,920	- 0.7	86.2	245,307	- 1.5	80.5
Districts :						
WORSTED SECTION :						
Bradford ...	31,521	- 1.1	81.3	58,641	- 1.6	72.3
Huddersfield ...	9,146	- 0.7	100.3	16,343	- 1.5	82.4
Halifax ...	8,649	- 1.3	81.8	13,778	- 2.9	72.4
Leeds ...	7,991	- 0.4	90.8	13,568	+ 0.7	85.5
Keighley ...	7,669	+ 0.3	87.5	13,263	+ 0.3	87.1
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	3,373	+ 1.5	99.3	4,908	+ 1.7	96.5
Total, West Riding ...	68,349	- 0.7	85.8	120,501	- 1.2	76.9
West of England and Midlands ...	4,540	+ 1.0	84.2	7,895	- 1.7	75.9
Lancashire ...	292	- 1.0	100.1	509	- 6.1	88.9
Scotland ...	1,873	+ 0.8	89.8	2,844	+ 0.2	110.5
Total—Worsted	75,054	- 0.6	85.9	131,749	- 1.2	77.4
WOOLLEN SECTION :						
Huddersfield ...	11,405	- 4.1	81.0	23,300	- 9.9	72.9
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	9,628	- 1.6	82.8	18,024	- 3.1	86.5
Leeds ...	6,582	- 3.1	83.3	12,823	- 4.2	81.2
Halifax and Calder Vale ...	2,064	+ 1.1	83.4	4,155	+ 0.5	71.3
Bradford ...	1,153	- 0.2	92.8	2,477	+ 3.8	87.7
Total, West Riding ...	30,832	- 2.6	83.6	60,779	- 5.6	81.1
Lancashire ...	4,858	+ 4.0	90.8	9,480	+ 5.9	95.5
West of England and Midlands ...	3,855	- 0.4	89.4	6,690	+ 1.5	95.2
Scotland ...	11,727	- 0.0	83.8	19,758	+ 0.1	78.3
Wales ...	154	+ 42.6	120.4	197	+ 27.1	111.0
Total—Woollen	51,424	- 1.2	84.8	96,904	- 2.9	82.4
CARPET SECTION ...	9,442	+ 0.2	101.3	16,654	+ 4.7	96.0
Total—Wool Textile Industry ...	135,920	- 0.7	86.2	245,307	- 1.5	80.5

* Comparison with 1926 is affected by reductions in rates of wages.
† Most of the districts are indicated by the names of their principal towns, but neighbouring towns and areas are included in each case.

The following Tables show, by districts and by departments, the percentage increases and decreases in the numbers employed in the week ended 23rd May, 1931, by those firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the week ended 25th April, 1931:—

Department.	Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with previous month. (... signifies "no change"; — without a figure, signifies "few or no workpeople returned.")				
	Wool Sorting and Combing.	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified).
WORSTED SECTION :					
Bradford ...	+ 0.3	- 1.6	- 2.7	+ 0.8	- 1.1
Huddersfield ...	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	- 1.3	+ 2.5	...
Halifax ...	- 1.1	- 1.3	...	- 0.6	- 1.3
Leeds ...	...	...	- 2.1	+ 1.1	- 0.4
Keighley ...	+ 1.4	- 0.1	- 2.1	+ 2.3	- 0.3
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	...	+ 1.4	...	+ 2.3	+ 1.5
Total, West Riding ...	+ 0.3	- 0.8	- 2.1	+ 1.4	- 0.7
West of England and Midlands ...	- 5.3	+ 0.4	+ 3.6	+ 1.5	+ 1.0
Lancashire ...	...	- 0.8	...	...	- 1.0
Scotland ...	+ 2.3	+ 0.5	...	+ 0.6	+ 0.8
TOTAL ...	+ 0.2	- 0.7	- 1.8	+ 1.4	- 0.6
	Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with previous month.				
	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified).	
WOOLLEN SECTION :					
Huddersfield ...	- 3.1	- 5.9	- 2.5	- 4.1	
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	- 1.4	- 0.7	- 0.2	- 1.6	
Leeds ...	- 3.1	- 1.8	- 3.8	- 3.1	
Halifax and Calder Vale ...	+ 1.0	+ 2.7	+ 1.6	+ 1.1	
Bradford ...	+ 0.5	+ 1.0	- 1.1	- 0.2	
Total, West Riding ...	- 2.2	- 3.4	- 1.6	- 2.6	
Lancashire ...	+ 1.4	+ 0.5	+ 1.3	+ 4.0	
West of England and Midlands ...	+ 1.0	- 1.9	+ 0.4	- 0.4	
Scotland ...	- 1.0	+ 0.9	+ 0.1	- 0.0	
Wales ...	+ 47.6	+ 26.0	+ 66.7	+ 42.6	
TOTAL ...	- 1.3	- 1.9	- 0.7	- 1.2	

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal wool textile trade centres at 18th May, 1931:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 18th May, 1931.						Total.
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	311	5	316	423	4	427	743
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	771	923	1,694	647	351	998	2,692
Wool Combing ...	476	777	1,253	927	540	1,467	2,720
Wool Carding ...	753	280	1,033	774	175	949	1,982
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	641	404	1,045	534	264	798	1,843
Wool Winding and Warping ...	987	4,782	5,769	528	3,374	3,902	9,671
Worsted Winding and Warping ...	170	76	246	383	148	531	777
Worsted Weaving ...	235	903	1,138	338	1,116	1,454	2,592
Woolen Weaving ...	348	2,480	2,828	475	3,192	3,667	6,495
Worsted Weaving ...	327	1,678	2,005	231	3,682	3,913	5,918
Other Processes ...	1,541	277	1,818	1,042	217	1,259	3,077
Total ...	6,560	12,585	19,145	6,302	13,063	19,365	38,510

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 27th April, 1931:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	+ 64	...	+ 64	+ 90	...	+ 90	+ 154
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	+ 20	- 28	- 8	+ 88	+ 9	+ 97	+ 89
Wool Combing ...	+ 35	+ 15	+ 48	+ 12	+ 15	+ 27	+ 43
Wool Carding ...	- 41	- 10	- 51	+ 2	+ 33	+ 35	+ 16
Woolen Spinning ...	+ 7	+ 22	+ 29	+ 54	- 62	- 8	+ 21
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	- 31	- 122	- 153	+ 205	+ 837	+ 1,042	+ 889
Wool Winding and Warping ...	- 11	+ 6	- 5	- 10	+ 53	+ 43	+ 38
Worsted Winding and Warping ...	+ 21	- 18	+ 3	- 5	- 91	- 96	- 93
Woolen Weaving ...	- 64	- 6	- 70	- 12	+ 602	+ 590	+ 520
Worsted Weaving ...	- 25	+ 81	+ 56	+ 16	+ 353	+ 369	+ 425
Other Processes ...	- 50	- 6	- 56	- 346	- 41	- 387	- 443
Total ...	- 77	- 68	- 145	+ 94	+ 1,678	+ 1,772	+ 1,627

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 71,217,200 lbs. in May, 1931, compared with 86,173,500 lbs. in the previous month and 62,856,600 lbs. in May, 1930.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 2,692,500 lbs. compared with 2,419,700 lbs. in April, 1931, and with 2,535,700 lbs. in May, 1930.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues in May, 1931, were 5,199,900 square yards, compared with 4,997,400 square yards in the previous month, and with 7,930,300 square yards in May, 1930.

The exports of blankets were 33,921 pairs, 30,936 pairs, and 40,283 pairs in May, 1931, April, 1931, and May, 1930, respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during May showed little change on the whole, apart from the slightly increased activity which is usual before the Whitsuntide holiday; it remained moderate with most firms, and was somewhat below the level of May, 1930. The holiday stoppage at Whitsuntide was extended to a full week at many establishments.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 18.3 at 18th May, 1931, as compared with 18.4 at 27th April, 1931, and with 13.9 at 26th May, 1930.

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

England and Wales:—	Number of Workpeople.	
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In Scotland employment remained bad or slack with most firms, short time being very largely worked. A slight improvement was reported at Edinburgh, but a decline at Kilmarnock.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal centres of the boot and shoe industry at 18th May, 1931:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 18th May, 1931.						Total.
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Boot and Shoe Manufacture:							
Preparing Department	211	80	291	90	56	146	437
Rough Stuff Department	489	45	534	267	7	274	808
Clicking Department	1,018	26	1,044	1,442	13	1,455	2,499
Closing Department	31	1,627	1,658	9	1,529	1,538	3,196
Making Department	2,342	94	2,436	1,800	65	1,865	4,301
Finishing Department	1,675	732	2,407	1,038	267	1,305	3,712
Slipper Making	442	234	676	312	665	977	1,653
Clog Making	19	6	25	4	—	4	29
Repairing and Hand-sewn Work	730	7	737	60	1	61	798
TOTAL	6,957	2,851	9,808	5,022	2,603	7,625	17,433

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 27th April, 1931:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
	Boot and Shoe Manufacture:						
Preparing Department	- 6	- 8	- 14	+ 23	+ 2	+ 25	+ 11
Rough Stuff Department	- 1	- 1	- 2	+ 43	- 3	+ 40	+ 38
Clicking Department	+ 11	—	+ 11	+ 393	+ 1	+ 394	+ 405
Closing Department	- 4	+ 9	+ 5	+ 4	+ 212	+ 216	+ 221
Making Department	+ 12	+ 25	+ 37	- 43	+ 21	- 22	+ 15
Finishing Department	- 49	+ 33	- 16	- 104	+ 40	- 64	- 80
Slipper Making	- 4	- 15	- 19	+ 7	+ 17	+ 24	+ 9
Clog Making	- 4	+ 4	—	—	—	—	—
Repairing and Hand-sewn Work	- 77	- 2	- 79	+ 15	—	+ 15	- 64
TOTAL	-118	+ 45	- 73	+ 338	+ 290	+ 628	+ 555

The exports of boots and shoes in May, 1931, amounted to 81,194 dozen pairs, or 3,438 dozen pairs less than in April, 1931, and 23,675 dozen pairs less than in May, 1930.

BRICK INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during May showed a further slight improvement, and was moderate on the whole. In the Peterborough district it continued fairly good.

The percentage of insured persons unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 17.3 at 18th May, 1931, as compared with 17.9 at 27th April, 1931, and 12.7 at 26th May, 1930.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.				Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.			
	Week ended 23rd May, 1931.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.		Week ended 23rd May, 1931.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.		
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire...	1,624	+ 4.1	- 15.7	4,022	+ 6.0	- 17.5		
Midlands and Eastern Counties...	6,373	+ 1.8	- 7.2	17,608	+ 1.3	- 11.8		
South and South-West Counties and Wales...	1,395	- 1.1	+ 3.0	2,912	+ 1.1	- 7.0		
Scotland...	175	- 2.2	- 21.9	430	- 2.9	- 25.5		
TOTAL	9,567	+ 1.7	- 7.8	24,972	+ 1.9	- 12.5		

Returns from employers relative to short-time working, exclusive of time lost on account of bad weather, showed that, of 8,890 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, 6 per cent. were working on an average about 11½ hours less than full time in the week ended 23rd May, 1931. The amount of overtime worked was very small.

BUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT during May continued to improve but remained slack on the whole. An improvement was experienced in all the administrative divisions of Great Britain. In the London, South-Eastern and South-Western divisions employment was slack to

moderate on the whole; it was generally slack in the Midlands and bad in other divisions. Employment was below the level of May, 1930, in all areas.

As regards individual occupations employment was better with each class of operative; it was slack to moderate with bricklayers, masons and painters, very slack with carpenters, slaters, and tradesmen's labourers, and bad with plasterers and plumbers. As compared with May, 1930, employment in all classes showed a marked decline.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were recorded as unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 18th May, 1931, together with the increase or decrease as compared with the previous month and with May, 1930:—

OCCUPATIONS.	Estimated Numbers of Insured Workpeople at July, 1930.	Total Numbers Employed at 18th May, 1931.	Number Included in Previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped.	Percentage Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage as compared with a	
					Month before.	Year before.
					18.1	- 1.8	+ 8.5
Carpenters	125,700	22,716	860	12.5	- 1.5	+ 5.9
Bricklayers	73,790	9,231	529	12.5	- 2.0	+ 6.4
Masons	21,180	2,656	238	19.0	- 3.4	+ 5.3
Slaters	6,020	1,146	97	20.1	- 1.3	+ 7.8
Plasterers	24,260	4,883	226	11.9	- 2.1	+ 5.0
Painters	105,660	12,595	279	20.7	- 0.2	+ 6.9
Plumbers	32,850	6,794	415	19.2	- 1.1	+ 4.7
Labourers to above...	240,660	46,180	1,490	22.0	- 1.1	+ 3.2
All other occupations	202,150	44,558	1,774	18.1	- 1.4	+ 5.5
Total	832,270	150,759	5,908			

DIVISIONS.	177,960	28,131	78	15.8	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage as compared with a	
					Month before.	Year before.
					10.5	- 1.3	+ 4.5
London	134,170	14,067	67	15.4	- 1.0	+ 4.7
South-Eastern	102,830	15,757	147	17.1	- 1.9	+ 4.9
South-Western	101,130	17,272	1,199	23.0	- 1.9	+ 3.2
Midlands	95,710	22,023	1,639	23.5	- 1.5	+ 5.4
North-Eastern	103,210	24,232	1,439	21.1	- 1.3	+ 7.4
Scotland	75,250	15,881	930	35.4	- 3.3	+ 10.0
Wales	25,640	9,084	400	38.6	+ 0.2	+ 16.6
Northern Ireland	16,370	6,312	9			
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	832,270	150,759	5,908	18.1	- 1.4	+ 5.5

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 143 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 16,279,000, show that in May, 1931, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £5,674,000, as compared with £5,835,200 in April, 1931, and £8,383,400 in May, 1930. Of the total for May, 1931, dwelling-houses accounted for £3,718,700; factories and workshops for £1,387,700; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £251,700; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,564,900.

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire continued bad on the whole, with much short-time working. At Derby and at Worcester employment was quiet, although a slight improvement was reported at the latter centre; at Bristol, the improvement previously reported was maintained and employment was steady. In the stoneware section in Scotland, it continued bad.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 33.8 at 18th May, 1931, the same as at 27th April, 1931, as compared with 26.2 at 26th May, 1930.

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

BRANCHES.	Number of Workpeople.				Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.			
	Week ended 23rd May, 1931.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.		Week ended 23rd May, 1931.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.		
China Manufacture	1,418	+ 0.9	- 26.6	2,530	- 4.6	- 28.9		
Earthenware Manufacture	6,878	+ 0.7	- 5.9	11,012	- 5.9	- 13.7		
Other Branches (including unspecified)	1,737	+ 2.7	- 5.5	2,882	- 0.6	- 15.4		
TOTAL	10,033	+ 1.1	- 9.4	16,424	- 4.8	- 16.8		

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that, of 9,415 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 4.076, or over 43 per cent., were working on an average about 17½ hours less than full time in the week ended 23rd May, 1931; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by a reduction in rates of wages which took effect in May (see page 236).

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT was moderate on the whole in the paper-making industry during May, and showed little change generally compared with the previous month. Part-time working was resorted to in several districts, owing to slackness of trade.

Employment continued moderate on the whole with letterpress printers. There was a decline as compared with April in several districts, including London, Leeds, Birmingham and Glasgow; some improvement, on the other hand, was reported at Bradford and Derby. With electrotypes and stereotypers employment generally continued fairly good outside the London area, where it was again reported as bad.

Employment showed a further decline with lithographic printers, and was reported as bad or slack at most centres, with a good deal of short time; a slight improvement, however, was reported at Manchester and Leeds. With lithographic artists employment remained moderate on the whole; some improvement took place at Liverpool and Manchester, while there was a decline at Leeds and Bradford.

Employment continued slack on the whole in the bookbinding industry, though the percentage of unemployed trade union members had declined slightly at the end of the month.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople in the paper and paper-board industries was 14.7 at 18th May, as compared with 15.8 at 27th April, 1931, and 7.4 at 26th May, 1930. In the printing and bookbinding industries the percentage was 10.1 at 18th May, compared with 10.0 at 27th April, 1931, and 6.4 at 26th May, 1930. In the cardboard box, paper bag, and stationery industries the percentage was 12.7 at 18th May, compared with 12.5 at 27th April, 1931, and 8.3 at 26th May, 1930.

The following Table summarises the returns received from certain trade unions, who furnished information for the three periods under review:—

Letterpress Printing:	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1931.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		May, 1931.	April, 1931.	May, 1930.	Month before.	Year before.
		38,875	5.6	5.2	2.5	+ 0.4	+ 3.1
London	17,117	6.9	6.8	4.5	+ 0.1	+ 2.4
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	10,898	4.8	4.5	2.6	+ 0.3	+ 2.2
Midlands and Eastern Counties	6,511	7.0	6.9	3.4	+ 0.1	+ 3.6
Scotland	11,950	6.0	5.3	2.5	+ 0.7	+ 3.5
Other Districts	84,250	5.9	5.6	3.0	+ 0.3	+ 2.9
Total	11,684	8.3	8.0	3.4	+ 0.3	+ 4.9
Lithographic Printing	19,027	7.9	8.3	4.2	- 0.4	+ 3.7

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT was very slack during May. Among insured workpeople in the dock, harbour, river and canal service, 41.6 per cent. were unemployed at 18th May, 1931, as compared with 41.1 per cent. at 27th April, 1931, and 37.1 per cent. at 26th May, 1930.

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

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.					
	In Docks.			At Wharves making Returns.		
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, etc.	Total.	At Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.	
Week ended—						
2nd May, 1931	4,084	1,965	6,049	7,868	13,917	
9th " "	4,511	1,452	5,963	7,860	13,823	
16th " "	4,038	1,735	5,833	7,992	13,825	
23rd " "	3,525	1,546	5,071	7,946	13,017	
30th " "	3,653	1,893	5,546	8,007	13,553	
Average for 5 weeks ended 30th May, 1931	3,985	1,712	5,697	7,932	13,629	
Average for April, 1931	3,717	2,048	5,765	8,108	13,873	
Average for May, 1930	4,234	2,005	6,239	7,820	14,059	

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during May was 807, compared with 866 in April, 1931, and with 902 in May, 1930.

