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

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

THE number of men and boys registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain as wholly unemployed at 14th September (exclusive of 23,227 men who had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment) was 63,703; those registered as on short time or otherwise temporarily suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment numbered 1,532; and those registered as unemployed casual workers (being persons who normally seek their livelihood by jobs of short duration) numbered 2,597. As compared with 17th August the numbers wholly unemployed showed a decrease of 7,605, those temporarily suspended from work showed a decrease of 234, but unemployed casual workers showed an increase of 49.

The corresponding figures for women and girls at 14th September were 34,959 wholly unemployed (exclusive of those, numbering 1,084, who had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for normal full-time employment), 1,177 temporarily stopped, and 140 unemployed casual workers. Of the 34,959 wholly unemployed, 1,080 had been classified as unable for good cause to transfer to another area. As compared with 17th August, the numbers wholly unemployed showed a decrease of 1,267, those temporarily stopped showed a decrease of 679, but unemployed casual workers showed an increase of 19.

WAGES.

In the industries for which wages are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in September resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at nearly £57,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 520,000 workpeople and in a decrease estimated at about £60 a week in those of approximately 3,000 workpeople.

The industries and services in which wage rates were increased

included most sections of the iron and steel industry, hosiery manufacture, the hat, cap and millinery, dressmaking and women's light clothing industries, tobacco manufacture, printing and bookbinding in provincial towns in England and Wales, and retail furniture, etc., distribution.

Further particulars regarding the changes in rates of wages in September are given on pages 179 to 181.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st October the official cost-of-living index figure was 100 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, showing no change as compared with 1st September.

For food alone the index figure at 1st October was 62 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 60 per cent. at 1st September, the rise being mainly due to increases in the prices of bread and flour, partly offset by decreases in the prices of potatoes. On the other hand, there was a decline in the average level of clothing prices during September, resulting partly from the arrangements for the removal of the Purchase Tax from utility cloth and apparel, and partly from increased sales of utility clothing at prices below those of non-utility goods of corresponding quality.

Further particulars with regard to retail prices at 1st October are given on page 183.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in September, was 123. In addition, 9 disputes which began before September were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workpeople involved in these 132 disputes (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred) was 25,000, and the aggregate duration of the disputes in September was about 53,000 working days.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES.

The Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories* for the year 1941, which has recently been published, contains a general review of the work of the Factory Department of the Ministry of Labour and National Service during that year, together with sectional reports dealing separately with health, hours of employment and canteens.

The Report states that during the year under review the work of the Factory Inspectors was, to a large extent, again taken up with special war duties consequent on the change that has taken place in the industrial machine. Both sides in industry are concerned with the maximum production that the factory can give, and the efforts of the Factory Department have been equally directed to that end. The Department are convinced, from the experience of this and the last year, that if the maximum production is to be obtained the general requirements of the Factories Act must be observed, and that the prevention of accidents, proper ventilation, heating and other physical conditions, and reasonable hours of work are essential to a continued war effort. The Report states that the war effort has also led to continued emphasis on other sides of the work, making for the immediate well-being of the workers, including the provision of feeding facilities and the adoption of a proper personnel management department in the larger works. Considerable progress has been made in these directions, especially in the provision of canteens for the feeding of the industrial workers. The sections of the Report in which some of these aspects of the work of the Department are discussed in detail are briefly summarised below.

Accident Prevention.—The increase in the gross figures of reportable accidents (fatal and non-fatal) was again very high in 1941, as will be seen from the following Table giving the figures for the war years in contrast to those for 1938:—

Reportable Accidents.

Year.	Fatal Accidents.		Non-Fatal Accidents.	
	Number.	Percentage Increase over previous Year.	Number.	Percentage Increase over previous Year.
1938	944	—	179,159	—
1939	1,104	17	192,371	7
1940	1,372	24	230,607	20
1941	1,646	20	269,652	17

The main increase in 1941 was in accidents to adult women the number of which rose from 23,766 in 1940 to 42,857 in 1941. The corresponding figures for adult males were 173,228 in 1940 and 191,343 in 1941. The approximate accident rates per 1,000 employed showed increases in 1941, as compared with 1938, of about 25 per cent. among adult males, 21 per cent. among youths and boys, 90 per cent. among adult females, and 24 per cent. among girls.

