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Young Persons Entering Employment

IN the issues of this GAZETTE for August, 1951, October, 1952, and December, 1953 and 1954, articles were published giving information about the numbers of young persons under 18 years of age who entered employment during the years 1950-1953. Corresponding figures are now available for the year 1954 and a summary of the information for that year is given below.

The statistics are derived from the administrative arrangements for the issue of national insurance cards. All persons entering employment must obtain insurance cards for the purpose of paying contributions under the National Insurance scheme. For young persons under 18 years of age the cards are issued by Youth Employment Offices, most of which are conducted by Local Authorities. By arrangement with the Youth Employment Offices, a statistical record card is completed in respect of every young person to whom an insurance card is issued who has completed full-time education and has entered or is about to enter insurable employment. The particulars entered on the statistical card are as follows : age at the time when full-time education ceased ; age at the time of entry into insurable employment ; code number of the Standard Industrial Classification covering the employer's industry ; and type of occupation. For the purpose of the last item occupations are grouped under four headings, viz., (a) apprenticeship to a skilled craft (i.e., apprenticeship or learnership with or without an indenture or other form of written agreement) ; (b) articulated clerks and others in employment leading to recognised professional qualifications (law, accountancy, surveying, nursing, etc.) ; (c) clerical employment not covered by (b) ; and (d) other employment. The record cards are sent to the Statistics Department of the Ministry of Labour and National Service for analysis.

The principal limitation to be borne in mind when considering the figures derived from this source is that it is not possible to ensure that all young persons who obtained insurance cards for holiday or other spare-time work while still at school are included in the figures when they finally terminate full-time education, although the Youth Employment Officers have been instructed to include any young persons whom they know to be in that category. This factor affects the totals for the 16 and 17 age-classes to a greater extent than those

for the 15 age-class, but it is unlikely that it affects significantly the proportions entering different industries or different types of employment. It is important also to bear in mind that the figures do not provide a measure of the total numbers leaving school since they exclude those who left to enter universities and other institutions of higher education, boys going direct to H.M. Forces for their period of National Service and also those leaving school with no immediate intention of entering paid employment.

It is necessary to mention one further qualification of the figures, viz., that since the exact date of starting work is not always known it is not possible to establish the precise numbers who start work in each calendar year (the main difficulty being that of drawing the exact dividing line between the end of one calendar year and the beginning of the next). The total numbers included in the analyses for 1952, 1953 and 1954 were 523,000, 551,000 and 505,000, respectively, but it is probable that the differences between the numbers actually starting work in the three years were not as great as these figures appear to indicate.

The total of 505,000 recorded in 1954 is analysed in the following Table according to age at leaving school and age at entry into employment.

Age at leaving school	Age at entry into employment			
	15	16	17	Total
Boys :				
15	211,977	3,114	335	215,426
16	—	34,148	865	35,013
17	—	—	8,003	8,003
Total, Boys	211,977	37,262	9,203	258,442
Girls :				
15	201,523	3,409	690	205,622
16	—	29,566	942	30,508
17	—	—	10,498	10,498
Total, Girls	201,523	32,975	12,130	246,628

As in previous years, the great majority of young persons left school at the age of 15 and entered employment at the same age. Of the total of 215,426 boys and 205,622 girls who left school before reaching 16, only 3,449 and 4,099 reached that age before their entry into employment. Similarly the great majority of those who left school between 16 and 17 years of age entered employment before reaching 17. The number of girls entering employment between 17 and 18 years of age was considerably greater than the number of boys, but there was probably a larger number of boys leaving school at that age to enter universities or to enter the Forces for their period of National Service.

In the following Table the totals for 1954 and for the twelve months ended January, 1951 (the first period for which figures are available) are analysed to show the numbers entering the four different types of employment referred to above, viz., (a) apprenticeships or learnerships to skilled crafts, (b) service under articles or other employment leading to recognised professional qualifications, (c) clerical employment, and (d) other employment.

Class of Employment Entered	Age at entry into employment					
	1954			1950-51		
	15	16	17	15	16	17
	Boys (000's)					
Apprenticeship, or Learnership, to Skilled Craft ..	70.6	15.0	2.8	75.9	13.2	3.2
Employment leading to recognised professional qualifications ..	0.7	1.6	0.9	1.2	2.1	1.3
Clerical Employment ..	11.0	9.3	2.3	13.8	10.2	2.8
Other Employment ..	129.7	11.4	3.2	134.3	11.5	3.7
Total, Boys ..	212.0	37.3	9.2	225.2	37.0	11.0
	Girls (000's)					
Apprenticeship, or Learnership, to Skilled Craft ..	11.9	2.0	0.9	17.4	2.6	1.2
Employment leading to recognised professional qualifications ..	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.3
Clerical Employment ..	51.4	20.9	6.8	51.9	20.3	6.7
Other Employment ..	137.5	9.2	3.4	143.8	11.7	4.3
Total, Girls ..	201.5	33.0	12.1	214.1	35.8	13.5

For the purpose of this analysis the category "apprenticeship or learnership" covers those entering employment as apprentices or learners, with or without an indenture or other form of written agreement, and also young persons placed in employment which is known to be likely to lead to apprenticeship.

In 1954 one-third of the boys under 16 entered employment leading to apprenticeships or learnerships to skilled crafts, one in twenty entered clerical employment, and about three-fifths went into "other employment". These proportions were very close to the corresponding proportions in 1950-51. Among those who entered employment at the ages of 16 and 17 in 1954, 40 per cent. and 30 per cent., respectively, became apprentices or learners and 25 per cent. at both ages entered clerical employment. The proportion entering employment leading to professional qualifications was much higher among the older boys, being less than one-half of one per

cent. among those who entered employment at age 15, over 4 per cent. among those aged 16, and nearly 10 per cent. among those aged 17. These proportions were slightly lower than the corresponding proportions in 1950-51.

Industrial Analysis

The figures for the period under review have been analysed to show the numbers of boys and girls entering different industries, and the Table below shows the numbers in eight broad industrial groups expressed as percentages of the total numbers of entrants. Corresponding figures are given for 1950-51.

Industry Group	Number entering each industry group as percentage of grand total			
	Boys		Girls	
	Aged 15	Aged 16 and 17	Aged 15	Aged 16 and 17
	1954			
Agriculture, etc. ..	10	8	1	2
Mining and Quarrying ..	5	2	—	—
Manufacturing Industries ..	47	39	48	26
Building and Contracting ..	12	7	1	1
Transport, etc. ..	4	7	1	4
Distributive Trades ..	15	10	32	20
Public Administration, Utilities, Professional Services, Entertainments and Commerce and Finance ..	5	25	8	41
Hotels, Laundries and Personal Services ..	2	2	9	6
Total ..	100	100	100	100
Total number of entrants (000's) ..	212	46	202	45
	1950-51			
Agriculture, etc. ..	10	8	1	2
Mining and Quarrying ..	3	1	—	—
Manufacturing Industries ..	48	36	48	25
Building and Contracting ..	12	7	1	1
Transport, etc. ..	5	9	2	5
Distributive Trades ..	15	10	30	18
Public Administration, Utilities, Professional Services, Entertainments and Commerce and Finance ..	5	27	9	41
Hotels, Laundries and Personal Services ..	2	2	9	8
Total ..	100	100	100	100
Total number of entrants (000's) ..	225	48	214	49

Comparison between the figures for 1954 and those for 1950-51 shows that there has been little change in four years in the proportions of young persons entering the various industry groups. The most important change was the increase from 3 to 5 per cent. in the proportion of boys aged 15 entering the mining and quarrying industries. Nearly one-half both of boys and of girls aged 15 went into manufacturing industries, and 15 per cent. of the boys and 32 per cent. of the girls went into the distributive trades. Among

Young Persons Entering Employment, January to December, 1954: Analysis by Industry Group and Occupational Category

Industry Group	Boys						Girls (aged 15-17)					
	Apprentices and Learners in Skilled Crafts and Persons Preparing for Recognised Professional Qualifications		Entering Clerical Employment		Entering Other Employment		Apprentices and Learners in Skilled Crafts and Persons Preparing for Recognised Professional Qualifications		Entering Clerical Employment		Entering Other Employment	
	Aged 15	Aged 16-17	Aged 15	Aged 16-17	Aged 15	Aged 16-17	Aged 15	Aged 16-17	Aged 15	Aged 16-17	Aged 15	Aged 16-17
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing ..	1,200	535	53	34	19,233	2,929	23,984	179	265	2,946	3,390	
Mining and Quarrying ..	1,343	300	134	109	9,483	374	11,743	15	324	96	435	
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products ..	759	139	198	126	2,754	182	4,158	116	913	1,499	2,528	
Chemicals and Allied Trades ..	466	547	292	248	1,330	323	3,206	146	2,585	2,154	4,885	
Metal Manufacture ..	1,754	673	336	150	2,592	275	5,780	58	1,313	478	1,849	
Engineering, Shipbuilding and Electrical Goods ..	16,466	5,348	1,293	594	10,086	979	34,766	245	7,280	4,020	11,545	
Vehicles ..	9,655	2,092	425	212	6,533	492	19,429	68	3,468	876	4,412	
Metal Goods ..	2,255	368	194	107	3,981	277	7,182	48	1,698	2,802	4,548	
Precision Instruments, Jewellery, etc. ..	892	310	48	20	1,177	104	2,551	55	474	953	1,822	
Textiles ..	952	281	272	189	4,736	292	6,722	968	2,179	15,675	18,822	
Leather, Leather Goods and Fur ..	171	27	21	12	642	44	917	115	1,686	20,705	26,499	
Clothing ..	1,303	144	88	63	2,845	233	4,676	4,108	3,157	9,540	13,333	
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	1,097	192	362	261	5,817	540	8,269	153	699	1,052	1,904	
Manufactures of Wood and Cork ..	3,108	251	171	99	5,584	358	9,571	842	2,770	7,077	10,689	
Paper and Printing ..	2,828	551	175	105	3,634	323	8,469	79	1,188	2,348	3,615	
Other Manufacturing Industries ..	258	105	138	106	1,469	181	2,257	61	1,580	188	1,829	
Building and Contracting ..	17,532	2,037	467	391	7,404	684	28,515	115	3,874	85	973	
Gas, Electricity and Water ..	1,011	447	119	227	363	57	2,224	14	184	1,125	4,760	
Transport and Communication ..	1,186	1,364	1,338	1,146	5,721	959	11,714	1,675	17,918	54,363	73,956	
Distributive Trades ..	3,510	800	1,749	1,195	27,341	2,853	37,450	85	9,397	263	9,745	
Insurance, Banking and Finance ..	90	363	938	2,755	137	103	4,386	85	4,006	733	5,095	
Public Administration ..	1,434	1,245	387	1,500	1,551	867	6,984	52	1,584	63	6,282	
Accountancy ..	87	823	379	47	126	99	510	2,743	1,196	2,343	7,909	
Medical and Dental Services ..	115	107	16	47	477	323	3,446	722	5,754	1,433	23,265	
Other Professional Services ..	370	932	674	670	4,642	707	7,354	3,730	3,147	16,388	23,265	
Miscellaneous Services ..	1,424	262	196	123	4,642	707	7,354	3,730	3,147	16,388	23,265	
Total, All Industries and Services ..	71,266	20,243	11,003	11,633	129,708	14,589	258,442	17,453	79,113	150,062	246,628	

those who entered employment at the age of 16 or 17 the proportions going into the manufacturing industries and the distributive trades were considerably lower than among those under 16, with correspondingly higher proportions going into the Public Administration, Utilities, Professional Services, Entertainments and Commerce and Finance group. In 1954, 41 per cent. of the total number of girls aged 16 and 17 went into the latter group, while the corresponding proportion of boys was 25 per cent.

The figures for each industrial group include all entrants into the service of employers in the group irrespective of the nature of their personal occupations. The figures for the manufacturing group, for example, include not only those entering employment in the factories, but also clerical and technical staffs and all other ancillary employments with the same employers. In the Table at the foot of the preceding page the figures for each of the main "Orders" of the Standard Industrial Classification (with some sub-divisions of the Professional Services group) are analysed to show the numbers in the occupational categories (apprentices, etc.) referred to in an earlier paragraph. In this Table the numbers entering employment leading to recognised professional qualifications have been combined with the numbers of apprentices, etc.

It is important to bear in mind that the figures merely show the numbers whose first jobs after leaving school were in the industry group specified in the Table, and the total numbers entering a particular industry group, when account is taken of transfers from other industries, may have been greater. This is particularly important in the case of the mining and quarrying group; the total number of boys entering this group in 1954 is shown in the Table as 11,743, but the total intake of boys under 18 into the coal-mining industry alone was 20,000 (see the issue of the Monthly Digest of Statistics for June, 1955, page 29).

The figures show that in the industries employing highly skilled craftsmen (e.g., engineering and shipbuilding, vehicle and building and contracting industries) well over 60 per cent. of the boys entered employment as apprentices or learners, or employment leading to apprenticeship or learnership, or to professional status. The industry group with the highest proportion of girls entering similar types of employment was medical and dental services (44 per cent.). Two-thirds of the girls who went into the engineering and vehicle groups of industries went as clerical workers. It was to be expected that clerical work would also predominate for girls in insurance, banking and finance, public administration, accountancy and other professional services.

Regional Analysis

The Table in the next column shows the numbers of young entrants into employment in 1954 in each of the nine administrative Regions of England and in Scotland and Wales, analysed according to age at the time of entry.

There was, in general, very close agreement between the proportions of boys and the proportions of girls entering employment at the various ages. In the London and South-Eastern and South-Western Regions the proportion both of boys and of girls who entered employment before reaching 16 was about 76 per cent.; in the Midland, North-Midland and Northern Regions it was

85 per cent. for both sexes, whereas in Scotland it was 89 per cent. In Wales, however, there was a fairly substantial difference between boys and girls in this respect; 83 per cent. of the boys entered employment before reaching 16, but the corresponding proportion for girls was 78 per cent.

