



RECEIVED
-1 FEB 1945
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC POLICY

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

VOL. LIII—No. 1.]

JANUARY, 1945.

[PRICE SIXPENCE NET.]

CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
Essential Work (Building and Civil Engineering) Order, 1944	1	Seamen's Welfare in Ports: Report of Committee	5
Essential Work (General Provisions) (Amendment) Order, 1944	1	Expenditure on Public Social Services	5
Wages Board for Unlicensed Non-Residential Catering Establishments: Report of the Catering Wages Commission; Wages Board (Unlicensed Place of Refreshment) Order, 1944	2	Apprenticeship Training on Special Building Works	6
Industrial and Staff Canteen Undertakings Wages Board: Proposed Extension of Scope	2	Emergency Domestic Help for Private Households	6
Joint Industrial Councils: New Council for the Surgical Dressings Industry	2	Employment, Wages, Hours of Labour, Cost of Living and Trade Disputes in 1944	7
Conditions of Employment and National Arbitration (Amendment) Order, 1944	3	Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour	12
Working Hours of Juveniles: Regulations relating to Printing, Bookbinding and Textile Factories	3	Fatal Industrial Accidents; Industrial Diseases	13
Disabled Persons (Employment) Act: Advisory Council	3	Changes in Retail Prices and Cost of Living	14
National Service: Additional Men for the Armed Forces; Recruitment for certain Women's Services	3	Trade Disputes in December	15
Registration for Employment Orders: Further Registration of Women	3	Unemployment Fund	16
Higher Appointments: Resettlement Plans	4	Unemployment Allowances	16
		Employment Overseas	16
		Retail Prices Overseas	16
		Legal Cases affecting Labour	17
		Conditions of Employment and National Arbitration Orders: Arbitration Awards	17
		Industrial Courts Act, 1919, and Conciliation Act, 1896: Arbitration Awards; Enquiry	17
		Trade Boards Acts: Notices and Orders	18
		Statutory Rules and Orders	18
		Official Publications Received	18

SPECIAL ARTICLES, REVIEWS, ETC.

ESSENTIAL WORK (BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING) ORDER, 1944.

By the above-mentioned Order,* made by the Minister of Labour and National Service on 19th December, 1944, in agreement with representatives of both sides of the building and civil engineering industries, provision has been made for certain amendments of the Essential Work (Building and Civil Engineering) Order, 1942, similar to those made in July, 1944, in the case of the Essential Work (General Provisions) Order.†

The principal amendments made by the new Order affect the provisions of the original Order which relate to persons dismissed from employment on the ground of serious misconduct. Under these provisions, in cases where a worker was dismissed for serious misconduct, and the Local Appeal Board was of opinion that the dismissal was not justified, a National Service Officer could direct the worker's reinstatement; the guaranteed wage provisions then applied to the period between dismissal and reinstatement, the dismissal was treated as ineffective, and any sums earned in other employment in the whole of that period were deducted from the total amount of the guaranteed wage for that period. These provisions are now amended by the new Order so as (i) to enable a National Service Officer in the above circumstances to give notice to both parties of the opinion of the Board without giving a reinstatement direction; (ii) to enable the guaranteed wage provisions to be applied to the period between the dismissal and the giving of the notice; (iii) to provide that the dismissal is ineffective up to the date of the notice, but that then the employment is properly at an end; and (iv) to provide that the deduction from the guaranteed wage of wages earned in other employment is calculated in respect of each prescribed period falling within the period between the dismissal and reinstatement or dismissal

* S.R. & O. 1944, No. 1435. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (2d. post free).

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for August, 1944, page 122.

and notice instead of lumping the two totals and deducting the one from the other.

A further amendment effected by the new Order consists in the substitution in the earlier Order of more explicit provisions so as to make it clear that members of the armed forces and women belonging to certain classes (including members of the women's auxiliary services), when working in a scheduled undertaking or in scheduled works on a scheduled site, will not come under the Order, if, when so working, they are at the same time in receipt of pay as such members or as belonging to such classes.

The new Order came into force on 1st January, 1945.

ESSENTIAL WORK (GENERAL PROVISIONS) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1944.

The Minister of Labour and National Service has made an Order* under the above title amending certain provisions of the Essential Work (General Provisions) (No. 2) Order, 1942.†

Under the provisions in question notice to terminate the employment of a specified person in a scheduled undertaking may be given by either party before the permission of a National Service Officer has been granted, and if the notice has expired, the granting of permission enables the employment to be terminated at once. The present Order now makes provision so that the permission when granted will not be effective until at least seven days after the application for permission has been received at a local office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service. The requirement as to notice is not affected.