The gross increase in accidents to women, while mainly due to the increased number of women employed, was also very largely influenced by the fact that females have taken over their share of the dangerous processes in industry. In engineering work (other than machine making), for instance, the number of reportable accidents to women rose from 941 in 1938 to 4,215 in 1941, while in machine making the figures were 650 in 1938 and 11,892 in 1941. Although women are more liable to certain accidents, e.g., those due to the catching of loose hair or clothing, there was no evidence that, in general, women are more prone to accidents; in fact, the general impression of Inspectors was that the contrary was the case.

As regards the increase in industrial accidents in general, one generally accepted cause is the increased pressure of war work and the fact that this work is largely carried on by inexperienced workers. Other causes are that the supervisory staff have not time to train the new labour in the best and, therefore, the safest methods of working, and the workers themselves are more inclined to take risks. Although the Inspectors can do much to prevent accidents, the real effort towards accident prevention must be made in the factory, and in this effort, management, foremen and operatives must all play their part, acting in large works through a committee.

Personnel Management and Welfare Supervision.—The Report states that the difficulties inherent in war-time production have brought to a head the necessity for greater attention to be devoted to the question of staff management and welfare supervision in the larger factories. The advantages are stressed of the establishment, in such factories, of a specialised Department dealing with personnel, staffed by suitable people with the requisite status and authority, and Boards of Directors are particularly urged to give this system a fair trial.

Ventilation and General Conditions.—In spite of reports of steady improvement from all parts of the country, there are still too many complaints of neglect of ventilation and other requirements of the Factories Act, mainly in the new dispersal

factories, many of which had been set up in buildings not designed for the accommodation of large numbers of workers. Many Inspectors reported that, in the design of new factories, no thought appeared to have been given to the problem of ventilation under black-out conditions. This section of the Report also emphasises the importance of the removal of toxic dust and gases by localised exhaust draught applied at the point of origin.

Lighting.—The Factories (Standards of Lighting) Regulations, 1941*, which came into force on 1st February, 1941, led to satisfactory results, particularly in the new war-time factories and the larger factories generally, and have brought home to industry needs which were not properly realised before. The medium-sized and small factories have, however, generally speaking, lagged behind. In applying the Regulations the increasing need for economy in the use of labour, materials and fuel has to be borne in mind, and indications are given in the Report as to the means whereby improved lighting may be secured with due regard to this need.

Health.—In a chapter dealing with industrial health, the Senior Medical Inspector reports that, despite all the war-time influences which would be expected to affect adversely the health of the worker, he cannot say, speaking generally, that there is any reason to think that it has been so affected. Nevertheless, one would hesitate to say that all groups of workers retain their full vitality. The general maintenance of health was largely attributable, he believed, to the steps taken to provide meals in canteens for the worker at a reasonable rate. There is no indication that the work which women have taken up in industry has, in general, adversely affected them, but it would seem unwise to employ women who have had children on work that requires undue strain on the muscles of the abdomen. There is also no direct evidence that young persons have suffered physical injury in consequence of inevitable temporary increases in their hours of work.

As regards specific diseases due to the materials handled in the various processes, it is pointed out that the cases of lead poisoning notified (59) are the lowest since notification became a statutory obligation. There was also a reduction in the number of cases of anthrax. On the other hand, an increase during the year of nearly 200 cases and 10 more deaths from gassing accidents is a matter of concern. In spite of the difficulties due to the requirements of the various branches of the Services and of other claims on the medical profession, medical supervision at factories has made progress, more particularly in the direction of the appointment of part-time Works Medical Officers.