East Coast.—Employment continued slack at the Hartlepoons and at Middlesbrough. Coal shipments from Sunderland were steady, and some activity was provided at North Shields by timber cargoes. Employment was moderate at Hull, fair at Lowestoft and Lynn, and slack at Grimsby, Goole, Yarmouth and Ipswich.

Liverpool.—Employment continued very slack. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 29th May, 1931, was 11,606, compared with 11,253 in April, 1931, and with 13,255 in May, 1930. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £25,391 in the four weeks ended 29th May, 1931, compared with £23,392 in April, 1931, and with £33,000 in May, 1930.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Although employment at South Wales was generally slack, there was some seasonal improvement at most ports. Conditions remained quiet at Avonmouth, Bristol and Gloucester. At Southampton, Plymouth and most other South Western ports work remained slack, but at Weymouth employment was good and better than in April.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment was moderate at Dundee, Grangemouth and Leith. It continued bad at Glasgow and fair at Belfast.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT during May remained slack on the whole. The demand in the early part of the month was slightly higher than of late, but after the Whitsuntide holidays there was a general falling-off in demand. The supply of all ratings was in excess of requirements.

Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 18th May, 1931, was 32.8, compared with 34.3 at 27th April, 1931, and 22.9 at 26th May, 1930.

The demand for men on the Thames was moderate on the whole, but was somewhat quieter towards the end of the month. On the Tyne the demand was moderate in the first half of the month and quiet subsequently; on the Tees it was extremely slack. The demand at the Hartlepoons was quiet, particularly in the middle of May; on the Wear it was dull. At Hull the demand was moderate until the last week, when it declined somewhat. At Southampton it showed an improving tendency until late in the month, when a decline took place. At Bristol the demand was slack; at Avonmouth it was fair, with increased activity towards the end of May. At Newport the demand was very slack during the greater part of the month; at Cardiff and Swansea it was fair during the first part of the month, but in the closing stages became quieter. On the Mersey the demand was fairly good until late in the month, when a substantial decline took place; at Manchester it was moderate up to the middle of May, but less active subsequently. On the Clyde it was poor in the early part of the month, but improved subsequently, and at the end of May was fair. At Leith it was quiet to moderate on the whole. At Belfast it was very slack throughout the month.

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

Principal Ports.	May, 1931.	Number of Seamen* shipped in			
		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Five Months ended	
		Month before.	Year before.	May, 1931.	May, 1930.
ENGLAND AND WALES:					
Liverpool	10,300	+ 616	- 2,206	43,898	57,725
Manchester	554	- 204	- 365	3,060	3,367
London	7,885	+ 9	- 3,062	38,371	46,437
Southampton	9,829	+ 218	- 2,610	39,442	43,924
Tyne Ports	2,102	- 235	- 733	9,960	11,528
Sunderland	182	- 119	- 172	1,134	1,311
Middlesbrough	174	+ 1	- 145	838	1,925
Hull	998	+ 124	- 326	4,378	5,460
Bristol	942	+ 2	- 117	4,495	4,502
Newport, Mon.	342	- 25	- 209	2,063	2,856
Cardiff	2,050	- 191	+ 28	9,316	10,757
Swansea	639	+ 166	- 213	2,640	3,377
SCOTLAND:					
Leith	247	- 54	- 76	1,195	

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

The statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on 18th May, 1931, and the increase or decrease at that date in the total percentages unemployed compared with a month earlier, a year before, and two years before, respectively.

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

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

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

The numbers unemployed given in the following Table relate only to persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts. They include insured persons who are 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 page 232 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 232.

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

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

Special Note. Persons aged 65 and over.

Under the provisions of the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925, all persons aged 65 and over ceased to be insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts as from 2nd January, 1928. (The employers of such persons, however, are required to pay contributions at the employer's rates.) The estimates of the numbers of insured persons in each industry prepared on the basis of the information obtained from the exchange of unemployment books, therefore, no longer include persons aged 65 and over. Such persons do not now appear in the statistics showing the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, and the figures for dates subsequent to 2nd January, 1928, are therefore not comparable with those for earlier dates. For all practical purposes, however, the percentages unemployed can be regarded as comparable with the corresponding figures published each month since July, 1923.

NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 18th MAY, 1931.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.						GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.					
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, AND CASUALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fishing	5,211	110	5,321	140	52	192	5,351	162	5,513	5,315	162	5,477
Mining :—												
Coal Mining	187,934	1,112	189,046	99,965	287	100,252	287,899	1,399	289,298	287,852	1,399	289,251
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining, etc.	3,677	5	3,682	1,196	—	1,196	4,873	5	4,878	4,856	4	4,860
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining ...	3,143	18	3,161	78	1	79	3,221	19	3,240	3,221	19	3,240
Stone Quarrying and Mining ...	5,076	18	5,094	1,589	2	1,591	6,685	20	6,705	6,271	18	6,289
Slate Quarrying and Mining ...	1,401	3	1,404	2,703	—	2,703	4,104	3	4,107	4,104	3	4,107
Mining and Quarrying not separately specified	1,875	257	2,132	614	24	638	2,489	281	2,770	2,397	281	2,678
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pits	2,324	26	2,350	640	4	644	2,964	30	2,994	2,893	30	2,923
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products :—												
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	2,787	44	2,831	835	10	845	3,622	54	3,676	3,622	54	3,676
Artificial Stone and Concrete ...	3,088	177	3,265	487	30	517	3,775	207	3,982	3,533	207	3,740
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting ...	2,544	153	2,697	543	6	549	3,087	159	3,246	3,032	158	3,190
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	9,995	1,748	11,743	2,586	311	2,897	12,581	2,059	14,640	12,352	2,059	14,411
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	4,836	7,375	12,211	5,394	8,991	14,385	10,230	16,366	26,596	10,211	16,365	26,576
Glass Trades :—												
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scientific Glass)	3,412	1,060	4,472	1,388	331	1,719	4,800	1,391	6,191	4,776	1,390	6,166
Glass Bottles	3,136	341	3,477	883	19	902	4,019	360	4,379	4,017	360	4,377
Chemicals, etc. :—												
Chemicals	14,493	1,991	16,484	1,817	213	2,030	16,310	2,204	18,514	16,219	2,198	18,417
Explosives	1,312	950	2,262	359	154	513	1,671	1,104	2,775	1,671	1,103	2,774
Paint, Varnish, Red and White Leads	1,400	447	1,847	83	51	134	1,483	498	1,981	1,478	498	1,976
Oil, Glue, Soap, Ink, Matches, etc.	5,526	1,949	7,475	1,595	348	1,943	7,121	2,297	9,418	7,066	2,262	9,328
Metal Manufacture :—												
Pig Iron (Blast Furnaces)	6,365	47	6,412	1,248	8	1,256	7,613	55	7,668	7,603	55	7,658
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling, Iron and Steel Rolling and Forging	39,863	478	40,341	40,479	166	40,645	80,342	644	80,986	80,323	644	80,967
Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	7,186	598	7,784	3,400	64	3,464	10,586	652	11,238	10,442	652	11,094
Tin Plates	5,226	512	5,738	8,329	649	8,978	13,558	1,261	14,819	13,554	1,261	14,815
Iron and Steel Tubes	6,225	287	6,512	5,735	35	5,770	11,961	322	12,283	11,960	322	12,282
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Ropes ...	2,820	740	3,560	2,678	213	2,891	5,498	953	6,451	5,498	953	6,451
Engineering, etc. :—												
General Engineering; Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	106,137	5,444	111,581	47,310	3,109	50,419	153,447	8,553	162,000	151,111	8,538	159,649
Electrical Engineering	8,530	2,246	10,776	2,009	360	2,369	2,606	13,245	10,585	2,604	13,189	
Marine Engineering, etc.	20,757	126	20,883	4,611	57	4,668	25,368	183	25,551	22,491	182	22,673
Constructional Engineering	5,526	130	5,656	1,369	6	1,375	6,995	136	7,131	6,967	136	7,103
Construction and Repair of Vehicles :—												
Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft Carriages, Carts, etc.	31,157	2,938	34,095	7,699	387	8,086	38,856	3,325	42,181	38,518	3,318	41,836
Railway Carriages, Wagons and Tramcars	2,450	273	2,723	315	38	353	2,765	311	3,076	2,708	311	3,019
Tramcars	9,290	151	9,441	2,446	28	2,474	11,736	179	11,915	11,712	179	11,891

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.									GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.		
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, AND CASUALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ...	103,902	532	104,434	6,197	79	6,276	110,099	611	110,710	103,351	569	103,920
Metal Trades :—												
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding	14,772	1,572	16,344	6,429	438	6,867	21,201	2,010	23,211	21,059	2,010	23,069
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ...	2,652	70	2,722	283	7	290	2,945	77	3,022	2,854	76	2,930
Electrical Cables, Wire and Lamps ...	7,384	5,844	13,228	1,513	1,009	2,522	8,897	6,853	15,750	8,856	6,853	15,709
Hand Tools, Cutlery, Saws, Files ...	5,117	2,567	7,684	4,091	929	5,020	9,208	3,496	12,704	9,195	3,496	12,691
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc.	2,298	2,897	5,195	2,019	871	2,890	4,317	3,768	8,085	4,317	3,768	8,085
Brass and Allied Metal Wares	2,777	2,198	4,975	904	490	1,394	3,681	2,688	6,369	3,671	2,688	6,359
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	1,422	38	1,460	308	3	311	1,730	41	1,771	1,721	41	1,762
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc.	3,163	3,289	6,452	1,668	1,248	2,916	4,831	4,537	9,368	4,817	4,536	9,353
Metal Industries not separately specified	18,487	14,446	32,933	7,669	3,245	10,914	26,156	17,691	43,847	25,969	17,677	43,646
Textile Trades :—												
Cotton	42,399	95,408	137,807	25,698	48,260	73,958	68,097	143,668	211,765	68,079	143,623	211,702
Woolen and Worsted	11,586	20,070	31,656	12,386	20,791	33,177	23,972	40,861	64,833	23,828	40,764	64,592
Silk Manufacture and Artificial Silk Weaving	3,244	4,707	7,951	2,243	4,008	6,251	5,487	8,715	14,202	5,481	8,713	14,194
Artificial Silk Yarn	3,265	2,730	5,995	1,276	897	2,173	4,541	3,627	8,168	4,481	3,627	8,103
Linen	6,154	12,043	18,197	1,614	4,581	6,195	7,768	16,624	24,392	1,109	4,300	5,409
Jute	4,274	10,212	14,486	2,202	5,761	7,963	6,476	15,973	22,449	6,176	15,971	22,447
Hemp, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc. ...	1,135	2,461	3,596	449	1,327	1,776	1,584	3,788	5,372	1,343	3,261	4,604
Hosiery	1,778	9,607	11,385	2,199	9,402	11,601	3,977	19,009	22,986	3,950	18,854	22,804
Lace	614	1,031	1,705	734	956	1,690	1,348	2,047	3,395	1,348	2,047	3,395
Carpets	706	1,576	2,282	1,324	1,797	3,121	2,030	3,373	5,403	2,030	3,373	5,403
Textiles not separately specified ...	1,702	5,130	6,832	760	2,683	3,443	2,462	7,813	10,275	2,203	6,746	8,949
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	11,992	6,681	18,673	14,912	4,797	19,709	26,904	11,478	38,382	25,562	9,642	35,204
Leather and Leather Goods :—												
Tanning, Currying and Dressing ...	4,118	1,563	5,681	1,777	507	2,284	5,895	2,070	7,965	5,889	2,070	7,959
Leather Goods	2,025	2,199	4,224	617	939	1,556	2,642	3,138	5,780	2,603	3,125	5,728
Clothing Trades :—												
Tailoring	6,661	7,508	14,169	1,458	2,394	3,852	8,119	9,902	18,021	7,827	9,667	17,494
Dress Making and Millinery	1,040	3,616	4,656	88	777	865	1,098	4,393	5,491	1,078	4,397	5,075
Hats and Caps (including Straw Plait)	1,390	1,288	2,678	660	879	1,539	2,050	2,167	4,217	2,047	2,161	4,208
Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc.	854	7,177	8,031	91	2,376	2,467	945	9,553	10,498	749	4,109	4,858
Dress Industries not separately specified	1,079	1,294	2,373	547	698	1,245	1,626	1,982	3,618	1,623	1,984	3,607
Boots, Shoes, Slippers and Clogs ...	9,748	4,328	14,076	7,111	3,716	10,827	16,859	8,044	24,903	16,580	8,020	24,600
Food, Drink and Tobacco :—												
Bread, Biscuits, Cakes, etc.	11,422											

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1930, PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 18TH MAY, 1931 (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH (27th APRIL, 1931, 26th MAY, 1930, 27th MAY, 1929), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 18TH MAY, 1931.

* For 26th May, 1930, and 27th May, 1929, separate figures for each of the two sections are not available.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1930 (Males, Females, Total), PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 18TH MAY, 1931 (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH (27th APRIL, 1931, 26th MAY, 1930, 27th MAY, 1929), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 18TH MAY, 1931.

NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE UNEMPLOYED.

PROPORTIONS IN VARIOUS INDUSTRY GROUPS. In the following Table the numbers of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 18th May, 1931, are analysed so as to show the proportion of the total unemployed classified in various industry groups:-

Table with columns: Industry Group, Males (Number Wholly Unemployed, Percentage of Total, Number Temporarily Stopped, Percentage of Total), Females (Number Wholly Unemployed, Percentage of Total, Number Temporarily Stopped, Percentage of Total).

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS IN NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED.

The following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 18th May, 1931, differed from the figures for 27th April, 1931, to the extent of 1,000 or more:-

Table with columns: Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 18th May, 1931, as compared with 27th April, 1931 (Males, Females, Total).

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

On page 228 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published weekly in the Press, and monthly in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives an analysis relating to the 18th May, 1931, of the composition of these statistics. Lines 2 to 4 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 4) and including lines 1 and 5, the number of books lodged, or, in other words, the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, is obtained:—

Table showing composition of unemployment statistics for Great Britain, categorized by gender (Men, Boys, Women, Girls) and total, with sub-categories like Unemployed—Special Schemes, Under consideration, etc.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

Table showing numbers on registers of employment exchanges for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, broken down by date (27th April, 4th May, 11th May, 18th May, 25th May) and average for 3 weeks.

Analysis of figures for 18th May, 1931.

Table analyzing figures for 18th May 1931, comparing persons normally in regular employment with those wholly or temporarily unemployed.

Table showing total figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, categorized by gender and total.

VACANCIES NOTIFIED AND FILLED. (Great Britain and Northern Ireland.)

Table showing vacancies notified and filled, including details on the number of vacancies, increase/decrease, and applications from employers.

Of the 190,188 vacancies filled during the five weeks ended 1st June, 118,289 were for men, 43,066 for women, and 28,833 for juveniles.

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

† "Vacancies filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B placements) in which the work of the Exchanges was limited; for instance, obtaining for an employer former employees, or placing the same men in relief work in alternate weeks. During the four weeks ended 4th May, 1931, the average number of such placements of men and women was 6,703 per week. The average number of placements of casual workers during the five weeks ended 1st June, 1931, was 500 per week.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS AT PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges on 1st June, 1931. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Large table showing numbers on registers at principal towns, including London, South-Eastern, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, and Wales, with sub-categories for men, women, juveniles, and total.

[Percentage rates of unemployment, for each of 700 towns in Great Britain, are given in the monthly "Local Unemployment Index."]

JUVENILE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

NUMBERS OF JUVENILES AGED 14 AND UNDER 18 ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES AND JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX AT 18TH MAY, 1931.

Table showing numbers of juveniles aged 14 and under 18 on registers of employment exchanges and juvenile employment bureaux at 18th May 1931, categorized by division and insured/uninsured status.

JUVENILES PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT. FOUR WEEKS ENDED 4TH MAY, 1931.

Table showing juveniles placed in employment during four weeks ended 4th May 1931, categorized by division and number of vacancies filled.

PERCENTAGE RATES OF UNEMPLOYMENT* AMONG INSURED JUVENILES AGED 16 AND 17.

Table showing percentage rates of unemployment among insured juveniles aged 16 and 17, categorized by division and insured status.

JUVENILES IN ATTENDANCE AT APPROVED COURSES OF INSTRUCTION DURING WEEK ENDED 27TH MAY, 1931.

Table showing juveniles in attendance at approved courses of instruction during the week ended 27th May 1931, categorized by division and type of course.

There were 75 Junior Instruction Centres for boys, 30 for girls, and 29 mixed centres open in Great Britain during the week. In addition, there were 12 Junior Instruction Classes for boys, 6 for girls, and 2 mixed classes. 5 Centres and Classes were closed for Whitsuntide holidays. The number of other Institutions to which unemployed juveniles were admitted was: 6 for boys, 3 for girls, 6 mixed. The attendances at these Institutions are mainly in the evening.

* Based on the numbers of Juvenile Unemployment Books lodged at Local Offices, which exceed the numbers of insured juveniles on the Register.

DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT IN GREAT BRITAIN.

14TH APRIL TO 11TH MAY, 1931.

The following Table gives, for the period from 14th April to 11th May, 1931, inclusive, the number of claims to benefit made at local offices in Great Britain, the average number of claims current during that period, an analysis of the decisions of Courts of Referees and of the Umpire, the number of cases disallowed by Insurance Officers under the trade dispute disqualification, and of the appeals against such disallowances dealt with by Courts of Referees.

A.—Number of Claims.

Table showing number of claims to unemployment benefit, categorized by gender and total.