The figures in the last column of the Table show that the proportion that boys entering employment represented of the total number of male employees varied from 1.5 per cent. in the London and South-Eastern Region to 2.4 per cent. in Scotland. For girls the corresponding variation was between 2.3 per cent. in the London and South-Eastern Region and 4.8 per cent. in the Northern Region and in Wales. The lower percentages for the London and South-Eastern Region are no doubt connected with the fact that in recent years there has been a considerable "inward balance" into that Region of adult immigration from other parts of the country.

Region	Age at entry into employment			Total Number	Per cent. of the estimated number of employees aged 15 and over in the Region at May, 1954*
	15	16	17		
	Boys				
London and South-Eastern ..	38,412	10,370	2,756	51,538	1.5
Eastern ..	12,665	2,058	560	15,283	2.0
Southern ..	9,918	1,916	537	12,371	1.9
South-Western ..	11,546	2,795	757	15,098	2.0
Midland ..	21,042	3,029	671	24,742	1.8
North-Midland ..	15,464	2,419	426	18,309	1.9
East and West Ridings ..	18,611	3,393	636	22,640	1.9
North-Western ..	27,832	4,667	953	33,452	1.8
Northern ..	15,851	2,088	446	18,385	2.1
Scotland ..	29,805	2,808	898	33,511	2.4
Wales ..	10,831	1,719	563	13,113	2.0
Total, Great Britain ..	211,977	37,262	9,203	258,442	1.9
	Girls				
London and South-Eastern ..	35,440	8,004	3,501	46,945	2.3
Eastern ..	11,951	2,025	855	14,831	4.0
Southern ..	9,329	1,796	742	11,867	3.7
South-Western ..	11,033	2,317	1,001	14,351	4.0
Midland ..	19,900	2,657	881	23,438	3.3
North-Midland ..	15,503	2,151	594	18,248	3.9
East and West Ridings ..	18,147	3,024	872	22,043	3.5
North-Western ..	27,478	4,546	1,232	33,256	3.0
Northern ..	14,841	2,060	580	17,481	4.8
Scotland ..	28,408	2,572	1,015	31,995	4.3
Wales ..	9,493	1,823	857	12,173	4.8
Total, Great Britain ..	201,523	32,975	12,130	246,628	3.4

* The numbers of boys have been expressed as percentages of the estimated numbers of male employees, and the numbers of girls as percentages of the estimated numbers of female employees.

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 282 to 298.

Employment

It is estimated that the number of persons in civil employment in Great Britain rose during June by 17,000 (+ 1,000 males and + 16,000 females), the number at the end of the month being 22,890,000. The basic industries (mining, gas, electricity and water supply, transport, agriculture and fishing) showed an increase of 5,000, manufacturing industries a decrease of 11,000 and other industries and services an increase of 23,000. 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 1,000 from 23,870,000 to 23,869,000.

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 180,517 to 165,703 between 13th June and 11th July, 1955, and the numbers registered as temporarily stopped fell from 30,026 to 19,226. In the two classes combined there was a fall of 13,644 among males and 11,970 among females.

Rates of Wages

The index of weekly wage rates, based on June, 1947 (taken as 100), was 153 at the end of July compared with 152 at the end of June. The changes in rates of wages reported to the Department during July resulted in an increase estimated at £93,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 478,000 workpeople. The principal increases affected workpeople in the general printing industry, milk distributive workers in England and Wales, and workers employed in textile bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing.

Retail Prices

At 12th July, the retail prices index was 150 (prices at 17th June, 1947 = 100), the same figure as at 14th June, compared with 145 at 13th July, 1954.

Industrial Disputes

The number of workers involved during July 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 35,000. The aggregate time lost during the month at the establishments where the stoppages occurred was about 88,000 working days. The number of stoppages which began in the month was 98, and, in addition, 11 stoppages which began before July were still in progress at the beginning of the month.

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AGRICULTURAL WAGES IN ENGLAND AND WALES

The Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales made Orders on 13th July, with effect from 25th July, whereby the minimum rates for adult males are now paid at 20 years of age instead of at 21 years as previously. For females there is no change.

The Orders raise the minimum time rate for ordinary male workers aged 20 years from 111s. to 127s. a week in all districts. The special rates, which are in operation in the Holland division of Lincolnshire for certain classes of workers, are increased to 175s. a week (an increase of 7s. a week at 21 years and 29s. at 20 years) for men 20 years and over employed wholly or mainly as horsemen and to 156s. (an increase of 2s. a week at 21 years and 22s. at 20 years) for men 20 years and over employed wholly or mainly as cattlemen, milkmen and shepherds. The general minimum time rate for men in part-time or casual employment and the minimum differential rates for overtime employment and holiday remuneration are also made applicable at age 20 and over.

EQUAL PAY FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Local Government Service

The National Joint Council for Local Authorities' Administrative, Professional, Technical and Clerical Services have approved the principle of equal pay for equal work and have made certain decisions as to the implementation of this principle.

The scheme applies in the non-industrial sphere and relates to the departmental grades in which there is common recruitment of men and women, and where common conditions of employment obtain. The basic principle of the scheme is that women's scales shall be improved in seven equal stages until they become identical with the corresponding existing men's scales or with revisions of these which may occur during the transition period.

The operative date is 1st July, 1955, with the succeeding adjustments taking place on 1st January each year. The first stage scale, which will operate from 1st July, 1955, has been so calculated as to provide over the remaining six months of the year the additional remuneration which would have accrued over the twelve months if the scheme had operated with effect from 1st January, 1955. The seventh stage will operate from 1st January, 1961, from which date there will cease to be separate scales for women in the General, Higher General, Clerical and Higher Clerical Divisions.

No conclusions have been arrived at in respect of employees who are remunerated in accordance with the National Council's special salary scales for female typists, shorthand-typists and machine operators and also female telephone operators, and the matter is to be the subject of further consideration. The application of the scheme to certain posts for supervisory typists and machine operators is subject to determination by the employing authorities concerned.

Teachers in England and Wales

A scheme for the introduction of equal pay for teachers, recommended by the Burnham Main Committee, has been approved* by the Minister of Education to operate in England and Wales from 1st May, 1955.

The basic principle of the scheme is that women's scales shall be improved in seven stages, until they become identical with the men's scales, by means of an addition, to be known as the Equal Pay Increment, at the rate of proportions of the difference between women's salary and the salary for men with equivalent qualifications, training and service, employed in a similar capacity. Thus, from 1st May, 1955, the Equal Pay Increment will be one-seventh of the difference, and from 1st April, 1956, it will be two-sevenths, increasing each succeeding April until, from 1st April, 1961, the salaries for men will apply equally to women.

The scheme applies to women covered by the Primary and Secondary Schools Report, 1954, the Further Education Report, 1954, the Farm Institutes Report, 1954, and the Training College Report, 1954.

ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Since the publication, in the issue of this GAZETTE for August, 1954 (page 268), of the last review of the work of the National Joint Advisory Council, the Council has held four meetings at quarterly intervals under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Labour and National Service or, in his absence, of the Parliamentary Secretary. The following subjects are among the matters to which the Council gave attention.

Industrial Relations

In July the Council considered a paper listing the suggestions which had been advanced from many quarters for improving labour-management relations. The Minister explained that, following the recent strikes in important industries, the Government wished, as an initial step, to discuss the problem with the Council. He also emphasised that there had been no widespread deterioration in industrial relations, which remained good over very wide areas. The Council considered the suggestions made, and agreed that the

* The Remuneration of Teachers Amending Order, 1955; S.I. 1955 No. 633, H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net (3d. including postage).

solution to the problems of industrial relations would not be found by way of general legislation. It was decided that there should be a special meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee towards the end of September, at which the problems could be discussed in greater detail.

Industrial Health Services

At its meeting in October, 1954, the Council considered proposals made by the Minister for developing industrial health services. The central proposal was the reconstitution of the Industrial Health Advisory Committee, to bring together those concerned with the health of factory workers. With the assistance of the Committee, a review would be made to ascertain where industrial health services most needed to be extended, and surveys and field investigations would be promoted to determine the need for preventive measures or research. The Council agreed the proposals, and the Industrial Health Advisory Committee has been appointed (see the issue of this GAZETTE for March, 1955, page 92).

Double Day-Shift Working

The Council received, at its meeting in October, 1954, a summary of the results of the Minister's approach to selected industries inviting them to consider the advantages of double day-shift working. Nearly forty organisations had offered their views. Almost one-half reported that some form of shift working already operated in their industry and only three that any extension of double day-shift working had occurred since the Minister's approach. Of the remainder, some reported that double day-shift working was not suitable for their industry and others that it was unnecessary in existing circumstances for such reasons as shortage of labour, materials or orders.

Work of the Ministry of Labour and National Service

In January the Council received the first of a series of reports on the work of the Department, when the Chief Inspector of Factories reviewed the work of the Factory Inspectorate. In April the Parliamentary Secretary spoke of the Ministry's activities in meeting the problems of full employment, and in July the Minister made a statement on the work of the Youth Employment Service. These reports were welcomed by the Council and were followed by discussion of the services concerned.

Other Matters

The Council has continued to keep under review at each meeting the country's economic position, the amount of overtime and short-time being worked and the state of employment and unemployment in each region. Other subjects which have been considered by the Council have included the training of boilerhouse stokers, the report of the Electricity Sub-Committee of the Joint Consultative Committee, and the frequency of wages inspection visits. Further consideration was also given to the report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Training of Supervisors.

STATISTICS OF THE DISABLED PERSONS REGISTER

Under Section 6 of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944, the Minister of Labour and National Service is required to establish and maintain a Register of Disabled Persons. The Register is kept at the Local Offices and Appointments Offices of the Ministry. Application for registration as a disabled person is voluntary, but certain conditions, laid down in the Act and regulations made under the Act, must be satisfied before an applicant can be admitted to the Register. These conditions are designed, *inter alia*, to afford reasonable assurance that the individual is capable of some form of employment. The purpose of the Register is to make it possible to identify disabled persons eligible to benefit from the provisions of the Act regarding the quota, designated employment, and the special employment and training facilities provided under Section 15 for the severely disabled; eligibility for a course of vocational training or industrial rehabilitation under Sections 2 and 3 of the Act is not conditional upon registration. On registration, a certificate is issued which the holder is able to show to a present or prospective employer as evidence that he qualifies under these provisions. (A summary of the provisions of the Act was given in the issues of this GAZETTE for December, 1943, page 163, and March, 1944, page 47, and a general account of the arrangements for the resettlement of disabled persons appeared in the June, 1949, issue, page 193.)

A quarterly count is taken of the Register of Disabled Persons and the resulting figures are published in this GAZETTE. On 18th April, 1955, the usual count was taken, together with a special count of registered disabled persons who were unemployed. These counts provided figures of the total numbers on the Register analysed by disability and sex, and of registered disabled persons who were unemployed analysed by disability, age-group, sex, and duration of unemployment. A Table giving full details, by nature of disability, of the numbers of persons on the Register at 18th April, 1955, was published on page 174 of the May issue of this GAZETTE. The Table below gives a summary of the figures, showing, for each of the four main disability groups, (a) the numbers of registrations and the percentage which they represented of the total number of registrations, and (b) the numbers unemployed as a percentage of the total number of unemployed disabled persons and as a percentage of the total numbers of registrations. The numbers unemployed for 26 weeks and under, and over 26 weeks, respectively, are shown also as a percentage of the total number unemployed in each

disability group. Corresponding figures for 17th April, 1950, when the last special count was taken, are given for comparison.

Disability Group	Registrations		Unemployed				Percentage of Unemployed to total Registrations
	Number	Percentage of Total	Number	Percentage Unemployed for		Percentage of Total	
				26 weeks and under (5)	Over 26 weeks (6)		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1955							
Surgical ..	331,706	40.1	10,795	51.3	48.7	26.1	3.3
Medical ..	319,632	38.6	20,814	52.1	47.9	50.5	6.5
Psychiatric ..	36,791	4.5	3,793	51.4	48.6	9.2	10.3
Others ..	138,973	16.8	5,847	52.0	48.0	14.2	4.2
Totals ..	827,102	100.0	41,249	51.8	48.2	100.0	5.0
1950							
Surgical ..	381,250	40.7	17,851	48.8	51.2	27.4	4.7
Medical ..	350,575	37.4	33,121	44.8	55.2	50.8	9.5
Psychiatric ..	49,184	5.3	5,266	53.8	46.2	8.1	10.7
Others ..	155,187	16.6	8,890	51.2	48.8	13.7	5.7
Totals ..	936,196	100.0	65,128	47.5	52.5	100.0	7.0

Between April, 1950, and April, 1955, as the Table shows, there was a decline from 936,196 to 827,102 in the total number of registered disabled persons and from 65,128 (7 per cent. of the Register) to 41,249 (5 per cent. of the Register) in the number of registered disabled persons who were unemployed. The decrease in the total number registered occurred despite an increase of 11,367 during the same period in the number of women registered. The decrease in the total number of current registrations is probably due in part to more careful consideration of new and renewal applications, as well as to the lapsing of registrations when applications for renewal were not made.

In interpreting the figures, some reservations need to be borne in mind. Because registration of the disabled is voluntary, the Register does not contain all those who may be eligible to register. The unemployment percentages for disabled persons shown in column 8 of the Table above cannot, therefore, be compared directly with the general percentage rate of unemployment, the calculation of which is based on comprehensive figures of the employee population. The distribution of registrants by disability groups may also not represent accurately the actual proportions of disabled persons in these categories at each date, since there may be a greater reluctance to register on the part of persons having no visible disability, or a greater reluctance to register at some periods than at others. For example, the fact that the number of registrants in the psychiatric group declined by 25 per cent. between April, 1950, and April, 1955, while the number of registrants in the surgical group fell by only about 13 per cent. may possibly reflect an increasing reluctance to register in the former group.

The largest number of unemployed registered disabled persons at 18th April, 1955, was in the medical group, which had 20,814, or 50.5 per cent., of the total of 41,249 unemployed. Within the medical group, the largest sub-categories were: diseases of the heart and circulatory system (3,829), diseases of the respiratory system (3,704), and diseases of the digestive system (3,515). The most noteworthy reduction between April, 1950, and April, 1955, occurred among coal miners suffering from pneumoconiosis, of whom there were only 652 unemployed at April, 1955, compared with 4,478 five years earlier.

