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EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, DISPUTES, AND PRICES IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT during March, though still bad generally, showed a further slight improvement on the whole, notwithstanding the adverse effect of the engineering dispute on employment in that industry and in the iron and steel trades. Among industries showing an improvement were iron mining, pig iron manufacture, the building trades, the cotton and wool textile industries, and the clothing trades.

The percentage unemployed among members of trade unions from which returns are received was 16·3 at the end of March, the same as at the end of February. The percentage unemployed among the twelve million workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act was 14·6 at 27th March, as compared with 15·2 at 28th February. The percentages for males and females at 27th March were 16·7 and 9·3 respectively.

The total number of workpeople registered at the Employment Exchanges as unemployed at 27th March was approximately 1,740,000, of whom 1,359,000 were men and 285,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 28th February the number on the live register was 1,837,000, of whom 1,411,000 were men and 318,000 were women.

In addition to those unemployed, 132,000 males and 91,000 females were registered on 27th March as working systematic short time in such a manner as to entitle them to benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Act. At 28th February the corresponding figures were 155,000 males and 105,000 females.

The number of vacancies notified by employers to Exchanges and unfilled at 27th March was 17,600, of which 4,200 were for men and 11,200 for women, compared with 18,000 at 28th February.

WAGES.

The changes in rates of wages reported as having taken effect in March, in the industries covered by the statistics, resulted in a reduction of over £223,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 1,350,000 workpeople and in an increase of £800 a week in the wages of about 10,000 workpeople.

Coal miners in Northumberland, Yorkshire, the East Midlands, Lancashire, Cheshire, North Staffordshire, North Wales, and Scotland sustained reductions varying in amount from under 2 to over 8 per cent. on current rates of wages; in the Forest of Dean and the Radstock District, on the other hand, there were increases equivalent, respectively, to nearly 1 per cent. and over 8 per cent. on current rates. In the merchant shipping service the rates of pay of ordinary seamen were reduced by 25s. a month, and those of other men by 30s. a month; for men on weekly rates the reductions ranged from 8s. to 10s. 6d. per week. There was a general reduction of 1s. per day, or 6d. per half-day, in the time rates of wages of dock labourers, with corresponding reductions in piece rates. Men in the heavy chemical trade sustained a reduction of 1d. per hour, and those in flour mills a reduction of 1s. 6d. per week.

Among other large groups of workpeople whose wages were reduced were iron puddlers and millmen in the

North of England and the West of Scotland; ship repairers in South Wales; electrical cable makers; wire drawers; lead smelters; textile warehousemen in London; and rubber workers in Lancashire.

Minimum rates of wages fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were reduced during the month in the following trades: brush and broom; hair, bass and fibre; coffin furniture and cerement making; pin, hook and eye, and snap fastener making; linen and cotton handkerchief making; and for male workers in the laundry trade. In the boot and floor polish and waste reclamation trades minimum rates were fixed for the first time under the Acts.

Since the beginning of 1922 changes in rates of wages reported to the Department have resulted in a net reduction of £1,210,000 in the weekly rates of wages of nearly 5,900,000 workpeople and a net increase of about £3,400 in the wages of 20,000 workpeople.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in March, was 48. In addition, 53 disputes, which began before March, were still in progress at the beginning of the month.

The total number of workpeople involved in all these disputes (including those workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 280,000, as compared with 33,000 in the previous month and 45,000 in March, 1921. The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during March was about 3,500,000 working days, as compared with 316,000 days in February, 1922, and 839,000 days in March, 1921.

The principal disputes were those in the engineering and shipbuilding industries, which are estimated to have involved about 240,000 workpeople; particulars of these disputes are given on page 156.

RETAIL PRICES.

At 1st April the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics prepared by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous items) was about 82 per cent. above that of July, 1914. The corresponding figure for 1st March was 86 per cent., and that for 1st April, 1921, was 133 per cent. The highest point reached by the figure was 176 per cent. above the pre-war level, in November, 1920. Apart from a slight interruption in the summer of 1921, there has been a continuous decline since that date, and the figure now recorded is lower than that for any date since October, 1917.

The statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families. 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, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living.

For further particulars and details of the statistics reference should be made to the article on page 161.

DISPUTES IN THE ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRIES.

ENGINEERING.

The events leading up to the lock-out of members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union employed by members of the Engineering and the National Employers' Federations, which took effect at stopping time on the 11th March, were described in the LABOUR GAZETTE for March (page 106). Despite continuous efforts to bring the two sides again into direct negotiation, the lock-out remains in operation, although it has not been extended to members of the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, the Federation of General Workers and the National Union of Foundry Workers, who were, until the 14th April, engaged in negotiations with the employers on an agreed basis.

On the 14th March the General Council of the Trade Union Congress announced their decision to approach the Government with a view to the setting up of a Court of Inquiry under the Industrial Courts Act to investigate the whole matter in dispute. After consulting with the representatives of all the Unions concerned on the following day, the National Joint Labour Council (representing the Trades Union Congress, the National Labour Party, and the Parliamentary Labour Party) appointed a deputation to interview Mr. Chamberlain, in the absence of the Prime Minister. Mr. Chamberlain, accompanied by the Minister of Labour and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, informed the deputation on the 16th March that the Government could not agree to the establishment of a Court of Inquiry at that stage, as to do so would prejudice the decisions of the Unions other than the Amalgamated Engineering Union, who were engaged in taking a ballot of their members. He agreed, however, to a discussion in the House of Commons, and this took place on a motion for the adjournment on the 20th March. In the course of the debate further appeals were made by the Labour Party for the setting up of a Court of Inquiry. To these Dr. Macnamara replied that he would have to defer his decision until the result of the ballots was known, and appealed to all to influence the parties to come together again.

On the 21st March a deputation from the National Joint Council met Sir Allan Smith, Chairman of the Employers' Federations, to ask him to explain in detail certain statements he had made in the debate the previous evening. From the 22nd to the 25th March informal negotiations were in progress between Sir Allan Smith and a mediating committee of the National Joint Council consisting of Messrs. Clynes, Henderson, Walker and Boverman. On the 24th March the result of the ballot of members of the Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades Federation, the National Union of Foundry Workers and the National Federation of General Workers was announced. There had voted in favour of accepting the employers' memorandum 49,503, and against acceptance 164,759, showing a majority of 115,256 against. On the same day there was a temporary suspension of the informal negotiations between the mediating committee and Sir Allan Smith, as the latter, before proceeding, required an assurance that the committee was acting with the approval, not only of the two larger Unions and the two Federations concerned, but also of the five smaller Unions concerned. Negotiations were, however, resumed the same day, after the five smaller Unions had been communicated with, and on the following day it was announced that a basis for a conference between the Engineering and National Employers' Federations and a Negotiating Committee representing all the Unions had been agreed upon by Sir Allan Smith and the mediating committee. Clause I. of the memorandum embodying the basis for a conference affirmed the right of the employers to manage their own works and the right of the Unions to exercise the proper functions of Trade Unions. Clause II. provided that in the exercise of these rights the parties should have regard to the Provisions for Avoiding Disputes of the 17th April, 1914, amplified by the Shop Stewards and Works Committees Agreement of the 20th May, 1919, or to such other procedure as might be agreed upon. It further provided that notice should be given by the management to the workmen concerned, or to their representatives, of any material change in the recognised working conditions. The matter should thereupon be considered in accordance with the recognised procedure, and, in the event of failure to reach an agreement, the management should be entitled to give a decision, which should be observed pending further discussion of the matter through the proper machinery. In all other questions the instructions of the management should be observed, and discussion between the employers and the workmen or their representatives should follow the managerial act.

At a conference of all the Unions on the same day it was resolved to accept the principles of Clause I. of that memorandum and to accept Clause II. as a basis of discussion. The employers were also asked to suspend the posting of notices to the Unions other than the Amalgamated Engineering Union and to give consideration to the position of the latter Union. These last points were further pressed on the 27th and 28th March, when the Negotiating Committee met the employers. The employers, however, could only offer to suspend notices to the other Unions if the "Basis of Conference" memorandum were accepted in full. In the case of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, they were not prepared to withdraw the lock-out notices already in operation. This offer was not accepted by the Unions, and, the negotiations having thus reached a deadlock, the employers posted notices on the 30th March locking out members of the Unions other than the Amalgamated Engineering Union as from stopping time on the 6th April.

On the 31st March and the 1st April there were informal discussions between representatives of the Unions and Sir Allan

Smith, and the following new basis for negotiation, signed on the 1st April by Sir Allan Smith and Mr. Henderson, was prepared for submission to a conference of Union delegates:—

"With a view to securing an immediate resumption of negotiations between the parties, it is jointly agreed to recommend as follows:

"This Conference of the Representatives of the Unions declares its willingness to resume negotiations with the Employers on the basis of Conference of 24th March, 1922; and accepts the principles laid down in Clause I. thereof, which imply the right of the management pending negotiations to give instructions, except where modified by agreement which may be entered into as a result of the negotiations which follow hereon.

"The Employers and the Negotiating Committee of the Unions will endeavour to adjust mutually their ideas as to the manner in which the principle of management and the functions of Trade Unions will be applied to the actual circumstances of the cases to be discussed."

After a meeting with the Prime Minister on the 4th April this document was accepted as a basis by all the Unions concerned, with the exception of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, who rejected it as being inconsistent with the decision their members had given by ballot. On the following day the lock-out notices to the Unions other than the Amalgamated Engineering Union, which were due to expire on the 6th April, were suspended, and the employers agreed to devote the week commencing the 10th April to discussion with a Negotiating Committee, having a mandate of all the Unions concerned, and thereafter to allow fourteen days for a ballot on any agreement that might be reached. The negotiations so renewed on the 10th April continued until the early hours of the 14th April when a deadlock was again reached.

SHIPBUILDING.

As reported in the LABOUR GAZETTE for March (page 106), the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation had given notice of their intention to discontinue the payment of war bonus to the extent of 16s. 6d. on the 15th March, and that a decision would be reached later as to the date for withdrawing the remaining 10s. This notice was, however, suspended, in view of the resumption of negotiations, which continued until 17th March. On the 16th March the employers had made a final proposal for withdrawing 10s. 6d. on the 29th March and 6s. at the end of April. The employers asked that this offer should be submitted to a ballot of the Unions with the recommendation of the leaders, but to this the delegates could not agree, nor did they accept a later proposal, put forward after discussions with the Minister of Labour, that neither the leaders nor the delegates should use their influence against acceptance. Negotiations accordingly broke down on the 17th March.

On the 20th March the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation decided to adhere to their amended proposal of dividing the reduction of 16s. 6d., which was originally due to have taken place on the 15th March, into a reduction of 10s. 6d. on the 29th March and 6s. on the 26th April. Notices of these reductions were accordingly posted on the 22nd March, and on the following day the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades decided to ballot their members on the acceptance or rejection of these terms. The employers were, however, unable to agree to a request that notices should be suspended until the result of the ballot was known. The Delegate Conference of the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades accordingly decided that their members should cease work on the 29th March. The ballot papers not being returnable until the 3rd April. On the 4th April it was announced that 26,451 had voted in favour of acceptance of the employers' terms and 87,026 against. No Union had shown a majority in favour. The National Joint Council thereupon decided to offer their services, and appointed a Committee for the purpose. As a result of discussions between this Committee and the Minister of Labour a meeting between the Employers' Federation and the Negotiating Committee of the Unions was arranged, and discussion took place on the 6th and 7th April. On the 11th April the Negotiating Committee saw the Minister of Labour and requested that a Court of Inquiry should be set up, and on the following day the Minister met the employers.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT 1921.

The work of Employment Exchanges during the year 1921 in connection with the Unemployment Insurance Acts and the Out-of-Work Donation Scheme is summarised below. The number of claims received and the amount of benefit paid out during the period under review were wholly unprecedented. The situation was such as to require legislation on no less than three occasions. The Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921 (see LABOUR GAZETTE, March, 1921), which came into operation on 3rd March, was followed on 30th June by the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1921 (see LABOUR GAZETTE, July, 1921), and on 10th November by the Unemployed Workers' Dependants (Temporary Provision) Act, 1921 (see LABOUR GAZETTE, November, 1921).

The average weekly number of persons wholly unemployed and drawing unemployment benefit or Out-of-Work Donation during the year was 1,487,000. In addition short-time workers who qualified for benefit or donation under the rules

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1922.

The Unemployment Insurance Act, 1922, amalgamates the rates of contribution and the rates of benefit under the Unemployed Workers' Dependants (Temporary Provision) Act, 1921,* and the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 and 1921; and makes emergency provision for the payment of unemployment benefit until June, 1923. It was introduced in the House of Commons on the 24th March, received Royal Assent on the 12th April, and is deemed to have come into operation on the 6th April. It is based on the assumption that (a) up to the end of June, 1922, unemployment will not exceed on the average 1,900,000, and (b) during the twelve months following June, 1922, the average number of insured persons unemployed will not be more than 1½ millions, counting in both cases the number of persons on short time at half their full number.