B.—Decisions of Courts of Referees.

Table showing decisions of Courts of Referees, categorized by ground on which referred and benefit allowed/disallowed.

Not normally insurable and will not normally seek to obtain livelihood by means of insurable employment

Employment left voluntarily without just cause

Employment lost through misconduct

Failure or refusal to apply for or accept suitable employment, or failure to carry out written directions...

Not unemployed

Not capable of work, or not available for work

Other grounds

Total

C.—Trade Dispute* Cases.

Table showing trade dispute cases, categorized by benefit allowed/disallowed and total.

* The decisions of Courts of Referees, and of the Umpire, on trade dispute disallowances refer largely to test cases. The total number of individuals affected by such decisions may be considerably in excess of the figures shown in the Table.

D.—Decisions by Umpire.*

	Benefit Allowed.	Benefit Disallowed.	Total.
Appeals by Insurance Officers	136	243	379
Men ...	82	141	223
Women ...	4	2	6
Juveniles ...			
Total ...	222	386	608
Appeals by Associations	64	189	253
Men ...	21	59	80
Women ...	...	4	4
Juveniles ...			
Total ...	85	252	337
Appeals by Claimants	78	323	401
Men ...	35	273	308
Women ...	2	5	7
Juveniles ...			
Total ...	115	601	716
Total ...	278	755	1,033
Men ...	138	473	611
Women ...	6	11	17
Juveniles ...			
Grand Total ...	422	1,239	1,661

CUMULATIVE FIGURES, 10TH MARCH, 1931, TO 11TH MAY, 1931.

	Benefit Allowed.	Benefit Disallowed.	Total.
First Statutory Condition (applies to juveniles only) ...	40	752	792
Less than 8 contributions paid in past 2 years and less than 30 contributions paid at any time (Sec. 14 (2), U.I. Act, 1927) ...	254	939	1,193
Failure or refusal to apply for or accept suitable employment, or failure to carry out written directions ...	16,081	32,530	48,611
Employment left voluntarily without just cause ...	7,349	12,942	20,291
Employment lost through misconduct ...	5,535	8,193	13,728
Not normally insurable and will not normally seek to obtain livelihood by means of insurable employment ...	2,828	10,684	13,512
Employment lost through misconduct ...	1,665	7,366	9,029
Failure or refusal to apply for or accept suitable employment, or failure to carry out written directions ...	2,007	4,837	6,844
Not employed ...	1,577	8,414	9,991
Not capable of work, or not available for work ...			
Other grounds ...			
Total ...	37,334	86,657	123,991

Trade Dispute* Cases.

Cases dealt with by Insurance Officers ...	249	3,107	3,556
Appeals against disallowances by Insurance Officers dealt with by Courts of Referees...	239	918	1,157

Decisions by Umpire.*

Appeals by Insurance Officers ...	570	998	1,568
Appeals by Associations ...	206	710	916
Appeals by Claimants ...	315	1,476	1,791
Total ...	1,089	3,184	4,273

WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED BENEFIT CLAIMANTS.

ANALYSIS ACCORDING TO LENGTH OF TIME ON THE REGISTER.

The following Tables give an analysis of the claimants for unemployment benefit who were out of a situation and were on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 18th May, 1931, according to the length of time they had been on the Register since they last became unemployed. While the figures give an indication of the number classified as wholly unemployed who have had recent employment, they do not purport to show the extent to which these individuals have experienced unemployment over an extended period.

	Number who had been on the Register						Total.
	Not more than 1 week.	1 week and not more than 2 weeks.	2 weeks and not more than 3 weeks.	3 weeks and not more than 4 weeks.	Total, 4 weeks or less.	More than 4 weeks.	
Men: 21-64 ...	63,113	52,499	46,487	38,322	200,421	969,799	1,170,220
Young men: 18-20 ...	8,931	5,162	4,615	3,912	19,620	84,860	104,480
Boys: 16-17 ...	2,507	2,127	1,699	1,446	7,779	11,221	19,000
Women: 21-64 ...	8,493	8,868	8,363	7,237	32,961	280,659	313,620
Young women: 18-20 ...	2,472	2,390	2,124	1,840	8,826	42,524	51,350
Girls: 16-17 ...	895	847	580	544	2,866	6,559	9,425
Total ...	83,411	71,893	63,868	53,301	272,473	1,395,622	1,668,095

Percentages.

Men: 21-64 ...	5.4	4.5	4.0	3.3	17.2	82.8	100.0
Young men: 18-20 ...	5.7	4.9	4.4	3.8	18.8	81.2	100.0
Boys: 16-17 ...	13.2	11.2	8.9	7.6	40.9	59.1	100.0
Women: 21-64 ...	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.3	10.5	89.5	100.0
Young women: 18-20 ...	4.8	4.7	4.1	3.6	17.2	82.8	100.0
Girls: 16-17 ...	9.5	9.0	6.1	5.8	30.4	69.6	100.0
Total ...	5.0	4.3	3.8	3.2	16.3	83.7	100.0

* The decisions of Courts of Referees, and of the Umpire, on trade dispute disallowances refer largely to test cases. The total number of individuals affected by such decisions may be considerably in excess of the figures shown in the Table.

INSURED UNEMPLOYED.

POSITION UNDER FIRST STATUTORY CONDITION.

The following Table gives an analysis of the numbers of insured persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 18th May, 1931, relative to their position with regard to the First Statutory Condition for the receipt of unemployment benefit, in all cases in which the position under that condition had been determined. This condition requires the payment of not less than 30 contributions in the preceding two years. In cases where this condition is not satisfied, adults, but not boys and girls, may receive benefit conditionally upon the fulfilment of the special "transitional" conditions set out in Section 14 (2) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1927, as amended by the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1930.

Position with regard to First Statutory Condition.	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.
Wholly unemployed:					
Condition satisfied...	932,612	17,920	276,197	8,864	1,235,593
Not satisfied ...	312,068	...	79,167	...	391,235
Total ...	1,244,680	17,920	355,364	8,864	1,626,828
Temporarily stopped:					
Condition satisfied...	341,701	10,560	137,630	8,297	498,188
Not satisfied ...	7,526	...	3,735	...	11,261
Total ...	349,227	10,560	141,365	8,297	509,449
Casual claimants:					
Condition satisfied...	104,231	293	2,055	15	106,594
Not satisfied ...	7,515	...	188	...	7,703
Total ...	111,746	293	2,243	15	114,297
Insured non-claimants*	44,514	9,260	14,748	7,382	75,904
Total:					
Condition satisfied...	1,378,544	28,773	415,882	17,176	1,840,375
Not satisfied ...	371,623	9,260	97,838	7,382	486,103
Total ...	1,750,167	38,033	513,720	24,558	2,326,478

Percentages.

Wholly unemployed:					
Condition satisfied...	74.9	100.0	77.7	100.0	75.9
Not satisfied ...	25.1	...	22.3	...	24.1
Temporarily stopped:					
Condition satisfied...	97.9	100.0	97.4	100.0	97.8
Not satisfied ...	2.1	...	2.6	...	2.2
Casual claimants:					
Condition satisfied...	93.3	100.0	91.6	100.0	93.3
Not satisfied ...	6.7	...	8.4	...	6.7
Total (including non-claimants):					
Condition satisfied...	78.8	75.7	81.0	69.9	79.1
Not satisfied ...	21.2	24.3	19.0	30.1	20.9

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

The following Table shows approximately the receipts and payments and the liabilities of the Fund:—

	Five weeks ended 30th May, 1931.	Four weeks ended 25th April, 1931.	Five weeks ended 31st May, 1930.
Contributions received from:—	£	£	£
Employers ...	1,500,000	1,135,000	1,495,000
Employed Persons ...	1,290,000	970,000	1,275,000
Exchequer (including additional Exchequer contribution in respect of Transitional Benefit (U.I. Act, 1930)) ...	3,720,000	3,020,000	3,255,000
Total ...	6,510,000	5,125,000	6,025,000
Unemployment Benefit ...	10,705,000	8,550,000	7,005,000
Cost of Administration ...	630,000	470,000	575,000
Interest accrued on Treasury Advances ...	370,000	280,000	195,000
Other Items ...	10,000	15,000	5,000
Total ...	11,715,000	9,415,000	7,780,000
Treasury Advances outstanding ...	83,780,000	79,030,000	41,870,000
Other Liabilities (net), including accrued interest and deposits ...	820,000	365,000	465,000

A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually. (See House of Commons Paper No. 25 of 1931 for the period ended 31st March, 1930.)

* Non-claimants are not in receipt of benefit. They have all failed to satisfy the First Statutory Condition, and the adults have also failed to satisfy the Transitional Conditions.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the statistics relating to this country; and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 219-220 to compare the actual level of employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland with that of other countries. For details of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, reference should be made to the Reports on Statistics of Unemployment issued by the International Labour Office (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7, and Series N., No. 7).]

GERMANY.*

A further decrease in unemployment occurred during April, mainly owing to seasonal causes.

The total number of persons reported by the Employment Exchanges as available for and seeking work at the end of April, 1931, was 4,469,474, as compared with 4,830,126 at the end of March, 1931, and with 2,840,070 at the end of April, 1930. On 30th May, 1931, the total was 4,171,116 (provisional figure).

The total number of persons reported by the Employment Exchanges as unemployed was 4,358,153 at the end of April, 1931, 4,743,931 at the end of March, 1931, and 2,787,000 at the end of April, 1930. On 30th May, 1931, the provisional total was 4,067,000.

On the last day of April, 1931, 1,887,293 persons were in receipt of standard unemployment benefit and 902,334 in receipt of emergency benefit, giving a total of 2,789,627, as compared with 3,240,523 at the end of March, 1931, and with 2,081,068 at the end of April, 1930. The number in receipt of standard and emergency benefit on 30th May, 1931, was 2,507,732 (provisional figure).

Among 4,360,300 members of trade unions for which statistics are available, 31.8 per cent. were unemployed at 25th April, 1931, as compared with 33.6 per cent. at 28th March, 1931, and 20.3 at 26th April, 1930. In addition, 18.1 per cent. were working short time, as compared with 18.9 per cent. at the end of March, and 12.1 per cent. at the end of April, 1930. The following Table gives particulars for various groups of trade unions included:—

Groups of Trade Unions.	Membership reported on at end of April, 1931.	Percentage Wholly Unemployed and on Short Time at end of month.			
		Wholly Unemployed.		On Short Time.	
		April, 1931.	March, 1931.	April, 1931.	March, 1931.
Mining ...	162,100	15.2	13.4	29.2	29.8
Quarrying, stone, brick, pottery, etc. ...					
Workers subject to seasonal influences ...	136,400	53.6	61.3	6.4	6.6
Other workers ...	89,100	34.9	36.3	19.2	19.3
Engineering and metal ...	988,700	29.3	29.3	26.5	27.0
Chemical ...	113,800	22.9	25.2	22.8	22.2
Textile ...	343,300	21.4	21.6	37.4	39.8
Paper ...	115,200	23.0	22.2	26.3	28.5
Leather ...	56,200	33.8	34.4	23.7	22.9
Wood ...	296,600	47.4	48.5	11.6	12.9
Food, tobacco, etc. ...	293,100	21.0	24.1	17.4	19.0
Clothing, boots and shoes ...	153,900	27.4	29.0	25.4	30.5
Building ...	651,700	66.2	73.9	0.4	0.5
Printing ...	152,900	22.3	22.2	7.2	6.9
Hairdressing ...	3,900	20.2	17.9	19.0	22.5
Miscellaneous ...	803,400	14.0	14.7	14.8	15.1
All Unions making Returns	4,360,300	31.8	33.6	18.1	18.9

FRANCE.†

Unemployment showed a further decrease during May. The total number of persons on the registers of the Employment Exchanges on 30th May, 1931, was 56,937 (42,567 men and 14,370 women). At the end of April the corresponding total was 66,957, and at the end of May, 1930, 10,734.

At the beginning of May, the number of persons employed in mining, industrial, transport and commercial undertakings covered by the special monthly official investigation† showed a decline of 6.05 per cent. as compared with May, 1930. The percentage of workpeople on short time (i.e., working less than 48 hours per week) was 31.88 at the beginning of May, 1931, as compared with 3.36 at the same date in 1930.

AUSTRIA.§

Unemployment continued to decline during April. The total number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit at the end of April 1931, was 246,845 (including 95,797 in Vienna), as compared with 304,084 (103,475 in Vienna) at the end of March, and 192,477 (61,620 in Vienna) at the end of April, 1930.

* Reichsarbeitsblatt, 25th May, 1931, and Reichsarbeitsmarkt-Anzeiger, 9th June, 1931, Berlin.
† Bulletin des Marchés du Travail, 5th June, 1931, and Journal Officiel, 29th May, 1931, Paris.
‡ See the March issue of this GAZETTE (page 111).
§ Statistische Nachrichten, 27th May, 1931, Vienna.

ITALY.*

Unemployment showed a further decline during April. According to statistics furnished by the National Social Insurance Fund, 670,353 workpeople were recorded as unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 707,486 at the end of March, and 372,236 at the end of April, 1930. The total for April, 1931, includes 149,034 engaged in agriculture and fishing, 97,344 in the textile industry, and 201,752 in the building, road construction, &c. industries. In addition, 28,780 persons were partially unemployed at that date as compared with 27,545 at the end of March, and 24,305 at the end of April, 1930.

SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES.

Unemployment decreased in Denmark and in Sweden during April, and in Norway during March.

Denmark.†—Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange show that, out of 287,600 workpeople, 15.9 per cent. were unemployed at the end of April, 1931, as compared with 22.1 per cent. at the end of the preceding month, and 11.6 per cent. at the end of April, 1930.

Norway.†—Out of 21,705 members of trade unions making returns, 19.1 per cent. were unemployed on the last day of March, 1931, compared with 20.6 per cent. at the end of February and 14.2 per cent. at the end of March, 1930.

Sweden.§—The percentage of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed at 30th April, 1931, was 17.2, as compared with 19.1 at 31st March and 10.8 at the end of April, 1930.

SWITZERLAND.¶

Unemployment continued to decline, mainly owing to seasonal causes. At the end of April, 1931, 16,036 applications for employment (12.2 per thousand of the employed population according to the Census of 1920) were registered at the Employment Exchanges, as compared with 19,919 at the end of March, and 8,791 at the end of April, 1930. Offers of situations at the dates mentioned above numbered 4,594, 4,722 and 4,378 respectively.

Returns from 183 unemployment funds show that out of an aggregate of 333,701 members, 5.7 per cent. were totally unemployed, and 12.6 per cent. partially so, at the end of March, 1931. At the end of December, 1930, the corresponding percentages were 6.6 and 10.4, and at the end of March, 1930, 2.6 and 4.2 respectively.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.¶

The total number of unemployed registered at Employment Exchanges at the end of April, 1931, was 289,008 as compared with 339,505 at the end of March, and 79,721 at the end of April, 1930.

POLAND.**

According to the official journal of the Central Statistical Office of Poland, the number of unemployed registered at Employment Exchanges at 23rd May, 1931, was 330,200 as compared with 362,800 at 25th April, 1931, and 240,213 at the end of May, 1930. On these dates the number of unemployed persons entitled to benefit was 174,200, 210,200 and 115,872 respectively.

UNITED STATES.

According to returns received by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics, covering 45,225

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

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in May in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an estimated decrease of about £30,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 225,000 workpeople and in an increase of £800 in those of 29,000 workpeople. The groups of industries principally affected were as shown below :-

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Estimated Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ...	26,000	3,250	£ 765	£ 100
Brick, Pottery, Glass, etc. ...	800	40,250	10	9,000
All Metal ...	2,100	39,500	10	4,300
Textile ...	...	62,500	...	5,750
Woodworking, Furniture, etc. ...	...	24,500	...	4,600
Other ...	100	55,000	15	6,250
Total ...	29,000	225,000	800	30,000

Among those workpeople in the mining and quarrying group whose wages were changed during May, coal miners in North Staffordshire obtained an increase on account of the district percentage addition to basis rates being altered from 32 to 34 (equivalent to an increase of about 1½ per cent. on current wages), while in the case of coal miners in South Derbyshire there was a reduction of 1 per cent. in the addition to basis rates, and an increase of 1d. per day in the subsistence wage for the lower-paid men.

The majority of workpeople employed in the pottery industry sustained a reduction of 10 per cent. on current wages.

The largest industry affected by reductions in the metal group was the tinplate industry in South Wales and Monmouthshire, in which wages were reduced by amounts equivalent to between 4½ and 5 per cent. on current rates. There were also reductions in the wages of blastfurnace workers in Cumberland and the West of Scotland, and in those of Siemens steel workers in South-West Wales.

In the textile group there were reductions in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople employed in the jute industry, amounting to 4 per cent. on piece rates, ¼d. per hour on piecework basis time rates, and to sums varying from 1s. to 2s. 3d. per week on the time rates for adult workers. For workpeople employed in the bleaching, dyeing, etc., industries in Scotland, a reduction of 1 per cent. in the basic earnings of piece-workers was accompanied by reductions in the cost-of-living bonuses of all classes of workers, totalling 3s. 2d. and 1s. 10d. for men and women respectively. Similar classes of workpeople in Northern Ireland sustained a reduction of 5 per cent. on current wages.

In the woodworking, etc., group, the principal changes affected workpeople employed in the road-vehicle building industry in England and Wales, and those employed in the cooperage industry. In the former industry the reductions amounted to 1d. per hour for skilled men, and to 1d. and ¼d. per hour for coach fitters and vicemen

respectively; for coopers the reductions were 1d. per hour on time rates and 6½ per cent. on basis piece-rates.

In the other industrial groups the principal bodies of workpeople whose wages were reduced in May included tanners and carriers, brush and broom makers, building trade operatives at Liverpool and Birkenhead, and warehousemen at Liverpool.

