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Economic Survey, 1957

THE Economic Survey, 1957, has been presented to Parliament by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and published by H.M. Stationery Office as a Command Paper (Cmnd. 113), price 2s. net (2s. 2d. including postage). The Survey contains a review of developments in the United Kingdom economy in 1956, preceded by a brief outline of world economic conditions during the year and followed by a section dealing with the United Kingdom's overseas trade and payments in 1956 ; a final chapter discusses the present outlook. The introduction notes that prospects for the future are considered in the Survey as they appeared in the middle of March and therefore no account is taken of the possible effects of labour disputes and other occurrences after that time. An Appendix to the Survey gives particulars in more detail about individual industries :—fuel and power, steel, the metal-using industries, building, textiles and clothing, and agriculture.

In making a general economic assessment of the year 1956 the Survey says that the economic policy followed during the year was one of disinflation, designed to encourage exports, check imports and stabilise prices. It was also the Government's desire to place the main burden of restraint on consumption rather than on investment. On the whole this policy was successful ; but the difficulties in the Middle East, while they had produced no widespread effects on trade or production as a whole by the end of the year, did cause a severe strain on the external banking position. In 1956 consumption was progressively checked. The investment boom continued but the rate of expansion slowed down. Exports rose at a rather faster rate than in the previous year and showed a greater expansion than any other sector of the economy ; imports remained stable. Stocks were again built up but at a slower rate than in 1955. Government expenditure increased slightly in real terms, partly because of the Suez crisis. The sum of these demands on the economy represented very little increase above the level of the previous year and called for only small changes in the rate of home output and imports. Industrial production as a whole remained at the same level as in 1955. Thus, by forgoing increases in consumption and production and simultaneously encouraging exports, the United Kingdom secured a substantial improvement in the current balance of payments, converting the deficit of £79 millions in 1955 into a surplus of £233 millions in 1956. The Survey points out, however,

that the rising trend in wages and prices, which had been very marked in 1955, remained a source of anxiety. There were a number of substantial wage increases at the end of 1955 and in the first four months of 1956, and mainly because of these increases the level of personal incomes in 1956 as a whole rose to 8 per cent. and of prices to 5 per cent. above the 1955 levels. Gross corporate profits rose by 4 per cent. in 1956. From the spring of 1956, when the Government appealed to both sides of industry for stability, a "plateau" of prices was maintained for six months. Towards the end of the year the aftermath of the Suez crisis led to a further rise in prices, but this was not of significant proportions. Some of the main items of information given in more detail in other sections of the Survey are summarised below.

The United Kingdom Economy in 1956

In considering the national income and expenditure accounts the Survey says that, among the various classes of expenditure, the most striking feature in 1956 was the absence of any significant increase in consumers' expenditure, after allowing for higher prices. Total expenditure on goods and services, including those produced for export, is estimated to have increased in real terms, *i.e.*, after allowing for changes in prices, by £340 millions between 1955 and 1956. Exports accounted for most of this increase and there was only a small increase in domestic expenditure as a whole. Estimated on the same basis (*i.e.*, at 1955 prices), total expenditure in 1955 compared with the previous year had risen by £910 millions, of which £670 millions arose from home demand. The increase in total supplies in 1956, corresponding to the increase of £340 millions, at 1955 prices, in total expenditure, consisted of an increase of £240 millions in the gross value of output at home and of £100 millions in imports. The Survey notes that the latter figure may be compared with the increase of £370 millions in imports in 1955.

Details given in the Survey show the changes in expenditure in 1956 on fixed investment and investment in stocks and work in progress and in expenditure by public authorities and by consumers. There was an increase estimated at £80 millions in real terms (*i.e.*, at 1955 prices) in fixed investment in 1956, compared with an increase of £160 millions in 1955. Public investment in housing continued to fall but investment in private building remained steady. In giving figures to

show the rate of expansion of fixed investment in the last five years, the Survey says that the volume of investment in 1956 was nearly one-third above that in 1952, an increase more than proportionate to the increase in national output. It comments that we are devoting a considerably larger proportion of our resources to investment today than before the war, and this proportion has been rising steadily in recent years. Over the period 1951 to 1956 fixed investment has accounted for no less than one-third of the increase in national output. Since 1954 the greatest expansion has been in manufacturing industry and in the distributive and other services. Stocks and work in progress rose during the year, but the increase is estimated to have been about £100 millions less than the increase in 1955. Total current expenditure on goods and services by public authorities increased by 1½ per cent. in real terms in 1956. At current prices, the increase in civilian expenditure by the Government and local authorities together amounted to £191 millions. Defence expenditure rose by £111 millions. The real volume of consumers' expenditure rose only slightly in 1956, the increase of £600 millions, or 5 per cent., in actual expenditure being almost wholly attributable to higher prices. The Survey notes that the slight increase in the real volume of consumers' expenditure resulted from a sharp fall in purchases of cars and durable household goods, offset by small increases in other types of expenditure, including increases of 2 per cent. in food consumption and 3 per cent. in expenditure on clothing and footwear.

Total personal income rose by 8 per cent. in 1956 compared with 1955, although output was little above the level of the previous year. Wages and salaries increased by 9 per cent., mainly as a result of increases in rates of pay. Rents, dividends and interest increased by 6 per cent. and the incomes of self-employed persons by less than 2 per cent. After payment of tax and National Insurance contributions the nation's personal disposable income was 8 per cent. higher than in 1955. The gross trading profits of companies rose less in 1956 than in previous years, the estimated increase being about £85 millions, or 3 per cent. In manufacturing industries as a whole, although not in all the constituent industries, present information suggests that profits were slightly reduced. Dividend payments rose, but the rise was much less than in 1955. The Survey gives some information on the movement of costs in 1956 and estimates that average annual earnings in manufacturing industries rose by 8 per cent. As there was a fall in output per man-year, labour costs per unit of output increased substantially. The estimates of total personal income and expenditure for the year show a balance representing personal savings which was nearly £500 millions greater than in 1955 and brought the total of personal savings up to 10 per cent. of disposable personal income, a proportion considerably higher than in any previous year since the war.

The Survey describes the Government's efforts during the year to create wider public understanding of the causes of the continuing inflation of costs and prices and to obtain the co-operation of all concerned in keeping prices, costs and wages steady. Between mid-January and mid-December, 1956, the retail price index rose by 3½ per cent., compared with a rise of 5½ per cent. in the same period of 1955. The rise between April and December was only ½ per cent., compared with a rise of nearly 5 per cent. during the same period of 1955. To an important extent, the Survey says, the relative stability of the index during 1956 was due to the comparative steadiness of food prices.

Production and Employment in 1956

In 1956 the gross domestic product, *i.e.*, the nation's total output of goods and services, rose by just over 1 per cent., the smallest increase since 1952. Most of this increase, the Survey says, appears to have come from increased output by the distributive and service trades and from higher agricultural output. Industrial production as a whole did not expand at all, but there were widely divergent movements in different industries. Falls in demand at home and in some overseas markets for motor cars and other durable consumer goods caused production of these goods to fall well below 1955 levels, and at the end of the year the oil shortage led to a further heavy fall in the demand for motor vehicles. On the other hand, there was a continued and encouraging increase in the production of engineering capital goods and aircraft. The output of the building and contracting industry rose substantially. Output of coal was about the same as in 1955. In those industries where output continued to rise in 1956 it was generally at a rather slower rate than in the previous year, and the only two industrial groups to show a greater rate of expansion in 1956 than in 1955 were textiles and clothing, and food, drink and tobacco. A slower rate of expansion in the metal manufacturing industry is partly explained by an industrial dispute in the steel industry, which caused a loss of production of about half a million tons of steel.

The Survey notes that the three years preceding 1956 were marked by an expanding working population, an increasing demand for labour, and very low and declining unemployment. In 1956, however, there was some slackening in the demand for labour. The working population was very little bigger at the end of the year than at the beginning, the numbers in civil employment fell slightly, and there was a drop in the number of unfilled vacancies. These developments were accompanied by some rise in unemployment and short-time working and some falling off in overtime. The total working population numbered 24,073,000 at the end of December, 1955, and 24,087,000 at the end of December, 1956; the total numbers in civil employment were 23,053,000 at the end of December, 1955, and 22,989,000 at the end of December, 1956. Between these two dates there was a fall of 70,000 in the number of women in civil employment. The total numbers in H.M. Forces fell by 18,000. The main change within civil employment was a fall of 125,000 in the numbers employed in the manufacturing industries. This resulted from a decline in employment in industries producing consumer goods, particularly motor vehicles and accessories, wireless apparatus, cotton, rubber, furniture and

china. There were, however, small offsetting increases in employment in some important capital goods and export industries, particularly chemicals, iron and steel manufacture, shipbuilding, engineering, electrical machinery and aircraft manufacture. Outside the manufacturing industries there was a fall in numbers in agriculture, but transport and the coal mining, distribution and building industries all increased their labour force. Unfilled vacancies fell from 382,000 in December, 1955, to 279,000 in December, 1956, when, for the first time since March, 1954, they were fewer than the number of unemployed. The easing in the demand for labour was general throughout industry but was largely confined to semi-skilled and unskilled workers. The average level of unemployment during the year was 257,000, which was 25,000 more than in 1955 but was still lower than in any other post-war year except 1951. The highest monthly total during the year, 297,000 in December, represented 1.4 per cent. of all employees, compared with 1.0 per cent. twelve months previously. The increase of 81,000 between mid-December, 1955, and mid-December, 1956, consisted of 62,000 wholly unemployed, spread over all industry groups, and 19,000 temporarily stopped, almost all of whom were in vehicle manufacture. The regions in which unemployment increased most were London and South-Eastern and Midlands. The number working short-time in the manufacturing industries, which was 34,000 in November, 1955, increased in the first half of 1956, and, after a fall between August and November, rose again at the end of the year to about 150,000, the main part of the increase being in the motor vehicle and accessories industries. In the cotton industry there was a marked improvement during the year. The numbers of workers on overtime in the manufacturing industries fell from 1,815,000 in November, 1955, to 1,375,000 in August, 1956, and then rose to 1,603,000 in November, 1956. In November the proportion of operatives in these industries on short-time was 1½ per cent. and on overtime 27 per cent. The Survey refers also to the special attention given by the Government during the year to the shortage of scientists and technologists and to the plans announced for a very large expansion, both in the universities and in the technical colleges, of the numbers of students in science and technology (*see* the issue of this GAZETTE for March, 1956, page 93, regarding plans for development at the technical colleges).

Overseas Trade and Payments in 1956

The Survey says that the improvement in the balance of visible payments was the outstanding feature in the United Kingdom's current balance of external payments between 1955 and 1956. Balance of payments estimates for 1956 are published for the first time in the Survey, and on the basis of these estimates United Kingdom exports of goods rose by more than 10 per cent. in 1956 while imports were about 1 per cent. higher. As a result the balance of payments deficit on visible transactions fell from £359 millions in 1955 to £59 millions in 1956. There was a surplus on invisible items of £292 millions (including defence aid), which was slightly more than in 1955. Although the net surplus on invisible items was almost unchanged, there were some important changes, the Survey says, in individual items. An improvement in net earnings from interest, profits and dividends reflected the fact that annual interest charges on the North American loans in 1956 were paid into special accounts and not entered into current debits. The net credit from oil was higher in the first half of 1956 than in either half of 1955; there was some fall in the second half-year owing to the interruptions of Middle East supplies, but over 1956 as a whole net receipts were slightly higher than in the previous year. The United Kingdom's net surplus of £233 millions on current account (including defence aid) in 1956 included a surplus of £154 millions in the first half of the year and of £79 millions in the second. The surplus of £233 millions in 1956 compared with a deficit of £79 millions in 1955. The surplus with the rest of the sterling area in 1956 was £284 millions, £59 millions larger than in 1955. The deficit with the non-sterling area was £51 millions, an improvement of £253 millions.