The analysis by age-groups showed that in April, 1955, nearly one-third (32.5 per cent.) of the total of 36,963 unemployed capable of ordinary employment were over 56 years of age, a slightly higher proportion than in 1950. A further 22.7 per cent. were in the age-group 48-55. The total of 41,249 unemployed included 35,587 males and 5,662 females. Of the 35,587 males who were unemployed, 9,600 were 40 years of age or under and 25,987 were aged 41 or over, including 12,721 who were over 55. Of the 5,662 females who were unemployed, 3,066 were 40 years of age or under and 2,596 were aged 41 or over.

As indicated in the Table, both the 1950 and the 1955 special counts showed an almost equal division of the total numbers unemployed between those who had been unemployed for 26 weeks or less and those who had been unemployed for over 26 weeks. The analysis by age-groups and duration of unemployment also confirmed, as was expected, that older persons with a disability have greater difficulty in finding employment.

COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO DOCK LABOUR SCHEME

The Committee of Inquiry into the working of the Dock Labour Scheme (see the issue of this GAZETTE for May, page 166) has now been appointed. The Minister of Labour and National Service announced in the House of Commons on 28th July that he had appointed the Hon. Mr. Justice Devlin to be Chairman of the Committee and that the other members of the Committee would be Mr. J. A. Birch, Sir Frederick Rees, Professor J. G. Smith, and Mr. A. B. Waring. The terms of reference of the Committee are "to inquire into the working of the Dock Labour Scheme and to advise what alterations, if any, should be made in the terms of the Scheme".

Any organisation or person wishing to submit evidence to the Committee should get in touch with the Secretary, Mr. W. A. Treganowan, Ministry of Labour and National Service, 8 St. James's Square, London, S.W.1.

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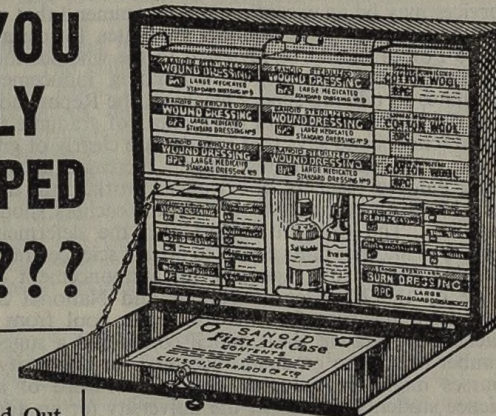
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EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SCIENTIFIC POLICY

The Eighth Annual Report of the Advisory Council on Scientific Policy (1954-1955) has been presented to Parliament by the Lord President of the Council and published by H.M. Stationery Office as a Command Paper (Cmd. 9537), price 6d. net (7½d. including postage).

In an introductory note the Council refer to their Report for last year (see the issue of this GAZETTE for September, 1954, page 307), which took the form of a general review of the work of the Council since it was set up, and to earlier Reports confined to single subjects. The present Report covers several topics with which the Council have dealt during the current year and appendices to the Report include Tables giving the latest available figures of the numbers of science graduates and of Government expenditure on civil scientific research. Figures are also given for recent years of the numbers of science and mathematics graduate teachers in schools.

The Report devotes special attention to the problems, in relation to the general shortage of scientific man-power, of recruiting science teachers for the schools. Although twice as many students as in 1939 now graduate in science and mathematics, the number is no longer increasing as it did in the early post-war period and is not enough to satisfy the current demand for scientists, still less to keep pace with the steady increase in the demand. As the schools have a responsibility complementary to that of the universities in training scientists and technologists, the problem of recruiting science teachers is a serious one. There has been, the Report says, a serious decline since the war in the quality of newly recruited science teachers. Moreover, although the number of teachers of science and mathematics is about adequate at present to cover minimum needs, except in some girls' schools, a serious shortage will develop unless the rate of recruitment increases as the secondary school population rises and as more pupils stay on at school until the age of university entrance.

In discussing measures which might be taken to increase the supply of science teachers, the Report sets out some of the main considerations governing the use of science graduates by Government Departments, other public bodies and industry. The Council say they are far from confident that either Government or industry could, or should, reduce their recruitment of new science graduates, and there is every reason to suppose that their demands will rise. The Council consider that it would be contrary to current trends and accepted policy to adopt a proposal, which they were asked by the Ministry of Education to consider, for a reduction in the intake of science graduates by Government Departments and industry so as to increase the numbers available for teaching. In connection with Government requirements, the Council say that the Armed Services may be an exception and recommend that requirements of first and second class honours graduates for certain posts in the active Forces should be reviewed to see whether the qualifications demanded are justified. In examining inducements to science graduates to take up school teaching, the Report notes an appreciable rise in recent years in the number of graduate science teachers in the schools and says that salaries are clearly of great importance to the continuance of this trend. Increased allowances are now being paid to teachers of advanced work, and the Council say, their effect on recruitment of science teachers should be carefully watched. The Council suggest also the deferment of National Service as another inducement to attract science graduates to school teaching (see below regarding an announcement on this subject made by the Minister of Labour and National Service). As a short-term measure for increasing the pool from which science teachers are drawn, the Council considered a suggestion that the number of science graduates accepted for university post-graduate courses might be reduced. About one-third of all first degree science students stay on at the university for an additional two or three years and most of these students have grants from a Research Council, the Ministry of Education or some other body. It is not certain that the rigorous standards applied in their selection by the Research Councils and the Ministry of Education are invariably applied to students supported by other sources, and, if they were, more graduates than at present might be seeking jobs immediately after taking their first degree. The Council think that, if the universities are not applying over the whole field of graduate science training the rigorous standards governing the post-graduate awards of the Research Councils and the Ministry of Education, they should be asked to consider doing so. The University Grants Committee have been asked to collect information from the universities about the academic standards of the holders of post-graduate awards in science. Other suggestions, referred to in the Report, for increasing the supply of science teachers, are to recruit retired officers of the Armed Services, aged about 45, to recruit from Civil Servants when they retire, and for industry and Government establishments to second scientists on a part-time basis in order to help local schools. All the proposals mentioned, the Report says, are short-term measures. In the long run the provision of adequate numbers of good teachers of advanced science and mathematics depends on an increase sufficient to meet future requirements in all kinds of employment in the number of undergraduates reading science at the universities. An alternative method which might help greatly would be the reduction of early specialisation in the schools and the encouragement by the universities of the study of science as part of a general university education.

The Report says that the Council hope later in the year to issue a specific report giving the results of an enquiry into the sources of recruitment to the engineering industry. It has been suggested that an increase in the size of the university population might have an

undesirable effect on the numbers and quality of boys entering industry as apprentices. In making investigations to see what substance there is in this belief, the Scientific Man-Power Committee of the Council found a considerable divergence of opinion within the engineering industry, both about the effect of university expansion on the supply of boys entering industry as apprentices and about the value to industry of certain forms of post-graduate work in engineering at the universities. It is proposed, therefore, to examine in further detail the various issues involved. These matters, the Report says, are of considerable importance to educational policy; the report to be produced will analyse the replies already received from industry and give the views of the Council on the main issues.

Other sections of the Report deal with Colonial research, the provision of scientific library facilities, and the Council's conclusions and report to the Development Commission on subjects connected with the future use of the research facilities of the Institute of Seaweed Research, near Musselburgh in Scotland. The Council consider that the total volume of research in the Colonies is too small and that everything possible should be done to expand the man-power available and to ensure its better distribution. In connection with the difficulties of recruiting sufficient staff for research schemes in the Colonies, the Report notes that pools of home-based staffs, consisting of research workers attached to the various Research Councils and Institutes in the United Kingdom and available for work overseas, have been created for certain types of work. The Council say that they would like to see the setting up of these home-based pools of scientists extended as far and as rapidly as possible. As part of a policy of equipping the nation with scientific and technical library facilities adequate to meet present-day needs, the Council emphasise the importance of providing both a National Reference Library of Science and Invention in London and a National Science Lending Library outside London.

DEFERMENT OF CALL-UP OF SCIENCE TEACHERS

A Parliamentary Question addressed to the Minister of Labour and National Service asked whether, in view of the importance of increasing the number of well-qualified science teachers available to the schools during the next few years, he would make a statement about deferment of the National Service of such teachers.

In reply the Minister stated that, as from next year, 1956, favourable consideration will be given to indefinite deferment of first and second class honours graduates in science and mathematics who take up teaching in a school which is either maintained or aided out of public funds or which the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Minister of Education consider should be similarly treated for this purpose. In England and Wales this would include the category of schools which receive recognition from the Ministry of Education as efficient.

SPREADING THE INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICITY LOAD NEXT WINTER

The Report of the Electricity Sub-Committee of the Joint Consultative Committee has recently been published by H.M. Stationery Office, price 4d. net (5½d. including postage). The Sub-Committee, which was set up as a result of experience of repeated cuts in the supply of electricity during the winter of 1946-47, consists of representatives of the two sides of industry, the Central Electricity Authority, the South of Scotland Electricity Board, and the Government Departments concerned. Its terms of reference are to examine the measures necessary to reduce peak industrial loads on the electricity supply system and to advise and assist Regional Boards for Industry in this matter. The present Report is the tenth submitted by the Sub-Committee. It contains proposals for the winter of 1955-56.

In a review of the experience of the winter of 1954-55, the Report says that the measures recommended (see the issue of this GAZETTE for August, 1954, page 268) were sufficient to meet the situation, and it was not found necessary to bring load-spreading arrangements into operation in any Region. Load shedding by disconnection of supplies was necessary on one occasion only, in exceptional circumstances, and some voltage and frequency reductions were necessary on other occasions.

Estimates of prospective supply and demand for the winter of 1955-56 show that the prospects for next winter are slightly better than they were last year. Unless there is weather of "extreme severity" no disconnection of supply should be necessary, although voltage and frequency reductions will still be necessary on some occasions.

The Sub-Committee's main recommendation for the winter of 1955-56 is that Regional Boards should continue to have discretion to make load-spreading arrangements in the light of the conditions likely to arise in their areas. A change is recommended in winter peak hours, which are now defined as being at the following times, from Monday to Friday: November, 4 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.; December and January, 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 4 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.; February, 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The Sub-Committee also recommend that, at the discretion of the Regional Boards, in consultation with Local Area Electricity Boards, encouragement should continue to be given to the use of private generating plant as a means of reducing the

load during winter peak hours; and that a general appeal should be made at the beginning of the winter to domestic and small commercial consumers for economy during peak hours. The Report says that, as in past years, the Sub-Committee have not based their recommendations on the assumption of severe weather conditions, as, in their view, this risk is one which should be taken if industry and commerce are not to be unduly hampered by an attempt to provide for all possible contingencies.

In a Written Answer to a Parliamentary Question on 28th July the Minister of Labour and National Service referred to the recommendations contained in the Report and said that they had been accepted by the Government.

The Report of the Sub-Committee says also that experience of the past two winters has shown that, while there is a continuing need for economy in the use of electricity at peak periods, the necessity for industrial load-spreading arrangements on a national scale is no longer a normal expectation of the winter months. The Sub-Committee, therefore, consider it unlikely that further guidance on this problem will be required from them by the Regional Boards and do not propose to issue further annual reports unless there are unforeseen developments. The Sub-Committee will, however, hold themselves ready to act at any time should the need arise.

HIGHER TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION

A statement about the Government's plans for the development of higher technological education was made on 21st July in the House of Commons by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, in order to bring up to date announcements made to Parliament from time to time (see, for instance, the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1953, page 51). He said that there are three main lines of development. The first is the building up of the Imperial College of Science and Technology in South Kensington. The second is the major developments at Glasgow, Manchester, Birmingham and Leeds. At Glasgow and Manchester the developments are based on the Royal Technical College at Glasgow and the Manchester College of Technology, as well as on the Universities. Thirdly, there are developments upon a fairly large scale at Cambridge and Sheffield, and specialised developments at universities in other industrial centres such as Bristol, Newcastle, Southampton and Swansea. Details were given in the statement of the amounts of Government grants already made or approved for these schemes. In a reference to the increasing proportion of students of scientific and technological subjects in universities the Minister said that the number of full-time students in the universities in the autumn term of the university year which has just ended was 1,108 greater than in the previous year. Of this increase, technology accounted for 696 and pure science for 314.

In a Written Answer to a Parliamentary Question on 19th July the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works, representing the Lord President of the Council, said that the number of first degrees, Higher National Certificates and equivalent qualifications given in science and technology at the universities and technical colleges in Great Britain last year was about 17,000. This figure included about 5,500 university degrees in pure science and mathematics.

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE

Safety Precautions in the Cotton Industry

The Factory Department of the Ministry of Labour and National Service have recently issued two pamphlets, Safety Pamphlets Nos. 4 and 5, relating to Fencing and Safety Precautions for Cotton Spinning and Weaving Machinery. Safety Pamphlet No. 4 deals with opening, blowing and cardroom processes and Safety Pamphlet No. 5 with spinning, doubling and winding machinery. Both pamphlets have been published by H.M. Stationery Office, price, respectively, 7s. 6d. and 5s. net each (7s. 9d. and 5s. 2d. including postage).

The introduction to the pamphlets refers to conferences which were held in 1911 and 1912 between employers' associations and trade unions in the cotton industry and members of the Factory Inspectorate and which led to the signing of Agreements about fencing of machinery and other matters. These Agreements were extensively revised in 1929 and an important new principle was introduced by the setting up of Joint Standing Committees to keep the Agreements under review. These Committees have been of great value in examining the causes of accidents and making enquiries into classes of accidents calling for special notice.