Of the total decrease of £30,000 per week, a sum of about £9,400 was the result of arbitration or mediation; nearly £5,000 took effect under arrangements made by Trade Boards or Joint Industrial Councils, including nearly £2,000 under cost-of-living sliding-scales agreed upon by such bodies; £1,150 took effect under similar scales arranged by other parties; £4,000 took effect under scales based on selling prices; and the remainder was the result of direct negotiation, or of independent action by employers. Reductions preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work accounted for about £1,450 of the total.

With the exception of about £50, the increases were due to the operation of sliding-scales based on selling prices, or on the proceeds of the industry (coal mining).

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY—MAY, 1931.

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by Net		Estimated Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Coal Mining ...	...	241,000	£	27,600
Other Mining and Quarrying ...	...	17,000	...	1,025
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ...	1,000	44,500	45	9,500
Iron and Steel ...	62,500	49,000	1,900	4,250
Engineering ...	...	111,000†	...	16,600†
Other Metal ...	...	84,750	...	10,525
Textile ...	...	273,000	...	32,900
Clothing ...	250	15,500	75	1,175
Food, Drink and Tobacco	1,250	11,000	90	1,375
Woodworking, Furniture, etc. ...	250	37,750	25	8,000
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	1,100	466,000	100	40,250
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply ...	1,100	29,250	210	2,800
Transport ...	10,600	432,000	1,600	46,250
Public Administration Services ...	50	14,250	5	1,100
Other ...	150	54,000	30	9,000
Total ...	78,250	1,878,000	4,080	212,350

In the corresponding five months of 1930 there were net increases of £67,350 in the weekly full-time wages of 770,000 workpeople, and net decreases of £83,250 in those of 851,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported in May, apart from those affecting agricultural workers in certain areas, in which the hours in respect of which the minimum wages fixed under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act are payable, were increased.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1931.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Fishing	Buckie and District	16 May	Engineers and firemen employed on steam drifters.	Decrease of 5s. per week. Rates after change: engineers, 55s.; firemen, 40s.
Coal Mining	North Staffordshire	1 May	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Increase of 2 per cent. on basis rates of 1911, making wages 34 per cent. above basis rates, subject to the subsistence allowances previously granted to lower-paid workers and a minimum gross daily wage of 7s. per shift for able-bodied day-wage men (as previously operative). Enhancement previously granted to basis rates of underground pieceworkers consequent upon the reduction in working hours reduced from 4 to 2 per cent.; district percentage payable on basis rates of all classes of workpeople reduced from 30 to 29 per cent.; and subsistence wages increased by 1d. per day (to 7s. 7d. and 7s. 3d. per day for able-bodied underground and surface workers respectively).‡
	South Derbyshire ...	6 May		
Iron Mining	North Lincolnshire	3 May	Ironstone miners and quarrymen...	Increase of ¼ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 22½ per cent. above the standard, subject to previous additions and bonuses.
Quarrying	Penmaenmawr and Trevor.	25 April	Pieceworkers employed at granite quarries (except sledgers).	Decrease generally of 5 per cent. (2½ per cent. in certain cases) on piece rates, except those for sets and blocks.
Pottery Manufacture.	Various districts in England and Scotland.¶	1st settling day in May.	Workpeople employed in the pottery industry, with certain exceptions (see note ¶ below).	Decrease of 10 per cent. on current wages.¶

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

† The reductions under Engineering applied mainly to men employed in railway workshops.
‡ By an agreement dated 9th April, 1931, the hours of underground workers were reduced from 8 to 7½ per day, with effect from 1st April (see page 199 of May GAZETTE). The further changes noted above were embodied in an agreement dated 5th May, 1931, which left the hours at 7½ per day, with provision for a meal-time of 15 minutes (compared with 20 minutes previously).

§ Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.
¶ Including North Staffordshire, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Worcester, Bristol, Bovey Tracey, Kilmarnock, Kirkcaldy and Bo'ness.

‡ The reduction described above applied to the majority of the operatives; the principal operatives excluded were various classes of female timeworkers, enginemen and stokers and labourers. In the case of the female workers concerned (including warehouse workers, dipping house workers, various classes in the electrical fittings section, earthenware potters' attendants and tile trade attendants, enamellers, gilders, and litho. transferers), new or amended scales of wages were fixed, rising, in most cases, from about 9s. or 10s. per week at 14 years of age to amounts varying from 25s. to 27s. per week at 21 years and over, the new scales usually resulting in no change in wages for adult workers, while involving increases in certain cases (principally at intermediate ages of 17 or 18), and decreases for most junior workers. With certain exceptions, however, the latter were not to apply to workers already employed. In the case of adult enginemen, stokers and labourers, wages were reduced by 1s. 6d. or 2s. per week, leaving the rates at 52s. 6d. for enginemen, 47s. 6d. for stokers and 43s. for labourers.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1931 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Chemical Manufacture.	Glasgow and West of Scotland.	25 May	Bricklayers ...	Decrease of ¼d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 7½d.)
Pig Iron Manufacture.	West Cumberland and North Lancashire.	2nd full pay in May	Workpeople employed at blast-furnaces, except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Decrease* of 2 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 18 per cent. above the standard, subject to the previous additions, varying from 10d. to 1d. per shift for men in receipt of base rates of 4s. 10d. to 5s. 7d. per shift. Minimum rate after change for labourers: 4s. 10d. per shift, plus 18 per cent., plus 10d. per shift. Increase* of ¼ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 22½ per cent. above the standard, subject to the previous addition of 1s. 1d. per shift for all classes, with bonuses varying from 11d. to 1d. per shift for day-wage men on base rates of 3s. 8d. to 4s. 10½d. per shift. Minimum rate after change for general labourers: 3s. 8d. per shift, plus 22½ per cent., plus 1s. 1d. per shift, plus bonus of 11d. per shift.
	North Lincolnshire...	3 May		
	South Staffordshire	1st full pay after 13 April			Decrease of 5 per cent. on standard rates for workpeople on base rates of over 5s. 6d. up to 6s. per shift, leaving their wages 5 per cent. above the standard of 1920, and of 10 per cent. for workpeople on base rates over 6s. per shift, leaving their wages at the standard of 1920.† (Rate for labourers remained at 5s. 6d. per shift, plus 10 per cent.)
Steel Manufacture.	West of Scotland ...	3 May‡	Workpeople (excluding certain lower paid day-wage men) employed at blastfurnaces.	Decrease* of 2 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 8 per cent. above the standard.§
	South-West Wales ...	3 May	Workpeople employed in Siemens steel manufacture (excluding those on maintenance work).	Decrease* of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages at the standard for adult workers on basis rates of 51s. or over per week, and at standard plus the following ex gratia bonuses for other workers: adults on basis rates of 30s. and under per week, 47½ per cent.; adults on basis rates from 31s. to 50s. per week, varying from 1:50 per cent. on a basis rate of 50s. to 42:66 per cent. on a basis rate of 31s.; youths 18 to 21 years of age, 41½ per cent.; boys under 18 years of age, 5 per cent., plus 3d. per shift.
Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares.	Great Britain ...	18 May	Male workers employed as braziers, burnishers, drop-stampers, ad-nealers, polishers and dippers (including dippers who are also bronzers).	Decreases in the general minimum time rates fixed under Trade Boards Acts, of amounts varying from 6d. to 1s. per week for workers under 21 years of age, from 1s. 3d. to 3s. 6d. per week for those 21 and under 21½ years, and from 2s. 9d. to 3s. 6d. per week for those 21½ years and over; piecework basis time rates correspondingly reduced.¶ (See Notice of Order on page 204 of May GAZETTE.)
Tinplate Manufacture.	South Wales and Monmouthshire.	3 May	Workpeople employed in tinplate manufacture (excluding maintenance craftsmen)	Decrease* of 5:25 per cent. on standard basis rates, leaving wages 10:125 per cent.¶ above standard in the case of workpeople in receipt of a base rate of 6s. 10½d., or less per shift, and 2:625 per cent. in the case of other workpeople. Total rate after change for labourers, 45s. 5d. per week (i.e., 5s. 6d. per day, plus 25 per cent., plus 10:125 per cent. on total).
			Workpeople employed in preparing, spinning or weaving (a) jute, or (b) jute and any other fibre except flax and hemp:— Male loom tenters 21 and over with recognised full charge. Other male workers (except those employed on hessian weaving). Female workers employed on hessian weaving** in the areas of Aberdeen, Barrow-in-Furness, Dundee, Dysart, Kirkcaldy and Tayport, and male workers employed on hessian weaving** in all districts.	Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively. (See Notice of Order on page 245.) Decrease in minimum time rate of 2s. 3d. per week (56s. 8d. to 54s. 5d.). Decreases in minimum time rates of from 7½d. to 1s. 7d. per week. Minimum rates after change: under 15 years, 14s. 7½d., increasing to 33s. 9d. at 18 and under 21, and to 31s. 6d. at 21 and over. Decrease in general minimum piece rates of 4 per cent.; and decreases in general minimum time and guaranteed time rates for male workers of from 7½d. to 1s. 7d. per week and in guaranteed time rates for female workers of from 7½d. to 1s. per week. Minimum time rates after change: male workers (guaranteed and general)—under 15, 14s. 7½d., increasing to 31s. 6d. at 21 and over; female workers (guaranteed)—14s. 7½d. at under 16, increasing to 24s. at 18 and over.
Jute	Great Britain ...	21 May	Female timeworkers:— Spinners (other than orra (or spare) spinners). Orra (or spare) spinners 18 years and over. Spinning shifting mistresses Other workers ...	Decreases in minimum time rates, varying, according to size of bobbins and number of spindles, from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 11d. per week. Decrease in minimum time rate of 1s. 2½d. per week (25s. 8½d. to 24s. 6d.). Decrease in minimum time rate of 1s. 6d. per week (37s. 6d. to 36s.). Decreases in minimum time rates of from 7½d. to 1s. per week. Minimum rates after change, 14s. 7½d. at under 16, increasing to 24s. at 18 and over.†† Decrease in piecework basis time rate of ¼d. per hour (7½d. to 7d.).
Rope, Twine and Net Manufacture.	Northern Ireland ...	1 May	Female workers ...	Decreases in the minimum time and piecework basis time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Act (Northern Ireland), 1923, of ¼d. or ½d. per hour for reelers, warpers, ballers, carders, drawers, hand braiders (nets), lesson roll winders, parcelers, platters, polishers, rovers, scourers, spinners, spreaders and twistlers, 13 and over, the rates for other workers remaining unchanged, leaving minimum time rates‡‡ at 18 years and over as follows:—net-making machine operators, house machine minders, sample makers, 6½d., 6d.; reelers, warpers, 6½d., 5½d.; ballers, carders, cop winders, drawers, hand braiders (nets), lesson roll winders, parcelers, pieceers, platters, plaiting winders, polishers, rovers, scourers, spinners, spoolers, spreaders, twistlers, net examiners, winders, 6d., 5½d.; layers, 5d., 4½d.; doffers, 4½d., 3½d.; all other workers, 4½d., 4½d. (See Notice of Order on page 245.)

* Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.
† The percentage payable on the standard rates for workpeople on base rates of 5s. 6d. and under per shift remained unchanged at 10.
‡ The change took effect from the pay starting nearest 1st May—in most cases this was 3rd May.
§ In the case of the lower-paid men, who were not affected, wages remained at 21 per cent. above the standard.
¶ In addition to the above changes in minimum rates the definition of a male polisher of Grade II has been altered by substituting the words "and who bobs or mops" for the words "and who emery-bobs or mops," which were contained in the previous definition. The minimum rates applicable to female workers under 18 years of age employed as hand-brush japanners or as hand-brush lacquerers have been extended to apply to such workers as are training to qualify as hand-brush japanners, or as hand-brush lacquerers, capable of finishing all classes of work. Previously these rates applied only to workers (whether under or over 18 years of age) who were capable of finishing all classes of work.
‡‡ This percentage includes the ex-gratia bonus of 7½ per cent. previously given.
†† Viz., the weaving of all hessian, floor-cloth and linoleum goods, other than those woven in looms the reed space of which is 32 in. or narrower.
‡‡ Female weaving learners are to receive for one period only of learnership not exceeding two months, 12s. 0½d. at under 16, 12s. 10½d. at 16 and under 18, and 13s. 6d. at 18 and over.
‡‡ The higher rate in each case applies to workers employed within the area of the County Borough of the City of Belfast, and the lower rate to workers employed in other areas.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1931 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Textile Bleaching, Dyeing, Printing and Finishing.	Scotland (excluding Paisley, Alexandria and Airdrie).*	1st pay day in May.† 1st pay day after 18 May	Workpeople employed in the bleaching, dyeing, calico printing and finishing trades (except waste bleachers, machine calico printers, engravers, and mechanics, etc., employed in repair and maintenance of plant).	Cost-of-living wage reduced† from 18s. 3d. to 16s. 9d. per week for men 21 and over, from 10s. 10d. to 10s. 3d. per week for women 21 and over and by corresponding amounts for those under 21.‡ Decrease of 1 per cent. in gross basis piecework earnings, and cost-of-living wage for all workers (payable in the case of pieceworkers on the reduced basis rates) reduced from 16s. 9d. to 15s. 1d. per week for men 21 and over, from 10s. to 9s. per week for women 21 and over, and by corresponding amounts for those under 21. Minimum rates after change for timeworkers 21 and over: men, 25s., plus 15s. 1d.; women, 15s., plus 9s.
	Paisley, Alexandria and Airdrie.*	1st pay day after 18 May	Workpeople employed in the bleaching, dyeing, calico printing and finishing trades (except waste bleachers, machine calico printers, engravers, and mechanics, etc., employed in repair and maintenance of plant).	Decrease of 1 per cent. in gross basis piecework earnings, and cost-of-living wage for all workers (payable in the case of pieceworkers on the reduced basis rates) reduced from 18s. 3d. to 15s. 1d. per week for men 21 and over, from 10s. 10d. to 9s. per week for women 21 and over, and by corresponding amounts for those under 21. Minimum rates after change for timeworkers 21 and over: men, 25s., plus 15s. 1d.; women, 15s., plus 9s.
	Hebden Bridge ...	1st pay day in June†	Workpeople employed in the fustian cutting, dyeing and finishing trades— Timeworkers ... Pieceworkers ...	Cost-of-living wage reduced from 16s. 9d. to 15s. 1d. per week for men 21 and over, from 10s. to 9s. per week for women 18 and over and by corresponding amounts for juveniles.§ Cost-of-living wage reduced from 47 per cent. to 43 per cent. for hand cutters, from 35 per cent. to 33 per cent. for menders and from 41 per cent. to 37 per cent. for all other pieceworkers.
	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	1st pay day in June†	Machine calico printers ...	Supplementary cost-of-living wage reduced† from 36.40 per cent. to 32.90 per cent. on basic wages, and flat rate bonuses reduced† from 18s. to 17s. per week for journeymen and from 12s. to 11s. per week for apprentices.
	Dundee ...	21 May	Workpeople employed in calendering and dyeing establishments.	Decrease of approximately 4 per cent. on current rates.
	Northern Ireland ...	1 May	Workpeople employed in the dyeing, bleaching and finishing trades.	Decrease of 5 per cent. on current rates.
Silk Dyeing and Finishing.	Macclesfield ...	Pay day in week ending 9 May	Male workers ...	Decrease of 3s. 3d. per week for those 21 and over and of corresponding amounts for those under 21. Rates after change: 14s. at 14 increasing each half-year to 27s. 9d. at 18 and to 46s. 9d. at 21 and over.
			Female workers 18 and over ...	Decrease of 1s. 7d. per week (28s. 11d. to 27s. 4d.).
Boot and Shoe Manufacture.	Northampton ...	1 May	Men ...	Decrease of 10 per cent. in piece rates for making and finishing of youths' and boys' work.¶
			Timeworkers ...	Decrease of 7½ per cent. for adult male workers, youths earning 25s. per week and over and female workers earning 20s. per week and over, and of 5 per cent. for youths earning less than 25s. per week and female workers earning less than 20s. per week. Rates after change: man—skilled, 1s. 1½d.; semi-skilled, 1s.; unskilled, 11½d. per hour; women, 27s. 9d. per week.
Hat Leather Stitching and Printing.	Stockport, Ashton, Denton, Hyde and District.	Week beginning 29 May	Pieceworkers ...	Decrease of 7½ per cent. on current rates.
Baking and Confectionery.	Manchester and District.¶	Pay day in week beginning 4 May	Male workers ...	Decrease of 2s. per week for adult workers, 1s. 4d. per week for those 18 and under 21, and 4d. per day for jobbers. Rates after change for daywork include: forehands and ovenmen 6s.; assistant ovenmen and platers, secondhands and dough makers, 6s.; other adult bakers, 6s.
			Female workers ...	Decrease of 1s. 4d. per week for adult workers, 10d. per week for those 18 and under 21, and 3d. per day for jobbers. Rates after change include: forehands, 43s. 4d.; secondhands, 41s. 4d.; other adult bakers, 40s.
	Various towns in North Staffordshire and Cheshire.**	1st pay day in May	Bakers and confectioners (other than those employed by co-operative societies).	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week for adult male workers, 1s. per week for women and for youths 16 and over, and of 6d. per week for youths under 16 and for girls. Minimum rates after change: forehands, 63s. 6d. or 66s. 6d.; singlehands, machine-men, etc., 61s. 6d.; secondhands, 59s. 6d.; tablehands, 57s. 6d.; juveniles, 24s. 6d. at 15, increasing each year to 43s. at 20.
			Dundee ... Edinburgh and Leith ... Galaahills ...	4 May 18 May 1st pay day in May	Bakers and confectioners ... Bakers and confectioners ... Bakers and confectioners ...	Decrease of 4s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 70s. Decrease of 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 70s. Decrease of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 66s.
	Perth ...	2 May	Bakers and confectioners ...	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 70s.
Brewing	Accrington, Blackburn, Burnley and Barrow districts.	1st pay day in May	Brewery workers ...	Decrease of 2s. per week for men 19 and over and of proportionate amounts for women and youths. Rates after change: men 19 and over, 48s.; women, 32s. 6d.; youths, 15s. 6d. at 14 increasing each year to 25s. at 18.
Mill-sawing	Nottingham, Derby and Burton-on-Trent.	1 May	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers	Decrease of ¼d. per hour (1s. 5d. to 1s. 4½d.).
Furniture Manufacture.	North East Lancashire†† and Todmorden.	1 May	Cabinet makers, carvers, chair-makers, upholsterers, polishers and machinists.	Decrease of ¼d. per hour for journeymen (1s. 6½d. to 1s. 6d.) and of proportionate amounts for apprentices and improvers.
Coopering	Various towns in Great Britain; also Belfast.†††	1st full pay day after 4 May†	Coopers ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour for timeworkers and of 6½ per cent. on list prices for pieceworkers. Rates after change: London, 1s. 6d.; other districts, 1s. 5d.††