Hours of Employment.—In a Report dealing with hours of employment, the Deputy Chief Inspector states that by the beginning of 1941 the control of hours of employment of women and young persons, which had been weakened for a brief period in 1940 after the withdrawal from France, was again well established. The general policy and the procedure, described in a Home Office Report,† in regard to issuing Emergency Orders during the first five months of the war were not materially altered during the year. The terms of the General Emergency Order for Engineering and Certain Other Classes of Works‡ covered the requirements of the majority of factories in which emergency modifications of the hours provisions of the Factories Act were needed. Out of about 10,000 factories which had emergency permissions to employ women and young persons over 16 either on a system of day and night shifts or for more than 48 hours on a day shift, returns showed that early in 1942 the permitted hours were between 55 and 60 in rather less than half the cases. This proportion has since tended to decrease. In assessing the practical effect of the Emergency Orders, it should be remembered, the Report states, that the fact that permission has been obtained for certain hours does not necessarily mean that these hours will always be worked by everyone in the factory. The effects of changes in hours of employment on production and absenteeism are shown by various examples quoted in this section of the Report, and particulars are also given of various types of systems of the part-time employment of women with domestic or other responsibilities which were more extensively introduced during the year, in order to meet difficulties in connection with manpower.

Canteens.—On the subject of canteens the Deputy Superintending Inspector reports that the problem of securing suitable arrangements to enable workers to purchase meals at or near their place of work has involved one of the most important new tasks the Factory Department has had to undertake. Before the end of 1940, canteens, in the sense of places where hot meals can be purchased, were relatively uncommon, except in the largest factories. By the end of 1941, however, 6,592 places subject to inspection by the Department had canteens, and in addition 857 places were known to have canteens in preparation. Reports from the Inspectors in all parts of the country indicate that the attitude of employers and workers to the need for canteens has changed considerably. The feeding of workers in small workplaces still presents many problems, although much has been done for such workers through the provision of British Restaurants. Other matters considered in this section of the Report are the management and staffing of canteens and the problems of food supplies, cooking and service

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for March, 1941, page 53.
† Hours of Employment of Women and Young Persons. Cmd. 6182. H.M. Stationery Office, price 3d. net. (4d. post free).
‡ See the issue of this GAZETTE for May, 1942, page 107.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOR WOMEN.

NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY SERVICES.

As many men as possible must be made available for front line duties in the Armed Forces. This means that many more women must be recruited for the Women's Auxiliary Services to undertake duties for which men would otherwise have to be used, but in which women have shown themselves able to take the place of men. The compulsory powers of the National Service Acts are being used to provide a number of the additional recruits wanted. These Acts do not apply, however, to married women, nor are they used to compel a woman to join the Forces who prefers to take one of the vital jobs in industry. So far, the age classes from 1918–1921 and the older half of the 1922 age class are included in the compulsory call-up; further age classes will probably be included later, but at the moment a concentrated effort is being made to secure the release from their existing work of more women within the present call-up age classes. The position therefore is that the compulsory call-up is yielding recruits from among single women born between 1st January, 1918, and 30th June, 1922, provided they do not prefer factory work, but not from women born outside those age limits nor from among married women. Accordingly, the field for recruits under the National Service Acts is comparatively small, and outside it there is a much larger field of women for whom there is no compulsory call-up but who are eligible to volunteer.

The Women's Auxiliary Services have always been and still are, in the main, volunteer forces. The recruitment of these Services up to the necessary complements depends very largely upon volunteers. Even since the extension of the National Service Acts to women the number of volunteers has consistently been larger than the number of women called up under the National Service Acts. During the past six months the number of volunteers has been double the number called up, but the rate has dropped and the balance must be restored. Now that there is a call for a large increase in recruitment for the Women's Auxiliary Services the call must be answered in two ways, viz., (1) by increasing as much as possible the number of women called up from the field covered by the National Service Acts, and (2) by an increase of volunteering from that much larger field to which the calling-up arrangements do not extend.