The Minister of Labour, in moving the Second Reading of the Bill on the 29th March, explained that the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921,† as subsequently amended, made provision for forty-four weeks' emergency or "uncovenanted" benefit (that is to say, benefit not payable under the permanent provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Acts); and that this uncovenanted benefit had been intended to cover the period from March, 1921, to June, 1922. For many persons, however, that benefit would be exhausted on the 5th April, and further, the Unemployed Workers' Dependants (Temporary Provision) Act, 1921, would come to an end on the 9th May, when the additional payment of 5s. weekly for the wife or dependent husband and 1s. weekly for each child of persons in receipt of benefit would cease. In the present Bill he was proposing to keep the benefit at its present level (15s. a week for men and 12s. a week for women) and to continue the provision for dependants made by the Unemployed Workers' Dependants Act.

The main provisions of the Act are as follows:—
The rates of contribution are as under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 and 1921, and under the Unemployed Workers' Dependants (Temporary Provision) Act, 1921. The weekly rates, as amalgamated, are (a) for men, 9d. from the employed person and 10d. from the employer; (b) for women, 7d. from the employed person and 8d. from the employer; (c) for boys, 4½d. from the employed person and 5d. from the employer; (d) for girls, 4d. from the employed person and 4½d. from the employer. The State contribution is 6½d. for men, 5½d. for women, 3½d. for boys, and 3½d. for girls.

The rates of benefit which were in operation under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 and 1921, and under the Unemployed Workers' Dependants (Temporary Provision) Act, 1921, are continued, and the new combined benefit for persons who have exhausted their previous benefit will begin on the 17th April.

During the period from April to the end of October next (termed the *Third Special Period*) fifteen weeks' benefit is to be allowed, this, in the case of uncovenanted benefit, being distributed in periods each amounting in the aggregate to five weeks, with an interval of five weeks after any such period in benefit. During the period from November next to the end of June, 1923 (termed the *Fourth Special Period*), twelve weeks' benefit is allowed, with discretionary power, under certain conditions, to give two further extensions of five weeks each.

The "uncovenanted" benefit (i.e., benefit not dependent on the number of contributions paid) will be granted, subject to those statutory conditions and disqualifications which do not depend on the payment of contributions, if it appears to the Minister that, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, it is expedient in the public interest that a person should be allowed to receive it. The applicant must, however, prove (a) that he is normally in insurable employment; (b) that he is genuinely seeking, but unable to obtain, whole-time employment; and (c) either that not less than twenty contributions have been paid in respect of him, or that he has since the end of 1919 been employed for a reasonable length of time in employment which is now insurable. In the case of ex-Service men who were so employed, or who were too young to be so employed before becoming engaged in war service, this last requirement does not apply.

The rights of persons entitled to "covenanted" benefit (i.e., whose qualification is derived from the payment of the number of contributions required under the permanent provisions of the Acts) are not affected, but will be determined in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 and 1921.

The power of borrowing from the Treasury is increased from £20,000,000 (or £19,000,000, if the amount due to Ireland be deducted) to £30,000,000.

Provision may be made by Order in Council under the Irish Free State (Agreement) Act, 1922, for applying the Act, with or without modifications, to Ireland exclusive of Northern Ireland.

A Report by the Government Actuary on the financial provisions of the Bill, as it was introduced, has been published as a White Paper (Cmd. 1620: price 3d. net).

HEALTH AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE. SPECIAL FUND FOR SEAMEN.

MASTERS, seamen, and apprentices to the sea service and the sea-fishing service who are neither domiciled nor have a place of residence in the United Kingdom are excluded from the National Health Insurance Acts under Part I. of the National Insurance

which permit short spells of unemployment of not less than two days in certain circumstances to rank for benefit, averaged each week 627,000. The number of contributors insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1921, was about 12,000,000. The average weekly number of unemployment books lodged in respect of workpeople wholly unemployed was 1,630,000, or 13.5 per cent. of the total number insured. The corresponding percentage in respect of contributors on short time was 5.2. The mean weekly percentage of total unemployment during 1921 was 16.2, taking into account the fact that people claiming benefit in respect of systematic short time are unemployed on average about three days per week. The previous highest recorded figure was in 1879, when the mean annual percentage unemployed among Trade Unions was 11.4; to find any analogous (though not of course comparative) figure, it is necessary to go back to the year 1815, when 1,300,000 persons out of a total population of eleven millions were in receipt of Poor Law Relief.

The movement of unemployment during the year is summarised in the following Table, which shows for males and females respectively the percentage wholly unemployed or on short time at the end of each month.

Unemployment in Insured Industries at the end of each month during 1921.

	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Wholly Unem-ployed.	Short-Time Workers claiming Benefit.	Wholly Unem-ployed.	Short-Time Workers claiming Benefit.	Wholly Unem-ployed.	Short-Time Workers
January ..	Per cent. 8	Per cent. 3	Per cent. 9	Per cent. 11	Per cent. 8	Per cent. 5
February ..	9	4	10	13	10	6
March ..	11	4	12	14	11	7
April* ..	17	7	15	17	16	10
May* ..	19	8	17	17	18	11
June* ..	20	6	16	10	19	8
July ..	16	3	11	8	15	4
August ..	14	2	10	6	13	3
September ..	14	2	9†	4	12†	3
October ..	17	2	10	3	15	2
November ..	18	2	11	3	16	2
December ..	18	2	11	4	16	3

The Unemployed Workers' Dependants (Temporary Provision) Act referred to above introduced a new feature into State Insurance against unemployment in this country in the form of supplementary benefit of 5s. and 1s. per week respectively, payable in respect of the dependent wives and children of contributors in receipt of benefit. During the period 11th November to 30th December, the average weekly number of dependants' grants was, in respect of adult dependants, 462,700, and in respect of children, 762,700, a total of 1,225,400. The number of contributors in receipt of benefit who qualified for the supplementary grants was 772,600.

The volume of work falling upon the Exchanges during the year in connection with the unemployment recorded above may be indicated by the following Table relating to the payments made under various headings during the year ended 31st December, 1921:—

	Amount paid‡
Unemployment Benefit ..	£57,500,000
Unemployed Workers' Dependants Grants...	1,100,000
	£58,600,000

The number of individual payments made during the year was about 88,000,000.

The income of the Unemployment Fund and the Unemployed Workers' Dependants Fund together during the year amounted to £31,600,000, made up as follows:—

Contributions of Employers ..	£11,750,000
Contributions of Workpeople ..	10,750,000
Contributions of Service Departments under S. 41 of 1920 Act ..	1,500,000
State Contribution ..	6,500,000
Interest on Investments ..	1,100,000
	£31,600,000

This sum was insufficient to meet the cost of benefit shown above and the administrative expenditure, and the difference was met to the extent of £22,700,000 from the accumulated balance of the Unemployment Fund, and as to £7,600,000 by loan from the Exchequer. This loan is repayable with interest.

* For April, May and June the figures given in the Table relate to industries other than coal mining, a general stoppage of work having been in progress in this industry. The unemployment figures given as for the end of June relate to the 1st July.

† This figure is affected by the unavoidable exclusion of those unemployed insured persons who had removed their insurance books from the Employment Exchanges after the exhaustion of their right to benefit.

‡ The figures given for October relate to 5th November, when those insured persons who had previously exhausted their right to benefit had become eligible for a further period of benefit.

§ Exclusive of £500,000 expended in Out-of-Work Donation.

* See LABOUR GAZETTE for November, 1921, page 570.
† See LABOUR GAZETTE for March, 1921, page 120.

Act, 1911. The employers of such masters, seamen or apprentices are nevertheless liable to pay the employers' share of contributions in respect of them at the current rate, unless the employment is on a ship engaged in regular trade on foreign stations. Similar provisions for the purpose of Unemployment Insurance were introduced by the Unemployment Insurance (Mercantile Marine) Special Order, 1921, which excluded seamen neither domiciled nor resident in the United Kingdom from Unemployment Insurance. That Special Order, while requiring the payment of employers' contributions in respect of such seamen in the same circumstances as in the case of Health Insurance, did not specify the purposes to which the funds so arising should be applied.

The Minister of Labour has now given notice of his intention to make a further Special Order under Section 39 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, providing that the contributions paid under the first Special Order shall be credited to the same fund as the corresponding Health Insurance contributions. This Special Fund for Seamen (commonly known as the "Lascar Fund") was constituted under Section 27 (1) (c) of the National Health Insurance Act, 1918. That section provided also for the constitution of a Governing Body to be charged with the management of the Fund; and further provided that the Governing Body so constituted should, subject to the approval of the Board of Trade and the National Health Insurance Joint Committee, prepare a scheme for the provision of benefits out of the Fund. The Governing Body, which was constituted in 1919, consists of three representatives of shipowners, nominated by the Board of Trade, and six representatives of insured persons selected as follows:—(a) three from the Seamen's National Insurance Society; (b) two from the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union; and (c) one chosen from among the members of the Hull Seamen and Marine Firemen's Approved Society, the Port of Hull Trawl Fishermen's Protective Society, and the Trinity Provident Approved Sick Club.

The Scheme for Administration of Benefits, prepared by the Governing Body and approved by the Board of Trade and the National Health Insurance Joint Committee, makes provision for awarding each year 200 Pensions of 5s. a week to masters or seamen who have served in the sea service or the sea-fishing service, and who are members of Societies approved under the National Health Insurance Acts. These pensions are payable to persons between the ages of 65 and 70 years, whose income from all sources is and is likely to remain less than £2 a week; but for this purpose no account is taken of pensions received from H.M. Government, nor of payments from any source to which the applicant has himself made regular contributions. The Governing Body has power, under certain conditions, to reduce or to increase the number or the amount of pensions awarded in any year, and has, in fact, increased the value of the 200 pensions awarded on the 1st January, 1922, to 10s. a week each. Further pensions, notice of which will be published in June next, will be awarded as from the 1st January, 1923.* The Governing Body also has power, in the event of a surplus, to allocate sums to Approved Societies to be applied by way of additional benefit to those of their members who are or have been masters, seamen or apprentices to the sea service or the sea-fishing service. In return for a contribution from the Fund towards the expenses of the Seamen's (Tuberculosis) Advisory Committee constituted under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Act, 1921, the Governing Body has secured representation on that Committee.

The sums arising from Unemployment Insurance contributions credited to the Special Fund will, when the Special Order has been made, only be applied by the Governing Body for the provision of such of the above benefits, specified in the Scheme, as may be approved by the Minister of Labour and the Board of Trade.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 28th March, 1922, the number of men in training was 23,039, and the number awaiting training 30,243. Since 1st August, 1919, 51,684 men have terminated training.

INTERRUPTED APPRENTICESHIPS.

Up to 29th March, 1922, 44,645 apprentices had been accepted for training with 17,800 employers, as compared with 44,606 apprentices with 17,794 employers on 1st March, 1922.

The apprentices rejected up to 29th March, 1922, numbered 2,165, compared with 2,153 on 1st March, 1922. Of those accepted 37,606 terminated training and 7,036 were still in training; the corresponding numbers on 1st March, 1922, were 36,910 and 7,696 respectively.

The number of apprentices who have received Institutional Training has been increased during the four weeks from 2,022 to 2,112.

NATIONAL SCHEME.

Up to and including the 31st March, 1922, 30,257 employers had enrolled under the National Scheme for the Employment of Disabled Ex-Service Men, and their names had been added to the King's National Roll. The undertakings given by these employers cover 362,906 disabled Ex-Service Men.

The following statement gives particulars of the number of Local Authorities in Great Britain of the categories referred to

* Full particulars relating to the pensions may be obtained from the Secretary, The Lascar Fund, Wellington House, Buckingham Gate, London, S.W. 1.

below who have enrolled under the scheme, and whose names are accordingly entered on the King's Roll:—

Authority.	Number on Roll.	Number not on Roll.	Total.
ENGLAND AND WALES.			
LONDON—			
County Council	1	—	1
Corporation of the City of London	1	—	1
Metropolitan Boroughs ..	27	1	28
Boards of Guardians .. .	17	13	30
Total	46	14	60
PROVINCES—			
County Councils	32	30	62
County Boroughs	80	2	82
Town Councils	155	92	247
Urban District Councils ..	375	419	792
Rural District Councils .. .	134	514	648
Boards of Guardians .. .	114	499	613
Total	888	1,556	2,444
SCOTLAND			
County Councils	7	26	33
County District Committees ..	18	81	99
Town Councils	58	144	202
Total	83	251	334
Total for Great Britain ..	1,017	1,821	2,838

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS AND INTERIM INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES.