In a section on exports the Survey says that, although our exports expanded in 1956 and took an increasing share of industrial production, they did not fully keep pace with the rapid growth of world demand, and there was a further slight fall in the United Kingdom's share of world trade in manufactures. Nevertheless, the underlying trend of United Kingdom exports improved in 1956. Most of the increase in exports was in capital goods and in non-ferrous metals. There was a very marked expansion in exports of ships and of aircraft and engines and a substantial increase also in exports of most kinds of machinery and of miscellaneous metal manufactures (apart from arms and ammunition). In 1956, as in 1955, North America and Western Europe were the most rapidly growing of the main markets. United Kingdom exports to North America increased by 23 per cent. after an increase of 15 per cent. in 1955. Exports to Western European countries and their dependencies, which account for about a quarter of our total exports, rose by 11½ per cent. compared with a rise of 5½ per cent. in 1955. Exports to other non-sterling countries continued to expand vigorously, and, in total, our exports to non-sterling markets, which constitute a little over half of our total export trade, increased by 17 per cent. after an increase of 10 per cent. in 1955. By contrast, the value of exports to the sterling area was very little higher in 1956 than in the previous year.

The levelling off of industrial production and of consumers' expenditure in 1956 was reflected in a stable level of imports. The volume of imports actually fell very slightly although higher import prices brought the value of imports to a little over the 1955 level. There was a fall in the import demands of the metal-using industries following the check to the expansion of these industries at the beginning of 1956. Higher steel production, on the other hand, brought a continued substantial rise in imports of steel-making materials throughout the year. Imports of other raw materials

either declined or showed a smaller increase than in 1955. The stability of consumers' expenditure in 1956, together with increased home production of food, meant that there was no further appreciable increase in imports of food, drink and feeding-stuffs, such as had occurred in 1955.

The Survey says that to obtain a measure of the change in our general commercial position from year to year the net outflow of funds from this country on long-term capital account should be reckoned in with the current surplus, and it sets out figures for recent years showing the balance of current transactions and long-term investment. The figures show that the surplus on current account in 1956 was a little more than sufficient to cover our net long-term investment overseas. The total of £191 millions (provisional figure) for net long-term investment deducted from the current surplus of £233 millions leaves a surplus on our overseas "commercial account" (*i.e.*, the current and long-term investment accounts combined) of about £40 millions, compared with a deficit of about £240 millions in 1955. The Survey gives details also of the changes during the year in the gold and dollar reserves and in overseas sterling holdings and liabilities. It describes the steps taken in December to reinforce the reserves by drawing upon the United Kingdom quota with the International Monetary Fund and making arrangements for further credits from the Fund and the United States Export/Import Bank to be drawn upon if necessary. At the end of the year the gold and dollar reserves were slightly larger than at the end of 1955. The Survey comments that there is now a liability to repay the International Monetary Fund and the sterling holdings of the rest of the sterling area are little changed. But, on the other hand, liabilities to non-sterling countries have been greatly reduced and large second-line reserves have been mobilised.

The Present Outlook

In discussing the outlook abroad, the Survey says that, provided there is no prolonged delay in bringing the Suez Canal into full use, a renewed upturn in production in European countries may be expected in the second half of 1957. In the United States economy, the direct effects of the closing of the Canal are very small. There are some indications that the boom in business investment will slacken, but generally speaking no great changes from the present prosperous conditions seem likely. The oil situation is not making any very great impact on the primary producing

SUMMARY OF THE MONTHLY STATISTICS

The following is a summary of the principal statistics of the month. Further details and analyses will be found on pages 131 to 148.

Employment

It is estimated that the number of persons in civil employment in Great Britain fell during February by 31,000 (—18,000 males and —13,000 females), the number at the end of the month being 22,948,000. The basic industries (mining, gas, electricity and water supply, transport, agriculture and fishing) showed an increase of 11,000, manufacturing industries a decrease of 24,000 and other industries and services a decrease of 18,000. The total working population, including H.M. Forces, the unemployed, and men and women on release leave who have not taken up employment, is estimated to have decreased by 61,000 from 24,085,000 to 24,024,000.

Unemployment

The number of persons registered as wholly unemployed at Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service in Great Britain fell from 357,375 to 335,353 between 11th February, and 11th March, 1957, and the numbers registered as temporarily stopped rose from 22,685 to 27,592. In the two classes combined there was a fall of 11,180 among males and 5,935 among females.

DEFENCE: FUTURE POLICY AND ESTIMATES FOR 1957-58

A Government statement on defence policy has been presented to Parliament and published as a Command Paper (Cmd. 124) entitled "Defence: Outline of Future Policy", price 9d. net (11d. including postage).

The new defence plan outlined in the Command Paper is described as the biggest change in military policy ever made in normal times. The Paper first briefly recalls the circumstances in which the rearmament programme was launched in 1950 at the time of the Korean War and refers to the considerations of cost which caused the original plan to be revised and to the continuing scientific advances which have fundamentally altered the whole basis of military planning. The time has now come, it says, to revise not merely the size, but the whole character of the defence plan. The Paper reviews the demands which defence has made upon our economic resources, and, in considering Britain's military responsibilities, says that the armed forces must be capable of performing two main tasks:—(i) to play their part with the forces of Allied countries in deterring and resisting aggression; (ii) to defend British colonies and protected territories against local attack and undertake limited operations in overseas emergencies. The aim must be to provide well-equipped forces sufficient to carry out these duties, while making no greater demands than are absolutely necessary upon man-power, money and other national resources. It is emphasised that the defence of Britain is possible only as part of the collective defence of the free world and that Britain has been bearing a disproportionately large share of the total burden of Western defence.

The Command Paper says that there is at present no means of providing adequate protection for the people of this country against

countries, apart from those in the Middle East. The indications therefore are that markets as a whole will continue to expand, although not at the same rate as in 1956. Dollar markets, together with those of European countries which are least affected by the oil shortage, will probably expand more than others. The primary producing countries will in general offer further openings to United Kingdom exports.

The outlook for the United Kingdom will continue to be dominated by the necessities of the balance of payments. We need a current surplus sufficient to finance our long-term investment overseas and to strengthen our position as an international banker. The current balance was considerably improved last year, but the surplus achieved in 1956 was still quite inadequate to enable this country to meet all its overseas commitments and to start to build up the reserves to a point at which they are strong enough to take in their stride a temporary reverse such as they have recently suffered. The United Kingdom will have to earn more in order to pay for the increased imports which will be needed when the expansion of industrial production is resumed and to compensate for the reduction in net oil earnings that must result from the closing of the Suez Canal. In addition, the drawing of 561 million dollars from the International Monetary Fund will have to be repaid by 1959. This means, the Survey says, that even if the terms of trade should improve slightly, exports must be increased more rapidly than in recent years and, further, that a considerable proportion of the additional output will need to be exported, if the balance of payments is not to be worsened.

The prospects for this country therefore depend mainly on our success in the expansion of exports. The very heavy investment of the last two or three years has improved our industrial efficiency and expanded our capacity. Investment by private industry is likely to remain this year at about its present high level, and investment in the basic services of fuel, power and transport (including new road building) is expected to increase. Thus our equipment for a further export drive has been considerably strengthened. The external conditions for a successful year are already present, and, internally, high savings and all possible restraint in Government expenditure should create a situation favourable to the export effort. We can look forward to further progress in industrial investment and with it further improvements in the living standards of the whole community only when the balance of payments has been placed on a really secure footing.

Rates of Wages

The index of weekly rates of wages, based on January, 1956 (taken as 100), remained unchanged in March at 107. The changes in the rates of wages reported to the Department during March resulted in an increase estimated at approximately £240,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 892,000 workpeople. The principal increases affected workpeople employed in electricity supply undertakings, the gas industry, laundries, agriculture in Scotland, and the retail multiple grocery and provisions trade.

Retail Prices

At 12th March, 1957, the retail prices index was 104 (prices at 17th January, 1956 = 100), the same figure as at 12th February.

Industrial Disputes

The number of workers involved during March in stoppages of work arising from industrial disputes (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was nearly 601,000. The aggregate time lost during the month at the establishments where the stoppages occurred was about 3,646,000 working days. The number of stoppages which began in the month was 216, and, in addition, 43 stoppages which began before March were still in progress at the beginning of the month.

the consequences of an attack with nuclear weapons. The only existing safeguard against major aggression is the power to threaten retaliation with nuclear weapons, and the overriding consideration in all military planning must be to prevent war rather than to prepare for it. The Paper notes the progress which is being made in developing the nuclear deterrent and describes what has been done, and what the Government intend to do, in order to prepare the means of delivery by manned aircraft supplemented by ballistic rockets and to provide defence for the airfields used by the deterrent force itself. Civil defence, it says, must play an essential part in the defence plan. As in other fields, the country's economic capacity limits the effort which can be devoted to this purpose and the main task in 1957-58 will be to keep the existing local organisation in being, so as to provide a basis on which realistic planning can continue.

In sections reviewing Britain's contribution to collective defence the statement sets out Government decisions about the reduction of our forces in a number of areas. It says that the British Army of the Rhine will be reduced from about 77,000 to about 64,000 during the next twelve months, and, subject to consultation with the Allied Governments in the autumn, there will be further reductions thereafter. Reorganisation will be carried out in such a way as to increase the proportion of fighting units and atomic rocket artillery will be introduced to augment fire-power. Aircraft of the Second Tactical Air Force in Germany will be reduced to about half their present number by the end of March, 1958. The Command Paper refers also to the withdrawal of our forces from Jordan as a result of the termination of the treaty and says that the British troops in Libya will be progressively reduced and the remaining United

Kingdom troops will be withdrawn from Korea. As garrisons and other British forces overseas are reduced the ability to despatch reinforcements at short notice will be more than ever necessary, and, with this in view, a Central Reserve, possessing the means of rapid mobility, will be maintained in the British Isles. With regard to naval forces, the Command Paper says that in modern conditions the role of the aircraft carrier, which is in effect a mobile air station, becomes increasingly significant. It is proposed to base the main elements of the Royal Navy upon a small number of carrier groups. Apart from carriers, the number of large ships will be restricted to the minimum.

In dealing with future man-power requirements, the Paper says that the revised defence plan, with its greatly reduced demands on man-power, now makes it possible to contemplate putting the Services on to an all-Regular basis; the Government will endeavour to bring about this change as soon as practicable. The combined strength of the three Services is now about 690,000 (adult male uniformed United Kingdom personnel). The Government aim to reduce this figure during the next twelve months to about 625,000 and to stabilise the armed forces on an all-Regular footing at about 375,000 by the end of 1962. They have accordingly decided to plan on the basis that there will be no further call-up under the National Service Acts after the end of 1960. The statement adds that it must nevertheless be understood that, if voluntary recruiting fails to produce the numbers required, the country will have to face the need for some limited form of compulsory service to bridge the gap. In the next few years the size of the National Service intake will have to be progressively reduced and as a result the number of men becoming available for National Service will, to a growing extent, exceed requirements. Plans have been prepared to effect the call-up of the reduced numbers needed.

Other sections of the Command Paper are devoted to consideration of the task of increasing the recruitment of Regulars, particularly for the Army, to the required level, the part to be played in the new defence plan by the Territorial Army and the Reserve and Auxiliary Forces, and progress and future plans for research and development and Commonwealth co-operation in these and other defence matters. In order to encourage recruiting of Regulars the Government will seek to make life in the Services more attractive, the recruiting campaign will be intensified and more money will be provided in the coming year for this purpose. With regard to the problems raised by the switch of resources which the new defence plan entails, the Paper says that the large reduction in the size of the forces will inevitably create some surplus of officers and N.C.Os. The proportion will differ for each Service and for the various ranks and branches. Those whose careers have to be prematurely terminated will be given fair compensation and will be helped in every way possible to find suitable employment in civilian life. The volume of defence work of many kinds will be curtailed and some establishments will have to be closed. The man-power and industrial resources released must be absorbed into productive use as quickly as possible; and the Government Departments concerned will do all they can to secure that this switch is effected smoothly.