In the past numbers of women who wanted to volunteer have not been accepted because it was felt that their civilian work was too important. The needs of the Women's Auxiliary Services, however, have now grown more urgent and many of these women and others in like positions will now be accepted. Women in reserved work who wish to volunteer will be accepted for the Women's Auxiliary Services if their employers are willing to let them go, and it will be quite exceptional for any women not in reserved work to be refused permission to volunteer. Women may join the Service they prefer, subject to a certain proviso with regard to the W.R.N.S. in the case of the National Service age group, and so far as this can be arranged, they may follow the trade they choose, except that for certain types of work special qualifications are needed. Volunteers are wanted in the largest numbers for the following: A.T.S.—Anti-aircraft, signals, driving, special operations, radio mechanics, cooking, orderly work, camouflage; W.A.A.F.—Cooks, motor drivers, balloon operators, aircraft hands, clerks, flight mechanics, mess stewards and waitresses, radio operators. Women in the 20–24 age group can be considered for the W.R.N.S. only if they possess one of the seven special reasons or qualifications agreed between the W.R.N.S. and the Ministry of Labour. This ensures that only a certain proportion of the women in the National Service age group will be allocated to the W.R.N.S., which is the smallest of the three Women's Services. Details of the special reasons and qualifications may be obtained on enquiry at any Employment Exchange.

Pay depends on the type of work done, length of service, and rank. The lowest rate is 2s. a day, all found. Wives of Servicemen are granted their leave to coincide with their husbands' leave, subject to Service exigencies.

Women who wish to volunteer should go at once to a Recruiting Centre or Employment Exchange, or, if this is not possible, they should write to 297 Oxford Street, London, W.1, giving their name (including Mrs. or Miss), address (including county), and date of birth (day, month and year), and specifying the particular Service in which they are interested. Women in the 20–24 age class should note that they must go to their Employment Exchange in the first instance.

ESSENTIAL WORK (BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING) ORDER, 1942.

The Minister of Labour and National Service has made an Order* under the above title consolidating the Essential Work (Building and Civil Engineering) (No. 2) Order, 1941,† and the Essential Work (Building and Civil Engineering) (Amendment) Order, 1942.‡ The new Order embodies a number of amendments made in agreement with representatives of both sides of the building and civil engineering industries, and came into force on 12th October, 1942.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1942. No. 2044. See page 186.
† See the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1942, pages 7 and 22–25.
‡ See the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1942, pages 82 and 100.

The principal amendments affect the provisions relating to the payment of the guaranteed wage and correspond to certain of the amendments which, as reported on page 146 of the issue of this GAZETTE for August, 1942, were recently incorporated in the Essential Work (General Provisions) (No. 2) Order, 1942. Thus, provision is now made whereby, in cases where workers appeal successfully against suspension or dismissal for serious misconduct, they are not disentitled to the guaranteed wage in respect of time spent in attending Appeal Board hearings. Also, the existing provision that the guaranteed wage is payable during the interval between dismissal for serious misconduct and reinstatement after successful appeal is now extended, so that a worker is not disentitled to the guaranteed wage if he takes temporary employment in the interval; any sums earned in respect of the temporary employment are, however, to be deducted from the guaranteed wage payable by the original employer.

In addition to certain minor amendments of an administrative character, provision is also made for the exclusion from the Order of part-time workers who have entered industry because of war-time conditions.

ESSENTIAL WORK (ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING INDUSTRY) ORDER.

After consultation with representatives of the National Federated Electrical Association, the Electrical Contractors' Association of Scotland and the Electrical Trades Union, and of both sides of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry, the Minister of Labour and National Service has made an Order entitled the Essential Work (Electrical Contracting Industry) Order, 1942.* The Order came into force on 19th October, 1942.

Under the Order the Minister may schedule electrical contracting undertakings, as defined in the Order, in respect of specified classes or descriptions of workers. If an electricity supply undertaking maintains a branch or department wholly or mainly engaged on electrical contracting, that branch or department may also be scheduled, but only to the extent that it engages in electrical contracting for persons who are not authorised electricity supply undertakers.

