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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT during September showed no appreciable change on the whole as compared with August, the rate of unemployment among insured persons remaining stationary at 9·4 per cent.

There was a further slight improvement in the coal-mining industry and in shipbuilding and ship repairing. In the boot and shoe trade, in pottery, in the worsted section of the wool textile industry, and in some of the minor textile industries, there was also some improvement. On the other hand, a marked decline occurred in the tinplate industry, and there was also a further decline in the building trade, in brick and tile manufacture and in general engineering.

Among the workpeople (numbering approximately 12,000,000) insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped, as well as those wholly unemployed) in all industries taken together was 9·4 at 26th September, 1927, as compared with the same figure at 22nd August, 1927, and 13·7 at 20th September, 1926.

The percentage wholly unemployed rose from 6·8 at 22nd August to 7·0 at 26th September, while the percentage temporarily stopped fell from 2·6 to 2·4.

The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 26th September, 1927, was approximately 1,075,000, of whom 855,000 were men and 155,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 29th August, 1927, it was 1,076,000, of whom 845,000 were men and 161,000 were women; and at 27th September, 1926, it was 1,582,000, of whom 1,198,000 were men and 295,000 were women. The figures for September, 1926, were, of course, affected by the dispute in the coal-mining industry.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in September resulted in a reduction of about £47,800 in the weekly full-time wages of 208,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £420 in those of 3,800 workpeople.

The largest group of workpeople affected by the reductions were coal miners in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire (except South Derbyshire), in Leicestershire, and in Warwickshire. In the first-mentioned district the percentage addition to base rates was reduced by the equivalent of $13\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. of the previous wages; in the other two districts the reduction amounted to about $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. of the previous wages. There were also reductions in the minimum rates of wages fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for pieceworkers in the

boot and shoe-repairing trade and for various classes of workpeople employed in the brush and broom trade. Other groups of workpeople whose wages were reduced in September included iron-ore miners and blastfurnace workers in Cumberland, iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England and West of Scotland, and furniture trade operatives in various parts of Scotland. There was an increase in the wages of bricklayers in the Glasgow and West of Scotland district.

During the nine completed months of 1927, the changes reported to the Department have resulted in net increases of £31,200 in the weekly full-time wages of 289,000 workpeople, and in net reductions of £364,100 in those of 1,715,000 workpeople. Of the net increase, the engineering, shipbuilding and other metal industries have accounted for nearly £24,000, and of the net reduction, the mining and quarrying industries have accounted for over £273,000. In the corresponding period of 1926 there were net increases of £15,500 in the weekly full-time wages of 134,000 workpeople, and net reductions of £88,800 in those of 897,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st October the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 67 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 65 per cent. a month ago and 74 per cent. a year ago. The corresponding figures for food alone were 61, 57 and 63 respectively.

The rise since the beginning of September was mainly due to increases in the prices of eggs, butter and milk.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families, and accordingly, in making the calculations, the changes in the prices of the various items included are combined in proportions corresponding with the relative importance of those items in pre-war working-class family expenditure.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in September was 18. In addition, 12 disputes which began before September were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in September (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 15,200; and the aggregate duration of all disputes during September was about 84,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of approximately 19,000 workpeople involved and 169,000 working days lost in the previous month. The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in the first nine months of 1927 was about 1,041,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 92,000.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BILL.

THE text of the Unemployment Insurance Bill, which is to come before Parliament during the forthcoming autumn session, has now been published.* Its principal provisions are summarised below. The references in brackets below are to the paragraphs of the Report of the recent Unemployment Insurance Committee, presided over by the Rt. Hon. Lord Blanesburgh, G.B.E.†

Clause 1 of the Bill, together with certain of the repeals of existing enactments set out in the fifth schedule, makes all unemployment benefit payable as of right, where the requisite conditions are satisfied. In future, under the proposals of the Bill, there would be only one form of benefit, and not, as at present, two—"standard" and "extended." With the disappearance of this distinction the discretionary power of the Minister of Labour to place restrictions on the grant of benefit ceases also. (Report, para. 67.)

Clause 2 creates a new class of insured persons, viz., those between the ages of 18 and 21, in respect of whom there are prescribed new rates of contribution (and of benefit) intermediate in amount between the rates for persons over 21 years of age and the rates for boys and girls under 18 years of age. (Report, para. 58.)

Clause 3 requires that at least as frequently as once every five years there shall be an investigation into the financial condition of the Unemployment Fund. (Report, para. 64.)

Clause 4 proposes a revised scale of benefits, which is set forth in the third schedule to the Bill. The weekly rate of benefit for men with no adult dependants is reduced from 18s. to 17s.; while the rate of benefit in respect of an adult dependant is increased from 5s. to 7s. Thus a man over 21 with an adult dependant will receive 24s.; that is, an increase of 1s. on the present rate; while a man over 21 years without an adult dependant will receive 17s., that is, a decrease of 1s. on the present rate. Two shillings will be paid as at present in respect of each dependent child.

The new class of young men and young women between 18 and 21 years of age, who will pay a lower rate of contribution than at present, will receive 10s. and 8s. respectively, whereas at present they receive the same rate of benefit and pay the same rate of contribution as persons over 21 years of age. Boys and girls between 16 and 18 years of age will receive 6s. and 5s. respectively, instead of their present rates of 7s. 6d. and 6s.

These revised rates are to come into operation on the 19th April, 1928; except that the new rates of benefit and of contribution for young men and young women between 18 and 21 years of age will come into force at the beginning of the next "insurance year," July, 1928. (Report, paras. 58, 67-71.)

Subsection 2 of Clause 4 proposes that the allowance now payable in respect of a woman living with the claimant as his wife shall be restricted to the cases where she has the care of dependent children of the claimant, in which cases the allowance may be drawn as for a housekeeper. The allowance in respect of a housekeeper having the care of dependent children is extended to the housekeepers of married men and women. At present it is confined to unmarried persons and widowers or widows.

The cases in which benefit is payable in respect of a dependent mother are extended to cover a widowed stepmother, a mother who has never been married, and a mother whose husband is permanently disabled.

Only one allowance in respect of an adult dependant may be drawn. (Report, paras. 141-7.)

Clause 5 proposes that, after a transitional period, it will be a condition for the receipt of benefit that at least 30 contributions (or in the case of disabled ex-service men, 15 contributions) have been paid in the two years preceding the date of claim. Fulfilment of this condition will be verified at quarterly intervals.

The present rules limiting the payment of standard benefit to one week of benefit for every six contributions, subject to a maximum of 26 weeks of benefit in a benefit year, will cease to have effect. (Report, paras. 58, 72-7, 85, and 164.)

The transitional period referred to above is dealt with in Clause 12, which proposes that persons over 18 years of age making claims within twelve months after the coming into force of the new Act (19th April, 1928) shall be exempted for a further twelve months from compliance with the new condition. (Report, para. 99.)

Clause 6 introduces modifications in the trade dispute disqualification. At present persons who are not themselves participating in or financing, or directly interested in, a trade dispute which causes a stoppage of work at the premises where they were employed, may nevertheless be disqualified from benefit if other members of the grade or class to which they belong are participating or financing, or directly interested in, the trade dispute. Such disqualification may be imposed although the other members in question may not have been employed at the same premises or even in the same district as the persons disqualified. The effect of the first part of the clause is to secure that in such circumstances the disqualification will not apply to persons who are not themselves participating in, or financing, or directly interested in, the trade dispute, unless there are other members of their grade or class at the same premises as themselves who are so participating or financing or directly interested.

The present relief from disqualification in certain cases where the employer has contravened an agreement is withdrawn. (Report, paras. 130-40.)

Clause 7 deals with the repayment of sums improperly received by way of benefit.

Clause 8 deals with arrangements with associations. As from the 1st January, 1929, the conditions on which an arrangement with an association for the administration of State benefit can be made or continued will be amended. The broad effect of the amendment is to secure that the association will make a small payment of benefit from its own funds on each occasion on which it makes a payment of State unemployment benefit. (Report, paras. 148-58.)

Under Clause 9 the power of the Minister of Labour to make or approve a special scheme for an industry is to cease; but the position of the two existing schemes (for the banking industry and for the insurance industry) is preserved. (Report, paras. 102-110.)

The Bill also contains a number of minor provisions, the most important of which are the following:—

The present provision under which benefit may in certain circumstances be paid to persons who are following a remunerative occupation of a subsidiary character is somewhat extended, in favour of claimants, by Clause 5 (1) (c). (Report, paras. 159-61.)

Clause 5 (2) (ii) proposes that, after the lapse of a reasonable interval, employment of a kind other than the claimant's usual employment may be regarded as suitable, subject to certain safeguards. (Report, para. 95.)

An amendment to Section 11 of the Act of 1920, embodied in the fourth schedule to the Bill, proposes that persons who have received an aggregate of thirteen weeks of benefit during a prescribed period will have their claims reviewed by a Court of Referees.

Clause 10, and a number of the minor amendments in the fourth schedule relating to the enforcement of payment of contributions, assimilate the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Scheme in this respect to those of the National Health Insurance Scheme.

CIVIL SERVICE (APPROVED ASSOCIATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1927.

SECTION 5 of the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Act, 1927,* prohibits established civil servants from being members, delegates, or representatives of any organisation of which the primary object is to influence or affect the remuneration and conditions of employment of its members, unless the organisation is an organisation of which the membership is confined to persons employed by or under the Crown and is an organisation which complies with such provisions as may be contained in the regulations for securing that it is in all respects independent of, and not affiliated to, any such organisation as aforesaid, the membership of which is not confined to persons employed by or under the Crown or any federation comprising such organisations, that its objects do not include political objects, and that it is not associated directly or indirectly with any political party or organisation.

The Treasury have issued Regulations, dated 30th August, 1927, under this section of the Act, entitled the Civil Service (Approved Associations) Regulations, 1927,† providing that no established civil servant shall, after 31st December, 1927, be a member, delegate, or representative of any organisation of which the primary object is to influence or affect the remuneration and conditions of employment of its members unless a certificate of approval is in force certifying that the organisation is an approved association.

This requirement, however, is subject to the three following provisions:—

(a) any person who on the 29th day of July, 1927, was an established civil servant may remain a member of any trade union or organisation, not composed wholly or mainly of persons employed by or under the Crown, notwithstanding that it is not an approved association, if he had at that date been a member of the trade union or organisation for more than six months and under the rules thereof there had on the 4th day of April, 1927, accrued or begun to accrue to him a right to any future payment during incapacity, or by way of superannuation, or on the death of himself or his wife, or as provision for his children; and

(b) any person employed by or under the Crown on the 29th day of July, 1927, who thereafter becomes an established civil servant may remain, so long as he is not appointed to a position of supervision or management, a member of any trade union or organisation, not composed wholly or mainly of persons employed by or under the Crown, notwithstanding that it is not an approved association, if on the date when he became an established civil servant he was a member of the trade union or organisation, and under the rules thereof there had at that date accrued or begun to accrue to him a right to any future payment during incapacity, or by way of superannuation, or on the death of himself or his wife, or as provision for his children; and

(c) a person who in addition to being an established civil servant is, apart from his service as such, also engaged in some other occupation, may be a member, delegate, or representative of any trade union or organisation of which the primary object is to influence or affect the remuneration and conditions of employment of persons engaged in that employment or occupation notwithstanding that the trade union or organisation is not an approved association.

Regulation 2 provides that any organisation of which the primary object is to influence or affect the remuneration and conditions of employment of its members shall, if it complies with the require-

* 17 & 18 Geo. V., cap. 22. H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net. A summary of this Act appeared in the August issue of this GAZETTE, page 285.
† Statutory Rules and Orders, 1927, No. 800. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net.

ments of these regulations, be entitled to a certificate of approval so long as the Treasury is satisfied that the organisation fulfils the conditions set out in Part I of the Schedule to the Regulations. These conditions are as follows:—

1. Membership of the association must be confined to persons employed by or under the Crown.
2. The association must be in all respects independent of and not affiliated to—

- (a) any organisation of which the primary object is to influence or affect the remuneration and conditions of employment of its members, the membership of which is not confined to persons employed by or under the Crown; or
- (b) any federation which comprises any such organisation as is mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph.

3. The objects of the association must not include political objects.
4. The association must not be associated directly or indirectly with any political party or organisation.

Applications for the grant of a certificate of approval in respect of any organisation may be made in writing addressed to the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, and every such application must be accompanied by a declaration, signed by the president or other person for the time being presiding over the governing body of the organisation and by the secretary thereof, in a form set out in a schedule to the Regulations. The arrangements prescribed for making such applications are set out in detail in the Order, to which reference should be made by those interested.

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MINES AND QUARRIES IN 1926. EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, OUTPUT, ETC.

THE Sixth Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines* contains a general review, with detailed statistics, of conditions in the mining and quarrying industries in 1926.

COAL MINING.

In coal mining the recovery which, assisted by the lower wage costs resulting from the Government subvention, had begun in September, 1925, continued during the first four months of 1926. The volume of coal exports was maintained at the same level as during the closing months of the previous year, and at home the quantity of coal available for consumption was even greater. On 1st May, however, the national stoppage began, and it was not until towards the end of November that the negotiation of district agreements began generally, while the pre-stoppage rate of output and of export was not reached until nearly three months later. The quantity of saleable coal raised in 1926 was, therefore, only 126½ million tons, or less than one-half the annual rate of output during the years 1922-25. From an average of 22 million tons a month during the first four months the rate of output fell to negligible proportions in May, and reached 2·2 million tons in September. Subsequently it rose to 5 million tons in October, to 8·75 million tons in November, and to 19·55 million tons in December.

The average output of coal per man-shift worked during the first four months of 1926 was nearly 18½ cwt., as compared with about 18 cwt. during 1925. Since the resumption of work at mines generally, and the lengthening of the working day, the rate appears to be 12 to 13 per cent. higher than during January to April, 1926, or about 20½ cwt. per shift.

Numbers Employed.—The number of wage-earners on the colliery books at the end of 1925 was 1,084,600. At the end of March, 1926, the number had increased to 1,111,900. From the commencement of the stoppage until about the end of August the "safety-men" constituted the majority of those who were at work. During August and September there was a partial resumption of work, mainly in some of the Midland coalfields. Early in October the number of men at work in all districts had risen to 200,000. By the third or fourth week of November the movement back to the pits had reached large proportions in Lancashire and Cheshire, and nearly 400,000 were at work in the country as a whole. At the end of the year there were 952,400 wage-earners once more in employment, and the number continued to grow steadily up to the middle of May, 1927.

Wages, Prices, and Profits.—Owing to the stoppage it is only during the first four months of 1926 that any comparative examination of wages and profits is possible. As the subvention which began in August, 1925, was in operation during these months, the Report has taken the whole period of the subvention as the more useful basis of comparison with the first seven months of 1925.

For the subvention period the average pithead price for all districts was just under 16s. per ton, a fall of 2s. per ton as compared with the average of the first seven months of 1925. The output per man-shift increased to the extent of about a quarter of a hundredweight, and costs of production fell from a total of 18s. 2d. per ton to 17s. 8d., reducing the net fall in the final balance to 1s. 6d. per ton. As there was already a debit balance of 2d. per ton during the period preceding the subvention, the trading results of the subvention period, before crediting subvention, showed a debit balance of 1s. 8d. per ton. The subvention, however, worked out at an average of nearly 2s. 9d. per ton, and therefore converted the loss into an average profit of about 1s. 1d. per ton. The result was to maintain rates of employment and wages during the subvention period at precisely the same level as during the first seven months of 1925, viz., at an average of 21 shifts per month, at about 10s. 6d. per shift, or 11 2s. per month.

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 5s. 6d. net.

The operation of the subvention had the effect of subsidising the different districts by amounts varying from about 1s. to 4s. 3d. per ton (in one small district even more), and of producing a profit in every district, varying from about 4d. to about 1s. 5d. per ton.

ALL MINES AND QUARRIES.

The following Table shows the number of wage-earners employed at all mines and quarries in Great Britain (including brine salt wells and other mineral workings to which the Regulation Acts do not apply) in 1925 and 1926:—

	1926.				1925. (Total.)
	Coal.*	Iron ore or Ironstone.*	Other minerals.	Total.	
Underground at mines, and inside at quarries:—					
Males under 16 ...	36,247	146	720	37,113	36,807
„ 16 and over ...	853,730	8,723	61,469	923,922	916,170
Totals ...	889,977	8,869	62,189	961,035†	952,977†
Above ground at mines, and outside at quarries:—					
Males under 16 ...	15,144	158	1,249	16,551	16,485
„ 16 and over ...	186,894	2,574	34,122	223,590	222,969
Females under 16 ...	337	—	4	341	395
„ 16 and over ...	4,433	9	160	4,602	4,868
Totals ...	206,808	2,741	35,535	245,084	244,717
Grand Totals ...	1,096,785	11,610	97,724	1,206,119	1,197,694

OUTPUT, COSTS AND PROCEEDS OF THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY.

A STATISTICAL summary of the output, and of the costs of production, proceeds and profits of the coal-mining industry for the quarter ended 31st March, 1927, prepared by the Mines Department, shows that at undertakings which produced 63,329,641 tons of saleable coal, or about 96 per cent. of the total quantity raised in the quarter, 58,222,345 tons were disposable commercially.

The net costs, after deducting the proceeds of miners' coal, amounted to £47,042,504, equivalent to 16s. 1·92d. per ton. The proceeds of commercial disposals amounted to £50,539,967, equivalent to 17s. 4·33d. per ton. There was thus a credit balance of £3,497,463, or 1s. 2·41d. per ton. An analysis by districts shows that the credit balance ranged from 2·58d. in Scotland to 5s. 1·48d. in South Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Cannock Chase and Warwickshire. In South Wales and Monmouthshire, for which district the details relate to February, March and April, there was a debit balance of 4·88d. per ton.

The number of workpeople employed was 969,943 and the number of man-shifts worked was 61,307,671. The average output per man-shift worked was 20·66 cwt., the average for the districts ranging from 16·89 cwt. in Lancashire, Cheshire and North Staffordshire, to 22·85 cwt. in North Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. The average earnings per man-shift worked were 10s. 7·12d., ranging from 8s. 8·41d. in Northumberland to 13s. 2·06d. in North Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. These earnings do not include the value of allowances in kind.

The following Table compares some of the more important figures in the return with those given in previous returns of a similar nature:—

Quarter ended	Proportion of Industry covered.	Amount of Saleable Coal raised.	Credit (+) or Debit (−) balance per ton.‡	No. of Work-people employed.	Output per man-shift worked.	Earnings per man-shift worked.
1924.	Per cent.	Tons.	s. d.		Cwts.	s. d.
31st Mar.	94	67,047,657	+2 9·63	1,111,280	17·79	10 2·82
30th June	93	61,552,868	+1 0·34	1,107,457	17·48	10 11·17
30th Sept.	92	59,163,976	+0 0·26	1,082,340	17·33	10 10·24
31st Dec.	94	62,428,185	+0 7·61	1,078,758	17·74	10 7·04
1925.						
31st Mar.	94	62,458,898	+0 6·13	1,074,079	17·98	10 6·78
30th June	95	54,982,191	−0 11·81	1,032,216	17·85	10 6·77
30th Sept.	98	54,976,337	−0 2·82†	1,013,757	17·88	10 4·85
31st Dec.	98	62,662,455	+1 6·70‡	1,041,997	18·31	10 5·14
1926.						
31st Mar.	99	66,071,166	+1 4·99§	1,074,395	18·46	10 4·79
1927.						
31st Mar.	96	63,329,641	+1 2·41	969,943	20·66	10 7·12

* The particulars for 1926 shown above relate to March. The corresponding totals in December were 943,605 persons employed at coal and 6,901 at iron ore and ironstone mines and quarries.

† Including females employed inside quarries, viz., 28 in 1925, of whom three were under 16 years of age, and 42 in 1926, none of whom were under 16 years of age.

‡ Cmd. 2954. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net.

§ Calculated on the quantity of coal disposed commercially.

¶ After crediting subvention.

* H.C. Bill 190. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net.
† H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. net. A summary of the Report appeared in the February, 1927, issue of this GAZETTE, pages 46-8.

RELATIVE LEVELS OF RATES OF WAGES AT AUGUST, 1914, AND SEPTEMBER, 1927.

In previous issues* of this GAZETTE particulars have been given, from time to time, of the comparative levels of rates of wages in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at August, 1914, and at subsequent dates. In the following article a comparison is made, so far as this is possible from the information in the possession of the Department, between the levels of rates of wages at August, 1914, and the end of September, 1927.

It should be observed that no comprehensive information has been collected by the Department as to the rates of wages actually paid by individual employers in the various industries in 1914 and at September, 1927, and the information available for the purposes of such a comparison is in nearly all cases limited to (a) the standard or minimum rates of wages fixed by collective Agreements signed by the Employers' Associations and Trade Unions concerned or embodied in Arbitration Awards, Statutory Orders under the Trade Boards Acts, etc., or, (b) in some industries in which no such Agreements, Awards, or Orders have been made, to the minimum rates recognised by the Trade Unions concerned. In some cases in which the actual rates of wages at both dates are not embodied in signed Agreements, information which is available as to the amounts of general changes in the existing level of time or piece rates of wages, agreed upon from time to time by the employers' and workers' organisations, has been utilised. It is important, however, to realise that the rates of wages actually paid to individual workpeople, or to particular sections of workpeople, may, in a considerable proportion of cases, have been altered since 1914, independently of the general changes jointly agreed upon by Employers' Associations and Trade Unions, or fixed by Awards, Orders, etc. Moreover, no information exists as to the changes which have occurred in rates of wages in industries, or sections of industries, in which neither standard nor minimum rates, nor the general amounts of increase or decrease in rates of wages, have been fixed by collective Agreements, Arbitration Awards, Statutory Orders, etc. The particulars given below, therefore, while based on a careful examination of such material as is available to the Department, should be considered in the light of these qualifications and should not be regarded as furnishing more than an approximate indication of the relative levels of wage rates at the two dates; and caution should especially be observed in drawing from them conclusions which depend upon small margins of difference between one figure and another.

Building Trades.—At the end of September, 1927, the hourly rates of wages in the larger towns showed increases, compared with the pre-war rates, ranging mostly from 9½d. to 1s. an hour in the case of skilled men and 8½d. to 9½d. an hour in the case of labourers. On the basis of the unweighted averages of the standard rates of wages of the principal classes of workmen, the average increases in hourly and weekly rates at the end of September, 1927, in towns with populations over 100,000, were as shown in the following Table. The weekly rates shown have been computed by multiplying the hourly rates of wages by the number of hours constituting a full ordinary week (averaging approximately 49½ in 1914 and 44½ at September, 1927), both the summer and winter hours being taken into account for this purpose.

Occupation.	Average (unweighted) of Recognised Rates of Wages in Large Towns at		Average Percentage Increase over Pre-war Rates at 30th Sept., 1927.
	4th Aug., 1914.	30th Sept., 1927.	
	Hourly Rates.		
	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.
Bricklayers ...	9-9	20-0	102
Masons† ...	9-8	20-1	105
Carpenters and Joiners ...	9-8	20-0	105
Plumbers ...	9-6	20-0	108
Plasterers ...	9-7	20-3	109
Painters ...	8-8	19-9	126
Labourers ...	6-6	15-1	130
	Weekly Rates.		
	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.
Bricklayers ...	40 7	74 1	82
Masons† ...	39 7	74 2	87
Carpenters and Joiners ...	39 11	73 11	85
Plumbers ...	39 8	74 0	87
Plasterers ...	40 0	75 1	88
Painters ...	36 3	73 4	102
Labourers ...	27 0	55 11	107

If the increases shown above are combined in the proportions of the relative numbers of men employed in the different occupations, the resulting general average increase over pre-war rates was approximately 9½d. per hour (or about 119 per cent.) at the end of September. The increase in weekly full-time wages, allowing for the effect of the reductions which have been made since 1914 in the weekly working hours, was approximately 32s. 6d., or about 97 per cent. It should be observed that the percentages given are general

* See the issues for May, 1919; April, 1920; February, 1921; March, 1922; October, 1922; April, 1923; October, 1923; February, 1925; and October, 1925.

† When different rates were paid to banker masons and fixers respectively the rates used are those for the former.

averages for all the large towns combined, and that there is much variation in the percentage increases in different towns.

Coal Mining.—The information available as to the changes in wages in the coal-mining industry is insufficient to enable a trustworthy estimate to be made of the average increase in rates of wages in this industry since 1914. The general district percentage additions to standard basis rates of wages in the principal coalfields at the beginning of August, 1914, and at the end of September,* 1927, were as shown below:

District.	Date of Basis.	Percentage Additions† to the Basis Rates of the Years Specified at	
		4th August, 1914.	30th September, 1927.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.
Northumberland ...	1879	50	80
Durham ...	1879	57½	89
Yorkshire ...	1911	10	36-00; 34-43; 31-00†
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	1911	10	32
North Derbyshire and Notts. ...	1911	10	38
Cannock Chase ...	1911	10	42
North Staffordshire ...	1911	10	35
Warwickshire ...	1911	10	51
South Wales and Mon. ...	1915	6½	28
Scotland ...	1888	75	110

These figures do not provide a full measure of the increases in wage rates, since special advances or allowances have been granted in many districts to particular grades of men. In some cases, the basis rates of wages (to which the percentages are added) have been varied; the lower-paid grades of men in many districts have received special "subsistence" allowances; men on afternoon and night shifts in South Wales, whose working week is generally one of five shifts, have been paid, since 1915, as for an extra shift each week; and piece rates of wages have been increased in the case of workpeople whose normal working hours are now 7½ per shift compared with 8 in 1914. The average percentage increase in rates of wages resulting from the combined effect of all these changes cannot be reliably estimated.

As regards earnings, however, statistics compiled by the Mines Department indicate that the estimated average earnings per man shift worked in June, 1914, and in July, 1927, were as shown in the following Table. The "subsistence" rates for lower-paid workers at July, 1927, are also given in the Table.

District.	Average Earnings per Shift.		Percentage Increase.	"Subsistence" Rates per Shift for lower-paid adult workers at July, 1927.‡
	June, 1914.	July, 1927.		
	s. d.	s. d.		
Northumberland ...	6 2½	8 6½	38	6s. 9½d.
Durham ...	6 2½	9 2½	48	6s. 8½d.
Yorkshire ...	6 10	10 6½	54	See Note †.
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	6 0½	9 5	55	See Note †.
North Derbyshire and Notts. ...	6 6½	11 11	82	See Note †.
Cannock Chase ...	6 1½	9 3½	51	See Note †.
North Staffordshire ...	5 10½	9 0½	54	See Note †.
Warwickshire ...	6 2½	11 2½	81	8s. 8d. and 7s. 6d.**
South Wales and Mon. ...	6 9	9 9½†	45	8s. 0½d.
Scotland ...	6 9	9 2½	37	7s. 0d.††
All districts ...	6 5½	9 10½	52	—

It may be observed that in September, 1927, the percentage additions to basis rates were the same as in July, and earnings per shift were, therefore, probably about the same as in July, except in North Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and in Warwickshire. It is estimated that in the former of these districts the average in September was about 10s. 3d. and in the latter about 10s. 5d., while for all districts the average was about 9s. 8d., an increase over June, 1914, of about 49 per cent.

The hours of labour of underground workers in certain districts are now 7½ per shift compared with 8 in 1914, and those of surface workers are 48 to 49, compared with 51 to 58 in 1914. The percentage increases in hourly wages are thus greater than the percentage increases in earnings per man-shift shown above.

Other Mining and Quarrying.—For iron miners in Cleveland and limestone quarrymen in Durham, rates of wages at the end of September were about 30 to 50 per cent. over the pre-war rates. In

* As the details given below as to average earnings relate to July, it may be mentioned that the percentage addition to basis rates remained unchanged between July and September, except in North Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire where it was 60 per cent. in July, and in Warwickshire, where it was 63 per cent.

† As the basis rates to which the percentages apply vary in different districts, the percentages quoted should not be taken as indicating the relative level of wages in different districts.

‡ The highest of these percentages applies to all classes of workers in South Yorkshire and to underground workers in West Yorkshire. The addition of 34-43 per cent. applies to surface workers in the Eastern Sub-division of West Yorkshire and that of 31-00 per cent. in the Western Sub-division.

§ The amounts quoted applied both in July and September, except in the case of Warwickshire, where there was a reduction of 3d. in the subsistence wages between July and September.

¶ 6d. per shift in excess of earnings, subject to a maximum of 8s. 9d. (inclusive). In North Derby and Notts a minimum rate of 7s. 11d. (inclusive) has also been fixed.

† 1s. per shift in excess of earnings, subject to a maximum of 7s. 9d. (inclusive), and a minimum of 7s. for adult males.

** The higher rate applies to underground workers and the lower to surface workers.

†† Estimated on the basis of the results for May, June, and July, 1927.

‡‡ The rate is subject to the provision that the addition to earnings shall not exceed 1s. per day and applies to surface workers only.

Cumberland the bargain prices for iron-ore miners in September, 1927, were about 30 to 40 per cent. above the pre-war level. For limestone quarrymen in Cumberland the increases over pre-war rates ranged from 45 to 70 per cent.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—In the engineering industry the general advance over pre-war rates for men on time work now amounts to 19s. a week, except in certain districts where the men are paid at hourly rates, in which it is 19s. 10½d. In the shipbuilding industry the general advance on time rates ranges from 14s. or 14s. 10½d. a week in the case of skilled men, to 15s. or 16s. a week for lower-paid labourers. In some cases, however, further advances have been granted to particular classes in both industries.

The following Table shows the unweighted averages of the district time rates of wages of men in certain representative occupations in 16 of the principal engineering centres and 9 of the principal shipbuilding centres at 4th August, 1914, and at 30th September, 1927, with the percentage increase over pre-war rates:—

Occupation.	Average (unweighted) of recognised Weekly Time Rates in the principal centres at		Average Percentage Increase over pre-war rates at 30th Sept., 1927.
	4th August, 1914.	30th September, 1927.	
	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.
Engineering:—			
Fitters and Turners ...	38 11	58 1	49
Ironmoulders ...	41 8	61 8	48
Patternmakers ...	42 1	62 6	49
Labourers ...	22 10	41 8	82
Shipbuilding:—			
Shipwrights ...	41 4	55 7	35
Ship Joiners ...	40 0	57 9	44
Labourers ...	22 10	38 5	68

For semi-skilled classes the percentages range between those shown for skilled men and those for labourers.

The above figures relate to a full ordinary week of 53 hours in some districts and 54 in others in 1914, and of 47 hours generally at September, 1927. The percentage increase in hourly rates thus ranges from about 65 to 70 per cent. for skilled workers to a little under 105 per cent. for labourers in the engineering trade, and from about 55 to 65 per cent. for skilled men to 90 per cent. for labourers in the shipbuilding trade.

In the case of pieceworkers the general advance over pre-war rates in the engineering industry amounts to 10 per cent. on basis piece rates, plus a flat rate advance of 10s. a week. In the shipbuilding industry the general advance is 10 per cent. on basis piece rates, plus a flat rate advance of 7s. a week; in addition, a portion of certain special advances, granted during the war under the "Standard Ship Cycle" of awards and consequential extensions, is still paid to some classes of men. The information at the disposal of the Department is not sufficient to enable a reliable calculation to be made of the average percentage increase in the wages of pieceworkers in these industries.

Electrical Installation.—The average of the recognised time rates of wages of wiremen employed by electrical contractors in 12 of the largest towns at the end of September, 1927, was 75s. 3d. a week, compared with 59s. 4d. a week at August, 1914, showing an average increase of 91 per cent. As the normal weekly hours of labour, which were usually 53 or 54 in 1914, were reduced to 47 in 1919, without any reduction in weekly wages, the increase in hourly rates since 1914 is greater, being about 113 per cent., on the average, in these towns.

Other Metal Trades.—In the heavy iron and steel trades (smelting, puddling, rolling, forging, &c.) in which wages fluctuate in correspondence with the selling price of the finished products, the increases over pre-war rates vary very widely, being, in some cases (e.g., with certain blastfurnace labourers) equivalent to over 70 per cent. over the pre-war weekly rates, while at the other extreme the rates for iron and steel workers in South Wales show increases of less than 20 per cent. on pre-war weekly wages. In the tinplate and steel sheet trade in South Wales the increase over pre-war rates amounts to about 30 to 35 per cent., and in addition special advances have been granted to particular classes of workpeople. Among other metal-working industries the general increases over pre-war rates of wages at the end of September (for male timeworkers) were 19s. a week in the sheet-metal working trade, 19s. 6d. a week in the spring, tube and various other industries in the Midlands, and 21s. 6d. a week in the light castings industry.