DURING the five weeks from the 26th February to the 1st April, 18 meetings of Joint Industrial Councils and five meetings of Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees were reported to the Department. A number of meetings of District and Provincial Councils and Sub-Committees have also been held.

WAGES.

Reductions in wages have been agreed in the *Clay Industry*, the *Needle and Fish-hook Manufacturing Industry*, the *Catering Branch of Maritime Workers*, and the *Cement Industry*.

A new scheme of minimum rates has been agreed upon in the *Asbestos Industry*, and revisions of existing sliding scales have been made by the Welsh District Council of the *Wool (and Allied) Trades Council*, by the Provincial Council for the Southern Home Counties of the *Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services (Manual Workers) (England and Wales) Council*, and by the *Carpet Joint Industrial Council*. The *Match Manufacturing Council* has adopted new rates of wages for youths of 18 years and upwards. The *Interim Reconstruction Committee for Sugar Refining* discussed a proposal for the reduction of wages at their last meeting, but no agreement was reached for a national settlement. Since that meeting, some individual firms are understood to have arranged reductions locally, which have been accepted by the workpeople. A new proposed National Working Agreement was discussed and provisionally accepted at a meeting of the *Scottish Baking Joint Industrial Council*, but, as explained in the paragraph below dealing with organisation, the only employers' representatives present at this meeting were those of the Co-operative Societies.

HOURS.

The hours of Wool Combers have been discussed at meetings of the *Wool (and Allied) Textile Industrial Council*. The Council's Emergency Committee had given permission to 15 wool combing firms to work certain "protected" persons (i.e., persons coming within the provisions of the Factory Acts) overtime until the 31st March, 1922. This position was objected to by the representatives of the Wool Combers' Society. The *Joint Industrial Council for Electricity Supply* has referred a difference between the two sides of the District Council for South Wales and Monmouthshire, arising from a claim of the employers for a reduction of wages, to arbitration under the Industrial Courts Act.

ORGANISATION.

The Executive Committee of the Scottish Association of Master Bakers have intimated the withdrawal of their members from the *Scottish Baking Council*. The representatives of the Co-operative Societies, however, have not withdrawn, and since, in accordance with the constitution of the Council, ten form a quorum, it is still within the power of the Council to conduct business. The representatives of the Workers' Union have withdrawn from the *Joint Industrial Council for the Gas Mantle Industry*.

TRADE PROBLEMS.

The *Gas Mantle Joint Industrial Council* has adopted a resolution drawing attention to the unemployment existing in the London area "owing to the importation of foreign mantles at prices less than the lowest possible costs of British production," and urged that tenders should be accepted by the London County Council only from firms manufacturing in Great Britain. It was announced that a case has been lodged with the Board of Trade under Part II. of the Safeguarding of Industries Act, which relates to the prevention of dumping. Reference was also made to a special case under Part I. of that

Act, which relates to Key Industries. The *Electrical Cable-making Council* considered the position with regard to the Electricity Supply Bill, and also the electrification of the southern group of railways. The Joint Industrial Councils for *Pottery and Waterworks* have decided to support the *Printing Trades Council* in their representations for lower postal rates.*

OTHER TOPICS.

The *Pottery Joint Industrial Council* have agreed to appoint four representatives to a conference with the Local Education Authority upon the education of adults and adolescents. The *Gloves-making Joint Industrial Council* have considered the basis on which National Health Insurance contributions are paid in respect of certain piece-workers. They have decided to press for a reduction of the "Unit of Work" prescribed as the equivalent of a week's work for this purpose, the workers' side contending that the present unit prevents many piece-workers from obtaining insurance benefit. The *Association of Joint Industrial Councils and Interim Reconstruction Committees* met the Chief Labour Adviser of the Ministry of Labour, on the 27th March, and discussed with him the question of obtaining statutory powers to enforce agreements reached by joint bodies.

IRISH FREE STATE (AGREEMENT) ACT, 1922.

THE Provisional Government (Transfer of Functions) Order, 1922, made under the Irish Free State (Agreement) Act, 1922, provides for the transfer, as from an agreed date, of certain specified functions in connection with the administration of public services in Southern Ireland to the Provisional Government established under Article 17 of the "Articles of Agreement for a Treaty between Great Britain and Ireland," dated the 6th December, 1921. Amongst the functions so specified is "the administration of services in connection with Labour, including functions hitherto performed by the Minister of Labour," which is to be transferred to the Ministry of Labour of the Provisional Government.

The day of transfer, for this purpose, agreed between the British Government and the Provisional Government, is the 1st April, 1922.

AMENDMENT OF INDIAN FACTORY ACT.

A COPY has been received from the India Office of a Bill to amend the Indian Factories Act of 1911 by giving effect to certain obligations undertaken by the Government of India as the outcome of the International Labour Conference at Washington. This Bill was passed by the Indian Legislature on 23rd January, 1922, assent being given by His Majesty's Viceroy and Governor-General on 25th January, 1922. The Act will enter into force on 1st July, 1922.

The following notes showing the principal amendments introduced are taken from the issue of the *Official Bulletin of the International Labour Office* for 15th March.

The definition of a "factory" is extended to establishments using mechanical power and employing not less than 20 persons, with option to the Local Government to extend the operation of the Act to factories employing not less than 10 persons, whether mechanical power be used or not. The distinction between "textile" and "non-textile" factories, being no longer justified by circumstances, is abolished.

Exceptions in favour of certain classes of factories have been abolished, definite exemption from the operation of the Act being now limited to mines only.

The limitation of working hours to 60 per week, and 11 per day, applies to workpeople and not to machinery, so that factories may operate continuously day and night, provided that a suitable form of shift be adopted.

The principle of a weekly holiday has been embodied in the Act; every worker will now secure 52 holidays in the year, and no worker will go without a holiday for a longer period than 10 days.

As regards child labour, the minimum age for admission to industrial employment has been raised from 9 to 12, and child labour is restricted to 6 hours per day. The age at which children may be called to perform a full day's work is raised from 14 to 15.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

(1) Draft Conventions and Recommendations Adopted at Third Session.

IN THE LABOUR GAZETTE for December, 1921, (page 627), a summary was given of the Draft Conventions and Recommendations adopted at the Third Session of the International Labour Conference held at Geneva from the 25th October to the 19th November, 1921. The authentic texts of these Draft Conventions and Recommendations have now been published.†

* See LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1922, page 56.
† Cmd. 1612; price 9d. net.

(2) Agenda of Fourth Session.

The Fourth Session of the International Labour Conference will open at Geneva on the 18th October, 1922. The Agenda is as follows:—

I.—Revision of Part XIII. of the Treaty of Versailles, and the corresponding Parts of the other Treaties of Peace:

(a) With a view to the reform of the constitution of the Governing Body [of the International Labour Office.]

(b) With a view to modification as regards the periodicity of the Sessions of the Conference.

II.—Communication to the International Labour Office of statistical and other information regarding emigration and immigration, and the repatriation and transport of emigrants.

In communicating the above Agenda to the Governments which are members of the International Labour Organisation, the Director of the International Labour Office explains that the Governing Body are of the opinion that it is not desirable to attempt to deal, without further preparation, with all the complex and delicate questions on which resolutions were adopted by the International Emigration Commission during its meeting at Geneva in August, 1921. They consider, however, that the question of the communication by the Governments of statistical and other information relating to emigration might be usefully examined by the Conference as a preliminary to the consideration at a later date of other emigration problems.

With regard to item I. (a) of the Agenda, the Director explains that this has been included in accordance with a resolution adopted at the Third Session of the Conference when the same question was considered. With regard to item I. (b), the Director suggests that it may be possible, without any amendment of Part XIII. of the Treaty, to find a solution of the difficulties which led to the proposal that Sessions of the Conference should be held at longer intervals. The alternative solution outlined is that the adoption of Draft Conventions and Recommendations might be confined to alternate Sessions; and that at the intervening Sessions the Conference should only take note of results already obtained and of difficulties encountered in the application of its decisions, and settle any general questions regarding the working of the International Labour Organisation. It is with this suggestion in view that one item only (viz., item II.) has been included in the Agenda of the Fourth Session, with regard to which the Conference may adopt a Draft Convention or Recommendation.

In addition to the items on the Agenda the Conference will deal with a number of questions affecting the general working and activities of the Organisation, viz.:—(a) the revision of its Standing Orders; (b) the election of the Governing Body; (c) the reports on the unemployment crisis and on the distribution of raw materials which the International Labour Office has been requested to prepare; (d) a proposal to insert in the general articles of future Draft Conventions provisions which would render possible their amendment as regards details of application; and (e) the General Report of the Director.

INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL RE-TRAINING IN SPAIN.*

A NEW organisation attached to the Spanish Ministry of Labour, Commerce and Industry, has been created by virtue of a Royal Decree of 4th March, 1922, to deal with the occupational re-training of the disabled.

The resources of the new Institute will be derived from State subsidies, grants which may be allotted by provincial and municipal authorities, private legacies and donations, the proceeds of the sale of the publications of the Institute, and sums received in payment for treatment given to disabled persons who have means of their own.

The Institute will establish a home for the re-training of the disabled, in which every effort will be made to develop their physical capacity. This home will be provided with all necessary therapeutical and surgical equipment. A section for the supply of artificial limbs and orthopaedic instruments will also be established, and a free consulting department in which all who desire to obtain the assistance of the Institute will be examined. The Institute will undertake the protection of the re-trained, and for this purpose will keep in constant touch with them in order to be able to assist them in all circumstances.

Re-training will be carried on in suitable workshops, and the workers will be paid for their work. There will be special workshops for women workers.

Disabled workers in the Institute will benefit by workers' pensions legislation, and the Institute will pay contributions on their behalf to the National Social Welfare Institute.

The Institute will be controlled and administered by a council consisting of a president and 12 members elected by the Government from among persons of recognised competence in questions relating to the re-training of the disabled. The Under Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Commerce and Industry and the Director-General of Local Administration will be *ex-officio* members of the council. The Royal Academy of Medicine and the committee for engineers and workers holding scholarships abroad will each be represented on the council by one member. The Institute of Social Reform will appoint two representatives—one employer and one worker.

* *Industrial and Labour Information*, 24th March, 1922. Geneva. (Quoted from *La Epoca*, Madrid, 4th March, 1922.)

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF IN DENMARK AND SWEDEN.*

In Denmark, regulations were issued by the Minister of the Interior on 1st February, fixing the conditions under which relief works may be aided by the emergency fund provided by the Act of 22nd December, 1921 (see LABOUR GAZETTE, January, 1922, page 9). The works must be organised by the State, by a commune, or by a private organisation subsidised by the public authorities, and they must have been undertaken for the express purpose of relieving unemployment. Conditions of employment are to be fixed by the Minister of the Interior on the recommendation of regional joint committees of employers and workers; the remuneration must not exceed certain prescribed maxima (hourly and weekly), which vary according to the district. A daily allowance must be made by the employer when work is interrupted by bad weather for not more than three days a week; when the stoppage exceeds three days a week, the persons thus deprived of work become entitled to benefit from the communal relief fund. Any work may be recognised as relief work on the recommendation of a committee of two workers and two employers chosen by their central organisations, with a chairman appointed by the Minister of the Interior. Except in the case of administrative staff, only persons registered at the Employment Exchanges may be engaged; the Exchanges co-operate with the regional joint committees in the control of relief works.

In Sweden both Houses of the Legislature have approved a recommendation of the Finance Committee that a preliminary grant of 20 million kronor should be made for unemployment relief. Further consideration is being given by the Committee to the Government's proposal to allocate 85 million kronor to this object in 1922.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN HOLLAND IN 1921.

PROVISIONAL figures relating to strikes and lockouts in the Netherlands in 1921 are published in the journal of the Central Statistical Bureau for 31st January.† While the number of strikes was fewer than in 1920 or 1919, the number of workers participating in them was greater. In 1921, in 262† strikes concerning which particulars are given, 48,466 workers took part, the corresponding figures for 1920 being 446 strikes and 47,027 strikers, and for 1919, 608 strikes and 55,857 strikers. The group of trades most seriously affected by strikes in 1921 was building, in which 84 disputes occurred.

The following Table classifies the strikes in the three years under review according to their principal causes:—

Demands.	Percentage of Total Number of Strikes.		
	1921.	1920.	1919.
Increase in wages	23.39	33.33	38.03
Against decrease in wages ..	15.61	3.16	0.69
Other wage claims	17.15	18.05	19.63
Hours of work	7.12	14.79	16.55
Recognition of trade unions ..	1.11	1.08	1.92
Other causes	27.40	27.12	21.79
Causes not ascertained	8.02	2.47	1.39

Of the 268 strikes which terminated in 1921, 77 ended in favour of the workers, 65 in favour of the employers, and 78 in compromises, while the results of 2 were indecisive, and in 48 cases were not ascertained.