The Order includes provisions similar to those contained in other Essential Work Orders with regard to the right of discharge from and permission to leave a scheduled undertaking, the treatment of cases of absenteeism, lateness or indiscipline, the procedure for appeals to Local Appeal Boards, and the guarantee, subject to certain conditions, of a minimum wage. However, so as to maintain the essential mobility and flexibility of the industry, in regard to which strong representations were made by both sides, certain special provisions are also contained in the Order. Whilst the Minister has made it clear that all necessary labour must be found for electrical contracting work on important government contracts and on other work essential to the war effort, he is desirous of allowing the industry to function as freely as possible on its work which is common to a variety of other industries. Special provision is accordingly made whereby no permission is required for the temporary loan of a worker's services to any other undertaking scheduled under the Order or to any other undertaking scheduled under any of the Essential Work Orders, for a period not exceeding seven days. Furthermore, as regards the calculation of Sunday working for the purpose of the guaranteed wage, the rule will vary according as the Sunday working is (i) performed on a scheduled building site, (ii) work on shipbuilding or ship-repairing or (iii) work other than that specified in (i) and (ii). In the first two cases, following the rules in the respective Essential Work Orders, all time worked on a Sunday and all remuneration paid in respect of that work will be excluded. In any other cases of time worked in excess of the normal working hours, the time so worked will be reckoned as if it had been paid for at the ordinary time rate.

The Order also empowers the Minister to give directions as to the duration and situation of employment. The purpose of this provision is to require labour to be employed at a particular works or place, or if it is already employed there to continue to be employed at the particular works or place. Until such a direction is given there will be no restriction under the Order as to the work on which, or as to the place where, an employer may use his labour. This will enable the industry to operate freely with its own transference machinery for staffing important jobs, the Minister's power of direction being held in reserve to deal with cases where labour supply difficulties occur. Where such difficulties do occur a direction will be given, and the permission of the National Service Officer will then be required before labour can be transferred from the particular job or place. It will also be possible for the Minister, when sending labour to the employment of a contractor, to specify the job on which, and the place where, the labour should be employed. The direction can remain in force only for a period of one month or for such further periods, not exceeding one month at any one time, as the Minister may direct. This will ensure frequent review.

Firms will be scheduled only on the recommendation of the Minister of Works and Planning, who will consult with other Departments that may also be interested.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1942. No. 2071. See page 186.

* Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories for the Year 1941. Cmd. 6397. H.M. Stationery Office, price 6d. net. (8d. post free).

TRADE DISPUTES IN SEPTEMBER.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in September in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 123, as compared with 118 in the previous month, and 135 in September, 1941. In these 123 new disputes about 23,000 workpeople were directly involved, and 1,300 workpeople indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 700 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 9 disputes which began before September, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 132, involving about 25,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss, during September, estimated at 53,000 working days.

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

Table with columns: Industry Group, Started before beginning of Month, Started in Month, Total, Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month. Rows include Mining and Quarrying, Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding, Textile, Transport, Other Industries, Total, August, 1942, Total, September, 1941.

Causes.—Of the 123 disputes beginning in September, 40, directly involving 7,500 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages, 4, directly involving 400 workpeople, out of proposed reductions in wages, and 30, directly involving 7,800 workpeople, on other wage questions; 5, directly involving 600 workpeople, on questions as to working hours; 23, directly involving 5,000 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 18, directly involving

1,300 workpeople, on other questions respecting working arrangements; and 3, directly involving 400 workpeople, on questions of trade union principle.

Results.—Final settlements of disputes which terminated during September have been effected in the case of 111 disputes, directly involving 18,100 workpeople. Of these disputes, 11, directly involving 1,600 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 72, directly involving 9,900 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 28, directly involving 6,600 workpeople, resulted in a compromise. In the case of 18 other disputes, directly involving 5,200 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR JANUARY, 1942 AND 1941.†

Table with columns: Industry Group, January to September, 1942, January to September, 1941. Columns include No. of Disputes beginning in period, Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress, No. of Disputes beginning in period, Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress. Rows include Coal Mining, Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc., Engineering, Shipbuilding, Textile, Clothing, Food, Drink and Tobacco, Woodworking, Furniture, etc., Transport, Commerce, Distribution and Finance, Other Industries, Total.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING SEPTEMBER.