* The change took effect under an agreement made between the Scottish Federation of Dyers and Bleachers (Piece Goods) and the Amalgamated Society of Dyers, Bleachers, Finishers and Kindred Trades.
 † In respect of the preceding pay period.
 ‡ Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
 § A special temporary payment of 2s., 2s. 6d., or 3s. per week (according to basic rates) for men and of 1s. per week for women is made in addition in the case of timeworkers engaged on productive process work for which a system of collective piecework has not yet been introduced.
 ¶ The change took effect under an agreement made by the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of Northampton Town.
 †† Including Manchester, Salford, Stockport, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Stretford, Urmston, Flexton, Irlam and Cadishead, Barton, Patricroft, Eccles, Swinton, Pendlebury, Prestwich, Middleton Oldham, Stalybridge, Ashton-under-Lyne, Walkden, Hyde, Denton, Royton, Shaw Crompton and Glossop.
 ** Including Macclesfield, Leek, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Congleton, Crewe, Winnington, Winsford, Sandbach, and Potteries district (including Stoke-on-Trent, Burslem, Fenton, Hanley, Longton, and Tunstall).
 ††† Including Accrington, Blackburn, Blackpool, Burnley, Chorley, Clitheroe, Colne, Darwen, Haslingden, Nelson, Padiham and Preston.
 ††† The change took effect under an arrangement made by the National Joint Industrial Council of the Cooperage Industry. It did not apply to Burton-on-Trent, where wages are governed by a local agreement.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1931 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Road-Vehicle Building.	Various towns in England and Wales; also Dumfries and Belfast.*	Beginning of 1st pay week after 27 April.	Men employed in the road-vehicle building and wheelwright trades.	Decrease in existing rates of 1d. per hour for skilled men and coach fitters, and ½d. per hour for vicemen, the rates for hammermen or strikers, brush hands and labourers remaining unchanged, leaving the minimum rates for Grade I and II towns* respectively as follows—bodymakers, wheelwrights, coach joiners and finishers, smiths, painters, trimmers, mounters, general machinists and sawyers, 1s. 5d.; 1s. 4d.; coach fitters, 1s. 4d.; 1s. 3d.; vicemen, 1s. 2d.; 1s. 1d.; hammermen or strikers and brush hands, 1s. 0½d.; 1s. 0½d.; labourers, 1s., 11½d.; leading or charge hands and spindle and four-cutter hands to receive 1d. per hour extra; in the London area (within a 20-mile radius of Charing Cross) the minimum rates are ½d. per hour more than Grade I rates for each class of worker.
Building	Liverpool, Birkenhead and District.	1 May	Bricklayers, masons, tilers, marble polishers, carpenters and joiners, woodcutting machinists and sawyers, slaters, plumbers, plasterers, painters, street masons and paviors and asphalters.	Decrease of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: bricklayers, masons (banker hands), tilers, carpenters and joiners, 1s. 8d. per hour, plus 2s. per week "tool money"; masons (fitters), 1s. 8½d. per hour, plus 2s. per week "tool money"; marble polishers, 1s. 5½d.; woodcutting machinists and sawyers, slaters, painters, street masons and paviors, 1s. 8d.; plasterers, 1s. 9d.; asphalters, 1s. 7½d. Rate fixed at 1s. 7½d. per hour.†
	Glasgow and West of Scotland.†	25 May	Bricklayers ...	Rate fixed at 1s. 7½d. per hour.†
	Hartlepool ...	1 May	Manual workers ...	Decrease of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change include: general labourers, 1s. 1d.; refuse collectors, 1s. 2d.; street sweepers, 1s. 0½d.
	Thornaby-on-Tees ...	1 May	Manual workers ...	Decrease of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: labourers and refuse collectors, 1s. 1½d.; day scavengers, 11½d.
Local Government (Non-Trading Services).	York ...	1 April	Manual workers ...	Decrease of ¼d. per hour and cost-of-living sliding scale previously in operation, suspended until March, 1932. Rates after change include: labourers and refuse collectors, 1s. 2d.; day scavengers, 1s. 1½d.
	Ipswich ...	29 May	Manual workers ...	Decrease of 1s. 4d. per week. Rate after change for labourers, scavengers and refuse collectors, 48s. 8d.
Tanning and Currying.	Great Britain ...	Pay day in week beginning 18 May.¶	Timeworkers ...	Decreases for adult male workers of 1d. per hour in the London (Inner Area) district and of ½d. per hour in other districts. Basic hourly rates after change for skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled men respectively include: London (Inner Area), 1s. 3½d., 1s. 1½d., 1s. 0½d.; London (Outer Area), 1s. 2d., 1s., 10½d.; Yorkshire Area, Northampton and district (chrome tanners and curriers), 1s. 2½d., 1s. 0½d., 11½d.; Liverpool, Bolton and Bury district, and Scotland, 1s. 2½d., 1s. 0½d., 11½d.
			Pieceworkers ...	Decreases on current rates of 10 per cent. in the London (Inner Area) district and of 7½ per cent. in other districts.‡
Roller Leather Manufacture.	Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales.	1st pay day in May.	Workpeople employed in roller leather manufacture.	Cost-of-living wage reduced† from 50 per cent. to 45 per cent. on basic rates. Minimum rates after change: man—skilled, 9d.; semi-skilled, 6d. to 7½d.; women—5d., plus, in each case, 4s. per cent.
Hat Leather Manufacture.	Manchester, Stockport, Ashton, Denton and certain firms in the Midland Counties.	15 May	Dayworkers ...	Decrease of ¼d. per hour for adult male workers, of 7½ per cent. for youths earning 25s. per week and over and for female workers earning 20s. per week and over, and of 5 per cent. for youths earning less than 25s. and for female workers earning less than 20s. per week. Basic hourly rates after change for men: skilled, 1s. 2½d.; semi-skilled, 1s. 0½d.; unskilled, 11½d.
			Pieceworkers ...	Decrease of 7½ per cent. on current rates.
Leather Belt Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	1st pay day in May.	Workpeople employed in leather belt manufacture.	Percentage payable on base rates embodied in agreement of November, 1922, reduced† from 55 to 47 for pieceworkers and timeworkers, resulting for the latter in a decrease of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change for timeworkers—skilled—London, 1s. 2d.; Provinces, 1s. 1½d.; semi-skilled—London, 11d.; Provinces, 10½d.
Made-up Leather Goods Manufacture.	Walsall, Birmingham and District.¶	1st pay day in April.	Workpeople employed in the made-up leather goods trade.	Decrease of ¼d. per hour for men 20 and over and of 7½ per cent. for female workers under 20, and for piece workers of 6½ per cent. on shop rates. Minimum rates after change for timeworkers: men 21 and over, 1s. 2d.; women, 20 and over, 6½d.
Saddle and Harness Making.	London (Metropolitan Police Area).	1 May	Black saddle and harness makers...	Decrease of 1d. per hour for timeworkers and of 7½ per cent. on piece price list, leaving wages 67½ per cent. and 52½ per cent. above the list for heavy and light work, respectively. Minimum rate after change for timeworkers, 1s. 3d.**
			Brown saddle makers ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour for timeworkers, and of 7½ per cent. on piece price list, leaving wages 52½ per cent. above the list. Minimum rate after change for timeworkers, 1s. 3d.**
	West Riding of Yorkshire.	1 May	Saddle and harness makers ...	Decrease of 1d. per hour for timeworkers and of proportionate amounts for pieceworkers. Minimum rate after change for time-workers, 1s. 2d.

* The decreases took effect under an agreement made between the United Kingdom Joint Wages Board of Employers for the Vehicle Building Industry, the National Union of Vehicle Builders and the Amalgamated Society of Woodcutting Machinists. A list of the towns to which the Grade minimum rates apply is given below, but it should be noted that the Department is unable to state to what extent the minimum rates quoted correspond with those actually paid. It is understood, however, that in a few cases in the Lancashire area, standard rates have been fixed in a section of the trade which are in excess of the minimum, and that rates in excess of the minimum are paid by certain firms in London (mainly in the West End). The following are the towns comprised within each Grade, excluding the London area (where, as stated above, the minimum rates are ¼d. per hour above Grade 1):—
 Grade I.—Alverthorpe, Ainsworth, Altrincham, Ashton, Accrington, Aberlath, Aston, Belfast (rate for skilled men, 1s. 6½d.), Birmingham, Birkenhead, Bootle, Bacup, Bolton, Bury, Bromley Cross, Barnsley, Basford, Batley, Bingley, Birstall, Blackburn, Blackpool, Bradford, Bristol, Bath, Bournemouth, Burton-on-Trent, Burnley, Burslem, Church, Colne, Caversham, Cardiff, Cheadle, Carlton, Cleckheaton, Cheltenham, Chesterfield, Chorlton, Chorley, Coventry (8 miles), Colwyn Bay, Denton, Derby, Dewsbury, Denby Dale, Didsbury, Darwen, Droylsden, Dudley, Dumfries, Erdington, Earlestown, Fenton, Long Eaton, Luddendenfoot, Lytham, Longwood, Littleborough, Liverpool, Leigh, Liscard, Leeds, Lowestoft, Leicester, Llandudno, Loughborough, Longton, Manchester, Middleton, Mansfield, Mossley, Mytholmroyd, Morley, Macclesfield, Monmouth, Merthyr, Meltham, Nelson, Newport (Mon.), Newcastle-on-Tyne, Newcastle (Staffs.), Newbury, North Shields, North Staffordshire District, Nottingham, Northampton, Norwich, Normanton, Oldbury, Oxford, Ossett, Oldham, Padiham, Pemberton, Prescott, Pontypridd, Preston, Poole, Rawdon, Rotherham, Rochdale, Reddish, Reading, Rossendale, Rawtenstall, Radcliffe, Sowerby, Bridge, Salford, Shipley, Sale, Smethwick, Sutton Coldfield, South Shields, Sunderland, Stalybridge, Stockport, Stoke, Stratford-on-Avon, Sheffield, Southport, St. Annes, St. Helens, Swansea, Skelmanthorpe, Slaithwaite, Tipton, Tunstall, Upholland, Walsall, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton, Werneth, Warrington, Wigan, Wilmslow, Wakefield and Yeading.
 Grade II.—Alnwick, Alnwick, Alnwick, Ammanford, Barrow-in-Furness, Bishop Auckland, Bolton-by-Bowland, Blyth, Biggleswade, Bedford, Bridgwater, Boston, Brig, Brighton, Brighouse, Basingstoke, Bedale, Carlisle, Clitheroe, Chaburn, Chatham, Chelmsford, Chester, Chester-le-Street, Crewe and District, Congresbury, Cuckfield, Caerphilly, Clayton West, Darlington, Devonport, Doncaster, Durham, Dover, Driffield, Eastbourne, Exeter, Evesham, Folkestone, Gainsborough, Gisburn, Gloucester, Godalming, Goole, Guildford, Grantham, Grimsby, Garstang, Gorseinon, Hartlepool, Horsham, Houghton-le-Spring, Huntingdon, Heanor and District, Helmsley, Holderness, Ipswich, Knutsford, Kidderminster, Kettering, Lancaster, Lincoln, Lichfield, Louth, Lewes, Llanelli, Llandobie, Llandilo, Llantisant, Longridge (Lancs.), Maidstone, Melton Mowbray, Middlesbrough, Morcanabe, Morpeth, Morriston, Malton, Newark, Nuneaton, Newton-le-Willows, Newport Pagnell, Oswestry, Ormskirk, Pengam, Perth, Peterborough, Penrith, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Redditch, Ripon, Rochester, Rhondda, Ross-on-Wye, Rainford, Retford, Selby, Swindon, Shirehampton, Shrewsbury, Stafford, Stamford, Southampton, Stockton-on-Tees, Scarborough, Sandbach, Thornaby, Thurstone, Tunbridge Wells, Weston-super-Mare, Worcester, Wrexham, Warwick, Wylam, Windle, Wombwell, Wigston Magna, Whalley, Wellingborough, Whitehaven, Workington, Whitby, Wensleydale, Yarmouth, Yarn, Yeovil and York.
 † The change took effect under an agreement made by the Scottish National Joint Council for the Building Industry under which the rate for bricklayers was to be ½d. per hour above the flat rate for craftsmen of 1s. 7d. per hour (already agreed upon by the Council to take effect from 27th April) pending consideration of a claim for exceptional conditions. Previously the rate for bricklayers was 1s. 8d. per hour. The principal districts affected are: Glasgow, Airdrie, Bellshill, Blantyre, Bothwell, Coatbridge, Dumbarton, Falkirk, Greenock, Hamilton, Helensburgh, Johnstone, Lanark, Larbert, Larkhall, Motherwell, Paisley, Port Glasgow, Strathaven and Wishaw.
 ‡ Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
 § The decreases shown were the result of a decision arrived at by the Leather Producers' Association for England, Scotland, and Wales, and were not formulated in an agreement with any Trade Union. New scales of rates were also issued for youths in most areas and for females in Lancashire, which involved reductions in most cases, but increases for the younger workers in London.
 ¶ In respect of the preceding pay period.
 ** The decreases took effect under an arrangement made by the National Leather Goods and Saddlery Manufacturers' Association (Midlands Branch).
 †† The decreases shown became due under an agreement of 18th April, 1922, made between the National Leather Goods and Saddlery Manufacturers' Association (London Branch), the Saddlers and Harness Makers' Employers' Association, and the London Saddle and Harness Makers' Trade Protection Society. It is reported that a number of firms pay rates above the minimum, and that not all made the above decreases.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY, 1931 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Basket Making	Lancashire and Cheshire.	4 May	Skip and basket makers ...	Decrease* of 3 per cent. on Lancashire price list, leaving wages 14½ per cent. and 64½ per cent. above the list for timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively.
Brush and Broom Manufacture.	Great Britain	1 May	Workpeople employed in the brush and broom trade:—	Decreases* in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see Notice of Order on page 204 of May GAZETTE):—
			Certain classes of male timeworkers.	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 1½d. to 1s. 0½d.).
			All other male timeworkers ...	Decrease of ½d. per hour for those 17½ and over and 16½ and under 17, the rates for those of other ages remaining unchanged, leaving minimum rates as follows: 2½d. at under 14½ increasing to 10½d. at 21 and over.
			Female pan hands ...	Decrease in time rates of ½d. or ¾d. per hour for certain classes and in piecework basis time rates of ½d. or ¾d. per hour.
Warehousing	Liverpool	2 May	Female workers (other than pan hands and learners).	Decrease in time rates of ½d. per hour for those 17½ and under 21 and 16½ and under 17, and in piecework basis time rate of ½d. per hour, leaving minimum time rates: 2½d. at under 14½, increasing to 6½d. at 21 and over.
			Female learners (except pan-setting learners).	Decrease of ½d. per hour (except during the first six months for those commencing at 16 and under 21, for whom there was no change).
			Male and female pieceworkers	Decrease in minimum piece rates of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 26½ per cent. below the list.
Pattern Card Making.	Manchester	6 April	Apprentices ...	Decreases proportionate to the above.
			Warehouse workers employed in the cotton, rubber, canned goods, provisions, etc., trade.	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week for permanent men and of 6d. per day for casual men. Rates after change: warehousemen—permanent, 60s. per week; casual, 11s. per day (5s. 6d. on Saturdays); bookmen and weighers—permanent, 62s. 6d. per week; casual, 11s. 6d. per day; warehouse captains, 85s. (minimum).
Pattern Card Making.	Manchester	6 April	Pattern card makers (men 22 years and over).	Decrease of 3s. per week (72s. to 69s.).

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING MAY, 1931.

Locality.	Date	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Leicestershire	3 May	Male workers	Hours in respect of which the minimum weekly rates fixed under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924, are payable fixed at 56½ in summer and 54 in winter, instead of 54 all the year round as previously.
Rutland	3 May	Male workers	Hours in respect of which the minimum weekly rates fixed under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924, are payable fixed at 56½ in summer and 54 in winter, instead of 54 in summer and 50 in winter as previously.
Anglesey and Caernarvonshire.	13 May	Male agricultural workers 15 and over employed as horsemen, cowmen, shepherds or hwsymyn (balliffs).	Hours in respect of which the minimum weekly rates fixed under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924, are payable fixed at 60 instead of 58 as previously.

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

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during May, 1931, as killed in the course of their employment was 135, as compared with 177 in the previous month and 200 in May, 1930. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in May, 1931, numbered 43, as compared with 41 in the previous month and 55 in May, 1930.