Cotton Industry.—In August, 1914, piece rates of wages in this industry stood generally at 5 per cent. above the standard list prices. At the end of September, 1927, they were 95 per cent. above the standard. Part of this increase, however, was granted in 1919, concurrently with a reduction in weekly working hours from 55½ to 48, in order to maintain weekly wages at the same level as before. If proportionate allowance is made for this reduction in working hours, weekly full-time wages would appear to be generally about 61 per cent. above the pre-war level, the equivalent increase in hourly wages being about 86 per cent. If, however, the average hourly output of pieceworkers has increased as a result of the reduction in hours, the percentage increase in wages will be correspondingly higher. In addition, special increases or allowances have been granted to certain classes of operatives, the effect of which would be to augment, for those workpeople, the general percentages quoted.

Wool Textile Industry.—The rates of wages of woollen and worsted operatives in Yorkshire are calculated by the addition of a "cost-of-living wage" to basic rates. At the end of September, 1927, the pre-war basic rates had been increased generally by 10 per cent.,

and to the basic rates so increased was added a "cost-of-living wage" of 72½ per cent. for timeworkers* and 63½ per cent. for pieceworkers, making total increases over pre-war rates of approximately 80 to 90 per cent. for a full working week. In addition special increases of varying amounts have been made in the rates of wages of particular sections of workpeople, which would tend to augment the percentages quoted. A general advance of over 15 per cent. on hourly and piece rates was also granted in March, 1919, concurrently with a reduction in weekly hours from 55½ to 48, in order to maintain weekly wages at the same level as before. The average percentage increase in hourly rates, therefore, is correspondingly greater than that in weekly rates quoted above.

Other Textile Industries.—In some other important sections of the textile trades the general increases over pre-war rates at the end of September, 1927, were as follows:—

Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing and Finishing:—		Increases over Pre-war Rates.
Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire and Scotland		
Men ...	...	23s. 7d. per week.†
Women ...	...	14s. 1d. per week.†
Yorkshire:		
Timeworkers ...	85 per cent.	Plus 2s. per week for men and 1s. 3d. for women.
Pieceworkers ...	65 per cent.	
Hosiery Manufacture (Midlands) ... 58½ per cent.†		
Carpet Manufacture:—		
Timeworkers ...	...	60 per cent.
Pieceworkers ...	...	55 per cent. (approx.)

Apart from these increases in weekly wages, the weekly working hours, which generally varied from 54 to 56, were reduced in 1919 to 48, the weekly rates of timeworkers remaining unchanged, and the rates for pieceworkers being enhanced to compensate for the change in hours.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—In the manufacture of boots and shoes the minimum time rate of wages for the principal classes of skilled workmen at the end of September, 1927, was 60s. a week. Before the war it was 30s. a week for the majority of the workers in most districts, though in a few districts it was 28s. or 29s., while for men in the heel-building department and in the stock and shoe rooms, a rate of 27s. a week was adopted in 1914, with effect from the beginning of 1915. For women of 20 years or over, employed in certain operations in the closing and heel-building departments and the stock and shoe rooms, the minimum rate is 36s. a week, compared with 17s. or 18s. adopted in 1914, but not operative till 1915. The hours of labour have been reduced from 52½ per week in 1914 to 48 per week.

Railway Service.—For the principal grades of adult workmen in the traffic sections of the railway service, the rates of wages in operation at the end of September, 1927, showed increases ranging mostly from 26s. to 34s. a week above the pre-war averages for the corresponding grades. Owing to the wide variation in the pre-war rates of wages, the percentage increases varied considerably. For some of the porters on pre-war rates of about 18s. a week the increase was as much as 145 per cent.; on the other hand, for certain classes of higher-paid men, it amounted to only about 100 per cent. The hours of labour were reduced to 48 a week in 1919, without any reduction in weekly rates of wages, and the increases in hourly rates are, therefore, higher than the percentage increases in weekly rates.

Other Transport Services.—For dock labourers, the rates generally paid in September, 1927, were 11s. to 13s. 6d. a day of eight hours, compared with about 4s. 6d. to 7s. for a day of usually 9 to 10½ hours in 1914. In the case of seamen, the standard rates in September were £9 a month for able seamen and £9 10s. for firemen, compared with £5 to £5 10s. and £5 10s. to £6 respectively in August, 1914. In the road transport industry the average of the weekly rates of wages for one-horse drivers in twelve of the principal towns was 53s. 3d. a week at the end of September, 1927, compared with 25s. 7d. in 1914. In the tramway services it is estimated that the average weekly rates of wages at September, 1927, in over 50 large towns, were 59s. 9d. for drivers and 56s. 2d. for conductors, compared with 30s. 11d. and 27s. 5d. respectively at August, 1914. The daily and weekly hours of dock labourers, carters and tramway-men were reduced in 1919, without any reduction in weekly wages.

Agriculture.—The rates of wages of ordinary agricultural labourers in England and Wales at September, 1927, ranged from 30s. to 36s. a week, including the value of certain allowances. In the same districts in 1914 the cash rates of wages (which were subject to the addition of certain allowances) ranged from 13s. to 21s. a week. It is estimated by the Ministry of Agriculture that the average of the rates of wages prevailing for ordinary labourers in England and Wales at September, 1927, was 31s. 8d., representing an increase of about 76 per cent. over the average of the cash rates and allowances in 1914, which was 18s. a week.

Other Industries.—In the following Table particulars are given of the rates of wages at 4th August, 1914, and at September, 1927, of some of the principal classes of workpeople in the printing, and book-binding, furniture making, and baking trades in a number of towns.

* The full percentage is paid on basic rates up to 33s. a week; on basic rates over 33s. up to 51s. the cost-of-living wage is calculated either at the time-workers' full percentage on 53s., or at the equivalent of 80 per cent. of the time-workers' full percentage, whichever is the greater; on basic rates over 51s. the cost-of-living wage payable on 51s. is increased by 20 per cent. of the time-workers' full percentage on the first 13s. above that amount, and 8 per cent. of that percentage on the remainder.

† These amounts are exclusive of increases in basic rates, varying for different classes of workpeople, granted in 1919.

‡ This percentage includes an enhancement given in compensation for the reduction in hours in 1919. In addition, basic rates of wages have been increased in some cases.

Trade and Occupation.	Average (unweighted) of Recognised Weekly Time Rates of Wages in certain Large Towns* at		Average Percentage Increase over Pre-war Rates at 30th Sept., 1927.
	4th Aug., 1914.	30th Sept., 1927.	
	s. d.	s. d.	
Printing and Bookbinding:—			Per cent.
Hand Compositors on Book and Jobbing Work	35 8	73 10	107
Bookbinders and Machine Rulers...	33 11	73 7	117
Furniture Making:—			
Cabinet Makers	39 5	72 9	84
Upholsterers	38 8	72 8	88
French Polishers	37 5	72 7	94
Baking:—			
Table Hands	30 1	64 4	114

The hours of labour in a normal full week at September, 1927, were generally 48 in the printing and baking trades, and 44 to 47 in the furniture trade, compared with 50 or 51 in the printing trades, 48 to 60 for bakers, and 46½ to 54 in the furniture trade at August, 1914. The percentage increases in hourly rates are thus greater than those in weekly rates shown in the Table, averaging (in the towns to which the Table relates) about 119 per cent. for compositors, 129 per cent. for bookbinders, 106 per cent. for cabinet makers, 112 per cent. for upholsterers, 118 per cent. for french polishers, and 137 per cent. for table hands in the baking trade.

In the pottery industry, the general level of rates of wages is 50 to 61½ per cent. (in different sections) above the pre-war level, but increases in basic rates have been granted, in addition, to certain classes of workpeople. For labourers in the heavy chemical trade the increase on the 1914 weekly rates of wages amounts to between 105 and 115 per cent.

For unskilled labourers in the non-trading departments of Local Authorities in 28 large towns, the average weekly rate of wages shows an increase of about 97 per cent. over that for August, 1914, from 26s. 9d. to 52s. 8d. In this case also the hours of labour have been reduced without any reduction in weekly rates of wages, and the increase in hourly rates is about 118 per cent.

For unskilled labourers in gasworks, the average of the rates of wages at the end of September, 1927, in over 40 towns was 53s. 0d. a week, compared with 25s. 8d. a week in August, 1914, an increase of 106 per cent. As the hours of labour were reduced between the two dates without any reduction in weekly wages, the increase in hourly rates is greater, being about 133 per cent. The average rate for unskilled labourers in the electricity supply industry in over 50 towns at September, 1927, was 52s. 6d. a week, compared with 26s. 6d. a week in August, 1914, showing an increase of 98 per cent. In this case also the hours of labour have been reduced, and the increase in hourly rates amounts to 127 per cent.

SUMMARY.

Both the amounts and the corresponding percentages of increase over pre-war rates show a wide diversity among different classes of workpeople. In some cases the increases in full-time weekly rates at the end of September, 1927, were equivalent to only about 20 per cent. on the pre-war rates. On the other hand, they were equivalent in some cases to over 100 per cent. on the pre-war rates. The information at the disposal of the Department is insufficient to enable the average percentage increase for all industries and occupations to be calculated exactly, but it is estimated that at the end of September, 1927, weekly full-time rates of wages for those classes of adult workpeople for which information is available, averaged between 70 and 75 per cent. above the level of August, 1914, as wages generally were at their highest level. As considerable reductions in normal weekly working hours were made in nearly all industries in 1919 and 1920, the percentage increase in hourly rates of wages, since 1914, is substantially greater; while it is not practicable on the basis of available information to make any precise calculation, it seems probable that at the end of September, 1927, the average level of hourly rates was between 90 and 100 per cent. above that of August, 1914.

For those classes of workpeople as to which information is available the average percentage increase in weekly full-time rates of wages at the end of each quarter since 1920, as compared with the beginning of August, 1914, is estimated, on the basis indicated above, to have been approximately as shown in the following Table:—

Year.	Estimated Average Percentage Increase in Weekly Full-Time Rates of Wages at end of			
	March.	June.	September.	December.
1920	130-135	150-155	160-165	170-180
1921	160-170	145-155	130-135	110-115
1922	100-105	85-90	75-80	70-75
1923	70	65-70	70 (nearly)	65-70
1924	70 (nearly)	70	70-75	70-75
1925	75	75	75	75
1926	75	75	75	75
1927	75	70-75	70-75	...

It should be observed that the foregoing particulars relate to recognised minimum or standard rates of wages for full-time working and not to actual earnings, which in many industries are affected at present by unemployment and short-time working.

* The averages are based on the rates current in 26 towns in the printing and bookbinding and baking trades, and in 20 towns in the furniture trade.

NUMBERS EMPLOYED AND WAGES IN THE RAILWAY SERVICE.

THE annual Return* prepared by the Ministry of Transport relating to numbers employed and wages in the railway service in Great Britain has recently been published. The Return has been compiled to relate to the week ended 30th April, 1927, and not for a week in March as in the case of previous issues. This has been done to avoid the abnormal conditions which prevailed during the period of the suspension of the guaranteed week which terminated on 10th April. It may be noted, however, that, as regards wages, the bonus additions under sliding scale were the same at 30th April as during March. The details given in the Return include the total number of persons employed by the railway companies and the numbers employed in each of the principal grades in the specified week, with corresponding figures for the week ended 27th March, 1926. A comparison is given of the average wages and average weekly earnings of selected grades at the same dates and the rates of wages, which were identical at both dates, are also given for grades other than mechanics and artisans.

Numbers employed.—The total number of persons employed† in March of each of the years 1921 to 1926 and in April, 1927 was as shown below:—

March, 1921	735,870	March, 1925	702,062
" 1922	676,802	" 1926	689,264
" 1923	681,778	April, 1927	683,077
" 1924	700,573		

The numbers include all persons actually employed in the specified weeks, except staff not directly employed by the companies (e.g., staff employed by contractors). The figures comprise the number of staff receiving salaries or wages for the full week, combined with the equivalent number of full-time workers in cases where employees were paid for less than the complete week.

The numbers employed in some of the principal grades in April, 1927, and March, 1926, were as shown below:—

Grade.	Week ended 30th April, 1927.		Week ended 27th March, 1926.	
	Adults.	Juniors.	Adults.	Juniors.
	MALES:—			
Carters and vanguarders	18,732	4,530	18,714	4,434
Checkers	10,918	3	11,359	47
Engine cleaners	7,470	2,347	6,742	2,450
Engine drivers and motormen	38,685	...	38,679	...
Firemen and assistant motormen	36,156	2	36,403	2
Guards, goods and passenger	24,853	1	24,654	1
Labourers	27,447	1,224	28,458	1,524
Locomotive shed staff (except labourers)	10,852	271	10,728	267
Officers and clerical staff	72,550	2,824	72,645	3,305
Permanent way men	61,708	132	63,452	136
Porters, goods and passenger	40,907	5,109	41,586	5,816
Shop and artisan staff (excluding supervising staff, labourers and watchmen)	101,582	13,260	102,636	13,752
Shunters	18,231	...	17,937	4
Signalmen	28,309	...	28,897	...
Supervising staff	14,583	...	14,954	...
Other grades (excluding ancillary businesses)	73,310	7,796	74,680	6,934
Staff employed in ancillary businesses:—				
Dock and quay staff	15,739	236	15,645	298
Others	17,427	1,796	16,992	1,799
TOTAL—MALES	619,459	39,531	625,161	40,769
FEMALES:—				
Office and technical staff	8,942	985	8,547	803
Office cleaners and charwomen	3,407	...	3,392	...
Other grades (excluding those in ancillary businesses)	4,144	441	4,207	467
Staff employed in ancillary businesses (hotels, refreshment rooms, laundries, etc.)	5,924	244	5,662	256
TOTAL—FEMALES	22,417	1,670	21,808	1,526
GRAND TOTAL	641,876	41,201	646,969	42,295

The numbers of males employed in each of the principal departments in April, 1927, were as follows:—

Department.	Adults.	Juniors.
Officers, clerical and supervisory staff	97,846	2,898
Traffic department	115,165	7,966
Goods and cartage staff	60,480	7,442
Permanent way section (conciliation grades)	61,708	131
Locomotive, carriage and wagon department	112,103	3,920
Shop and artisan staff	122,946	14,313
Other departments (excluding ancillary businesses)	16,044	829
Staff in ancillary businesses (docks, hotels, refreshment rooms, etc.)	33,166	2,032

For the purpose of the figures given in the foregoing tables the classification of adults and juniors is based on the numbers receiving adult and junior rates of pay respectively.

The total numbers employed by the four principal railways were: London, Midland and Scottish, 268,422; London and North Eastern, 200,757; Great Western, 110,849; and Southern, 72,987.

* "Railway Companies (Staff)." H.M. Stationery Office; price, 2s. 6d.
† Excluding railway employees of the Manchester Ship Canal Co., who numbered 1,465 in April, 1927.

HOUSING IN 1926-27.

I.—ENGLAND AND WALES.

ACCORDING to the Eighth Annual Report of the Ministry of Health,* the total number of houses completed in England and Wales during the year ended 31st March, 1927, excluding those built for rehousing purposes in connection with slum clearance schemes, was 217,629. This compares with 136,889 in 1924-25 and 173,426 in 1925-26. The average annual increase in the number of houses for the five years before the war was 61,000. The total number of houses built in England and Wales from the date of the Armistice up to the end of March, 1927, is estimated at 866,000, of which 545,000 have been built with State assistance, and 321,000 without State assistance; this last figure is partly estimated.†

A scheme for the augmentation of the skilled building trade crafts by means of a revision of the apprenticeship system was inaugurated by the Building Industry Committee in February, 1925. The total number of building trade apprentices taken on in connection with contracts under local authorities' housing schemes between February, 1925, and 31st January, 1927, was 20,252, as compared with 8,264 on 31st January, 1926. The progress made in augmenting the skilled ranks of the building industry has therefore apparently not been affected by the abnormal conditions of last year.

The following Table shows the quarterly average prices of houses included in contracts let by, or in direct labour schemes of, local authorities during the last three years:—

Quarter ended—	Non-Parlour Houses.		Parlour Houses.	
	£	£	£	£
June, 1924	413	461	424	497
September, 1924	424	497	441	507
December, 1924	438	491	444	497
March, 1925	439	491	442	492
June, 1925	435	497	443	501
September, 1925	448	513	448	513
December, 1925	425	490	425	490

The average rent (excluding rates) for all types of houses erected under the Housing Act of 1919 was 9s. 5d. a week on 31st March, 1927, as compared with 9s. 6d. at the corresponding date in the two previous years.

The total payments of Exchequer subsidy in respect of housing since the war have been £5,993,691. The figure for the year 1926-27 was £3,375,948; and the estimates for the year 1927-28 contain provision for £3,340,000.

Apart from the grant of subsidies, increasing assistance has been given by local authorities in the promotion of house building by way of loans and guarantees. The total amounts of loans sanctioned and advances made for the promotion of the purchase and construction of houses during the last four years have been as follows:— 1923-24, £3,227,496; 1924-25, £8,296,299; 1925-26, £14,287,495; 1926-27, £15,471,531.

II.—SCOTLAND.

ACCORDING to the Eighth Annual Report of the Scottish Board of Health,‡ the number of houses completed in Scotland in 1926 by local authorities or by private enterprise under schemes of State assistance was 12,474, the highest number completed in any year since the State-assisted housing campaign was started. This number does not include the steel houses erected by the Second Scottish National Housing Company (Housing Trust), Limited, on behalf of the Government, of which 1,118 were completed in 1926. In addition, returns received from local authorities show that 1,812 houses were completed by private enterprise during the year, without any public assistance; and of these 1,338 were of five rooms or less. Hence no fewer than 14,930 houses of a working-class type were provided in 1926, the first year in which any effective contribution has been made towards diminishing the large housing shortage in Scotland. It is expected that the figures for 1926 will be considerably exceeded in the current year.

The total number of houses completed in Scotland since 1919, up to the 31st December, 1926, under schemes of State assistance was 49,808, including the 1,118 steel houses referred to above; while a further 28,450 were under construction under those schemes, or were definitely approved for erection. Adding an estimate for houses of a working-class type built by unassisted private enterprise, the total of working-class houses completed, under construction, or definitely approved for erection during the period would probably reach 86,000, or enough for a total of 344,000 persons.

The number of persons employed on local authorities' housing schemes during the year rose almost uniformly, from 7,333 in January to a maximum of 11,847 (of whom 2,200 were apprentices) in September. Thereafter there was a slight decline to 11,586 in December. Reference is again made, as in last year's Report, to the insufficiency of plasterers on certain schemes; but it is noted that the number of plasterers employed on local authorities' housing schemes mounted steadily during the year, until it exceeded 700 on the 31st December; the average for the year was 550, as compared with 290 in 1925.

Reference is made in the Report to the scheme, referred to in last year's Report, for the augmentation of the supply of building trade

* Cmd. 2938. H.M. Stationery Office; price 5s. net.
† A preliminary estimate made by the Ministry of Health gives the total number of houses built in England and Wales since the Armistice up to the end of September, 1927, as 1,023,787, including 52,261 completed (with State assistance) during September alone—by far the largest monthly figure ever recorded.
‡ Cmd. 2881. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6s. 6d. net.

Wages.—The average weekly earnings of certain sections of the male adult staff are shown by the Return to have been as follows: in the case of salaried workers the average weekly earnings are calculated on the basis of 6/313ths of the annual amount:—

	Week ended	
	30th April, 1927.	27th March, 1926.
Staff entered at salaried rates:—		
Clerical, supervisory, etc., staff (excluding officers and staff entered under ancillary businesses)	91 1	91 1
Staff entered at wage rates (excluding staff entered under ancillary businesses):—		
Conciliation staff	67 2	67 2
Shop and artisan staff	69 7	70 2

The average weekly wage, and the average weekly earnings, of adult males, in certain of the principal grades at April, 1927, and March, 1926, are summarised in the following Table. The average wage, in the case of staff embraced by conciliation agreements, is computed from the basic rate, plus bonus additions, if any, under sliding scale, and in the case of other staff (e.g., mechanics and artisans) from the basic rate, plus the war wage. The average earnings represent salaries or wages, residual bonus (if any), war wage, piece-work earnings, tonnage bonus, payments for overtime, Sunday duty and night duty, commuted allowances, and any other payments for work performed, but exclude compensation allowance, travelling and out-of-pocket expenses, meal and lodging allowances.

Class.	Week ended 30th April, 1927.		Week ended 27th March, 1926.	
	Average weekly salary or wage.	Average weekly earnings.	Average weekly salary or wage.	Average weekly earnings.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Carriage cleaners	48 4	56 4	48 7	57 2
Carters	52 5	58 5	52 5	58 3
Checkers	47 9	53 4	47 7	53 3
Engine cleaners	87 9	103 5	87 7	103 10
Engine drivers and motormen	66 9	78 2	66 4	77 9
Firemen and assistant motormen	64 8	74 1	64 7	74 6
Guards	55 1	61 6	55 1	62 2
Permanent-way gangers	49 9	56 10	49 10	57 2
undermen	49 11	53 3	50 1	53 9
Porters (goods staff)	45 7	50 3	46 3	50 8
" grade 2 (traffic dept.)	50 11	56 0	51 0	56 1
" parcel	65 0	71 6	65 0	72 0
Shunters, class 1	55 0	60 6	55 0	60 8
" 3	59 4	69 3	59 2	68 4
Signalmen	58 1	65 11	58 0	65 5
Ticket collectors, Class 1	54 0	59 7	53 11	59 3
" 2				
Mechanics and artisans:—				
Erectors, fitters and turners (loco, carriage and wagon dept.)	62 10	79 8	62 10	81 2
Carriage and wagon builders and repairers	59 4	79 3	59 7	80 11
Machinists and machinemem (loco, carriage and wagon dept.)	55 4	73 3	55 3	75 2
Smiths (loco, carriage and wagon dept.)	64 2	80 9	63 8	80 8
Labourers (loco, carriage and wagon dept.)	45 9	57 7	45 10	56 6
Labourers (civil engineering)	46 5	53 0	46 6	53 7

NUMBER OF PERSONS REGISTERED AT EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES IN GREAT BRITAIN, APRIL, 1927, TO OCTOBER, 1927.

In the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1927 (page 134), a statement was published bringing up to that date the record of the numbers of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain in each week from 7th January, 1921, to 4th April, 1927. In the Table below the series is continued to the latest date for which figures are available:—

Date.	Number.	Date.	Number.
1927:			
April 11th	1,078,252	July 4th	1,053,576
18th	1,106,440	11th	1,036,516
25th	1,044,757	18th	1,047,956
May 2nd	1,021,728	25th	1,026,902
9th	998,291	Aug. 1st	1,119,828
16th	1,007,017	8th	1,024,741
23rd	978,176	15th	1,022,150
30th	985,513	22nd	1,044,355
June 6th	1,089,640	29th	1,049,261
13th	1,028,732	Sept. 5th	1,074,520
20th	987,348	12th	1,052,551
27th	1,004,613	19th	1,047,992
		26th	1,050,117
		Oct. 3rd	1,075,875

labour in accordance with the Building Industry Committee's proposals. During the year an inquiry was addressed to local authorities as to the number of additional apprentices engaged by their contractors under this scheme; and the replies gave a total of 297, in the following trades: Bricklayers and masons, 92; plasterers, 45; carpenters and joiners, 85; slaters, 28; plumbers, 38; painters, 9. It should be understood that these numbers represent, not the total number of apprentices entering the building trades in Scotland, but only the number taken on under the special scheme of augmentation. In some cases the local authority stated that contractors already had in their employment the full proportion of apprentices required, so that no additional apprentices had had to be engaged.

THE YOUNG PERSON IN INDUSTRY.

THE Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1926* contains a chapter summarising the result of special enquiries into the employment of young persons in factories and workshops, and the effect of factory work upon the health and general well-being of boys and girls.

The Reports received indicate that the number of young persons from 14 to 18 years of age employed in industry has, on the whole, decreased of late. It is difficult to find a young person who is prepared to be apprenticed to a skilled trade, probably owing to the fact that a bigger wage can be earned in some of the unskilled trades. Little consideration is given to the selection of the right boy or girl for the work he or she is to undertake. The important matters of the engagement of the young persons, the allotment of the work they are to undertake, and their dismissal if unsatisfactory, are too often in the hands of the foreman instead of a person skilled in selecting labour. The education of the foreman and forewoman in this side of their work is, therefore, of paramount importance.

Young persons are generally employed, under ordinary circumstances, during the same hours as the adults working in the same department. This was found to be the case even in factories where the work of the adult and the young is not interdependent. Where work in excess of 48 hours is called for, it appears to apply uniformly to workers of all ages. Where short breaks in the work are customary during the morning and afternoon spells, a reduction of fatigue is noticeable.

Young persons are not affected to any considerable extent by dangerous processes, the number employed under Special Regulations or under the Lead Processes Act, 1920, being small. During 1926 only 11 boys and 4 girls were notified as suffering from industrial poisoning, out of a total of 568 reported cases. As regards heavy work, although there is a distinct advance in the provision of mechanical appliances for the lifting of heavy weights, etc., young persons are still subjected in certain industries to fairly heavy manual work. It does not appear, however, that they are being pressed or even encouraged to do work beyond their strength; and much of the work done, particularly by girls, is exceedingly light.

Enquiries with regard to posture, an important matter where boys and girls are concerned, showed that only very rarely is an attempt made to ensure that young workers are standing or sitting in the position best suited for their work. Frequently no seats are provided, or the seats are such as to throw the young worker into a stooping position.

Some employers arrange that all young persons in their employment, irrespective of age, shall be examined on engagement by the works doctor, with further examinations at intervals in certain cases. More attention is being given to the teeth of young workers, and the hope is expressed that similar care may be taken in regard to eyesight. The value of outdoor games and exercise is becoming more and more realised. Nearly all the large factories in which there is any form of welfare organisation have set up sports and games clubs.

In 1926, 23,274 industrial accidents occurred to boys and girls, including 57 deaths; and special enquiries were made in the industries where accidents occurred most frequently as to how far young persons are trained in the use of machinery, and the methods adopted for such training. The investigations showed that a certain number of accidents were due to the lack of proper training of young persons for their work, whilst a larger number were due to dangerous practices arising from general ignorance of the functions and operations of machinery. The Report states: "It is evident that there is ample scope for better instruction, and that the young persons on entering industry are entitled to systematic training in the use of the machines on which they are to be employed; for it is probable that some of them do not know the difference between the guard and the machine, or, at any rate, do not understand the purpose of the guards until they are instructed. Where this ignorance is coupled with the instinct to explore and the lack of prudence which is natural to youth, it is surprising that more accidents to young persons do not occur." With regard to the effect of repetition work, on which young people are increasingly engaged, the Report suggests that much can be done by changing the work as often as possible, and by arranging that the girls and boys employed on monotonous work get a thorough change of atmosphere when they are not at the factory. Repetition work leads too often to a blind alley occupation, and to avert this some employers have tried by educational means to develop the mind of the girl and boy whose work involves "repeat" movements. Education in industry is coming to be considered to be of the first importance; and the Report gives examples of schemes of instruction, both vocational and general, in operation in various industries.

* Cmd. 2903. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2s. 6d. net.

INDUSTRIAL FATIGUE RESEARCH BOARD.

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

THE Industrial Fatigue Research Board, in their seventh Annual Report,* deal with the progress of their investigations during the year 1926 into various problems of general industrial importance, including hours of labour (with special reference to rest pauses); accident causation; design of machinery; ventilation; the rate of improvement in industrial occupations (i.e., the speed with which proficiency can be obtained in different occupations); vocational guidance; and the school-leaving age. Reports on some of these subjects have been published during recent months; and investigations into others are in progress or under consideration.

Investigations have also been carried out by the Board, or are in progress, into the following specific problems submitted by Government Departments or by industrial associations:—sickness in cotton weaving sheds; sickness in the printing industry; weight carrying and lifting by women; load carrying by men; telegraphists' cramp (see below); lighting; vocational selection. Particulars are also given in the Report of certain "laboratory" researches (i.e., researches carried on under carefully controlled conditions) into industrial work involving muscular effort, into the acquisition of skill under different methods of teaching, etc.

In conclusion, the Board offer some general observations on the attitude of industries themselves towards the scientific study of the human factor in industry. Though interest exists and is expanding, progress towards a general realisation of the possibilities of research on these lines is still slow. Industrialists, the Board suggest, have naturally been inclined to devote their attention to the improvement of conditions by recognised practice rather than by the application of methods which must necessarily be largely experimental. From an economic point of view, indeed, the immediate effects on production of the changes suggested in the Board's reports are often small compared with those of technical and mechanical developments. The Board point out, however, that in all cases improvement of the conditions or methods of work for the worker means *ipso facto* an increase in his output (excepting in processes wherein production depends wholly on the machine), and accordingly the introduction of such methods can never be a matter of conflict between the interests of the employer and those of the workers; these are both affected in the same direction. Many individual employers and workers are keenly alive to the ultimate practical importance of research of the kind on which the Board are engaged. Where an experimental change has been indicative of a favourable result, the new conditions have usually been retained in that particular factory.

The Board, however, suggest that the introduction of a change of this kind ought not to be limited to the one place where it originated, but that it ought to be tried on a more extensive scale throughout the industry. The results obtained by the Board deal with the more general problems, rather than with the minutiae of industrial life, and appear to have a far wider application than to the particular establishment or establishments from which they arose. For example, the breaking-up of the spell of work by short rest-pauses, the increase in air movement at high temperatures, and the use of standardised methods of training, to take only a few instances, have been shown repeatedly and by different methods to be beneficial both for the worker and for the work. They therefore repeat the suggestion made in an earlier Report that small Committees, representative of employers and workmen, should be set up in the more important industries, in order to discuss and submit for investigation problems affecting the human factor in industry, to consider proposals submitted by such bodies as the Industrial Fatigue Research Board and the National Institute of Industrial Psychology, and to take steps to apply experimentally such methods as are regarded as appropriate to the industry concerned.

REPORT ON TELEGRAPHISTS' CRAMP.

The Board have also issued a Report on telegraphists' cramp.† The investigation was carried out at the instance of the Union of Post Office Workers, with the consent and co-operation of the Postmaster-General, and was directed to ascertaining whether, and if so how far, there is a specific individual susceptibility to telegraphists' cramp among the persons engaged or about to be engaged in telegraphy.

At an early stage of the investigation, it was found that "cramp" subjects, as compared with normal subjects, had a greater susceptibility to muscular fatigue, less ability to perform quick and accurate movements, less complete control over the muscles when sending a message, and a greater prevalence of psycho-neurotic symptoms. The two groups, however, were not completely differentiated, so that there was no assurance that liability to cramp could be detected with certainty in individual cases.

A medical study of control groups of workers in other analogous occupations suggested, so far as the smallness of the numbers admitted

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 9d. net. The Report for 1925 (H.M. Stationery Office; price 3s. net.) contained a full analysis of the work of the Board, summarising the principal contents of their Reports published up to May, 1926.

† Vocational Guidance (Report No. 33); Accident Causation (Nos. 34 and 38); Ventilation and Heating (No. 35); Design of Machinery (No. 36); Rest Pauses (Nos. 41 and 42). These were noticed in the issues of this GAZETTE for April, June and July, 1926, and for February, April and June, 1927.

‡ Industrial Fatigue Research Board: Report No. 43. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 6d. net.

of any conclusion, that the entrants into the Post Office are in no way different from entrants into other occupations.

Other lines of investigation are being pursued, particularly among learners in the school of telegraphy, with a view to discovering whether those having characteristics shown to prevail amongst actual cramp subjects will, in fact, eventually contract it: this, of course, cannot be definitely decided for many years. At present, the conclusion suggested by the enquiry is that people who show psycho-neurotic symptoms or poor muscular co-ordination, and particularly both in combination, should not take up telegraphy.

SHIPBUILDING IN THE QUARTER ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 1927.

According to Lloyd's Register Quarterly Shipbuilding Returns, the gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of September, 1927, amounted to 1,536,416 tons, as compared with 1,390,388 tons at the end of June, 1927, and 774,797 tons at the end of September, 1926. The present total, although the highest since September, 1922, is still 354,000 tons below the average tonnage building during the twelve months immediately preceding the war. The tonnage on which work was suspended at the end of September, 1927, amounted only to 8,488 tons, as compared with 107,498 tons at the end of September, 1926. The tonnage of motor ships building at the end of September, 1927, amounted to 42.5 per cent. of the total tonnage under construction.

A considerable decrease is shown in the tonnage commenced during the quarter, namely, 370,073 tons, as compared with 437,112 tons during the second quarter of 1927.

The tonnage launched during the present quarter, viz., 355,542 tons, shows the large increase of 86,997 tons as compared with the figures for the previous three months.

The total horse-power of the marine engines building or being installed on board vessels in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of September, 1927, amounted to 944,464 h.p., as compared with 939,782 h.p. in the previous quarter.

The above figures are exclusive of warships and of merchant vessels of under 100 tons gross.

DICTIONARY OF OCCUPATIONAL TERMS.

A DICTIONARY of Occupational Terms, based on the classification of occupations used in connection with the 1921 Census, has been compiled by the Ministry of Labour and will be published by H.M. Stationery Office on or about 25th October.