A final section of the Command Paper deals with expenditure estimates for the coming year. The Defence Estimates for the year 1956-57 amounted to about £1,600 millions, before deducting receipts from Germany and the United States. Had the programme as planned a year ago been allowed to continue unchanged, the figure for 1957-58 would have risen to about £1,700 millions, but by strenuous efforts to effect economy the estimates for the coming year have been kept down to a total of £1,483 millions. From this must be deducted receipts from Germany and the United States, which are expected to be about £50 millions and £13 millions respectively. Thus the net estimate of total defence expenditure for the year 1957-58 will amount to about £1,420 millions. Estimates of expenditure in the coming year are given in more detail in "Defence Statistics, 1957-58", which has been separately published and contains also more detailed information about man-power for 1957-58. It says that the armed forces will require about 160,000 male entrants this year, including National Service men, men entering on Regular engagements, and those who enter as boys, apprentices and juniors. Of the total figure, the number within the age-groups liable for call-up for National Service in 1957-58 is about 121,000. The National Service men are expected to be distributed among the three Services approximately as follows:— Royal Navy, 2,000; Army, 84,500; Royal Air Force, 34,500. Estimates of the active strength, including women, of the three Services on 1st April, 1957, and 1st April, 1958, show that that of the Royal Navy is expected to decline in numbers from 115,500 to 109,000; the Army from 373,300 to 335,000; and the Royal Air Force from 230,000 to 210,300. The total active strength, including women, of the three Services is thus estimated at 654,300 at 1st April, 1958, compared with 718,800 at 1st April, 1957. "Defence Statistics, 1957-58" (Cmd. 130) may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, price 6d. net (8d. including postage).

REGISTRATION UNDER NATIONAL SERVICE ACTS

A further registration of men under the National Service Acts will be held on 4th May. The obligation to register on that date applies to young men born between 1st October and 31st December, 1938, both dates inclusive, unless they are exempt from the operation of the Acts. Men are not exempt from registration because they are apprentices or are training for professional qualifications or because they are engaged in coal mining or agriculture. Such men, if born within the dates specified above, must register on the prescribed date.

Men who have a preference for a particular Service should say so when they register, but no guarantee can be given that they will be allocated to that Service.

With certain exceptions, any man registering for service in the Armed Forces who enters the coal mining industry for underground work before an enlistment notice is issued will not be called up so long as he remains satisfactorily employed in that work.

The call-up of agricultural workers born in 1933 or later will be deferred only after individual application by the man's employer and subject to the satisfaction of certain specific conditions. Particulars can be obtained at any Local Office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

Each man who registers will be given a leaflet setting out the conditions under which deferment of call-up may be granted to apprentices and men in a similar position, articulated pupils, etc., or students in full-time attendance at technical and certain other classes. If a man wishes to complete his apprenticeship, training or studies before he is called up, he must make application for deferment on the appropriate form to be obtained at the time of his registration or as soon as possible afterwards.

The registration will take place at Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service; but seamen should, if possible, register at Mercantile Marine Offices.

RECENT COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS

Guaranteed Minimum in Civil Engineering Construction

At a recent meeting the Civil Engineering Construction Conciliation Board for Great Britain agreed to an amendment of Rule XB of the Working Rule Agreement (Guaranteed Minimum) increasing the guaranteed minimum from "not less than the equivalent of 32 hours at ordinary rates" to "not less than the equivalent of 36 hours at ordinary rates" with effect on and from 1st April, 1957. The guarantee continues to be subject to a proportionate reduction in the case of workers failing to hold themselves available for the whole of the normal 44-hour week. (See the article on pages 393 to 397 of the November, 1956, issue of this GAZETTE with regard to guaranteed weekly wage arrangements in the principal industries in Great Britain, including, on page 397, particulars for the civil engineering construction industry.)

Guaranteed Week Agreement in the Electrical Cable Making Industry

At a recent meeting the Joint Industrial Council for the Electrical Cable Making Industry adopted the following revised Guaranteed Week Agreement which came into effect on the third pay day of January, 1957. (See the article on pages 393 to 397 of the November, 1956, issue of this GAZETTE with regard to guaranteed weekly wage arrangements in the principal industries in Great Britain, including, on page 396, particulars for the electrical cable making industry.)

Guaranteed Week Agreement

Whereby it is mutually agreed that:—

(1) All full-time employees after four weeks' continuous service shall be guaranteed four days' employment in any pay week such as will enable them to earn during such period the equivalent of their respective normal day time rates for 34 hours.

Provided that during such four days the employee is capable of and available for work and willing to perform satisfactorily any services outside his usual occupation which in the circumstances he can reasonably be asked to perform, during any period when work is not available for him in his usual occupation.

(2) The Guarantee shall not apply in the following circumstances:—

(a) where there is a cessation or dislocation of production as a result of strike action within the establishment the guarantee shall be automatically suspended in respect of employees directly or indirectly affected;

(b) where the employer is prevented from providing employment through circumstances outside his control and has given the employee not less than four days' notice of his inability to provide such employment, and the notice has expired, the provision in regard to the guaranteed weekly period of employment shall not apply until such notice has been rescinded;

(c) where the right of suspension for disciplinary reasons has been exercised;

(d) where there occurs in any pay week a holiday recognised by Agreement, custom or practice, the guaranteed period shall be reduced by the extent of the holiday.

(3) Where the employer or the employee desires to terminate the employment other than in cases of summary dismissal for disciplinary reasons, a full week's notice shall be given, equivalent to the normal weekly hours exclusive of overtime operating in the establishment.

(4) It is understood that:—

(a) this Agreement shall not prejudice existing practices in regard to transfer of an employee as provided for in Clause 4(b) of the Agreement on Rates of Pay, Classifications of Occupations and General Working Conditions;

(b) premium payments for work performed beyond the normal period as defined in Clauses 9, 10, and 11 of the General Agreement shall be disregarded.

NOTE

It is the intention of the Agreement to guarantee all full-time employees four days or shifts of employment in any pay week of such duration that they can earn 34 hours' pay. Where the customary working day or shift has been in excess of 8½ hours, the excess period is not guaranteed. In such cases the four days will either be of 8½ hours each or of such duration as to give a total of 34 hours. Employees on night work, as defined in Clause 10 of the General Agreement, are likewise guaranteed four nights of 8½ hours or of such duration as to give a total of 34 hours. Employees working on a Double Day Shift or Three Shift system are guaranteed four normal shifts of 8 hours each.

PROFESSIONAL AND EXECUTIVE REGISTER

As a matter of administrative economy the three Appointments Offices, in London, Manchester and Glasgow, of the Ministry of Labour and National Service were closed on 29th March, 1957.

In a Written Reply to a Parliamentary Question on 28th March the Minister of Labour and National Service stated that, in the place of the Appointments Offices, a specialised service would be maintained at about 50 of the larger Employment Exchanges for persons seeking professional or senior executive posts and for employers seeking persons in these categories. At these Employment Exchanges, information about careers in the professions and allied occupations would be available to enquirers. The arrangements for the Technical and Scientific Register and the Nursing Appointments Offices were not being changed. The Minister added that he was satisfied that the new arrangements would achieve a necessary economy and provide an efficient service readily accessible to registrants and employers.

In order to operate the specialised placing and information service referred to by the Minister the selected Employment Exchanges have set up a separate register, to be known as the Professional and Executive Register. The Exchanges now holding the Professional and Executive Register together cover the whole country. Linked with them are the adjacent Local Offices of the Ministry with which they work in close co-operation. They cover the same range of occupations as the former Appointments Offices. The specialised service is available to all men and women aged 18 and over who possess suitable qualifications for inclusion in the Register. The following will also be accepted on the Register: young men and women of 18 and over who appear suitable for management or executive trainee posts, and all ex-officers of H.M. Forces who, irrespective of their qualifications, register for employment within 12 months of the date of their release.

The Employment Exchanges holding the Professional and Executive Register are as follows:— *Northern Region*: Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Darlington, Carlisle. *East and West Ridings Region*: Bradford, Hull, Leeds, Sheffield. *North Midland Region*: Derby, Leicester, Lincoln, Nottingham. *Eastern Region*: Norwich, Cambridge, Ipswich, Chelmsford, St. Albans. *London and South-Eastern Region*: City of London, Brighton, Guildford, Maidstone. The City of London Exchange covers the Metropolitan Police area; the Professional and Executive Register is temporarily housed at 1-6 Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1. *Southern Region*: Reading, Oxford, Portsmouth, Southampton, Bournemouth. *South-Western Region*: Bristol, Gloucester, Exeter, Plymouth. *Wales*: Cardiff, Swansea, Wrexham. *Midland Region*: Birmingham, Coventry, Hanley, Wolverhampton. *North-Western Region*: Bolton, Burnley, Liverpool (Lece Street), Manchester, Oldham and Chadderton, Preston, Warrington. *Scotland*: Aberdeen, Ayr, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow.

Enquiries about, and applications for, training under the Scheme of Business Training for Ex-Regulars are now being dealt with by the City of London Employment Exchange and the Manchester and Glasgow Employment Exchanges, which for this purpose will cover the same areas as the former Appointments Offices in London, Manchester and Glasgow, respectively.

COURTS OF INQUIRY INTO DISPUTES IN SHIPBUILDING AND ENGINEERING

The Minister of Labour and National Service has announced the appointment of two Courts of Inquiry, in connection with the disputes which gave rise to the recent stoppages of work in the shipbuilding and ship repairing industry and in the engineering industry. The Courts are to inquire into and to report separately on the causes and circumstances of the disputes in the two industries, but the members of the Court are the same in each case. The Chairman is Professor D. T. Jack, C.B.E., M.A., J.P., and the members are Brigadier L. C. Mandleberg, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and Mr. C. J. Geddes, C.B.E.

The Court inquiring into the dispute in the shipbuilding industry opened in public in London on Wednesday, 3rd April.

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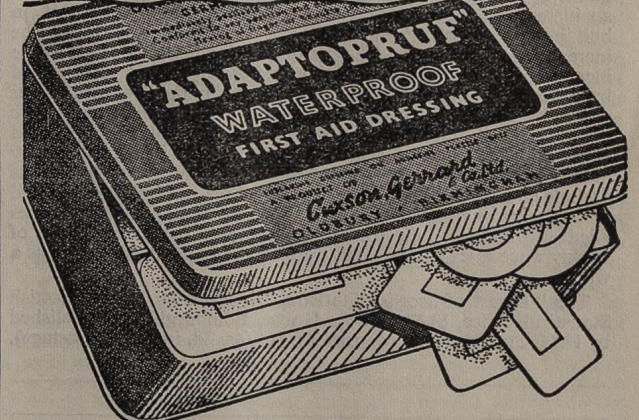
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GRANTS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND VOLUNTARY UNDERTAKINGS

Articles published in the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1953 (page 383) and earlier issues gave some information about the financial responsibility of the Minister of Labour and National Service, under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944, for providing schemes of training and employment for blind and other severely disabled persons.

The annual capitation grant payable to local authorities, referred to in these articles, is normally equal to 75 per cent. of the expenses incurred in providing employment for approved blind and other severely disabled workers but is subject to a maximum grant per worker. Local authorities have been informed that the Minister has decided that the annual maximum grant will be governed, as from 1st April, 1957, by a per capita grant of £150 per annum in place of the previous rate of £100 per annum.

The annual deficiency grant payable to voluntary undertakings towards losses incurred in providing employment for approved severely disabled persons in sheltered workshops is payable on a similar basis and undertakings have been informed that, as from 1st April, 1957, the maximum deficiency grant will be governed by a maximum per capita grant of £150 per annum in place of the rate of £100 per annum.

In informing local authorities and voluntary undertakings of this increase, the Minister has drawn attention to the need to attain the maximum possible rate of individual productivity, and to consider methods to improve the general efficiency of the workshops.