RAILWAY SERVICE.	FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued).
Brakesmen and Goods Guards ...	Locomotives, Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft... 1
Engine Drivers and Motor-men ...	Other Metal Trades ... 1
Firemen ...	Shipbuilding ... 3
Guards (Passenger) ...	Wood ... 6
Permanent Way Men ...	Gas ... 1
Porters ...	Printing ... 1
Shunters ...	Electric Generating Stations
Mechanics ...	Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ... 7
Labourers ...	Chemicals, etc. ... 3
Miscellaneous ...	Food and Drink ... 6
Contractors' Servants ...	Paper, Printing, etc. ... 3
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	Tanning, Currying, etc. ... 3
	Rubber Trades ... 1
	Other Non-Textile Industries 1
	TOTAL, FACTORY ACTS ... 63
	USE OR WORKING OF CANAL 2
	TOTAL (excluding Seamen) 135
	SEAMEN.
	Trading Vessels, Sailing ...
	" " Steam ... 37
	Fishing Vessels, Sailing ...
	" " Steam ... 6
	TOTAL, SEAMEN ... 43
	TOTAL (including Seamen) 178

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

The total number of cases* of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during May, 1931, under the Factory and Workshop Act, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, was 39, and the total number of deaths* reported was 6. In addition, one case of lead poisoning among plumbers not employed in factories came to the knowledge of the Home Office during May, but notification of such cases is not obligatory.

I. Cases.	I. Cases (continued).
(a) LEAD POISONING.	(d) EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER).
Among Operatives engaged in—	Pitch ... 2
Smelting of Metals ... 3	Tar ... 4
Plumbing and Soldering ... 3	Paraffin ... 3
Shipbuilding ... 1	Oil ... 3
Printing ... 1	TOTAL, EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION ... 9
Tinning of Metals ... 1	
Other Contact with Molten Lead ... 1	(e) CHROME ULCERATION.
White and Red Lead Works ... 1	Chromium Plating ... 7
Pottery† ... 3	
Vitreous Enamelling ... 1	
Electric Accumulator Works ... 3	
Paint and Colour Works ... 1	II. Deaths.
Indiarubber Works ... 1	LEAD POISONING.
Coach and Car Painting ... 2	Pottery† ... 1
Shipbuilding ... 1	Coach and Car Painting ... 1
Paint used in Other Industries ... 1	Painting of Buildings ... 1
Other Industries... 1	
Painting of Buildings ... 6	TOTAL, LEAD POISONING ... 3
TOTAL, LEAD POISONING ... 18	
	EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER).
(b) OTHER POISONING.	Pitch ... 1
Aniline Poisoning ... 4	Tar ... 2
	TOTAL, EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION ... 3
(c) ANTHRAX.	
Wool ... 1	

* 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.
† Two of the cases, and the fatal case, affected females.

TRADE DISPUTES IN MAY.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in May in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 33, as compared with 45 in the previous month and 35 in May, 1930. In these new disputes about 5,300 workpeople were directly involved, and 1,700 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 11,500 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 21 disputes which began before May and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 54, involving about 18,500 workpeople, and resulting in a loss, during May, of about 214,000 working days.

In the following Table is given an analysis of the disputes in progress in May in Great Britain and Northern Ireland by groups of industries, showing the number of workpeople involved at the establishments concerned, and the approximate time lost during the month in all disputes in progress:—

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 ...	8	11	19	6,700	72,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	3	6	9	400	7,000
Textile ...	4	5	9	5,000	49,000
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	2	4	6	4,100	62,000
Other ...	4	7	11	2,300	24,000
Total, May, 1931 ...	21	33	54	18,500	214,000
Total, April, 1931 ...	12	45	57	24,300	130,000
Total, May, 1930 ...	20	35	55	87,600†	1,600,000†

Causes.—Of the 33 disputes beginning in May, 12, directly involving 2,300 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 10, directly involving 400 workpeople, on other wage questions; 5, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 4, directly involving 1,200 workpeople, on other questions of working arrangements; and 2, directly involving 400 workpeople, on questions of Trade Union principle.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 21 new disputes, directly involving 3,800 workpeople, and 12 old disputes, directly involving 5,700 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 9, directly involving 1,600 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 8, directly involving 2,100 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 16, directly involving 5,800 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 3 disputes, directly involving 1,700 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1930 AND 1931.†

The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first five months of 1931, as compared with the corresponding period of 1930:—

Industry Group.	January to May, 1930.			January to May, 1931.		
	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.
Coal Mining ...	66	27,000	106,000	74	194,000	2,343,000
Other Mining and Quarrying ...	4	300	4,000	6	200	3,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, etc. ...	2	300	4,000	7	800	16,000
Chemical ...	2	400	3,000	3	400	1,000
Engineering ...	5	400	3,000	3	300	6,000
Shipbuilding ...	9	2,400	9,000	4	200	4,000
Other Metal ...	15	1,300	6,000	13	1,400	14,000
Textile ...	24	125,000	2,903,000	17	128,600	2,915,000
Clothing ...	7	300	1,000	7	400	2,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	2	500	2,000	...	...	...
Woodworking, Furniture, etc. ...	11	1,500	9,000	4	1,400	26,000
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	2	400	6,000	4	400	1,000
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	19	2,500	30,000	24	8,400	117,000
Transport ...	11	4,600	22,000	10	4,300	11,500
Commerce, Distribution and Finance ...	1	3,300	50,000	3	100	500
Other ...	5	600	4,000	6	300	10,000
Total ...	185	170,800	3,162,000	185	341,200	5,470,000

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING MAY, 1931.

Occupations and Locality.‡	Approximate Number of Workpeople involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object.§	Result.§
	Directly.	Indirectly.‡	Began.	Ended.		
Colliery workpeople—Newport, Mon. (near).	1,200	...	1931. 9 Feb.	1931. ...	Refusal of workpeople to accept proposed revised piece-work price lists and the abolition or modification of certain customs.	No settlement reported.
Colliery workpeople—Whitehaven.	1,404	...	27 April	9 May	Against the use of a certain form of explosive.	Explosive in question to be used between shifts only.
Colliery workpeople—Wakefield (near).	1,345	...	12 May	2 June	Dispute arising out of the election of a checkweigher by the men.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
Textile bleachers, dyers, printers, finishers, etc.—Alexandria, Paisley and Airdrie.	1,800	...	20–29 April.	16–20 May.	Against proposed reduction in wages.	Modified reduction accepted. (See also page 238.)
Artificial silk spinners, viscose workers, employees in reeling department, etc.—Coventry and Wolverhampton.	1,156	671	29 and 30 April.	6 and 7 May.	Against proposed reduction in wages.	Proposed reduction accepted.
Artificial silk weavers, tacklers, winders, warpers, etc.—Derby.	550	481	18 May	28 May	Against proposed revision of piece-work rates, following change in method of weaving.	Agreement effected providing for resumption of work on old piece-work rates, negotiations in respect of proposed revision, and continuance of experiments in method of weaving.
Vehicle builders—Glasgow, Edinburgh and other centres in Scotland.	950	...	17 April, 12 and 18 May.	27 May	Dispute arising out of proposed reduction in wages.	Modified reduction accepted, to take effect in two instalments.
Bricklayers and labourers—Glasgow, Paisley, Falkirk, etc.	2,500	...	27 April	23 May	Against new building trade agreement, involving loss of differential rate for bricklayers.	Bricklayers in Glasgow and West of Scotland to resume work at 1d. per hour above flat rate of wages, subject to consideration by the Scottish National Joint Council for the Building Industry of their claim for exceptional conditions. (See also page 239.)
Bricklayers and labourers—Edinburgh and Leith.	500	...	29 April	5 May	For advance in wages by establishment of differential rate for bricklayers, as compensation for "wet time."	Work resumed on old terms.
Building operatives—Belfast and district.	1,000	...	1 May	30 May	Against proposed reduction in wages of craftsmen, and other concessions.	Reduction to take effect in two instalments; other questions to be dealt with by a Court of Conciliation.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.
† A dispute was in progress in May, 1930, in the wool textile industry of the West Riding of Yorkshire and part of Lancashire, involving about 70,000 workpeople in that month.
‡ In making up these totals the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. Workpeople involved in more than one dispute are counted more than once in the totals; the amount of such duplication is, however, very slight.
§ Revised figures.
¶ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople indirectly involved, i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	...	...	45%
Food only	...	...	27%

FOOD.

At 1st June the average level of the retail prices of food showed a decline as compared with 1st May. This was chiefly due to reductions in the prices of tea, butter, bacon, milk and cheese.

As a net result of all the changes recorded the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was 27 per cent. at 1st June, 1931, as compared with 29 per cent. at 1st May, 1931, and 38 per cent. at 31st May, 1930.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st May and 1st June 1931:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated— to the nearest 1d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st June, 1931, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st May, 1931.	1st June, 1931.	July, 1914.	1st May, 1931.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ribs	0 10	1 3½	1 3½	+ 0 5½	...
Thin Flank	0 6½	0 8½	0 8½	+ 0 2	- 0 0½
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs	0 7½	0 9½	0 9½	+ 0 2½	...
Thin Flank	0 4½	0 5½	0 5	+ 0 0½	- 0 0½
Mutton, British—					
Legs	0 10½	1 5½	1 5½	+ 0 6½	...
Breast	0 6½	0 9½	0 9½	+ 0 2½	...
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	0 6½	0 10	0 10	+ 0 3½	...
Breast	0 4	0 4½	0 4½	+ 0 0½	...
Bacon (streaky)*	0 11½	1 0	0 11½	+ 0 0½	- 0 0½
Flour ... per 7 lb.	0 10½	0 11½	0 11½	+ 0 0½	...
Bread ... per 4 lb.	0 5½	0 7	0 7	+ 0 1½	...
Tea ...	1 6½	1 11½	1 10½	+ 0 4	- 0 1
Sugar (granulated) ...	0 2	0 2½	0 2½	+ 0 0½	...
Milk ... per quart	0 3½	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 2½	...
Butter—					
Fresh	1 2½	1 5½	1 4½	+ 0 2	- 0 0½
Salt	1 2½	1 3½	1 3	+ 0 0½	- 0 0½
Cheese†	0 8½	0 11	0 10½	+ 0 1½	- 0 0½
Margarine	0 7	0 7½	0 7½	...	...
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 1½	0 1½	0 1½	...	...
Potatoes ... per 7 lb.	0 4½	0 8½	0 8½	+ 0 3½	...

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st June, 1931, as compared with July, 1914.				Corresponding General Average for 1st May, 1931.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	...	
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	59	59	59	59	59
Thin Flank	28	31	29	31	31
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs	28	34	31	32	32
Thin Flank	1	10	6	7	7
Mutton, British—					
Legs	64	68	66	66	66
Breast	42	42	42	42	42
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	51	46	48	48	48
Breast	4	14	9	10	10
Bacon (streaky)*	1	4	3	8	8
Fish ...	113	91	102	106	106
Flour ...	5	8	6	7	7
Bread ...	20	19	19	20	20
Tea ...	14	28	21	27	27
Sugar (granulated) ...	27	18	23	22	22
Milk ...	58	66	62	66	66
Butter—					
Fresh	10	16	13	18	18
Salt	5	7	6	8	8
Cheese†	18	19	19	25	25
Margarine	3	-2	1	1	1
Eggs (fresh) ...	5	-3	1	2	2
Potatoes ...	93	63	78	76	76
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase) ...	27	27	27	29	29

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.
 † The description of cheese specified for quotation is Canadian or American, but where such cheese is seldom sold in a locality the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.
 ‡ The average price was slightly over 7d. in July, 1914, and under 7½d. on 1st June, 1931. The increase in average price as compared with 1914 is insignificant.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts indicate that the average increase in the controlled rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st June, was approximately 49 per cent. When decontrolled rents are also included, the combined average increase in working-class rents since July, 1914, is approximately 54 per cent. This latter figure has been utilised in calculating the final percentage increase for all the items included in these statistics.

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, woollen and cotton materials, underclothing and hosiery, and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st June the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged approximately 95 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group the prices of coal were reduced during May in a number of towns and at 1st June averaged between 75 and 80 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The average price of gas remained between 45 and 50 per cent. above the pre-war level. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches) the average increase at 1st June, as compared with July, 1914, was about 70 per cent.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 75 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st June, 1931, is approximately 45 per cent.* over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 47 per cent. at 1st May, 1931, and 54 per cent. at 31st May, 1930.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1931 as in 1914) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). In view of the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or readjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, the standard of living may have been raised in many cases in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1920 to 1931.

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 1931:—

Month (beginning of)	Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items. (Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.)											
	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
Jan. ...	125	165	92	78	77	80	75	75	68	67	66	53
Feb. ...	130	151	88	77	79	79	73	72	66	65	64	52
Mar. ...	130	141	86	76	78	79	72	71	64	66	61	50
Apr. ...	132	133	82	74	73	75	68	65	64	62	57	47
May ...	141	128	81	70	71	73	67	64	64	61	55	47
June ...	150	119	80	69	69	72	68	63	65	60	54	45
July ...	152	119	84	69	70	73	70	66	65	61	55	...
Aug. ...	155	122	81	71	71	73	70	64	65	63	57	...
Sept. ...	161	120	79	73	72	74	72	65	65	64	57	...
Oct. ...	164	110	78	75	76	74	67	66	65	65	56	...
Nov. ...	176	103	80	75	80	76	79	69	67	67	57	...
Dec. ...	169	99	80	77	81	77	79	69	68	67	55	...

NOTE.

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

The index number was the subject of a question in the House of Commons on 11th June, the reply to which is reproduced on page 214.

* If allowance is made for the changes in taxation since July, 1914, on the commodities included in these statistics, the average increase is about 1 per cent. less.

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. It is also to be observed that in every case the percentage calculation is based on the assumption that the standard of living is identical at the various periods compared.]

I.—FOOD.

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

Country.	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*				Latest figures available.	
	July, 1927.	July, 1928.	July, 1929.	July, 1930.	Rise.	Date.
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	Per cent. 59	Per cent. 57	Per cent. 49	Per cent. 41	Per cent. 27	1st June 1931.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.						
Czechoslovakia ...	...	...	...	30	14	Apl.
Denmark ...	53	53	49	37	23	Apl.
Egypt (Cairo) ...	47	44	40	32	28	Dec. '30
Finland ...	965	1,016	979	837	741	Apr.
France (Paris)†	...	...	...	523	527½	May.
... (other towns)†	...	...	503**	514**	527½	Feb.
Germany ...	57	54	56	30	30	May
Italy ...	440	416	458	407	346	Apl.
Norway ...	75	73	57	51	38	May.
Spain (Madrid)†	84	73	77	80	94	Mar.
France (Barcelona)†	64	65	75	72	79	Mar.
Sweden ...	51	57	51	40	30	May.
Switzerland ...	57	57	55	52	42	Apl.
United States ...	50	50	55	41	22	Apl.
BRITISH DOMINIONS, & C.						
Australia ...	52	52	60	47	31	Apl.
Canada ...	49	47	50	49	16	May.
India (Bombay): Native families	54	43	45	36	2	May.
Irish Free State	66	66	66	56	54	Jan.
New Zealand ...	44	46	46	43	25	Apl.
South Africa ...	19	16	16	9	7	Apl.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Country.	Items on which computation is based.†	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*				Latest figures available.	
		July, 1927.	July, 1928.	July, 1929.	July, 1930.	Rise.	Date.
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	A,B,C,D,E	Per cent. 66	Per cent. 65	Per cent. 61	Per cent. 55	Per cent. 45	1st June 1931.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							
Belgium ...	A,C,D,E	690	711	771	769	715	Mar.
Czechoslovakia (Prague) ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	...	9	2	Apl.
Denmark ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	...	65	57	...
Egypt (Cairo) ...	A,B,C,E	51	51	50	48	42	Mar.
Finland ...	A,B,C,D,E	1,081	1,113	1,101	1,008	933	Apl.
France (Paris) ...	A,B,C,D,E	407‡	419‡	455‡	492‡	490	1st Qr.
Germany ...	A,B,C,D,E	50	53	54	49	37	May
Holland (Amsterdam) ...	A,B,C,D,E	67‡	70‡	69‡	62‡	54	Mar.
Italy (Milan) ...	A,B,C,D,E	448	426	442	431	395	Mar.
... (Rome) ...	A,B,C,D,E	403	387	407	400	363	Jan.
Norway ...	A,B,C,D,E	103	93	80	75	67	May
Poland (Warsaw) ...	A,B,C,D,E	15	23	23	19	9	May
Sweden ...	A,B,C,D,E	69	73	69	64	60	Apl.
Switzerland ...	A,B,C,D,E	60	61	61	59	51	Apl.
United States ...	A,B,C,D,E	73‡	70‡	70‡	67‡	61	Dec. '30
BRITISH DOMINIONS, & C.							
Australia ...	A,B,C,D,E	46‡	47‡	50‡	...	41	3rd Qr. '30
Canada ...	A,B,C,D,E	55	55	56	56	41	May
India (Bombay): Native families	A,B,C,D	56	47	48	40	11	May
Irish Free State	A,B,C,D,E	71	73	74	68	66	Jan.
New Zealand ...	A,B,C,D,E	61	62	60	58	49	Apl.
South Africa ...	A,B,C,D,E	32	31	31	28	24	Apl.

* Exceptions to this are: Egypt, January 1915 to July 1914; France (other towns), August, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, France (Paris, all items), Poland, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Amsterdam, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; Italy (food), United States (all items), Canada, 1913; Australia (all items), November, 1914. The Australian percentages for all items are a weighted average for the six capital cities. The percentages are calculated, in Czechoslovakia and Poland, on prices converted to their gold values, and, in the other countries, on prices in the ordinary currency.
 † Fuel and light are also included in these figures.
 ‡ New series.
 § Figure for June.
 ¶ A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items. ** Figure for August.

POOR RELIEF IN MAY.

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

The statistics below relate to the County of London and to those County Boroughs in England and Wales and Burghs in Scotland having an estimated population exceeding 100,000.

The number of persons* relieved on one day† in May, 1931, in the forty-seven selected areas named below, was 559,918, or 2.3 per cent. less than in the previous month. The numbers relieved at these two dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 377 and 345 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

In the forty-three selected areas in England and Wales, the number of persons relieved in May, 1931, was 464,508, a decrease of 2.6 per cent. as compared with April, 1931, but an increase of 6.5 per cent. as compared with a year ago. In the four areas in Scotland, the number relieved was 95,410, a decrease of 0.4 per cent. as compared with April, 1931.