Table with columns: Occupations and Locality, Approximate Number of Workpeople involved, Date when Dispute, Cause or Object, Result. Rows include Engineering (Fitters, turners, etc.—London), Engineering operatives—Preston (one firm), Shipbuilding and ship-repairing operatives—Tyneside (one firm), Textile (Workpeople employed in pressed woollen felt, etc., manufacture—Lancashire (certain firms)), Transport (Omnibus drivers and conductors—Lincolnshire (one firm)), General cargo workers—Swansea, Automobile maintenance fitters, plant fitters and apprentices employed by a road transport undertaking—Northern Ireland.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced, etc.), exceeded 100 days.

† In making up these totals the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. Workpeople involved in more than one dispute are counted more than once in the totals; the amount of such duplication, however, is slight, except in coal mining, in which the net number of workpeople involved was approximately 147,000 in 1942, and 68,000 in 1941. For all industries combined the net totals were approximately 243,000 in 1942, and 200,000 in 1941.

‡ i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes.

§ A further stoppage, involving a large number of workpeople employed at shipbuilding yards on Tyneside, began on 5th October and lasted until 12th October. Particulars of this stoppage will be given in the next issue of this Gazette.

|| Work was resumed on 7th September.

¶ There was a gradual resumption of work as from 7th September.

** The number of workpeople idle on 2nd September was about 200.

CHANGES IN RETAIL PRICES AND COST OF LIVING.

Summary of Index Figures for 1st October, 1942.

Table showing Index Figures for 1st October, 1942, compared with July, 1914. Columns: Increase since July, 1914, Change since 1st September, 1942, Index Points, Per cent. Rows: Food, All Items.

FOOD.

During September Orders were made by the Ministry of Food altering the maximum permitted prices of various articles of food. As a result of these alterations, there were increases of approximately 1d. per 4 lb. in the average price of bread, approximately 1½d. per 7 lb. in the average price of flour, and nearly ¼d. a quart in the average price of milk. On the other hand the average price of potatoes decreased by about ¼d. per 7 lb. The prices of the remaining articles of food included within the scope of these statistics showed little change during the month.

The following Table compares the average retail prices in the United Kingdom at 1st October, 1942, with the corresponding prices at 1st September, 1942, and 1st September, 1939:—

Table with columns: Article, Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated) to the nearest ¼d., at, Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) at 1st Oct., 1942, compared with 1st Sept., 1942, 1st Sept., 1939. Rows include Beef, British, Ribs, Thin Flank, Beef, Chilled or Frozen, Mutton, British, Legs, Breast, Bacon, Fish, Flour, Bread, Tea, Sugar, Milk, Butter, Eggs, Potatoes.

The following Table shows the average percentage changes in prices at 1st September, 1939, 1st September, 1942, and 1st October, 1942, respectively, as compared with July, 1914:—

Table with columns: Article, Average Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) since July, 1914, at, 1st Sept., 1939, 1st Sept., 1942, 1st Oct., 1942. Rows include Beef, British, Ribs, Thin Flank, Mutton, British, Legs, Breast, Bacon, Fish, Flour, Bread, Tea, Sugar, Milk, Butter, Eggs, Potatoes.

On the basis of the figures given in the foregoing Tables the average level of retail food prices at 1st October, 1942, was rather more than 1 per cent. higher than at 1st September, about 17 per cent. higher than at the beginning of September, 1939, and about 62 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

* A rise of 2 points on a total of 160 for food (the figure for July, 1914, being 100) is equivalent to rather more than 1 per cent.

† The description of bacon specified for quotation is streaky, but where this kind was seldom being sold the returns relate to another kind, locally representative.

‡ On 1st September and 1st October, 1942, two brands of margarine, "special" and "standard", were on sale at 9d. and 5d. per lb., respectively. The figures for 1st September, 1939, and July, 1914, are averages calculated from the prices of various brands on sale at those dates.

§ Of the two prices shown for eggs at 1st September and 1st October, 1942, 2d. was for large eggs (in Ministry of Food category I) and 1½d. for small eggs (in category II). At 1st September, 1939, the average price for eggs, as shown by the returns received, was between 1½d. and 2d.