The Order was made on 22nd December, 1944, and took effect on 8th January, 1945.

* S.R. & O. 1944, No. 1467. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (2d. post free).

† S.R. & O. 1942, No. 1594. H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net (4d. post free).

HOURS OF LABOUR.

No changes were reported to have occurred during the year 1944 in the hours constituting a normal week's work. The following Table shows the number of workpeople, in the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department,* whose hours were reported as changed in each of the past twenty years, and the aggregate net amount of the change.

Table showing the number of workpeople whose normal hours of labour were increased or reduced, and the aggregate net increase or decrease in weekly hours from 1925 to 1944.

The comparatively large numbers affected in the years 1926, 1930 and 1931 consisted mainly of coal miners. In 1937 the workpeople affected were mainly printers, coal miners and flour millers, in 1938 mainly boot and shoe operatives, and in 1939 and 1940 mainly juvenile workers under 16 years of age employed in a large number of industries.

COST OF LIVING.

There was a slight rise in the general level of working-class costs of living during 1944, the official index figure at 1st January, 1945, being 102 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, compared with 99 per cent. at 1st January, 1944, and the average for the year 1944 being nearly 101 per cent. above the July, 1914, level, compared with an average of 99 per cent. for 1943.

In his Budget statement in April, 1944, the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that it was the Government's firm intention to continue the policy (first announced in the Budget statement of 1941) of controlling retail prices and subsidising essential goods and services with a view to stabilising the cost of living, apart from minor seasonal changes. He added, however, that should increasing wage costs, not offset by increased output, raise the cost of vital commodities such as coal, these increases should not be artificially masked by making arbitrary reductions in the prices of other articles in order to maintain the level of the cost-of-living index unchanged, but should be allowed to reflect themselves in the cost-of-living index in the natural way. The rise in the index figure during 1944 was, in fact, largely due to increases in the price of coal.

The following Table shows, for 1st September, 1939, and for each month in 1944, the figures for each of the five main groups of items included within the scope of the cost-of-living index:—

Average Percentage Increases in Retail Prices, Rents, etc., over the level of July, 1914.

Table showing average percentage increases in retail prices, rents, etc., over the level of July, 1914, for various categories of goods from 1939 to 1944.

The relatively small movements in the "all items" index during 1944 were principally due to upward movements in the fuel and light index and to slight increases in the average prices of clothing. The only changes in the index of food prices were those resulting from seasonal variations in the prices of potatoes during the summer months, while the index figures for rent and for the "other items" group remained unchanged throughout the year.

Of the rise of 47 points in the index between 1st September, 1939, and 1st January, 1945, the increases in the taxes on sugar, tobacco and cigarettes, and matches account for about 44 points; and approximately three-fourths of a point is due to increases in prices resulting from the Purchase Tax.†

* See footnote † in the second column on page 7. † Of the commodities of which account is taken in the cost-of-living index, non-utility clothing (including clothing materials and adults' footwear), domestic ironmongery and pottery were still subject to Purchase Tax at 1st January, 1945.

Food.—From 1st January to 1st June, inclusive, the average level of retail prices of the articles of food included within the scope of the statistics was 68 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 38 per cent. at 1st September, 1939. The percentage rose to 69 at 1st July and to 70 at 1st August in consequence of the seasonal replacement of old potatoes by the new crop at higher prices. During the following two months there were successive reductions in the average price of potatoes, in consequence of which the food index reverted to 68 per cent. above the July, 1914, level by the end of September and remained at that level for the rest of the year.

The following Table shows the average retail prices at 1st January, 1945, in comparison with those a year earlier and at the outbreak of the war:—

Table showing average retail prices at 1st January, 1945, compared with 1st January, 1944, and 1st September, 1939, for various food items.

Throughout 1944 the retail prices of all the articles included in the above Table were controlled by the Ministry of Food. There were seasonal variations in the maximum permitted prices of potatoes, and also in the maximum prices of milk in some parts of the United Kingdom. Apart from these seasonal variations there were no changes, during 1944, materially affecting the average level of prices for any of the articles of food shown in the Table.