DIGEST OF SCOTTISH STATISTICS

The ninth issue (April, 1957) of the half-yearly "Digest of Scottish Statistics" has recently been published. It contains Tables and charts illustrating the social and economic life of Scotland. The scope of the Digest has been extended by including in this issue new Tables giving information about industrial stoppages, sales of gas and electricity, petroleum refining and consumption, expenditure on social services, teachers in training, and universities. Some revisions have been made in the presentation of statistics and the arrangement of the various sections has also been changed. The statistics, which in general cover the years 1951 to 1956, are grouped in seven main sections relating to industrial activity; transport and communication; labour; population and vital statistics; social services; finance; and miscellaneous. The Index of Industrial Production provides a general measure of the quarterly changes in the volume of industrial production in Scottish industry as a whole and also in individual industries. The Index, which is based on 1948 = 100, shows that production rose by 27 per cent. between 1948 and 1956; the increase in 1956 compared with 1955 was about 1½ per cent. Among individual industry groups, there was an increase in 1956 compared with 1955 of nearly 6 per cent. in building and contracting; for gas, electricity and water the increase was 3 per cent. The manufacturing industries as a whole increased by 1½ per cent. Mining and quarrying output declined by just over 2 per cent. Statistics contributed to the Digest wholly or partly by the Ministry of Labour and National Service include distribution of total man-power, estimated numbers of insured employees, numbers of registered unemployed in totals and by industry groups, percentage rates of unemployment in Scotland as a whole and in the Scottish Development Area, analysis of registered unemployed by duration of unemployment, employment vacancies filled and unfilled, industrial stoppages, and the index figures of weekly wage rates and of retail prices for the United Kingdom as a whole.

The "Digest of Scottish Statistics" is prepared by the Scottish Statistical Office, St. Andrew's House, Edinburgh, and published by H.M. Stationery Office, price 4s. net (4s. 2d. including postage).

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NATIONAL INSURANCE

National Insurance Funds, 1955-56

The Accounts of the National Insurance Funds for the year ended 31st March, 1956, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General, have been presented to Parliament and published as a House of Commons Paper.*

The Accounts were presented under the National Insurance Acts, 1946 to 1955, the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Acts, 1946 to 1954, the Workmen's Compensation (Supplementation) Act, 1951, the Industrial Diseases (Benefit) Acts, 1951 and 1954, the Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1948, and the Friendly Societies Act, 1955. They relate to the National Insurance Fund, the National Insurance (Reserve) Fund, the Industrial Injuries Fund and the National Insurance (Existing Pensioners) Fund.

National Insurance Fund and National Insurance (Reserve) Fund

In his Report the Comptroller and Auditor General states that, at 31st March, 1956, the balance in the National Insurance Fund was £317,665,354, compared with £381,068,978 at 31st March, 1955. The decrease in the balance held was due mainly to the transfer of £100 millions from the Insurance Fund to the Reserve Fund. The transfer was made following a recommendation by the Government Actuary in his Fifth Interim Report on the operation of the National Insurance Act, 1946, that consideration should be given to the transfer of £100 millions to the Reserve Fund so as to reduce the balance of the Insurance Fund to about £300 millions (see the issue of this GAZETTE for June, 1956, page 223). This is the second transfer of assets from the Insurance Fund to the Reserve Fund; the first, amounting to £300 millions, was made in September, 1952.

Excluding the transfer to the Reserve Fund, the surplus of receipts over payments, amounting in 1955-56 to £36,596,376, was £8,325,397 less than in 1954-55, receipts increasing by £98,575,747 and payments by £106,901,144. The increase in receipts was due mainly to the increased amounts received from employers and insured persons and from the Exchequer as a result of the higher weekly rates of contributions payable from 6th June, 1955 (see the issue of this GAZETTE for June, 1955, page 208). The increase in payments was accounted for mainly by increased expenditure of £84,391,999 on retirement pensions and of £15,185,924 on sickness benefit. These increased payments were due largely to the higher rates of benefit, including allowances for dependants, introduced in April and May, 1955, by the National Insurance Act, 1954 (see the issues of this GAZETTE for December, 1954, page 413, and January and February, 1955, pages 11 and 48, respectively). The additional charge for retirement pensions was also due partly to an increase of about 109,000 in the number of retirement pensioners, whose numbers by the end of the year under review totalled about 4,555,000. The charge for unemployment benefit was £7,692 less than in 1954-55, the effect of the increased rates of benefit under the 1954 Act having been more than offset by a reduction in the level of unemployment to an average of one per cent. of the employed population for the year 1955-56, compared with 1¼ per cent. for 1954-55. In a reference to benefits subject to reduction on account of earnings, the Comptroller and Auditor General notes that a working party was set up by the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance in April, 1955, to consider means of facilitating enforcement and preventing evasion of the earnings rules. The working party in their Report made a number of recommendations for bringing the rules more forcibly to the notice of beneficiaries and for additional measures to detect evasion. The Comptroller and Auditor General says that the Ministry informed him that, with one relatively minor exception, all the recommendations had been accepted in principle.

Total receipts in the year 1955-56 amounted to £710,585,783. Of this total, £662,289,743 represented contributions and included £570,289,743 from employers and insured persons and £92,000,000 from the Exchequer. Total income from investments amounted to £47,458,356, of which £38,255,221 was received in the first instance by the National Insurance (Reserve) Fund and transferred to the National Insurance Fund. Other items of income, amounting in all to £837,684, included transfers from the Government of the Republic of Ireland and from the Manx National Insurance Fund under reciprocal agreements and repayment of benefit paid on behalf of foreign countries under reciprocal agreements.

Total payments from the National Insurance Fund in the year amounted to £773,989,407, including £601,098,429 for benefits and the transfer of £100 millions to the Reserve Fund. Payments on benefits included unemployment benefit £15,654,541; sickness benefit £99,642,013; maternity benefit £14,000,000; widow's benefit £35,700,000; guardian's allowance £350,000; retirement pension £432,504,012; and death grant £3,247,863. The division of total payments among the benefits other than unemployment and sickness benefit and death grant has been estimated. Payments totalling £40,412,938 were made to the Ministry of Health and the Department of Health for Scotland as a contribution to the National Health Service. Administration expenses amounted to £27,650,353, representing the whole cost of administration of the National Insurance scheme including amounts paid to all Government Departments concerned. Smaller items of expenditure included a total of £327,089 paid to the Ministry of Labour and National Service towards the cost of authorised courses of training and

* Accounts 1955-56. Accounts of the National Insurance Fund, the National Insurance (Reserve) Fund, the Industrial Injuries Fund and the National Insurance (Existing Pensioners) Fund, for the year ended 31st March, 1956; together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. (In continuation of House of Commons Paper No. 230 of 1955-56). House of Commons Paper No. 115. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 3d. net (1s. 5d. including postage).

travelling expenses of insured contributors under the Employment and Training Act, 1948, and £18,150 to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Agriculture for Scotland towards the cost of training under the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1949. Other payments totalled £4,482,448 and included £2,618,417 transferred to the Northern Ireland National Insurance Fund under the arrangements for co-ordinating the systems of insurance established in the two countries.

The National Insurance (Reserve) Fund had a balance of £1,068,639,651 at 1st April, 1955, and during the year 1955-56 received £88,793 from the sale of property and a net amount from investments, etc., of £38,255,221, which was transferred to the National Insurance Fund. The investments amounting to a sum of £100 millions which were transferred to the Reserve Fund from the National Insurance Fund were revalued at current market values when the transfers were made and there was a net loss of £1,341,728. The sum of £98,658,272 was, therefore, brought to account as a receipt of the National Insurance (Reserve) Fund. At 31st March, 1956, the balance of the Reserve Fund was £1,167,386,716.

Industrial Injuries Fund

The receipts of the Industrial Injuries Fund during the year totalled £52,423,043, which included £39,789,036 as contributions from employers and insured persons and £8,100,000 from the Exchequer, £4,527,995 from investments, £5,025 in respect of fees for medical examinations carried out under the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) (Prescribed Diseases) Regulations, 1948, and £987 as repayment of benefit paid on behalf of foreign countries

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

134th Session of the Governing Body

The 134th Session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office was held in Geneva from 5th to 8th March under the Chairmanship of the United Kingdom Government representative, Sir Guildhaume Myrddin-Evans, K.C.M.G., C.B., Chief International Labour Adviser to Her Majesty's Government and Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Labour and National Service. Also from the United Kingdom were Mr. C. E. Maher, C.B., Accountant General, Ministry of Labour and National Service, Sir Richard Snedden, C.B.E., Chairman of the International Standing Committee and Member of the General Purposes Committee and Council of the British Employers' Confederation, and Sir Alfred Roberts, C.B.E., Vice-Chairman of the Governing Body, and Member of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress.

Notes on the principal matters dealt with by the Governing Body are contained in the following paragraphs.

Finance

The Director-General presented to the Finance Committee of the Governing Body budget proposals for 1958, providing for a net expenditure budget of 7,869,925 United States dollars. The proposals finally adopted by the Governing Body provide for a net expenditure budget of 7,855,081 dollars, which compares with a net expenditure budget of 7,617,708 dollars for 1957. The figure for 1958 includes a credit for 43,240 dollars in respect of increases in the emoluments of General Service category staff, for which estimates had not been included in the original proposals of the Director-General. The budget estimates will be submitted to the International Labour Conference at its 40th Session in June.

Labour-Management Relations

The Governing Body discussed and generally endorsed proposals submitted by the Director-General for a programme of future action by the International Labour Organisation in the field of labour-management relations. The Director-General's proposals were listed under three main headings: Research, Studies and Reports; Technical Assistance; and Other Activities. In connection with the first of these categories the Governing Body approved the transmission to Governments and to the other international organisations concerned of the report of the Meeting of Experts on Industrial and Human Relations held in Geneva in July, 1956, together with an enquiry regarding the subjects which they considered should be most urgently treated. Governments were requested, in preparing their replies to this enquiry, to consult with the appropriate employer and worker organisations. The Director-General proposes to initiate during 1957 two major research projects, the subjects of which, however, have not yet been determined.

Hours of Work

The Governing Body had before it the proposals of the Director-General for the future programme of the Organisation on the subject of hours of work, following the decision taken by the Governing Body at its previous session not to place the question of the reduction of hours of work on the agenda of the 1958 Session of the International Labour Conference (see the issue of this GAZETTE for December, 1956, page 446). It was proposed that the Governing Body should authorise the Director-General to appoint a fact-finding Committee of five experts who would report at intervals of perhaps six months to the Governing Body on the situation as regards hours of work throughout the world, where necessary on an industry basis, and in particular on the hours actually worked. The Committee would further report on demands for reduction of hours, the case for and against such demands, and any action taken to shorten hours. It would provide the Governing Body with all available information on the social, economic and financial consequences resulting from any reductions in hours which might take place.

A decision on these proposals was deferred until the 137th Session of the Governing Body at the request of the Workers' Group, who expressed their intention to propose, at this year's

under reciprocal agreements. Total expenditure during the year amounted to £36,520,314. Benefit payments totalling £32,062,966 included £12,753,105 injury benefit, £16,807,402 disablement benefit, £1,600,000 death benefit, £170,000 allowances under the Workmen's Compensation (Supplementation) Act, 1951, and £732,459 allowances and death benefits under the Industrial Diseases (Benefit) Acts, 1951 and 1954. The figure of £732,459 includes £730,934 paid under the Pneumoconiosis and Byssinosis Benefit Scheme. Other payments included £20,000 to the Ministry of Labour and National Service as grants towards the cost of industrial rehabilitation courses for disabled persons, £4,435,647 administration expenses, and £1,695 paid on behalf of foreign countries under reciprocal agreements. The balance of the Fund at 31st March, 1956, was £139,005,046, compared with £123,102,317 at 1st April, 1955.

National Insurance (Existing Pensioners) Fund

The National Insurance (Existing Pensioners) Fund was set up to carry the assets transferred from Superannuation Funds in which former employees of Approved Societies and kindred bodies had pension rights, and to meet certain liabilities of funds wholly transferred. At 1st April, 1955, the balance of the Fund was £335,064. Receipts during the year 1955-56 amounted to £9,426, which represented income from investments. Payments from the Fund amounted to £17,272, which included £17,141 for pensions. Other payments amounted to £26 and losses on realisation and redemption to £105. The balance at 31st March, 1956, was £327,218.