ITEMS OTHER THAN FOOD.

The average level of working-class rents (including rates) at 1st October showed no appreciable change as compared with 1st September, being about 1 per cent. above the level of 1st September, 1939, and about 64 per cent. above that in July, 1914.

As regards clothing, information collected from representative retailers in a number of the principal towns indicates that at 1st October the retail prices of clothing of the kinds generally bought by working-class families averaged about 2 per cent. below the level of a month earlier, and about 87 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939. The average decrease in prices, since 1st September, was about 3 per cent. for men's suits and overcoats; between 2 and 3 per cent. for woollen materials, underclothing and hosiery; and about 2 per cent. for cotton materials and hosiery. There was little change in the prices of boots and shoes. The decline in the average level of clothing prices during September resulted partly from the arrangements for the removal of Purchase Tax* from utility cloth and apparel, and partly from increased sales of utility clothing at prices below those of non-utility goods of corresponding quality. Owing to the wide range of quotations, to changes in qualities, and to the variations in the extent to which different articles have been affected by price changes, it is not possible to make an exact comparison over a long period of years, but such information as is available indicates that at 1st October the average rise over the level of July, 1914, was about 290 per cent.

In the fuel and light group, there was little change between 1st September and 1st October in the average price of coal, which remained about 28 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 149 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The average price of gas rose between one-half and one per cent., and averaged about 29 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 99 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. There was practically no change during the month in the prices of lamp oil, candles and matches. In the fuel and light group as a whole the average level of prices at 1st October was about one-half of 1 per cent. higher than at 1st September, about 32 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 141 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

As regards other items† included in these statistics, the average price of soap at 1st October was about ½d. per lb., or 5 per cent., higher than a month earlier. In the group as a whole the average level of prices at 1st October was about one-half of 1 per cent. higher than at 1st September, about 49 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 166 per cent. above the level of July, 1914.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in working-class family expenditure prior to August, 1914, the resultant general average increase at 1st October, 1942, is approximately 100 per cent. over the level of July, 1914, the same figure as at 1st September, 1942, as compared with 55 per cent. at 1st September, 1939. The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken at each date) is to show the average percentage increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the standard of living prevailing in working-class families prior to August, 1914, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living since that date, or for any economies or readjustments in consumption and expenditure since the outbreak of the war.

The rise of 45 points since the beginning of September, 1939, is equivalent to about 29 per cent. Of these 45 points, about 4 points represent the effect of the increases, since that date, in the taxes on sugar, tobacco and cigarettes, and matches; and approximately 4½ points are due to increases resulting from the Purchase Tax.

SUMMARY TABLE : ALL ITEMS.

Average Percentage Increases as compared with July, 1914.

Table with columns: Year, Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec. Rows include years from 1920 to 1942.

* See articles on page 162 of the September issue of this GAZETTE, and on page 176 of the present issue.

† Soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushes, pottery, tobacco and cigarettes, fares and newspapers.

Hat, Cap and Millinery Trade Board (England and Wales).—Order H.M. (28), dated 15th September, 1942, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and specifying 28th September, 1942, as the date from which such rates became effective.

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (England and Wales).—Order W.D. (41), dated 17th September, 1942, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and specifying 30th September, 1942, as the date from which such rates became effective.

Wholesale Mantle and Costume Trade Board (Great Britain).—Order W.M. (36), dated 19th September, 1942, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and specifying 2nd October, 1942, as the date from which such rates became effective.

Made-up Textiles Trade Board (Great Britain).—Order M.T. (24), dated 25th September, 1942, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and specifying 7th October, 1942, as the date from which such rates became effective.

Aerated Waters Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Order N.I.A. (16), dated 17th September, 1942, confirming the variation of general minimum time rates, piece-work basis time rates and general overtime rates for male and female workers and specifying 24th September, 1942, as the date from which these rates became effective.

STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS.

Particulars are given below of Orders made by the Minister of Labour and National Service which have been published in the series of *Statutory Rules and Orders* since the last issue of this GAZETTE was prepared, as well as of other Orders, so published, relating to matters with which the Ministry is concerned, either directly or indirectly.