Rent.—The rents of unfurnished working-class dwellings remained subject to the control of the Rent Restrictions Acts, and the average level of such rents (including local rates) was practically stationary throughout 1944, being about 64 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, and about 1 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939. The rise of 1 per cent. since the latter date is due to increases in local rates in some districts.

Clothing.—The downward movement in the average prices of working-class clothing and clothing materials, which began during 1942, was arrested by the end of 1943, and during 1944 there was a slight upward movement in the average level of prices. The earlier downward movement had been chiefly due to the progressive replacement of "non-utility" clothing by "utility" clothing, which is exempt from purchase tax. During 1944, however, this process of substitution had largely ceased, and the relative proportions of "non-utility" and "utility" goods showed little change, on the whole, during the year. Changes in the prices of such non-utility clothing as remained on sale were relatively slight, but the retail ceiling prices of some kinds of utility clothing were raised during 1944, and there were some increases in actual prices, particularly in those of men's suits. For working-class clothing as a whole, the returns furnished to the Department indicate that at 1st January, 1945, the average level of prices was between 1 and 2 per cent. higher than at 1st January, 1944, and about 67 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939. For men's suits and overcoats the average increase in prices during 1944 was equivalent to about 5 per cent.; for each of three other groups of items which are covered by the figures, viz., woollen materials, woollen underclothing and hosiery, cotton materials and cotton hosiery, and boots and shoes, the average change in price levels during 1944 was equivalent to less than 1 per cent.

Fuel and Light.—There were substantial increases in the retail prices of coal during 1944. A general increase of 3s. a ton came into operation at 1st February, followed by a general increase of 4s. a ton on 1st August, with corresponding increases in each case in the prices per cwt. As a result of these increases, the average level of the retail prices of coal at 1st January, 1945, was about 12 per cent. higher than a year earlier, and about 46 per cent. above the level of 1st September, 1939. The price of gas was raised in some areas during 1944, and the description of bacon specified for quotation is streaky, but where this kind was seldom being sold the returns relate to another kind, locally representative. † This figure is an average calculated from the prices of various brands of margarine on sale at 1st September, 1939.

† Of the two prices shown for eggs at 1st January, 1945, and at 1st January, 1944, 2d. was for large eggs (in Ministry of Food category I) and 1½d. for small eggs (in category II). At 1st September, 1939, the average price for eggs, as shown by the returns received, was between 1½d. and 2d.

average level of prices rose by about 4 per cent. during the year. There was practically no change in the average level of prices of lamp oil, candles and matches.

Miscellaneous Other Items.—There was a slight upward movement in the average price of soda during 1944, but for the remaining articles included in this group, viz., soap, domestic ironmongery, brushes and pottery, tobacco and cigarettes, fares, and newspapers, such changes in prices as occurred were relatively unimportant.

Comparison with previous years.—The following Table compares the averages of the percentage increases recorded for the beginning of each of the twelve months of 1944 with the corresponding averages for each of the previous nineteen years:—

Table showing average percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, for various categories of goods from 1925 to 1944.

It should be noted that the foregoing figures are designed to indicate the average percentage increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the standard of living prevailing among working-class households at July, 1914, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living since that date or for any economies or readjustments in consumption and expenditure resulting from the war.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of industrial disputes involving stoppages of work,* reported to the Department as having begun in 1944 in the United Kingdom, was 2,185, as compared with 1,785 in the previous year.

The total number of workpeople involved in all stoppages in progress in 1944 was about 830,000,† of whom about 105,000 were indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes). The total number of workpeople involved in all stoppages in progress in the previous year was about 560,000.†

The aggregate number of working days lost on account of stoppages, at the establishments where the disputes occurred, is estimated at about 3,700,000 in 1944, compared with about 1,800,000 in 1943.