Recipients of indoor relief in the forty-seven areas in May numbered 108,245, or 5.0 per cent. less than in the previous month. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 451,673, or 1.6 per cent. less than in the previous month.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE following statistics relate to assisted passages from Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act. The figures include both applicants and dependants of applicants to whom assisted passages have been granted. Approvals subsequently cancelled have been excluded. The figures are provisional and subject to revision.

Destination.	Applica- tions Appro- ved in May, 1931.	Total Applications Approved.		Depart- ures in May, 1931.	Total Departures.	
		1922 to 1930.	Jan- - May, 1931.		1922 to 1930.	Jan- - May, 1931.
Australia ...	21	172,620	116	17	171,938	94
Canada ...	399	131,357	1,671	497	126,608	903
New Zealand ...	46	45,246	275	51	44,198	271
Africa and other parts of Empire	3	1,159	18	8	978	26
Total ...	469	350,382	2,080	573	343,722	1,294

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

BREACH OF CONTRACT—LOCAL CUSTOM—MINERS' ABSENCE FROM WORK OWING TO A DEATH DUE TO NATURAL CAUSES.

Claims were brought by the South Hetton Coal Company against 336 miners employed by the company, for wrongful absence from work.

On February 23rd, at 3 a.m., a miner who was due to go down the pit died whilst sitting on a seat in the compressor house. There was no suggestion of any accident or personal injury. As a result, the 336 defendants absented themselves from work during that day. The Company accordingly brought these actions for wrongful absence from work. Evidence was given on behalf of the defendants that there was a custom for the pit to be idle when a man died on the colliery premises, irrespective of the cause of death.

In giving judgment, the Judge said that he must find against the local custom, as he did not think it had been established. He quite appreciated that in the minds of the men there would be considerable doubt. He could understand the refusal to work in view of the custom claimed; but, in law, if they refused to work whether reasonably or unreasonably, and it turned out that they had done something in breach of their contract, they must pay for that breach.

Judgment was accordingly given against the 336 miners for breach of contract, 15s. damages being awarded in each case.—*Seaham Harbour County Court*. 11th May, 1931.

Factory and Workshop Act (Northern Ireland), 1901-1920.

The occupier of a saw mill in Coleraine was prosecuted for (i) failure to have a steam boiler thoroughly examined at least once every fourteen months, (ii) failure to register the report of such examination in the General Register, and (iii) failure to fence a rack bench saw in accordance with No. 10 of the Regulations for the Use of Woodworking Machinery. The defendant pleaded guilty, and penalties of 10s. were imposed in each of the three cases, with the sum of twenty shillings as costs.—*J. H. Craig v. John Cochrane. Coleraine Petty Sessions (Co. Londonderry)*. 15th May, 1931.

A co-operative agricultural and dairy society was proceeded against for (i) failure to have a steam boiler thoroughly examined by a competent person at least once every fourteen months, and (ii) failure to register the report of such examination in the General Register. A penalty of 10s., with 20s. costs, was imposed for non-examination of the boiler, and the second summons was withdrawn.—*J. H. Craig v. Lower Badoney Co-operative Agricultural and Dairy Society, Limited. Gortin Petty Sessions (Co. Tyrone)*. 8th May, 1931.

The occupier of a saw mill was proceeded against for failure to fence a circular saw as required by No. 10 of the Regulations for the Use of Woodworking Machinery, and a fine of 10s., with 13s. costs, was imposed.—*J. H. Craig v. John J. West. Enniskillen Petty Sessions*. 11th May, 1931.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920-31.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

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

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

* Volumes containing selected decisions of the Umpire are published annually by H.M. Stationery Office, the latest being a volume of selected decisions given during the year 1929 (price 7s. 6d. net). A volume containing a special selection of important decisions given by the Umpire prior to 19th April, 1928 (price 15s. net), and a volume containing selected decisions given from 19th April, 1928, to 12th March, 1930 (price 6s. net), have also been issued; also an analytical guide to decisions given before 13th March, 1930 (price 2s. 6d. net). Selected decisions are also issued monthly in pamphlet form, and may be obtained, as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription, the latest pamphlet being that for April, 1931.

permission of the Court of Referees, by the claimant himself. The claimant may also appeal if the decision of the Court was not unanimous.

The following is a recent decision of general interest:—

Case No. 9496/31 (amended). (18.5.31.)

SECTION 4 (1) (NO. 2) ACT, 1924 (AS AMENDED)—EMPLOYMENT LOST OWING TO TRADE DISPUTE—APPLICANT DID NOT BELONG TO ASSOCIATION IN DISPUTE, BUT TO ASSOCIATION HAVING A SEPARATE AGREEMENT WITH COAL OWNERS' ASSOCIATION—ULTIMATE AGREEMENT REGARDING WAGES EQUALLY APPLICABLE TO ALL GRADES—MEMBERS OF APPLICANT'S GRADE WERE MEMBERS OF ASSOCIATION IN DISPUTE.

The claimant, an engine winder, lost his employment by reason of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute. The claimant stated that he and two other engine winders were employed at the colliery and that they worked on and after the date the stoppage commenced, i.e. 1st January, 1931, on terms which were in force prior to that date. They were subsequently suspended owing to reasons of economy, and informed that when required they would be sent for. It was stated before the Court of Referees that one of the engine winders was a member of the union in dispute, but it was contended that as the claimant was not a member of that union he was not of a grade or class directly interested.

The Court of Referees decided that the claim should be allowed. The Court was of opinion that the claimant was not financing or participating or directly interested, nor did he belong to a grade or class participating in the dispute. They, therefore, found that the claimant was entitled to relief under Section 4 (1) of the 1924 Act.

The Insurance Officer disagreed with the Court's decision. He submitted that the case was covered by Decision 4688/31,* and although the claimant worked certain shifts during the period of the stoppage he did not cease thereby to be directly interested in the dispute.

At oral hearings before the Umpire it was submitted that the members of the South Wales and Monmouth Colliery Enginemen, Boilermens and Craftsmen's Association were not directly interested in the trade dispute between the employers and the South Wales Miners' Federation, because the first-mentioned association made their own agreements with the employers, including the question of the percentage addition to basic rates of wages. In August 1926 they made their agreement whilst the Miners' Federation were still in dispute. It was further submitted that the percentage was determined by economic conditions as shown by investigations of accountants, and that this was not the real point in dispute. In any event, the Craftsmen's Association appointed their own accountants, independently of the Miners' Federation.

Decision by the Umpire.—“On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be disallowed.”

“As explained in Decision 8880/31,* the Conciliation Board Agreement of 13th December, 1926, made between the South Wales Miners' Federation and the Monmouthshire and South Wales Coal Owners' Association, automatically terminated on 30th November, 1930. During the month of December, when work was being performed on temporary agreed terms, negotiations took place between those two bodies in an endeavour to agree upon the terms and conditions of employment which should prevail as from 1st January, 1931, but nothing resulted therefrom. One of the matters in issue was the amount of the percentage which should be added to the basic wage of the workmen in the South Wales coalfield.”

“For the reasons given in Decision 8880/31 it was held that members of the South Wales Miners' Federation who were affected by the percentage addition were directly interested in the trade dispute which caused the stoppage of work which commenced on 1st January, 1931.”

“It is contended by the claimant that as he was not a member of the South Wales Miners' Federation but of the South Wales Enginemen, Boilermens and Craftsmen's Association, which had a separate agreement with the Coal Owners' Association, that he was not directly interested in the trade dispute.”

“The percentage addition to wages is a fixed figure applying equally to all grades throughout the coalfield whose wages are affected by the percentage addition. Whatever figure was eventually arrived at (the percentage was ultimately reduced from 28 to 20 by the award of the independent chairman) must equally apply to members of the South Wales Miners' Federation and to members of the claimant's association, as the grades to be found in the claimant's association are also to be found in the South Wales Miners' Federation, and members of the same grade could not receive, and never have received, different wages because they belonged to different unions.”

“As the claimant's wages included the percentage addition I cannot say that he was not directly interested in the trade dispute.”

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

Recent Proceedings.

(A)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

VARIOUS PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL GRADES, ADMIRALTY.—*Staff Side v. Official Side, Admiralty Administrative Whitley Council*. Difference.—Payment of subsistence rates as follows:—

- (a) Grades with salaries (inclusive of allowances) with a minimum of £150 a year or over, and a maximum of £300 or over, but under £400 Class B (i).

* Not published.

- (b) Grades with salaries (inclusive of allowances) with a minimum of £150 a year or over, and a maximum of £200 or over, but under £300 Class B (ii).

Decision.—The Court awarded as follows:—

- (a) Grades with salaries (inclusive of allowances) with a minimum of £150 a year or over, and a maximum of £300 or over, but under £400 Class B (ii).
- (b) Grades with salaries (inclusive of allowances) with a minimum of £150 a year or over, and a maximum of £200 or over, but under £300 Class C.

The award operates from 1st May, 1931. Award issued 5th May, 1931. (1499.)

ROYAL NAVAL CORDITE FACTORY, HOLTON HEATH.—*Trade Union Side v. Official Side, Shipbuilding Trade Joint Council for Government Departments*. Difference.—Application for advance in pay of adult male workers in manufacture of cordite. Decision.—The Court decided against the claim. Award issued 13th May, 1931. (1500.)

STEAM VESSEL SERVICE (CREWS), CORPORATION OF TRINITY HOUSE.—*Transport and General Workers' Union v. Corporation of Trinity House*. Difference.—Revision of wages, allowances and conditions of service to crews in steam vessel service. Decision.—The Court decided against the claim. Award issued 26th May, 1931. (1501.)

LIGHT VESSEL SERVICE, CORPORATION OF TRINITY HOUSE.—*Transport and General Workers' Union v. Corporation of Trinity House*. Difference.—Revision of wages, hours, allowances and conditions of service to masters and crews in light vessel service. Decision.—The Court awarded an increase of 2d. per day in basic rates of lamp-lighters, senior light and fog signal drivers, fog signal drivers, and junior light and fog signal drivers, but otherwise decided against the claim. Award issued 26th May, 1931. (1502.)

DEPOT STAFF, CORPORATION OF TRINITY HOUSE.—*Transport and General Workers' Union v. Corporation of Trinity House*. Difference.—Increase in wages of wharf boatswains. Decision.—The Court decided against the claim. Award issued 26th May, 1931. (1503.)

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

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE, NORTHAMPTON.—*Employers' Side v. Workmen's Side of the Northampton Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade*. Difference.—As to the price to be paid by a certain firm for operations on the edge trimming and knifing machine. Mr. W. Addington Willis, C.B.E., was appointed under the Conciliation Act, 1896, to act as Umpire. Award deciding the rate to be paid for operating the machine was issued on 5th May, 1931.

GRANITE QUARRYING, NORTH WALES.—*Penmaenmawr and Welsh Granite Company, Limited v. Amalgamated National Union of Quarryworkers and Settmakers*. Difference.—Claim by the Company for a 5 per cent. reduction in all piece rates except sets and blocks and a claim by the Union for increases in the rate per ton for settmakers and breakers. Board of Arbitration, consisting of Sir Harold Morris, K.C. (chairman), Mr. J. McKie Bryce, C.B.E. (employers' representative), and Mr. Rhys J. Davies, M.P. (workpeople's representative), appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to determine the matter. The Award of the Board deciding in favour of the Company's claim (except that the reduction was not to apply to sledgers and a lesser reduction was to apply in a number of local cases), and against the claim of the Union, was issued on 19th May, 1931.

IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY, CUMBERLAND.—*The West Coast Ironmasters' Association v. The National Union of Blastfurnacemen, Ore Miners, Coke Workers and Kindred Trades*. Difference.—Whether an agreed extra rate of 8d per shift payable to economiser men for oiling and cleaning economiser plant was applicable to every shift or only to the 18 shifts per week on which boys had previously been employed. Professor H. M. Hallsworth, C.B.E., was appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to be Arbitrator, and his Award deciding that the agreed extra rate is applicable only to the 18 shifts per week on which the boys were previously employed was issued on 23rd May, 1931.

FLANNEL MANUFACTURE, ROCHDALE.—*The Rochdale and District Flannel Manufacturers' Association v. The Transport and General Workers' Union*. Difference.—As to the rates to be fixed for certain occupations in order to complete a schedule of otherwise agreed rates. Mr. W. Addington Willis, C.B.E., was appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to act as Arbitrator, and his Award deciding the rates necessary to complete the schedule was issued on 25th May, 1931.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.

I.—CONFIRMING ORDERS.

Jute Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order J. (53), dated 15th May, 1931, confirming the variation of general minimum time-rates, guaranteed time-rates, general minimum piece-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers, and specifying 21st May, 1931, as the date from which such rates become effective.

Rope, Twine, and Net Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.R. (18), made by the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland, dated 20th April, 1931, confirming the variation of certain general minimum time-rates and piece-work basis time-rates for female workers in the rope, twine and net trade in Northern Ireland, and specifying 1st May, 1931, as the date from which such minimum rates become effective.

Order N.I.R. (20), made by the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland, dated 27th May, 1931, confirming the variation of certain general minimum time-rates and piece-work basis time-rates for male workers in the rope, twine and net trade in Northern Ireland, and specifying 12th June, 1931, as the date from which such minimum rates become effective.

II.—NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

Keog and Drum Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal K.D. (5), dated 26th May, 1931, to vary general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers. Objection period expires 26th July, 1931.

Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.H.H.G. (N. 42), dated 5th May, 1931, to vary certain general minimum piece-rates and general overtime rates for female workers. The proposals in regard to general minimum piece-rates for female workers contained in Part IV. of the Schedule to the Board's Notice N.I.H.H.G. (N. 41), dated 2nd April, 1931,* have been withdrawn.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Chromium Plating Regulations, 1931.

THE Home Secretary, on 1st June, 1931, made Regulations† under Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, for factories and workshops, or parts thereof, in which the electrolytic plating or oxidation of metal articles by the use of an electrolyte containing chromic acid or other chromium compounds is carried on.

The Regulations, which are in accordance with the revised draft issued on 31st March,‡ may be cited as the Chromium Plating Regulations, 1931, and will come into force on 1st August, 1931.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACTS.

I.—SILICOSIS AND ASBESTOSIS SCHEMES AND REGULATIONS.

THE Home Secretary has made two further schemes—the Refractories Industries (Silicosis) Scheme, 1931,§ and the Sandstone Industry (Silicosis) Scheme, 1931—under Section 47 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925, as extended by the Workmen's Compensation (Silicosis and Asbestosis) Act, 1930. These schemes provide for medical examinations to be made, and certificates given, by the Medical Board appointed under the Silicosis and Asbestosis (Medical Arrangements) Scheme, 1931.|| These schemes came into force on 1st June, 1931.

The Home Secretary has also made, with the approval of the Treasury, regulations under the Workmen's Compensation (Silicosis and Asbestosis) Act, 1930, prescribing the fees to be paid in respect of examinations made and certificates given under the above-mentioned Silicosis and Asbestosis (Medical Arrangements) Scheme. These regulations, which may be cited as the Silicosis and Asbestosis (Medical Fees) Regulations, 1931, also came into force on 1st June.

II.—MINISTRY OF HEALTH CIRCULAR.

THE Ministry of Health have issued a Circular reminding Approved Societies that workmen suffering from silicosis or asbestosis, or either of these diseases, accompanied by tuberculosis, may be entitled to compensation under Schemes made under the Workmen's Compensation Acts.

The only authority which can give a certificate of disablement or suspension from employment which is final and conclusive for compensation purposes in these cases is the Medical Board specially appointed by the Home Office. It is, however, not in the interests of the workman that he should be under the necessity of applying to the Medical Board in the first instance, without previously having a reasonable opportunity of ascertaining whether there is ground for suspecting the presence of the disease.

The Home Office has, therefore, recently been in consultation with the Ministry of Health with the object of setting up a procedure by which insured workmen who have reason to think that they are suffering from one of the diseases in question, may, without cost to themselves, undergo a medical examination to enable them to determine whether to apply to the Medical Board.

A workman desiring to claim compensation for silicosis or asbestosis should first apply through his Approved Society, whose duty it will be to arrange for an examination by the Regional Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health. On receipt of the Regional Medical Officer's certificate, the workman should apply to the Medical Board under the Silicosis and Asbestosis (Medical Arrangements) Scheme, enclosing the prescribed fee.

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for May, 1931 (page 204).

† *Statutory Rules and Orders, 1931: No. 455.* H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (14d. post free).

‡ See the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1931, page 164.

§ *Statutory Rules and Orders, 1931, No. 345.* H.M. Stationery Office; price 4d. net (5d. post free).

|| See last month's issue of this GAZETTE, page 205.

COAL MINES NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL BOARD.

At a meeting of the District (Wages) Board in July, 1930, the Cumberland Coal Owners' Association put forward a claim (a) that the minimum percentage payable on base rates should be reduced from 30 to 15, and (b) for reductions in the subsistence allowances of low-paid day-wage workers; and at a meeting of the Board in November, 1930, the Cumberland Miners' Association put forward a claim for (a) an increase in piece-workers' base rates and (b) an alteration of the conditions under which subsistence allowances are payable. The parties were unable to agree upon these claims or upon the owners' contention that the matter should, in accordance with an Agreement existing between the parties, be referred to an independent Chairman, and accordingly a joint application was made by the parties to the Coal Mines National Industrial Board for enquiry and report thereon.

The National Board reported on 19th May, 1931, that the questions at issue were not determinable by an independent Chairman; that the rates and conditions of the subsistence allowances to low-paid day-wage men should remain unaltered; that the minimum percentage on base rates should be 22½; and that the state of the industry in the district is such that the advance on piece rates asked for in the miners' counter-claim cannot be made.

The miners' representatives on the Board were unable to concur in the Report.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

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

ABSENTEEISM.—*Two studies of absenteeism in coal mines.* Report No. 62. Industrial Health Research Board. (S.O. publication; price 1s.)