The lockouts in 1921 numbered 8, directly affecting 9,188 workers, the corresponding figures for 1920 being 25 and 19,457, and for 1919, 27 and 5,810 respectively. Seven lockouts came to an end in 1921. Of these, three terminated in favour of the employers, and two in favour of the workers, while one was compromised and in one case the result was not ascertained.

REGULATION OF RENTS IN GERMANY.§

The Government Bill for the regulation of rents in Germany, which was introduced in the Reichstag in 1921, has been passed with slight amendments by 202 votes to 168.

The chief point in dispute was the question whether housing should be "socialised" or whether landlords should be left free to fix rents at their own discretion. The new Act avoids deciding this question and represents a compromise, for on the one hand it affords tenants a certain protection, while on the other hand it allows the landlord to raise rents in proportion to the increased cost of upkeep and repairs. Tenants will have to pay a much higher rent than before the war, but the increase will be far less than the figure which would have been reached in the open market.

In view of the uncertain development of housing conditions in general, the validity of the Act has been limited to the period from 1st July, 1922, to 1st July, 1926.

* Industrial and Labour Information, 10th April, 1922. Geneva.
 † Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, 31st January, 1922.
 ‡ The total number of strikes was 269.
 § Industrial and Labour Information, 31st March, 1922. Geneva.

GERMAN CIVIL SERVANTS AND THE RIGHT TO STRIKE.

BEFORE the Revolution public officials in Germany were denied the right either to form regular trade unions or to seek to redress grievances by means of a strike. By the new Constitution they were granted freedom to form associations (*Vereinigungsfreiheit*), and now the question of whether this implied also the right to strike has been raised in connection with the strike—in February last—of the railway officials, who, in Germany, are established, pensionable civil servants.

A large union of railway workers of this "official" type (which includes nearly all the engine drivers) decided to call a strike on 1st February unless the Government granted immediately their demands for increased salaries and for the withdrawal of a Bill regulating the hours of railwaymen on the "spread-over" system instead of on the strict eight-hour day principle. Thereupon the Federal President, on the authority of Article 43* of the Constitution, issued a drastic temporary order, dated 1st February (published in the official *Reichsanzeiger* of the same date), of which the following are the main points:—

(1) Under the existing law relating to officials in the public service generally any discontinuance of duties or refusal to carry them out is prohibited in the case of officials of the Federal Railways, as in the case of all other officials. Any person who persuades or incites an official to such discontinuance or refusal to work is liable to imprisonment and a fine not exceeding 50,000 marks, or to one of these penalties. Any person who also be liable to penalties who, for the purpose of aiding such discontinuance or refusal of duty, takes action with regard to tractive power, railway vehicles, supplies, or other plant or equipment calculated to render impossible or difficult the working of the Federal Railways.

(2) If by an unlawful cessation or refusal of duty the Federal Railway service is wholly or partially brought to a standstill, the Federal Minister of Transport is empowered to make emergency provision and to take all measures likely to lead to a resumption of the service.

(3) Protection is guaranteed to all employees who continue to work or who undertake emergency work; and any person seeking to injure such employees is liable to imprisonment and a fine not exceeding 50,000 marks, or to one of these penalties.

This Order was immediately followed by a proclamation of the Berlin Police President stating that strike leaders would be liable to arrest and all moneys intended for use as strike pay would be confiscated.

The railway strike nevertheless took place on the appointed date, and was almost complete in Northern and Central Germany, although it was not supported by the trade union federations. It ended apparently with the granting of the railwaymen's main demands. The President's Order expired on 9th February.

The question whether public officials have the right to strike remains undetermined, but it has been answered categorically in the negative by the Chancellor in his speech on the vote of confidence in the Government on its conduct of the strike. This view is combated by the Independent Socialists and the Communists, but is supported by the journal of the Socialist Trade Union Federation, which points out that the framers of the Constitution deliberately substituted the word *Vereinigungsfreiheit* for *Koalitionsrecht* in the draft of the Constitution, on the ground that the latter implied the right to strike, and therefore must not be used. The Christian and Hirsch-Duncker (Liberal) Trade Unions are also of opinion that the right to strike cannot be claimed by civil servants. A meeting of representatives of higher officials of the realm, states and municipalities on 18th March rejected the strike as quite inconsistent with the status of a public official.

COMPULSORY LIFE INSURANCE OF WORKERS IN COLOMBIA.†

It is reported that the Colombian Congress has approved Law 37 of 19th November, 1921, relating to compulsory collective insurance. The essential part of this Act reads as follows:—

"Six months after the publication of this law all industrial, agricultural, or commercial firms, or those of any other kind permanently established in the country, whose pay-roll amounts to or exceeds 1,000 pesos per month, must take out at their own expense collective life insurance policies in favour of all employees and workers in their respective factories. The face value of each policy must be equal to the yearly salary received by the employee, up to 2,400 pesos per annum. The insurance will not be contracted in favour of a definite person, but in favour of the company, which is obliged, in case of death of the insured, to pay the full value of the policy to the nearest relative of the worker whose name appears on the face of the policy at the time the death occurred."

* Article 43, par. 2, reads: "Where public security and order are seriously disturbed or endangered within the Realm, the President . . . may take the measures necessary for their restoration, intervening in case of need with the help of armed forces. For this purpose he is empowered for the time being to abrogate, either wholly or partially, the fundamental rights fixed in Articles 114, 115, etc." (These are the clauses granting personal liberty, freedom of speech, right to hold meetings, etc.)
 † Industrial and Labour Information, 24th March, 1922. Geneva.

RETAIL PRICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

STATISTICS FOR 1st APRIL, 1922.

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	82%
Food only	73%

FOOD.

DURING March there was a further decline in the general level of retail prices of the principal articles of food, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the cost of the pre-war working-class dietary being about 73 per cent. on 1st April, as compared with about 77 per cent. a month earlier.

The most marked movement in prices during the month was the fall in the prices of eggs. In addition, milk and fish were considerably cheaper, on the average, on 1st April than a month earlier, while prices of bacon were also somewhat lower at the later date. On the other hand, there were substantial advances in the average prices of butter and British mutton, and smaller increases in those of frozen mutton, bread and flour, sugar and tea.

In the following Table is given a comparison of average prices of the articles of food included in these statistics in July, 1914, on 1st March, 1922, and on 1st April, 1922:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated).			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st Apr., 1922, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st Mar., 1922.	1st Apr., 1922.	July, 1914.	1st Mar., 1922.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Beef, British—					
Ribs	0 9 ³ / ₄	1 6	1 6	+ 0 8 ¹ / ₄	—
Thin Flank	0 6 ¹ / ₂	0 11	0 11	+ 0 4 ¹ / ₂	—
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs	0 7 ¹ / ₂	0 10 ¹ / ₂	0 10 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 3 ¹ / ₂	—
Thin Flank	0 4 ¹ / ₂	0 6 ¹ / ₂	0 6 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 1 ¹ / ₂	—
Mutton, British—					
Legs	0 10 ¹ / ₂	1 7	1 8 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 10 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 1 ¹ / ₂
Breast	0 6 ¹ / ₂	0 11	1 0	+ 0 5 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 1 ¹ / ₂
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	0 6 ¹ / ₂	0 11 ¹ / ₂	1 0	+ 0 5 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 0 ¹ / ₂
Breast	0 4	0 5	0 5 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 1 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 0 ¹ / ₂
Bacon (streaky)* ..	0 11 ¹ / ₂	1 9 ¹ / ₂	1 8 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 9 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 0 ¹ / ₂
Flour .. per 7 lb.	0 10 ¹ / ₂	1 5 ¹ / ₂	1 6	+ 0 7 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 0 ¹ / ₂
Bread .. per 4 lb.	0 5 ¹ / ₂	0 10	0 10 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 4 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 0 ¹ / ₂
Tea	1 6 ¹ / ₂	2 6 ¹ / ₂	2 6 ¹ / ₂	+ 1 0 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 0 ¹ / ₂
Sugar (granulated) ..	0 2	0 5 ¹ / ₂	0 5 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 3 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 0 ¹ / ₂
Milk	0 3 ¹ / ₂	0 7 ¹ / ₂	0 7 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 4 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 0 ¹ / ₂
Butter—					
Fresh	1 2 ¹ / ₂	1 8 ¹ / ₂	1 10	+ 0 7 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 1 ¹ / ₂
Salt	1 2 ¹ / ₂	1 6 ¹ / ₂	1 8 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 6 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 1 ¹ / ₂
Cheese (Canadian or U.S.)*	0 8 ¹ / ₂	1 2	1 2	+ 0 5 ¹ / ₂	—
Margarine	0 7 ¹ / ₂	0 7	0 7	+ 0 0 ¹ / ₂	—
Eggs (fresh) .. each	0 1 ¹ / ₂	0 3	0 2	+ 0 0 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 1
Potatoes .. per 7 lb.	0 4 ¹ / ₂	0 8 ¹ / ₂	0 8 ¹ / ₂	+ 0 3 ¹ / ₂	—

The following Table gives a percentage comparison of the level of prices at 1st April, 1922, in relation to the prices of July, 1914, and 1st March, 1922:—

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st April, 1922, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding figure for United Kingdom at 1st Mar., 1922.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	United Kingdom.	
Beef, British—				
Ribs	85	80	83	82
Thin Flank	68	67	68	66
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	50	44	47	47
Thin Flank	28	31	29	28
Mutton, British—				
Legs	104	94	99	85
Breast	91	78	84	70
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs	82	72	77	72
Breast	28	28	28	26
Bacon (streaky)* ..	92	77	85	89
Fish	91	82	87	113
Flour	66	74	70	68
Bread	76	74	75	62
Tea	65	65	67	75
Sugar (granulated) ..	179	165	172	168
Milk	104	106	105	123
Butter—				
Fresh	45	58	52	43
Salt	43	45	44	30
Cheese (Canadian or U.S.)* ..	58	62	60	60
Margarine	2	3	2	1
Eggs (fresh)	72	54	63	157
Potatoes	103	52	77	75
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase).	76	70	73	77

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the Returns quote the price for another kind locally representative.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, special enquiries have been made into the increases which have taken effect under the operation of the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920, and from the results of these enquiries it is estimated that the average increase in rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 31st March, 1922, was about 55 per cent.* Of the total increase about one-half is accounted for by increases in rates and water charges, and one-third is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Act falling within the remaining one-sixth.

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 April the level of retail prices of clothing, quality for quality, taking goods of the kind purchased by the working classes, averaged a little lower than a month earlier and about 140 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group, the average increase in the retail prices of coal, as compared with July, 1914, was approximately 115 per cent. at 1st April. For gas the increase was about 100 per cent., for lamp oil it was 95 per cent., and for candles (cheap kinds) 80 per cent. Matches show a much greater increase. Taking the group as a whole, the average increase was about 115 per cent. at 1st April, as compared with 120 per cent. a month earlier.

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 95 per cent.), the resultant figure for 1st April, 1922, is about 82 per cent.† over the pre-war level, as compared with 86 per cent. for 1st March.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1922 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 re-adjustments 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 some families in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alteration in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1915 TO 1922.

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 from January, 1915, to the present time:—

Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items. (Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, &c.)

Month (beginning of).	Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items. (Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, &c.)							
	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
January ..	10-15	35	65	85-90	120	125	165	92
February ..	15	35	65-70	90	120	150	151	88
March ..	15-20	35-40	70	90	115	130	141	86
April ..	15-20	35-40	70-75	90-95	110	132	133	82
May ..	20	40-45	75	95-100	105	141	128	—
June ..	25	45	75-80	100	105	150	119	—
July ..	25	45-50	80	100-105	105-110	152	119	—
August ..	25	45-50	80	110	115	155	122	—
September ..	25	50	80-85	110	115	161	120	—
October ..	30	50-55	75-80	115-120	120	164	110	—
November ..	30-35	60	85	120-125	125	176	103	—
December ..	35	65	85	120	125	169	99	—

NOTE.