Principal Disputes in 1944.—The coal mining industry accounted for more than one-half of all the stoppages in 1944 and for two-thirds of the aggregate number of working days lost. Most of the loss of time in this industry was caused by stoppages of work in the early months of 1944 following an Award of the National Reference Tribunal for the industry, issued on 22nd January, providing for increases in the minimum weekly wages for underground and surface workers, but rejecting a claim for increased piece-work rates while recommending a general review of the wage structure of the industry. A series of stoppages through dissatisfaction with this Award occurred in Lancashire, Staffordshire, Yorkshire, Durham, Wales and Monmouthshire, and Scotland at various dates during January to March. Altogether over 170,000 workpeople were involved and about 850,000 working days were lost as a result of these stoppages, the largest of which affected numerous collieries in Wales and Monmouthshire during the second and third weeks of March, about 100,000 workpeople being involved with a loss of over 550,000 working days. There was also a stoppage of work in the Yorkshire coalfield, arising from dissatisfaction at the inclusion of 3s. 6d. a week, in respect of "home coal" allowance, in the minimum wage payable under the National Tribunal Award. This dispute affected a number of collieries on different dates and for varying periods between the middle of March and the end of the first week in April; it is estimated that approximately 120,000 workpeople were involved and that about 1,000,000 working days were lost. In the first half of October, about 45,000 working days were lost in a stoppage affecting about 9,000 colliery workpeople in Durham, resulting from the rejection, by the District Conciliation Board, of a claim by deputies for increased wages.

* Stoppages of work due to disputes not connected with terms of employment or conditions of labour are excluded from the statistics. In addition, stoppages involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, are also omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate number of working days lost exceeded 100. The figures given for 1944 are preliminary and subject to revision.

† Some workpeople, chiefly in the coal mining industry, were involved in more than one stoppage in the year, and have therefore been counted more than once in the year's total. The net number of individuals involved in stoppages in progress during the year was approximately 590,000 in 1944, compared with approximately 410,000 in 1943. For coal mining alone the corresponding totals were approximately 350,000 in 1944 and 180,000 in 1943.

The metal, engineering, and shipbuilding industries accounted for more than one-fourth of the total number of stoppages of work in 1944 and of the aggregate number of working days lost. At the end of February a stoppage of work began at Belfast involving fitters employed by a large firm of engineers and shipbuilders, arising from a demand for an increase in the wages of time workers. During March several thousand additional engineering and shipyard operatives and aircraft workers became involved; and early in April there was a further large extension, in protest against the prosecution and imprisonment of certain shop stewards for their participation in the strike of aircraft workers. It is estimated that, in all, about 36,000 workpeople were involved (directly and indirectly) at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, with an aggregate loss of over 400,000 working days. A stoppage of work involving over 2,000 engineering operatives at Glasgow began at the end of August and continued for nearly two months, with a loss of more than 100,000 working days; in the first place the workers concerned demanded the dismissal of an employee who, it was alleged, had not served a recognised apprenticeship, but claims for increases in wages were subsequently added. About 55,000 working days were lost by 5,000 engineering operatives at Accrington and Blackburn owing to a dispute in the second and third weeks of August on a question of the employment of women on certain work which had previously been done by men.

In the following Table, the disputes involving stoppages of work* in the United Kingdom in 1944 are classified by industry, and corresponding figures are given for 1943:—

Table showing the number of stoppages, workpeople involved, and aggregate number of working days lost in all stoppages in progress, for various industries in 1944 and 1943.

Summary for 1925-1944.—In the following Table comparable figures are given for each of the years 1925-1944*.

Table showing the number of stoppages, workpeople involved, and aggregate number of working days lost in all stoppages in progress during the year, from 1925 to 1944.

It will be seen that the total number of workpeople involved in stoppages of work through industrial disputes in 1944 was greater than in any year since 1926 and that the aggregate number of working days lost through such disputes was greater than in any year since 1932.

* See footnote * in previous column. † Workpeople involved in more than one stoppage in any year are counted more than once in the year's total: see note † in previous column. ‡ In addition, about 5,000 workpeople were involved in stoppages which began in 1943 and continued into 1944. § In 1926 there was a general stoppage of work in the coal mining industry, which lasted from May to December, and a general stoppage of work in a large number of other industries, in support of the miners, during the early part of May.

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

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics,* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation during December resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at approximately £14,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 90,000 workpeople and in a slight decrease in the wages of about 1,000 workpeople.

The principal increases in rates of wages in December affected building operatives in certain districts of England and Wales and workpeople employed in the rubber manufacturing industry. Other industries in which increases were reported included pre-cast concrete products manufacture in Scotland, the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trade in Northern Ireland, the dressmaking and women's light clothing trade in Scotland, inland waterways transport in England, and cotton waste reclamation.