The pamphlets which have now been prepared revise completely the three earlier safety pamphlets covering the cotton spinning and weaving industry and illustrate the various points in the Agreements more fully. Safety Pamphlet No. 4, dealing with cotton spinning up to the end of the card room processes, includes also some examples of fencing for the corresponding machines in the cotton waste industry. Safety Pamphlet No. 5, dealing with spinning, doubling and winding machinery, is to be followed by another pamphlet which will deal with weaving and subsidiary processes. Both the pamphlets now available are fully illustrated. They show the main hazards on each machine and the methods of protection required to prevent accidents. In commenting on some general points, the pamphlets say that one of the chief safety problems today is the

maintenance of the guards provided. It is strongly urged that in every cotton mill a system should be established whereby guards and safety devices are checked individually at frequent and regular intervals by persons specially appointed for the purpose.

Occupational Health Nursing

The trained Occupational Health nurse forms an essential part of an industrial organisation for promoting the health and welfare of workers. In order to assist industry to secure such specialised nurses the Ministry of Labour and National Service offers a number of scholarships annually to State Registered Nurses, aged 24 years and over, for the six months' course of training arranged by the Royal College of Nursing, London.

The Selection Panel, appointed by the Minister of Labour and National Service to consider applications for these scholarships, met on 14th July, 1955, to interview candidates. The Panel consisted of two representatives of the Royal College of Nursing, and one representative of the Trades Union Congress together with representatives of the Factory Department and Nursing Services Branch of the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

Thirteen candidates were interviewed, of whom ten, including one disabled nurse, were awarded scholarships. The scholarships are tenable for six months for the course commencing on 18th October, 1955, and cover training and examination fees, together with an allowance towards maintenance, books, travelling, etc. Candidates will sit the examination for the Occupational Health Nursing Certificate of the Royal College of Nursing at the conclusion of the course.

Candidates who are awarded a scholarship are required to give an undertaking to enter nursing employment in industry, and to continue in such employment for at least two years after qualifying.

The services of the Nursing Appointments Offices throughout the country are available to successful candidates who may require assistance in securing a suitable post. While every regard is paid to candidates' preferences as to locality, they are expected to accept suitable posts where available.

PAMPHLETS ON EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING, ETC.

Articles published in the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1955 (page 126) and earlier issues described briefly the contents of pamphlets on employment, training, etc., issued by the Ministry of Labour and National Service and other Government Departments. Notes are given below about other pamphlets which can now be obtained from Local Offices of the Ministry (Youth Employment Offices in the case of pamphlets prepared for young persons).

A revised edition has been issued of the booklet about coal mining entitled "The skilled man the Nation will always need" (P.L. 346 (Revised April, 1955)). The booklet, which contains a number of illustrations, describes working conditions in the coal mining industry, giving information about wages, hours of work, training, safety, health and welfare, and notes on the long-term plan of reconstruction for the industry and on how to enter the industry. The booklet is issued with leaflet N.C.B./F2192, which has been prepared by the National Coal Board and contains further information about wages and other conditions, including details of a scheme of allowances to assist workers accepted for employment by certain Divisions at collieries beyond daily travelling distance of their homes.

The illustrated pamphlet "Coalmining as a Career" has also been revised (P.L. 296 (Revised 1955)). It has been prepared mainly for boys leaving school and gives information about the arrangements for training for underground employment and for higher and technical posts in the industry, which is becoming increasingly mechanised, and about promotion prospects.

The booklet "Training Within Industry for Supervisors" has been revised (P.L. 333 (Revised)). It describes the "T.W.I." scheme and its purpose and contains notes on the three training programmes.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE OVERSEA CIVIL SERVICE

The Colonial Office, in conjunction with the Central Office of Information, have prepared a booklet entitled "A Career in the Oversea Civil Service", which has been published by H.M. Stationery Office, price 2s. 6d. net (2s. 8d. including postage). The booklet is a revision of an earlier publication called "The Colonial Service as a Career" and has been written primarily for young people leaving school, their parents and others concerned with advice on the choice of careers, and for undergraduates and professional and technical students of all kinds.

The purpose of the booklet, which is illustrated, is to give information about the opportunities and responsibilities of a career in the Oversea Civil Service, formerly known as the Colonial Service. The booklet describes the reorganised Service, the qualities required of those entering the Service, and life and work in the Service. Other chapters trace in outline the development of British Colonial policy and indicate the future tasks of economic, social and political development in the Colonies. A list is given of official publications

on Colonial history and policy and on life and service in the Colonies.

A foreword to the booklet says that the requirements of Colonial Governments for the services of oversea officers during the last few years have been much higher than before the war and that there is no sign that this demand will slacken. It may do so in certain

territories, but in general there is a prospect of continued expansion and development. The booklet mentions, for those interested in the Service as a career, a pamphlet called "Appointments in Her Majesty's Oversea Civil Service" which gives specific information on career prospects. The pamphlet may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, price 3s. net (3s. 3d. including postage).

NATIONAL INSURANCE

Determination of Claims and Questions

The Minister of Pensions and National Insurance has asked the National Insurance Advisory Committee to consider and report on the preliminary draft of the National Insurance (Determination of Claims and Questions) Amendment Regulations, 1955.

The proposed Regulations make changes in the procedure for deciding claims for national insurance benefits. They allow a person claiming national insurance benefit to be represented before a local tribunal by a relative or friend who is a lawyer, provided he does not appear in his professional capacity. The Regulations also amend the provisions relating to appeals to the National Insurance Commissioner by giving an association of employed persons, e.g., a trade union, the right to appeal on behalf of a person claiming benefit arising from a deceased member's insurance. They also provide that when dealing with an appeal the Commissioner may have the assistance of an assessor on any question of fact of special difficulty and may refer a claimant for medical examination.

Copies of the draft Regulations can be purchased from H.M. Stationery Office, price 3d. net (4½d. including postage).

Amendments to Colliery Workers Supplementary Scheme

On 27th July the Minister of Pensions and National Insurance made the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) (Colliery Workers Supplementary Scheme) Amendment (No. 2) Order, 1955. The

Order came into operation on 10th August. It varies and amends the provisions of the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Colliery Workers Supplementary Scheme relating to the rates of supplementary injury benefit, disablement pension, and widow's pension, and to the amount of supplementary disablement gratuity under the Scheme. It also provides for the payment of supplementary gratuities to widows entitled to supplementary widow's pension where their pensions terminate on re-marriage.

The reasons for, and the effect of, the changes in the Scheme were explained when the draft Order was introduced into Parliament. Since the previous amendment to the rates of benefit (see the issue of this GAZETTE for April, page 129) the Government Actuary, in his capacity as adviser to the Trustees, has carried out a comprehensive review of the whole Scheme. As a result maximum benefits can be increased from 22s. 6d. to 25s. a week. This applies to supplementary injury benefit and also to 100 per cent. disablement benefit. There are corresponding increases for juveniles. There are also increases in supplementary widows' pensions. The supplementary disablement gratuity is increased from one-quarter to one-third of the basic disablement gratuity under the Industrial Injuries Act. The Order also introduces a new supplementary benefit. This is a gratuity payable on the re-marriage of a widow entitled to a widow's supplementary pension. The gratuity will be at the rate of one-third of the gratuity awarded to her under the main Industrial Injuries Act. The Scheme has been costing about £3½ millions annually and the additional cost of the increases in benefits will be £270,000 for the first full year. The cost will be borne on the existing contributions to the Scheme made by the National Coal Board and those engaged in the industry.

Copies of the Order (S.I. 1955 No. 1162) can be purchased from H.M. Stationery Office, price 3d. net (4½d. including postage).

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN 1954

The Report of the National Assistance Board for the year ended 31st December, 1954, has been presented to Parliament by the Minister of Pensions and National Insurance and published by H.M. Stationery Office as a Command Paper (Cmd. 9530), price 2s. net (2s. 1½d. including postage).

Expenditure

The total net expenditure of the Board during the calendar year 1954 was about £130 millions. This amount included £104,160,000 in payments of national assistance grants, £19,460,000 in respect of non-contributory old age pensions, £434,000 for the maintenance of reception and re-establishment centres, £151,000 representing the net cost of Polish hostels, and £6,180,000 administrative expenses.

National Assistance

The number of applications for assistance dealt with in 1954 (excluding applications for grants to meet charges under the National Health Service) was about 2,100,000, which was 400,000 fewer than in 1953. Of the total for 1954, about 910,000 applications resulted in the grant of a continuing weekly allowance and 890,000 were dealt with by a single payment to meet a temporary situation. In the remaining cases no assistance was granted. About 875,000 allowances ceased during the year.

The number of weekly allowances in payment at the end of 1954 was 1,796,000, compared with 1,761,000 at the end of 1953. The increase of 35,000 during 1954, the Report states, was not much more than one-third of the increase in 1953, which itself was much smaller than that in any previous year since the start of National Assistance in 1948. The 1,796,000 allowances in payment at the end of 1954 included provision for 719,000 dependants of the persons receiving allowances, so that the allowances in payment represented provision in whole or in part for more than 2½ million people.

Of the total of 1,796,000 allowances in payment at the end of 1954, 55,000 were being paid to blind persons and 34,000 to tuberculous persons at the special scale of allowances for such persons. More than two-thirds of all the allowances were being paid to supplement national insurance benefits. They included 1,001,000 in supplementation of retirement pensions (an increase of 63,000 compared with the previous year), 138,000 in supplementation of sickness benefit or industrial injury payments, and 93,000 and 30,000, respectively, in supplementation of widow's benefit and unemployment benefit. In addition, 157,000 allowances were being paid to supplement non-contributory old age pensions. It was estimated by the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance that in December, 1954, 27 per cent. of all households receiving retirement pensions were also in receipt of supplementary allowances from the National Assistance Board.

Figures are also given in the Report, showing the results of an analysis, based on a 2½ per cent. sample, of the distribution by age and sex of the 1,796,000 persons (613,000 men and 1,183,000 women) who were receiving allowances in December, 1954. About

1½ million were over the pensionable age of 65 for men and 60 for women, including 242,000 who were aged 80 and over. About 250,000 were persons incapacitated for work by sickness or disability and 80,000 were persons required to register for work at Employment Exchanges. Most of the remainder were women with domestic ties, usually young children, which prevented them from seeking regular employment. The 719,000 dependants for whom provision was made in the allowances included 351,000 husbands or wives, about 5,000 other persons over the age of 16 who were regarded as dependants, and 363,000 dependent children under 16 years of age. Most of the persons receiving weekly allowances were householders or members of households, but the total number receiving allowances included 29,000 persons who were being maintained in homes or other establishments provided by, or by arrangement with, local authorities under the National Assistance Act, 1948, and 11,000 persons who were in hospital.

A tabular statement contained in the Report sets out the scale rates for requirements (other than for rent, which is allowed for additionally) paid to persons under the regulations and shows the changes made since 1948, including the increases which came into operation from 7th February, 1955 (see the issue of this GAZETTE for January, page 12). The figures show that the two main rates, those for a married couple and for a single householder, rose on 7th February, 1955, to 57·5 per cent. and 56 per cent., respectively, above the 1948 rates. The report also gives particulars of the numbers of persons paying rent and the average rents paid by those persons, the resources taken into account in making assessments, and the annual cost of increased assistance which the Board has discretion to grant in special circumstances. At the end of 1954 the average weekly allowance was 21s. 11d. About 408,000 of all weekly allowances were for amounts up to 10s., and 664,000 for amounts ranging from 10s. 6d. to 20s.; allowances in excess of 50s. numbered about 107,000. The smaller allowances were mostly drawn in supplementation of pensions or insurance benefits, the average allowance in supplementation of a retirement pension being 14s. 8d. Grants made in 1954 to meet charges under the National Health Service amounted to £1,171,000. Of this amount, £472,000 represented the refund of shilling charges for prescriptions and the remainder was accounted for by grants to meet charges for spectacles, dentures and dental treatment, and surgical appliances.

The total of 80,000 weekly allowances in payment at the end of 1954 to persons who were unemployed was 14,000 less than a year earlier. It included 30,000 allowances which were being made in supplementation of unemployment benefit. The Report says that, although all these assisted persons were considered fit enough to register at Employment Exchanges, many of them were physically or mentally handicapped to an extent which made them difficult to place in employment. The numbers unemployed and in receipt of assistance followed a normal seasonal trend during 1954, but, the Report says, at most points in the year the level was below that of 1953.

Re-establishment Centres

The Report says that the re-establishment centre opened by the Board in June, 1951, continued to provide men who, though capable of work, had become unaccustomed to it, with opportunities of building up their strength in healthy surroundings and acquiring the habit of regular employment. Between the opening date and the end of 1954, 371 men had been admitted to the centre. Of these, 322 had been in receipt of assistance grants and 49 had been in receipt of reception centres. The number of men discharged from the centre during this period was 353. A brief description is given in the Report of the results of the work of rehabilitation carried out at the centre and at other centres to which the Board contribute funds.

Persons without a settled way of living

The average nightly number of persons sleeping in reception centres during 1954 was 2,040, the lowest figure for any complete year since the National Assistance Act came into operation in July, 1948. During the year the number of reception centres, most of which are in former casual wards, was reduced to 119. The number of persons placed in employment directly from reception centres during 1954 was 9,396, about 200 more than in 1953. This relatively large figure, the Report says, reflects both present-day conditions of full employment and the patient efforts of the officers of the centres, in collaboration with the local staffs of the Board and the Ministry of Labour and National Service, but the Report adds that the number of casuals placed in employment must include many re-appearances of the same individual. These efforts to assist the men to lead a more settled life also resulted during 1954 in the return of 381 of the men to their families, the admission of 961 of them for care and attention to establishments provided by local authorities, 480 admissions to hospitals, and 134 men being sent to re-establishment centres.

Non-contributory Old Age Pensions

The decline in the number of non-contributory old age pensions continued in 1954 and at the end of the year the number of pensions in payment had decreased to 315,000, compared with 344,000 in December, 1953, and 453,000 in December, 1948. During 1954, about 47,000 pensions ceased (36,000 on the death of the pensioner) and 18,000 awards of pensions were made, mostly to persons well over 70 years of age. The Report says that more than three-quarters of the pensions in payment are at the maximum rate of 26s., or, in the case of married women, 16s. Of the 315,000 pensioners in December, 1954, 157,000, including 141,000 single persons, were in receipt of assistance to supplement their pensions.