BUILDING SOCIETIES.—*Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year 1930. Part 5. Building societies. Section I. Proceedings and statistical notes.* (S.O. publication; price 1s. 3d.)

HEALTH SERVICES.—*Second Annual Report of the Department of Health for Scotland, 1930.* (Cmd. 3860; price 5s. 6d.)

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.—*Proposed action by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding the Draft Convention and Recommendations regarding the regulation of hours of work in commerce and offices adopted by the International Labour Conference at its fourteenth session, 10th to 28th June, 1930.* (Cmd. 3874; price 1d.) (See page 216.)

JUVENILE LABOUR.—*Memorandum on the shortage, surplus, and redistribution of juvenile labour in England and Wales during the years 1930-1938, based on the views of Local Committees for Juvenile Employment, and issued on the recommendation of the National Advisory Council for Juvenile Employment (England and Wales).* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 3d.)

MINISTRY OF LABOUR.—*Report of the Ministry of Labour for the year 1930.* (Cmd. 3859; price 2s. 6d.) (See page 212.)

PORT LABOUR.—*Port Labour Inquiry Report.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 1s. 6d.) (See page 211.)

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—*Provisional returns of accidents and casualties as reported by the several railway companies of Great Britain during the year 1930.* (Preliminary statement.) Ministry of Transport. (S.O. publication; price 2d.)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—(a) *First Report of the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance.* (Cmd. 3872; price 1s.) (See page 210.) (b) *Minutes of evidence taken before the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th days.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publications; price 5s. 6d., 4s. 6d., 1s. 6d., 3s., 2s. 6d. and 3s. 6d. respectively.) (c) *Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1931. Selected decisions given by the Umpire on claims for benefit during the month of April, 1931.* U.I. Code 8B. Pamphlet 4/1931. (S.O. publications; price 6d.) (d) *Index to Umpire's decisions given during the year 1930 and selected for publication in the U.I. 440 and U.I. Code 8B series of pamphlets, Nos. 1/30-12/30.* (S.O. publication; price 9d.)

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE.—(a) *The Employment Committee of the Incorporated Association of Head Masters of Public Secondary Schools, in co-operation with the Ministry of Labour. Annual Report for 1930.* (S.O. publication; price 2d.) (See page 214.) (b) *Choice of Career Series, No. 11. Librarianship.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 2d.)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, MAY, 1931.

ADMIRALTY.

(Contract and Purchase Department.)

Blading Material: Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness. —**Blowers, Rotary, with Motors, Controllers, etc.:** Reavell & Co., Ltd., Ipswich. —**Boats, Motor, 37-ft.:** British Power Boat Co., Hythe, Southampton. —**Boiler:** Robey & Co., Ltd., Lincoln. —**Cabinet and Upholstery Work:** Wm. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Liverpool; Executors of late S. Snawdon, Yealmpton; J. Elliott & Sons, High Wycombe; T. Glenister, Ltd., High Wycombe; Harrods, Ltd., London, S.W.; O. C. Hawkes, Ltd., Birmingham; G. A. Large & Son, High Wycombe; Maple & Co., Ltd., London, W.; Muir Simpsons, Ltd., Glasgow. —**Cable, Chain and Gear:** Brown, Lenox & Co., Ltd., Pontypridd; J. G. Walker & Son, Ltd., Old Hill; Laird & Son, Ltd., Irvine; H. Wood & Co., Ltd., Saltney. —**Capstan and Spares:** Clarke Chapman & Co., Ltd., Gateshead-on-Tyne. —**Capstan, Steam-driven:** Caldwell & Co., Glasgow.

Collars, White, Stiff: Hookway, Sons & Cook, Ltd., London, E. —**Columns, Main-Engine:** The Steel Barrel Co., Ltd., Uxbridge. —**Coolers, Motor:** Heenan & Froude, Ltd., Worcester; Metropolitan Vickers Electrical Co., Ltd., Manchester. —**Coolers, Oil:** Serek Radiators, Ltd., Birmingham. —**Davits:** Mechans, Ltd., Glasgow. —**Laird & Son, Ltd., Irvine.** —**Doors, Cast-Steel Condenser:** Wm. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Dalmuir. —**Drums, Galvanised:** F. Francis & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; Lewis Berger & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C. —**Expanders, Tube, Roller:** C. Wicksteed & Co. (1920), Ltd., Kettering; Easterbrook, Alccard & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Joseph Evans & Sons, Sheffield. —**Herrings, Tinned:** Marshall & Co. (Aberdeen), Ltd., Aberdeen. —**India-Rubber Sheet, etc.:** India Rubber, Gutta Percha, etc., Co., Ltd., London, E.; Macinlop, Ltd., Manchester. —**Iron, Fire-Bar:** Raine & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne. —**Jars:** Pearson & Co. (Chesterfield), Ltd., Chesterfield. —**Lanterns and Gear:** Chance Bros. & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Player Mitchell & Breeden, Birmingham. —**Lathes, Capstan:** H. W. Ward & Co., Ltd., Birmingham. —**Lead Sheet and Pipe:** Walkers Parker & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. —**Machine, Gear-cutting:** John Holroyd & Co., Ltd., Rochdale. —**Machine, Grinding:** Churchill Machine Tool Co., Ltd., Manchester. —**Masts, W/T:** Milliken Bros., Ltd., Watford. —**Motor and Generator Set:** Laurence Scott & Electromotors, Ltd., Norwich. —**Motor, 165-H.P., for Motor-Generator Set:** Electric Construction Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton. —**Motors for Iris Shutters:** Consolidated Pneumatic Tool Co., Ltd., London, S.W. —**Motors, Main Propelling:** General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham. —**Motor Reducer Sets:** W. H. Allen, Sons & Co., Ltd., Bedford. —**Mustard:** J. & J. Colman, Ltd., Norwich. —**Packing, Cotton and Hemp:** Turner Bros. Asbestos Co., Ltd., Rochdale; H. Crossley, Bolton. —**Packing, Hessian:** Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee. —**Pepper:** G. T. Cox & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C. —**Plywood:** Aeronautical & Panel Plywood Co., Ltd., London, E.; Tucker Armoured Plywood Co., Ltd., Crayford. —**Pumps:** Telemotor: MacTaggart Scott & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh; Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness. —**Pumps, Water-circulating:** Armstrongs, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness. —**Rudder Frames, Forged Steel:** Dennystown Forge Co., Ltd., Dumbarton. —**Shafts, Forged Steel Propeller:** Ince Forge Co., Ltd., Wigan. —**Silk, Sewing:** Geo. Hattersley & Sons, Ltd., Keighley; Brough Nicholson & Hall (1930), Ltd., Leek. —**Suet:** Hugon & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Ogston & Tennant, Ltd., Aberdeen. —**Switchboards:** Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester. —**Tapes:** J. Taverner & Sons, Ltd., Burton-on-Trent; The Bole Hall Mill Co., Ltd., Tamworth; J. Lilley & Sons, Ltd., Derby; G. H. Wheatcroft & Co., Ltd., Wirksworth. —**Thrust Blocks, Shafts and Spares:** Broom & Wade, Ltd., High Wycombe. —**Tools, Engineers' and Shipbuilders':** J. Bedford & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; English Steel Corporation, Ltd., Manchester; J. Evans & Sons, Sheffield; Hale Bros., Ltd., Sheffield; Moore & Wright, Sheffield; Osborn & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; J. Robson & Sons, Sheffield; I. & D. Smallwood, Birmingham; J. Williams & Son, Ltd., London, E.; Wynn Timmins & Co., Ltd., Birmingham. —**Tubes, Water:** Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Glasgow. —**Valves, Silica W/T:** Mullah Radio Valve Co., Ltd., London, S.W. —**Webbing, Silk:** Geo. Hattersley & Sons, Ltd., Keighley; Brough Nicholson & Hall (1930), Ltd., Leek. —**Winch, Steam-driven, and Spares:** Clarke Chapman & Co., Ltd., Gateshead-on-Tyne.

WAR OFFICE.

Acids, Sulphuric and Nitric: Spencer, Chapman & Messel, Ltd., London, E. —**Asbestos Cement Slates, etc.:** Atlas Stone Co., Ltd., West Hartlepool. —**Barium Nitrate:** Price, Stutfield & Co., Ltd., West Hartlepool. —**Basins and Plates, Steel:** Welsh Tinsplate and Metal Stamping Co., Ltd., Llanelly. —**Batteries and Cells, Secondary Portable:** Pritchett & Gold & E.P.S. Co., Ltd., Dagenham. —**Bearskins:** C. W. Martin & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C. —**Boxes, Ammunition, etc.:** Brownlee & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Watt, Torrance & Co., Ltd., Glasgow. —**Bulbs, Electric:** General Electric Co., Ltd., Southampton. —**Caps, R.T.C. and Glangarry:** J. L. Currie & Co., Kilmarnock; L. Silberstein & Sons, London, E. —**Cans, Ammunition:** M. Cook & Sons, London, N. —**Clothing, Made-up (Jackets, Trousers, etc.):** Milns, Cartwright, Reynolds, Ltd., London, E. —**Crane, Copper Ingot:** Brandeis, Goldschmidt & Co., London, E.C. —**Curtains, Mosquito:** Sir Wm. Arrol & Co., Ltd., Glasgow. —**Cylinders:** J. G. Carrick & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Standard Can Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; H. Stevenson & Sons, Ltd., Manchester. —**Drill, Khaki:** Ritchie & Eason, Ltd., Manchester; Pothergill & Harvey, Ltd., Littleborough. —**Folding Boats:** Folding Boats and Structures, Ltd., London, S.W. —**Generating Sets, Spares:** Douglas Motors, Ltd., Bristol. —**Lathes:** A. Herbert, Ltd., Coventry. —**Motor Cars:** Riley (Coventry), Ltd., Coventry. —**Ovens, Baking, Hot-Air:** S. A. Rhodes, Ltd., Manchester. —**Paint, White Lead:** Champion, Druce & Co., Ltd., London, N. —**Precision Thread-grinding Machine:** Coventry Gauge and Tool Co. (1928), Ltd., Coventry. —**Rolls, Chilled Cast-Iron:** A. Miller & Co., Edinburgh. —**Steel Billets:** English Steel Corporation, Ltd., Sheffield. —**Steel Round:** S. Fox & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Hadfields, Ltd., Sheffield; Park Gate Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham. —**Stocks, Dies, etc.:** B.S.A. Tools, Ltd., Birmingham. —**Tin Ingot:** Wilbraham & Smith, London, E.C. —**Valves, W.T.:** Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End. —**Washers, Leather:** Nobes & Hunt, Ltd., London, S.E. —**Webbing, Spun Silk:** G. Hattersley & Sons, Ltd., Keighley. —**Wireless Telegraph Sets:** Radio Instruments, Ltd., Croydon. —**Works Services: Building Works and Services:** Catterick Camp, Erection of Accommodation for M.T. Co., R.A.S.C. and Married Soldiers' Quarters; G. McDougall & Sons, Darlington. —**Catterick Camp, Vehicle Components Store:** Tarran & Ayre, Hutton Ruddy, Northampton, Drill Shed; E. Archer & Sons, Ltd., Northampton. —**Isle of Wight, Repairs to Sea Walls at Cliff End and Warden Point:** Concrete Proofing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.

AIR MINISTRY.

Accumulators: Fuller Accumulator Co., Ltd., Chadwell Heath. —**Acid, Sulphuric:** Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., London, S.W. —**Aircraft:** Boulton & Paul, Ltd., Norwich; Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames. —**Aircraft Auto Slots:** Sir W. G. Armstrong-Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Coventry. —**Aircraft, Experiments on:** Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex. —**Aircraft, Fitting Parts:** Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex. —**Aircraft, Miscellaneous Work:** Saunders-Roe, Ltd., East Cowes. —**Aircraft, Modification:** Blackburn Aero. & Motor Co., Ltd., Brough, Yorks; Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex; Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil. —**Aircraft, Reconditioning:** Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex; Supermarine Aviation Works, Ltd., Woolston, Southampton. —**Aircraft, Repairs:** A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Manchester; Gloster Aircraft Co., Ltd., Gloucester; Handley Page, Ltd., London, N.W.; Sir W. G. Armstrong-Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Coventry; Vickers (Aviation), Ltd., Weybridge; Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil. —**Aircraft, Spares:** A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Manchester; H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames; Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil; Sir W. G. Armstrong-Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Coventry. —**Aircraft, Type Test:** Sir W. G. Armstrong-Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Coventry. —**Aircscrews:** Aircscrew Company, Ltd., Weybridge. —**Aluminium Sheets:** British Aluminium Co., Ltd., London, E.C. —**Arms, Training:** Monarch Engineering Co., Ltd., Chadwell Heath. —**Barometers, Repairs:** Negretti & Zambra, London, E.C.; S. & A. Calderara, London, E. —**Belts, Safety:** Mills Equipment Co., Ltd., London, S.W. —**Bomb Boxes:** Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., Dartford. —**Bombs, Empty:** Hadfields, Ltd., Sheffield. —**Bombs, Practice:** Plessey Co., Ltd., Ilford; Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., London, S.W. —**Buildings and Works Services:** Artificers' Work (North Weald); J. Whiffen & Sons, Ltd., Epping. Heating Installations (Hendon); Norris Warming Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Married Quarters (Aldergrove); H. & J. Martin, Ltd., Belfast. Neon Beacons (Various Stations); General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C. —**Caps:** J. Compton, Sons & Webb, Ltd., London, E. —**Castor Oil:** Hull Oil Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Hull; Premier Oil Extracting Mills, Ltd., Hull. —**Crossley Vehicles:** Crossley Motors, Ltd., Manchester. —**Coils, W/T:** H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, S.E. —**Condensers:** Telegraph Condenser Co., Ltd., London, W. —**Direction-Finding Station:** Marconi's W/T Co., Ltd., London, W.C. —**Disinfectant, Fluid:** Jeyes Sanitary Compounds, Ltd., London, W. —**Dopes:** British Celanese, Ltd., London, W.; Cellon, Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames; Nobel Chemical Finishes, Ltd., Slough. —**Drawers, Cotton Cellular:** Milns Cartwright Reynolds, Ltd., London, S.W. —**Engines, Aircraft:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; Rolls-Royce, Ltd., Derby. —**Engines, Aircraft, Development Test:** Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol. —**Engines, Aircraft, Magneto and Spares:** North & Son, Ltd., Watford. —**Engines, Aircraft, Magneto Conversion:** British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Coventry. —**Engines, Aircraft, Overhaul:** D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W. —**Engines, Aircraft, Reconditioning:** Rolls-Royce, Ltd., Derby. —**Engines, Aircraft, Spares:** Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry. —**Fire Extinguishers:** General Fire Appliance Co., Ltd., London, E.C. —**Flashing Beacon, Portable:** Chance Bros. & Co., Ltd., Birmingham. —**Generators and Motor Generator Sets:** Haslam & Newton, Ltd., Derby. —**Jackets:** Milns, Cartwright Reynolds, Ltd., London, S.W. —**Ladders, Tower, Adjustable:** Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies, Ltd., Ipswich. —**Lamps, Cockpit:** Pyne Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Teddington. —**Masts, Bentwood, Telescopic:** McGruer Hollow Spar Co., Ltd., London, S.W. —**Mobile Crane:** Ransomes & Rapiers, Ltd., Norwich. —**Morris Six-Wheel Chassis:** Morris Commercial Cars, Ltd., Birmingham. —**Motor Generators:** Rotax (M.A.), Ltd., London, N.W. —**Paint:** Locke, Lancaster & W. W. & R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C. —**Parachute Spares:** Irving Air Chute of Great Britain, Ltd., Letchworth. —**Proofing of Fabric:** J. Mandelberg & Co., Ltd., Manchester. —**Radiators and Cases:** Serek Radiators, Ltd., Birmingham. —**Receivers:** Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. —**Steel Wire:** John Shaw, Ltd., Sheffield. —**Suits, Aviation:** Robinson & Cleaver, Ltd., London, W. —**Switchboxes:** Plessey Co., Ltd., Ilford. —**Transmitters:** Marconi's W/T Co., Ltd., London, W.C. —**Trousers:** John Hammond & Co. (1922), Ltd., Crew; L. Silberstein & Sons, London, E. —**Tyres:** Firestone Tyre & Rubber Co. (1922), Ltd., Brentford; Palmer Tyre, Ltd., London, E.C. —**Valves:** Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., London, W. —**Weights, Aerial:** Spencer Bros., Ltd., London, N. —**Wheels and Tyres, Aero.:** Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Birmingham.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Asbestos Cement Roofing: Asbestos Cement Building Products, Ltd., London, E.C. —**Axlebox Bearings:** Anti-Attrition Metal Co., Ltd., London, S.E. —**Bitumastic Solution:** Wailes Dove Bitumastic, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne. —**Blankets:** T. & D. Lee & Sons, Dewsbury. —**Boots:** S. Walker, Northampton. —**Bricks:** J. C. Edwards (Ruabon), Ltd., Ruabon. —**Cable:** Derby Cables, Ltd., Derby; W. & T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. —**Canvas:** Waterproofing Co., Ltd., London, S.W. —**Carriage Tyres:** Taylor Bros. & Co., Ltd., Manchester. —**Cement:** Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., Casebourne & Co. (1926), Ltd., Stockton-on-Tees. —**Chassis:** Albion Motor Car Co., Ltd., Glasgow. —**Clayton Installation:** Clayton Installations, Ltd., London, W.C. —**Clothing:** Hobson & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E. Milns, Cartwright, Reynolds, Ltd., London, S.W. —**Coaches:** Sentinel Wagon Works, Ltd., London, S.W. —**Cranes:** Babcock & Wilcox, Ltd., London, E.C.; T. Smith & Sons (Rodley), Ltd., Rodley. —**Dental Equipment:** The Amalgamated Dental Co., Ltd., London, W. —**Drill:** E. Spinner

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