In the building industry, increases ranging from ¼d. to 3d. an hour for craftsmen and from ¼d. to 2½d. an hour for labourers took effect in a number of the lower-paid districts in Yorkshire, the North-Western and South-Western Counties of England, and Wales and Monmouthshire, consequent upon the transference of these districts to higher-paid grades under the national grading scheme of the National Joint Council for the Building Industry. In the rubber manufacturing industry there were increases in the minimum rates of wages recognised by the Joint Industrial Council for the industry of 1d. an hour for workers 19 years of age and over, and ¾d. or ½d. an hour for younger workers. Men employed in pre-cast concrete products manufacture in Scotland were granted an increase of 1d. an

hour. In the readymade and wholesale bespoke tailoring trade in Northern Ireland, the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were raised by 1½d. an hour in the case of men and 1¼d. an hour in the case of women. In the retail branch of the dressmaking and women's light clothing trade in Scotland, the Trade Board minimum rates were raised by 1d. an hour for female learners and 1¼d. an hour for other women and girls. Adult shore workers employed on inland waterways in England received increases in minimum rates of 1s. a week in some areas and 2s. a week in others. The Trade Board minimum rates in the cotton waste reclamation trade were raised by 1d. an hour for men and women.

In the pressed felt manufacturing industry in the Rosendale Valley there were slight decreases in wage rates under the operation of a sliding scale by which wages are regulated in accordance with variations in the official cost-of-living index number.

Of the total increase of £14,000, about £5,000 was the result of arrangements made by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople; £8,000 took effect under arbitration awards; and nearly all the remainder was the result of negotiations between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes in hours of labour were reported during December.

Changes in Wages and Hours in 1944.

A special article dealing with these changes is published on pages 7 to 10.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER.

Table with 5 columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change. Includes entries for Coke Manufacture, Pre-Cast Concrete Products, Engineering, Agricultural Implement and Machine Knife Grinding, Pressed Felt Manufacture, Readymade and Wholesale Bespoke Tailoring, Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing, Packing Case Making, and Furniture Manufacture.

* The particulars of numbers affected by changes in rates of wages and working hours, and of the amount of change in weekly wages and hours of labour, exclude changes affecting Government employees, agricultural workers, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the industry rates available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics.

† This increase took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in accordance with a sliding scale based upon the selling price of coke. Flat-rate advances, previously granted in addition to basis rates and percentages, remained unchanged.

‡ This rate is to apply in establishments in the Bath district affiliated to the Engineering and Allied Employers' West of England Association; it is not to affect labourers who are already in receipt of an inclusive wage of 74s. 6d. a week, however constituted, or semi-skilled men who are already in receipt of a base rate of 2s. or more above the new inclusive weekly rate.

§ The percentage increases were the result of an award by the National Arbitration Tribunal, given on the understanding that the flat-rate increases would be made by agreement.

¶ Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. * These increases took effect under Orders issued under the Trade Boards Acts. Details are contained in the confirming Orders of the Minister of Labour, obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office.

†† These increases were agreed upon in December and made retrospective to the date shown.

‡‡ Home bakeries are bakeries (other than those producing 1 lb. or 2 lb. batch loaves or pan loaves exceeding 1 lb. in weight) in which the number of workers engaged in occupations within the scope of the Trade Board does not exceed six.

§§ These increases were the result of an award of the National Arbitration Tribunal. The award provides that the rates, which are minima, shall not operate either to reduce existing rates which are in excess of the appropriate minima or to prevent the payment of additional merit rates for special skill or ability.

||| Excluding the towns of Derby and Leicester.

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

Table with 5 columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change. Includes entries for Building, Electrical Contracting, Asphalt Manufacture, Cotton Waste Reclamation, and Rubber Manufacture.

* The localities affected are as follows: North-Western Region—Kirkby Lonsdale, Sedburgh and Tebay (B2 to A3), Appleby and Kirkby Stephen (B3 to A3), Counties of Merionethshire (except Barmouth, Harlech and Tynryn) and Montgomeryshire (B1 to B); Yorkshire Region—Hatfield Woodhouse and Thorne (B3 to A1), Market Weighton (B3 to A2), Boroughbridge, Dishforth, Kirby Moorside, Masham, Pateley Bridge, Pickering (B3 to A3); South-Western Region—Clevedon (B1 to A1), Frome (B2 to A2), Midsomer Norton including Radstock (B1 to A2), districts graded B1 and B2 in Devonshire, Cornwall, Dorsetshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Somersetshire and Wiltshire (to B); South Wales Region—Hay and Talgarth (B2 to B), Pencader (B1 to B), Knighton, New Radnor and Presteign (B3 to B), districts in Cardiganshire (B1 to B), Pembroke Dock and Pembroke Town (B1 to A3), Fishguard, Haverfordwest, Narberth, St. David's and Tenby (B3 to A3). In addition a number of districts were graded for the first time.