The Dictionary had its origin in a Resolution adopted by the British Empire Statistical Conference, which met in the early months of 1920, to the effect "that a complete descriptive glossary of occupations, with an alphabetical index in addition, should be prepared as soon as opportunity permits." This Resolution was considered by an inter-departmental Committee which was then making preparations for the 1921 Census, and was approved by them, experience having shown the great need for such a volume for use in other connections, particularly during the War. While the Dictionary has thus been compiled primarily for administrative purposes, national and Imperial, it has been thought that the concise information presented, concerning the nature of the work performed by persons following the various occupations, may be found of wider utility, and it has therefore been considered desirable, by placing the Dictionary on sale, to make the material publicly available.

In the compilation of the Dictionary, the Ministry of Labour has worked in close collaboration with the General Register Office, the Home Office, the Mines Department, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Post Office, and other Government Departments, and has received much valuable help from those Departments. Information has also been obtained from Joint Industrial Councils and Trade Boards, from railway companies and the Railway Staff Conference, and from a large number of individual employers and trade unions.

The plan adopted has been to take the classification of occupations issued in connection with the 1921 Census, and to append a concise definition to each of the occupations named therein. Many additional terms which came to light during the compilation have been included. The total number of terms appearing in the volume is 29,106; but, since many of these are synonyms, the number of occupations defined is appreciably less, and amounts in all to 16,837.

In view of the period of transition through which some industries are passing, and of the variations of practice which obtain in individual establishments, it is impossible to frame a definition of an occupational term which will fit every case absolutely and precisely, unless the definition be expanded or subjected to qualification to an inordinate degree. Hence, all that is usually attempted is to give, in non-technical language, and in broad outline, a description of the work generally performed by the person to whom the name is applied; in a number of cases, however, alternative definitions are given which take account of such variations in practice as are known to exist. Subject to these inevitable limits, the definitions have been made as clear, full and self-explanatory as possible.

The volume contains 378 foolscap pages of definitions of occupational terms, arranged on an industry basis, with an alphabetical index in addition, occupying 181 pages; the sale price is 21s. net.

LABOUR DISPUTES ABROAD IN 1926.

(1) GERMANY.*

A REPORT recently published by the German Ministry of Labour draws attention to the considerable decrease in the number of strikes and lockouts recorded in 1926 as compared with the figures for the previous year, an analysis of which will be found on page 330 of the issue of this GAZETTE for September, 1926. The figures in the following Table for 1925 and 1926 include only disputes which terminated during the respective years:—

	1925.	1926.
Number of disputes (strikes and lock-outs)	1,766	365
Number of undertakings affected	25,214	2,872
Number of persons on strike or locked out	758,071	91,205
Number of days lost by persons on strike or locked out	16,855,856	1,353,780

Considered from the workers' point of view, 81 disputes, affecting 6,529 workers, were successful, 158, affecting 71,362 workers, were partially successful, and 126, affecting 13,314 workers, were wholly unsuccessful.

In 315 cases, the demands put forward by the workers or the employees were concerned with wages; 26 disputes arose wholly or partially over the questions of working hours; and in 117 disputes other questions were involved.

(2) THE NETHERLANDS.†

The report of the Netherlands Statistical Office for 1926 also shows that, in comparison with previous years, 1926 was industrially a peaceful year. Not only were the numbers of strikes and lock-outs, of workers affected, undertakings involved and working-days lost, all considerably below the corresponding figures for the years during and after the War, but also, with the exception of the actual number of disputes, they were below the averages for the pre-war years 1901-1913.

A comparison of the statistics of disputes recorded during 1925 and 1926 is given below:—

	1925.	1926.
Number of strikes and lock-outs	262	212
Number of undertakings affected	1,628	594
Number of workers on strike or locked out	31,700	9,100
Number of working days lost by persons on strike or locked out	760,900	220,200

Of the 212 disputes mentioned above, 209 were strikes and 3 were lock-outs affecting only 88 persons. As in previous years, most of the disputes arose out of questions of wage and hours of work, the percentage of the total demands put forward on these counts being 60 per cent. in 1926 as compared with 64 per cent. in 1925. Other causes of dispute were demands for the recognition of Trade Unions and for the reinstatement of dismissed workers, etc.

Considered from the workers' point of view, 69 strikes were successful, 53 were unsuccessful, and 71 were settled by agreement. Of the remaining 16 strikes, the result of 13 was either doubtful or unknown, and 3 were still unsettled at the end of the year.

(3) POLAND.‡

The total number of strikes reported as having begun in 1926 was 583, directly affecting 143,581 workpeople and causing a loss of 1,382,133 working days. The corresponding figures for 1925 were 532 strikes, 148,527 workpeople, and 1,284,553 working days lost. As in the previous year, the chief cause of strikes was the question of wages, which accounted for 488 strikes, affecting 108,820 workers and causing a loss of 853,654 working days. Strikes numbering 36, affecting 14,142 workpeople and resulting in an aggregate loss of 468,718 working days, arose out of questions relating to hours and working conditions.

From the point of view of the workpeople, 395 strikes, affecting 83,998 workpeople, were either completely or partially successful, 175 strikes, affecting 48,175 workpeople, were unsuccessful, while in the remaining cases the results were unknown. The industry chiefly affected by strikes in 1926 was the textile industry, in which 121 strikes occurred, affecting 45,585 workpeople and causing a loss of 686,586 working days. In the smelting of minerals, 131,928 working days were lost through strikes, and 102,280 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades.

(4) CZECHOSLOVAKIA.§

In 1926, there were, in Czechoslovakia, 150 labour disputes (including 8 lock-outs), directly affecting 35,412 workpeople and involving a loss of 421,082 working days, with a consequent loss in wages of 11,394,354 Czech crowns. The corresponding figures for 1925 were 294 disputes, 163,865 workpeople, and 1,445,157 working days and 38,841,668 Czech crowns lost.

In 91 cases the disputes, in 1926, arose out of questions of wages, 12 disputes concerned the employment of particular classes or persons, 35 were due to other causes, while, in the remainder, the cause of the dispute was not known. Of the total number of

* Reichsarbeitsblatt, 20th July, 1927. Berlin.
† Werkstakingen en Uitsluitingen gedurende het Jaar 1926. Central Statistical Office, The Hague, July, 1927.
‡ Statystyka Pracy, No. 2. 1927. Warsaw.
§ Rapports de l'Office Statistique de la République Tchécoslovaque, Nos. 10-12, 1927. Prague.

disputes, 22 terminated in favour of the workpeople, 55 were compromised, and 36 terminated in favour of the employers; the results of the remaining 37 disputes were unknown.

(5) UNITED STATES.*

In the United States, 1,035 disputes, including both strikes and lock-outs, are recorded as having begun in 1926. This total includes 783 disputes in which the number of workpeople directly involved, viz., 329,592, is known. No figures are published as to the number of working days lost, and no information is given regarding the results of the disputes. The corresponding figures for 1925 are 1,301 disputes, including 1,012 in which 428,416 workpeople were involved. The chief causes of the disputes were questions of wages and working hours. The most important disturbance during the year was the strike of about 40,000 clothing workers in New York City, which began on 1st July and lasted into December, 1926. Another protracted dispute of some note was the strike of the woollen and worsted textile workers of Passaic, N.J. This strike began in January, 1926; it gradually involved from eight to twelve thousand workers; and was not finally settled until the end of February, 1927. A further large strike, affecting 12,000 fur workers in New York City, lasted from 16th February to 15th June, 1926.

(6) CANADA.†

During 1926, there occurred in Canada 77 labour disputes, affecting 24,142 workers, with a resultant loss of 296,811 working days. The corresponding figures for 1925 were 83 disputes, 25,796 workers involved, and 1,743,996 working days lost. Further particulars, with comparative figures for the years 1922-1924, were published in the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1927, page 135.

HOURS OF LABOUR IN GERMAN IRON AND STEEL WORKS: NEW ORDER.

A FURTHER Order,‡ dated 16th July, 1927, has been issued by the Federal Minister of Labour, bringing certain categories of workers employed in iron and steel works, rolling mills, etc., under the provisions of Article 7 of the Order on Working Hours of 21st December, 1923 (as amended by the Act dated 14th April, 1927§). A summary of the provisions of this article, with particulars of previous Orders thereunder, will be found on page 96 of the issue of this GAZETTE for March, 1927.¶

The present Order is applicable to the following classes of workers:—

- (1) Workers employed at the furnaces or in the casting sheds of blast-furnace foundries, pipe foundries, etc.;
- (2) Workers in Martin, Thomas, Bessemer, electric and crucible steel furnaces engaged on mixers, furnaces and converters, including the conveyance of molten pig iron to the mixers and of the material to be smelted to the furnaces and converters, as well as the removal of the molten or hot products, the casting moulds and the slag;
- (3) In puddling works—puddlers, furnace workers and malleable iron smiths;
- (4) In rolling mills, excluding cold rolling mills—workers engaged in work at soaking pits, reheating furnaces, and rolls, including the conveyance of the metal to be rolled and the shearing and straightening of the rolled products while they are still hot;
- (5) In hammer and press forges—workers engaged at the furnaces, and in forging and pressing, including the conveyance of the iron and the removal of the hot products;
- (6) In the undertakings specified in (1) to (5) above—workers on generators, except in so far as the factory inspection authorities certify that the life and health of the workers are adequately protected by the provision of proper safety appliances.

The Order contains a clause similar to that incorporated in previous Orders under Article 7, whereby workers who are employed part time on the scheduled processes shall be regarded as subject to the provisions of Article 7 only where such employment on any one day exceeds four hours in duration. It is to come into force on 1st January, 1928, except where the Federal Minister of Labour exercises his discretionary powers to exempt temporarily from its provisions individual undertakings or groups of undertakings in particular localities in which the immediate enforcement of the Order would, by reason of special circumstances, entail serious economic loss.

* *Handbook of Labour Statistics, 1924-1926*, issued by U.S. Bureau of Labour Statistics, Washington, June, 1927.

† *Canadian Labour Gazette*, February, 1927. Ottawa.

‡ *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*, 18th July, 1927, Berlin.

§ The Act of 14th April, 1927, contained three important amendments of German working hours legislation: (1) it repealed Clause 11, para. 3, of the Order of 21st December, 1923, which permitted of voluntary overtime; (2) it made the working of hours beyond ten a day conditional upon the issue of a special official permit; and (3) it introduced for the first time a legal obligation to pay a "suitably increased" wage rate for overtime. An increase of 25 per cent. over the normal wage is regarded as "suitable," except where otherwise agreed between the parties.

¶ The general effect of the application of Article 7 is to limit working hours to eight a day.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN DENMARK: AMENDMENT OF LAW.*

An Act, dated 1st July, 1927, which came into force on 1st October, provides for a considerable re-organisation of the public employment exchanges in Denmark, and for important modifications in the system of unemployment insurance. The new Act is to replace the Act of 4th March, 1924, on Employment Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance, an account of which was given in this GAZETTE for May, 1924, page 160. According to the memorandum accompanying the Bill, the chief object of the new measure is to re-establish unemployment insurance on the actuarial basis on which it formerly rested, and at the same time to lighten the burden of the unemployment societies which, on account of legislative developments, has increased considerably during the past ten years. A summary of the more important provisions of the new Act is given below:—

Employment Exchanges.—The number of employment exchanges is to be reduced from 81 to 23—one in Copenhagen and one in each province. Each exchange is to have a governing body, consisting of a chairman, an employer and a worker (in Copenhagen, a chairman, three employers and three workers), and a director. Previously, all exchanges had a chairman and six members, of whom three were employers and three workers. Public recognition may, however, be given to communal employment exchanges in communes with more than 10,000 inhabitants and to communal exchanges which have had a large number of persons on their books during the past three years. Such exchanges are eligible for a State subsidy equal to one-third of their expenditure, but the remainder must be borne by the commune. In addition, provided that certain conditions are fulfilled, permission may be given to other employment exchanges formerly recognised, to continue in operation, although in such cases the expenses must be defrayed wholly by the commune concerned.

Unemployment Societies.—Under the former Act, the State subsidy to approved unemployment societies was equivalent to 35 per cent. and the communal subsidy to 30 per cent. of the members' contributions. The new Act provides that these percentages are to be fixed in relation to the average annual earnings in the trades concerned. For earnings not exceeding 1,500 kroner, the State subsidy is 40 per cent. and the communal subsidy 30 per cent. of the members' contributions. For earnings between 1,500 kroner and 2,000 kroner, the percentages are 35 and 30 respectively, and they fall by 5 per cent. for every increase of 500 kroner in the annual earnings, subject to a minimum of 10 per cent. from the State and 5 per cent. from the communes for trades in which the average annual earnings exceed 4,000 kroner. The average annual earnings are to be ascertained by reference to the wages reports of the Statistical Department. The conditions governing the payment of ordinary benefit by approved unemployment societies remain substantially the same. A full member is entitled during twelve consecutive months to not less than 70 days' benefit according to the rules of the Society.

Extraordinary Unemployment Relief.—No provision is made in the new Act for the "continued assistance" and "supplementary benefit" paid, under Section 3 of the 1924 Act, in trades in which there is exceptional unemployment. For the future, approved unemployment societies are empowered to establish a "crisis fund" for the purpose of providing for exceptional unemployment in their trades. Such "crisis funds," if established, are to be financed by an increase of not less than 20 per cent. of the ordinary members' contributions to the unemployment society, and are eligible for State and communal subsidies on the same basis as for ordinary contributions, and also for grants from the Central Unemployment Fund (see below) up to 25 per cent. of the amount of contributions paid. The "crisis fund" enters into operation under certain conditions laid down in the Act, and benefit is paid from it under the same rules as for ordinary benefit; it may not, however, exceed two-thirds of the ordinary benefit, and may not be paid for more than 70 days in any twelve consecutive months.

The Central Unemployment Fund.—This Fund is to be maintained, but the annual contribution of employers has been reduced from 5 kroner to 3 kroner for each whole-year worker; the contribution ceases when the reserves of the Fund reach 12 million kroner. The former State subsidy, equal to 10 per cent. of the ordinary members' contributions to the unemployment societies, has been abolished. An amount not exceeding four-fifths of the income of the Fund is to be used for the purpose of making grants to the above-mentioned "crisis funds." Grants may also be made for relief works and for training courses for the unemployed. Loans may be granted to approved unemployment societies during periods of exceptional unemployment to enable them to meet their obligations.

Relief Works.—As hitherto, relief works may be undertaken by the State, communes, or private institutions in receipt of public grants, but the local relief works committees are abolished, and the Labour Committee of the Ministry of the Interior is now responsible for approving relief works and the conditions relating to them. Grants for relief works from the Central Unemployment Fund may not exceed 20 per cent. of the wages paid, or 2 kroner a day for each worker employed.

* *Socialt Tidsskrift*, February and July-August, 1927. Copenhagen.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION BOARDS IN BELGIUM.

The *Revue du Travail* for 31st July, 1927, contains a brief report of the first year's working of the official conciliation and arbitration boards set up by the Ministry of Industry, Labour and Social Welfare under a Royal Order of the 5th May, 1926, for the prevention and settlement of collective disputes between employers and workpeople in Belgium. (A summary of the Order was given in this GAZETTE for June, 1926, page 208.) The report shows that the official boards up to 30th June, 1927, were called upon to deal with 285 disputes, 255 of which related to wage questions. The results of the intervention of the Boards were as follows:—

Conciliation effected	...	...	120
Arbitration accepted	...	...	11
No conciliation effected	...	...	66
Arbitration refused	...	...	45
Outside province of Board	...	...	12
Results unknown	...	...	31
			285

Under Section 15 of the Order, in cases where an employer—

- causes a strike by imposing new wage rates or conditions of labour, rejected by the workers, before the official notification by the competent board of the failure of the attempt at conciliation or the proposal for arbitration, or
- declares a lock-out without previously having had recourse to the procedure of conciliation and arbitration, or
- refuses to comply with the summons of the board or to carry out the agreement arrived at or the arbitral award, and the Board is of the opinion that by his attitude he has rendered conciliation impossible,

those of his workers who are members of an approved unemployment fund may, from the first day of the stoppage, receive unemployment benefit from their fund or allowances from the National Emergency Fund.* Thirty-eight requests were made for the application of this Section. In 14 of these the application was granted; in 16 it was refused; while the remaining 8 cases have not yet been decided.

Section 16 of the Order provides that, in the case of a strike or lock-out caused by some action on the part of the workers before the matter has been fully dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Order, the organization which represents the workers will be ineligible for subsidies from the National Emergency Fund for a period of one year. Requests under this Section numbered 28. In 16 of these cases the application of the Section was allowed, and in 8 refused, while the remaining 4 have not yet been decided.

WAGES AND HOURS IN THE UNITED STATES.

(1) THE MOTOR VEHICLE INDUSTRY, 1925.†

The United States Bureau of Labour Statistics have published the results of an inquiry in 1925 into earnings and hours of labour in 99 representative establishments in the motor vehicle industry, which were engaged in manufacturing or assembling motor vehicles, building bodies, motors or radiators, and making forgings, transmission gears, and axles or sheet metal stamping for motor vehicles. The data were obtained in respect of 144,362 wage earners (including 3,432 females), or 35.6 per cent. of the whole number reported in the motor vehicle industry by the 1923 Census of Manufactures.

The following Table shows, for some of the principal occupations, the average full-time hours per week, and the average earnings per hour and per week:—

Occupation.	Sex.	Average full-time hours per week.	Average earnings per hour.	Average full-time earnings per week.
Assemblers, final	Male	50.1	0.731	36.62
Assemblers, motor	"	49.8	0.747	37.20
Drill-press operators	"	50.3	0.712	35.81
Grinding-machine operators	"	50.1	0.765	38.33
Inspectors	"	50.1	0.682	34.17
Lathe operators	"	50.0	0.762	38.10
Machinists	"	50.0	0.806	40.30
Milling-machine operators	"	50.4	0.737	37.14
Punch-press operators	"	49.6	0.718	35.61
Sheet-metal workers	"	50.3	0.783	39.38
Tool and die makers	"	50.2	0.875	43.93
Top builders	"	50.6	0.808	40.88
Labourers	"	50.4	0.570	28.73
All occupations‡	Male	50.3	0.729	36.67
	Female	50.1	0.467	23.40
	Both sexes.	50.3	0.723	36.37

As compared with 1922, when a similar inquiry was made, for all occupations and both sexes, the average full-time weekly hours increased from 50.1 to 50.3, the average hourly earnings from 65.7 to 72.3 cents, and the average weekly earnings from 32.92 to 36.37 dollars.

* The National Emergency Fund was established in December, 1920, for the purpose, *inter alia*, of paying benefit to persons whose benefit from their unemployment fund is exhausted or whose unemployment fund has become bankrupt owing to the economic crisis.

† *Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics*, No. 438, Washington, May, 1927.

‡ Including occupations not separately specified in this Table.

(2) THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY, 1926.*

A recent Report published by the same Bureau gives the results of a survey of the wages and hours of labour of workpeople in the iron and steel industry in the United States in 1926. The information was collected from 199 plants, or departments of plants, employing 75,109 wage earners; the workpeople covered by the inquiry represented, according to the 1923 United States Census of Manufactures, 19 per cent. of the total number of workers in the industry, and more than 50 per cent. of the number of workers in blast furnaces alone.

The following Table shows, for each of the branches of the industry investigated, the average full-time weekly hours of labour, the average hourly earnings, and the average full-time weekly earnings during the latter half of the month of January, 1926:—

Branch of Industry.	Average full-time hours per week.	Average earnings per hour.	Average full-time earnings per week.
Blast furnaces	59.8	Dollars. 517	Dollars. 30.92
Bessemer converters	52.6	641	33.72
Open-hearth furnaces	57.1	677	38.66
Puddling mills	52.1	657	34.23
Bloomers	54.2	627	33.98
Plate mills	55.8	606	33.81
Bar mills	54.7	591	32.33
Standard rail mills	55.5	595	33.02
Sheet mills	48.9	759	37.12
Triplate mills	48.1	704	33.86
All branches	54.4	637	34.41

Index numbers compiled from the data collected for 1926 and previous years show that the average full-time hours of labour were less in 1926 than in 1913 by 18 per cent.; the average hourly earnings increased by 113 per cent., and the average full-time earnings per week by 82 per cent. during the same period.

WAGES IN RUSSIA.

ACCORDING to *Statisticheskoe Obozrenie*, for May, 1927, the organ of the Central Statistical Department of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the average earnings of Russian industrial workers in March, 1927, were as shown in the following Table:—

Average Industrial Earnings in U.S.S.R., March, 1927 (in chervonets roubles).†

Industry.	Average Daily Earnings.	Average Monthly Earnings.
Coal-mining	2.45	60.88
Iron and Steel	2.56	65.67
Metal and Engineering	3.13	73.39
Cotton	2.21	53.05
Wool	2.22	53.62
Flax	1.65	40.58
All above industries	2.55	61.77
Moscow (all industries)	3.37	78.84
Leningrad	3.29	78.74
Ural	2.05	49.40
Railway Workers	3.00	69.30

The March, 1927, number of *Statisticheskoe Obozrenie* contains an article on the wages of building workers. In Russia the season in this industry stretches over the period April to September, and the maximum number of working days is about 150. The average daily earnings during the six months April-September, 1926, in some of the principal occupations are given as follows:—

Average Daily Earnings of Building Workers, April-September, 1926 (in chervonets roubles).

Occupation.	Average Daily Earnings.			Percentage of Total Man-days spent on Job or Piece Work.
	On Job or Piece Work.	On Time Work.	On Job or Piece Work and Time Work combined.	
Bricklayers	3.44	2.35	3.36	93.1
Carpenters	3.26	2.17	3.12	91.6
Joiners	3.72	1.99	3.50	87.0
Plumbers	4.27	2.76	3.99	79.2
Plasterers	3.65	2.23	3.58	94.9
Painters	3.40	2.35	3.26	91.2
Navvies	3.08	1.97	2.98	88.5
Labourers	2.26	1.39	1.80	46.5
All Occupations‡	3.25	1.65	2.89	76.9
Moscow	3.53	1.97	3.31	85.7
Leningrad	3.40	1.82	3.11	79.5
Ural	3.00	1.43	2.61	75.5

These figures are based, as a general rule, on the wages paid in building undertakings employing 50 or more workers.

* *Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics*, No. 442, June 1927, Washington.

† The rate of exchange quoted for the chervonets rouble in March, 1927, was 9.44 = £1.

‡ Including some classes not separately shown in this Table.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	...	...	67%
Food only	...	...	61%

FOOD.

At 1st October the average level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food showed a further advance. This was mainly due to increases in the average prices of eggs by over 1d. each and of butter by nearly 1d. per lb.; and to an advance of 1d. per quart in the price of milk in about half of the localities from which returns were received.

As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was about 61 per cent. at 1st October, 1927, as compared with 57 per cent. a month ago and 63 per cent. a year ago.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st September, and 1st October, 1927.—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated to the nearest 1/4d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st Oct., 1927, as compared with		
	July, 1914.	1st Sept., 1927.	1st Oct., 1927.	July, 1914.	1st Sept., 1927.	1st Oct., 1927.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ribs ...	0 10	1 4 1/2	1 4 1/2	+0 8 1/2	+0 8 1/2	...
Thin Flank ...	0 6 1/2	0 9	0 9	+0 2 1/2	+0 2 1/2	...
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—						
Ribs ...	0 7 1/2	0 9 1/2	0 10	+0 2 1/2	+0 2 1/2	+0 0 1/2
Thin Flank ...	0 4 1/2	0 5 1/2	0 5 1/2	+0 0 1/2	+0 0 1/2	...
Mutton, British—						
Legs ...	0 10 1/2	1 6	1 6	+0 7 1/2	+0 7 1/2	...
Breast ...	0 10 1/2	0 9 1/2	0 9 1/2	+0 3 1/2	+0 3 1/2	...
Mutton, Frozen—						
Legs ...	0 6 1/2	0 11 1/2	0 11 1/2	+0 4 1/2	+0 4 1/2	...
Breast ...	0 4	0 4 1/2	0 4 1/2	+0 0 1/2	+0 0 1/2	...
Bacon (streaky)*	0 11 1/2	1 4 1/2	1 5 1/2	+0 6	+0 6	+0 0 1/2
Flour ... per 7 lb.	0 10 1/2	1 5 1/2	1 5 1/2	+0 7	+0 7	-0 0 1/2
Bread ... per 4 lb.	0 5 1/2	0 9 1/2	0 9 1/2	+0 3 1/2	+0 3 1/2	+0 0 1/2
Tea ...	1 6 1/2	2 4 1/2	2 4 1/2	+0 10 1/2	+0 10 1/2	+0 0 1/2
Sugar (granulated) ...	0 2	0 3 1/2	0 3 1/2	+0 1 1/2	+0 1 1/2	+0 0 1/2
Milk ... per quart	0 3 1/2	0 5 1/2	0 6 1/2	+0 2 1/2	+0 2 1/2	...
Butter—						
Fresh ...	1 2 1/2	1 10 1/2	1 11 1/2	+0 9	+0 9	+0 1 1/2
Salt ...	1 2 1/2	1 9	1 10 1/2	+0 8 1/2	+0 8 1/2	+0 1 1/2
Cheese† ...	0 8 1/2	1 1	1 1 1/2	+0 5	+0 5	+0 0 1/2
Margarine ...	0 7	0 7 1/2	0 7 1/2	+0 0 1/2	+0 0 1/2	...
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 1 1/2	0 2 1/2	0 2 1/2	+0 1 1/2	+0 1 1/2	+0 0 1/2
Potatoes ... per 7 lb.	0 4 1/2	0 7	0 7	+0 2 1/2	+0 2 1/2	...

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st Oct., 1927, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding General Average for 1st Sept., 1927.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—				
Ribs ...	71	65	68	68
Thin Flank ...	36	37	37	37
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs ...	40	34	37	36
Thin Flank ...	4	11	8	8
Mutton, British—				
Legs ...	71	72	71	72
Breast ...	49	49	49	50
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs ...	69	60	65	64
Breast ...	18	20	19	18
Bacon (streaky)*	55	52	54	50
Fish ...	129	104	116	108
Flour ...	63	68	65	68
Bread ...	67	65	66	69
Tea ...	55	60	57	55
Sugar (granulated) ...	86	75	81	81
Milk ...	77	79	78	62
Butter—				
Fresh ...	61	63	62	53
Salt ...	59	59	59	48
Cheese† ...	59	57	58	50
Margarine ...	11	5	8	8
Eggs (fresh) ...	104	102	103	77
Potatoes ...	57	33	45	46
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase) ...	62	59	61	57

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.
† The description of cheese specified for quotation is Canadian or American, but where such cheese is seldom sold in a locality the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts indicate that the average increase in the rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st October, 1927, was approximately 51 per cent. Of the total increase about two-fifths is accounted for by increases on account of rates and water charges, and about two-fifths is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Acts falling within the remaining one-fifth.

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st October, the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged approximately 115 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group, the average price of coal at 1st October was between 70 and 75 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 70 per cent. at 1st September. The price of gas was reduced in several towns at the new quarter, and at 1st October averaged about 55 per cent. above the pre-war level. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches) the average increase at 1st October, as compared with July, 1914, was about 70 per cent.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st October, is, approximately, 67 per cent.* over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 65 per cent. at 1st September, 1927, and 74 per cent. at 1st October, 1926.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1927 as in 1914) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). Owing to the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or readjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, it is probable that the standard of living has been raised in those families in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1918 TO 1927.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month since January, 1918:—

Month.	Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items. (Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.)									
	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
Jan. ...	85-90	120	125	165	92	78	77	80	75	75
Feb. ...	90	120	130	151	88	77	79	79	73	72
Mar. ...	90	115	130	141	86	76	78	79	72	71
April ...	90-95	110	132	133	82	74	73	76	68	65
May ...	95-100	105	141	128	81	70	71	73	67	64
June ...	100	105	150	119	80	69	69	72	68	63
July ...	100-105	105-110	152	119	84	69	70	73	70	66
Aug. ...	110	115	155	122	81	71	71	73	70	64
Sept. ...	110	115	161	120	79	73	72	74	72	65
Oct. ...	115-120	120	164	110	78	75	76	76	74	67
Nov. ...	120-125	125	176	103	80	75	80	76	79	...
Dec. ...	120	125	169	99	80	77	81	77	79	...

Figures for dates prior to 1918, together with the average increases for each of the five main groups of items (i.e., food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and other items) month by month from January, 1915, to December, 1925, are published in the "Eighteenth Abstract of Labour Statistics" (Cmd. 2740).

NOTE.

A brief Statement of the method of compiling these statistics was given on page 236 of the July, 1923, issue of this GAZETTE. A more detailed account was given in the issue of February, 1921.

* If allowance is made for the changes in taxation since July, 1914, on the commodities included in these statistics, the average increase is about 2 per cent. less.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT during September showed no appreciable change on the whole as compared with August, the rate of unemployment among insured persons remaining stationary at 9.4 per cent. There was a further slight improvement in the coal-mining industry, and in shipbuilding and ship repairing. In the boot and shoe trade, in pottery, in the worsted section of the wool textile industry, and in some of the minor textile industries, there was also some improvement. On the other hand a marked decline occurred in the tinplate industry, and there was also a further decline in the building trade, in brick and tile manufacture, and in general engineering.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 12,000,000, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 26th September, 1927 (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed) was 9.4, the same percentage as at 22nd August, 1927, compared with 13.7 at 20th September, 1926. For males alone the percentage at 26th September was 10.6, as compared with 10.5 at 22nd August, 1927; for females the corresponding figures were 6.0 and 6.3. The percentage wholly unemployed rose from 6.8 at 22nd August to 7.0 at 26th September. The total number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered at employment exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 26th September, 1927, was approximately 1,075,000, of whom 855,000 were men and 155,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 29th August, 1927, it was 1,076,000, of whom 845,000 were men and 161,000 were women; and at 27th September, 1926, it was 1,582,000, of whom 1,198,000 were men and 295,000 were women. The figures for September, 1926, were, of course, affected by the dispute in the coal-mining industry.

The following Table shows, month by month since September, 1926, the percentages unemployed among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, and the approximate number (to the nearest 1,000) of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges, etc., in Great Britain and Northern Ireland:—

Month.	Percentage Unemployed (at or near end of month) among Insured Workpeople.				Numbers (Insured and Uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges, etc.
	Males and Females.		Wholly Unem-ployed.	Temporarily Stopped.	
	Males.	Females.			
1926.					
September ...	14.7	11.0	9.0	4.7	1,582,000*
October ...	14.8	10.3	9.3	4.3	1,610,000*
November ...	14.8	10.0	9.4	4.1	1,545,000*
December ...	13.1	8.4	9.1	2.8	1,357,000*
1927.					
January ...	13.3	8.5	9.5	2.6	1,375,000
February ...	12.2	7.5	8.8	2.1	1,208,000
March ...	11.2	6.2	7.9	2.0	1,115,000
April ...	10.8	5.7	7.2	2.2	1,075,000
May ...	10.0	5.3	6.7	2.1	1,015,000
June ...	10.2	5.4	6.5	2.4	1,032,000
July ...	10.5	5.9	6.6	2.7	1,055,000
August ...	10.5	6.3	6.8	2.6	1,076,000
September ...	10.6	6.0	7.0	2.4	1,075,000

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—In the coal-mining industry employment continued slack, but showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 24th September, 1927, was 982,555, a decrease of 0.2 per cent. as compared with August; the average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 24th September, 1927, was 4.83, as compared with 4.63 in August.

In the iron-mining industry the decline in the number of workpeople employed continued; several mines were idle, and considerable short time was worked. In the shale mines in West Lothian there was an increase, compared with the previous month, of 1.3 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed by firms making returns.

At limestone quarries employment was good in the Clitheroe district and moderate in the Weardale district. At slate quarries in North Wales it continued good; at chalk quarries it was very slack. At whinstone quarries in the east of Scotland it was reported as bad. At tin mines employment remained good, and at china clay quarries fairly good.

Manufacture of Pig-iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment was bad. Of the 442 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of September, 1927, was 160, compared with 165 in August, 1927.

In the iron and steel trades employment continued slack on the whole, and short-time working was reported in many districts. In the tinplate trade employment was bad, and showed a marked decline as compared with the previous month. The number of

* In the coal-mining industry only those unemployed persons who were not disqualified for benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Acts by reason of the trade dispute were taken into account in the unemployment statistics.
† The figures relate to 20th December, 1926.

tinplate mills in operation at the end of September, 1927, was 289, as compared with 342 in August, 1927, and with 206 in September, 1926; the number of steel sheet mills was 124 in September, 1927, the same number as in August, 1927, as against 97 in September, 1926.