Polish Resettlement

The number of hostels administered by the National Assistance Board was reduced to 20 during 1954. At the end of 1954 the number of Polish residents in the 20 hostels administered by the Board was 9,304, compared with 10,512 (in 21 hostels) at the end of the previous year. The gross cost of maintaining the hostels during 1954 was £163,000 (excluding expenditure incurred by other Government Departments). Of this sum, about £140,000 was recovered from the Polish residents in charges for accommodation and for board and lodging. During 1954, over 700 persons, a much greater number than in 1953, left the hostels for accommodation they had found for themselves and the pace of this movement quickened in the course of the year. The Report describes this as a highly satisfactory tendency, as the hostel service for Poles, apart from hostels for the old, infirm or disabled, has always been regarded as temporary and merely a stage on the way to their resettlement as ordinary members of the British community in which they work. It says that the hostel service is now beginning what may be a fairly rapid process of dissolution, mentions qualities of the Poles in the hostels (including the reputation they have earned as good and willing workers and as good and prompt payers) which should help their resettlement, and expresses the hope that employers and others will give them all possible help to find other accommodation.

Legal Aid

In the twelve months ended 21st December, 1954, the number of applications for legal aid referred to the Board for assessment of resources was 47,316, compared with 49,386 in the previous twelve months. The number of applications dealt with was 47,770, of which 3,927 were withdrawn. About 31 per cent. of the applicants were found, so far as their means were concerned, to be entitled to free legal aid, 62 per cent. were entitled to legal aid subject to the payment of a contribution, and 7 per cent. were outside the financial limits of the scheme.

General

Other sections of the Report deal with the work of the Advisory Committees, the liability of relatives for the maintenance of assisted persons, a survey carried out during the year of the welfare needs of old people living alone, and the organisation of the Board. Reference is also made to an international Convention on social and medical assistance between the 15 countries forming the Council of Europe. The Convention came into force in July, 1954, and was ratified by Her Majesty's Government in September, 1954. It relates to the provision by each of the member countries of assistance, in case of need, to nationals of the other member countries at its own cost and on the same standards and conditions as are laid down by law for its own nationals. A similar Convention, drawn up in 1949 by the five Brussels Treaty countries, will lapse when all these countries have ratified the Council of Europe Convention. Appendices to the Report contain detailed statistical and other information.

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EDUCATION IN 1954

The Report of the Ministry of Education for the year 1954, entitled "Education in 1954", has recently been published by H.M. Stationery Office as a Command Paper (Cmd. 9521), price 7s. 6d. net (7s. 9d. including postage).

In his introduction to the Report, the Minister says that it was again one of the Department's main tasks to provide the additional schools and teachers demanded by the rising school population and by areas of new housing development. A stage was, however, reached during the year when it became possible to contemplate some additional improvement of the educational service.

The number of pupils on the rolls of maintained and assisted primary and secondary schools (other than nursery and special schools) in England and Wales on 1st January, 1954, was 6,376,000, an increase of 170,000 during the year 1953, compared with increases of 236,000 in 1952 and 232,000 in 1951. The estimated total increase during 1954 was 120,000. By the beginning of 1954, the period of the highest post-war demand for places in infant schools had already passed and numbers had already begun to decline, but junior schools were expecting an increase of nearly 160,000 children during the year, compared with 90,000 during 1953. In secondary schools a comparatively small increase was expected in 1954, but preparations were being made for the big increases expected in future years.

During the calendar year 1954, 567 new schools were completed and brought into use, and at the end of the year 813 were under construction. The provision of the additional secondary school places needed, the Report says, is well in hand. Of 210,000 new places brought into use by local education authorities during the year ended 1st October, 1954, 75,000 were in secondary schools; these new places considerably exceeded in numbers the additional children entering the schools during the same period.

Figures given in the Report show the numbers of full-time teachers employed in maintained and assisted primary and secondary schools (other than special schools) in January of each year from 1950 to 1954, together with estimates for January, 1955. The Report notes that the increase of 6,100 in the total between January, 1953, and January, 1954, was greater than that for any previous year since the end of the emergency training scheme, and says that it is thought that an even larger increase was secured in 1954. The increase in total numbers was due mainly to the growing number of married women who remained in, or returned to, teaching service. During 1953 there was a rise also in the numbers of classes, both for infants and juniors and for seniors, and small increases in the numbers of over-size classes, i.e., those exceeding the prescribed maxima of 40 for infants and juniors and 30 for seniors. The proportion of pupils in primary and secondary schools who were being taught in over-size classes declined, however, from 48.1 per cent. in January, 1953, to 47.1 per cent. in January, 1954. The number of pupils to each full-time teacher was 32.1 for juniors and infants and 20.9 for seniors in January, 1954, compared with 31.9 and 21.1, respectively, in January, 1953, showing that the additional 6,100 teachers had roughly balanced the increase of 170,000 in the number of children. It is estimated that during 1954 there was an even larger increase in the number of teachers (over 7,000) but a smaller increase in the number of children (about 120,000). The Report says that the figures suggest that 1954 will prove to have marked an important turn in events. The pressure of the large post-war age-groups will soon begin to pass to the secondary schools and 1955 should see the beginning of an improvement in the primary schools. In considering the future movement of the pupil-teacher ratio, the Report refers to the 1951 Report of the National Advisory Council on the Training and Supply of Teachers, in which it was estimated that an average annual increase of 3,200 teachers would be needed between January, 1954, and January, 1960, in order to maintain 1950 staffing standards. If economic circumstances remain favourable and an annual increase approaching that of 6,100 for 1953 can be maintained, the Report says, there should in most areas be an appreciable improvement in the pupil-teacher ratio in primary schools within the next two years and a good prospect of reducing nearly all primary classes, by 1961, to the regulation size of 40 children or less. In the secondary schools, over the period as a whole up to 1961, there should be sufficient numbers of teachers to maintain present standards, which are appreciably higher than those of 1950. In connection with the distribution of women teachers, the Report says that some progress was made in 1954 under the scheme prescribing a maximum establishment for each local education authority. The number of education authorities unable to fill their establishment of women teachers increased from 68 to

70 but the number who were more than five per cent. below it fell from 19 to 13. The aggregate number of women teachers still required by the 79 authorities who were below establishment was 2,232, the smallest number since the scheme began.

The Report refers to the public attention given to the question of the supply of teachers of mathematics and science. It says that the existing deficiencies in the schools are mainly those of quality; the academic qualifications of the more recently recruited graduates have shown a marked decline. The needs of the schools will, moreover, rise very sharply during the next few years. It is estimated that by January, 1957, there will be about 263,000 more senior children in the schools than in January, 1954, and that by January, 1961, a further 468,000 will have been added. Large numbers of additional teachers will, therefore, be required and, quite apart from existing difficulties about quality, the schools will be faced with the prospect of a grave difficulty in filling vacancies unless recruitment can be substantially improved. During 1954 all local education authorities were urged by the Ministry to ensure that all teachers qualified in mathematics and science were used to the best advantage. They were asked to make all possible arrangements between adjoining schools and technical colleges to overcome local shortages, to encourage teachers in mathematics and science to defer their retirement, and to make use, wherever convenient, of married women willing to return to teaching and of the part-time services in the schools of scientists employed in industry and the universities.

In a review of further education during 1954, the Report notes that revised proposals for a national award in advanced technology were prepared by the National Advisory Council on Education for Industry and Commerce. The Council also continued to investigate the types of technological training which would best meet the varying needs of industry, and they paid particular attention to the development of "sandwich" courses, which consist of alternate periods of full-time work in industry and periods of full-time study. During the year another 113 courses were approved for the Ministry's special grant for courses of advanced technology. This grant, at the rate of 75 per cent., is given for approved courses at technical colleges which have a high standard of accommodation and equipment, a good proportion of advanced work, suitable facilities for adequate teaching in the fundamental sciences as well as in technology, opportunities for research, and a highly qualified staff with considerable freedom in planning courses. By the end of the year local education authorities had submitted 1,300 courses, at 92 colleges, for the special grant and the total of approved courses was 493, the number of colleges concerned being 24. In August, 1953, the Minister had drawn the attention of regional advisory councils and local education authorities to the urgent need for advanced short courses to enable scientists and technologists in industry to keep up with developments and new techniques. By the end of 1954 there were 45 full-time courses of this kind in operation and 829 part-time courses, compared with a total of 500 courses a year earlier. Building projects to the value of more than £7½ millions were completed at establishments of further education during 1954, raising the post-war total to just under £18 millions. Towards the end of the year the Minister announced the removal of restrictions on technical college building, which had limited provision to certain industries, and a substantial expansion in the size of annual building programmes for technical education. The numbers of students taking courses of further education continued to rise. Full-time students increased in numbers from 56,000 in the 1952-53 session to 59,000 in 1953-54, part-time day students from 353,000 to 372,000, and evening students from 1,829,000 to 1,860,000. The number of part-time day students who were released by their employers for study during working hours increased from 309,000 in 1952-53 to 326,000 in 1953-54. The Report reviews also the work of the Regional Advisory Councils for Further Education in co-ordinating technical facilities and linking industry with education, the progress made during the year in providing courses on "work study" and courses in management studies, and the extension of apprenticeship schemes.

Other sections of the Report deal with the school health service and other special services; the training and supply of teachers; the educational building programme; university awards; education in Wales and Monmouthshire; information and external relations; the work of the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Science Museum; and legal matters affecting the Ministry. Appendices to the Report contain the statistics of public education in England and Wales for the year 1953-54 and other relevant information.

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AT THE ADDRESSES SHOWN ON PAGE 304

LABOUR OVERSEAS

Fatal Industrial Accidents in Canada in 1954

An article published by the Canadian Department of Labour in the May issue of the *Labour Gazette* contains preliminary statistics of fatal industrial accidents in Canada in 1954. The accidents recorded are those which involved persons gainfully employed and which occurred during the course of, or arose out of, their employment. The statistics, which include also deaths from industrial diseases, are compiled annually from reports received by the Department of Labour from the various provincial Workmen's Compensation Boards, the Board of Transport Commissioners and certain other official sources, supplemented, after careful enquiries to avoid duplication, by press reports. In the case of industries not covered by workmen's compensation legislation, e.g., agriculture, fishing and trapping and certain service groups, for which press reports were the only source of information, the statistics may be less complete than for other industries. The figures quoted for 1953 for comparison are final (revised) figures.

The total number of deaths resulting from industrial accidents and from industrial diseases, according to the preliminary figures now available for 1954, was 1,309, compared with a final figure of 1,359 for 1953. Of the accidents occurring in 1954, 21 caused the death of three or more persons in each case. The total number of both fatal and non-fatal accidents reported by the provincial Workmen's Compensation Boards decreased from 480,269 in 1953 to 463,043 in 1954.

An analysis of the causes of the fatalities that occurred in 1954 showed that 344 were the result of persons being struck by tools, machinery, moving vehicles and other objects. Of these 344 fatalities, 65 were caused by falling trees, 41 by objects falling in mines and quarries, 35 by automobiles and trucks, and 33 by landslides or cave-ins. Accidents resulting from collisions, derailments, wrecks, etc. accounted for 325 deaths, 144 of which resulted from accidents involving automobiles or trucks. Deaths caused by persons falling or slipping numbered 253. Exposure to dust and to poisonous gases, etc., caused a total of 84 deaths, and 82 deaths resulted from persons being caught in, on, or between machinery, vehicles, etc.

Of the total of 1,309 fatalities in 1954, 238, or 18.2 per cent., were in the construction industry, compared with 229, or 16.9 per cent. of the total, in 1953. Fatalities in the manufacturing industries decreased by 42 in 1954 compared with 1953 and numbered 208, representing 15.9 per cent. of the total, compared with 250, or 18.4 per cent., in the previous year. The numbers of fatalities in the mining and quarrying group of industries increased from 188 in 1953 to 202 in 1954, and in the transportation, storage and communications group from 181 in 1953 to 196 in 1954.

Work Injuries in the United States in 1954

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor have published, in the April issue of the *Monthly Labor Review*, an article giving preliminary estimates of work injuries in the United States during 1954. The estimates relate to "disabling work injuries", which are defined so as to include temporary as well as permanent incapacity for work if the incapacity lasts for at least the length of one working day after the day of injury. The term "injury" includes occupational disease. Work injuries to proprietors, self-employed persons, and unpaid family workers, as well as employees in all industries, except domestic service, are included.

The Bureau estimate that the number of persons who suffered disabling work injuries during 1954 was about 1,860,000, the lowest number for 15 years. Compared with 1953, for which year the final estimate was 2,034,000, the total for 1954 showed a decrease of nine per cent. This decrease is attributed partly to an improvement in the safety record of many industries. Other contributory causes were a reduction in the volume of employment in 1954 compared with 1953, and a tendency in 1954 to a shorter working week, resulting in a decrease in 1954 in the total number of hours of exposure to industrial hazards.

Of the total number of persons injured, about 14,000 died as a result of their injuries and 76,000 suffered a permanent disability such as the loss of an eye, an arm, or a finger. The permanently disabled included about 1,500 who were totally disabled. In the remaining 1,770,000 cases, the injuries were temporary, causing incapacity for work for one day or more. The average duration of disability in these cases was about 17 days.

It is estimated that approximately 38 million man-days were lost during 1954 as a result of these disabling work injuries. When allowance is made for the loss of future production resulting from the deaths and permanent disabilities, the total economic time loss amounted to about 190 million man-days.

The number of work injuries in 1954 decreased in all the industry groups for which estimates were prepared. In manufacturing, a marked improvement in the injury-frequency rate, together with a slight reduction in employment, resulted in a decrease of 19 per cent. (from 480,000 in 1953 to 390,000 in 1954) in the number of injuries. There was a reduction of 15 per cent., compared with 1953, in the total number of injuries in the mining group of industries but a substantial reduction in operations in coal mining accounted for much of this decline. The injury-frequency rate actually increased in coal mining, but in the other mining industries, preliminary reports indicated reduced injury rates.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND NATIONAL SERVICE FACTORY DEPARTMENT

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Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Safety in the Use of Power Presses (Chairman: H. A. Hepburn). October, 1951.