International Labour Conference, that the question of the reduction of hours of work shall be placed on the agenda of the 1958 Session of the Conference.

Workers' Education

In pursuance of the constitutional responsibility of the International Labour Organisation for furthering programmes directed towards ensuring equality of educational opportunity, the Governing Body approved proposals submitted by the Director-General for the convening of a Meeting of Experts on Workers' Education. The meeting will be composed of twelve to fifteen experts chosen on the basis of their individual experience in this field, and, as far as possible, broadly representative of various geographical regions and of the major bodies engaged in workers' education. The meeting will be asked to consider the practical problems of workers' education both in respect to the scope and contents of programmes and to the methods and techniques of workers' education. They will also be invited to review the past activities of the International Labour Organisation in this field and to make recommendations for future action.

Dangerous Substances

The Governing Body considered a number of points arising out of the Meeting of Experts on Dangerous Substances held in Geneva in August, 1956. Among other things the Governing Body agreed to the addition to the set of five danger symbols already adopted of a symbol for the identification of oxidising agents and authorised the Director-General to discuss further with the Secretary-General of the United Nations the possibility of agreeing on a symbol acceptable to both organisations for the identification of corrosive substances. The Director-General was further authorised to enlist the help of experts to keep up to date the International Labour Office list of dangerous substances and to prepare data sheets on dangerous substances.

Report of the Meeting of Experts on Women's Employment

The Governing Body considered the Report of a Meeting of Experts on Women's Employment which met in Geneva from 5th to 10th November, 1956, in accordance with a decision taken by the Governing Body at its 130th Session (see the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1956, page 12). The meeting had adopted a series of recommendations concerning specific measures to be taken by Governments and by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office as regards part-time employment of women, employment of older women workers and vocational guidance and training of women. The meeting further recommended that more emphasis should be placed on questions concerning women workers in the technical assistance programme of the International Labour Organisation.

After a general debate in which numerous delegates drew attention to the growing importance of the problems resulting from the increased number of women in employment and consequently to the need for new and more extensive activities in this field by the International Labour Organisation the Governing Body took note of this Report.

Civil Aviation

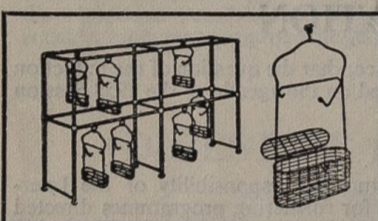
The Governing Body debated at length the Report of the Ad Hoc Meeting on Civil Aviation held in Geneva from 26th November to 5th December, 1956. This meeting, which was bipartite, had failed to reach detailed conclusions on any of the items on its agenda. The Governing Body authorised the Director-General to transmit the Note on the Proceedings of this meeting to Governments, inviting them to communicate it to the employers' and workers' organisations concerned and to forward to the Director-General their own observations together with any observations received from the employers' and workers' organisations in question. The Director-General was further requested, on the basis of the replies received up to the 137th Session of the Governing Body, to study

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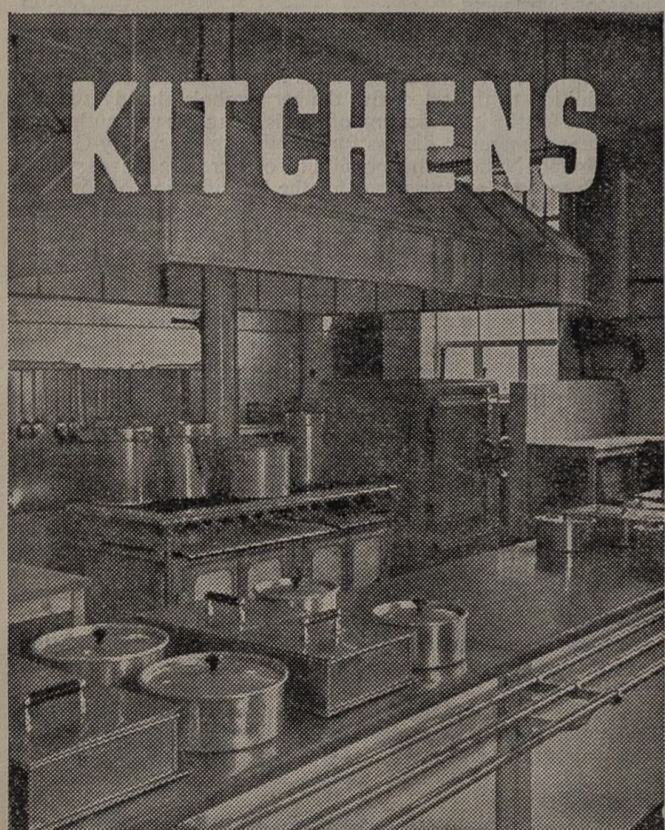


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the possibility of convening, as soon as possible, a tripartite meeting on civil aviation, and to report thereon to the Governing Body.

Freedom of Association

In its Twenty-Fifth Report the Committee on Freedom of Association submitted for the approval of the Governing Body conclusions which it had reached concerning nine cases. The Governing Body decided that three of these cases, relating to Peru, the United States and Greece, and Jamaica should be dismissed as not calling for further examination. In cases relating to Cyprus and to Northern Rhodesia, the Governing Body, while deciding that the majority of the allegations made did not call for further examination, requested additional information on certain points to enable it to consider these more fully. Four other cases were considered, concerning Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Hungary and Spain. In the case of Hungary the Governing Body adopted a resolution calling on the United Nations to make renewed efforts to induce the Hungarian authorities to respect the General Assembly resolution concerning the possibility of conducting an on-the-spot investigation, confirming the International Labour Organisation's desire to be closely associated with any action the United Nations may take regarding such an investigation, and calling on member States to support all efforts to promote the fullest respect for freedom of association and other civil and human rights in Hungary.

Applications to send Observer Delegations to the 40th Session of the International Labour Conference

The Governing Body acceded to a request of the United Kingdom Government that invitations to send tripartite observer delegations to the 40th Session of the International Labour Conference should be sent to Barbados, Jamaica, Malta, the Federation of Malaya, the Federation of Nigeria, the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Singapore and Trinidad. The Director-General was also authorised to invite Sierra Leone if the United Kingdom Government so requested.

Other Matters

Other matters considered by the Governing Body included certain amendments of the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference; the agenda of forthcoming meetings of the Chemical Industries Committee and of the Textiles Committee; the technical assistance programme for 1957; and the composition of the Asian Regional Conference, which will be held in India in November, 1957. Decisions were also taken on the dates and agenda of a number of other meetings.

Advisory Committee on Salaried Employees and Professional Workers

The Fourth Session of the Advisory Committee on Salaried Employees and Professional Workers opened in Geneva on 1st April and was expected to continue until 13th April. The agenda was as follows:—

1. General Report, dealing particularly with (a) action taken in the various countries in the light of the conclusions adopted at previous sessions of the Committee; (b) steps taken by the International Labour Office to follow up the studies and enquiries proposed by the Committee; (c) recent events and developments affecting salaried employees and professional workers.
2. Non-manual workers and collective bargaining.
3. Working conditions of technical and supervisory staff in industry, excluding management.

The United Kingdom Government was represented at the meeting by Mr. Z. T. Claro, O.B.E., Chief Conciliation Officer, Ministry of Labour and National Service, and Mr. R. W. Luce, C.B., formerly Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Labour and National Service. The Employers' representatives were Mr. H. F. Farrar, C.B.E., former Chairman of the Wool (and Allied) Textile Employers' Council and Member of the Council of the British Employers' Confederation, and Mr. M. Y. Cobb, M.B.E., Deputy Secretary of the British Employers' Confederation. The Workers' representatives were Mr. W. J. P. Webber, Member of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress and General Secretary of the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association, and Mr. P. M. H. Hoey, O.B.E., General Secretary of the National Federation of Professional Workers.

The Third Session of the Advisory Committee on Salaried Employees and Professional Workers was held in Geneva in May, 1954 (see the issue of this GAZETTE for July, 1954, page 232).

Ninth International Conference of Labour Statisticians

The Ninth International Conference of Labour Statisticians opened in Geneva on 24th April and will continue until 4th May. The agenda of the Conference is:—

1. General report on Labour Statistics.
2. International Standard Classification of Occupations: major, minor and unit groups; final draft.
3. International Classification according to status.
4. Measurement of under-employment.
5. Social security statistics: development and uses.

The United Kingdom Government is represented at the meeting by Mr. R. F. Fowler, C.B.E., Director of Statistics, Ministry of

Labour and National Service, who has as adviser Mr. W. J. Littlewood, Principal at the General Register Office.

The Eighth Session of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians was held in Geneva from 23rd November to 3rd December, 1954.

Tripartite Working Party on Wages, Hours of Work and Manning on Board Ship

Following a recommendation adopted by the Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference which met in London in September, 1956 (see the issue of this GAZETTE for October, 1956, page 368) the Governing Body of the International Labour Office has set up a tripartite Working Party to examine the possibility of submitting, on the question of wages, hours of work and manning on board ship, draft proposals designed to secure general agreement at the Maritime Session of the International Labour Conference in 1958.

The Working Party met in Geneva from 11th to 19th April under the chairmanship of Sir Guildhaume Myrddin-Evans, K.C.M.G., C.B., Chief International Labour Adviser to Her Majesty's Government, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, and Chairman of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office. The United Kingdom Government was represented at this meeting by Mr. P. Faulkner, C.B., Under Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, who was accompanied by two advisers, Mr. A. W. Wood and Mr. G. S. Hill, from the same Ministry. Also attending the Working Party from the United Kingdom were Sir Richard Snedden, C.B.E., General Manager of the Shipping Federation, and Mr. T. Yates, C.B.E., General Secretary of the National Union of Seamen. Mr. Yates was

LABOUR OVERSEAS

New Old Age and Disability Pensions Law in Germany

A Law to reform old age and disability pensions for wage and salary earners was passed in the Federal Republic of Germany in February this year and entered into force with effect from 1st January, 1957. The most important provisions of the new Law are summarised below.

INSURED PERSONS

Liability to Insurance

In future all persons will be liable to insurance who are in employment or who are undergoing vocational training even though they do not receive remuneration. Under the workers' pensions insurance scheme liability to insurance continues as in the past irrespective of the rate of earnings. Under the salaried employees' pensions insurance scheme a maximum limit of 15,000 Deutschmarks a year or 1,250 Deutschmarks a month has been fixed for liability to insurance. Salaried employees whose annual earnings are in excess of the above sum are not liable to insurance.

Transitional provisions have been agreed for salaried employees who, again or for the first time, become liable to insurance because of the increase in the maximum insurance limit, allowing them on application to contract out if by 31st May, 1957, they either are 50 years of age, or have taken out insurance policies and these policies cost at least as much as the contributions payable under the salaried employees' pensions insurance scheme.

Exemption from liability to insurance

The provisions on the exemption from liability to insurance, exemption from insurance by virtue of legislation or exemption from insurance on application, correspond to previous legislation. Uniform provisions have been introduced to replace the hitherto varying provisions in existence in the Laender of the former British, French and American zones of occupation.

Voluntary Insurance

It is no longer possible to join the statutory schemes on a voluntary basis before attaining the age of 40. However, any person who has begun self-insurance by paying one contribution before 1st January, 1956, will be allowed to continue. Any person who has commenced paying contributions under self-insurance after this date will not be allowed to continue paying into the fund. The contributions already paid will be refunded. Any person who ceases to be liable to insurance under any of the branches of the social pensions schemes (including old age pensions for artisans) and who, within a period of ten years, has paid contributions on account of pension insurable employment over a period of at least 60 calendar months, will be entitled to continue insurance on a voluntary basis. If these conditions are not fulfilled the contributions paid will be refunded to the insured person. Any person who has availed himself of the right to continue insurance on a voluntary basis under the old system, by having paid at least one contribution prior to 31st December, 1956, may continue to pay contributions even if he is unable to furnish proof that he has paid contributions for not less than 60 calendar months. Voluntarily insured persons may choose the rate of contribution they wish to pay. Contributions need no longer correspond to the rate of income.