Engineering, Shipbuilding, and Metal Trades.—In the engineering trades employment continued slack and showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month. The textile machinery branch was still very depressed; the motor and cycle section remained affected by seasonal slackness and showed little change. Some improvement was reported in electrical engineering, where employment was fairly good. In constructional engineering employment was slack, and in marine engineering it was bad, but an improvement was reported in both sections. Full-time working was still in operation at most railway works. In the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades employment remained very bad, but showed a slight improvement, on the whole, as compared with the previous month. In the other metal trades employment remained moderate, on the whole. It was fairly good in the nut and bolt and electric cable trades; fair in the hollow-ware, sheet metal, tube and file trades; moderate in the brasswork, cutlery, lock and latch, and jewellery and plated ware trades; slack in the needle and fishing tackle, stove and grate, key, wire, and metallic bedstead trades; and bad in the chain and anchor trade.

Textile Trades.—In the cotton industry employment showed little general change. In the section spinning American cotton the recommendation of the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation as to curtailment of production was observed by the great majority of firms. In the Egyptian spinning section, full time, for the most part, continued to be worked. In the weaving department there was much short time and under-employment.

In the wool textile industry employment showed an improvement throughout the worsted section; there was no marked change in the woollen section.

In the hosiery trade employment continued fairly good; in the silk and artificial silk trades, taken together, it also continued fairly good generally; in the lace trade it showed an improvement; in the linen trade it also showed an improvement; in the jute trade it was fairly good, and better than during the previous month. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc. trades employment continued slack generally.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the retail bespoke and in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke branches of the tailoring trade was moderate, on the whole, and showed a further seasonal decline; short time was reported in a number of centres. In the dress-making trade there was an improvement, and employment was fairly good, on the whole; in the blouse and light underclothing trade in London it was reported as fair. In the corset trade employment was fairly good, on the whole, while in the shirt and collar trade it was generally fair. In the felt hat trade employment continued good.

In the boot and shoe trade employment improved during the month and, though varying in different districts, was moderate to fair, on the whole.

Leather Trades.—In the leather trades employment showed a further improvement and was fair, on the whole.

Building, Woodworking, etc., Trades.—Employment in the building trades showed a decline; it continued good, however, in many districts with skilled operatives, other than painters, but was slack at some centres; it was moderate with unskilled workers. As regards individual occupations, it was very good in most districts with plasterers; good or fairly good with bricklayers, masons, carpenters and plumbers. With painters employment showed a seasonal decline, but was fair, on the whole, with skilled men; with tradesmen's labourers it remained moderate. In the brick trade employment showed some decline, but continued good, on the whole; much time was lost owing to bad weather.

Employment in the furnishing trades showed an improvement and was fairly good; with millswayers it continued fairly good; with coachbuilders it was quiet.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—In the paper trade employment continued fair, on the whole. With letterpress printers it was moderate generally; it was slack at Newcastle, Sheffield and Glasgow; fair at Manchester; at Birmingham it was good, and better than during the previous month; with electrotypers and stereotypers it was very good at Edinburgh, and generally good elsewhere. In the lithographic printing trade employment was fair; with bookbinders it continued moderate.

Pottery and Glass.—Employment in the pottery trade in North Staffordshire showed some improvement; it was fairly good in some sections, but there was still much short time working in the industry as a whole. In the glass trades employment showed little change, on the whole; it continued bad in the bottle-making section, and slack in other branches.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture in England and Wales the supply of both skilled and casual labour was generally sufficient for all requirements; in Scotland, also, the supply of regular workers was sufficient, but the casual labour obtainable was insufficient to cope with the bad harvesting conditions in certain districts. In the fishing industry, employment showed a slight decline.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—With dock labourers, employment improved during the month, but was still generally slack; with seamen, employment remained moderate to fair.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

The following Table shows the variations in the rates of unemployment among insured persons in the respective divisions into which the country is divided for the purpose of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts. The rates of unemployment in the northern divisions and in Wales remain greater than in the rest of the country. The decrease in the percentages for Scotland is due largely to the improvement in the shipbuilding industry on the Clyde.

Divisions.	Estimated Numbers Insured at July, 1926. (Totals.)	Percentage Unemployed at 26th September, 1927.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a	
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Month before.	Year before.
London ...	2,105,400	6.3	3.1	5.3	+0.1	-1.3
South-Eastern ...	840,200	4.9	3.9	4.7	+0.6	...
South-Western ...	810,900	7.7	4.6	7.0	+0.7	-0.5
Midlands ...	1,777,400	8.0	7.3	7.8	-1.0	-5.2
North-Eastern ...	2,020,500	14.7	7.3	13.1	-0.1	-6.4
North-Western ...	2,145,700	11.9	7.9	10.6	-0.4	-6.5
Scotland ...	1,323,100	10.0	6.2	8.9	-0.1	-8.4
Wales ...	626,800	23.7	7.0	22.2	+2.5	+1.8
Northern Ireland	266,000	13.3	6.3	10.6	-1.3	-11.7
Special Schemes	125,000	1.7	0.3	1.3	...	-0.5
TOTAL ...	12,041,000	10.6	6.0	9.4	...	-4.3

NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

TABLE SHOWING, BY DIVISIONAL AREAS, THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS RECEIVED AT LOCAL OFFICES OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR IN GREAT BRITAIN DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1927.

Area.	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.	
					Number.	Percentage of numbers insured at July, 1926.
South-Eastern : (a) London ...	1,452	5,528	2,261	5,333	14,574	0.69
(b) Rest of South Eastern ...	1,133	2,244	1,034	1,553	5,964	0.71
South-Western ...	900	2,016	791	1,426	5,133	0.63
Midlands ...	876	3,966	949	3,358	9,149	0.52
North-Eastern ...	997	4,789	1,267	2,786	9,839	0.49
North-Western ...	1,052	4,073	1,241	3,539	10,065	0.47
Scotland ...	454	3,059	706	2,848	7,067	0.53
Wales ...	377	1,501	344	461	2,683	0.43
GREAT BRITAIN ...	7,241	27,176	8,593	21,464	64,474	0.55

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

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to employment, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below :—

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for September, 1927.	September, 1927.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a						
		Month before.	Year before.	Month before.	Year before.					
Coal Mining ...	982,555	4.83	+0.20	4.83	+0.15					
						Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.		
									+0.15	+0.12
Iron ...	6,131	5.43	+0.15	5.43	+0.15					
						Shale ...	2,674	5.88	+0.02	+0.12
Mills working.	-	53	+	110						
					Tinplate and Steel Sheet ...	413	-	53	+	110
Iron and Steel ...	67,391	359,071	Per cent.	Per cent.						
					-	1.1	+	110.1		

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 24th Sept., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 24th Sept., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
Textiles :—	77,936	-1.5	+6.8	142,863	-2.3	+14.6
Woolen ...	91,440	+1.2	1.2	178,966	+5.1	6.5
Carpet ...	45,141	+0.1	10.4	105,690	+1.6	9.5
Pottery ...	9,151	-1.6	+15.7	23,230	+4.8	8.6

* Statistics not available. In September, 1926, there was a general stoppage of work at coal mines and most of the iron mines were closed.

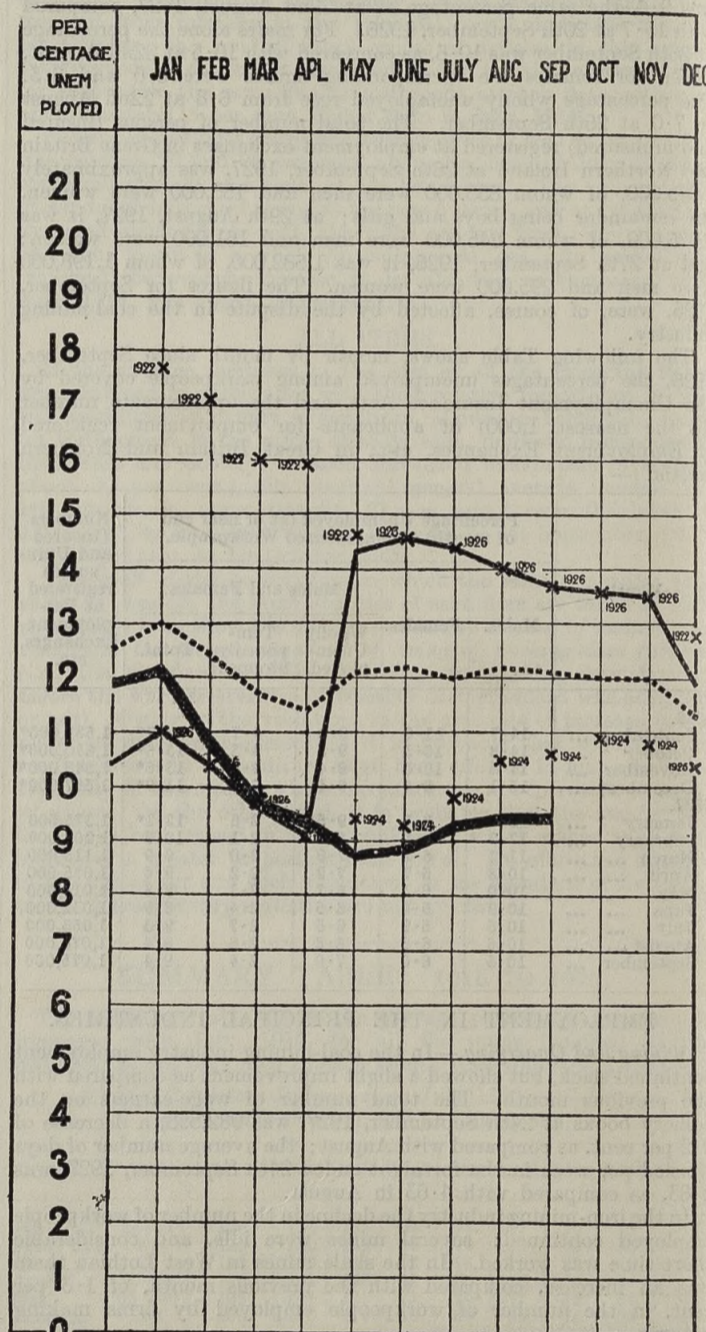
UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORKPEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS :—

Thick Curve - - - - - = 1927.
Dotted Curve - - - - - = Mean of 1922-26.
Thin Curve - - - - - = 1926.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1922-1926.



NOTE.—From May to December, the curve for 1926 and the curve showing the mean for the years 1922-26 are influenced by the heavy increase in unemployment in those months due to the general stoppage in the coal-mining industry of last year. The diagram shows that, while the percentage rates of unemployment in January and February, 1927, were higher than those for the corresponding months of 1926, this difference had almost disappeared by March. The figures for the first two months of 1927 were still affected by the results of the coal-mining dispute in some industries and also by a comparatively high rate of unemployment in coal mining itself. The influence of the latter factor had considerably increased by the end of July, but was not so great in August and September.

For the whole period of nine months, the percentages for 1927 were well below the mean percentages of the previous five years, and, in spite of the heavy unemployment in some important industries, the percentages for May to September were below the minima recorded for corresponding months in that period.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

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

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during September continued slack, but showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges was 18.6 at 26th September, 1927, as compared with 19.9 at 22nd August.

The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 24th September, 1927, showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. as compared with 27th August, 1927; but the average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 24th September, 1927, was 4.83, an increase of 0.20 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 27th August, 1927.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal-mining districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked per week* during the fortnight ended 24th September, 1927, as shown by the returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals. Statistics for September, 1926, are not available owing to the general stoppage of work at that time.

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*	
	24th Sept., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a month before.	Fortnight ended 24th Sept., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a month before.
ENGLAND AND WALES :				
Northumberland...	45,366	- 2.6	4.97	+ 0.10
Durham ...	124,489	+ 0.5	4.86	- 0.05
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	11,915	+ 1.5	4.71	- 0.30
South Yorkshire ...	120,168	+ 0.3	4.93	+ 0.43
West Yorkshire ...	61,430	+ 0.7	4.42	+ 0.57
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	88,250	- 0.2	3.89	+ 0.08
Derbyshire ...	60,253	+ 0.7	4.42	+ 0.43
Nottingham and Leicester ...	67,285	- 0.0	4.48	+ 0.29
Warwick ...	19,151	+ 0.2	5.59	+ 0.15
North Staffordshire ...	32,783	+ 0.2	4.91	+ 0.14
South Staffs., Worcs. and Salop ...	33,220	- 0.4	5.20	+ 0.21
Gloucester and Somerset ...	11,628	+ 1.2	4.86	+ 0.28
Kent ...	2,833	+ 9.9	5.51	- 0.17
North Wales ...	14,622	+ 1.0	5.57	+ 0.25
South Wales and Mon. ...	184,633	- 1.7	5.10	+ 0.16
England and Wales	878,026	- 0.2	4.78	+ 0.21
SCOTLAND :				
Mid and East Lothians...	13,077	- 1.1	5.29	+ 0.18
Fife and Clackmannan ...	22,728	+ 1.2	5.26	- 0.14
Rest of Scotland...	68,724	- 0.1	5.17	+ 0.13
Scotland ...	104,529	+ 0.0	5.20	+ 0.07
GREAT BRITAIN ...	982,555	- 0.2	4.83	+ 0.20

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 24th September, 1927, was 0.97 of a day per week, of which 0.91 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The figures for the fortnight ended 27th August, 1927, were 1.16 days per week, of which 1.08 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The average non-winding time for the periods under review was about one-fifth of a day per week.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 24th September, 1927, was reported to the Mines Department as 19,503,900 tons, as compared with 17,851,800 tons in the four weeks ended 27th August, 1927, which was affected by holidays.

The exports of coal, including that shipped for the use of steamers engaged in foreign trade, and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 6,204,000 tons in September, as compared with 6,240,400 tons in August, 1927.

The numbers and percentages unemployed among insured workpeople in the respective areas at 26th September, 1927, and the increases or decreases in the percentages as compared with 22nd August, 1927, are shown in the following Table :—

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

Area.	Insured Persons Recorded as Unemployed at 26th September, 1927.					Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Total percentages as compared with		
	Numbers.		Percentages.			Total.	a month before.	two years before.
	Wholly Unemployed (including Casuals).	Temporary stoppages.	Wholly unemployed.	Temporary stoppages.	Total.			
Great Britain ...	131,256	97,265	10.7	7.9	18.6	- 1.3	- 5.0	
England and Wales ...	114,315	94,285	10.6	8.7	19.3	- 1.5	- 4.3	
Scotland ...	16,941	2,980	11.5	2.0	13.5	- 0.3	- 10.1	
Principal Districts in England and Wales :—								
Northumberland ...	12,085	4,066	19.7	6.6	26.3	+ 6.9	+ 6.4	
Durham ...	35,203	7,125	19.9	4.0	23.9	- 3.6	- 9.2	
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	595	552	4.6	4.3	8.9	- 14.5	- 33.6	
Yorkshire ...	8,368	12,205	4.3	6.4	10.7	- 2.4	- 1.1	
Lancs. and Cheshire ...	6,429	15,308	5.8	13.9	19.7	- 6.0	- 14.6	
Derbyshire ...	1,572	5,444	2.3	7.9	10.2	- 4.6	- 3.4	
Notts. and Leicester ...	1,445	3,011	2.0	4.3	6.3	- 3.5	- 5.8	
Warwick ...	431	42	3.0	0.3	3.3	+ 1.0	- 0.1	
Staffs., Worcester and Salop ...	4,106	1,911	5.0	2.3	7.3	- 3.8	- 5.2	
Glos. and Somerset ...	1,228	1,045	8.1	6.9	15.0	- 5.8	- 16.3	
Kent ...	96	...	4.8	...	4.8	- 0.3	- 1.9	
Wales and Monmouth ...	42,427	43,576	15.6	16.1	31.7	+ 3.3	+ 1.1	

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

In most districts there was a further decrease during September in the number of workpeople employed in the mines from which returns were received. Several mines continued idle, considerable short time was worked, and in some districts further time was lost on account of the wet weather.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the iron ore and ironstone mining industry, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 11.5 at 26th September, 1927, as compared with 10.7 at 22nd August, 1927, and 62.6 at 20th September, 1926.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for August and September, 1927. In September, 1926, most of the mines were closed owing to the stoppage of work at coal mines.

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.*	
	Fortnight ended 24th Sept., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a month before.	Fortnight ended 24th Sept., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a month before.
Cleveland ...	2,159	- 10.1	4.82	+ 0.54
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	2,746	- 7.5	6.00	+ 0.04
Other Districts ...	1,226	+ 2.0	5.23	- 0.36
ALL DISTRICTS ...	6,131	- 6.7	5.43	+ 0.15

SHALE MINING.

The number of persons employed in the West Lothian mines by firms making returns during the fortnight ended 24th September, 1927, was 2,674, showing an increase of 1.3 per cent. compared with the previous month, and an increase of 1.4 per cent. compared with September, 1926. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines from which returns were received was 5.88 in September, 1927, compared with 5.86 in August, 1927, and 5.76 in September, 1926.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during September continued bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 15.5 on 26th September, 1927, compared with 16.8† on 22nd August, 1927.

* See footnote * in previous column
† Revised figure.

According to returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers 160 furnaces were in operation at the end of September, compared with 165 at the end of August.

Returns received from 79 firms employing 18,487 workpeople at the end of September showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. as compared with August.

The following table shows the number of furnaces in operation at the end of September, 1927, August, 1927, and September, 1926.

District.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in Blast.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Sept., 1927.	Aug., 1927.	Sept., 1926.	Month before.	Year before.
ENGLAND AND WALES						
Durham and Cleveland	99	36	35	4	...	+ 32
Cumberland and W. Lancs ...	44	13	13	...	...	+ 13
Parts of Lancs and Yorks (including Sheffield) ...	33	13	12	...	+ 1	+ 13
Derby, Leicester, Notts and Northants ...	64	31	31	...	...	+ 31
Lincolnshire ...	24	14	15	...	- 1	+ 14
Staffs., Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick ...	55	13	13	1	...	+ 12
South Wales ...	28	8	9	...	- 1	+ 8
England and Wales						
	347	128	129	5	- 1	+123
Scotland ...	95	32	36	...	- 4	+ 32
Total ...	442	160	165	5	- 5	+155

The production of pig iron in September amounted to 591,500 tons, as compared with 596,100 tons in August, 1927, and 12,500 tons in September, 1926.

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT in September continued slack on the whole; short-time working was reported in many districts.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 17.7 on 26th September, 1927, as compared with 18.3* on 22nd August, 1927, and 52.3 on 20th September, 1926, when employment was affected by the dispute in the coal-mining industry.

According to returns received from firms employing 67,391 workpeople in the week ended 24th September, 1927, the volume of employment in that week (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed, combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each department) decreased by 1.1 per cent. as compared with August, but increased by 110.1 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The average number of shifts† during which the works were open was 5.3 in September, 1927, as compared with 5.4 in the previous month.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.		Aggregate number of Shifts.†		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
	Week ended 24th Sept., 1927.	Month before.	Year before.	Week ended 24th Sept., 1927.	Month before.	Year before.	Month before.	Year before.
OpenHearth Melting Furnaces ...	7,484	+ 8.4	+ 371.9	42,478	+ 7.1	+ 382.5		
Puddling Forges ...	1,881	- 20.2	+ 375.8	8,324	- 18.4	+ 353.1		
Rolling Mills ...	25,018	+ 1.4	+ 134.5	121,658	+ 2.7	+ 133.7		
Forging & Pressing ...	3,228	+ 2.1	+ 92.2	17,310	+ 4.5	+ 121.9		
Founding ...	8,140	+ 0.5	+ 11.2	46,811	+ 1.4	+ 13.3		
Other Departments	7,358	- 4.6	+ 66.2	41,839	- 3.6	+ 64.6		
Mechanics, Labourers	14,285	- 0.8	+ 143.6	80,671	- 1.6	+ 139.3		
TOTAL ...	67,391	+ 0.2	+ 111.0	359,071	- 1.1	+ 110.1		
DISTRICTS.								
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland ...	15,615	+ 8.7	+ 169.2	88,051	+ 8.0	+ 174.4		
Sheffield & Rotherham ...	17,579	- 0.7	+ 60.5	92,966	- 1.5	+ 57.4		
Leeds, Bradford, etc. ...	1,892	+ 12.3	+ 95.1	10,258	+ 14.0	+ 119.5		
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire ...	6,199	- 14.5	+ 97.1	30,998	- 19.5	+ 97.5		
Staffordshire ...	4,961	- 16.1	+ 155.3	25,734	- 18.0	+ 153.6		
Other Midland Counties	3,351	- 1.6	+ 99.8	18,864	- 1.7	+ 93.8		
Wales and Monmouth ...	6,207	- 1.6	+ 4.0	32,094	- 6.8	- 0.7		
Total England and Wales ...	55,804	- 1.4	+ 83.2	298,965	- 3.1	+ 83.0		
Scotland ...	11,587	+ 8.6	+ 682.4	60,106	+ 9.9	+ 689.7		
TOTAL ...	67,391	+ 0.2	+ 111.0	359,071	- 1.1	+ 110.1		

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

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 777,000 tons in September, 1927, as compared with 643,100 tons in August, 1927, and 95,700 tons in September, 1926.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the tinplate trade continued bad and showed a marked decline as compared with the previous month. At the end of September 289 tinplate mills were reported to be in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 342 at the end of August and with 206 in September, 1926. The number of steel sheet mills in operation at the end of September was 124, the same number as at the end of August, compared with 97 in September, 1926. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 32.8 on 26th September, 1927, as compared with 21.9 on 22nd August, 1927, and with 46.7 on 20th September, 1926. Employment in September of last year was seriously affected by the dispute in the coal-mining industry.

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

Works.	Number of Works Open			Number of Mills in Operation		
	At end of Sept., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		At end of Sept., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
Tinplate ...	56	- 7	+ 13	289	- 53	+ 83
Steel Sheet ...	13	...	+ 4	124	...	+ 27
TOTAL ...	69	- 7	+ 17	413	- 53	+ 110

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in September, 1927, amounted to 111,878 tons, or 14,298 tons more than in August, 1927, and 49,928 tons more than in September, 1926.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT on the whole continued slack during September and showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month. The textile machinery section was still very depressed, and in some areas it showed a further decline. The motor and cycle section remained affected by seasonal slackness, and showed little change. Some improvement was shown in electrical engineering (where employment was fairly good), in constructional engineering (where it was slack), and in marine engineering (where it was bad). Full time was still in operation at most railway works.

Conditions were much better than in the corresponding period of last year, when employment was adversely affected by the dispute in the coal-mining industry.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 26th September, 1927, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before :-

Divisions.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 26th September, 1927.							Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		
	Engineering, Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	Month before.	Year before.	Month before.	Year before.
London ...	4,242	360	54	62	1,775	6,493	+ 104	- 2,851		
South-Eastern ...	1,715	217	228	38	941	3,139	+ 271	- 1,303		
South-Western ...	1,735	189	618	49	1,297	3,888	- 5	- 416		
Midlands ...	6,267	1,272	59	473	13,296	21,358	- 462	- 9,377		
North-Eastern ...	17,453	588	3,760	597	1,212	23,610	+ 1,010	- 21,928		
North-Western ...	19,399	841	165	109	2,110	22,624	+ 4,071	- 12,554		
Scotland ...	7,021	135	1,497	541	641	9,835	- 719	- 16,520		
Wales ...	1,068	29	36	102	133	1,368	+ 23	- 2,335		
Northern Ireland	939	15	834	6	149	1,943	- 479	- 2,340		
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	59,839	3,616	7,242	1,977	21,554	94,228	+ 3,814	- 69,624		
Percentage Unemployed at 26th September, 1927.										
London ...	5.0	3.2	8.4	2.1	5.0	4.8	+ 0.1	- 2.1		
South-Eastern ...	4.0	2.5	6.8	5.9	3.6	3.8	+ 0.3	- 1.6		
South-Western ...	4.9	5.1	9.7	6.4	5.5	5.6	...	- 0.6		
Midlands ...	6.9	5.4	3.2	7.3	14.1	9.9	+ 0.2	- 4.3		
North-Eastern ...	14.0	7.4	17.3	7.8	10.7	13.6	+ 0.6	- 12.7		
North-Western ...	13.9	4.5	12.8	4.4	11.0	12.5	+ 2.3	- 6.9		
Scotland ...	8.3	4.5	8.5	9.5	6.4	8.1	- 0.6	- 13.7		
Wales ...	15.6	7.8	17.1	13.2	6.9	13.5	+ 0.2	- 23.1		
Northern Ireland	12.8	6.5	15.2	15.0	8.5	13.1	- 3.2	- 15.8		
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	9.7	4.7	12.4	7.2	9.6	9.4	+ 0.4	- 6.9		
<i>Dicto, Aug., 1927</i>	<i>9.0</i>	<i>4.9</i>	<i>13.0</i>	<i>7.6</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>9.0</i>	...	...
<i>Dicto, Sept., 1926</i>	<i>17.9</i>	<i>7.4</i>	<i>30.3</i>	<i>22.3</i>	<i>10.9</i>	<i>16.3</i>	...	...

On the North-East Coast employment was again bad in marine and general engineering, a falling off being experienced on the Tyne. In Yorkshire and Lincolnshire a slight improvement was shown, but conditions remained slack on the whole. In Lancashire and Cheshire

employment was again bad, and showed a decline in the textile machinery and motor sections; in electrical and railway engineering it remained fairly good.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district employment on motor and cycle work remained slack, but a little recovery was experienced; employment on electrical work declined to fair, while conditions in general engineering remained moderate. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district employment remained fair on the whole. In London and the South-Eastern Counties employment was still fairly good on the whole, and good in the electrical section, but showed some falling off on motor work. In the South-Western Counties it continued fair.

In Wales conditions remained bad, with little change. In Scotland employment continued moderate, but improvement was experienced in all sections. In Northern Ireland employment was still bad, but showed substantial improvement, principally on marine engineering work.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT remained very bad during September, but showed a slight improvement on the whole compared with the previous month. Compared with a year ago, when employment was affected by the stoppage in the coal mining industry, there was a substantial improvement in most districts.

The greatest improvement shown at 26th September in comparison with a month before was in Scotland, where the percentage unemployed was 13.0, against 15.8 in August and 19.1 in July. There was also some improvement on the North-East and North-West Coasts and in Northern Ireland. In the Southern Counties and Wales a decline was shown on repair work.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 26th September, 1927, and the increase or decrease as compared with 22nd August, 1927, and with 20th September, 1926 :-

Divisions.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 26th Sept., 1927.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Percentage Unemployed at 26th Sept., 1927.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
London ...	2,898	+ 260	+ 367	25.5	+ 2.3	+ 3.2
South-Eastern ...	829	+ 114	+ 206	9.3	+ 1.3	+ 2.3
South-Western ...	3,426	+ 1,074	+ 57	14.4	+ 4.5	+ 0.3
Midlands ...	45	+ 19	- 3	15.0	+ 6.3	- 1.0
North-Eastern ...	16,484	- 1,008	- 22,701	26.2	- 1.6	- 35.1
North-Western ...	9,025	- 452	- 2,030	28.0	- 1.4	- 6.2
Scotland ...	7,700	+ 1,667	- 22,534	13.0	- 2.8	- 38.0
Wales ...	3,938	+ 395	- 1,996	37.3	+ 3.7	- 18.9
Northern Ireland	2,738	- 331	- 3,568	18.8	- 2.2	- 24.4
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	47,083	- 1,596	- 52,202	21.0	- 0.7	- 23.3

Statistics of shipbuilding in the quarter ended 30th September as shown by Lloyd's Register Quarterly Shipbuilding Returns are given on page 375.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in September showed little general change. In the section spinning American cotton the recommendation of the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation as to curtailment of production was observed by the great majority of firms; on the average the mills in this section were reported to be working not more than 60 per cent. of their capacity. In the Egyptian spinning section, full time, for the most part, continued to be worked.

In the weaving department there was much short time and under-employment; employment was better with weavers of fine and fancy goods and specialties than with weavers of other goods.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 9.1 on 26th September, 1927, as compared with 9.9 on the 22nd August, 1927, and with 24.1 on 20th September, 1926, when employment was affected by the coal-mining stoppage.

In the Oldham district (except at Royton, where employment was fairly regular) employment with spinners was bad, but a little better than in the previous month and better than in the corresponding month of 1926; short time, however, continued to be very general. In the manufacturing section employment continued slack on the whole; it was very bad with weavers of velvets and fancies, but fair with weavers of calicoes and sheetings. In the Ashton district a slight improvement was reported at the end of the month; but here and at Stockport employment remained poor with spinners of American cotton. Spinners of Egyptian cotton at Ashton were well employed. At Bury employment continued bad, and short time in the American spinning section increased during the month; at Rochdale there was a great improvement. At Pendlebury the spinning mills were working full time.

At Bolton employment was fair to good in all the principal sections of the trade; the demand for fine yarns was maintained; in the weaving department those engaged on fancy cloths and specialties were fairly well employed. At Chorley and at Leigh employment in the spinning department was good.

Employment at Preston was moderately good during September; it was good with manufacturers of light fancy materials and specialties, but occasional stoppages were reported in mills engaged in the manufacture of plain cloths. At Blackburn a large number of firms were providing only partial employment for their workpeople; the volume of short time and intermittent employment increased during the month. At Darwen employment was slack, and the local trade holidays were extended by many firms; weavers of "fancies" and goods for the home markets, however, were fairly well employed. At Great Harwood there was much intermittent short time in the preparation departments, and a large number of weavers were unemployed.

At Burnley employment was reported as slack, and as worse than a month earlier; extended holidays were reported, and much under-employment. At Nelson employment was fair. At Colne there was much under-employment, and several firms extended the trade holidays.

In Yorkshire employment was not so good as a month earlier. At Todmorden there was an extension of short time working. At Sowerby Bridge and Hebden Bridge there was also a decline.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 24th Sept., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 24th Sept., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing ...	10,661	- 0.8	- 0.0	17,390	- 0.9	+ 7.7
Spinning ...	20,579	- 1.1	+ 4.3	35,894	- 1.4	+ 12.3
Weaving ...	31,781	- 2.0	+ 9.1	56,339	- 4.4	+ 19.9
Other ...	7,718	- 1.3	+ 3.2	18,126	- 1.9	+ 6.2
Not Specified ...	7,197	- 1.4	+ 3.5	15,214	+ 1.3	+ 21.1
TOTAL ...	77,936	- 1.5	+ 6.8	142,863	- 2.3	+ 14.6
DISTRICTS.						
Ashton ...	3,645	+ 5.0	+ 4.5	5,938	- 1.0	+ 15.5
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde ...	7,788	- 7.2	+ 16.0	13,093	- 10.1	+ 1.0
Oldham ...	9,093	+ 2.3	+ 0.9	17,458	+ 6.1	+ 15.8
Bolton and Leigh ...	14,831	+ 0.5	+ 4.7	26,597	- 0.5	+ 3.8
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden ...	6,703	- 4.8	- 5.0	12,163		

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 64,053,200 lbs. in September, 1927, compared with 46,930,700 lbs. in August, 1927, and with 59,994,800 lbs. in September, 1926.

The exports of cotton yarn were 15,807,200 lbs. in September, 1927, compared with 16,646,900 lbs. in August, 1927, and with 12,142,000 lbs. in September, 1926.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 335,749,900 square yards, as compared with 362,891,500 square yards in the previous month and with 311,686,300 square yards in September, 1926.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in September showed an improvement throughout the worsted section of the industry; there was no marked change in the woollen section, but in some districts there was a slight decline. Compared with a year ago, when employment was affected by the coal mining dispute, there was a general improvement. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed (including those temporarily stopped), as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 8.0 on 26th September, 1927, as compared with 9.2 on 22nd August, 1927, and with 17.2 on 20th September, 1926.

Worsted Section.—Employment with wool-sorters declined to a slight extent; with wool-combers employment in the merino section was fairly good but it was still bad in the cross-bred section. About 41 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns received in the sorting, combing and preparing branches lost an average of nearly 15 hours each in short time working during the week ended 24th September. With worsted spinners there was an improvement, especially in the Huddersfield area; more operatives were employed and there was much less short time. Of the spinners covered by the employers' returns 14 per cent. were reported to be working short time in the week ended 24th September with a loss, on the average, of about 10 hours each; on the other hand, 11 per cent. were on overtime to the extent of over 5 hours each.

In the weaving branch, also, there was an improvement, chiefly in the Bradford, Huddersfield and Leeds districts, but a good deal of machinery was reported to be still idle. About 16* per cent. of the weavers covered by the returns received worked short time in the week ended 24th September, with an average loss of over 10* hours each.

The returns received from employers in the worsted section of the industry, taken as a whole, shows that in the week in question nearly 18* per cent. of the operatives worked short time, to the extent of over 11* hours each, on an average, while about 8 per cent. worked overtime to the average extent of 6 hours each.