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Numbers Employed in Great Britain : Industrial Analysis—continued

(Thousands)

Industry	Males				Females				Total			
	End-June, 1954	End-April, 1955	End-May, 1955	End-June, 1955	End-June, 1954	End-April, 1955	End-May, 1955	End-June, 1955	End-June, 1954	End-April, 1955	End-May, 1955	End-June, 1955
Manufactures of Wood and Cork	234.0	239.4	235.7	234.5	60.8	63.8	63.0	62.9	294.8	303.2	298.7	297.4
Timber (Sawmilling, etc.)	83.0	83.3	82.9	82.8	11.5	12.4	12.4	12.5	94.5	95.7	95.3	95.3
Furniture and Upholstery	97.9	101.2	98.3	97.5	34.4	36.0	35.2	35.0	132.3	137.2	133.5	132.5
Shop and Office Fitting	17.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.9	20.4	21.5	21.4	21.4
Wooden Containers and Baskets	20.2	20.6	20.4	20.3	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.8	26.8	27.3	27.2	27.1
Miscellaneous Wood and Cork Manufactures	15.4	15.8	15.6	15.4	5.4	5.7	5.7	5.7	20.8	21.5	21.3	21.1
Paper and Printing	336.8	346.8	347.7	348.0	194.5	201.6	201.9	201.6	531.3	548.4	549.6	549.6
Paper and Board	66.9	69.7	69.8	69.9	20.9	20.9	20.8	20.8	86.7	90.6	90.7	90.7
Wallpaper	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.0	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.9
Cardboard Boxes, Cartons, etc.	19.0	20.6	20.8	20.8	31.1	31.6	32.0	32.1	50.1	52.2	52.8	52.9
Other Manufactures of Paper and Board	18.1	18.7	18.7	18.6	28.3	29.3	29.1	29.0	46.4	48.0	47.8	47.6
Printing and Publishing of Newspapers, etc.	89.6	90.6	91.4	91.8	22.1	23.2	23.3	23.3	111.7	113.8	114.7	115.1
Other Printing, Publishing, Bookbinding, etc.	139.6	143.3	143.1	143.0	91.0	94.8	94.7	94.4	230.6	238.1	237.8	237.4
Other Manufacturing Industries	156.1	164.6	164.0	163.3	116.9	122.3	122.1	121.9	273.0	286.9	286.1	285.2
Rubber	74.9	80.0	79.9	79.6	39.3	41.6	41.5	41.1	114.2	121.6	121.4	120.7
Linoleum, Leather Cloth, etc.	12.8	12.9	12.8	12.7	3.6	4.0	4.1	4.1	16.4	16.9	16.9	16.8
Brushes and Brooms	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	17.4	17.3	17.3	17.3
Toys, Games and Sports Requisites	11.0	11.5	11.4	11.4	20.3	19.7	19.8	19.9	31.3	31.2	31.2	31.3
Miscellaneous Stationers' Goods	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	6.6	7.0	7.0	7.1	11.5	11.9	11.9	12.0
Production, etc., of Cinematograph Films	6.7	6.9	6.9	6.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	8.7	8.9	8.9	8.8
Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries	37.3	40.0	39.7	39.5	36.2	39.1	38.8	38.8	73.5	79.1	78.5	78.3
Total, All Manufacturing Industries	5,847.4	6,017.8	6,014.0	6,008.8	2,928.5	3,015.5	3,019.3	3,013.3	8,775.9	9,033.3	9,033.3	9,022.1
Building and Contracting	1,273.5	1,266.9	1,276.0	1,278.9	48.9	49.6	49.7	49.7	1,322.4	1,316.5	1,325.7	1,328.6
Building and Civil Engineering Contracting	1,208.4	1,199.4	1,208.4	1,211.4	41.0	41.0	41.0	41.0	1,249.4	1,240.4	1,249.4	1,252.4
Electric Wiring and Contracting	65.1	67.5	67.6	67.5	7.9	8.6	8.7	8.7	73.0	76.1	76.3	76.2
Gas, Electricity and Water	334.2	338.8	338.4	337.9	38.6	40.0	39.9	40.1	372.8	378.8	378.3	378.0
Gas	129.8	130.1	129.6	129.1	13.8	14.2	14.3	14.3	143.6	144.3	143.8	143.4
Electricity	171.2	176.1	176.2	176.2	22.8	23.8	23.7	23.8	194.0	199.9	199.9	200.0
Water	33.2	32.6	32.6	32.6	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	35.2	34.6	34.6	34.6
Transport and Communication	211.5	202.1	201.4	201.7	51.0	53.2	54.0	54.6	262.5	255.3	255.4	256.3
Tramway and Omnibus Service	22.5	20.4	22.1	22.7	2.7	2.5	2.7	2.8	25.2	22.9	24.8	25.5
Other Road Passenger Transport	199.0	181.7	179.3	179.0	48.3	50.7	51.3	51.8	237.3	232.4	230.6	230.8
Distributive Trades	1,120.3	1,135.2	1,131.1	1,131.1	1,149.3	1,174.0	1,183.3	1,188.7	2,269.6	2,309.2	2,314.4	2,319.8
Coal, Builders' Materials, Grain, Agricultural Supplies (Wholesale or Retail)	114.3	119.5	118.0	117.3	32.1	33.9	33.8	33.8	146.4	153.4	151.8	151.1
Other Industrial Materials and Machinery	70.9	71.5	72.0	72.5	28.4	28.3	29.0	28.8	99.3	99.8	101.0	101.3
Food and Drink, Wholesale	120.6	119.7	120.3	120.7	56.6	57.8	57.2	57.6	177.2	177.5	177.5	178.3
Food and Drink (exc. catering), Retail	301.0	302.1	300.5	300.7	299.4	306.5	308.5	310.5	608.6	609.0	611.2	611.2
Non-Food Goods, Wholesale	165.1	168.5	168.0	167.6	102.1	106.1	106.3	105.8	274.6	274.3	273.4	273.4
Non-Food Goods, Retail	329.2	333.8	332.2	332.2	593.9	603.4	609.5	613.3	923.1	937.2	941.7	945.5
Confectionery, Tobacco and Newspapers	19.2	20.1	20.1	20.1	36.8	38.0	39.0	38.9	56.0	58.1	59.1	59.0
Miscellaneous Services	58.1	58.4	58.2	58.4	75.7	75.6	75.6	76.3	133.8	134.0	133.8	134.7
Theatres, Cinemas, Music Halls, Concerts, etc.	41.4	39.4	41.6	42.0	41.9	39.1	38.2	37.5	83.3	78.0	79.8	79.5
Sport, Other Recreations and Betting	178.5	171.9	175.2	176.5	517.2	490.4	507.6	517.4	695.7	662.3	682.8	693.9
Catering, Hotels, etc.	30.4	30.0	29.9	29.9	106.3	105.0	105.8	105.7	136.7	135.0	135.7	135.6
Laundries	11.4	11.0	11.0	11.0	33.5	31.7	31.9	31.9	44.9	42.7	42.9	42.9
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Unemployment at 11th July, 1955

SUMMARY FOR GREAT BRITAIN

The numbers of persons registered as unemployed at 13th June and 11th July, 1955, were as follows:—

	Men 18 and over	Boys under 18	Women 18 and over	Girls under 18	Total
13th June	126,021	4,313	75,509	4,700	210,543
11th July	111,563	5,127	63,316	4,923	184,929
inc. (+) or Dec. (-)	-14,458	+ 814	-12,193	+ 223	-25,614

It is estimated that the number of persons registered as unemployed at 11th July represented 0.9 per cent. of the total number of employees. The corresponding percentage at 13th June was 1.0.

An analysis of the figures for 11th July according to duration of unemployment is given in the following Table:—

	Wholly Unemployed (including Casuals)				Temporarily Stopped	Total
	Unemployed for not more than 2 weeks	Unemployed for more than 2 weeks but not more than 8 weeks	Unemployed for more than 8 weeks	Total		
Men 18 and over	28,629	22,107	53,318	104,054	7,509	111,563
Boys under 18	3,151	1,063	714	4,928	199	5,127
Women 18 and over	15,973	13,344	23,295	52,612	10,704	63,316
Girls under 18	2,557	938	614	4,109	814	4,923
Total	50,310	37,452	77,941	165,703	19,226	184,929

The total of 184,929 includes 33,896 married women.

The numbers of wholly unemployed persons in each Region at 11th July, 1955, analysed according to duration of unemployment, and also the numbers temporarily stopped, are given in the Table below. Separate figures are given for males and females. The changes, compared with 13th June, 1955, in the total numbers unemployed in each Region are shown in the first Table on the next page.

Region	Wholly Unemployed (including Casuals)				Temporarily Stopped	Total
	Unemployed for not more than 2 weeks	Unemployed for more than 2 weeks but not more than 8 weeks	Unemployed for more than 8 weeks	Total		
London and South-Eastern	6,431	4,014	6,980	17,425	1,679	19,104
Eastern	1,382	915	2,077	4,374	119	4,493
Southern	1,093	751	1,713	3,557	13	3,570
South-Western	1,416	1,024	2,968	5,408	48	5,456
Midland	3,273	793	1,198	5,264	276	5,540
North-Midland	1,261	566	1,421	3,248	209	3,457
E. and W. Ridings	1,741	1,392	3,513	6,646	598	7,244
North-Western	5,007	3,977	7,992	16,976	3,300	20,276
Northern	2,310	1,962	5,886	10,158	154	10,312
Scotland	6,427	6,206	15,031	27,664	1,073	28,737
Wales	1,439	1,570	5,253	8,262	239	8,501
Great Britain	31,780	23,170	54,032	108,982	7,708	116,690

Region	Males				Temporarily Stopped	Total
	Unemployed for not more than 2 weeks	Unemployed for more than 2 weeks but not more than 8 weeks	Unemployed for more than 8 weeks	Total		
London and South-Eastern	4,386	1,788	1,397	7,571	591	8,162
Eastern	748	538	702	1,988	73	2,061
Southern	732	585	685	2,002	17	2,019
South-Western	906	769	1,187	2,862	81	2,943
Midland	1,654	543	409	2,606	418	3,024
North-Midland	691	450	626	1,767	394	2,161
E. and W. Ridings	1,093	944	905	2,942	737	3,679
North-Western	3,097	2,549	3,771	9,417	7,829	17,246
Northern	1,334	1,509	3,505	6,348	191	6,539
Scotland	2,960	3,541	8,086	14,587	931	15,518
Wales	929	1,066	2,636	4,631	256	4,887
Great Britain	18,530	14,282	23,909	56,721	11,518	68,239

Region	Females				Temporarily Stopped	Total
	Unemployed for not more than 2 weeks	Unemployed for more than 2 weeks but not more than 8 weeks	Unemployed for more than 8 weeks	Total		
London and South-Eastern	4,386	1,788	1,397	7,571	591	8,162
Eastern	748	538	702	1,988	73	2,061
Southern	732	585	685	2,002	17	2,019
South-Western	906	769	1,187	2,862	81	2,943
Midland	1,654	543	409	2,606	418	3,024
North-Midland	691	450	626	1,767	394	2,161
E. and W. Ridings	1,093	944	905	2,942	737	3,679
North-Western	3,097	2,549	3,771	9,417</		

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS

The Table below shows the total numbers of unemployed persons on the registers of the Employment Exchanges and Youth Employment Offices in each administrative Region of England, and in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland at 11th July, 1955, and the numbers of persons on the registers of the Exchanges and Offices situated in some of the principal towns in each Region, together with the increase or decrease compared with 13th June, 1955.

Table with columns for Regions and Principal Towns, Men 18 and over, Boys under 18, Women 18 and over, Girls under 18, Total 15 and over, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Totals as compared with 13th June, 1955. Rows include London and South-Eastern, Eastern, Southern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Midland, East and West Ridings, and North-Western.

Table showing Numbers of Persons on Registers at 11th July, 1955, categorized by Regions and Principal Towns. Columns include Men 18 and over, Boys under 18, Women 18 and over, Girls under 18, Total 15 and over, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Totals as compared with 13th June, 1955. Rows include Northern, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED: 1939 to 1955

The Table below shows the annual average numbers registered as unemployed from 1939 to 1954, and monthly figures for 1955.

Table showing annual average numbers registered as unemployed from 1939 to 1954, and monthly figures for 1955. Columns include Great Britain (Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, Total) and United Kingdom Total. Rows list years from 1939 to 1955.

DISABLED PERSONS (EMPLOYMENT) ACT

The number of persons registered under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944, at 18th July, 1955, was 825,359, compared with 827,102 at 18th April, 1955. The number of disabled persons on the Register who were unemployed at 18th July, 1955, was 35,021, of whom 30,103 were males and 4,918 were females. The total included 16,017 persons who had served in H.M. Forces, and 19,004 who had not served. An analysis of these figures is given in the Table below.

Table showing analysis of disabled persons. Columns include Males, Females, Total. Rows include Suitable for ordinary employment (Ex-Service, Others), Severely disabled persons classified as unlikely to obtain employment other than under special conditions (Ex-Service, Others), and Grand Total.

The numbers of unemployed registered disabled persons given above include 148 men and 35 women registered at Appointments Offices. For 18th April, 1955, more detailed information is now available (see page 274 of this GAZETTE).

* These persons are excluded from the statistics of unemployed persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges given in the preceding Tables.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED: INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS

The statistics given below show, industry by industry, the numbers of persons who were registered as unemployed in Great Britain and in the United Kingdom, respectively, at 11th July, 1955. For Great Britain the wholly unemployed (i.e., persons out of a situation) are distinguished from those temporarily stopped (i.e., persons suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment).

The industrial analysis is based on the Standard Industrial Classification. The figures for each industry represent the numbers whose last employment was in that industry.

Large table showing Industrial Analysis of Unemployed. Columns include Industry, Wholly unemployed (including casuals), Temporarily stopped, Total, and United Kingdom (all classes) with sub-columns for Males, Females, and Total. Rows list various industries like Agriculture, Mining, Manufacturing, etc.