Copies of *Statutory Rules and Orders* may be purchased directly from H.M. Stationery Office at the addresses shown at the foot of this page. The prices quoted are all net, those in brackets including postage at Inland Postal rates.

S.R.&O.
1942, No.

Title and Price.

- 1891 *Variation, dated September 14, 1942, under Article 1 (4) of the Aliens Order, 1920, as subsequently amended, of Conditions attached to the Grant to Certain Aliens of Leave to Land.* 1d. (2d.)—[This Variation, made by the Home Secretary, provides for the suspension in the case of specified classes of aliens to whom leave to land in the United Kingdom has been or is granted after 3rd September, 1939, of conditions attached to the grant of such leave which prohibit them from engaging in employment without the permission of the Minister of Labour and National Service.]
- 1901 *The Laundry (Control) (No. 2) Order, 1942,* dated September 17, 1942, made by the Board of Trade under Regulation 55 of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. 1d. (2d.)—[By this Order any person in the laundry trade who, in the course of his business, employs more than 10 persons, is required before closing down his business, either temporarily or permanently, to notify the Board of Trade (Director of Laundry Services) of his intention to do so.]
- 2044 *The Essential Work (Building and Civil Engineering) Order, 1942,* dated September 30, 1942, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Regulation 58A of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. 4d. (5d.)—[See summary on page 175.]

S.R.&O.
1942, No.

Title and Price.

- 2067 *The Pharmacy Undertakings Order, 1942,* dated September 25, 1942, made by the Minister of Health under Regulation 55 of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. 1d. (2d.)—[This Order requires persons carrying on retail pharmacy undertakings, specified manufacturing and wholesale pharmacy undertakings and hospitals to furnish the Central Pharmaceutical War Committee with such information as may be required for the purpose of ascertaining the numbers of specified classes of persons employed and whether the best use in the national interest is being made of those persons.]
- 2071 *The Essential Work (Electrical Contracting Industry) Order, 1942,* dated October 5, 1942, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Regulation 58A of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. 3d. (4d.)—[See summary on page 175.]
- 2090 *The Essential Work (Shipbuilding and Ship-Repairing) (Exemption) Directions, 1942,* dated October 7, 1942, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under the Essential Work (Shipbuilding and Ship-Repairing (No. 2) Order, 1942. 1d. (2d.)—[See summary on page 176.]
- 2116 *The Operations at Unfenced Machinery (Amended Schedule) Regulations, 1942,* dated October 6, 1942, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Section 15 of the Factories Act, 1937 (1 Edw. 8 & 1 Geo. 6 c. 67). 1d. (2d.)—[These Regulations provide for the amendment of the existing Regulations by the substitution therein of an amended Schedule specifying various industrial processes of a continuous nature in connection with which operations of lubrication or of mounting or shipping belts may be carried out near unfenced parts of transmission machinery in motion when the circumstances are such that the operation cannot, without serious interference with the carrying on of the process, be deferred until the machinery is stopped, and subject to certain other conditions.]

FACTORIES ACTS.

FACTORY FORMS.

From time to time the Ministry of Labour and National Service issues Factory Forms regarding Regulations and Orders made under the Factories Acts. The undermentioned Forms have been issued or reprinted since the previous list was published in the July issue of this GAZETTE.

Copies of Factory Forms may be purchased directly from H.M. Stationery Office at the addresses shown at the foot of this page. The prices in brackets include postage.

No.

Title and Price.

- 2 Factories Act, 1937. Abstract of Provisions of the Act as to Docks, Wharves, Quays and Warehouses. August, 1942, 2d. (3d.).
- 367 Dermatitis. Cautionary Notice. September, 1942. 1d. (2d.).
- 621 Health Register for use in Pursuance of the Factories (Luminising) (Health and Safety Provisions) Order, 1942. June, 1942. 6d. (7d. exclusive of purchase tax).
- 1000 Factories (Luminising) (Health and Safety Provisions) Order, 1942. Abstract, 2d. (3d.).

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