Woollen Section.—Employment showed a slight tendency to decline in this section. Employers' returns for the week ended 24th September showed that 23 per cent. of the operatives in the spinning branches, and 20* per cent. of those in the weaving branches worked short time, the average loss being 9 and 10* hours respectively; on the other hand, 13½ per cent. of the spinners worked 9 hours overtime and 3 per cent. of the weavers worked 5 hours overtime. Taking the woollen section as a whole, about 20* per cent. of the operatives lost 10* hours each in short time, the corresponding figures for overtime being 7½ per cent. and 8 hours, respectively.

In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley district there was no material change as compared with the previous month. In the Heavy Woollen district and in the Leeds district there was a decline during the month, and several mills were working shorter hours. At Stockport employment with woollen workers was fair. In the rag and shoddy trade of Dewsbury and Batley most of the mills were on short time. In the flannel trade of the Rochdale district employment was described as moderate, and as slightly better than in the previous month. At Saddleworth employment continued fair and was rather better than a year ago. With blanket and rug manufacturers employment on the whole continued good, and there was some seasonal improvement. In Scotland employment in the tweed industry in the Border districts continued good, and an unsatisfied demand for skilled operatives, mostly weavers, was reported in some localities.

Carpet Section.—Employment continued fairly good, and was better than a month earlier. At Kidderminster it was generally good, and better than in August and a year ago. Some short time was reported at Sowerby Bridge, but employment generally in Yorkshire was fairly good. In Scotland the general position continued satisfactory.

Taking the carpet trade as a whole, the employers' returns for the week ended 24th September showed 14½ per cent. of the operatives to be working short time, to the extent of 8 hours each on the average; while about 4 per cent. worked 5½ hours each in overtime.

* These figures do not take into account other forms of under-employment, such as "playing for warps" and tending one instead of two looms.

The following Table summarises the returns received from employers as to the numbers of operatives employed and the wages paid:—

Departments :	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 24th Sept., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.)	Week ended 24th Sept., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.)
		Per Cent.		£	Per Cent.	
WORSTED SECTION :						
Wool Sorting and Combing ...	11,388	+ 0.6	99.5	27,055	+ 3.5	90.3
Spinning ...	44,498	+ 1.3	100.0	72,670	+ 5.4	103.4
Weaving ...	22,018	+ 1.5	98.4	46,061	+ 6.4	100.4
Other Depts. ...	11,629	+ 0.3	99.6	29,047	+ 2.8	99.3
Not specified ...	1,907	+ 5.9	101.8	4,133	+ 12.0	108.6
Total—Worsted	91,440	+ 1.2	99.4	178,966	+ 5.1	99.9
WOOLLEN SECTION :						
Wool Sorting ...	1,006	- 3.1	97.4	2,565	- 3.5	106.6
Spinning ...	15,048	- 0.6	98.5	34,095	- 1.0	112.4
Weaving ...	28,351	- 0.2	106.6	54,620	- 0.2	115.8
Other Depts. ...	19,187	+ 0.6	99.4	46,026	- 0.9	107.6
Not specified ...	1,881	- 1.9	97.7	4,240	- 0.8	105.1
Total—Woollen	65,453	- 0.2	102.1	141,546	- 0.7	111.6
CARPET SECTION ...	10,114	+ 0.5	102.5	18,869	+ 0.7	100.7
Total—Wool Textile Industry	167,007	+ 0.6	100.4	339,381	+ 2.3	104.6
Districts* :						
WORSTED SECTION :						
Bradford ...	41,529	+ 1.2	98.6	82,141	+ 5.3	92.3
Huddersfield ...	10,481	+ 4.5	107.0	24,542	+ 10.6	118.0
Leeds ...	10,155	+ 0.4	95.0	18,487	+ 4.3	98.1
Halifax ...	9,014	+ 0.6	96.2	16,940	+ 4.0	98.3
Keighley ...	9,446	- 0.2	102.2	18,033	+ 0.6	116.6
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	3,514	+ 0.9	100.9	5,821	+ 5.7	109.2
Total, West Riding	84,139	+ 1.3	99.4	165,964	+ 5.3	99.6
West of England and Midlands ...	4,944	+ 0.5	99.7	8,991	- 0.1	95.2
Lancs ...	542	+ 1.8	119.0	672	+ 9.8	117.4
Scotland ...	2,015	+ 0.8	101.2	3,339	+ 6.9	138.1
Total—Worsted	91,440	+ 1.2	99.4	178,966	+ 5.1	99.9
WOOLLEN SECTION :						
Huddersfield ...	14,130	- 0.9	97.4	33,813	- 0.1	101.1
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	12,574	- 0.6	103.8	28,402	- 2.9	124.0
Leeds ...	9,114	- 1.5	104.6	20,370	- 2.9	118.1
Halifax and Calder Vale ...	2,892	+ 0.5	95.2	6,380	+ 1.3	96.5
Bradford ...	1,408	+ 0.1	106.8	3,160	- 0.7	104.0
Total, West Riding	40,118	- 0.8	101.0	92,125	- 1.6	110.9
Lancs ...	5,475	- 0.2	103.1	11,606	+ 0.3	114.0
West of England and Midlands ...	4,226	+ 0.3	103.6	7,651	- 2.1	113.5
Scotland ...	15,408	+ 1.4	103.5	29,848	+ 2.1	112.6
Wales ...	226	- 0.4	164.4	316	- 1.6	174.6
Total—Woollen	65,453	- 0.2	102.1	141,546	- 0.7	111.6
CARPET SECTION ...	10,114	+ 0.5	102.5	18,869	+ 0.7	100.7
Total—Wool Textile Industry	167,007	+ 0.6	100.4	339,381	+ 2.3	104.6

The following Table shows, by districts and departments, the percentage increase or decrease in the numbers employed in the week ended 24th September, 1927, by those firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the numbers employed by the same firms in the week ended 27th August, 1927:—

Departments :	Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with the previous month. (... signifies "no change"; —, without a figure, signifies "few or no workpeople returned.")				
	Wool Sorting and Combing.	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified.)
WORSTED SECTION :					
Bradford ...	+ 1.3	+ 0.9	+ 1.3	+ 0.1	+ 1.2
Huddersfield ...	+ 2.3	+ 12.9	+ 2.4	+ 0.6	+ 4.5
Leeds ...	+ 0.8	+ 0.4	- 0.8	- 0.1	+ 0.4
Halifax ...	—	—	+ 2.8	+ 0.7	+ 0.6
Keighley ...	- 1.9	- 0.0	+ 0.4	- 1.4	- 0.2
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	—	+ 1.3	—	- 0.7	+ 0.9
Total, West Riding	+ 0.9	+ 1.4	+ 1.5	+ 0.1	+ 1.3
West of England and Midlands ...	- 3.5	+ 0.9	+ 1.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.5
Lancashire ...	—	+ 1.0	—	—	+ 1.8
Scotland ...	- 4.3	+ 1.3	—	+ 2.0	+ 0.8
TOTAL—WORSTED	+ 0.6	+ 1.3	+ 1.5	+ 0.3	+ 1.2

* Most of the districts are indicated by the names of their principal towns, but neighbouring towns and areas are included in each case.

Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with the previous month. (... signifies "no change"; —, without a figure, signifies "few or no workpeople returned.")

	Wool Sorting.	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified.)
WOOLLEN SECTION :					
Huddersfield ...	—	- 0.1	- 0.6	- 2.2	- 0.9
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	- 2.5	- 1.3	- 1.2	+ 1.0	- 0.6
Leeds ...	—	- 5.5	- 0.0	- 0.8	- 1.5
Halifax and Calder Vale ...	—	- 0.7	+ 0.1	+ 1.9	+ 0.5
Bradford ...	—	- 0.9	+ 0.4	—	+ 0.1
Total, West Riding	- 1.1	- 1.7	- 0.6	+ 0.3	- 0.8
Lancashire ...	- 2.5	- 0.4	- 0.6	+ 0.8	- 0.2
West of England and Midlands ...	- 13.7	+ 2.0	- 0.8	+ 1.2	+ 0.3
Scotland ...	- 2.2	+ 1.6	+ 1.1	+ 2.5	+ 1.4
Wales ...	—	+ 6.0	- 2.0	- 3.2	- 0.4
TOTAL—WOOLLEN	- 3.1	- 0.6	- 0.2	+ 0.6	- 0.2

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal wool textile trade centres at 26th September, 1927:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Register at 26th September, 1927.					
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Wool Sorting ...	177	1	178	297	11	308
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	186	77	263	557	217	774
Wool Combing ...	155	65	220	824	496	1,320
Wool Carding ...	301	58	359	544	88	632
Woolen Spinning ...	183	29	212	212	115	327
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	223	492	715	108	910	1,018
Wool Winding and Warming ...	41	7	48	92	49	141
Worsted Winding and Warming ...	35	73	108	45	342	487
Woolen Weaving ...	93	136	229	1,346	1,473	1,702
Worsted Weaving ...	102	246	348	48	1,435	1,483
Other Processes ...	447	51	498	458	180	638
Total ...	1,943	1,235	3,178	3,312	5,189	8,501

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 22nd August, 1927:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	+ 65	—	+ 65	+ 94	+ 4	+ 98	+ 163
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	- 6	+ 10	+ 4	+ 142	+ 42	+ 184	+ 188
Wool Combing ...	+ 25	+ 12	+ 37	+ 258	+ 21	+ 279	+ 316
Wool Carding ...	+ 8	+ 2	+ 10	+ 46	- 48	- 2	+ 8
Woolen Spinning ...	+ 18	- 1	+ 17	+ 13	- 37	- 24	- 7
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	+ 3	- 58	- 55	- 64	- 715	- 779	- 834
Wool Winding and Warming ...	- 6	- 4	- 10	- 15	- 16	- 31	- 41
Worsted Winding and Warming ...	- 15	- 9	- 24	- 45	- 162	- 207	- 231
Woolen Weaving ...	+ 24	+ 23	+ 47	- 55	+ 145	+ 90	+ 137
Worsted Weaving ...	- 21	+ 63	+ 42	- 62	- 1,046	- 1,108	- 1,192
Other Processes ...	+ 49	+ 8	+ 57	+ 30	+ 21	+ 51	+ 108
Total ...	+ 144	- 80	+ 64	+ 342	- 1,791	- 1,449	- 1,385

The imports of raw wool (sheep's or lamb's) were 27,422,900 lbs., while re-exports amounted to 6,299,700 lbs. in September, 1927, compared with 25,121,500 lbs. and 26,513,700 lbs. respectively in August, 1927, and with 24,196,500 lbs. and 10,318,500 lbs. in September, 1926.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 4,417,000 lbs., compared with 5,185,200 lbs. in September, 1927, and with 3,115,800 lbs. in September, 1926.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 14,395,200 square yards, compared with 17,460,300 square yards in August, 1927, and 12,314,700 square yards in September, 1926.

The exports of blankets were 101,118 pairs, 106,053 pairs, and 91,229 pairs in September, 1927, August, 1927, and September, 1926.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during September varied considerably in different districts; it was moderate to fair, on the whole, and showed an improvement at most centres as compared with the previous month and with September, 1926; there was a reduction in the amount of short time worked in a number of districts. The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges was 8.0 on 26th September, 1927, as compared with 12.8 on 22nd August, 1927, and with 12.7 on 20th September, 1926.

Employment in the London district continued slack, but showed a slight improvement with some firms. At Leicester it was also slack; about 52 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns for the week ended 24th September worked short time, losing about 10 hours each on the average. At Northampton there was little change, and employment was moderate to fair; about 25 per cent. of the workers covered by the employers' returns were on short time in the week ended 24th September, the average loss amounting to about 9 hours per person. At Wellingborough, employment showed a slight improvement and was moderate; it also improved, and was fairly good on the whole, at Irthlingborough and Raunds. It was fairly good, and showed an improvement, at Higham and Rushden. At Kettering employment continued fair.

Employment continued slack at Stafford, a considerable amount of short time being worked. At Norwich employment remained slack, but showed a slight improvement; about 46 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns were on short time in the week ended 24th September, losing about 11½ hours on an average. At Kingswood employment was reported as good, and better than in August; at Bristol it was fair or moderate, showing a further improvement in the heavy nailed boot trade, but little change in the lighter footwear section, in which short time was worked. At Street employment continued fair, with some short time working. At Leeds there was some improvement, and employment was moderate on the whole. In the slipper trade employment continued good at Preston, and full time was worked in the Rossendale Valley after the settlement of the dispute, the customary September holidays being relinquished.

In Scotland there was a further slight improvement on the whole; at Maybole employment continued good, while in other districts it was generally fair.

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

Department.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 24th Sept., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Per cent.	Week ended 24th Sept., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Per cent.
	England and Wales:—				£	Per cent.	Per cent.
London ...	1,831	- 0.1	+ 4.0	4,105	+ 4.0	+ 9.2
Leicester ...	7,673	- 0.5	- 4.7	19,053	+ 2	

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 22nd August, 1927 :-

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Boot and Shoe Manufacturer	- 6	- 4	- 10	- 4	- 13	- 17	- 27
Preparing Department	- 10	- 3	- 13	- 68	- 2	- 70	- 83
Clothing Department	- 41	- 1	- 42	- 94	- 32	- 126	- 158
Closing Department	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Making Department	+ 16	- 4	+ 4	- 360	+ 317	- 317	- 321
Finishing Department	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Slipper Making	+ 110	- 49	+ 61	- 257	- 218	- 475	- 414
Clog Making	- 15	- 6	- 21	+ 15	- 43	- 28	- 49
Repairing and Hand-sewn Work	- 25	- 2	- 27	- 10	...	- 10	- 37
TOTAL	+ 29	- 82	- 53	- 777	- 622	- 1,399	- 1,452

The exports of boots and shoes in September, 1927, amounted to 126,057 dozen pairs, or 693 dozen pairs less than in August, 1927, but 6,215 dozen pairs more than in September, 1926.

BUILDING TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT declined during September; it continued good, however, in many districts with skilled operatives, other than painters, but was poor or slack at some centres, including Keighley, Macclesfield, Lancaster and Preston; it was moderate, on the whole, with unskilled workers. Bad weather conditions hampered outside work and caused an appreciable amount of lost time; on the other hand, a little overtime was reported from a few districts. Employment, as a whole, was only slightly better than in September, 1926, when it was adversely affected by a shortage of materials arising out of the stoppage in the coal-mining industry.

As regards individual occupations, employment showed some decline with plasterers, but was very good in most districts, some shortage being reported from several centres; it also declined with bricklayers, masons, carpenters and slaters, but was either fairly good or good with such workers at most centres; it showed a further slight improvement with plumbers, and was generally fairly good. Employment showed a seasonal decline with painters, but was fair, on the whole, with skilled men; it remained moderate with tradesmen's labourers.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 26th September, 1927, together with the increase or decrease in the percentages as compared with the previous month and with September, 1926 :-

Occupations.	Estimated Number of Insured Work-people at July, 1926.	Total Number Unemployed at 26th Sept., 1927.	Number included in previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped.	Per cent. Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with a	
					Month before.	Year before.
OCCUPATIONS.						
Carpenters ...	126,460	6,406	154	5.1	+ 1.7	+ 0.4
Bricklayers ...	72,150	3,941	207	5.5	+ 2.8	+ 1.3
Masons ...	25,240	1,437	65	5.7	+ 1.3	+ 0.4
Slaters ...	5,710	277	10	4.9	+ 0.7	- 0.5
Plasterers ...	19,720	527	16	2.7	+ 0.9	+ 1.2
Painters ...	112,930	13,826	205	12.2	+ 4.5	- 1.4
Plumbers ...	51,860	1,809	41	5.7	- 0.4	- 1.5
Labourers to above ...	245,860	28,764	514	11.7	+ 1.5	- 0.3
All other occupations ...	161,110	20,359	444	12.6	+ 1.0	- 1.8
Total	801,040	77,356	1,656	9.7	+ 1.9	- 0.5
DIVISIONS.						
London ...	162,020	13,963	4	8.6	+ 2.4	- 0.8
South-Eastern ...	123,470	7,004	12	5.7	+ 1.6	+ 1.5
South-Western ...	98,750	8,057	48	8.2	+ 2.1	+ 1.3
Midlands ...	91,230	7,255	373	8.0	+ 1.0	- 2.4
North-Eastern ...	103,190	14,717	550	14.3	+ 2.9	+ 0.3
North-Western ...	104,350	12,166	348	11.7	+ 2.1	- 1.0
Scotland ...	73,690	6,401	99	8.7	+ 0.9	- 1.6
Wales ...	29,310	4,941	218	16.9	+ 3.3	- 0.6
Northern Ireland ...	15,030	2,852	4	19.0	- 1.8	- 9.2
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	801,040	77,356	1,656	9.7	+ 1.9	- 0.5

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 143 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 16,305,000, show that in September, 1927, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £4,862,600, as compared with £3,868,600 in August, 1927, and £5,889,500 in September, 1926. Of the total for September, 1927, dwelling-houses accounted for £3,142,800; factories and workshops for £232,100; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £463,700; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,019,000.

For figures for the quarter ended September, 1927, in comparison with the corresponding quarter of 1926, see page 395.

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during September showed some decline, but continued good on the whole. Much short-time working due to bad weather was reported.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 7.5 at 26th September, 1927, as compared with 5.7 at 22nd August, 1927, and 17.8 at 20th September, 1926 (when the coal-mining stoppage was in progress).

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 24th Sept., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.	Week ended 24th Sept., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	1,969	- 4.6	+ 15.4	£ 4,770	- 5.9	+ 15.2
Midlands and Eastern Counties.	5,343	- 1.1	+ 8.2	13,910	- 7.1	- 0.7
South and South-West Counties and Wales.	1,658	+ 0.3	+ 39.7	4,071	+ 4.5	+ 34.8
Scotland ...	181	+ 0.6	+ 123.5	479	+ 0.6	+ 104.7
TOTAL ...	9,151	- 1.6	+ 15.7	23,230	- 4.8	+ 8.6

Returns from employers relative to short-time working, exclusive of time lost on account of bad weather, showed that of 9,151 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, about 1 per cent. were working on an average 7½ hours less than full time in the week ended 24th September, 1927.

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed a slight improvement, but there was still much unemployment and short-time working. In the fine china ware and sanitary ware sections employment was fairly good. At Worcester employment continued good; at Derby it was again reported to be quiet. In the stoneware section in Scotland it was stated to be moderate.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 12.1 at 26th September, 1927, as compared with 15.4 at 22nd August, 1927, and with 30.5 at 20th September, 1926, when employment was affected by the coal-mining stoppage.

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

Branches.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 24th Sept., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.	Week ended 24th Sept., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.
BRANCHES.						
China Manufacture ...	1,203	- 2.1	+ 2.6	2,371	+ 0.9	+ 4.0
Earthenware Manufacture ...	8,005	+ 1.4	+ 19.7	14,901	+ 5.0	+ 23.6
Other Branches (including unspecified) ...	1,918	- 0.6	+ 4.2	3,218	- 4.0	- 12.0
TOTAL ...	11,126	+ 0.7	+ 14.7	20,490	+ 3.0	+ 13.9
DISTRICTS.						
North Staffordshire ...	8,596	+ 0.5	+ 13.6	14,614	+ 1.9	+ 14.2
Other Districts ...	2,530	+ 1.5	+ 18.7	5,876	+ 5.7	+ 13.0
TOTAL ...	11,126	+ 0.7	+ 14.7	20,490	+ 3.0	+ 13.9

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that of 10,170 workpeople employed by firms making returns 4,107, or 40.4 per cent., were working on an average about 12½ hours less than full time in the week ended 24th September, 1927.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper trade remained fair on the whole. Irregular working again occurred in certain districts, but in others full time was reported.

In the letterpress printing trade employment was moderate generally. It was slack at Newcastle, Sheffield and Glasgow, and fair at Manchester, whilst at Birmingham it was good, and, as at Liverpool, it was better than during August. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment was very good at Edinburgh and generally good elsewhere.

With lithographic printers employment continued fair generally, although it showed a further slight decline. It remained bad at Leicester and Edinburgh. Employment with lithographic artists was again fair on the whole; at Manchester it was slack.

In the bookbinding trade employment remained moderate. The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and book-

binding trades was 4.4 at 26th September, compared with 4.5 at 22nd August and 5.7 at 20th September, 1926. In the paper and paper board industry the percentage was 5.0 at 26th September, compared with 5.3 at 22nd August and 7.4 at 20th September, 1926. In the cardboard box, paper bag and stationery trades the percentage was 3.6 at 26th September, compared with 4.0 at 22nd August and 5.8 at 20th September, 1926.

The following Table summarises the returns received from Trade Unions :-

Principal Ports.	No. of Members of Unions at end of September, 1927.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		Sept., 1927.	Aug., 1927.	Sept., 1926.	Month before.	Year before.
Letterpress Printing:						
London ...	41,034	5.5	5.5	5.5	...	...
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	17,705	3.8	3.9	5.4	- 0.1	- 1.6
Midlands and Eastern Counties ...	11,027	2.0	2.6	2.9	- 0.6	- 0.9
Scotland ...	7,196	4.3	4.4	5.5	- 0.1	- 1.2
Other Districts ...	10,974	3.7	3.5	4.1	+ 0.2	- 0.4
Total ...	87,936	4.4	4.5	5.0	- 0.1	- 0.6
Lithographic Printing	10,824	3.2	2.9	3.8	+ 0.3	- 0.2
Bookbinding ...	20,319	3.6	3.5	4.8	+ 0.1	- 1.6

SEAMEN.

DURING September employment remained moderate to fair on the whole.

Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 26th September, 1927, was 15.1, compared with 15.1 at 22nd August, 1927, and 18.8 at 20th September, 1926.

The demand for men on the Thames was moderate to fair; it continued fairly active on the Tyne. It was quiet on the Wear. The demand on the Tees and at Hull was very quiet. At Southampton it was quiet to moderate. At Bristol the demand was fair in the third week of September, but it was quiet during the rest of the month; and there was a shortage of deck ratings towards the close. At Avonmouth the demand was fairly good on the whole. It was good at Newport in the early part of September, but became poor subsequently. At Cardiff the demand was poor to moderate; it was fairly good at Swansea. On the Mersey the demand showed some decline in the first half of the month, but it was fair afterwards. It was moderate to fair at Manchester, and generally moderate on the Clyde. At Leith the demand was moderate, but it increased in the latter part of the month. At Belfast it was very moderate.

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in			
	Sept., 1927.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.	Nine Months ended Sept., 1926.
ENGLAND & WALES:				
Liverpool† ...	15,555	+ 1,887	+ 1,012	115,189
Manchester ...	660	- 45	- 912	6,895
London ...	10,446	- 584	- 1,706	84,567
Southampton ...	10,747	+ 513	- 2,725	88,996
Tyne Ports ...	3,440	+ 453	+ 2,627	23,928
Sunderland ...	302	- 119	+ 126	3,394
Middlesbrough ...	504	+ 177	+ 56	3,393
Hull ...	1,130	- 368	- 767	11,869
Bristol‡ ...	1,184	+ 124	+ 421	9,721
Newport, Mon. ...	665	- 285	+ 464	7,079
Cardiff§ ...	2,211	+ 72	+ 1,052	24,134
Swansea ...	949	+ 103	+ 522	7,543
SCOTLAND:				
Leith ...	334	- 180	- 44	3,536
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	203	- 88	- 125	3,293
Glasgow ...	3,265	- 901	- 1,367	27,877
NORTHERN IRELAND:				
Belfast ...	244	+ 133	- 41	1,828
TOTAL for above Ports	51,839	+ 892	- 2,249	423,242

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT improved somewhat during the month, but was still generally slack.

Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, dock and harbour service, 21.1 per cent. were unemployed at 26th September, 1927, as compared with 21.9 per cent. at 22nd August, 1927, and with 32.2 per cent. at 20th September, 1926.

London.—Employment during September was fairly good, and somewhat better than in the previous month. The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at docks and wharves in respect of which returns were received for each week of the month :-

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals.
† Including Birkenhead and Garston.
‡ Including Avonmouth and Portishead.
§ Including Barry and Penarth.

Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.

Period.	In Docks.			At Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, etc.	Total.		
Week ended—					
3rd September, 1927	4,404	2,393	6,797	7,554	14,351
10th " "	4,661	2,322	6,983	7,377	14,360
17th " "	5,131	2,194	7,325	7,163	14,488
24th " "	5,041	2,176	7,217	7,518	14,735
Average for 4 weeks ended 24th Septem-ber, 1927 ...	4,809	2,271	7,080	7,404	14,484
Average for August, 1927 ...	4,275	2,194	6,469	7,460	13,929
Average for September, 1926 ...	4,934	1,333	6,767	7,594	14,361

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during September was 990, compared with 890 in August and with 1,043 in September, 1926.

East Coast.—Employment with coal trimmers and teamers on the Tyne and Wear was slack; with other dock workers it was fair and a little better than in August on the Tyne, but was slack on the Wear and at Blyth. At Middlesbrough it continued good at the docks and slack at the wharves. At Hartlepool employment was active and better than in August. There was also an improvement at Hull. Employment slackened at Grimsby and Boston, and was very poor at Goole. It continued fair at most of the East Anglian ports.

Liverpool.—Employment improved towards the end of the month, but was still slack on the whole. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks scheme as employed in the five weeks ended 30th September was 14,652, compared with 14,374 in August and with 15,212 in September, 1926. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £39,833 in the five weeks ended 30th September, compared with £37,658 in August and with £42,692 in September, 1926.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment at the South Wales ports was fair on the whole. The improvement at Bristol, reported last month, was maintained. Employment remained fair at Avonmouth and Southampton, and slack at Plymouth and other South-Western ports.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment showed an improvement at Dundee, and was good. It continued fair at Glasgow and Leith. At Aberdeen it was fairly good. At Belfast it continued fair.

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS IN NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS UNEMPLOYED IN SEPTEMBER.

The following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 26th September, 1927, differed from the figures for 22nd August, 1927, to the extent of 1,000 or more.

Industry.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 26th Sept., 1927, as compared with 22nd August, 1927.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Coal Mining ...	- 15,762	- 441	- 16,203
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades ...	- 4,088	- 2,921	- 7,009
Cotton ...	- 972	- 3,491	- 4,463
Woolen and Worsted ...	+ 741	- 3,800	- 3,059
Pottery, Earthenware, etc. ...	+ 598	- 1,876	- 2,474
Linen ...	- 638	- 1,656	- 2,294
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery ...	- 121	- 2,002	- 2,123
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing Canal, River, Dock and Harbour Service ...	- 1,579	- 17	- 1,596
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces,			

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on the 26th September, 1927, and the increase or decrease at that date in the total percentages unemployed compared with a month earlier, a year ago, and two years ago, respectively.

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

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

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

This last item determines in the main the difference between the total number of unemployed persons given in the following Table and the figure given on page 389 showing the total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges. The difference would be greater were it not that this latter figure includes uninsured persons who are maintaining registration. These do not appear in the figures of "books lodged," which relate solely to insured persons.

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

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

Each of these Tables gives an analysis of the figures, distinguishing between persons who are wholly unemployed (in the sense that they are definitely without a job) and those who are temporarily stopped or suspended from the service of an employer. The figures under the heading "temporary stoppages" include those persons recorded as unemployed on the date of the return who were either on short time or were otherwise stood off or suspended on the definite understanding that they were to return to their former employment within a period of six weeks from the date of suspension. In cases where there was no definite prospect of return within six weeks the individuals have been included in the statistics as "wholly unemployed." The only exception to this rule arises in the small number of cases where, although the expectation of resumption within the six weeks' period was not realised, a definite date for resumption of work had nevertheless been fixed. In such cases the individuals concerned have been included under the heading "temporary stoppages." The figures given in the grand total columns in both Tables are strictly comparable with the corresponding figures published each month since July, 1923.

NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 26TH SEPTEMBER, 1927.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.						GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.					
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (INCLUDING CASUALS).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES AND CASUALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fishing	2,323	29	2,352	79	1	80	2,402	30	2,432	2,394	30	2,424
Mining :—												
Coal Mining	130,747	562	131,309	96,881	384	97,265	227,628	946	228,574	227,575	946	228,521
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying	1,289	...	1,289	469	...	469	1,758	...	1,758	1,753	...	1,753
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	416	1	417	3	...	3	419	...	420	419	...	420
Stone Quarrying and Mining	2,523	4	2,527	631	3	634	3,154	7	3,161	3,025	7	3,032
Slate Quarrying and Mining	135	...	135	2	...	2	137	...	137	137	...	137
Other Mining and Quarrying	1,313	57	1,370	269	50	319	1,582	107	1,689	1,536	107	1,643
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging	655	9	664	61	...	61	716	9	725	702	9	711
Non-Metallic Mining Products :—												
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	1,123	12	1,135	407	...	407	1,530	12	1,542	1,530	12	1,542
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manufacture	1,653	54	1,707	306	12	318	1,959	66	2,025	1,947	64	2,011
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works	1,000	20	1,020	219	9	228	1,219	29	1,248	1,185	29	1,214
Brick, Tile, etc., Making	4,730	513	5,243	759	236	995	5,489	749	6,238	5,376	749	6,125
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	1,839	1,741	3,580	2,141	3,191	5,332	3,980	4,932	8,912	3,976	4,932	8,908
Glass Trades :—												
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scientific Glass) Manufacture	1,807	221	2,028	515	56	571	2,322	277	2,599	2,313	277	2,590
Glass Bottle Making	2,563	133	2,696	1,026	146	1,172	3,589	279	3,868	3,586	279	3,865
Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, etc. :—												
Chemicals Manufacture	4,781	664	5,445	449	136	585	5,230	800	6,030	5,170	799	5,969
Explosives Manufacture	699	261	960	141	66	207	840	327	1,167	833	327	1,160
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture	555	124	679	34	15	49	589	139	728	589	139	728
Oil, Grease, Glue, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture	3,453	761	4,214	810	113	923	4,263	874	5,137	4,233	868	5,101
Metal Manufacture :—												
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces)	3,098	16	3,114	666	4	670	3,764	20	3,784	3,761	20	3,781
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges	15,434	134	15,568	18,632	130	18,762	34,066	264	34,330	34,058	264	34,322
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	2,841	189	3,030	724	32	756	3,565	221	3,786	3,530	221	3,751
Manufacture of Tin Plates	1,991	219	2,210	745	777	1,522	9,443	996	10,439	9,443	996	10,439
Iron and Steel Tube Making	1,767	103	1,870	1,416	33	1,449	3,183	136	3,319	3,181	136	3,317
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manufacture	1,612	232	1,844	2,060	73	2,133	3,672	305	3,977	3,669	305	3,974
Engineering, etc. :—												
General Engineering; Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding	40,715	1,266	41,981	17,304	554	17,858	58,019	1,820	59,839	57,089	1,811	58,900
Electrical Engineering	2,564	615	3,179	350	87	437	2,914	702	3,616	2,899	702	3,601
Marine Engineering, etc.	6,849	17	6,866	372	4	376	7,221	21	7,242	6,387	21	6,408
Constructional Engineering	1,677	27	1,704	257	16	273	1,934	43	1,977	1,928	43	1,971
Construction and Repair of Vehicles :—												
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	16,070	1,340	17,410	3,777	367	4,144	19,847	1,707	21,554	19,701	1,704	21,405
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc.	1,520	127	1,647	234	69	303	1,754	196	1,950	1,695	196	1,891
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tram-car Building	2,153	22	2,175	955	1	956	3,108	23	3,131	3,101	23	3,124