* The figures for coal mining exclude all the unemployed who, although previously employed in coal mining, are known to be unfit for employment in that industry. These men are, however, included with "Other persons not classified by industry" on the next page.

Principal Changes in Rates of Wages Reported during July—continued

Table with 5 columns: Industry, District (see also Note at beginning of Table), Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change. Rows include Other Mining and Quarrying, Building Brick and Allied Industries, Boot and Floor Polish Manufacture, Iron and Steel Manufacture, Rayon Yarn Production, Jute Carpet Manufacture, Lace Furnishings Manufacture, Narrow Woven Fabrics Manufacture, Textile Bleaching, Dyeing, Printing and Finishing, Silk Dyeing, Printing and Finishing, Textile Making-up and Packing, Leather Production, and England and Wales.

* These increases were agreed in July with retrospective effect to the date shown.
† These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act.
‡ Under sliding-scale arrangements based on the official index of retail prices.

See page 267 of the July issue of this GAZETTE.

Principal Changes in Rates of Wages Reported during July—continued

Table with 5 columns: Industry, District (see also Note at beginning of Table), Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change. Rows include Leather Production, Boot and Shoe Manufacture, Flour Milling, Bacon Curing, Food Manufacture, Tobacco Manufacture, Printing, Drawing Office Materials Manufacture, and Toy Manufacture.

* Under sliding-scale arrangements based on the official index of retail prices.
† These increases were agreed upon by the Joint Industrial Council for the Food Manufacturers' Industrial Group, and apply to workpeople employed by members of the group.
‡ These increases were agreed in July with retrospective effect to the date shown.
§ These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act. See page 267 of the July issue of this GAZETTE.

proposals submitted to him by the Wages Councils concerned:—
The Milk Distributive Wages Council (England and Wales) Wages Regulation (Amendment) Order, 1955: S.I. 1955 No. 981 (M.D. (82)), dated 4th July and effective from 24th July. This Order prescribes revised general minimum time rates for male and female workers and revised payment for night work.—See page 296.

The Retail Drapery, Outfitting and Footwear Trades Wages Council (Great Britain) Wages Regulation (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1955: S.I. 1955 No. 1089 (R.D.O. (22)), dated 21st July and effective from 15th August. This Order prescribes revised provisions relating to customary holidays.

The Baking Wages Council (Scotland) Wages Regulation (Amendment) Order, 1955: S.I. 1955 No. 1142 (BKS(33)), dated 25th July and effective from 12th August. This Order prescribes revised statutory minimum remuneration for male and female workers.

Wages Councils Act (Northern Ireland), 1945

Notices of Proposals

During July notice of intention to submit wages regulation proposals to the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance was issued by the following Wages Council:—

Baking Wages Council (Northern Ireland)—Proposals N.I.Bk. (N.191), N.I.Bk. (N.192) and N.I.Bk. (N.193), dated 1st July, for fixing revised statutory minimum remuneration for male and female workers in the trade.

Further information concerning any of the above proposals may be obtained from the Secretary of the Council concerned, at Tyrone House, Ormeau Avenue, Belfast.

Wages Regulation Orders

During July the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance made the following Wages Regulation Orders* giving effect to the proposals made by the Wages Councils concerned:—

The Road Haulage Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (Amendment) Order, 1955 (N.I.R.H. (N.12)), dated 14th July and effective on and from 30th July. This Order prescribes revised statutory minimum remuneration for male workers.—See page 296.

Decisions of the Commissioner under the National Insurance Acts

The Commissioner is a judicial authority independent of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance and appointed by the Crown (see Section 43 of the National Insurance Act, 1946, and Section 42 of the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act, 1946). His decisions†, which are final, are binding on Insurance Officers and Local Tribunals and must be followed in appropriate cases. They are thus the "case law" which is the principal means of maintaining consistency of decisions.

Appeals to the Commissioner under the National Insurance Acts may be made by an Insurance Officer, or by an association of which the claimant is a member, or by the claimant himself with the leave of the Tribunal or the Commissioner, or without such leave if the decision of the Tribunal was not unanimous.

Appeals to the Commissioner under the Industrial Injuries Acts may be made by an Insurance Officer, or by a person whose right to benefit is or may be, under the fourth Schedule to the 1946 Act, affected by the decision, or by an association of which the claimant or the deceased was a member, or by the claimant himself. No appeal may be made without the leave of the Tribunal or of the Commissioner.

Recent decisions of general interest are set out below.

Decision No. R(U) 7/55 (7th April)

A share fisherman claimed benefit for three days during which the vessel of the crew of which he was a member did not put to sea because the master and the mate absented themselves in order to attend to the funeral arrangements of another member of the crew who was a relative. Held that the claimant had not shown good cause necessitating abstention from fishing. The idleness was not enforced by circumstances beyond the control of the crew as a whole.

Decision of the Commissioner

"My decision is that the claimant is not entitled to unemployment benefit from 14th October, 1954, to 16th October, 1954, both days included.

"The claimant is a share fisherman, and a member of the crew of a fishing vessel of which the master or a member of the crew is

* See footnote * in first column on page 304.

† Selected decisions of the Commissioner are published periodically in the following series:—Series "R(U)"—decisions on unemployment benefit; Series "R(P)"—decisions on retirement pensions; Series "R(S)"—decisions on sickness benefit; Series "R(G)"—decisions on guardian's allowance, maternity benefit, death grant and widow's benefit; Series "R(I)"—decisions on all benefits and on any other questions arising under the Industrial Injuries Acts. An Index to Commissioner's Decisions, which is kept up to date by amendments published at monthly intervals, is also available. Applications and enquiries should be addressed to H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown in the second column on page 304.

The Baking Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (Holidays) Order, 1955 (N.I.Bk. (N.194)), dated 14th July and effective on and from 29th July. This Order prescribes revised provisions for the allowance of holidays and payment of holiday remuneration.

The Rope, Twine and Net Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (Amendment) Order, 1955 (N.I.R. (N.66)), dated 25th July and effective on and from 3rd August. This Order prescribes revised statutory minimum remuneration for male and female workers.

The Baking Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1955 (N.I.Bk. (N.195)), dated 29th July and effective on and from 11th August. This Order prescribes revised statutory minimum remuneration for certain male and female workers employed in the County of the City of Belfast and in districts situate within a radius of 15 statute miles therefrom.

The Baking Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1955 (N.I.Bk. (N.196)), dated 29th July and effective on and from 11th August. This Order prescribes (1) revised statutory minimum remuneration for certain male and female workers employed in the County of the City of Londonderry and (2) a reduction in the normal weekly hours of work for these workers from 46 to 45 hours.

The Baking Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (Amendment) (No. 4) Order, 1955 (N.I.Bk. (N.197)), dated 29th July and effective on and from 11th August. This Order prescribes revised statutory minimum remuneration for certain male and female workers employed in areas other than the County of the City of Belfast and districts situate within a radius of 15 statute miles therefrom and the County of the City of Londonderry.

Agricultural Wages Act, 1948

Orders Relating to Wages in England and Wales

Orders Nos. 2039 and 2040 were made on 13th July by the Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales, with effect from 25th July, 1955, fixing the statutory minimum rates, overtime rates, and rates of holiday remuneration for adult males of all classes at 20 years of age instead of at 21 years as previously. In addition, Order No. 2040 raises the minimum rates for special classes of male workers of all ages employed in the administrative county of Parts of the Holland Division of Lincoln.—See pages 274 and 293.

the owner or part owner. As such, he is a person who in order to qualify for receipt of unemployment benefit must satisfy the additional conditions of regulation 14B of the National Insurance (Mariners) Regulations, 1948 [S.I. 1948 No. 1467] as amended by the National Insurance (Mariners) Amendment Regulations, 1949 [S.I. 1949 No. 301]. Regulation 14B(2) requires that (in addition to other matters) such a share fisherman must also prove that there was no work on or in connection with the fishing vessel available for him on each day in question for the reason—(a) that on account of the state of the weather the fishing vessel could not reasonably have put to sea with a view to fishing; or (b) that the fishing vessel was undergoing repairs or maintenance, not being repairs or maintenance to which paragraph (3) of this regulation relates; or (c) that there was an absence of fish from any waters in which the fishing vessel could reasonably be expected to operate; or (d) that any other good cause necessitated abstention from fishing.

"The particular question in issue in the present case is whether the claimant has proved fulfilment of branch (d) of the regulation. It is not contended that (a), (b) or (c) is satisfied; but I have recited these as they may throw some light on what is intended by branch (d).

"The vessel of which the claimant was a member of the crew did not engage in fishing during the days in question. The reason was that a member of the crew had died, and was being buried on 15th October, 1954. The skipper and the mate of the vessel were related to the deceased, and went home to attend to the funeral and other arrangements. Their absence only left two men to man the vessel, and accordingly it was impracticable to go to sea. In these circumstances the local insurance officer considered that the claimant had not proved that the abstention from fishing had been necessitated by good cause, and he disallowed unemployment benefit. The claimant's appeal was unanimously upheld by the local tribunal. The tribunal's decision proceeded on the view that 'the lack of sufficient members to man the boat, particularly when caused by the death of a working member of the crew, is deemed to be sufficient cause for the vessel to abstain from fishing.' From this decision the insurance officer appeals to the Commissioner.

"Regulation 14B has been considered in a number of Commissioner's decisions. From decision C.U. 495/49 (reported) I cite the following passage. 'It is clear that the framers of the Regulations regarded share fishermen as defined by Regulation 2 of the Amendment Regulations as a special class of workers, and thought that while it was right to give them the advantages of the unemployment provisions of the National Insurance Scheme they ought to be required to comply with special conditions for the receipt of unemployment benefit.' For purposes of employment share fishermen

working together in a crew form a unit rather than a number of individuals, and it is natural therefore that the special conditions imposed upon them should have regard to the activity of the unit rather than to the activity of individual members. Branches (a), (b) and (c) of the regulation above-quoted plainly have regard to conditions affecting the activity of the unit, i.e., the crew with its vessel; and it is reasonable to interpret branch (d) also as having regard to conditions affecting the activity of the unit, rather than that of any individual member of the crew. Moreover, since a crew of share fishermen are in some respects in a position similar to that of self-employed persons, it is reasonable to infer that the special conditions on which share fishermen (as defined in regulation 2) are given a title to unemployment benefit fall to be strictly construed rather than loosely construed. In order that a share fisherman (as defined) may qualify for unemployment benefit, he must show not merely that he as an individual was obliged to be idle, but that the abstention of the vessel from fishing was necessitated by good cause within the meaning of the regulation. It is not sufficient for the individual share fisherman to show that he could not fish because the ship did not go to sea. As was pointed out in decision R(U) 10/51, proof of willingness on the part of individual members of the crew to go to sea falls short of what is required by the regulation. A share fisherman idle for reasons beyond his own control may thus be not entitled to benefit. The question is—Why did the vessel not go to sea? And it is not sufficient to answer that question simply by saying—Because not enough men were available to man it. One must go further and inquire—Why were there insufficient men available to man it? In the present case the answer to that relevant question is plainly—Because the skipper and mate absented themselves on other business. I do not doubt that inability to muster a sufficient crew may be an entirely sufficient reason for not going to sea; but since the cause of inability to muster a sufficient crew in the present case was an act within the control of the crew itself (taken as a whole) it becomes necessary to ask whether the action of the skipper and mate in absenting themselves for the purpose of attending to the funeral and other arrangements of their dead relative constituted 'good cause' within the meaning of the regulation.

"Looking again at branches (a), (b), (c) and (d) of the regulation, I find that the characteristic common to them all is that of enforced idleness. Stress of weather, necessary repairs, absence of fish, are all causes of enforced idleness; and the 'other good cause' must be such as necessitates abstention from fishing. In decision R(U) 10/51 it was suggested that 'other good cause' might include such circumstances as an outbreak of smallpox among the crew, or a Government order prohibiting fishing. I respectfully agree. Again, in R(U) 16/53 it was held that the expression would include an intimation by the only possible buyer of any catch that he would not take any fish on the day in question, for in such a case abstention from fishing would be a business necessity. I have not however been able to find any decision in which an event which left the crew with any real choice in the matter was held to constitute 'good cause necessitating abstention from fishing'. The action of the skipper and mate in doing what they did was no doubt reasonable, natural and proper, and commands sympathy. But I think it would open a very wide door to abuse if any countenance were to be given to the idea that any action in itself reasonable amounts to 'good cause' within the meaning of branch (d) of the regulation. Share fishermen are, as has been said, in a special position; their entitlement to unemployment benefit is in a sense anomalous, being governed by special considerations and provisions. Looking to the terms and presumable intentment of the special regulations governing their position, I think it would be wrong to extend these beyond the cases which in terms they cover. I think the insurance officer is right in his contention that the circumstances founded on by the claimant in the present case do not, on a proper interpretation of the regulations, constitute a compliance with branch (d) of regulation 14B(2). I must allow the insurance officer's appeal."

Decision No. R(G) 4/55 (9th July)*

A widow pensioner was entitled by the terms of her employment to be provided with a mid-day meal valued at 1s. 4d. on five days a week. She was, at the time in question, restricted to a special diet and her doctor had instructed her to eat no part of the meals provided for her at work. Held that the weekly rate of claimant's pension was not subject to reduction in respect of the meals provided but not taken by her—meals provided under a contract of service but of which a claimant is unable to partake may not be part of his earnings.

Decision of the Commissioner

"My decision is that for the period in question—from and including 23rd February, 1954—the weekly rate of the widow's pension payable to the claimant is not subject to reduction in respect of free meals available for her at her place of employment but not taken by her.

"The ground on which the local tribunal, affirming the decision of the local insurance officer, held that the claimant's pension was subject to reduction in respect that her earnings for the period in question exceeded 40s. by 20s. was that in addition to the weekly wage paid to her she was entitled to receive like the other employees engaged as canteen assistants a mid-day meal valued at 1s. 4d. on five days (Monday to Friday). If the value of those meals is not to be regarded as part of the claimant's remuneration, it is conceded that her pension was not subject to reduction.