In future, payment of supplementary contributions will continue to be possible. The payment of a supplementary contribution is conditional on the payment under either compulsory insurance or voluntary insurance of a basic contribution for the month for

accompanied by Captain D. S. Tennant, C.B.E., General Secretary of the Merchant Navy and Air Line Officers' Association.

Acceptance of a Recommendation on Vocational Training for the Disabled

The Minister of Labour and National Service has presented to Parliament a Command Paper* setting out the action proposed by the Government on a Recommendation concerning the Vocational Rehabilitation of the Disabled. This Recommendation was adopted by the International Labour Conference in 1955 and the text embodied in a Command Paper (Cmd. 9629) (see the issue of this GAZETTE for December, 1955, page 430).

The Government propose to accept the Recommendation which, with the aim of meeting individual employment needs and of using man-power resources to the best advantage, provides that vocational rehabilitation services should be made available to all disabled persons who can be prepared for, and have a reasonable prospect of securing and retaining, suitable employment. The Recommendation lays down the principles which should govern the provision and administrative organisation of such services, and contains detailed provisions for their application. These provisions cover vocational guidance, vocational training, and placement of disabled persons; methods of widening employment opportunities; employment under sheltered conditions for those who cannot be made fit for ordinary employment; arrangements for work to be done at home; special measures for disabled children and young persons; co-ordination between public and private bodies; and co-operation between the authorities responsible for medical treatment and those responsible for vocational rehabilitation.

BENEFITS

Conditions

The qualifying period for a pension payable on account of partial disablement or disablement is five contribution years, the qualifying period for old age pension 15 contribution years. Contribution periods and equivalent periods are taken into account for the qualifying period. An equivalent period means a period of military or para-military service, captivity during the war, internment, displacement, imprisonment on political grounds, expulsion and flight as well as subsequent illness and unemployment. There is no longer any obligation especially for the voluntarily insured person to pay a fixed number of contributions a year.

Old age pension

An old age pension is paid to men and women at the age of 65. Women will be able to claim their old age pension at the age of 60, provided they can show 10 years in insurable employment within a period of the last 20 years, and are no longer performing such employment. In future unemployed persons will, during the period of unemployment, be entitled to receive old age pension at the age of 60 provided that they have been continuously unemployed for over a year.

Partial disablement and disablement pensions

The definition of "partial disablement" has been modelled on the definition hitherto used under the salaried employees' insurance scheme. In considering the question of partial disablement, it is to be noted that in future the insured person can only be asked to accept employment which can be regarded as reasonable in the light of the duration and extent of his training and experience in his previous occupation, and in view of the special requirements of his past employment. If the insured person has been trained or re-trained for a different occupation, this occupation is always considered to be reasonable. However, the insured person's consent is required for re-training. The insured person receives a disablement pension when he is no longer likely to be able to follow a regular employment in the near future, or if he is no longer in a position to derive more than an inconsiderable income from employment.

Rate of Pension

The new basis of pensions derives from four considerations. The pension is a contributory pension. It reflects the individual's working effort as expressed in earnings. Thus the pension is assessed in accordance with the income earned during the insured person's working life. There are no longer fixed pension components.

The pension is no longer considered to be a supplement to the cost of living but is meant to safeguard the acquired standard of living. An increment of 1.5 per cent. of gross earnings is granted for each contribution year. (As stated above, insurance periods

* International Labour Conference. Proposed action by Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on a Recommendation adopted at the 38th Session, 1955. Cmd. 111. H.M. Stationery Office price 3d. net (5d. including postage).

include equivalent periods.) It therefore amounts to 60 per cent. of the average gross earnings after 40 years in employment, and to 75 per cent. of gross earnings after 50 years in insurable employment. Pension recipients will share in the rising standard of living of the employed population. For this reason pensions are to be fixed at a certain ratio to the level of current wages. While the insured person is in receipt of a pension the rate of pension will reflect economic developments.

Disabled persons who, owing to premature incapacity, have been unable to accumulate an adequate number of contribution years will have extra contribution years added. Furthermore, assessment will differentiate between disablement pensioners and partial disablement pensioners, the former qualifying for higher pensions.

There will be a differentiation between pensions under new legislation, pensions granted during the transitional period and current pensions. New pensions and old age pensions will be calculated in accordance with the rate of wages or salary and the contribution period.

The rate of wages or salaries will not form the basis for the amount assessed but will be converted into a ratio of the insured person's wages or salary to the aggregate average earnings of all insured persons. This ratio will be established for all years of the insured person's working life.

For example, the annual average wage amounted

in	DM
1891 to	700
1900 "	796
1910 "	1078
1920 "	3729
1930 "	2074
1940 "	2156
1950 "	3161
1955 "	4548

Taking average earnings as 100 units, the individual worker's earnings will amount to a percentage of that figure (for example, 60 per cent., 80 per cent., 120 per cent. and up to 200 per cent.). If a person's earnings were always to correspond exactly to the aggregate average earnings his individual assessment would total 100 units. In 1957 the 100 units figure will represent 357 Deutschmarks a month ("general basis for assessment") and the pension will amount to a percentage of this amount varying according to contribution years.

"Insurance periods" means periods for which contributions have been paid, equivalent periods (see above), and credit periods. Credit periods are periods of unemployment, incapacity for work due to illness and periods of training (training at school and technical college up to 4 years, at university up to 5 years). These periods will be taken into account for increments. Increments granted for each year of insurance amount to 1.5 per cent. of the individual's assessment basis in respect of old age pension, to 1.5 per cent. in respect of disablement pension and to 1 per cent. in respect of partial disablement pension.

As regards partial disablement and disablement pensions, the insured person will be assumed to have paid contributions up to the age of 55. Normally, that is to say, entering insurable employment at the age of 15, the partially disabled person will be entitled to a pension of 40 per cent. of the assessment basis, while the fully disabled will get 60 per cent.

The general basis for assessment changes according to the movement of wages and salaries. For this reason, newly assessed pensions will in each case be adjusted to the three-year period of aggregate wages and salaries which ended one year prior to assessment. But assessed pensions, too, will benefit from economic development, under legislation which will be introduced in accordance with an annual report of the Federal Government following consultation with the Social Advisory Committee.

The new system of assessment will be applied over a transitional period. In so far as this is more favourable, a comparative assessment in accordance with previous legislation will be made in insurance cases maturing before 1961 and an amount of 21 Deutschmarks will be added to the resultant pension. In each case the higher pension will be paid. This transitional provision is of particular importance to those people who have voluntarily paid contributions at a lower rate, in view of the fixed pension components (basic rate, etc.) which have now been dropped. In this case they must pay at least nine monthly contributions each year over the next five years.

Current pensions will be converted in accordance with the same principles which apply to newly assessed pensions. The average pension will go up by more than 50 per cent.; there will be special increases for pensions payable to premature invalids (partial disablement). All pensions of insured persons will go up by at least 21 Deutschmarks, those payable to widows and widowers by 14 Deutschmarks and orphans' pensions by 10 Deutschmarks a month.

Children's Allowance

Children's allowances will be paid together with old age pensions, partial disablement and disablement pensions and amount to one-tenth of the general assessment basis (at present 36 Deutschmarks a month). Children's allowance is payable up to the age of 18, and, in the event of further education at school or technical college or in the event of infirmity, up to the age of 25. "Children" means not only legitimate children, but also step-children living in the household of the pension recipient, children recognised as legitimate who have been adopted, children of a male insured person who have been born out of wedlock provided the insured person's parentage or liability to maintenance has been established, the illegitimate children of an insured female, and foster-children.

Survivors' Pensions

The following types of survivors' pensions are paid: widow's pension; widower's pension; orphan's pension; pension to former spouse. The full pension due to the insured person will be paid during the first three months following the death of the insured person, or, if the deceased has not been in prior receipt of a pension, that pension which would serve as the basis for assessing the survivor's pension.

In future, widows' pensions will be paid to all widows under the workers' pensions insurance scheme and the salaried employees' pensions insurance scheme. They amount to 60 per cent. of the insured husband's pension. Pensions for widows under the age of 45, who are not partially disabled, or rearing a child in their household who is entitled to orphan's pension, will be calculated as an insured person's pension based on an increment rate of 1 per cent. a year. An increment period will not be granted in this case. In all other cases an increment period will be granted on an increment rate of 1.5 per cent.

A widower's pension will be paid to the husband on the death of his insured wife if the deceased wife has made a substantial contribution to the maintenance of the family. Proof of need on the part of the husband is no longer required as under previous legislation. The calculation of pension is as for widows' pensions.

Pensions to former spouses will be granted if the deceased at the time of his death was liable to maintenance either in accordance with the marriage laws or on other grounds, or if he had paid maintenance during the last year preceding his death. The calculation of pensions is as for widows' pensions.

Orphans' pensions will be paid to children of the deceased insured person if they were entitled to a children's allowance. Orphans' pensions are paid in the same way as children's allowances, namely up to the age of 18, and, in the case of further education at school or technical college or in the event of infirmity beyond this period up to the age of 25. The rate of orphan's pension for an orphan who has lost one parent amounts to one-tenth of the pension the insured would have received had he been incapacitated for work at the time of his death. The children's allowance is added so that this type of pension would at the present time come to an average of 56 Deutschmarks a month. Orphans who have lost both parents will receive one-fifth of the above-mentioned pension payable to the insured person plus children's allowance. This pension would at the present time amount to between 80 Deutschmarks and 75 Deutschmarks a month.

Survivors' pensions may not exceed the pension payable to the insured person including children's allowances, and contributions which have been paid after partial disablement or disablement must be taken into account.

Widow's or widower's grants

In the event of re-marriage the widow or widower will receive a grant equivalent to five times the annual sum of pension hitherto paid. The same applies to former spouses. Widow's or widower's pension will be revived if the second marriage is dissolved without the widow or widower being the guilty party and there are no fresh claims to superannuation, maintenance or pension arising out of the second marriage. The same applies to pensions payable to former spouses.

Reduction of pension in the event of overlapping

Where an old age or disablement pension overlaps with an industrial injury pension, the two pensions must not exceed 85 per cent. of the higher rate of gross earnings which were taken into account for assessing one of the two pensions. Otherwise, the pension payable under workers' or salaried employees' pensions insurance remains in abeyance.

Where a survivor's pension overlaps an industrial injury survivor's pension, the pension payable under workers' or salaried employees' pension insurance remains in abeyance, if together with the other pension payable under the statutory industrial injury scheme it would exceed six-tenths of the pension which the deceased would have been entitled to at the time of his death had he received a full pension under the statutory industrial injury scheme or a disablement pension under the workers' or salaried employees' pension insurance schemes.

Where an insured person's pension and survivor's pension overlap, only the more favourable increment period will be taken into account for the recipient. The pension for which the increment period will not be taken into account remains in abeyance. When there are several orphans' pensions the highest pension will be granted. Where there is overlapping between orphan's pension and an insured person's pension the orphan's pension remains in abeyance.

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

It is estimated that the new provisions will result in an increase of expenditure for 1957, as compared with 1956, of 5,624 million Deutschmarks (of which 5,196 million Deutschmarks will be in respect of pensions). Total expenditure is being financed by adding to previous receipts the sum of at least 1,072 million Deutschmarks raised by increasing the Federal subsidy and Federal re-payments, a 2 per cent. increase in contributions (1 per cent. each to be paid by the employer and the worker) and transferring 1 per cent. of contributions from unemployment insurance to pensions insurance. In addition, the accretion of surplus assets under pensions insurance will be slowed down. Contributions can be expected to remain stable over the next decade.

Contributions amounting to 14 per cent. of earnings will be levied up to a certain contribution limit. This limit amounts to twice the sum of the general assessment basis; for 1957 the sum has been fixed at 750 Deutschmarks a month.