† This increase was agreed upon in December, and made retrospective to the date shown. ‡ These increases were recommended by a resolution of the National Joint Council for the Inland Waterway Industry. § These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Trade Boards Acts. Details of the minimum rates are contained in the Confirming Order of the Minister of Labour and National Service, obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office. || These increases applied to the workpeople of firms covered by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Rubber Manufacturing Industry.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople, other than seamen,* whose deaths from accidents in the course of their employment occurred or were reported in the United Kingdom in December† was 162 as compared with 176† in the previous month and with 209† in December 1943. Details for separate industries are given below—

Table with 3 columns: Category, Description, and Count. Includes sub-sections for MINES AND QUARRIES, FACTORIES, and RAILWAY SERVICE. Total (excluding Seamen) is 162.

* Statistics of fatal accidents to seamen are not available. † For mines and quarries, weekly returns are furnished and the figures cover the 4 weeks ended 30th December, 1944, in comparison with the 5 weeks ended 2nd December, 1944, and the 5 weeks ended 1st January, 1944. ‡ Revised figure.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

The Table below shows the number of cases* and deaths* in the United Kingdom, reported during December under the Factories Act, 1937, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926:—

Table with 2 main columns: I. Cases and II. Deaths. Sub-sections include LEAD POISONING, EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER), and ANTHRAX.

* 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 or not included (as cases) in the same or previous returns.

SINGLE ARBITRATORS AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION.

During December, 1944, four awards were issued by Single Arbitrators appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919. One of these awards is summarised below; the other three related to individual undertakings.

Parties: The City of Glasgow Boot and Shoemakers' Society and the City of Glasgow Master Boot Makers' Association. *Claim:* For an increase in wages on the current rates for "repair work". *Award:* The Arbitrator in his award, dated 4th December, 1944, granted an increase of 10 per cent. on the current rates including certain extras.

CIVIL SERVICE ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL.

During December, 1944, the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal issued two awards, Nos. 83 and 84. *Award No. 83* related to a claim for revised basic rates of pay for Inspectors, Sergeants and Park-keepers in the Royal Parks and Gardens. The Tribunal awarded revised basic rates for each class of employee concerned. *Award No. 84* related to a claim that Chief Officers, Matrons, the Superintendent of Weaving and the Superintendent of Printing and Binding employed in certain establishments under the jurisdiction of the Prison Commissioners should be entitled to payment at time rate-and-a-quarter for all hours worked in excess of 88 a fortnight. The Tribunal awarded in favour of the claim but limited the operation of the Award to a period of three years ending 31st December, 1947, when the matter can be reviewed in the light of the circumstances then obtaining.

ENQUIRY.

After discussions with the employer and trade union representatives concerned, the Minister of Labour and National Service has appointed Sir John Forster to conduct an enquiry under the Conciliation Act, 1896, with the following terms of reference:—"To enquire into and report on questions that have arisen between certain trade unions and certain company omnibus undertakings, members of the National Council for the Omnibus Industry, as to terms and conditions of employment of workers in those undertakings."

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

During December, 1944, proposals to vary minimum rates of wages in the trades concerned were issued as shown below:—

Laundry Trade Board (Great Britain).—Proposal W. (48) and (49), dated 6th December, 1944.

Boot and Floor Polish Trade Board (Great Britain).—Proposal B.P. (22), dated 7th December, 1944.

Perambulator and Invalid Carriage Trade Board (Great Britain).—Proposal I. (41), dated 29th December, 1944.

Laundry Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Proposal N.I.L. (N. 23), dated 11th December, 1944.

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Proposal N.I.W.D. (N. 46), dated 18th December, 1944.

Further information concerning any of the proposals listed above may be obtained by persons engaged in the respective trades from the Secretary of the Board concerned at Ebury Bridge House, Ebury Bridge Road, London, S.W.1., for Boards in Great Britain, or at Tyrone House, Ormeau Avenue, Belfast, for Boards in Northern Ireland.

CONFIRMING ORDERS.

During December, 1944, Orders* confirming variations of minimum rates of wages in the trades concerned were made as follows:—

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (Scotland).—Order W.D.S. (32), dated 15th December, 1944; effective from 27th December, 1944.