"On the facts, which so far as relevant to the question before me are not in dispute, even if there had been no Commissioner's

* The principles established by this decision are applicable to similar questions arising in connection with claims for unemployment benefit.

decision that could be regarded as a precedent I should have had no hesitation in giving effect to the claimant's contention that the meals 'provided' for her by her employers in the sense that the food was there for her if she chose to eat it was not part of her remuneration, as she was during the period in question 'on a special diet' to which the meals for the canteen staff did not conform, and accordingly on her doctor's instructions did not eat the food provided for the canteen staff or any part of it. I am, however, glad to find that the course of Commissioner's decisions in relation to meals provided by employers considered in relation to the question of total remuneration fully supports, in my judgment, the claimant's submission in the present case. It may be useful to refer to four of those decisions—C.S. 459/50 (reported), and C.W.P. 10/50, C.P. 19/51, and C.P. 37/51 (not reported). Commissioner's decision C.S. 459/50 laid down clearly what may be called for convenience the general principle that 'earnings' must include remuneration in kind such as meals, and that when under the contract of service meals are provided for an employee it is part of his remuneration even although he chooses not to take them. But in the course of that decision, and as an exception to what I have called the general principle, reference was made to Commissioner's decision C.W.P. 10/50 in the following terms:—'C.W.P. 10/50 (not reported) proceeds on the particular fact that, although a meal was provided, the claimant did not and could not reasonably be expected to eat it in consequence of her duties. That being so, the claimant in that case got no value at all out of the meal.' The case considered in a later decision C.P. 19/51 is so similar in its facts to the facts of the present case that, as it was held that the meals provided or available for the claimant were not part of her remuneration, I regard that decision as a precedent supporting allowance of the present appeal. In the course of decision C.P. 19/51 reference was made to decision C.S. 459/50 but the facts of C.P. 19/51 were stated to make it 'more comparable to decision C.W.P. 10/50'. The decision in favour of the claimant in C.P. 19/51 proceeded on the view that as the claimant on account of a duodenal ulcer was unable to eat the food provided and did not partake of the meals 'the claimant could not be said to derive any remuneration or profit from her occupation in so far as that remuneration or profit consists of the provision of free meals of which the condition of the claimant's health precludes her from taking advantage'.

"It may be useful to contrast the decision in C.P. 19/51 with the decision in C.P. 37/51 holding that the meals provided for the claimant and with which she was served were part of her remuneration although, as she suffered from dyspepsia, she may have left on her plate some of the food provided for her."

"In the present case the majority of the local tribunal gave their decision against the claimant with reluctance on the ground, as they state, that the mid-day meal is provided 'by contract of service' and accordingly they felt that they were 'bound to follow C.S. 459/50'. In supporting their decision the insurance officer concerned with this appeal also relies on that decision and submits that 'it was a term of the contract of employment that a free meal should be provided' and that 'there is no evidence that, when at 16th February, 1954, the claimant could no longer take the meal, the contract was varied in her case'. In C.S. 459/50 it is of course stated that whether the value of meals provided is to be included in earnings 'depends on the terms of the contract of service' but, as I have shown by reference to the decision, it is clearly recognised that meals 'provided' under the contract in the sense of being 'available' but of which a claimant is unable to partake may not be part of his earnings. I allow the claimant's appeal."

Legal Cases Affecting Labour

Factories Act, 1937, Section 25(2)—Need to provide second handrail—“Special circumstances” making staircase “specially liable to cause accidents”

The respondent workman stepped on grease at the top of some stairs and fell and broke a leg. The stairs were similar to fourteen other staircases of the same kind, with metal treads all the way up. The top step had a three-inch metal edge which was polished and shiny. There were in fact two handrails but the one next to the wall was so close to the wall that it could not be considered a handrail for the purpose of the Section. Two feet from the top of the stairs was a hatchway from which grease was issued from time to time, but no grease had been seen on the stairs at any time before or after the accident except on this one occasion. A special rota of men were allocated to the task of cleaning the stairs, and though the stairs were used very frequently there had never been an accident before.

Mr. Justice Oliver found there was no common law negligence nor breach of Section 25(1), but awarded the workman damages for breach of Section 25(2), holding that by reason of the polished and shiny top step the "condition of the surface" was faulty and the issuing of grease within two feet of the top of the stairs was "special circumstances" making the staircase "specially liable to cause accidents" so that the appellant employers were under a duty to provide an effective second handrail.

The Court of Appeal (Lords Justices Denning, Birkett and Romer) allowed the appeal holding:—(i) Since no accident had happened in fifteen years it cannot be said that the condition of the top step was specially liable to cause accidents. (ii) "Special circumstances" must be something which is continually repeated or so often repeated as to be specially liable to cause accidents, which was not the case here.

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused.—*Harris v. Rugby Portland Cement Company Limited*. Court of Appeal, 13th May, 1955.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

Since last month's issue of this GAZETTE was prepared, the under-mentioned Statutory Instruments,* relating to matters with which the Ministry of Labour and National Service are concerned, either directly or indirectly, have been published in the series of *Statutory Instruments*. The list also includes certain regulations, etc., published in the series of *Statutory Rules and Orders of Northern Ireland*, additional to those contained in the lists appearing in previous issues of the GAZETTE. The prices shown are net; those in brackets include postage. Where no price is shown, the instrument costs 2d. net (3½d. including postage).

The Milk Distributive Wages Council (England and Wales) Wages Regulation (Amendment) Order, 1955 (S.I. 1955 No. 981; price 3d. (4½d.)), dated 4th July; The Retail Drapery, Outfitting and Footwear Trades Wages Council (Great Britain) Wages Regulation (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1955 (S.I. 1955 No. 1089; price 3d. (4½d.)), dated 21st July; The Baking Wages Council (Scotland) Wages Regulation (Amendment) Order, 1955 (S.I. 1955 No. 1142; price 6d. (7½d.)), dated 25th July. These Orders were made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under the Wages Councils Act, 1945.—See page 301.

The Police (Scotland) Amendment Regulations, 1955 (S.I. 1955 No. 1046 (S.109); price 3d. (4½d.)), made on 12th July by the Secretary of State for Scotland under the Police Act, 1919. These Regulations come into operation on 5th September. They amend the Police (Scotland) Regulations, 1952, and provide for increased rates of overtime allowance; for the grant, so far as the exigencies of duty permit, to every member of a police force below the rank of superintendent of one rest day in every fortnight in addition to the weekly rest day; and for increased rates of detective duty allowance.

The Coal Mines (Training) (Amendment) General Regulations, 1955 (S.I. 1955 No. 972; price 4d. (5½d.)), made on 1st July by the Minister of Fuel and Power under the Coal Mines Act, 1911. These Regulations, which came into operation on 16th July, amend the Coal Mines (Training) General Regulations, 1945, and provide for the relaxation of certain of the provisions of those Regulations which has hitherto been effected by exemptions granted by the Minister of Fuel and Power. They also provide for a number of other matters not previously dealt with by exemptions.

The National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) (Colliery Workers Supplementary Scheme) Amendment (No. 2) Order, 1955 (S.I. 1955 No. 1162; price 3d. (4½d.)), made on 27th July by the Minister of Pensions and National Insurance under the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act, 1946.—See page 278.

The National Insurance (Residence and Persons Abroad) Amendment Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1955 (S.R. & O. of Northern Ireland 1955 No. 117), dated 7th July, made by the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance, in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance, under the National Insurance Act (Northern Ireland), 1946. These Regulations amend the National Insurance (Residence and Persons Abroad) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1948. They came into operation on the 11th July and are similar in scope to the corresponding Regulations made in Great Britain (see last month's issue of this GAZETTE, page 242).

The National Insurance and Industrial Injuries (Reciprocal Agreement with the Netherlands) Order (Northern Ireland), 1955 (S.R. & O. 1955 No. 122; price 1s. (1s. 1½d.)), made on 30th June by the Governor of Northern Ireland in Council under the National Insurance Act (Northern Ireland), 1946, and the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act (Northern Ireland), 1946. This Order gives effect in Northern Ireland to the Convention (set out in the Schedule to the Order) made between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. The scope of the Order is similar to that made in Great Britain (see last month's issue of this GAZETTE, page 242).

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED*

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

Careers.—(i) *A Career in the Oversea Civil Service*. Colonial Office. Price 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.).—See page 277. (ii) *Careers for Men and Women Series, No. 43, Veterinary Science* (Revised March, 1955). Price 6d. (7½d.). (iii) *Choice of Careers, New Series, No. 5, Bespoke Tailoring* (Revised Edition, 1955). Price 1s. 3d. (1s. 4½d.). Ministry of Labour and National Service.

Census of Production for 1951.—*Reports*. (i) *Volume 1, Trade K, Abrasives*. (ii) *Volume 1, Trade N, Manufactured Fuel*. (iii) *Volume 2, Trade G, Toilet Preparations and Perfumery*. (iv) *Volume 2, Trade H, Explosives and Fireworks*. (v) *Volume 2, Trade M, Match*. (vi) *Volume 2, Trade Q, Glue, Gum, Paste and Allied Trades*. (vii) *Volume 4, Trade J, Mechanical Engineering (Repairing)*. (viii) *Volume 5, Trade K, Precious Metals Refining*. (ix) *Volume 6, Trade N, Textile Converting*. (x) *Volume 9, Trade C, Cattle, Dog and Poultry Foods*. (xi) *Volume 10, Trade E, Wooden Containers and Baskets*. (xii) *Volume 11, Trade K, Laundry, Cleaning, Job Dyeing and Carpet Beating*. (xiii) *Volume 12, Trade E, Canal, Dock and Harbour Undertakings (Civil Engineering)*. Price 1s. 6d. (1s. 7½d.) each. (xiv) *Volume 4, Trade H, Printing and Bookbinding Machinery*. (xv) *Volume 5, Trade F, Brass Manufactures*. (xvi) *Volume 6, Trade L, Narrow Fabrics*. (xvii) *Volume 6, Trade P, Textile Finishing*. (xviii) *Volume 7, Trade H, Tailoring, Dress-making, etc.* (xix) *Volume 8, Trade J, Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery*. (xx) *Volume 8, Trade K, Preserved Fruit and Vegetables*. (xxi) *Volume 9, Trade G, Miscellaneous Preserved Foods*. (xxii) *Volume 11, Trade I, Plastic Goods and Fancy Articles*. Price 2s. (2s. 1½d.) each. Board of Trade.

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

Civil Service.—*Staffs Employed in Government Departments. Statement showing the Civil Staffs employed in Government Departments on 1st April, 1955, compiled from Returns furnished to the Treasury*. Cmd. 9503. Price 3d. (4½d.).

Education.—*Education in 1954, being the Report of the Ministry of Education and the Statistics of Public Education for England and Wales*. Cmd. 9521. Price 7s. 6d. (7s. 9d.).—See page 280.

Electricity Supply.—*Report of the Electricity Sub-Committee of the Joint Consultative Committee*. July, 1955. Ministry of Labour and National Service. Price 4d. (5½d.).—See page 276.

Industrial Safety, Health and Welfare.—*Fencing and Safety Precautions for Cotton Spinning and Weaving Machinery*. (i) *Safety Pamphlet No. 4, Part One. Opening, Blowing and Cardroom Processes*. Price 7s. 6d. (7s. 9d.). (ii) *Safety Pamphlet No. 5, Part Two. Spinning, Doubling and Winding Machinery*. Price 5s. (5s. 2d.). Ministry of Labour and National Service.—See page 277. (iii) *Psychological Tests for Accident Proneness and Industrial Proficiency. Medical Research Council Memorandum No. 31. A Summary of Reports Nos. 38, 55, 68, 74 and 84 of the Industrial Health Research Board*. Privy Council. Price 2s. (2s. 1½d.).

National Assistance.—*Report of the National Assistance Board for 1954*. Cmd. 9530. Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance. Price 2s. (2s. 1½d.).—See page 278.

Scientific Policy.—*Eighth Annual Report of the Advisory Council on Scientific Policy*. Cmd. 9537. Privy Council. Price 6d. (7½d.).—See page 276.

Social Security.—(i) *European Interim Agreement on Social Security Schemes relating to Old Age, Invalidity and Survivors*. Cmd. 9510. Price 1s. 3d. (1s. 4½d.). (ii) *European Interim Agreement on Social Security other than Schemes for Old Age, Invalidity and Survivors*. Cmd. 9511. Price 1s. 6d. (1s. 7½d.). (iii) *European Convention on Social and Medical Assistance*. Cmd. 9512. Price 1s. 3d. (1s. 4½d.).

MINING QUALIFICATIONS BOARD

The next Mining Qualifications Board Examinations for First and Second Class Certificates of Competency as Managers and Under-Managers of Mines will be held on 22nd, 23rd and 24th November, 1955, at Glasgow, Sunderland, Doncaster, Wigan, Cardiff and Stoke-on-Trent. Candidates for Limited Certificates of Competency as Managers and Under-Managers of Stratified Ironstone Mines will attend the Doncaster Centre.

The Mining Legislation Examinations for Mechanical Engineer's Certificates, Electrical Engineer's Certificates, Mechanic's Class 1 Certificates and Electrician's Class 1 Certificates will be held at the above Centres on 22nd November, 1955.

The written part of the Examination for Certificates of Qualification as Surveyors of Mines will be held at the above Centres on 23rd November, 1955, and the Oral and Practical Examination, to be attended only by those who qualify in the written test, in January, 1956.

Intending candidates should apply after 25th August for the necessary forms, stating whether they have previously attended an examination for any of the above Certificates, except of course for the new examinations for mechanical and electrical staff in mines. The completed applications should be returned to the Secretary as soon as possible, and must in any event be received not later than 20th September, 1955. Letters should be addressed to the Secretary, Mining Qualifications Board, Ministry of Fuel and Power, Thames House South, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

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Communications with regard to the contents of the GAZETTE should be addressed to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service, Orphanage Road, Watford, Herts. (Telephone: Bushey Heath 3211.)

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