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, ETC.

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Employment* in Great Britain in February

GENERAL SUMMARY

During February the numbers in civil employment fell by 30,000 to 22,950,000. There were falls in the distributive trades and the manufacture of food, drink and tobacco which were largely seasonal in character. Employment also fell in the metal-using industries and building and contracting, but there was an increase in the basic industries.

The Employment Exchanges filled 133,000 vacancies in the four weeks ended 6th March. The number of vacancies notified to the Exchanges and remaining unfilled on 6th March was 250,000. This was 11,000 more than on 6th February and 130,000 less than a year previously.

In the week ended 23rd February there were 1,500,000 workers on overtime in manufacturing establishments covered by returns, 120,000 fewer than three months previously and 80,000 fewer than a year previously.

The number working short-time in the same week was 109,000, which was 37,000 less than a month previously, and 43,000 more than a year previously.

There were 363,000 persons registered as unemployed on 11th March, of whom 335,000 were wholly unemployed and 28,000 were temporarily stopped from work. Between 11th February and 11th March, unemployment fell by 17,000, a fall of 22,000 among the wholly unemployed offsetting an increase of 5,000 among the temporarily stopped.

Expressed as a proportion of the estimated number of employees, unemployment in March was 1.7 per cent. compared with 1.8 per cent. in February and 1.2 per cent. in March, 1956. There were 153,000 persons who had been unemployed more than eight weeks, 46 per cent. of the wholly unemployed.

It is estimated that the total working population† at the end of February was 24,024,000, a decrease of 61,000 compared with the end of January.

GENERAL MAN-POWER POSITION

The broad changes in the man-power situation between end-January and end-February, 1957, are shown in the following Table, together with the figures for recent months and end-February, 1956.

	End-Feb., 1956	End-Dec., 1956	End-Jan., 1957	End-Feb., 1957	Change during Feb. 1957
Number in Civil Employment	23,029	22,989	22,979†	22,948	- 31
Men	15,225	15,227	15,231‡	15,213	- 18
Women	7,804	7,762	7,748	7,735	- 13
Wholly Unemployed§	255	331	360	342	- 18
Temporarily Stopped¶	30	35	30	26	- 4
Total Registered Unemployed§	285	366	390	368	- 22
H.M. Forces and Women's Services	776	761	740	728	- 12
Men	759	745	725	712	- 13
Women	17	16	15	16	+ 1
Ex-Service men and women on release leave who have not taken up employment	6	6	6	6	...
Total Working Population†	24,066	24,087	24,085‡	24,024	- 61
Men	16,163	16,207	16,212‡	16,167	- 45
Women	7,903	7,880	7,873	7,857	- 16

* The figures of employment for all dates after June, 1956, are provisional and subject to revision in the light of more complete information to be obtained on the basis of the count of national insurance cards in mid-1957.

† The total working population represents the estimated total number of persons aged 15 and over who work for pay or gain, or register themselves as available for such work. The total comprises the Forces, men and women on release leave not yet in employment, all persons—employers and workers on their own account as well as employees—in civil employment (including persons temporarily laid off but still on the employers' pay-rolls) and wholly unemployed persons registered for employment. Part-time workers are counted as full units.

‡ Revised figure.
§ End of month estimates. Persons classed as temporarily stopped are included in the totals of persons in civil employment. (See footnote † above.)

ANALYSIS OF NUMBERS IN CIVIL EMPLOYMENT

An analysis of the total numbers in civil employment by broad industrial groups is given in the Table below.

Industry or Service	End-Feb., 1956	End-Dec., 1956	End-Jan., 1957	End-Feb., 1957	Change during Feb. 1957
Basic Industries					
Mining and Quarrying	860	859	864	866	+ 2
Gas, Electricity and Water	379	378	380	380	...
Transport and Communication	1,706	1,712	1,710	1,714	+ 4
Agriculture and Fishing	1,001	994	994	999	+ 5
Number in Basic Industries	3,946	3,943	3,948	3,959	+ 11
Manufacturing Industries					
Chemicals and Allied Trades	528	528	531	531	...
Metal Manufacture	586	584	585	585	...
Vehicles	1,262	1,208	1,197	1,192	- 5
Engineering, Metal Goods and Precision Instruments	2,828	2,808	2,806	2,798	- 8
Textiles	957	935	940	940*	...
Clothing (inc. footwear)	686	678	681	680	- 1
Food, Drink and Tobacco	895	903	895	888	- 7
Other Manufactures	1,610	1,582	1,578	1,575	- 3
Number in Manufacturing Industries	9,352	9,226	9,213	9,189	- 24
Building and Contracting	1,458	1,491	1,502†	1,494	- 8
Distributive Trades	2,857	2,904	2,887	2,877	- 10
Professional, Financial and Miscellaneous Services	4,125	4,131	4,136	4,136	...
Public Administration—National Government Service	562	558	557	557	...
Local Government Service	729	736	736	736	...
Total in Civil Employment	23,029	22,989	22,979†	22,948	- 31

NUMBERS EMPLOYED: INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS

The Table on the next page shows, for those industries for which comparable figures are available, the numbers employed at the end of February and December, 1956, and January and February, 1957. The figures relate to employees (including persons temporarily laid off but still on the employers' pay-rolls); they exclude employers and persons working on their own account, and they are thus different in scope from those given in the preceding paragraphs. Satisfactory estimates of the changes in the numbers within the latter classes cannot be made at monthly intervals for the individual industries.

The figures are based primarily on the estimates of the total numbers of employees and their industrial distribution at the middle of each year which have been computed on the basis of the counts of insurance cards. In the case of all industries other than coal mining, building and civil engineering and gas and electricity, use has also been made of the monthly returns rendered by employers under the Statistics of Trade Act, 1947. The returns show the numbers on the pay-rolls (including those temporarily laid-off and those absent from work owing to sickness, etc.) at the beginning of the month and at the end of the month; the two sets of figures are summarised separately for each industry, and the ratio between the two totals is the basis for computing the change in employment during the month. Certain industries and services which are not covered by employers' returns (or are only partially covered), or for which figures are not available in the same form as for those shown below, are omitted from the Table.

* Cotton—252,000. Wool—213,000. Other textiles—475,000.
† Revised figure.

Principal Changes in Rates of Wages Reported during March—continued

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change. Includes entries for Agriculture, Mining and Quarrying, Pottery Manufacture, Glass Container Manufacture, Cement Manufacture, Cast Stone and Cast Concrete Products Manufacture, Coke Manufacture, Atomic Energy, Pig Iron Manufacture, and Iron and Steel Manufacture.

* These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Agricultural Wages (Scotland) Act. See pages 90 and 116 of the March issue of this GAZETTE.
† Under sliding-scale arrangements based on the official index of retail prices. The cost-of-living payment now represents the points value of the excess over the previous base of the figure obtained by multiplying the current figure of the index of retail prices (January, 1956 = 100), taken to one decimal place, by 1.534.

Principal Changes in Rates of Wages Reported during March—continued

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change. Includes entries for Iron and Steel Manufacture, Tinplate Manufacture, Tube Manufacture, Galvanising, Shuttle Manufacture, Penmaking, Iron, Steel and Non-ferrous Scrap, Artificial Limb Manufacture, Pressed Felt Manufacture, Flax Spinning and Weaving, Jute Carpet Manufacture, and Hosiery Manufacture.

* These increases affected employees of firms which are members of the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the principal districts concerned being the North-East Coast, Cumberland, Lancashire, South Yorkshire (excluding Sheffield special steels district), Lincolnshire, South Wales and West of Scotland.
† Under sliding-scale arrangements based on the official index of retail prices. The cost-of-living payment/bonus now represents the points value of the excess over the previous base of the figure obtained by multiplying the current figure of the index of retail prices (January, 1956 = 100), taken to one decimal place, by 1.534.

Principal Changes in Rates of Wages Reported during March—continued

Industry	District (see also Note at beginning of Table)	Date from which Change took effect	Classes of Workpeople	Particulars of Change
Carpet Manufacture	Great Britain (92)	First pay day in Mar.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Cost-of-living bonus increased* from 57½ to 60 per cent. on the first £6 15s. of total earnings (exclusive of cost-of-living bonus) for male workers, and on the first £4 10s. for female workers. Bonus on earnings in excess of £6 15s. and £4 10s. increased from 47½ to 50 per cent. Rates after change, inclusive of cost-of-living bonus and lieu bonus, include: general minimum rate for male workers 21 and over 148s. 10d. a week, dry beamers, packers, back sizers and starchers, card men (jacquard, wilton and gripper), fur cutters with 6 months' experience in any of the jobs 158s. 5d., wet beamers and dressers with 12 months' experience 174s. 5d., croppers and shearers with 6 months' experience 158s. 5d., 166s. 5d. or 174s. 5d., according to width of machine; general minimum rate for female workers 20 and over 99s. 3d., card cutters with 18 months' experience 113s. 7d.
		First pay day after 17 Mar.	Night-shift workers	Additions paid to time and pieceworkers increased from one-fifth to one-fourth of the standard time rate.
Hosiery Bleaching, Dyeing and Finishing	Midlands (various districts)† (97)	First pay day in Mar.	Male and female workers	Increase* of 1 per cent. (3 to 4 per cent.) in the percentage additions paid on all time and piece rates.
Cotton Waste Reclamation	Great Britain (233)	8 Mar.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Increases of 2d. an hour for male workers 21 or over and for female workers of all ages, and of 1½d. for male workers under 21. General minimum time rates after change: men 21 or over 2s. 11d. an hour, youths and boys 1s. 7½d. at under 16, rising to 2s. 8½d. at 20; women 18 or over 2s. 3½d. (England and Wales) or 2s. 3½d. (Scotland), girls (Great Britain) 1s. 7d. at under 16, rising to 2s. at 17½.
Hat and Cap Making and Millinery	Northern Ireland (236)	19 Mar.	Men, youths and boys	Increases of 3d. an hour in general minimum time rates for workers in specified occupations, for other workers 21 and over and for late entrants, and of 1d., 1½d., 2d. or 2½d., according to age, for younger workers; increase of 3d. an hour in piecework basis time rates. General minimum time rates after change include: workers in specified occupations 3s. 3½d. an hour, other workers 21 and over 2s. 11½d., youths and boys 1s. at under 15, rising to 2s. 6½d. at 20, late entrants at or over 19, 2s. 1½d. during 1st six months' employment and 2s. 2½d. during 2nd six months; piecework basis time rates—workers in specified occupations 3s. 5½d., other workers (all ages) 3s. 1½d.‡
			Women and girls (except those employed in the retail branch of the trade)	Increases of 2d. an hour in general minimum time rates for workers other than learners, and of 1d., 1½d. or 2d., according to period of learnership, for learners; increase of 2d. an hour in piecework basis time rate. General minimum time rates after change: workers, other than learners, 2s. 1½d. an hour, learners (except those who enter the trade at or over 18) 1s. 1½d. during 1st year's employment, rising to 1s. 10d. during 4th year; piecework basis time rate 2s. 3½d.‡
			Women and girls employed in the retail branch of the trade	Increases of 2d. an hour in general minimum time rates for workers other than learners, and of 1d., 1½d. or 2d., according to period of learnership, for learners. General minimum time rates after change: workers 21 and over with not less than 2 years' experience after completion of learnership—area A 2s. 1½d. an hour, area B 2s. 1½d., workers 21 and over with less than 2 years' experience after learnership and outworkers 2s. 0½d., 2s. 0½d., learners 1s. 1½d. or 1s. 1½d. during 1st year's employment, rising to 1s. 10d. or 1s. 9½d. during 4th year.§
Slaughtering	Scotland (121)	Pay day in week commencing 4 Feb.	Male workers	Increase of 6s. 6d. a week. Rates after change: foremen slaughtermen 196s. 6d. a week, slaughtermen 176s. 6d., gutmen (full-time) 171s. 6d., other grades (other than qualified gutmen) 161s. 6d.
Aerated Waters Manufacture	Scotland (233)	22 Mar.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Increases of 2d. an hour in general minimum time rates for men 21 or over, of 1½d. for women 19 or over, of ½d., ¾d., 1d. or 1½d., according to age, for youths and boys, and of ½d., ¾d. or 1½d. for girls. General minimum time rates after change include: men 21 or over 2s. 10½d. an hour, women 19 or over 2s. 0½d.; Orkney and Shetland Islands—1d. an hour less in each case.¶
Sign Production and Display	England and Wales	First full pay week commencing on or after 1 Mar.	Production artists, writers, poster writers, screen process printers, auxiliary workers, etc.	Increase¶ of 1s. a week (33s. to 34s.) in the cost-of-living bonus paid to all workers.
Rubber Manufacture	Great Britain (154)	First full pay period following 20 Feb.	Night-shift workers	Allowance paid to night-shift workers increased from one-fifth to one-fourth of the basic time rate.**
Linoleum and Felt Base Manufacture	England and Scotland	First full pay period following 17 Mar.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Increases of 2d. an hour (7s. 6d. a week) in minimum time rates for adult male workers, and of proportional amounts for women and juveniles. Minimum time rates after change include: men 20 or 21 and over 146s. 9d. a week, women 18 and over 103s. 9d.
Cinematograph Film Production	Great Britain	First pay day in Mar.	Laboratory workers, including technical and clerical workers and certain other workers†† employed in film printing and processing laboratories	Cost-of-living bonus increased* by 1s. 6d. a week (50s. 6d. to 52s.) for workers 18 and over, and by 1s. (33s. 8d. to 34s. 8d.) for younger workers.
	United Kingdom	do.	Technical workers whose normal salaries do not exceed £19 10s. a week, and learners, employed in producing news-reels	Cost-of-living bonus increased†† by 1s. 6d. a week (53s. to 54s. 6d.) for workers 21 and over, and by 1s. (34s. 4d. to 35s. 4d.) for younger workers.