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.									GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.		
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (INCLUDING CASUALS).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES AND CASUALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing	45,410	103	45,513	1,559	11	1,570	46,969	114	47,083	44,234	111	44,345
Metal Trades :—												
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding	5,654	429	6,083	1,364	140	1,504	7,018	569	7,587	6,928	569	7,497
Electrical Wiring and Contracting	775	16	791	55	2	57	830	18	848	802	18	820
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture	3,011	1,311	4,322	451	168	619	3,462	1,479	4,941	3,448	1,479	4,927
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making	2,801	1,392	4,193	1,786	223	2,009	4,587	1,615	6,202	4,585	1,615	6,200
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture	990	741	1,731	518	164	682	1,508	905	2,413	1,508	905	2,413
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture	1,609	788	2,397	341	181	522	1,950	969	2,919	1,948	969	2,917
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	308	21	329	49	1	50	357	22	379	356	22	378
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture	1,278	794	2,072	210	307	517	1,488	1,101	2,589	1,465	1,100	2,565
Other Metal Industries	7,749	4,468	12,217	2,889	2,015	4,904	10,638	6,483	17,121	10,547	6,476	17,023
Textile Trades :—												
Cotton	7,507	9,080	16,587	11,983	24,259	36,242	19,490	33,339	52,829	19,490	33,338	52,828
Woolen and Worsted	4,009	3,614	7,623	5,368	7,405	12,773	9,377	11,019	20,396	9,346	11,010	20,356
Silk	670	644	1,314	588	1,734	2,322	1,258	2,378	3,636	1,254	2,378	3,632
Linen	2,155	2,828	4,983	710	1,439	2,149	2,865	4,267	7,132	529	1,515	2,044
Jute	984	1,410	2,394	120	207	327	1,104	1,617	2,721	1,103	1,617	2,720
Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making	428	822	1,250	144	477	621	572	1,299	1,871	487	1,132	1,619
Hosiery	409	1,845	2,254	489	3,010	3,499	898	4,855	5,753	890	4,808	5,698
Lace	346	170	516	384	344	728	730	514	1,244	728	514	1,242
Carpet Manufacture	331	299	630	364	819	1,183	695	1,118	1,813	695	1,117	1,812
Other Textile Industries	575	1,343	1,918	238	931	1,169	813	2,274	3,087	758	2,075	2,833
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	3,555	846	4,401	6,767	1,933	8,700	10,322	2,779	13,101	9,888	2,479	12,367
Leather and Leather Goods :—												
Tanning, Currying and Dressing	1,530	277	1,807	398	161	559	1,928	438	2,366	1,925	438	2,363
Saddlery, Harness and other Leather Goods Manufacture	882	447	1,329	159	156	315	1,041	605	1,644	1,025	603	1,628
Clothing Trades :—												
Tailoring	4,883	3,572	8,455	1,358	7,588	8,946	6,241	11,160	17,401	5,731	10,981	16,712
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery	559	2,671	3,230	21	1,299	1,320	580	3,970	4,550	569	3,837	4,406
Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait) Manufacture	340	914	1,254	102	301	403	442	1,215	1,657	442	1,212	1,654
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Making	300	1,845	2,145	16	1,266	1,282	316	3,111	3,427	238	1,709	1,947
Other Dress Industries	500	326	826	46	290	336	546	816	1,162	544	616	1,160
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades	6,420	2,423	8,843	1,673	1,123	2,796	8,093	3,546	11,639	7,991	3,535	11,526
Food, Drink and Tobacco :—												
Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc., Making	6,286	2,085	8,371	233	160	393	6,519	2,245	8,764	6,036	2,195	8,231
Grain Milling	1,417	127	1,544	565	26	591	1,982	153	2,135	1,876	149	2,025
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery	1,357	2,061	3,418	234	1,957	2,191	1,591	4,018	5,609	1,588	3,996	5,584
Other Food Industries	3,843	6,054	9,897	55	379	434	3,898	6,433	10,331	3,855	6,415	10,270
Drink Industries	4,239	1,625	5,864	173	189	362	4,412	1,814	6,226	4,078		

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administration areas, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 26th September, 1927. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area :-

Area.	Number of Persons on Registers at 26th September, 1927.				Inc.(+) or Dec.(-) as compared with 29th Aug., 1927.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	
London Division ...	79,755	15,296	6,079	101,130	+ 535
South-Eastern Division ...	27,765	6,025	3,906	37,696	+ 5,608
Brighton ...	1,541	324	302	2,167	+ 190
Chatham ...	1,974	221	509	2,704	+ 149
Ipswich ...	1,309	247	141	1,697	+ 38
Norwich ...	2,840	928	203	3,971	+ 125
Rest of South-Eastern	20,101	4,305	2,751	27,157	+ 5,106
South-Western Division ...	43,510	6,494	4,568	54,572	+ 5,153
Bristol ...	2,063	1,155	13,076	16,294	+ 753
Plymouth ...	4,396	449	5,401	9,946	+ 696
Portsmouth ...	3,859	443	5,033	9,335	+ 490
Reading ...	896	99	1,162	2,157	+ 104
Southampton ...	4,221	269	4,928	9,418	+ 716
Swindon ...	767	123	1,040	1,930	+ ...
Rest of South-Western	19,513	3,048	1,599	24,160	+ 2,394
Midlands Division ...	92,976	29,052	6,938	128,966	+ 14,657
Birmingham ...	17,633	7,050	1,366	26,049	+ 40
Coventry ...	5,531	863	160	6,554	+ 795
Cradley Heath ...	2,394	499	93	2,986	+ 44
Derby ...	1,374	460	183	2,017	+ 98
Leicester ...	3,240	2,050	79	5,349	+ 778
Northampton ...	1,120	282	96	1,498	+ 158
Nottingham ...	4,799	1,480	580	6,859	+ 108
Smethwick ...	2,304	716	107	3,127	+ 98
Stoke-on-Trent ...	7,343	4,072	965	12,380	+ 1,588
Walsall ...	3,642	592	291	4,525	+ 523
West Bromwich ...	1,822	401	111	2,334	+ 254
Wolverhampton ...	3,962	772	207	4,941	+ 7
Rest of Midlands	37,812	9,835	2,700	50,347	+ 10,630
North-Eastern Division ...	219,823	24,773	14,644	259,240	+ 4,028
Barnsley ...	2,256	341	170	2,767	+ 354
Bradford ...	6,654	389	9,728	16,771	+ 462
Darlington ...	1,920	200	208	2,328	+ 34
Dewsbury ...	1,362	673	203	2,238	+ 427
Doncaster ...	8,513	184	368	9,065	+ 4,374
Gateshead ...	10,326	607	1,498	12,431	+ 120
Grimsby ...	2,282	181	222	2,685	+ 314
Halifax ...	1,922	631	45	2,598	+ 232
Hartlepool ...	3,376	174	542	4,092	+ 308
Huddersfield ...	1,518	886	157	2,561	+ 617
Hull ...	8,690	657	874	10,201	+ 156
Leeds ...	10,245	3,843	617	14,705	+ 800
Lincoln ...	1,274	292	132	1,698	+ 146
Middlesbrough ...	7,240	311	486	8,037	+ 62
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	15,153	1,105	1,062	17,320	+ 958
Rotherham ...	2,419	285	375	3,079	+ 44
Sheffield ...	19,019	2,465	1,665	23,149	+ 718
South Shields ...	6,191	282	347	6,820	+ 1,033
Stockton-on-Tees ...	4,097	181	349	4,627	+ 57
Sunderland ...	8,331	702	936	9,969	+ 395
Wakefield ...	1,767	268	297	2,332	+ 1,483
York ...	1,339	123	173	1,635	+ 102
Rest of North-Eastern	93,945	7,738	4,670	106,353	+ 2,616
North-Western Division ...	158,814	46,664	13,683	219,161	+ 6,539
Accrington ...	1,457	951	97	2,505	+ 272
Ashton-under-Lyne ...	2,174	1,373	211	3,758	+ 332
Barrow ...	2,426	285	195	2,906	+ 224
Birkenhead ...	5,232	285	346	5,863	+ 450
Blackburn ...	2,997	2,182	293	5,472	+ 339
Blackpool ...	1,089	224	122	1,435	+ 560
Bolton ...	3,431	1,383	263	5,077	+ 550
Burnley ...	1,675	1,172	119	3,966	+ 14
Bury ...	1,153	613	93	1,859	+ 84
Chorley ...	1,484	46	1,484	3,014	+ 178
Liverpool ...	37,457	4,279	3,867	45,603	+ 217
Manchester ...	16,260	4,650	1,527	22,437	+ 360
Nelson ...	679	473	40	1,192	+ 115
Oldham ...	13,508	5,188	558	19,254	+ 3,210
Preston ...	2,188	1,288	130	3,606	+ 301
Rochdale ...	2,036	938	104	3,078	+ 658
St. Helens ...	4,936	352	255	5,443	+ 33
Salford ...	6,828	2,352	853	10,033	+ 359
Stockport ...	1,744	1,255	203	3,202	+ 389
Warrington ...	2,401	241	328	2,970	+ 417
Wigan ...	6,710	2,517	331	9,558	+ 778
Rest of North-Western	40,949	14,170	3,701	58,820	+ 8,861
Scotland Division ...	85,761	17,901	8,656	112,318	+ 3,414
Aberdeen ...	3,111	598	163	3,872	+ 218
Clydebank ...	634	179	117	930	+ 223
Dunfermline ...	3,055	1,375	161	4,591	+ 142
Edinburgh ...	7,491	2,055	958	10,504	+ 151
Glasgow ...	30,957	5,316	3,464	39,737	+ 2,118
Greenock ...	3,281	549	206	4,036	+ 246
Motherwell ...	2,150	132	207	2,489	+ 132
Paisley ...	1,680	370	270	2,320	+ 507
Rest of Scotland	33,402	7,327	3,110	43,839	+ 169
Wales Division ...	127,382	3,703	5,949	137,034	+ 10,142
Cardiff ...	7,222	820	749	8,791	+ 1,063
Llanelli ...	5,502	160	271	5,933	+ 308
Newport ...	2,832	220	339	3,391	+ 89
Swansea ...	5,917	354	609	6,880	+ 1,061
Rest of Wales	105,909	2,149	3,981	112,039	+ 8,237
Northern Ireland ...	19,377	4,777	895	25,049	+ 2,046
Belfast ...	13,948	2,568	718	17,234	+ 1,201
Londonderry ...	1,087	628	56	1,771	+ 139
Lurgan ...	171	312	16	499	+ 65
Lisburn ...	263	164	16	443	+ 61
Newry ...	335	127	4	466	+ 98
Rest of Northern Ireland	3,573	978	85	4,636	+ 612
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	855,163	154,685	65,318	1,075,166	+ 1,190

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

COMPOSITION OF STATISTICS.

ON page 386 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published weekly in the Press, and monthly in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives figures relating to the 26th September, 1927, for the total of each group included in these statistics. Lines 2 to 5 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 5) and including lines 1 and 6, the number of books lodged, or, in other words, the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, is obtained :-

	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.
1. Unemployed — Special Schemes ...	1,434	7	127	2	1,570
2. Claims admitted or under consideration ...	727,757	13,943	126,867	7,763	876,330
3. Claimants disqualified, but maintaining registration ...	81,470	719	6,729	396	89,314
4. Insured non-claimants on main file ...	14,725	1,504	1,933	1,516	19,678
5. Uninsured persons on Register ...	11,834	15,945	14,379	22,637	64,795
6. Two months' file ...	68,048	4,170	35,378	3,697	111,293
Persons on Register (lines 2-5) ...	835,786	32,111	149,908	32,312	1,050,117
Books Lodged (lines 1-4 and 6) ...	893,434	20,343	171,034	13,374	1,098,185

CLAIMS TO EXTENDED BENEFIT.

Claims to "extended" benefit—i.e., benefit beyond that to which the claimant is entitled in respect of contributions paid—are submitted to Local Committees, composed, in the main, of representatives of employers and workpeople.

The following Table gives an analysis of the recommendations of these Committees in Great Britain during the period 9th August to 12th September, 1927 :-

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Applications considered by Committees during period ...	271,463	34,951	306,414
Applications admitted by Committees during period :-			
(a) For 12 weeks ...	33,394	2,552	35,946
(b) For less than 12 weeks ...	199,606	20,213	219,819
Applications definitely recommended for disallowance during period :-			
General Conditions :-			
Not normally insurable and not seeking to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment ...	1,643	655	2,298
Insurable employment not likely to be available ...	1,884	363	2,247
Not a reasonable period of insurable employment during the preceding two years ...	15,335	2,053	17,388
Not making every reasonable effort to obtain suitable employment or not willing to accept suitable employment ...	9,077	3,022	12,099
Special Conditions :-			
Single persons residing with relatives ...	5,787	2,496	8,283
Married women who could look for support from their husbands ...	...	2,515	2,515
Married men who could look for support from their wives ...	423	...	423
Working short time but earning sufficient for maintenance ...	3,206	623	3,829
Aliens ...	8	3	11
Total definitely recommended for disallowance ...	37,363	11,730	49,093
Applications during the period recommended for postponement for a definite time ...	1,100	456	1,556

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

During the four weeks ended 24th September, 1927, the receipts and payments of the Unemployment Fund were approximately as shown in the following Table :-

	Four weeks ended 24th Sept., 1927.	Four weeks ended 27th Aug., 1927.	Four weeks ended 25th Sept., 1926.
Contributions (Receipts) :-			
By Employers ...	£ 1,225,000	£ 1,150,000	£ 1,090,000
By Employed Persons ...	1,075,000	1,005,000	950,000
Service Departments (Admiralty, War Office and Air Ministry) ...	15,000	15,000	30,000
Exchequer ...	885,000	830,000	800,000
Total ...	3,200,000	3,000,000	2,870,000
Payments :-			
Benefit ...	2,570,000	2,550,000	4,360,000
Other Payments* ...	375,000	420,000	370,000
Total ...	2,945,000	2,970,000	4,730,000
Treasury Advances Outstanding ...	22,690,000	22,920,000	16,470,000

* Includes refunds at age 60 and compensation for the abolition thereof, cost of administration, interest on Treasury advances, etc.

TRADE DISPUTES IN SEPTEMBER.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in September in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 18, as compared with 22 in the previous month, and 16 in September, 1926. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred though not themselves parties to the disputes) was 3,900. In addition, about 11,300 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 12 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 30, involving about 15,200 workpeople, and resulting in a loss of approximately 84,000 working days.

The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in September in Great Britain and Northern Ireland by groups of industries, and indicates the number of workpeople involved at the establishments concerned and the approximate time lost during the month in all disputes in progress :-

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in Month.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month.
	Started before beginning of Month.	Started in Month.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying...	4	7	11	8,000	39,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	2	4	6	1,300	4,000
Clothing ...	3	...	3	5,100	38,000
Other Industries ...	3	7	10	800	3,000
Total Sept., 1927 ...	12	18	30	15,200	84,000
Total, August, 1927 ...	12	22	34	19,000	169,000
Total, Sept., 1926 ...	18	16	34	985,000†	20,815,000†

Causes.—Of the 18 disputes beginning in September, 7, directly involving 1,400 workpeople, arose on questions respecting wages; 5, directly involving 1,300 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 4, directly involving 200 workpeople, on questions of Trade Union principle; and two, directly involving 400 workpeople, on other questions.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING SEPTEMBER, 1927.

Occupations and Locality.‡	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute Began.		Cause or Object.§	Result.§
	Directly.	Indirectly.‡	Began.	Ended.		
MINING AND QUARRYING :-						
Coal hewers, fillers, putters, etc.—Durham (near) ...	2,044	496	1927. 21 May||	1927. ...	Refusal to work one shift of 7½ hours on Saturdays.	No settlement reported.
Coal hewers, stone contractors, brushers, and day-wage men—Workington.	993	669	26 Aug.	24 Sept.	Against proposed reduction in rates of wages of pieceworkers until 30th September pending negotiations for the adjustment of base rates.	Modified reduction accepted until 31st December, pending consideration of the adjustment of base rates, and of the question of alleged abnormal amount of small dirt filled with coal.
TIN PLATE MANUFACTURE :-						
Picklers and other tinplate workers—Swansea (near).	8	300	27 Aug.	1 Sept.	Dispute respecting amount of wages to be paid.	Work resumed unconditionally.
ELECTRIC CABLE MANUFACTURE :-						

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in September in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate reduction of about £47,800 in the weekly full-time wages of 208,000 workpeople and in an increase of £420 in those of about 3,800 workpeople.

The groups of industries principally affected were as shown below:—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ...	200	148,000	£ 20	£ 44,300
Clothing ...	...	30,000	...	1,500
Other ...	3,600	30,000	400	2,000
Total ...	3,800	208,000	420	47,800

The changes in the mining and quarrying group were mainly accounted for by reductions in the wages of coal miners in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire (other than South Derbyshire) and in Leicestershire and Warwickshire. In the first-mentioned district the percentage addition to basis rates was reduced by an amount equivalent to 1 3/4 per cent. on the previous wages, while in the other two districts the reductions were equivalent to about 2 3/4 per cent. on the previous rates. There were also reductions in the wages of iron ore miners in Cumberland, amounting to 1d. per shift in the case of adult workers.

In the clothing group the principal change affected pieceworkers employed in the boot and shoe repairing trade, for whom the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were reduced by 2 1/2 or 5 per cent. on list prices, under a cost-of-living sliding scale.

Among other industries there were reductions in the iron and steel trades affecting blastfurnace workers in Cumberland and iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England and West of Scotland. There were reductions of 1d. and 3/4d. per hour in the case of men and women respectively employed in the furniture trade in various parts of Scotland, the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for certain classes of workpeople in the brush and broom trade were reduced by 1/4d. per hour, and workpeople employed by various local authorities in Middlesex sustained a reduction of 1s. per week. Bricklayers in the Glasgow and West of Scotland district received an increase of 1/4d. per hour.

Of the total reductions of £47,800 per week, £44,300 took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices or on the proceeds of the coal-mining industry; £2,900 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales, including £2,150 under scales arranged by Trade Boards; and the remaining sum was the result of direct negotiations between employers and workpeople, these being preceded, in the case of reductions amounting to £250 per week, by disputes causing stoppage of work. Of the increase of £420 per week, about £130 took effect under arrangements made by joint councils of employers and workpeople, and nearly the whole of the remainder was the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY-SEPTEMBER, 1927.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople in Great Britain and Northern Ireland affected by changes in rates of wages reported to the Department during the nine completed months of 1927, and the net aggregate amounts of such changes:—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople† affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ...	18,500	784,000	£ 870	£ 273,300
Iron and Steel ...	19,250	124,000	1,800	18,200
Engineering, Shipbuilding and other Metal ...	217,000	42,500	22,000	5,400
Textile... ..	1,700	232,000	190	19,100
Clothing	150	76,000	35	7,100
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	630	21,000	200	2,250
Woodworking, etc.	670	23,500	100	3,100
Paper, Printing, etc. ....	...	26,000	...	1,950
Building and Allied Industries	15,000	57,000	3,000	8,200
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply	1,750	34,000	275	3,000
Transport	6,700	196,000	1,800	12,900
Public Administration ...	7,150	50,000	800	5,200
Other	750	40,000	150	4,400
Total	289,250	1,715,000	31,200	364,100

In the corresponding nine months of 1926, there were net increases of £15,500 in the weekly wages of 134,000 workpeople, and net reductions of £88,800 in those of 897,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported as having taken effect in September. During the nine completed months of 1927 there has been an average increase of 3.7 hours per week in the normal working time of 18,000 workpeople, and a reduction of 4.6 hours per week in that of 1,600 workpeople.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING SEPTEMBER, 1927.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
MINING AND QUARRYING.				
Coal Mining	Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire (except South Derbyshire).	1 Sept.	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Decrease† of 22 per cent. on basis rates of 1911, leaving wages at the minimum of 38 per cent. above basis rates, subject to the proviso that the wages of any adult able-bodied day-wage workman shall not fall below 7s. 11d. per shift.‡
	Leicestershire	1 Sept.		Decrease of 3.8 per cent. on basis rates of 1911, leaving wages 40.03 per cent. above basis rates, subject to a minimum gross daily rate, inclusive of subsistence allowance, of 7s. 2d. and 7s. 6d. for day-wage surface and underground workers respectively.§
	Warwickshire	1 Sept.		Decrease of 4 per cent. on basis rates of 1911, leaving wages 51 per cent. above basis rates; also minimum gross daily wage previously paid reduced from 8s. 4d. to 8s. 3d. for able-bodied underground workers and 7s. 4d. to 7s. 3d. for able-bodied surface workers.¶
Iron Mining	Cumberland...	12 Sept.	Workpeople employed in iron ore mines.	Decrease|| of 1d. per shift in the bargain price (8s. 7d. to 8s. 6d.), of 1d. per shift in the minimum wage (7s. 1d. to 7s.), of 1d. per shift for other underground and surface workers, and of 3/4d. per shift for youths under 18 years of age. Rates after change: shift men, winding engine-men, joiners and blacksmiths, 8s. 6d. per shift; mineral shod borers, 8s. 6d. plus 3d. per foot bored; pumping engine-men, loco and crane drivers, 8s.; leading labourers, 7s. 4d.
Quarrying	West Cumberland ...	12 Sept.	Limestone quarrymen	Decrease|| of 1/4d. per shift for men and of 3/4d. per shift for boys under 16 years. Rates after change: haulage engine-men, 7s. 0 1/2d. per shift; blacksmiths and joiners, 7s. 10d.; day-borers (1st class), 6s. 10 1/2d.; plus in each case a temporary bonus of 1s. 3d. per shift; day labourers, 6s. 2 1/2d., plus a temporary bonus of 1s. 3d. per shift; ruddimen, 5s. 8 1/2d., plus a temporary bonus of 1s. 6d. per shift.
IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES.				
Pig Iron Manufacture.	West Cumberland and North Lancashire.	2nd full pay in Sept.	Workpeople (excluding skilled craftsmen and bricklayers on maintenance work and also labourers) employed at blast-furnaces. Keepers, slaggars, fillers, engine-men, etc., employed at blast-furnaces.	Decreases in bonuses¶ of amounts varying according to base rates from 2.6d. to 7d. per week, leaving total amount of bonuses from 1s. 7.9d. to 4s. 0.5d. per week.**

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

† In addition to the numbers quoted, wages stand at the same level as at the beginning of the year in the case of over 62,000 workpeople, whose wages have been increased and reduced by equal amounts during the year.

‡ The above reduction is based on the proceeds of the industry, and is the first change to take effect in this district under the revised arrangement made for determining wages by the proceeds following the stoppage of work in 1926.

§ In the case of adult able-bodied day-wage workmen whose gross wages are less than 8s. 9d. per shift, a subsistence allowance is granted sufficient to bring wages up to 8s. 9d. per shift, provided that the maximum addition in any instance does not exceed 6d. per shift.

¶ Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.

** The percentage addition to the day and tonnage basis rates remained at 16 in accordance with an arrangement made in October, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING SEPTEMBER, 1927 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES (continued).				
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	North of England ...	26 Sept.	Iron puddlers	Decrease* of 2 1/2 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 34 1/2 per cent. above the standard.
	West of Scotland ...	26 Sept.	Iron millmen	Decrease* of 2 1/2 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 32 per cent. above the standard.
			Iron and steel sheet millmen ...	Decrease* of 2 1/2 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 47 1/2 per cent. above the standard.
OTHER METAL INDUSTRIES.				
Light Castings Manufacture.	England and Scotland.	5 Sept.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of baths.	Reduction of 7 1/2 per cent. on the basis earnings of both workers employed on system of payment by results whose basis rates are of such amount as to enable them to earn an all-in wage of not less than 77s. 6d. for a full week of 47 hours.†
Lock, Latch, and Key Manufacture.	Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Willenhall and Walsall Districts.	1st pay day in Sept.	Youths employed in the lock, latch, and key industry.	Rate of 40s. per week† adopted for youths upon attaining the age of 20 years; all youths to be graded at 21 years and paid the rate as laid down in agreed schedule of wages.
CLOTHING INDUSTRIES.				
Retail Bespoke Tailoring, Boot and Shoe Repairing.	Northern Ireland ...	15 Aug.	Workpeople employed in the retail bespoke tailoring trade.	See footnote §.
Retail Bespoke Tailoring, Boot and Shoe Repairing.	Great Britain ...	1 Sept.	Workpeople employed in the boot and shoe repairing trade (piece-workers).	Decreases|| in the minimum piece rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of (a) 2 1/2 per cent. on list prices for bespoke hand-sewn, bespoke hand-sewn surgical, bespoke pegged and bespoke riveted work; leaving wages 10 per cent. below list prices, and (b) 5 per cent. for repairing, leaving wages 17 1/2 per cent. below list prices.
	WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES.			
Mill Sawing	Nottingham, Derby, and Burton-on-Trent High Wycombe ...	Aug.	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers	Decrease|| of 3/4d. per hour (1s. 6 1/2d. to 1s. 6d.).
Furniture Manufacture.	Beith, Dundee, Glasgow, Greenock, Kirkcaldy and Lochwinnoch.	1st full pay week in Sept.	Caners of common bedroom chairs bored 18, 19, and 20.	Increase|| of 1/4d. per chair. Rates after change: bored 18, 7d. per chair; bored 19 and 20, 8d. per chair.
			Cabinetmakers, chairmakers, carvers, french polishers, machinists, upholsterers, upholstery sewers, and sand paperers.	Decrease|| of 1d. per hour for men, 3/4d. per hour for women, 5 per cent. for pieceworkers and proportionate amounts for apprentices. Minimum rates after change: Beith, Dundee, Kirkcaldy and Lochwinnoch—men, 1s. 4 1/2d.; women, 8 1/2d.; Glasgow—men, 1s. 5 1/2d.; women, 8 1/2d.
PAPER, PRINTING AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES.				
Printing	Various towns in Scotland.¶	Pay day in week beginning 12 Sept.	Lithographic artists, designers, etc.	Standard minimum weekly rates adopted as follows: Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow, 77s. 6d.; Kirkcaldy, 75s. 6d.; Aberdeen and Perth, 75s.; Kilmarnock, 73s.; Dumfries, 71s. 6d.
BUILDING AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES.				
Building	North-East Coast District.**	1 Sept.	Plasterers	Increase of 1 1/4d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 9 1/4d.).**
	Portsmouth	1 Sept.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of 1d. per hour for craftsmen (1s. 7d. to 1s. 8d.) and of 3/4d. per hour for labourers (1s. 2 1/2d. to 1s. 3 1/4d.).††
	Glasgow and West of Scotland.‡‡	1 Sept.	Bricklayers	Increase of 3/4d. per hour (1s. 8 1/2d. to 1s. 9d.).
Asphalting	London	12 Aug.	Asphalt workers	Hourly rates increased to 1s. 8d. for spreaders, 1s. 4d. for potmen and labourers, and 9d. for apprentices (at starting).§§
GAS, WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY UNDERTAKINGS.				
Waterworks Undertaking	Norwich	1 Sept.	Labourers	Decrease|| of 3s. per week (52s. 6d. to 49s. 6d.).
Electricity Supply Undertaking	Woolwich	28 July.	Lower-paid men	Rates of wages reduced from a uniform minimum of 1s. 6d. per hour to those payable under the schedule of the London Joint Industrial Council, resulting in an average reduction of about 6s. per week. Rates after change for labourers, indoor, 1s. 3.24d.; outdoor, 1s. 4.03d.
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SERVICES.				
Local Government Services (Non-Trading).	Bradford	20 Sept.	Street sweepers, bath attendants and labourers.	Increase of 1/4d. per hour (1s. 0 1/4d. to 1s. 1d.).
	Norwich	1st pay day after 1 Sept.	Manual workers	Decrease|| of 3s. per week. Rate after change for labourers, scavengers and refuse collectors, 49s. 6d.
	Certain Authorities in Middlesex.¶¶	1st pay day in Sept.	Able-bodied male manual workers	Decrease|| of 1s. per week. Minimum rates after change include: Grade A workpeople (bath and lavatory attendants, scavengers, etc.), Zone I districts, 50s. 6d.; Zone II, 49s.; Zone III, 46s. 6d.; Grade B (horse-drivers, stablemen, gardeners, yardmen dust collectors, labourers, etc.), Zone I, 55s. 6d.; Zone II 51s. 3d.; Zone III, 48s. 6d.¶¶
	Shoreditch	Last pay day in Sept.	Manual workers.	Wages adjusted so as to leave the present rates at not more than 10 per cent. above the appropriate Joint Industrial Council or other trade rates, resulting in reductions varying generally from 3s. to 4s. 9d. per week. Rates after change include: road and general labourers, 64s. 7 1/2d.; refuse collectors, 66s. 6d.; road paviers, 84s.; carters, 10s. 6d.

* Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.

† With regard to workers producing baths on the block system, the reduction of 7 1/2 per cent. applies only to those employed on finishing baths, and not to ramers-up.

‡ This rate does not apply to youths who have attained the age of 20 years and have been graded in accordance with the rule which has applied hitherto.

§ Owing to an error in the terms of a notification received by the Department, it was stated, in the entry which appeared on page 354 of the September issue of the GAZETTE, that the new scales of minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Act (Northern Ireland), 1923, for workpeople in the above trade, with effect from 15th August, resulted in the case of male workers 19 and under 22 years of age in decreases of from 1s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. per week. The changes should have been shown as increases, the amount of change being as stated.

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

¶¶ The minimum rates were agreed upon between the Scottish Alliance of Employers in the Printing and Kindred Trades and the Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers, Engravers, and Process Workers.

** The change took effect under an agreement made by the National Joint Council for the Plastering Industry. The National Joint Council for the Building Industry was not a party to the arrangement. The districts affected are: Tyne and Blyth district (including Newcastle, Gateshead, North and South Shields, Blyth, and Ashington). Sunderland district, Durham, Stanley and district, Tees-side district (including Middlesbrough, Hartlepool and Stockton), Staithes, Stokesley, Yarm, Darlington and Bishop Auckland.

†† The change took effect under an arrangement made between the Scottish Building Contractors' Association and the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers. The principal districts affected are: Glasgow, Airrie, Bellshill, Blantyre, Bothwell, Coatbridge, Dumbarton, Falkirk, Greenock, Hamilton, Helensburgh, Johnstone, Lanark, Larbert, Larkhall, Motherwell, Paisley, Port Glasgow, Strathaven, and Wishaw.

‡‡ The change took effect under an arrangement made between the Scottish Building Contractors' Association and the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers. The principal districts affected are: Glasgow, Airrie, Bellshill, Blantyre, Bothwell, Coatbridge, Dumbarton, Falkirk, Greenock, Hamilton, Helensburgh, Johnstone, Lanark, Larbert, Larkhall, Motherwell, Paisley, Port Glasgow, Strathaven, and Wishaw.

§§ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour. The new rates represent nominal increases of 2d. to 3d. per hour on the previous rates. These generally applied to a stipulated quantity of work which had to be performed in the nine-hour day previously worked, earnings being increased proportionately when the stipulated quantity of work was exceeded. It was agreed that the same quantity of work should be done in the shorter working week as had previously been done. The change, while reducing the working time, is understood to have made little appreciable difference to the actual weekly earnings.

¶¶ The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Provincial Joint Industrial Council, and include:—Zone I: Brentford and Chiswick, Tottenham, Middlesex C.C. (certain areas); Zone II: Twickenham, Wembley, Middlesex C.C. (certain areas); Zone III: Middlesex C.C. (certain areas). The rates paid by some of the authorities differ slightly from the minima quoted above.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING SEPTEMBER, 1927 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Local Government Services (Non-Trading) (cont.)	Woolwich ...	28 July	Manual workers ...	PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SERVICES (continued). Wages adjusted so as to leave the present rates at not more than 10 per cent. above the scheduled rates of the London District Joint Industrial Council, resulting in most cases in reductions varying generally from about 4s. to 13s. per week. In a few cases, rates were increased by amounts varying up to 5s. 7d. per week. Rates after change include: scavengers, 62s. 11d.; carmen, dust collectors, labourers, 66s. 6d.; refuse-destroyer trimmers, labourers and stokers, 69s. 1d.; steam-roller attendants, 71s. 10d.; steam-roller drivers, 74s. 8d. Minimum rate of 46s. per week adopted.*
	Exeter ...	1st full pay in July.*	Manual workers (excluding road and general labourers).	
Brush and Broom Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	1 Sept.	Workpeople employed in the brush and broom trade:—	MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES. Decreases† in the minimum rates fixed, under the Trade Boards Acts, of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see p. 360 of September GAZETTE): Decrease‡ of 2d. per hour (1s. 2½d. to 1s. 2d.). Decrease‡ of ½d. per hour for those 16 and under 16½, 17 and under 18, and 19 and over, the rates for other ages remaining unchanged, making minimum rates as follows: 2½d. at under 14½, increasing to 1½d. at 21 and over. Decrease‡ of ½d. per hour for certain classes. Decrease‡ of ½d. per hour for those 16 and under 16½, 17 and under 18, the time rates for those of other ages and the piecework basis time rate for all workers remaining unchanged, making minimum time rates as follows: 2½d. at under 14½, increasing to 6½d. at 21 and over. Decrease‡ of ½d. per hour during the fourth three months for those starting at 21 and over, other rates remaining unchanged. Decrease‡ in minimum piece rates of 1½ per cent., leaving wages 20 per cent. below the list. Decreases‡ proportionate to the above.
			Certain classes of male time-workers 21 years and over. All other male timeworkers ...	
			Female pan hands ...	
			Female workers (other than pan hands and learners).	
			Female learners (other than pan-setting learners).	
			Male and female pieceworkers	
			Apprentices ...	

PRINCIPAL CHANGE IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING SEPTEMBER, 1927.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change.
Asphalting ...	London ...	12 Aug.	Asphalt workers ...	Decrease of 6½ hours per week (50½ to 44).‡

* In accordance with a resolution made by the Corporation in September, the above rate was stabilised until 31st March, 1928, after which date wages are to be revised annually under a cost-of-living sliding scale. Pending a decision by the Corporation, a reduction of 1s. per week had taken effect from the above date. The effect of the resolution was to restore wages to their previous level and cancel this reduction. In the case of road and general labourers the rate remains at 1s. 2½d. per hour.
† Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
‡ See also under Changes in Rates of Wages. Potmen are required to work one or two hours beyond the ordinary working day.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

The total number of cases* of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during September, 1927, under the Factory and Workshop Act or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926, was 82. Eight deaths* were reported during the month, seven due to lead poisoning and one due to aniline poisoning.