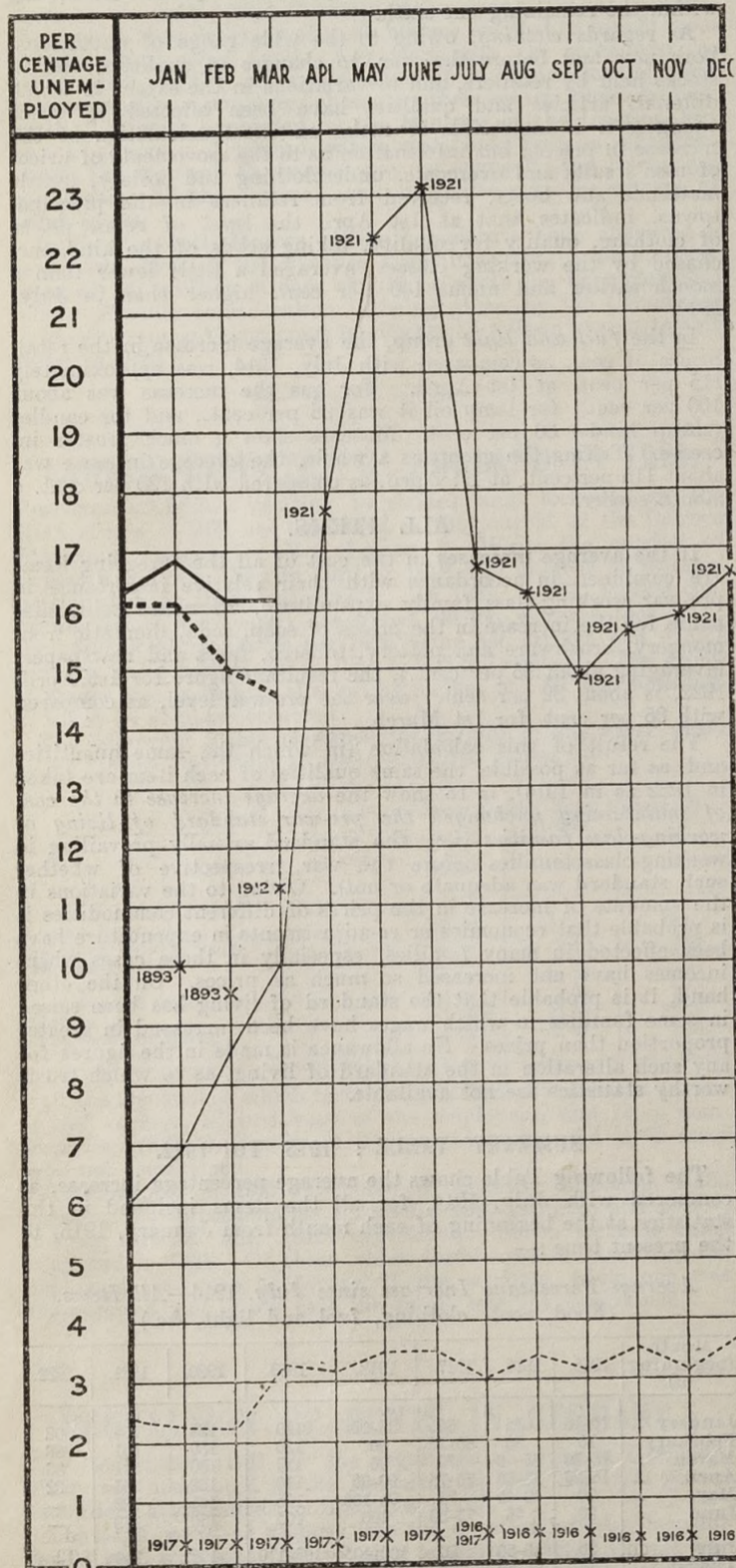
THE LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1921, contained a full account of the scope and method of compilation of the above statistics.

* The increases included in this figure on account of rates are those for the half-year October, 1921—March, 1922.
 † If the amount of increased taxation on commodities is deducted, the average increase at 1st April, 1922, is about 6 per cent. less.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

- (1) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.*
- Thick Curve = 1922. — Thin Curve = 1921.
- - - - Thin Dotted Curve = Mean of 1912-21.
- * The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of Trade Union members unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1892-1921.
- (2) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.
- ■ ■ ■ ■ Thick Dotted Curve = 1922.



EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY FOR MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT during March, though still bad generally, showed a further slight improvement on the whole, notwithstanding the adverse effect of the engineering dispute on employment in that industry and in the iron and steel trades. Among industries showing an improvement were iron mining, pig iron manufacture, the building trades, the cotton and wool textile industries, and the clothing trades.

The percentage unemployed among members of trade unions from which returns were received was 16.3 at the end of

* Trade Union returns are furnished by various Unions which pay unemployment benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked out, sick, or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. Detailed figures are given on page 163

March, the same percentage as at the end of February. At the end of March, 1921, the percentage was 10.0.

Among the workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Act, numbering approximately 12,100,000, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 27th March was 14.6, as compared with 15.2 at 28th February. For males alone the percentage claiming benefit was 16.7 at 27th March, as compared with 17.2 at 28th February; for females the corresponding figures were 9.3 and 10.2.

The number of workpeople on the Live Register of the Employment Exchanges at 27th March was approximately 1,740,000, of whom men numbered 1,359,000 and women 285,000, the remainder being boys and girls. The corresponding total for 28th February was 1,837,000, of whom 1,411,000 were men and 318,000 were women. Some unemployed persons not insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act do not register at the Employment Exchanges, and the Live Register figures therefore do not indicate the total number unemployed.

In addition to those totally unemployed, large numbers of workpeople were registered as working systematic short time in such a manner as to entitle them to benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Act. At 27th March these numbered 223,000, of whom 125,000 were men and 82,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; the corresponding numbers on 28th February were 260,000 (147,000 men and 96,000 women).

The total number of vacancies notified to the Employment Exchanges and unfilled at 27th March was 17,600, of which 4,200 were for men and 11,200 for women; the corresponding number at 28th February was 18,000, of which 4,400 were for men and 11,700 for women.

Employment at coal mines continued fair. The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 25th March was 1,084,473, an increase of nearly 1 per cent. compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 9.5 per cent. compared with a year ago. The average number of days worked by the pits in the fortnight ended 25th March was 5.17, compared with 5.55 in February and 4.56 in March, 1921. At shale mines employment was better than a month ago; at iron mines it also showed an improvement, but was still bad. At lead and zinc mines employment was slack; in the quarrying industry it was moderate generally, but fairly good at slate quarries.

Employment in the pig-iron industry continued bad, but showed a further improvement. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of March was 107, an increase of 6 compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 2 compared with a year ago. At iron and steel works employment was adversely affected by the lock-out in the engineering industry, and was bad, except at Leeds, where it was fair, and in Wales and Monmouth, where it continued moderate. At tinplate and steel sheet mills employment continued fair.

In the engineering trade employment was very bad, and in the latter half of the month the lock-out caused a further decline. In the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades it was also very bad, and at the end of the month these trades were almost at a standstill owing to a wages dispute which affected all the principal (federated) districts. In the other metal trades employment continued bad, with much unemployment and short time.

In the textile trades employment continued bad generally, with much unemployment and short-time working. There was, however, an improvement in the cotton trade, and a further improvement in the woollen and worsted trades, where it was good in the wool combing and in the worsted spinning departments. Employment in the hosiery trade was fairly good and in the carpet trade it continued fair.

Employment in the ready-made branch of the tailoring trade showed a seasonal improvement; in the bespoke branch it was moderate in London and slack generally in most of the other centres. With dressmakers and milliners, and in the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, etc., trades in London employment was fair. In the corset trade there was a further improvement and employment was fairly good. In the shirt and collar and felt hat trades employment continued slack.

In the boot and shoe trades there was a further slight improvement, but employment continued slack, and much short time was reported. In the tanning and currying sections of the leather trades employment continued fair; in the manufactured leather goods branch it remained slack.

In the building trades employment showed a slight general improvement, but continued slack on the whole; in the brick and cement trades it was very slack. In the woodworking and furnishing trades employment continued bad. It was also bad in the paper, printing and bookbinding trades, but some improvement was reported in the printing section.

In the pottery trades employment was slack on the whole; in the glass trades it continued bad. In the food preparation trades employment showed little change, and was only moderate.

Among dock labourers and seamen employment continued slack generally. With fishermen it was moderate and showed a decline as compared with the previous month. In agriculture the supply of labour was generally in excess of the demand.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

Trade.	Membership of Unions reporting at end of Mar., 1922.	Unemployed at end of March, 1922.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Number.	Per cent.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building†	111,078	7,862	7.1	+ 0.4	+ 3.4
Coal Mining ..	180,732	23,702	13.1	- 0.6	+ 7.7
Engineering and Ship-building	468,857	138,116	29.5	+ 1.2	+ 15.3
Miscellaneous Metal ..	65,382	9,899	15.1	+ 0.4	+ 2.0
Textiles:—					
Cotton ..	71,380	5,873	8.2	- 2.7	—
Woollen and Worsted	12,037	307	2.6	- 0.1	- 9.2
Other ..	77,281	3,875	5.0	—	- 3.2
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper.	97,396	6,985	7.2	- 0.8	- 0.4
Furnishing ..	36,916	2,494	6.8	- 0.8	- 4.9
Woodworking ..	50,664	5,188	10.2	- 0.1	+ 2.9
Clothing:—					
Boot and Shoe ..	77,480	3,633	4.7	- 0.6	- 3.2
Other Clothing ..	54,383	1,607	2.9	- 1.5	- 5.7
Leather ..	9,583	1,056	11.0	+ 1.0	- 0.7
Glass ..	1,272	66	5.2	—	+ 1.8
Pottery ..	33,450	6,650	19.9	- 2.6	+ 17.5
Tobacco‡	4,617	3,534	76.5	+ 47.4	+ 42.8
Total ..	1,353,013	220,847	16.3	—	+ 6.3

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

Detailed particulars will be found on page 173.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

(a) MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for Mar., 1922.	March, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining ..	1,084,473	Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.
Iron ..	5,376	5.17	- 0.18	+ 0.61
Shale ..	3,720	5.07	- 0.01	+ 0.76
		5.90	- 0.04	- 0.10
Pig Iron ..	—	Furnaces in Blast.	Number.	Number.
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	—	107	+ 6	- 2
		Mills Working	+ 9	+ 309
Iron and Steel ..	64,481	Shifts Worked (one week).	Per cent.	Per cent.
		313,617	- 6.7	- 23.6

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople.		Total wages Paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.‡
Textiles:—			£	Per cent.
Cotton ..	81,959	+ 4.0	166,186	+ 7.3
Woollen ..	15,540	+ 1.5	32,531	+ 3.3
Worsted ..	31,663	+ 2.2	65,863	+ 3.1
Linen ..	23,727	+ 1.3	31,985	+ 1.0
Jute ..	13,065	- 1.9	17,599	- 9.6
Hosiery ..	16,499	+ 2.3	31,564	+ 2.1
Lace ..	3,475	- 2.1	6,798	+ 3.3
Other Textiles ..	16,153	+ 0.5	28,570	- 0.5
Bleaching, etc. ..	24,015	+ 0.2	66,615	+ 3.1
Total Textiles	225,496	+ 2.1	447,671	+ 3.6
Ready-made Tailoring	10,498	+ 0.5	16,037	+ 0.6
Paper ..	19,350	+ 3.3	34,684	+ 9.3
Printing and Book-binding	10,904	+ 1.1	26,883	+ 1.6
Pottery ..	13,533	+ 0.4	41,486	+ 2.7
Glass ..	11,401	+ 0.9	21,559	- 0.7
Brick ..	7,463	- 1.3	18,000	- 2.2
Cement ..	5,867	- 2.2	18,797	- 1.7
Food Preparation ..	63,655	- 0.0	144,579	+ 0.9
Grand Total	425,958	+ 1.3	906,986	+ 2.6

* Short time and broken time are not reflected in the figures. In the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is generally met by short time working. Persons on strike or locked-out are also excluded.

† The percentage is based on returns relating to woodworkers and plumbers, and as regards woodworkers, who constitute the bulk of the membership reported on, the returns relate to February.

‡ In addition to those totally unemployed, a large number of the members of the unions reporting were "paid off part of each week, or alternate weeks or fortnights" or on "temporary stoppage benefit."

§ The returns for the tobacco trade are supplied by unions whose members are mainly cigar makers. The majority of those rendered idle during March were previously working only alternate weeks.

|| Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and (except as regards coal mining) 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 and females, of adults and juveniles, and of skilled and unskilled workers in the respective industries.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during March continued fair, and showed little change on the whole as compared with the previous month. Short time was worked at collieries at which nearly one-half of the workpeople were employed.

The average weekly number of days (5-17) worked by the pits in the fortnight ended 25th March showed a decrease of 0.18 days as compared with the fortnight ended 25th February, but an increase of 0.61 days on a year ago. The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 25th March showed an increase of 9,811 (or 0.9 per cent.) on the number at 25th February, but a decrease of 113,292 (or 9.5 per cent.) on the number at 31st March, 1921.

The proportion of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 8.1 per cent. at 27th March, compared with 9.2 per cent. at 21st February.

The following Table shows, for the principal districts, the total number of wage earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked by the collieries, as indicated by 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.