* Under sliding-scale arrangements based on the official index of retail prices.

† Including Leicester, Loughborough, Hinckley and district, Nuneaton and Nottingham district and Derby.

‡ These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act. See page 116 of the March issue of this GAZETTE.

§ These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act (Northern Ireland). See page 150 of this GAZETTE.

¶ These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act. See page 150 of this GAZETTE.

* Under sliding-scale arrangements based on the official index of retail prices. The cost-of-living bonus now represents the points value of the excess over the previous base of the figure obtained by multiplying the current figure of the index of retail prices (January, 1956 = 100), taken to one decimal place, by 1.534.

** This increase applied to workpeople covered by the agreement of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Rubber Manufacturing Industry.

†† Including boiler attendants, storemen, transport mechanics, transport drivers, charge-hand cleaners, cleaners, commissionaires, doormen and gatemen, charge-hand painters, painters' mates, carpenters, carpenters' mates and general labourers.

‡‡ Under sliding-scale arrangements based on the official index of retail prices. With effect from the date stated the cost-of-living bonus is related to the new index of retail prices (January, 1956 = 100) and the cash value of each point movement in the index is increased to 1s. 6d. (previously 6d.) for workers 21 and over, and by 1s. (previously 4d.) for younger workers; the amounts shown above are related to the January, 1957, index figure of 104.

Principal Changes in Rates of Wages Reported during March—continued

Industry	District (see also Note at beginning of Table)	Date from which Change took effect	Classes of Workpeople	Particulars of Change
Cinematograph Film Production (continued)	Great Britain	Beginning of first full pay week following 28 Feb.	Technicians and trainees whose normal salaries do not exceed £21 10s. 6d. a week, employed in the production of specialised films	Cost-of-living bonus increased* by 1s. 6d. a week (5s. to 6s. 6d.) for workers 18 and over, and by 1s. (3s. 4d. to 4s. 4d.) for younger workers.
Building	Isle of Man	First full working week after 4 Mar.	Craftsmen, labourers and apprentices	Increases of 1d. an hour for craftsmen and labourers, and of proportional amounts for apprentices. Rates after change include: craftsmen 4s. 4½d. an hour, labourers 3s. 10d.
Electrical Contracting	Scotland (163)	First full pay period following 24 Mar.	Journeymen electricians, armature winders and apprentices employed on electrical installation and maintenance work (excluding work on ships)	Increases of 2½d. an hour in standard rates for journeymen electricians and armature winders, and of proportional amounts for apprentices. Rates after change include: charge hands, inclusive of extra hourly allowance—in charge of 4 or up to 7 other employees 4s. 10d. an hour, in charge of 8 or more 4s. 11d., journeymen electricians 4s. 7d., armature winders 4s. 8d.
Gas Supply	Great Britain (166)	31 Mar.	Workpeople other than maintenance craftsmen	Increases in standard scheduled rates of 2½d. an hour or 1s. 8d. a shift for adult male day workers and shiftworkers, with appropriate adjustments in rates for pieceworkers, female workers and juveniles. Standard scheduled rates after change include: gas fitters, 1st class—Metropolitan area 4s. 10½d. an hour, Metropolitan fringe 4s. 9½d., Provincial A 4s. 8d., Provincial B 4s. 6½d.; 2nd class 4s. 7½d., 4s. 6½d., 4s. 5d., 4s. 3½d.; labourers 4s. 1d., 4s., 3s. 10½d., 3s. 8½d.
Electricity Supply	Great Britain (168-169)	First full pay period following 1 Mar.	Workpeople employed in electricity supply undertakings—Manual workers	Increase of 2½d. an hour in schedule rates. Day rates after change include: fitters—London district 4s. 11½d. an hour, Provinces 4s. 7½d., labourers 4s. 2½d., 3s. 10½d.
			Workpeople in the building and civil engineering trades	Increase of 2½d. an hour. Rates after change: craftsmen—London 4s. 11½d. an hour, Provinces 4s. 7½d., qualified whole-time benders and fixers of bars for reinforced concrete work and qualified whole-time tubular scaffolders 4s. 7d., 4s. 3d., craftsmen's mates 4s. 4d., 4s., labourers 4s. 2½d., 3s. 10½d.
Coal Distribution	London (190)	1 Mar.	Transport and other workers	Increases in tonnage rates of 2d. or 3d. per ton for loading or delivering coal, coke, etc.; output bonus, payable in addition to and based on the total weekly earnings, adjusted as follows:—mechanical transport drivers and loaders at sidings 2s. 6d. when earnings exceed 165s. (previously the amount was 155s.), rising to 26s. when earnings exceed 230s. a week, horse carmen 3s. at over 150s. (previously 140s.) to 26s. at over 220s., loaders at bays and shoots 1s. at over 167s. 6d. to 24s. at over 237s. 6d.
Retail Multiple Grocery and Provisions Trade	England and Wales	4 Mar.	Shop managers and managers	Increases in minimum rates of remuneration of 10s. to 21s. a week, according to age, for male workers, and of 4s., 5s. or 6s. for female workers. Minimum rates after change: shop managers, London area 189s. a week where weekly trade is under £100 (previously the lowest rate was payable at under £50), to 294s. where weekly trade is between £1,490 and £1,510, Provincial A area 180s. to 285s., Provincial B area 176s. to 281s.; shop managers, London 158s. 6d. to 263s. 6d., A 152s. 6d. to 257s. 6d., B 150s. 6d. to 255s. 6d.†
			All other workers (except transport workers)	Increases in minimum rates of remuneration of 4s., 6s. or 9s. a week, according to age, for male workers, and of 4s., 5s. or 6s. for female workers. Minimum rates after change: grade 1 clerks 23 or over—male workers, London area 174s. a week, Provincial A area 166s., Provincial B area 162s., female workers 122s. 6d., 118s. 6d., 116s. 6d.; grade 1 clerks under 23, grade 2 clerks, shop assistants, stockmen or ordermen, canvassers, van salesmen, cashiers or central warehouse workers—male workers, London 69s. at under 16, rising to 168s. at 22 or over, A 64s. to 160s., B 62s. to 156s., female workers 57s. to 118s., 55s. to 114s., 54s. to 112s.; other workers—male workers, London 68s. at under 16 to 163s. at 22 or over, A 63s. to 155s., B 61s. to 151s., female workers 56s. to 113s., 54s. to 109s., 53s. to 107s.‡
			Transport workers	Increases in minimum rates of remuneration of 9s. a week for drivers 21 or over of mechanically propelled vehicles of 1 ton or less carrying capacity and for drivers of one-horse drawn vehicles, of 4s. or 6s., according to age, for those under 21, and of 9s. for drivers, all ages, of mechanically propelled vehicles of over 1 ton and for drivers of two-horse drawn vehicles. Minimum rates after change: drivers of mechanically propelled vehicles of 1 ton or less carrying capacity and drivers of one-horse drawn vehicles, London area 105s. a week at under 18, rising to 168s. at 21 or over, Provincial A area 98s. to 160s., Provincial B area 95s. to 156s.; drivers, all ages, of mechanically propelled vehicles of over 1 and up to 2 tons carrying capacity and drivers of two-horse drawn vehicles, London 171s., all Provinces 163s., of over 2 and up to 3 tons 176s., 169s., of over 5 tons 179s., 171s.‡
	Scotland	Week commencing 4 Mar.	Shop managers and managers	Increase in minimum rates of remuneration of 11s. to 18s. a week, according to weekly trade. Minimum rates after change: shop managers 177s. a week where weekly trade is under £100 (previously the lowest rate was payable at under £80), to 266s. where weekly trade is between £1,190 and £1,210; shop managers 150s. 6d. to 241s. 6d.†
			Other workers	Increases in minimum rates of remuneration of 4s. to 9s. a week, according to age, for male workers, and of 4s. to 6s. for female workers. Minimum rates after change: grade 1 clerks 23 and over (previously the highest rate was payable at 24)—male workers, area 1 166s. a week, area 2 162s., female workers 118s. 6d., 115s. 6d.; grade 1 clerks under 23, grade 2 clerks, shop assistants, central warehouse workers and all other workers not specified—male workers, area 1 61s. 6d. at 15, rising to 160s. at 22 or over (previously the highest rate was payable at 23), area 2 58s. 6d. to 156s., female workers, area 1 55s. to 114s., area 2 52s. to 111s.‡
Wholesale Newspaper Distribution	Great Britain (Provinces) (208)	4 Mar.	Workpeople employed by wholesale newsagents in the handling, packing and distribution of newspapers and periodicals	Increases in minimum rates of 8s., 10s. or 12s. a week, according to area and duty allocation, for qualified men, of 6s. or 6s. 6d., according to area, for women, and of proportional amounts for younger workers. Rates after change: male workers—qualified men 21 and over, grade 1 towns, night staff and early morning staff 197s. a week, day staff 190s., grade 2 towns 188s. 6d., 181s. 6d., youths and boys, grade 1 65s. at 16 during first 6 months' employment, rising to 155s. 6d. at end of fifth year, grade 2 61s. 6d. to 147s. 6d., thereafter qualified men's rate; female workers—qualified women and clerical staff, grade 1 116s. 6d., grade 2 112s. 6d., learners, grade 1 64s. at 16 during first 6 months, rising to 102s. at end of third year, grade 2 60s. 6d. to 98s., thereafter qualified women's rate.

* Under sliding-scale arrangements based on the official index of retail prices. With effect from the date stated the cost-of-living bonus is related to the new index of retail prices (January, 1956 = 100) and the cash value of each point movement in the index is increased to 1s. 6d. for workers 18 and over and to 1s. for younger workers; the amounts shown above are related to the January, 1957, index figure of 104. (Previously the cash value of each point movement was 1s. for workers 21 and over and 8d. for those under 21.)

† These rates are applicable to the employees of firms which are parties to the agreements of the Joint Committee for the Retail Multiple Grocery and Provisions Trade in England and Wales.

‡ The rates are applicable to the employees of firms which are parties to the agreements of the Joint Committee for the Retail Multiple Grocery and Provisions Trade in Scotland.

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