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.	(b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING.	(c) CASES OF ANTHRAX.	(d) CASES OF EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION.	(e) CASES OF CHROME ULCERATION.
Among Operatives engaged in—	Aniline Poisoning ... 15	Wool ... 3	Handling of Horsehair ... 1	Pitch ... 4
Smelting of Metals ... 1		Handling of Horsehair ... 1	Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins ... 1	Tar ... 2
Plumbing and Soldering ... 2				Paraffin ... 2
Shipbreaking ... 3				Oil ... 16
Printing ... 3				
Tinning of Metals ... 3				
Other Contact with Molten Lead ... 3				
White and Red Lead Works ... 4				
Pottery† ... 1				
Vitreous Enamelling ... 1				
Electric Accumulator Works ... 2				
Paint and Colour Works ... 2				
Interior Works ... 2				
Coach and Car Painting ... 2				
Shipbuilding ... 1				
Paint used in Other Industries ... 2				
Other Industries ... 2				
Painting of Buildings ... 14				
TOTAL OF ABOVE ... 35				

* Cases include all attacks reported during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.
† The person affected in the pottery industry was a male.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported during September, 1927, as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 212, as compared with 193 in the previous month and with 97 in September, 1926. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in September numbered 35, as compared with 50 in the previous month and with 31 in September, 1926.

RAILWAY SERVICE.	FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued).	SEAMEN.
Brakemen and Goods Guards ... 5	Other Metal Trades ... 2	Trading Vessels, Sailing ... 34
Engine Drivers ... 2	Shipbuilding ... 6	" " Steam ... 34
Firemen ... 2	Wood ... 2	Fishing Vessels, Sailing ... 1
Guards (Passenger) ... 1	Gas ... 2	
Permanent Way Men ... 9	Electric Generating Stations ... 1	
Porters ... 1	Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ... 3	
Shunters ... 1	Chemicals, etc. ... 5	
Mechanics ... 3	Food and Drink ... 8	
Labourers ... 4	Paper, Printing, etc. ... 4	
Miscellaneous ... 2	Tanning, Currying, etc. ... 4	
Contractors' Servants ... 2	Rubber Trades ... 4	
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE ... 24	Other Non-Textile Industries ... 4	
MINES.	PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901.	
Underground ... 74	Docks, Wharves, etc. ... 7	
Surface ... 10	Buildings ... 21	
TOTAL, MINES ... 84	Warehouses and Railway Sidings ... 1	
QUARRIES over 20 feet deep ... 4	TOTAL, FACTORY ACTS ... 99	
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.	Construction or repair of Tramway ... 1	
Cotton ... 7		
Wool, Worsted and Shoddy ... 2		
Other Textiles ... 2		
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing ... 1		
Metal Extracting and Refining ... 1		
Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making ... 9		
Metal Founding ... 1		
Engineering and Machine Making ... 5		
Boiler Making and Constructional Engineering ... 3		
Locomotives, Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft ... 3		
TOTAL, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ... 212		

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

RETURNS have been received from 143 Local Authorities in Great Britain giving the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed during the third quarter of 1927. The summarised figures for the quarter are given in the Table below, together with similar figures as to plans passed by the same Authorities during the corresponding quarter of 1926.

District and Aggregate Population (at Census of 1921) of Towns from which returns have been received.	Estimated Cost of Buildings for which Plans were approved in the 143 Towns from which returns have been received.					
	Dwelling Houses.	Factories and Workshops.	Shops, Offices, Warehouses, and other Business Premises.	Churches and Schools and Public Buildings.	Other Buildings, and Additions and Alterations to Existing Buildings.	TOTAL.

ENGLAND AND WALES—	(a) THIRD QUARTER OF 1927.					
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northern Counties (917,000)	230,700	18,300	72,000	72,200	47,900	441,100
Yorkshire (2,334,000)	837,000	86,300	163,100	195,500	237,900	1,519,800
Lancashire and Cheshire (5,035,000)	1,824,100	89,200	469,200	226,100	228,600	2,837,200
North and West-Midland Counties (2,910,000)	1,200,800	478,900	184,100	182,800	408,300	2,454,900
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (616,000)	372,900	16,400	94,600	12,500	82,300	578,700
Outer London* (2,038,000)	1,067,700	69,200	137,400	95,200	309,300	2,611,800
South-Eastern Counties (1,041,000)	747,000	24,200	223,000	157,700	263,000	1,414,900
South-Western Counties (433,000)	188,500	6,900	13,700	14,000	47,900	271,000
Wales and Monmouthshire (834,000)	218,900	1,100	19,100	31,000	60,400	330,500
SCOTLAND (2,147,000)	1,067,400	163,700	146,200	266,000	276,900	1,920,200
TOTAL (16,305,000)	8,688,000	954,200	1,522,400	1,253,000	1,962,500	14,380,100

ENGLAND AND WALES—	(b) THIRD QUARTER OF 1926.					
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northern Counties (917,000)	452,100	26,900	69,000	19,800	61,900	629,700
Yorkshire (2,334,000)	1,059,500	157,000	165,000	281,200	198,700	1,861,400
Lancashire and Cheshire (5,035,000)	1,432,200	70,500	152,300	153,900	238,900	2,047,800
North and West-Midland Counties (2,910,000)	1,171,700	313,800	242,600	117,100	300,400	2,145,600
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (616,000)	591,700	8,900	55,000	47,800	134,000	837,400
Outer London* (2,038,000)	2,534,800	104,900	266,800	88,700	227,100	3,222,300
South-Eastern Counties (1,041,000)	803,400	32,300	132,400	12,300	183,700	1,164,100
South-Western Counties (433,000)	234,600	9,600	46,700	1,400	56,600	348,900
Wales and Monmouthshire (834,000)	408,900	13,300	84,100	23,800	35,100	565,200
SCOTLAND (2,147,000)	1,981,600	121,900	107,100	142,300	283,600	2,636,500
TOTAL (16,305,000)	10,670,500	859,100	1,321,000	888,300	1,720,000	15,458,900

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE number of assisted passages from Great Britain and Northern Ireland granted during September, 1927, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act, and the total number of such passages granted from the inception of these schemes, together with the number of departures during the same periods, are shown in the following Table:—

Assisted Passage Schemes.	Assisted Passages Granted in Sept., 1927.	Total Assisted Passages Granted.		Departures in Sept., 1927.	Total Departures.	
		1922 to 1926.	Jan. to Sept., 1927.		1922 to 1926.	Jan. to Sept., 1927.
To Australia ...	2,328	113,395†	20,529†	2,702	111,716	22,068
" New Zealand ...	475	35,446†	4,734†	422	34,404	3,677
" Canada: Dominion of Canada ...	892	40,817†	23,961†	1,420	40,862	23,407
Province of Ontario ...	133	1,367	1,356	122	1,356	1,356
South Africa ...	26	500	196	12	251	145
Minor Schemes ...	133	6,752	708†	48	5,927	558
Total ...	3,854	198,277†	50,128†	4,604	194,516	49,855

The figures given include both applicants and dependants of applicants to whom assisted passages have been granted.

* Particulars are not available for the London County Council area.
† Revised figures.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

THE number of persons* relieved on one day† in September, 1927, in the thirty-one selected areas named below was 747,298, or 2.5 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 33.1 per cent. less than in September, 1926. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 418, 429, and 624‡ per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Selected Urban Areas.‡	Number of persons* in receipt of Poor Law Relief on one day† in September, 1927.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	
	Indoor.	Out-door.	Total.		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Metropolises ...	8,868	6,238	15,106	182	+ 3	– 10
West District ...	10,135	16,468	26,603	258	– 5	– 34
North District ...	2,235	2,288	4,523	337	– 6	– 30
Central District ...	9,654	54,875	64,529	990	– 89	– 123
East District ...	18,837	64,190	83,027	422	– 12	– 58
South District ...						
TOTAL, Metropolises ...	49,729	144,059	193,788	420	– 18	– 52
West Ham ...	4,377	29,136	33,513	443	– 26	– 292
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District ...	2,816	27,034	29,850	588	+ 6	– 874
Stockton and Tees District ...	1,295	15,702	16,997	616	– 19	– 187
Bolton, Oldham, etc. ...	4,102	8,367	12,469	159	– 6	– 29
Wigan District ...	1,794	14,067	15,861	349	+ 2	– 1,215
Manchester District ...	9,102	37,769	46,871	447	– 1	– 36
Liverpool District ...	9,362	63,092	72,454	571	– 6	+ 29
Bradford District ...	1,757	6,750	8,507	230	– 43	– 11
Hull and Huddersfield ...	1,478	3,029	4,507	121	– 4	– 6
Leeds ...	2,696	10,566	13,262	278	+ 3	– 192
Barnsley District ...	938	10,931	11,869	353	+ 5	– 2,553†
Sheffield ...	2,485	24,403	26,888	522	– 23	– 282
Hull District ...	1,770	14,042	15,812	494	+ 3	+ 36
North Staffordshire ...	2,331	8,204	10,535	253	+ 3	– 750
Nottingham District ...	2,102	11,737	13,839	294	– 4	+ 23
Leicester ...	1,094	4,085	5,179	214	+ 4	+ 23
Wolverhampton ...	3,337	15,266	18,603	247	– 4	– 92
Birmingham ...	7,205	18,486	25,691	275	– 2	– 10
Bristol District ...	2,485	13,765	16,248	393	+ 11	– 22
Cardiff and Swansea ...	2,537	17,747	20,284	420	+ 4	– 254
TOTAL, "Other Districts" ...	60,686	325,040	385,726	369	– 3	– 281‡
TOTAL, Districts in England and Wales ...	114,792	498,235	613,027	388	– 8	– 214‡
SCOTLAND.						
Glasgow District ...	5,600	81,434	87,034	905	– 41	– 137
Paisley and Greenock District ...	937	12,990	13,927	721	– 62	– 228‡
Edinburgh ...	1,599	15,757	17,356	409	– 1	– 79
Dunfermline ...	789	4,813	5,602	260	+ 4	– 73
Aberdeen ...	517	4,193	4,710	299	– 14	+ 45
Gosbridge & Aldrie ...	344	5,298	5,642	555	+ 2	– 596
TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts ...	9,786	124,485	134,271	654	– 25	– 135‡
TOTAL for above 31 Districts in Sept., 1927 ...	124,578	622,720	747,298	418	– 11	– 20

In the twenty-five selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in September, 1927, was 613,027, a decrease of 2.2 per cent. as compared with August, and a decrease of 35.8 per cent. as compared with a year ago. In the six areas in Scotland the number relieved was 134,271, a decrease of 3.8 per cent. as compared with August, and a decrease of 17.1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Recipients of indoor relief in the thirty-one districts in September numbered 124,578, or 0.5 per cent. more than in the previous month, but 1.1 per cent. less than in September, 1926.

Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 622,720, or 3.0 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 37.1 per cent. less than a year ago.

Of the thirty-one areas, sixteen showed decreases in the number per 10,000 relieved in September, as compared with the previous month, the most noteworthy being East London (89 per 10,000) and Paisley and Greenock (62 per 1

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the period for which the rise is measured, suggest the need for caution in drawing conclusions from a comparison between the figures for any two countries or cities. It is also to be observed that in every case the percentage calculation is based on the assumption that the standard of living is identical at the various periods compared.]

I.—FOOD.

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

Country.	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*					Latest figures available.	
	July, 1924.	July, 1925.	July, 1926.	July, 1927.	Rise.	Date.	
	Per cent. 62	Per cent. 67	Per cent. 61	Per cent. 59	Per cent. 61	1927. 1 Oct.	
UNITED KINGDOM ...							
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							
Czechoslovakia ...	737	816	776	862	819	Aug.	
Denmark ...	100	110	69	53	53	July	
Egypt (Cairo)†	48	58	57	47	47	July	
Finland ...	916	1,007	967	965	1,021	Aug.	
France (Paris)†	260	321	474	487	432	Sept.	
(other towns)‡	300§	351§	510§	453§	453	Aug.	
Germany ...	54	45	57	51	51	Sept.	
Holland (The Hague)	67	76	68	72	72	July	
Italy (Milan)	408	502	554	424	418	Aug.	
(Rome)	369	427	498	425	415	Aug.	
Norway ...	148	160	98	75	74	Sept.	
Spain (Madrid)†	82	90	86	89	121	Aug.	
(Barcelona)‡	72	82	63	64	67	Aug.	
Sweden†	59	69	56	51	56	Sept.	
Switzerland ...	70	69	59	57	57	July	
United States ...	40	56	54	50	49	Aug.	
BRITISH DOMINIONS, & C.							
Australia ...	49†	56	59	52	55	Aug.	
Canada ...	34†	42†	41†	49	49	Aug.	
India (Bombay):							
Native families ...	51	52	55	54	51	Sept.	
Irish Free State ...	85	88	74	66	66	July	
New Zealand ...	48	51	49	44	44	July	
South Africa ...	17	20	16	19	18	Aug.	

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Country.	Items on which Computation is based.†	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*					Latest figures available.	
		July, 1924.	July, 1925.	July, 1926.	July, 1927.	Rise.	Date.	
		Per cent. 70	Per cent. 73	Per cent. 70	Per cent. 66	Per cent. 67	1927. 1 Oct.	
UNITED KINGDOM	A,B,C,D,E							
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.								
Belgium ...	A,C,D,E	393	409	537	690	687	Aug.	
Czechoslovakia (Prague)	A,B,C,D,E	589	641	618	647	633	Aug.	
Denmark ...	A,B,C,D,E	114	119	84	76	76	July	
Finland ...	A,B,C,D,E	1,032	1,094	1,018	1,081	1,114	Aug.	
France (Paris)	A,B,C,D,E	267‡	301‡	439‡	407‡	407	3rd qr.	
Germany ...	A,B,C,D,E	43	42	50	47	47	Sept.	
Greece (Athens)	A,B,C,D,E	1,225	1,372	1,708	1,815	1,815	May	
Holland (Amsterdam)	A,B,C,D,E	73†	79†	71†	67†	67	June	
Italy (Milan)	A,B,C,D,E	412	498	549	448	443	Aug.	
(Rome)	A,B,C,D,E	349	395	462	406	396	Aug.	
Luxemburg ...	A,C,D	381	415	509	681	693	Sept.	
Norway ...	A,B,C,D,E	151†	161†	121†	103	97	Sept.	
Poland (Warsaw)	A,B,C,D,E	57	77	99	101	101	Aug.	
Sweden ...	A,B,C,D,E	71	76	72	69	72	Oct.	
Switzerland ...	A,B,C,D	68	62	60	60	60	Aug.	
United States	A,B,C,D,E	69†	74†	75†	73†	73	June	
BRITISH DOMINIONS, & C.								
Australia ...	A,B	48†	54†	58†	55	55	2nd qr.	
Canada ...	A,B,C,D,E	53†	55†	57†	55†	55	Aug.	
India (Bombay):								
Native families ...	A,B,C,D	57	57	57	56	54	Sept.	
Irish Free State ...	A,B,C,D,E	85	88	82	71	71	July	
New Zealand ...	A,B,C,D,E	60§	63§	61	61	61	July	
South Africa ...	A,B,C,D,E	32	33	30	32	31	Aug.	

* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), August, 1914; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland and Luxemburg, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, France (Paris, all items), Poland, Australia, Greece, average, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Amsterdam, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; United States (all items), Canada, 1913. † Figure for June. ‡ Fuel and light are also included in these figures. § Figure for August. ¶ A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items. †† Figure for 3rd Quarter.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the United Kingdom statistics; and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 377-378 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that of other countries. For details of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, reference should be made to the Reports on Statistics of Unemployment issued by the International Labour Office (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7, and Series N., No. 7).]

GERMANY.*

Employment in August and September.—According to the Reichsarbeitsblatt (the organ of the German Federal Ministry of Labour and also of the newly-formed Federal Employment Exchange and Unemployment Insurance Board) a further improvement took place in the labour market, but the rate of such improvement was somewhat slower. The figure representing the proportion of short-time workers in the trade unions making returns—which is considered to reflect in a very sensitive manner changes in the condition of the labour market—showed a slight increase in August as compared with the preceding month.

Statistical returns to the number of 3,749 were received from representative establishments in various industries employing 1,652,949 workpeople on 15th August. This total shows an increase of 1.4 per cent. as compared with that for 15th July. Fifty-six per cent. of the workpeople were employed in establishments reporting fair employment (as against 54 per cent. in July), 29 per cent. in those reporting good employment (29 per cent. also in July) and 15 per cent. in those reporting bad employment (17 per cent. in July). Increases in the number employed were shown in particular by the building and building materials, engineering, electrical, clothing, textile and metal industries.

The membership of health insurance societies increased from 14,633,141 on 1st August to 14,699,885 on 1st September, or by 0.5 per cent., as against an advance of 0.6 per cent. between 1st July and 1st August.

At the end of August the Employment Exchanges making returns reported 945,178 persons on the "live register," as against 1,040,952 at the end of July. The number of vacant situations at the end of August was 81,359, as compared with 81,004 at the end of July.

Figures showing the number of persons in receipt of benefit in respect of total unemployment are available for 15th September, 1927, on which date the total was 518,064 (including 136,577 entitled to assistance from special funds). On 15th August the corresponding total was 576,555 (including 156,378 from special funds). Returns relating to 3,678,569 organised workers were received from 39 national trade unions. Of these, 181,437, or 4.9 per cent., were totally unemployed on 27th August, as compared with 5.5 on 30th July, and 16.7 per cent. at the end of August, 1926. In addition 102,070, or 2.8 per cent., were working short time, as against 2.6 per cent. on 30th July, and 15.0 per cent. at the end of August, 1926.

The following Table gives particulars of total unemployment among the principal unions represented in the above totals:—

UNIONS.	Membership reported on at end of August, 1927.	Percentage Unemployed at end of Month.		
		August, 1927.	July, 1927.	August, 1926.
		Rise.	Date.	
S.D. = Social-Democratic. H.D. = Hirsch-Duncker (neutral). C. = Christian.				
All Unions making Returns ...	3,678,569	4.9	5.5	16.7
Mining (S.D.) ...	179,500	1.3	1.3	2.0
Metal (S.D.) ...	723,000	5.4	6.5	11.0
(H.D.) ...	75,200	7.6	8.1	11.0
Textile (S.D.) ...	288,900	2.9	3.2	16.5
(H.D.) ...	77,200	0.6	0.7	11.0
Clothing (S.D.) ...	68,300	13.9	12.5	32.1
Boot and shoe (S.D.) ...	73,100	7.8	7.8	28.2
Food, tobacco, etc. (S.D.) ...	51,800	10.8	10.9	15.2
Food and drink (S.D.) ...	71,800	2.1	2.2	5.3
Tobacco (S.D.) ...	60,300	7.3	7.5	17.2
Wordworking (S.D.) ...	274,300	8.3	9.9	27.2
Printing (S.D.) ...	77,000	3.9	3.6	8.2
Bookbinding (S.D.) ...	52,700	6.0	6.3	17.6
Building (S.D.) ...	374,500	3.8	4.3	17.8
Carpenters (S.D.) ...	99,000	3.8	3.2	18.4
Transport (S.D.) ...	300,300	5.0	5.9	8.5
Factory workers (trades not distinguished) (S.D.) ...	416,100	5.1	5.2	15.1
Engine drivers and firemen (S.D.) ...	48,900	4.7	5.7	12.7
Factory and transport (C.) ...	54,300	2.2	2.6	10.6
Municipal and State workers (S.D.) ...	203,300	1.1	1.1	1.7

FRANCE.‡

Unemployment in September.—The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of the Exchanges at the end of September (1st October) was 27,665 (18,139 men and 9,526 women). At the end of August the corresponding total was 29,200.

* Reichsarbeitsblatt, 20th September and 1st October, 1927. Berlin.
† See page 289 of the issue of this GAZETTE for August last.
‡ Members of these societies are persons under obligation to pay insurance premiums. During unemployment they are relieved of this obligation; hence paying members are assumed to be in employment.
§ Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 7th October, 1927. Paris.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920-26.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

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

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

The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

Case No. 2325/27. (10/9/27.) Section 7 (1) (iv) of Principal Act (as amended). Genuinely Seeking Work and Unable to Obtain Suitable Employment.

UNDERGROUND LABOURER REFUSED OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT IN OCCUPATION FOR WHICH HE WAS REGISTERED—ALLEGED UNFIT FOR WORK UNDERGROUND BUT FIT FOR SURFACE WORK—LAST EMPLOYED AS GENERAL LABOURER ON SURFACE, AND ALTERNATIVELY REGISTERED FOR SUCH EMPLOYMENT.

The applicant, who was last employed as a general labourer, lost his employment on 8th July, and made a claim for unemployment benefit on the following day. He registered for employment as an underground labourer, and on 20th July he was offered apparently suitable employment in that capacity, which he refused on the ground of ill health. His claim was disallowed under the provisions of Section 7 (1) (iv) of the principal Act (as amended).

A medical certificate, dated 19th July, was submitted, testifying that the applicant was unfit for employment underground, but fit for surface work.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that, in view of the medical certificate, the claim should be allowed.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation. In his opinion the case was governed by the principles of Decisions 8676/20† and 423/25‡. He referred the case to the Deputy Umpire, who gave the following decision:—

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be allowed.

"The fact that an applicant registers or continues to keep himself registered for work which he knows he is incapable of performing is strong evidence that he is not genuinely seeking work, and it is usually conclusive evidence if that is the only work for which he is registered.

"But in these cases, as in others which involve the consideration of genuinely seeking work, it is necessary to have regard to all the facts and circumstances in an effort to ascertain the state of applicant's mind (see Decision 1404/26§). The strong inference to be drawn from the fact that he has given misleading information to the Employment Exchange, through which he should be seeking employment, may be weakened or even negated by other evidence. The present case, in my opinion, is an instance of this.

"On July 20th, 1927, the applicant was offered work as an underground labourer, which was employment for which he had some time previously registered himself. He alleged that he was physically incapable of taking it and, in confirmation of his statement, produced a medical certificate, dated July 19th, that he was constitutionally unable to work underground.

"If this was the first knowledge the applicant had of his physical incapacity it is clear that an inference of not genuinely seeking work could not be drawn. But if, as is probable, he knew of his condition at the time of registration, it would have been difficult to avoid a conclusion that he had no genuine desire for work, unless there were other facts or circumstances to the contrary. I think there were.

"The applicant's original claim for benefit was made on 1st January, on giving up underground labouring work. He registered himself for that kind of employment but also, alternatively, as a general labourer. That of itself is a material fact. Whether he then informed the Employment Exchange of his incapacity to follow the former kind of employment is not clear, nor does it appear whether the employment which he subsequently had was obtained through the Employment Exchange. But at any rate the Employment Exchange knew and recorded the fact that from 31st January to 22nd February, and again from 31st May to 8th July, the applicant obtained employment as a general labourer.

"In these circumstances I do not think it would be right to conclude that the applicant was not genuinely seeking work from the mere fact that he continued to be registered for two kinds of labouring work, but for one of which he was not suited."

* Volumes containing selected decisions of the Umpire are published by H.M. Stationery Office. Decisions given prior to 31st December, 1926, have been published in pamphlet form and later embodied in bound volumes, the latest being a volume of selected decisions given during the year 1926 (H.M. Stationery Office, price 7s. 6d. net). Decisions given subsequent to December, 1926, are printed in pamphlet form and may be obtained, as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription. All inquiries and applications should be made to H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

† See Umpire's Selected Decisions, Vol. III. (Pamphlet No. 49.)
‡ See Umpire's Selected Decisions, Vol. IV., page 70. (Pamphlet No. 4/1925.)
§ See Umpire's Selected Decisions, Vol. V., page 175. (Pamphlet No. 8/1926.)

The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 7,980 (3,982 for men and 3,998 for women), as compared with 6,462 at the end of August. During the last week of September the Exchanges succeeded in placing 30,026 persons in situations, including 7,213 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 3,176 foreign immigrants.

SWITZERLAND.*

Unemployment in August.—On 31st August, 1927, the number of applications remaining on the "live register" of Employment Exchanges making returns to the Federal Labour Department was 8,854 (6.7 per thousand of the employed population according to the Census of 1920), as compared with 8,404 (6.4 per thousand) at the end of July and 11,818 (9.0 per thousand) at the end of August, 1926. Offers of situations made by employers on these dates numbered 2,880, 2,739 and 1,969 respectively.

BELGIUM.†

Unemployment in August.—Provisional returns received by the Ministry of Industry and Labour from 143 approved unemployment insurance societies, with a total membership of 612,727, show that 7,515 (1.2 per cent.) of these were totally unemployed at the end of the month. In the preceding month the percentage was 1.3, and in August, 1926, 1.2. In addition, 25,062 members (4.1 per cent.) were employed intermittently during the month. The total days lost through unemployment in August numbered 359,315, or 1.95 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days; in the preceding month the percentage was 2.18, and in August, 1926, 1.60.

AUSTRIA.

Unemployment in August.—According to the issue of Statistische Nachrichten (the journal of the Austrian Department of Statistics) for 25th September, 1927, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in Austria was 135,938 at the end of August, as compared with 136,909 at the end of the preceding month. In Vienna alone there were 74,235 persons in receipt of benefit at the end of August, as against 74,961 at the end of July. The total number of applicants for work registered at the employment exchanges at the end of August was 160,529, including 88,339 in Vienna.

ITALY.‡

Unemployment in July.—On 31st July, 1927, 263,091 workpeople were recorded as unemployed in Italy, as compared with 214,603 at the end of the preceding month, and 79,678 at the end of July, 1926. In addition, 125,376 workpeople were partially unemployed at the end of July, as compared with 103,792 at the end of the preceding month, and 26,756 at the end of July, 1926.

DENMARK.§

Unemployment in August.—Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange show that out of 274,831 workpeople covered, 16.5 per cent. were unemployed at the end of August (2nd September) as against 17.3 per cent. at the end of the preceding month, and 16.8 per cent. at the end of August, 1926.

UNITED STATES.¶

Employment in August.—Figures relating to the volume of employment in August, based on returns from 10,918 establishments in 54 of the principal manufacturing industries, are published by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics. These establishments reported 3,028,729 persons employed in August as against 3,017,637 in July, an increase of 0.1 per cent. The aggregate wages paid for August show an increase of 2.1 per cent. as compared with July, and the average earnings per head an increase of 2.0 per cent.

Index Number of Employment, August.—If the monthly average index number of employment in manufacturing industries in 1923 be taken as 100, the corresponding figure for August, 1927, is 87.4 as compared with 87.3 in July, and 90.7 in August, 1926.

AUSTRALIA.††

Unemployment in Second Quarter, 1927.—The proportion of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed in the second quarter of 1927, amounted to 6.4 per cent., as compared with 5.9 per cent. in the preceding quarter and 6.7 per cent. in the second quarter of 1926. (These figures relate to persons out of work for three days or more during a specified week in each quarter.)

CANADA.

Employment in September.**—For 1st September, 1927, returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 6,079 firms, with an aggregate of 905,756 upon their pay rolls. On 1st August the same firms reported 900,621 employed, and the total for September thus shows an increase of 5,135 persons. If employment in the week ended 17th January, 1920, be represented by 100, the index number of employment for 1st September, 1927, is 109.7, as compared with 109.2 at the beginning of the preceding month and 104.9 on 1st September, 1926.

Trade Union Unemployment in August.†††—On 31st August, 3.7 per cent. of the aggregate membership of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 3.3 at the end of July and 2.5 per cent. on 31st August, 1926.

* Sozialstatistische Mitteilungen, September, 1927. Berne.
† Revue du Travail, 30th September, 1927. Brussels.
‡ Bollettino Mensile di Statistica, September, 1927. Rome.
§ Statistiske Efterretninger, 17th September, 1927. Copenhagen.
¶ Employment in Selected Manufacturing Industries, August, 1927. Washington.
** Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics, June, 1927. Melbourne.
†† The September Employment Situation, 1927. Ottawa.
** The September Employment Situation, 1927. Ottawa.
††† Information supplied by the Canadian Department of Labour, Ottawa.

Case No. 2436/27. (26/9/27.) Section 8 (2) of Principal Act—Misconduct.

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER REFUSED TO PERFORM WIRELESS TESTS ON SUNDAY—ALLEGED WORK WAS UNNECESSARY—HAD CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION TO UNNECESSARY WORK ON SUNDAY, BUT WILLING TO DO NECESSARY WORK.

The applicant, a lighthouse keeper, refused to assist in carrying out wireless installation tests on a Sunday, when requested by his employer, and was accordingly dismissed on 15th July, 1927. He made a claim for unemployment benefit on 20th July, which was disallowed on the ground that employment had been lost through his misconduct.

The applicant stated that he objected on religious grounds to performing unnecessary work on Sunday, but was prepared to undertake necessary work. In his opinion the work to which he objected was not urgent, and could have been left over until some other day of the week.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be disallowed for six weeks. The Court considered that the man should have obeyed the instructions of his employer, who doubtless had some good reasons for a test of the installation on the day in question.

The applicant, granted leave by the Court, appealed against the disallowance to the Deputy Umpire, who gave the following decision:—

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be disallowed.

"I agree with the Court of Referees. The applicant's employers had good reason for asking him to take some extra Sunday duty on the occasion in question. He does not profess to have conscientious objections to doing necessary Sunday work, and he was not in a position to know, at the time, what were the reasons for his being required.

"It is not meant to imply that in all or any circumstances the applicant must accept it that any order to work on Sunday must be taken as falling within his understood duties, but in the actual case it appears to me that the applicant had no valid grounds for taking up the attitude which he did take."

Case No. 2449/27. (27/9/27.) Section 7 (1) (iv) (as amended) and Section 8 (2) of Principal Act—Unable to Obtain Suitable Employment and Employment left Voluntarily.

REFUSED TO ACCEPT REDUCTION IN RATE OF WAGES WHICH HAD BEEN PAID FOR SOME YEARS—OTHER EMPLOYERS PAYING THE HIGHER RATE—EMPLOYMENT OBTAINED WITH ANOTHER EMPLOYER AT THE HIGHER RATE.

The applicant and others, who were electricians, were engaged on maintenance work, and for some years had been paid the rate of wages agreed between the Electrical Trades Union and the National Federated Electrical Association, although the employers were not members of that association, but belonged to the Engineering and Allied Employers' Federation, the majority of whose members paid a lower rate (known as the "engineering" rate) to electricians on maintenance work. On 16th June, 1927, on the advice of the Engineering and Allied Employers' Federation, the employers decided to reduce the wages to conform with the engineering rate. The applicant declined to accept the reduction, and was accordingly discharged. He made a claim for benefit on 17th June, which was disallowed on the ground that he was not unable to obtain suitable employment.

A representative of the Electrical Trades Union stated at the hearing before the Court of Referees that in a large number of firms the electricians' rate was being paid to electricians engaged on maintenance work. The applicant had, in fact, since obtained employment with another firm on the same class of work at the higher rate.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim should be allowed. The Court were influenced in their conclusion by the fact that the higher rate had been paid over a long period; that other firms were paying the higher rate; and also that the applicant had secured employment with another employer on maintenance work at that rate.

The Insurance Officer did not agree with the Court's recommendation. In his view the principles of Decision 8038* were applicable in this case. He referred the case to the Deputy Umpire, who gave the following decision:—

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be allowed.

"Looked at in proper perspective this is a comparatively simple case. After having received a given rate of wages for 2½ years in the employment of the same firm, the applicant was given the choice of accepting a much lower rate or of leaving the employment. As he had long previously enjoyed the higher rate, or its equivalent, and anticipated (rightly as events proved) that he would have little or no difficulty in obtaining one of the thousands of situations of similar character commanding that rate in the London District, he chose the latter alternative.

"In my opinion the principles of Decision 6508/20† apply, and the applicant was justified in leaving and trying to get employment elsewhere at a higher rate.

"Whether, if he had been unemployed and had been offered employment with the firm at the lower rate, he would have been justified in refusing it is an interesting and difficult problem, which it is unnecessary to consider in the circumstances of this case."

* See Umpire's Selected Decisions, Vol. III. (Pamphlet No. 45.)

† See Umpire's Selected Decisions, Vol. III. (Pamphlet No. 34.)

SPECIAL SCHEME FOR THE BANKING INDUSTRY: PROPOSED AMENDMENT.**Notice of proposal to make a Special Order varying and amending the Special Scheme of Unemployment Insurance for the Banking Industry.**

THE Minister of Labour hereby gives notice that he proposes, by virtue of the powers conferred upon him by Section 18 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, to make a Special Order further varying and amending the Unemployment Insurance (Banking Industry Special Scheme) Order, 1924.