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books.		Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*		
	25th March, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Fortnight ended 25th March, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:			per cent.	per cent.	Days
Northumberland ..	57,638	+ 0.4	- 3.2	- 0.18	+ 1.35
Durham ..	148,952	+ 2.1	- 11.1	- 0.33	+ 0.63
Cumberland ..	11,154	+ 0.7	- 4.2	- 0.21	+ 0.22
South Yorkshire ..	103,676	+ 1.2	- 0.9	- 0.17	+ 0.01
West Yorkshire ..	65,320	- 0.4	- 4.1	- 0.40	- 0.40
Lanc and Cheshire ..	104,823	+ 0.1	- 10.4	- 0.19	- 0.36
Derbyshire ..	62,398	+ 0.6	- 4.5	- 0.44	- 0.53
Notts. and Leicester	62,289	+ 0.3	- 4.3	- 0.37	- 0.82
Warwick ..	22,000	+ 0.4	+ 0.7	- 0.64	- 0.67
North Staffordshire ..	33,958	+ 0.0	- 4.0	- 0.01	- 0.10
South Staffs.† Worcester	33,460	+ 0.0	- 13.8	- 0.06	+ 0.34
Glouc. and Somerset	14,089	+ 2.7	- 17.6	- 0.23	+ 0.37
Kent ..	1,423	+ 2.8	- 30.8	- 0.07	+ 0.25
North Wales ..	15,975	+ 1.4	- 13.3	- 0.25	- 0.06
South Wales and Mon.	219,142	+ 1.4	- 14.1	- 0.07	+ 2.29
England and Wales	956,207	+ 0.9	- 8.7	- 0.17	+ 0.65
SCOTLAND:					
Mid & East Lothians ..	14,698	+ 0.6	- 10.4	- 0.41	- 0.15
Fife and Clackmannan	27,911	+ 1.8	- 14.8	- 0.06	+ 0.97
Rest of Scotland ..	85,657	+ 0.8	- 15.3	- 0.20	+ 0.16
Scotland ..	128,266	+ 1.0	- 14.7	- 0.17	+ 0.31
Great Britain ..	1,084,473	+ 0.9	- 9.5	- 0.18	+ 0.61

The average weekly number of coal-winding days lost by the pits in the fortnight ended 25th March was 0.58 of a day, of which 0.52 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. In the fortnight ended 25th February the average time lost was 0.41 of a day, of which 0.37 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. In the fortnight ended 19th March, 1921, the average time lost was 1.20 of a day. The non-winding time in each of these periods was about one-quarter of a day per week.

The output of coal in Great Britain in the four weeks ended 25th March, 1922, was returned to the Mines Department at 19,921,000 tons, compared with 19,765,000 tons in the four weeks ended 25th February, 1922, and with 16,436,600 tons in the four weeks ended 26th March, 1921.

The exports of coal, coke and manufactured fuel during March, 1922, amounted to 5,499,477 tons, or 1,204,739 tons more than in February, 1922, and 3,369,052 tons more than in March, 1921.

* The figures in this and the following article only show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal, iron ore, shale or stone, etc., was got and drawn from the mines or open works included in the returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the quarries employed worked every day the mines or works were open. Mines and quarries not working are omitted in computing the average number of days worked.

IRON, SHALE AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

EMPLOYMENT was still bad at iron mines, but there was an improvement compared with February. At shale mines, also, employment was better than in the previous month. At lead and zinc mines it was slack on the whole.

At quarries employment generally was only moderate, though it showed a tendency to improve. At slate quarries it was fairly good.

MINING.

Iron.—Although still bad on the whole, employment at iron mines improved in March, particularly at mines in Cumberland and Lancashire. Some mines still remained closed, however, and, except in the Cumberland and Lancashire districts, short time was worked in the majority of mines which were open.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to employment in the fortnight ended 25th March, in comparison with a month and a year earlier:—

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.			
	Fort-night ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago. Year ago.	Fort-night ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago. Year ago.		
				Month ago.	Year ago.	
		Per cent. Month ago. Per cent. Year ago.	Days. Month ago. Days. Year ago.	Days. Month ago. Days. Year ago.		
Cleveland	2,087	+ 2.0 - 59.9	4.29	- 0.40	+ 0.76	
Cumberland and Lancashire	2,215	+ 36.3 - 17.2	6.00	+ 0.05	+ 0.21	
Other Districts	1,074	+ 5.4 - 20.0	4.64	+ 0.18	+ 0.29	
All Districts	5,376	+ 14.6 - 41.7	5.07	- 0.01	+ 0.76	

Shale.—Employment in March was better than in the previous month, though not so good as a year ago. Returns from firms employing 3,720 workpeople in the fortnight ended 25th March showed an increase of 14.3 per cent. in the total number employed as compared with February, but a decrease of 11.3 per cent. compared with March of last year. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines was 5.90, compared with 5.94 in the previous month and 6.00 a year ago.

Tin.—Work remained practically suspended at tin mines.

Lead and Zinc.—Employment with lead miners in the Wearhead district was fairly good; elsewhere it continued slack on the whole.

QUARRYING.

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

	No. of Workpeople employed at Quarries included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days* worked per week by the Quarries.			
	Fort-night ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago. Year ago.	Fort-night ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago. Year ago.		
				Month ago.	Year ago.	
		Per cent. Month ago. Per cent. Year ago.	Days. Month ago. Days. Year ago.	Days. Month ago. Days. Year ago.		
Limestone	3,228	- 2.9 - 25.8	5.27	+ 0.27	+ 0.97	
Sandstone	1,205	+ 6.0 - 12.5	5.30	+ 0.58	+ 0.54	
Granite	1,779	+ 0.9 + 1.4	4.87	+ 0.04	- 0.96	
Slate	1,140	+ 3.7 + 7.5	5.01	- 0.43	- 0.25	
Basalt	814	+ 7.1 - 16.3	5.24	+ 0.20	- 0.57	
Whinstone	305	- 6.2 - 1.2	5.84	+ 0.99	+ 0.80	
All Quarrying	8,469	+ 1.0 - 13.9	5.17	+ 0.19	+ 0.26	

Limestone.—Employment at quarries producing limestone for cement making was moderate, while at those producing road-making material it was fair on the whole. There was considerable variation, as between different districts, in employment at quarries producing limestone for blast furnaces, iron and steel work, etc., but employment generally was slightly better than in the previous month.

Sandstone.—Taken as a whole employment was moderate at sandstone quarries; at those quarries which produce material for grindstones, pulpstones, etc., it was slack.

Granite (road materials, setts, etc.).—Employment continued slack at granite quarries raising material for setts; at other granite quarries there was an improvement, though employment was still only moderate.

Slate.—Workpeople at slate quarries were fairly well employed during March, and a shortage of quarrymen was reported by one large quarry in North Wales.

Basalt and Whinstone (road materials).—Employment was fairly good at basalt quarries, and was slightly better than in February. Workpeople at whinstone quarries were well employed in the West Scottish districts, while in East Scotland employment was fair.

* See note * at foot of second column on page 163.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued bad during March, but showed a further improvement as compared with previous months.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of the month, as shown by the returns collected by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, was 107, compared with 101 at the end of February, seven furnaces having been re-lit and one having gone out of blast during the month. Of the furnaces re-lit two were in Cumberland and two in Yorkshire (West Riding) and one each in Cleveland, Lancashire and Lincolnshire. The furnace going out of blast was in Durham.

Returns received by the Federation from seventy-six firms employing 16,791 workpeople at the end of March, 1922, show an increase of 6.0 per cent. compared with the number at the end of February, but a decrease of 19.1 per cent. compared with the end of March, 1921.

The following Table shows the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of March, 1922, February, 1922, and March, 1921, according to returns collected by the Federation:—

District.	Total Number of Furnaces at Mar. 1922.	Number of Furnaces in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar. on a	
		Mar., 1922.	Feb., 1922.	Mar., 1921.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:—						
Durham and Cleveland	115	27	27	40	+ 3	- 13
Cumberland and N. Lancs.	46	12	9	8	+ 3	+ 4
Other parts of Lancs. and Yorks., including Sheffield	38	10	8	8	+ 2	+ 2
Derby, Leicester, Notts. and Northants.	73	19	19	12	..	+ 7
Lincolnshire	22	7	6	1	+ 1	+ 6
Stafford, Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick	58	12	12	10	..	+ 2
South Wales and Monmouth.	33	8	8	1	..	+ 7
Total (England and Wales)	385	95	89	80	+ 6	+ 15
SCOTLAND	102	12	12	29	..	- 17
TOTAL	487	107	101	109	+ 6	- 2

The production of pig iron in March, as returned to the Federation, amounted to 389,800 tons, compared with 300,100 tons in February and 386,000 tons in March, 1921.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued fair during March. It showed an improvement on the previous month, and was much better than a year ago. At the end of March 445 mills were reported to be in operation, as compared with 436 at the end of February and 136 a year ago.

The number of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 4,587 at 27th March, as compared with 5,031 at 21st February.

The following Table shows the number of works open and the number of mills in operation at the end of March, 1922:—

Works.	Number of Works Open		Number of Mills in Operation		
	At end of March, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago. Year ago.	At end of March, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago. Year ago.	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate	66	- 1 + 47	334	+ 5	+ 257
Steel Sheet	13	.. + 7	111	+ 4	+ 52
TOTAL	79	- 1 + 54	445	+ 9	+ 309

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in March, 1922, amounted to 88,792 tons, or 16,195 tons more than in February, 1922, and 66,219 tons more than in March, 1921.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works was adversely affected by the engineers' lock-out; it continued moderate in Wales and Monmouth and bad elsewhere, except at Leeds, where it was fair and showed an improvement at the principal works. Many works were again closed or partially closed, and others were working short time owing to lack of orders. In the Staffordshire and Wales and Monmouth districts, however, employment was much better than a year ago.

According to returns received from firms employing 64,481 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 25th March (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed at each works, multiplied by the number of shifts during which work was carried on) showed a decrease of 6.7 per cent. on the previous month, and of 23.6 per cent. on a year ago.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.		Aggregate number of Shifts.*			
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago. Year ago.	Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago. Year ago.		
				Month ago.	Year ago.	
DEPARTMENTS.		Per cent. Month ago. Per cent. Year ago.		Per cent. Month ago. Per cent. Year ago.		
Open Hearth Melting	7,166	- 2.7 - 16.4	39,929	- 0.7	- 13.9	
Furnaces	259	+ 7.0 - 24.7	874	- 1.4	- 27.7	
Crucible Furnaces ..	810	+ 26.8 + 28.6	3,046	+ 4.6	+ 8.1	
Bessemer Converters ..	2,947	- 10.5 - 4.6	10,718	- 12.7	- 27.4	
Puddling Forges	22,957	- 2.7 - 4.6	100,596	- 5.2	- 5.8	
Rolling Mills	2,518	- 4.1 - 32.4	11,661	- 1.4	- 27.8	
Forging and Pressing ..	5,721	- 25.8 - 50.3	28,820	- 23.2	- 56.1	
Founding	6,019	- 2.2 - 25.6	32,431	- 0.4	- 27.5	
Other Departments ..	16,084	- 2.9 - 24.0	85,542	- 4.1	- 23.5	
Mechanics, Labourers ..						
Total	64,481	- 5.4 - 21.2	313,617	- 6.7	- 23.6	
DISTRICTS.						
Northumberland and Durham	5,466	- 12.0 - 51.4	26,787	- 8.9	- 53.3	
Cleveland	7,787	+ 1.4 - 13.4	42,764	+ 0.5	- 16.3	
Sheffield and Rotherham	13,858	- 13.7 - 38.0	63,452	- 14.8	- 43.4	
Leeds, Bradford, etc. ..	2,645	+ 0.7 - 33.9	12,744	+ 6.9	- 34.7	
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire	5,979	- 10.4 - 34.0	25,780	- 19.3	- 26.4	
Staffordshire	6,356	+ 0.4 + 21.3	32,175	- 1.2	+ 25.4	
Other Midland Counties	3,125	- 0.9 - 14.2	14,479	- 3.2	- 0.2	
Wales and Monmouth ..	8,190	+ 1.4 + 54.7	44,741	- 1.6	+ 65.7	
Total, England and Wales	53,406	- 6.4 - 21.1	262,922	- 7.2	- 23.2	
Scotland	11,075	- 0.6 - 21.7	50,695	- 3.9	- 25.5	
Total	64,481	- 5.4 - 21.2	313,617	- 6.7	- 23.6	

The production of steel ingots and castings, as returned to the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 549,400 tons in March, 1922, compared with 415,000 tons in February, and with 359,100 tons in March, 1921.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the shipbuilding and ship repairing trades remained very bad during March, and was rather worse than in February. On the 29th March a stoppage of work began, owing to a wages dispute, at the yards of members of the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation. See page 156.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople whose Unemployment Insurance books were lodged at Exchanges at 27th March:—

Divisions.	Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 27th Mar., 1922.	Percentage of Unemployment at 27th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 21st Feb., 1922.
London	5,746	35.0	+ 8.4
Northern Counties ..	33,050	43.5	+ 1.8
North-Western	19,016	39.6	+ 1.5
Yorkshire	4,242	40.6	+ 2.7
East Midlands	752	23.1	+ 0.3
West Midlands	1,766	23.2	+ 1.2
S. Midlands and Eastern	1,259	27.3	- 2.2
S.E. Counties	946	14.0	- 0.4
South-Western	9,941	22.4	- 1.2
Wales	7,098	41.6	+ 2.1
Scotland	35,042	40.0	+ 0.2
Ireland	11,983	29.4	+ 1.3
UNITED KINGDOM	129,131	36.3	+ 1.2
Males	128,430	36.7	+ 1.3
Females	711	17.6	- 1.6

Employment on the Tyne and Wear was bad, and worse than in the previous month, except with ship joiners on the Tyne, who reported it as fair, but declining. On the Tees also it was bad, and worse than in the previous month. At the East and South Coast ports it was again reported slack, while at the Bristol Channel ports it was very slack, and worse than in February. On the Mersey it was still slack, and at Barrow a further decline was reported.