Toy Manufacturing Trade Board (Great Britain).—Order Y. (35), dated 18th December, 1944; effective from 1st January, 1945.

Baking Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Order N.I.Bk. (30), dated 12th December, 1944; effective from 19th December, 1944.

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Order N.I.B.S. (45), dated 29th December, 1944; effective from 8th January, 1945.

STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS.

The undermentioned Orders relating to matters with which the Ministry of Labour and National Service are concerned, either directly or indirectly, have recently been published in the series of *Statutory Rules and Orders*. The price of each Order* is 1d. net (2d. post free).

The Wages Board (Unlicensed Place of Refreshment) Order, 1944 (S. R. & O. 1944, No. 1399), dated December 14, 1944, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under the Catering Wages Act, 1943.—See page 2.

The Unemployment Insurance (Banking Industry Special Scheme) (Amendment) Order, 1944 (S. R. & O. 1944, No. 1421).—By this Order, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service on 18th December, 1944, provision has been made in relation to the Banking Industry Special Scheme for increases, where required, in the rates of benefit payable under the Scheme, so as to bring these rates up to the level of the increased rates provided for persons insured under the general provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Acts by the Unemployment Insurance (Increase of Benefit) Act, 1944, particulars of which were given in the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1944, page 180. The Order took effect on 18th December, 1944.

The Essential Work (Building and Civil Engineering) Order, 1944 (S. R. & O. 1944, No. 1435), dated December 19, 1944, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Regulation 58A of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939.—See page 1.

The Conditions of Employment and National Arbitration (Amendment) Order, 1944 (S. R. & O. 1944, No. 1437), dated December 5, 1944, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Regulation 58AA of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939.—See page 3.

The Weekly Hours of Young Persons under Sixteen in Factories (Various Textile and Allied Industries) (Continuance) Regulations, 1944 (S. R. & O. 1944, No. 1461), and *The Weekly Hours of Young Persons under Sixteen in Factories (Printing and Book-binding) (Continuance) Regulations, 1944* (S. R. & O. 1944, No. 1462), dated December 29, 1944, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Section 71 (2) of the Factories Act, 1937.—See page 3.

The Delegation of Emergency Powers (Ministry of Education for Northern Ireland) Order, 1944 (S. R. & O. 1944, No. 1464).—By this Order, made on 30th December, 1944, under Regulation 102A of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, the Home Secretary delegated certain of his powers to the Ministry of Education for Northern Ireland for the purpose of the provision of nursery centres for the children of women war workers.

The Essential Work (General Provisions) (Amendment) Order, 1944 (S. R. & O. 1944, No. 1467), dated December 22, 1944, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Regulation 58A of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939.—See page 1.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.*

(NOTE.—The prices shown are net; those in brackets include postage.)

CATERING WAGES COMMISSION.—*Report on the Recommendation for the Establishment of a Wages Board for Unlicensed Non-Residential Catering Establishments.* Cmd. 6569. Ministry of Labour and National Service. Price 3d. (4d.).—See page 2 of this GAZETTE.

HIGHER APPOINTMENTS.—*Report of the Committee appointed by the Minister of Labour and National Service in July, 1943.* Cmd. 6576. January, 1945. Price 1s. (1s. 2d.).—See page 4 of this GAZETTE.

REINSTATEMENT IN CIVIL EMPLOYMENT.—*Selected Decisions given by the Umpire in respect of Applications under the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act, 1944.* R.E. Code 1. Pamphlets Nos. 1, 2 and 3. Ministry of Labour and National Service. Price 1d. each (2d.).

SCOTTISH COALFIELDS.—*Report of Scottish Coalfields Committee.* Cmd. 6575. Scottish Home Department. Price 3s. (3s. 4d.).

SEAMEN'S WELFARE IN PORTS.—*Report of the Committee appointed by the Minister of Labour and National Service and the Minister of War Transport in 1943.* November, 1944. Price 9d. (10d.).—See page 5 of this GAZETTE.

* Copies of official publications (including Orders, Regulations, etc.) referred to in this GAZETTE may be purchased from H.M. Stationery Office at the addresses below.

LONDON: PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses: York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 13a Castle Street, Edinburgh, 2; 39-41 King Street, Manchester 2; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; 80 Chichester Street, Belfast; or through any bookseller.

Annual Subscription, 7s. 6d. net, post free.