Copies of the draft Special Order may be obtained on application in writing to the Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Insurance Department, Montagu House, Whitehall, London, S.W. 1.

Objections to the draft Special Order must be sent to the above address within 21 days from the 14th October, 1927.

Every objection must be in writing, and must state—

- the draft Order or portions of the draft Order objected to;
- the specific grounds of objection;
- the omissions, additions, or modifications asked for.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Labour this 13th day of October, 1927.

H. J. WILSON,
Secretary of the Ministry of Labour.

SPECIAL SCHEME FOR THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY: PROPOSED AMENDMENT.**Notice of proposal to make a Special Order varying and amending the Special Scheme of Unemployment Insurance for the Insurance Industry.**

THE Minister of Labour hereby gives notice that he proposes, by virtue of the powers conferred upon him by Section 18 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, to make a Special Order further varying and amending the Insurance Industry (Amended) Scheme, 1923.

Copies of the draft Special Order may be obtained on application in writing to the Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Insurance Department, Montagu House, Whitehall, London, S.W. 1.

Objections to the draft Special Order must be sent to the above address within 21 days from the 14th October, 1927.

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H. J. WILSON,
Secretary of the Ministry of Labour.

INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919, AND CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.**Recent Proceedings.****(A.)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.**

MALE TEMPORARY CLERICAL ASSISTANTS IN L.C.C.—National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks v. L.C.C. *Difference.*—Determination of minimum wage. *Decision.*—Court awarded a commencing rate of 32s. 6d. a week; after three months' service, 34s. 6d. a week; with, in addition, the usual cost of living bonus; to take effect from date of the Award. Award issued 30th September, 1927. (1333.)

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

[There were no cases under this heading during September.]

(C.)—OTHER SETTLEMENTS.

SHOE AND SLIPPER TRADE: ROSSENDALE VALLEY.—Rossendale Valley Shoe and Slipper Manufacturers' Association v. Rossendale Union of Boot, Shoe and Slipper Operatives. *Difference.*—Following alleged repeated threats of single-firm strikes for wages advances and an actual strike in July of clickers at one firm for reinstatement of a suspended workman, approximately 5,000 operatives were locked out. *Settlement.*—Board of Conciliation and Arbitration set up for the trade. Work resumed on 8th September, 1927.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.**Orders, Notices, etc., Recently Issued.****NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.****Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (England and Wales).**

Proposal R.B. (N.M.) 3, dated 16th September, 1927, to fix and to vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers in the area comprising the Urban District of Oakham and the Rural Districts of Oakham and Uppingham in the County of Rutlandshire. Objection period expires 16th November, 1927.

Proposal R.B. (Y) 3, dated 20th September, 1927, to fix general minimum piece-rates and to vary the overtime rates for certain classes of male workers in the area comprising the County of Yorkshire. Objection period expires 20th November, 1927.

Proposal R.B. (N.W.) 2, dated 20th September, 1927, to fix and to vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers in the area comprising the Counties of Anglesey, Carmarvonshire, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Merionethshire and Montgomeryshire. Objection period expires 20th November, 1927.

Proposal R.B. (S.W.a) 2, dated 23rd September, 1927, to fix and to vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers in the area comprising the Counties of Brecknockshire, Cardiganshire, Carmarthenshire, Glamorganshire, Monmouthshire, Pembrokeshire and Radnorshire.

Drift Nets Mending Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal E (5) dated 7th October, 1927, to vary in its application to mackerel nets, the general minimum piece rates at present fixed for female homeworkers for mending nets. Objection period expires 7th October, 1927.

LEAD PAINT (PROTECTION AGAINST POISONING) ACT, 1926.**LEAD PAINT REGULATIONS, 1927.**

THE Home Secretary issued, on the 31st December, 1926, draft Regulations under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926,* for preventing danger from lead paint to persons employed in or in connection with the painting of buildings. Objections to the draft Regulations were received from the National Federation of Building Trades Employers of Great Britain and Ireland, the Painters' and Decorators' Joint Industrial Council of Great Britain, the Engineering and Allied Employers' National Federation, the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation, the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, and other federations and associations, besides two railway companies and various individuals and firms. The main objections received were not those from the employers and operatives in the painting and decorating industry, but those from employers in other industries where painting operations are only carried on incidentally, chiefly for maintenance purposes. Several of these objections had special reference to the regulations in so far as they applied to the removal of old paint from iron and steel work in preparation for repainting.

The Home Secretary, in view of these objections, directed an inquiry to be held with regard to the draft Regulations, and appointed Sir W. W. Mackenzie, G.B.E., K.C., to hold the inquiry and to report. Sir William Mackenzie's Report has now been published.†

Sir William Mackenzie included, as an appendix to his Report, a code of amended Regulations which, in his opinion, were reasonably practicable to protect the health of persons employed in or in connection with the painting of buildings and were proper for adoption by the Home Secretary. His recommendations have been adopted by the Home Secretary, and the Regulations,‡ dated 6th September, came into force on the 1st October.

WELFARE OF WORKERS.**Biscuit Manufacture.**

THE Home Secretary has made an Order, dated 21st September, 1927, under Section 7 of the Police, Factories, etc. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1916, for securing the welfare of workers employed in the icing, creaming and filling of biscuits and wafers. The Order, which may be cited as the Biscuit Factories Welfare Order, 1927, will come into force on 1st December, 1927.

The provisions of the Order are the result of discussion with the National Association of Biscuit Manufacturers. The main requirement of the Order is the provision and maintenance of suitable washing facilities.

Copies of the Order can be purchased from H.M. Stationery Office, at any of the addresses set out on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

* 16 & 17 Geo. V, cap. 37. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net. A review of this Act appeared in the January, 1927, issue of this GAZETTE, page 13.

† H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net.

‡ The Lead Paint Regulations, 1927. Statutory Rules and Orders, 1927, No. 847. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net. May also be obtained from the local agents for the sale of factory forms.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

BLIND WORKERS.—*Handbook on the welfare of the blind in England and Wales.* Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind. Ministry of Health (S.O. publication; price 6d.)

CENSUS OF PRODUCTION.—*Third Census of Production, 1924. Preliminary Reports.* No. 22, Non-ferrous metals trades (smelting, rolling and casting); finished brass trades; watch and clock making trades. No. 23, Bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing trades; lace trade; jewellery, gold, silver and electro-plate trades; fish-curing trade. No. 24, Public utility services:—gasworks undertakings; waterworks undertakings; generation of electricity; work carried out by local authorities (other than gas, electricity and water undertakings); canals, docks, harbours, etc.; tramway and light railway undertakings. Board of Trade (S.O. publications; price 6d. each.)

HEALTH SERVICES.—*Eighth Annual Report of the Ministry of Health, 1926-27.* (Cmd. 2938; price 5s.)

A summary of the section of this Report relating to Housing will be found on page 371.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE.—*National movement of populations during the first quarter of the 20th century.* C.E.I. 4 (1). *Shipbuilding.* C.E.I. 8. *Cotton.* C.E.I. 9. *Chemical industry.* C.E.I. 10. *Mechanical engineering.* C.E.I. 15. *Electrical industry.* C.E.I. 16. *Iron and steel industry.* C.E.I. 17. *Coal.* C.E.I. 18. *Summary memorandum on various industries.* C.E.I. 19. *Natural silk industry.* C.E.I. 24. *Principal features and problems of the world economic position from the point of view of the different countries.* C.E.I. 29. *The artificial silk industry.* C.E.I. 30. *Agricultural problems in their international aspect.* C.E.I. 36. *Recruitment and training of skilled workers and technical staff in Great Britain and Germany.* C.E.I. 38. *Population and natural resources.* C.E.I. 39. *Agriculture and the international economic crisis.* C.E.I. 43. *League of Nations, Economic and Financial Section.* (Geneva, 1926-7; price 6d. to 16s. each.)

LEAD POISONING.—(i) *Report to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department on the draft regulations for preventing danger from lead paint to persons employed in or in connection with the painting of buildings, by Sir William Warrender Mackenzie, G.B.E., K.C.* (S.O. publication; price 3d.) (ii) *Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926. Lead paint regulations, 1927.* S.R. and O., 1927, No. 847. (S.O. publication; price 1d.) (See opposite column.)

MINING.—(i) *List of Parliamentary and other official publications relating to the mining and quarrying industries.* August, 1927. (S.O. publication; price 2d.) (ii) *Reports of H.M. Inspectors of Mines for the year 1926.* (1) *Scotland Division.* (2) *Northern Division.* (3) *Yorkshire Division.* (4) *North Midland Division.* (5) *Lancashire and North Wales Division.* (6) *Cardiff and Newport Division.* (7) *Swansea Division.* (8) *Midland and Southern Division.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publications; price 1s. each.) (iii) *Statistical summary of output, and of the costs of production, proceeds and profits of the coal mining industry for the quarter ended 31st March, 1927.* (Cmd. 2954; price 1d.) (See page 367.)

MINING ACCIDENTS.—(i) *Report of the Committee appointed to investigate the causes and circumstances of the accident which occurred at Pendleton Colliery, Lancashire, on the 4th November, 1925, and to suggest means of preventing such accidents.* (Cmd. 2946; price 1s.) (ii) *Report on the causes of and circumstances attending the explosion which occurred at the Birchenwood Colliery, Kidsgrove, Staffordshire, on 18th December, 1925.* (Cmd. 2947; price 1s.) (iii) *Report on the causes of and circumstances attending the shaft accident which occurred at the No. 1 Shaft of the Bilsthorpe Colliery sinking at Bilsthorpe, Nottinghamshire, on the 1st March, 1927.* (Cmd. 2948; price 6d.) (iv) *Report of the Departmental Committee on the prevention of dangers in mines from accumulations of water or other liquid matter.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication; price 3s.) (v) *Investigations in First-aid Organisation at Collieries in Great Britain.* Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication; price 6d.)

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—*Report to the Minister of Transport upon the accidents that occurred on the railways of Great Britain during the year 1926.* (Cmd. 2941; price 6d.)

RAILWAY STAFF.—*Railway Companies (Staff). Return showing (i) the number of persons employed by the several railway companies of Great Britain during the week ended April 30th, 1927, and (ii) the rates of pay, and also a comparison of the average weekly salary or wage and the average weekly earnings of certain selected grades during the weeks ended March 27th, 1926, and April 30th, 1927.* Ministry of Transport. (S.O. publication; price 2s. 6d.) (See page 370.)

SAFETY.—*Safeguarding of machinery and other dangerous plant used on farms.* Miscellaneous Publications, No. 59. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. (S.O. publication; price 9d.)

Indicates "the nature of the risks associated with farm machinery," and affords "guidance concerning the precautions necessary to secure proper standards of safety in connexion with its working."

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.—*General Report of H.M. Inspectors on the provision of further education in the geographical county of Yorkshire for the period ending on the 31st July, 1926.* Board of Education. (S.O. publication; price 3s.)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—*Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920-1926. Decisions given by the Umpire on claims to benefit during the month of August, 1927.* U.I. 440. Pamphlet No. 8/1927. Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 6d.)

VITAL STATISTICS.—*The Registrar-General's decennial supplement, England and Wales, 1921. Part I. Life tables.* (S.O. publication; price 2s.)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, SEPTEMBER, 1927.

ADMIRALTY.

(Civil Engineer-in-Chief's Department.)

Chatham: **Timber**: Jewson & Sons, Ltd., Norwich. *Portsmouth*: **Portland Cement**: Sankey & Co., Ltd., London, W. *H.M. Naval Establishment Abroad*: **Steelwork for Jetty, Cast Iron Bollards**: Head Wrightson & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Railway Materials**: P. & W. MacLellan, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Corrugated Sheets**: Dorman Long & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.

(Contract and Purchase Department.)

Barges, Motor: A. M. Dickie & Sons, Ltd., Bangor.—**Belting, Leather**: Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.; Bell Rock Belting Co., Ltd., Manchester; Card Clothing & Belting, Ltd. (Fleming, Birkby & Goodall Branch), Halifax; S. E. Norris & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Britannia Metal, etc., Articles**: Cooper Bros. & Sons, Ltd., Sheffield; Thos. Turner & Co. (Sheffield), Ltd., Sheffield; T. Wilkinson & Sons, Birmingham.—**Cable, Electric**: British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Helsby; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Connollys (Blackley), Ltd., Manchester.—**Cables, Installation of, etc.**: G. E. Taylor & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Cameras and Accessories**: R. W. Munro, Ltd., London, N.; Ross, Ltd., London, S.W.; Taylor, Taylor & Hobson, Ltd., London, W.; Thornton Pickard Mfg. Co., Ltd., Altrincham; Williamson Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, N.W.; Wray, Ltd., Bromley.—**Caps, Blue Cloth**: Zeffertt & Sons, Portsea.—**Candles**: Palmer & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Price's Patent Candle Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Cars, Morris**: Morris Motors (1926), Ltd., Cowley, Oxon.—**Cells, Dry**: Fuller Accumulator Co. (1926), Ltd., Chadwell Heath.—**Cloth, Silk**: E. Wilman & Sons, Ltd., Hadfield.—**Compressors, Air**: Broom & Wade, Ltd., High Wycombe; Peter Brotherhood, Ltd., Peterborough.—**Crane, Electric**: Isles, Ltd., Leeds.—**Deck Insulators, Fittings for**: General Electric Co., Ltd., Wembley; Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester.—**Electrodes**: Quasi-Arc Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Engine, Fire, Petrol-driven**: Dennis Bros., Ltd., Guildford.—**Fans and Air-Purifier Casings**: James Keith & Blackman Co., Ltd., London, N.—**Fans, Table, Spares for**: General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Veritys, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Flour**: J. Rank, Ltd., London, E.; Buchanan's Flour Mills, Ltd., Liverpool.—**Flour, Standard**: E. Marriage & Sons, Ltd., Felixstowe.—**Gear Cutting and New Pinions**: Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness.—**Gear, Gymnastic**: F. H. Ayres, Ltd., London, E.C.; F. Bryan, Ltd., London, S.E.; G. G. Bussey & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Wm. Sykes, Ltd., Horbury, Yorks; Wilkinson Sword Co., London, S.W.—**Hides, etc., Buffalo**: Bryant & Co., London, S.E.; Connolly Bros. (Curriers), Ltd., London, N.W.; Thomas Cundall, London, S.E.; J. T. Hart & Sons, London S.E.; George MacLellan & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Hides and Leather**: G. Angus & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; J. & T. J. Baker & Co., Ltd., Colyton; Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.; Card Clothing & Belting, Ltd. (Fleming, Birkby & Goodall, Ltd. Branch), Halifax; J. S. Deed & Sons, Ltd., London, W.C.; J. & A. Hillman, Ltd., Dudley; S. E. Norris & Co., Ltd., London, E.; J. Tullis & Son, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Jam, Plum**: Lipton, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Leather**: J. Conyers & Sons, Ltd., Leeds.—**Linoleum**: Fife Linoleum Co., Ltd., Kirkcaldy.—**Locks, etc.**: Banks & Rushton, Willenhall; J. & E. Bates & Sons, Ltd., Wolverhampton; Beddow & Sturmeley, Ltd., Willenhall; Harrison & Sons, Ltd., Willenhall; Walsall Locks & Cart Gear, Ltd., Walsall; J. Worrall & Sons, Willenhall.—**Locomotives, Steam**: Hawthorn Leslie & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Kerr, Stuart & Co., Ltd., Stoke, Staffs.—**Meggers, Bridge**: Evershed & Vignoles, Ltd., London, W.—**Models of Ships**: Kelso & Co., Glasgow; W. Spain & Co., Sunderland; Bassett-Lowke, Ltd., Northampton.—**Nails, etc., Copper**: T. Bradley, Birmingham; Harrison & Cook, Birmingham; D. Pavis & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Tower Manfg. Co., Ltd., Worcester.—**Netting, Mosquito**: A. C. Pearce & Co., Ltd., Nottingham.—**Oil, Light Shale**: Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Panels**: Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester.—**Pinnaces, Machinery for**: The Ferry Engine Co., Southampton; The Atlantic Engine Co., Ltd., Manchester; Rowledge Ironworks Co., Ltd., Rowhedge; Groves & Guttridge, Ltd., East Cowes, I.O.W.—**Pinnaces, Motor**: A. Rutherford & Co., Ltd., Birkenhead; Clare Lallow, Cowes, I.O.W.; J. S. White & Co., Ltd., East Cowes, I.O.W.; Vosper & Co., Ltd., Portsmouth; R. J. Perkins & Sons, Whitstable; Southampton Launch and Boat Co., Southampton; Sittingbourne Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., Sittingbourne; Harland & Wolff, Ltd., Liverpool.—**Pipes, Fittings, Lagging, etc.**: Babcock & Wilcox, Ltd., Renfrewshire.—**Plywood**: W. Mallinson & Sons, London, E.; Tucker Armoured Plywood Co., Ltd., Crayford, Kent.—**Pumps**: Frank Pearn & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Putty**: T. & W. Farniole, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Sailcloth, Canvas**: Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee; Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen.—**Socks, Cashmere**: I. & R. Morley, Heanor.—**Spirit, Methylated**: Jones & Co. (Methylators), Ltd., London, E.—**Spirit, White**: Glico Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Suet, Beef**: Hugon & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Switches**: General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Timber, English**: Bartlett Bayliss & Co., Ltd., Bideford; R. Batcheller & Sons, Ltd., Maidstone; Bowerman & Sons, Ltd., Bridgwater; C. R. Claridge, Exeter; J. D. Foster, Emsworth; W. Mallinson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.; C. Miles & Sons, Stamford, Lines; R. Mulford, Ltd., Basingstoke; G. Randle & Son, Ltd., Bridgwater.—**Toothbrushes**: G. B. Kent & Son, London, E.C.;

W. R. Tilbury & Son, London, E.—**Travelers, Hand Overhead**: Herbert Morris, Ltd., Loughborough.—**Tubing, Fittings, Lagging, etc.**: Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Glasgow.—**W/T Valves**: Mullard Radio Valve Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.—**W/T Valves, Holders for**: H. W. Sullivan, Ltd., London, S.E.

WAR OFFICE.

Ablution Ranges: Wilmer & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Acetylene Gas**: Allen, Liversidge, Ltd., London, E.—**Bakery Plant, Reconditioning of**: Baker, Perkins, Ltd., Peterborough.—**Ballast, Thames**: W. R. Cunis, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Blankets, Saddle**: J. Walker & Sons, Ltd., Mirfield, Yorks.—**Blinds and Blind Accessories**: W. G. Curry, Aldershot.—**Boilers, Independent**: National Radiator Co., Ltd., Hull; Smith & Wellstood, Ltd., Bonnybridge, Stirling.—**Brushes, Sweeping, Long, Heads**: Geo. Tyrie, London, E.C.—**Cable Testing Equipment**: Ferranti, Ltd., Hollinwood, Lancs.—**Caps, Bearskin**: L. Silberston, London, E.—**Carts, Water Tank**: Spencer & Cook, Ltd., Stalybridge.—**Cement, Portland**: Aberthaw and Bristol Channel P.C. Co., Ltd., Aberthaw and Rhose.—**Covers, Waterproof**: County Screen Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Desks, Children's**: Wake & Dean, Ltd., Yatton, Nr. Bristol.—**Earthenware (Plates, etc.)**: J. Steventon & Sons, Ltd., Burslem.—**Eaves, Cast Iron**: David King & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Engine Clutch Assemblies**: Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry.—**Engine Tests**: Ricardo & Co., Shoreham.—**Fireplaces for Barrack Rooms**: Dobbie Forbes & Co., Ltd., Larbert, Stirling.—**Hessian, Packing**: Craiks, Ltd., Forfar; D. Smith & Sons, Ltd., Alyth.—**Hollow-ware**: Froggatt & Tyler, Ltd., Bilston.—**Lathes**: J. Buckton & Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Meters, Electric**: Measurements, Ltd., Oldham and London, S.W.; General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Ferranti, Ltd., Hollinwood, Lancs.—**Motor Spares**: Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Ovens, Field**: Bristol Steam Oven Works, Ltd., Bristol.—**Pails, I.G.**: John Hill Galvanising Co., Ltd., Cradley Heath.—**Razors, Safety**: Gillette Safety Razor, Ltd., Slough.—**Rings, Friction**: Weybridge Motor Eng. Co., Weybridge.—**Road Roller and Spares**: Marshall, Sons & Co., Ltd., Gainsborough.—**Rubbers, Horse**: T. Briggs (London) Ltd., London, E.C.—**Shirting, Angola, drab**: Kelsall & Kemp, Ltd., Rochdale.—**Side Cars**: Triumph Cycle Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Silk, Sewing**: J. & T. Brocklehurst & Sons, Ltd., Macclesfield.—**Sleepers and Crossing Timbers**: Wm. Christie & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Steel**: Steel, Peech & Tozer, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Steel Alloy Bars**: Hadfields, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Tents, Store, Canvas**: C. Groom, Ltd., London, E.C.; T. Briggs (London), Ltd., London, E.C.; T. Dobbin & Co., London, E.—**Tin Ingot**: J. Batt & Co. (London), Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tins, feed**: Sargeant, Turner & Sons, Ltd., Lye.—**Tractor and Trailer**: Herwin, Canny & Co., Woolwich, Warwick and Manchester.—**Trailer Assemblies**: Weybridge Motor Eng. Co., Ltd., Weybridge.—**Tyres**: Dunlop Rubber Co., Birmingham.—**Valves, W/T**: General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Vehicles, half-tracked, Crossley-Kegresse, Spares**: Crossley Motors, Ltd., Manchester.—**Windows and Casements, Steel**: Williams & Williams, Ltd., Chester; Helliwell & Co., Ltd., Brighouse.—**Works Services: Building Works and Services**: Aldershot, Thornhill Barracks, Cook-house and Dining Room Block; Crosby & Co., Ltd., Farnham, Dover, Connaught Barracks, Gymnasium Block; J. Bodle, Ltd., Eastbourne. Woolwich Royal Arsenal, Covering in roof and enclosing new stores buildings: E. J. Logan, London, W.C. Guildford, Artificers' Works: J. Peacock, Gravesend. Woolwich, Cambridge Barracks, Conversion of Cookhouse into Regimental Institute: J. B. Edwards & Co., London, W. Stirling, R.A.O. Depot, Periodical Painting: G. M. Robb, Edinburgh. Chatham, External Painting: T. Carr, London, W. Shoeburyness, R.A.O.C. Workshop: Wm. Bain & Co., Coatbridge. Aldershot, Thornhill Barracks, Alterations and additions to Bath House: McCarthy E. Pitt, Reading. Ewshott, Alterations and additions to Regimental Institute: G. Kemp, Stroud & Co., Aldershot. Shoeburyness, External Painting: J. J. Hamilton, Louth, Lines. Shoeburyness, Erection of Married Soldiers' Quarters: J. B. Edwards & Co., Whyteleafe, Surrey. Catterick Camp, Periodical Services: W. T. Pickering, Stockton-on-Tees. Lichfield, Whittington Barracks, Sanitary Services: F. Perks & Son, Ltd., Long Eaton. Richmond Barracks, Erection of Officers' Quarters: G. R. Wade & Son, Richmond, Yorks. Strensall Camp, Periodical Services: T. M. Oxtoby & Sons, York. Dumblane, Queen Victoria School, Erection of Reading Room: R. Gilchrist & Son, Ltd., Glasgow. Bovington Camp, Internal and External Painting: A. Bagnall & Sons, Ltd., Shipley, Yorks. Netley, Royal Victoria Hospital, Internal Painting: A. Bagnall & Sons, Ltd., Shipley, Yorks. Fleet, Dorset, Provision of Rifle Range: Jesty & Baker, Weymouth.

AIR MINISTRY.

Aircraft: H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames; Short Bros. (Rochester & Bedford), Ltd., Rochester, Kent; Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge.—**Aircraft, Conversion of**: H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.—**Aircraft, Installation of Engine in**: H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.—**Aircraft Spares**: Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Parkside, Coventry; Blackburn Aero plane and Motor Co., Ltd., Leeds; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes,

POST OFFICE.

Middlesex; Gloster Aircraft Co., Ltd., Cheltenham; H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames; S. E. Saunders, Ltd., East Cowes, Isle of Wight; Vickers, Ltd., Weybridge.—**Aircraft, Work on**: Blackburn Aeroplane and Motor Co., Ltd., Leeds; Short Bros., Ltd., Rochester, Kent.—**Aircscrews**: Aircscrew Co., Weybridge; Blackburn Aeroplane and Motor Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Aircscrews, Metal**: Metal Propellers, Ltd., Purley Way, Croydon.—**Ball and Roller Bearings**: Rudge, Whitworth, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Barometers, portable**: S. & A. Calderara, London, E.—**Bodies for Crossley Chassis**: Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Bombs**: Peter Brotherhood, Ltd., Walton, Peterborough; Sheepbridge Coal and Iron Co., Ltd., Chesterfield; Vickers, Ltd., Dartford.—**Boxes, Voltage Control**: Siemens Bros. and Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Brushes, Sweeping, Platform**: A. Reid & Sons, London, S.E.—**Buildings and Works Services**: Bulk Petrol Storage Installation (Various Stations): Simmons & Hawker, London, W.C. Bulk Petrol Pumps (Bicester and Worthy Down): Zwicky, Ltd., Slough. Married Quarters (Bentley Priory): H. Lacey & Sons, Luton. Meteorological Tower (Ismailia): Glasgow Steel Roofing Co., Ltd., Glasgow. Re-roofing Sheds (Harlescott): E. H. Nicholas, Coleham, Shrewsbury. Workshop Heating (Croydon): Brightside Foundry and Engineering Co., Ltd., Birmingham. W/T Transmitting Station (Duxford): A. Negus & Sons, Cambridge.—**Cartridges, Signal**: Yorkshire Steel Co., Ltd., Huddersfield.—**Compressors**: Reavell & Co., Ltd., Ipswich.—**Cranes, Mobile, Petrol Electric**: Ransomes & Rapier, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Crossley Spares**: Crossley Motors, Ltd., Gorton, Manchester.—**Direction-finding Receiver C/W Valves, Telephones and Smoothing Units**: Marconi's W/T Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Drums, Benzol**: P. D. Mitchell, Ltd., Dundee.—**Engines, Aircraft**: Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engines, Aircraft, Overhaul of**: Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engines, Aircraft, Pistons and Cylinder Blocks for**: Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engines, Aircraft, Reconditioning of**: Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engines, Aircraft, Repair of**: Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engines, Aircraft, Spares**: Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.; Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Extinguishers, Fire**: Foamite Firefoam, Ltd., London, W.—**Freighter, S.D.**: Shelvoke & Drewry, Ltd., Letchworth.—**Generators, Motor**: W. Mackie & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Small Electric Motors, Ltd., Beckenham, Kent.—**Indicators, Air-Speed**: R. W. Munro, Ltd., London, N.—**Kegresse Attachments**: Crossley Motors, Ltd., Gorton, Manchester.—**Lamps, Filament**: Siemens Electric Lamps and Supplies, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Landaulettes**: Crossley Motors, Ltd., Gorton, Manchester.—**Magneto Spares**: British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Pipes, Cast-iron**: Cochrane & Co., Middlesbrough.—**Pipes, Hose, Canvas**: The Wm. Rose Hose Co., Ltd., Salford.—**Radiators, Aircraft**: Excelsior Motor Radiator Co., Ltd., Leeds; Serek Radiators, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Railway Waggon**: Robert Hudson, Ltd., Leeds.—**Sets, Generating, Petrol Electric, with Switchboards, Engines and Dynamos**: Douglas Motors, Ltd., Kingswood, Bristol.—**Soap, Coarse, and Flakes**: Chris. Thomas & Bros., Ltd., Bristol.—**Solder, Tinman's**: Tyne Solder Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Sozol (Rust Preventive)**: Sozol (1924), Ltd., London, E.C.—**Syntonisizers**: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Tanks, Petrol**: F. Braby & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Transmitters and Spares**: Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Tyre Inner Tubes**: David Moseley & Sons, Ltd., Ardwick, Manchester.—**Tyres and Tubes**: Avon India Rubber Co., Melksham; British Goodrich Co., London, W.—**Tyres and Wheels**: Avon India Rubber Co., Ltd., Melksham.—**Vices, Bench, Parallel**: Fortis Engineering Co., Ltd., Leicester.—**Wheel Tyres, Aircraft**: Palmer Tyre, Ltd., London, E.

H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

Carbons: Read Manufacturing Co. (London), Ltd., Hounslow, Middlesex.—**Cord**: Wrights Ropes, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Envelopes**: McCorquodale & Co., Ltd., Wolverton, Bucks.—**Millboards**: Jacksons Millboard & Paper Co., Ltd., Bourne End, Bucks.—**Paper (of various descriptions)**: Brown, Stewart & Co., Ltd., Bridgton, Glasgow; Caldwell's Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Inverkeithing, Fife; E. Collins & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow; A. Cowan & Sons, Ltd., Penicuik, Midlothian; J. Cropper & Co., Ltd., Kendal, Westmorland; Fisher & Co., Ltd., Tamworth, Staffs; Golden Valley Paper Mills, Bitton, nr. Bristol; Imperial Paper Mills, Ltd., Gravesend, Kent; New Northfleet Paper Mills Ltd., Northfleet, Kent; Olives Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Bury, Lancs; Portals, Ltd., Whitechurch, Hants; St. Neots Paper Mill Co., Ltd., St. Neots, Hunts; Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., Dunstable, Herts; Wiggins, Teape & A. Pirie (Sales), Ltd., Bucksburn, Aberdeenshire.—**Printing, Ruling, Binding, etc.**: Account Book Binding, Div. II (1927): Thos. Hooley & Co., Ltd., Stockport. Account Book Binding, Div. IX (1927): Barclay & Fry, Ltd., London, S.E. Group 10 (1928) Specifications of Patents: Love and Malcolmson, Ltd., Redhill, Surrey. Printing and Supplying Calendars for H.M. Prison, Birmingham: Moody Bros., Ltd., Birmingham. 34,700 Annual Motor Licences: Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., New Malden, Surrey. 7,000 Books, "D. 192" (Admiralty): Drake, Driver & Leaver, Ltd., London, E.C. Income Tax and Land Tax Receipt Books: H.M. Stationery Office, Harrow. 1,650 Books Licence Register C. & E., No. 463; 1,590 Books, Accounts Register C. & E., No. 464; McCorquodale & Co., Ltd., Wolverton, Bucks. 1,150,000 Forms U.I. 80: C. Tinning & Co., Ltd., Prescot, Lancs. 8,000 Books, Collector of Taxes Cash Book; 1,660 Books, Betting and Entertainment Duty Register C. & E. No. 465: Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Stencils**: Ellams Duplicator Co., Ltd., Bushey, Herts; D. Gestetner, Ltd., London, N.—**Waste Paper (Collection and Disposal)**: Manchester: Chadwick, Lunt & Co., Manchester.—**Waterproof Packing Paper**: Packing Materials Association, Ltd., Manchester.

Apparatus, Battery Charging: Stuart Turner, Ltd., Henley-on-Thames; Wilton Engine Co., Ltd., Hooley Hill, near Manchester.—**Apparatus, Telephonic**: Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, N. or N.W.—**Apparatus, Wireless**: British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Rugby.—**Arms, Wood**: Neil Small & Sons, Kilwinning and/or Ayr, Ayrshire.—**Battery Stores**: D.P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell, Derbyshire; Fuller Accumulator Co. (1926), Ltd., Chadwell Heath, Essex.—**Bicycles**: New Hudson, Ltd., Birmingham; Triumph Cycle Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Cable, Various**: British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Prescot; Callenders Cable & Construction Co., Ltd., Leigh, Lancs.; Connollys (Blackley), Ltd., Blackley, Manchester; Enfield Cable Co., Ltd., Brimsdown, Middlesex; W. T. Glover & Co., Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester; Hackbridge Cable Co., Ltd., Hackbridge, Surrey; W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., Gravesend; Pirelli General Cables, Ltd., Southampton; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, E.—**Canvas**: Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen.—**Castings, Joint Box**: United Steel Companies, Ltd. (Thos. Butlin & Co., Branch), Wellingborough.—**Cloth**: Jas. Banks & Sons, Ltd., Pudsey, Leeds; H. Booth & Sons, Gildersome, Leeds; Colbeck Bros., Ltd., Wakefield; Fox Bros. & Co., Ltd., Wellington, Somerset; Greengates Worsted Co., Apperley Bridge, Bradford; A. W. Hainsworth & Sons, Ltd., Farsley, Leeds; J. Hainsworth & Sons, Farsley, Leeds; T. & H. Harper, Ltd., Apperley Bridge, Bradford; W. & T. Huggan, Bramley, Leeds; J. J. L. & C. Peate (Guiseley), Ltd., Guiseley, Leeds; Joseph Smith & Co., Greetland, Halifax.—**Desks**: Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., Beeston, Notts.—**Handcars**: W. 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