With joiners on the Clyde employment continued fair, but with other classes of workpeople it remained bad. At Dundee and Aberdeen it was bad, and worse than in the previous month.

At Belfast employment was bad, and worse than in February. At Cork also employment was bad.

* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the works were in operation, allowance being made for the number 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 was actually worked by all the men employed.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT during March continued very bad, and in the latter half of the month the general lock-out of members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union by firms affiliated to the Engineering and National Employers' Federations, which began on 13th March (see page 156), caused a further decline in employment among other workpeople at the works involved.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople registered as unemployed (excluding those disqualified for benefit on account of the dispute), according to the Unemployment Insurance records at 27th March, as compared with 21st February:—

Division.	Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 27th March, 1922.	Percentage of Unemployment at 27th March, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 21st Feb., 1922.
London	30,185	21.0	+ 0.3
Northern Counties ..	30,342	34.6	+ 3.9
North-Western	59,492	27.0	+ 1.4
Yorkshire	35,711	29.2	+ 1.0
East Midlands	14,985	26.6	- 0.5
West Midlands	45,016	29.4	- 1.0
S. Midlands and Eastern	15,505	21.0	- 0.9
S.E. Counties	7,150	20.3	- 0.2
South-Western	9,446	17.5	+ 0.1
Wales	7,500	21.3	- 3.8
Scotland	51,825	30.7	+ 1.8
Ireland	6,588	29.8	+ 1.8
UNITED KINGDOM	308,872	26.9	+ 0.8
Males	298,236	26.0	+ 0.9
Females	10,636	19.6	- 1.1

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued bad on the whole, many workpeople being unemployed and much short time being worked by those remaining in employment. In one or two sections there was a slight improvement.

Brasswork.—Employment was again bad, but there was an improvement compared with February. The principal trade union reported that of its 25,000 members, 2,850 were totally unemployed at the end of the month, and a further 4,000 were working short time. At Birmingham employment was reported very slack, but somewhat better than in the previous month, while in the Manchester district there was a decline compared with February.

Bedsteads.—Employment in the bedstead trade was very slack, although a slight improvement was reported during the month.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—At Blackheath and Halesowen employment remained bad with makers of nuts, bolts, rivets and spikes, while at Darlaston it was reported as quiet with makers of best nuts and bolts. In the shoe rivet, wire nail and cut nail trades at Birmingham employment was rather slack, most factories working from three to five days per week.

Locks and Latches.—Employment in the lock and latch trade in the Wolverhampton and Willenhall area continued very bad; most shops working, on an average, only two or three days a week.

Cutlery, Tools, Bits, Stirrups, etc.—Employment continued bad in the Sheffield file trades; with cutlery workers it was slack, on the whole, and short-time working was general. With edge tool makers at Wednesbury employment remained bad; with spade and shovel makers at Wolverhampton it continued fair. In the bit and stirrup and the saddle and harness furniture making trades at Walsall employment remained bad.

Needles, etc.—In the needle and fish-hook and fishing tackle making trades at Redditch employment improved slightly during March, and was reported fair with needle and fish-hook makers, and fairly good with makers of fishing tackle. A good deal of short time was worked.

Tubes.—Employment among tube makers at Wednesbury was reported as quiet; at Birmingham it improved during the month, and the mills worked fuller time. At Landore and Newport (Mon.) employment was slack.

Chains, Anchors, Anvils, Springs, etc.—At Cradley Heath employment was bad with anchor smiths, shackle and ship-tackle makers, cable chain makers and block chain makers; it was also bad in the anvil and vice trade at Stourbridge, Lye and Dudley, where much short time was worked. Employment was slack with axle and spring makers at Wednesbury.

Sheet Metal.—Employment remained bad on the whole, and much short time was worked. Some improvement was reported, however, at Wolverhampton and Bristol; but in certain other localities, including Edinburgh, Manchester, Oldham and Leeds, there was a decline. At Birmingham employment among tinplate and sheet metal workers was reported very slack, one in six being totally unemployed and the remainder working only three days per week.

Wire.—Employment, taken as a whole, was slack. There were improvements, however, in the Cleckheaton, Birmingham and South Wales districts.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment was very quiet, on the whole, with stove grate workers. At Leeds it declined during March, and was reported as bad; it was very bad at Sheffield, and slack at Luton.

Jewellery, Plated-ware, etc.—At Birmingham employment declined during the month, and was very slack, practically all those in employment working short time. At Sheffield employment was bad and rather worse than last month, while in London it remained very bad; short time was largely worked in each district.

Hollow-ware.—At Wolverhampton employment was fair with tin and enamel hollow-ware makers and galvanised hollow-ware makers, and slack with cast-iron hollow-ware makers. At Birmingham employment remained good with iron plate hollow-ware workers, but a small amount of short time was worked during March.

Farriers.—Employment among farriers showed little change compared with the previous month, and was slack on the whole; a good deal of short time was worked.

COTTON TRADE.

In this trade there was an improvement during March, especially in the weaving department, although employment was still very slack; in all departments, and in almost all districts, employment was much above the extremely low level of March, 1921. There was still much short time and unemployment in all the principal districts; but in several districts certain mills which had been closed down for some time were re-opened, and there was a reduction in the number of idle looms.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 15.1 at the 27th March, as compared with 17.2 at the 21st February.

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 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	10,920	+ 3.6	+10.3	21,419	+ 5.2	+25.9
Spinning	21,883	+ 3.4	+10.3	42,961	+ 4.7	+35.2
Weaving	33,469	+ 6.4	+29.5	62,287	+10.3	+37.7
Other	7,582	- 0.3	+ 5.9	20,731	+ 3.2	+ 2.7
Not specified	8,106	+ 1.1	+12.0	18,788	+11.0	+30.4
Total	81,959	+ 4.0	+17.1	166,186	+ 7.3	+28.1
DISTRICTS.						
Ashon	4,144	- 1.5	+21.2	8,217	- 3.7	+21.7
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	5,104	+ 6.1	+16.9	9,668	+18.6	+45.2
Oldham	10,073	+ 1.0	+ 4.8	23,527	+ 1.1	+28.7
Bolton and Leigh ..	12,871	+ 4.1	+ 8.8	25,781	+ 4.5	+31.4
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Wadsworth, and Todmorden	7,871	+ 0.3	- 2.1	14,343	+ 5.9	+ 5.8
Manchester	4,027	+ 5.5	+17.1	8,033	+ 9.7	+13.1
Preston and Chorley ..	4,264	+ 9.7	+66.6	7,247	+12.6	+64.3
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen	10,026	+ 5.2	+42.3	20,685	+11.5	+45.5
Burley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson	11,215	+ 8.7	+40.9	26,427	+10.1	+35.0
Other Lancashire Towns	3,231	+ 0.9	- 3.2	5,668	- 1.4	- 6.8
Yorkshire Towns	4,150	- 0.5	+12.5	7,661	+ 1.4	+15.8
Other Districts	4,993	+ 7.4	+ 6.4	8,929	+26.2	+30.0
Total	81,959	+ 4.0	+17.1	166,186	+ 7.3	+28.1

In the week ended 25th March about 31 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were working short time, to the extent of about 15 hours a week on the average.

In the Oldham, Ashton, Stockport and Rochdale districts employment in the spinning department continued bad, and (except at Stockport) showed little improvement compared with February; short time was still in operation in all these districts, and a large number of workpeople were totally unemployed. Employment was, however, much better than in March of last year, when organised short time was in operation. In the weaving department at Oldham, employment continued slack, only a very few firms being able to run full time; short time was also general in the weaving department at Rochdale. In the Bolton district, apart from the effects of a local dispute, employment was slightly better than during the previous month, although it was still described as very irregular in the spinning department, and as bad with weavers. In the Manchester district employment was still slack.

In many of the principal weaving centres, including Blackburn, Burnley, Preston, Darwen and Todmorden, employment

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

showed signs of improvement, especially towards the end of the month; but much short time and unemployment was still reported, and a large amount of machinery was standing idle even in the sheds that were open. In the Blackburn area several mills re-opened in March, while others re-started their preparatory departments.

Employment was still bad in Yorkshire; in the Huddersfield area the majority of the operatives engaged in cotton spinning were working only 24 hours a week.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

DURING March employment continued bad in the woollen trade and in the weaving department of the worsted trade, but was good in the fine section of the wool combing trade and in the worsted spinning departments. As compared with the previous month there was a slight improvement in some departments and in some districts; as compared with March of last year there was a decided improvement, especially in the combing and spinning departments of the worsted trade.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 8.6 at the 27th March as compared with 10.5 at the 21st February.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in this trade was still very slack, but the slight improvement reported in February continued until nearly the end of the month, when a slight reaction set in.

In the Huddersfield district and in the Dewsbury and Batley district employment was slightly better than in February, but there was still much short time and unemployment. Employment in the blanket trade was poor but somewhat better, while in the rag and shoddy trade there was also a very slight improvement. At Leeds, Yeading and Guiseley there was a general slight improvement, but a large amount of short time was still worked; 85 per cent. of the warp dressers and twisters, for example, were working only half time.

In the Stockport district employment on the whole continued good, and no short time was reported. In the Rochdale flannel trade there was much variation in the hours worked, some firms being on short time while others were on full time.

In Scotland the improvement reported in February continued, and there was a decrease in the number working short time at Galashiels. On the whole, however, employment remained slack. Some of the tweed manufacturers were working less than half time, while others were running about two-thirds of their machinery full time.

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 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting	356	+ 2.3	+ 9.2	879	+ 3.0	+17.2
Spinning	3,761	+ 3.7	+ 2.6	7,668	+ 4.4	+ 8.9
Weaving	5,952	+ 1.1	- 2.3	11,118	+ 3.7	+ 3.0
Other Departments ..	4,631	+ 0.0	- 6.0	10,738	+ 1.0	- 9.8
Not Specified	840	+ 3.3	- 6.1	2,130	+ 9.5	+ 1.9
TOTAL	15,540	+ 1.5	- 3.5	32,531	+ 3.3	- 0.0
DISTRICTS.						
Huddersfield District ..	1,166	+ 1.0	+ 6.9	3,187	+ 5.4	+ 46.5
Leeds District	1,471	- 1.7	+12.8	3,487	+ 5.3	+32.7
Dewsbury and Batley District	1,864	- 0.2	- 2.9	3,913	+ 4.4	- 8.3
Other Parts of West Riding	1,933	- 1.1	- 6.8	4,261	+ 0.4	- 7.6
Total, West Riding ..	6,434	- 0.6	+ 0.7	14,848	+ 3.7	+ 8.5
Scotland	4,449	+ 3.2	- 6.7	8,805	+ 0.9	- 3.1
Other Districts	4,657	+ 2.9	- 5.8	8,878	+ 5.2	- 9.2
TOTAL	15,540	+ 1.5	- 3.5	32,531	+ 3.3	- 0.0

In the week ended the 25th March about 43 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were working short time, as compared with 47 per cent. in February. The average amount of short time was about twelve hours a week, as compared with 12½ hours in February.

WORSTED TRADE.

In this trade employment showed an improvement on February, and was much better than in March of last year. The demand for hosiery yarns continued, and the improvement in the employment of wool sorters and combers in the fine section was maintained. In view of the demand for tops, overtime working was proposed by the employers in this section, but the proposal was not accepted by the operatives. Employment in some other sections was stated to be affected by the insufficiency of combed wool.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

In the Bradford district employment with wool sorters and with combers, especially of merino wool, was good. In the spinning department operatives engaged on knitting and hosiery yarns and on yarns for export were busy. The weaving department again showed a slight improvement, but was still far less busy than the spinning department. There was a general improvement in the Keighley and Huddersfield districts, and no general change in the Halifax districts.

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 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting and Combing	4,335	+ 1.0	+23.6	12,827	+ 1.4	+ 37.4
Spinning	16,813	+ 1.7	+ 6.1	30,274	+ 2.0	+23.5
Weaving	5,290	+ 3.3	- 9.3	11,383	+ 9.1	- 4.4
Other Departments ..	2,870	+ 5.5	- 3.6	7,718	+ 2.5	- 2.3
Not Specified	1,755	+ 0.9	+ 6.7	3,631	+ 1.2	+17.5
Total	31,063	+ 2.2	+ 4.2	65,863	+ 3.1	+16.0
DISTRICTS.						
Bradford District	14,436	+ 1.5	+ 1.6	32,760	+ 3.1	+14.1
Keighley District	5,659	+ 2.5	+10.9	11,470	+ 3.9	+40.2
Halifax District	3,606	+ 1.2	+ 5.3	6,821	- 0.8	+17.0
Huddersfield District ..	2,967	+ 8.4	- 2.9	6,365	+ 9.2	- 3.7
Other parts of West Riding	2,982	- 0.1	+ 9.4	5,690	+ 0.9	+11.3
Total, West Riding ..	29,650	+ 2.2	+ 4.0	63,106	+ 3.2	+15.9
Other Districts	1,413	+ 2.1	+ 9.5	2,757	+ 0.3	+18.3
Total	31,063	+ 2.2	+ 4.2	65,863	+ 3.1	+16.0

In the week ended the 25th March about 12 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were on short time, as compared with 19 per cent. in February; the average amount of short time was 9½ hours a week, as compared with eight hours in February.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep or lambs) were 83,315,600 lbs. in March, 1922, compared with 70,792,100 lbs. in February, 1922, and 22,488,000 lbs. in March, 1921.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 14,930,300 square yards, compared with 11,783,300 square yards in February, 1922, and 9,056,600 square yards in March, 1921.

The exports of blankets were 58,417 pairs, 61,923 pairs, and 47,632 pairs in March, 1922, February, 1922, and March, 1921.

HOSIERY TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the hosiery trade during March showed a further improvement and was fairly good on the whole.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 3.2 at 27th March, as compared with 3.7 at 21st February.

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 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Leicester	7,523	+ 3.1	+40.7	15,864	+ 3.2	+51.2
Leicester County Dist. ..	2,034	+ 3.1	+14.7	3,780	+ 3.4	+25.0
Notts and Derbyshire ..	4,784	+ 1.9	+ 8.2	8,220	+ 3.5	+26.5
Scotland	1,813	+ 0.2	+16.7	3,213	- 6.1	+14.4
Other Districts	370	- 3.6	+ 6.6	487	- 6.5	+24.2
Total United Kingdom ..	16,499	+ 2.3	+22.9	31,564	+ 2.1	+39.2

Of 13,697 workpeople employed by firms making reports as to short time working, about 10 per cent. were losing, on the average, 16 hours a week.

Employment in Leicestershire continued fairly good, with but little short time. In Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and in Scotland employment was fair, and showed little change as compared with the previous month; short time was still worked by some firms.

SILK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in this trade was still slack during March, and much short time was reported.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, however, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, showed an improvement, being 7.1 at 27th March, as compared with 8.6 at 21st February.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

The following Table summarises information received from employers who furnished returns:—

BRANCHES.	Total Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Throwing	863	+ 3.1	+15.8	1,139	+ 3.7	+27.4
Spinning	1,679	- 2.4	-26.2	2,506	- 6.9	-28.9
Weaving	1,927	+ 2.9	- 7.6	3,197	+ 8.5	+ 0.3
Other	1,046	- 1.6	- 2.2	1,933	+ 2.2	-20.6
Not specified	355	- 7.3	+ 1.4	731	+10.6	+12.8
Total	5,770	- 0.1	- 9.7	9,506	+ 2.3	-10.3
DISTRICTS.						
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	1,624	- 6.6	-25.9	3,052	+ 3.7	-21.3
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	1,312	+ 5.2	-12.2	1,840	- 7.2	-30.1
Eastern Counties	1,841	+ 1.6	+ 9.3	3,314	+ 9.2	+15.1
Other Districts, including Scotland	993	+ 1.6	- 2.5	1,300	- 2.3	+ 7.9
Total	5,770	- 0.1	- 9.7	9,506	+ 2.3	-10.3

Reports relating to short time received from firms employing 4,772 workpeople show that 33 per cent. worked an average of about 13½ hours' short time during the week ended 25th March.

In the Macclesfield, Leek and Congleton districts, in the Lancashire and West Riding districts, employment was still slack. Employment in the Eastern Counties continued fair on the whole.

The following Table summarises the statistics of imports (less re-exports) of raw and thrown silk, spun silk yarn and broadstuffs, and the exports of spun silk yarn and silk broadstuffs in March, 1922, in comparison with February, 1922, and March, 1921:—

Description.	Mar., 1922.	Feb., 1922.	Mar., 1921.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on	
				Month ago.	Mar., 1921.
Imports (less re-exports)					
Raw Silk lb.	67,256	59,760	35,506	+ 7,496	+ 31,750
Thrown Silk lb.	889	889	6,600	- 5,711	- 5,711
Spun Silk Yarn lb.	58,402	43,425	11,900	+ 14,977	+ 46,502
Silk Broadstuffs	4,236†	3,468†	6,179†	+ 828	- 1,883
Exports of British Manufacture:—					
Spun Silk Yarn lb.	21,565	13,719	27,848	+ 7,846	- 6,283
Silk Broadstuffs	430†	349†	329†	+ 81	+ 101

LINEN TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the linen trade continued bad on the whole, and showed little change on the previous month.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the flax, linen and hemp trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 17.2 at 27th March, as compared with 17.2 at 21st February.

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 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.*	Year ago.*

JUTE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in Dundee and the surrounding districts during March continued bad.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 15.3 at 27th March, as compared with 14.0 at 21st February.

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 25th March, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th March, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
Preparing	3,297	- 2.0	- 10.7	3,942	- 7.5	- 4.9
Spinning	4,076	- 5.5	- 8.7	4,772	- 12.6	- 2.5
Weaving	3,728	- 1.1	+ 6.7	4,907	- 9.2	+ 22.4
Other and not specified	1,964	-	+ 3.6	3,978	- 8.1	- 6.7
Total	13,065	- 1.9	- 3.5	17,599	- 9.6	+ 1.7

Returns relating to short time were received from firms employing 11,600 workpeople. Of these workpeople over 60 per cent. were working 22 hours less than full time in the week ended 25th March.

LACE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued bad during March, and showed little variation as compared with the preceding month. There was a large amount of unemployment and short-time working in all the principal districts, although in the curtain section of the trade employment continued fair and better than a year ago. The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was lower, being 13.9 at 27th March, as compared with 15.5 at 21st February.

At Nottingham and Long Eaton employment remained bad, except in the curtain section generally and in the machine-made lace section at Long Eaton, which showed a slight improvement at the beginning of the month. In Scotland employment continued moderate, on the whole, and was much better than a year ago.

Branches.	Total Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
Lavers	733	+ 2.1	+ 11.6	1,233	+ 7.9	- 4.6
Curtain	1,534	+ 0.9	- 41.0	3,577	+ 2.3	+ 30.4
Plain Net	686	- 12.6	- 41.0	1,180	+ 8.5	- 32.1
Others	522	- 0.9	+ 6.3	808	- 5.4	- 0.1
Total	3,475	- 2.1	- 7.6	6,798	+ 3.3	+ 3.3
Districts.						
Nottingham City ..	1,524	+ 0.1	- 8.3	2,738	- 0.3	- 9.7
Long Eaton and other outlying Districts & Other English Districts	897	- 9.4	- 26.8	1,645	+ 7.2	- 11.8
Scotland	1,054	+ 1.5	+ 20.7	2,415	+ 4.9	+ 43.3
Total	3,475	- 2.1	- 7.6	6,798	+ 3.3	+ 3.3

Returns received from certain firms employing about 2,500 workpeople showed that in the week ending 25th March nearly one-third of these employees were working, on the average, about 21 hours less than full time.

CARPET TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the carpet trade during March was fair, and showed a slight improvement on the previous month.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the carpet and rug trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 6.7 at 27th March, as compared with 7.0 at 21st February.

Returns received from firms employing 10,383 workpeople in the week ended 25th March, and paying £19,064 in wages, showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed and a decrease of 1.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the previous month. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 4.3 per cent. in the number employed and of 24.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Returns covering 7,513 workpeople showed that in the week ended 25th March about 19 per cent. were working, on the average, seventeen hours less than full time.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

DURING March employment in these trades remained bad on the whole, but showed a slight improvement in some districts as compared with the previous month. A large amount of short time was worked in all districts.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 11.3 at 27th March as compared with 12.8 at 21st February.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to numbers employed and wages paid in the week ended 25th March:—

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
Trades:						
Bleaching	2,379	- 1.2	+ 7.9	5,147	- 3.1	+ 3.6
Printing	803	- 5.0	- 4.2	2,485	- 7.5	- 7.4
Dyeing	12,444	+ 0.5	- 4.2	37,948	+ 5.5	+ 3.9
Frimming, Finishing, and other Departments ..	7,823	+ 0.9	+ 0.4	19,580	+ 1.8	+ 2.8
Not specified	568	+ 9.1	+ 8.4	1,455	+ 2.1	- 1.7
Total	24,015	+ 0.2	- 1.4	66,615	+ 3.1	+ 2.9
Districts:						
Yorkshire	11,423	+ 0.6	- 5.3	36,224	+ 7.0	+ 5.0
Lancashire	7,303	- 1.1	- 0.2	18,974	- 3.5	- 5.2
Scotland	1,303	+ 1.1	+ 12.6	4,221	+ 3.4	+ 6.7
Ireland	449	- 2.0	- 4.3	834	+ 2.3	- 15.8
Other Districts ..	2,426	+ 2.1	+ 5.6	6,362	+ 2.1	+ 21.2
Total	24,015	+ 0.2	- 1.4	66,615	+ 3.1	+ 2.9

Returns received from firms employing about 19,500 workpeople showed that in the week ended 25th March nearly 60 per cent. of these employees worked, on the average, 13 hours less than full time.

In Yorkshire and Lancashire employment continued slack on the whole, although it was reported as fairly good in the cotton (warp and hank) section in Lancashire. Employment with lace dyers at Nottingham was again bad, but slightly better than a month ago; it remained good with hosiery dyers at Loughborough and Basford, but showed a further decline at Leicester. With silk dyers employment was good at Macclesfield, fair at Leek, and was again bad at Congleton.

FELT HAT TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the felt hat trade showed a further slight improvement, but remained slack on the whole. Trade unions at Denton, Stockport, Bredbury, Bury and Hyde, with a membership of 4,955, reported that 5.1 per cent. of the members were unemployed at the end of March, compared with 5.7 per cent. at the end of February. At Denton employment was quiet, and 85 per cent. of the workpeople were reported to be working short time. At Stockport employment was bad, and 90 per cent. of the workpeople were reported to be on short time. Employment in Warwickshire was fairly good, and showed an improvement on the previous month.

TAILORING TRADES.

BESPOKE.

London.—Employment during March in the bespoke branch of the tailoring trade was again only moderate. Returns, however, received from firms paying £9,930 in wages to their workpeople (indoor and outdoor) during the week ended 25th March showed an increase in the amount paid of 1.8 per cent., as compared with the previous month.

Other Centres.—Employment in the Northern district was quiet; the slight improvement reported last month at Bradford, Huddersfield and Liverpool was maintained, and some improvement was reported at Manchester. At Bristol employment was described as fair, and better than a month ago. In the Midland and Eastern Counties employment was generally slack, while in the Devon and Cornwall district tailors were better employed. In Scotland employment was slack, but generally better than in February. An improvement was also reported at Belfast and Londonderry.

READY-MADE.

Employment in this branch of the tailoring trade was slightly better as compared with a month ago, a seasonal improvement being reported. Of the employees covered by the returns relating to short time, about one-third had lost, on the average 14½ hours in the week ended 25th March.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

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

District.	Number of Indoor Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Indoor Workpeople.		
	Week ended 25th March, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th March, 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
Leeds	5,087	+ 3.2	+ 2.4	£ 9,161	+ 6.4	+ 20.0
Manchester	2,209	+ 0.8	+ 1.0	3,832	+ 11.2	- 9.2
Other places in Yorks., Lancs. and Cheshire	3,101	+ 6.7	+ 0.6	5,190	+ 11.4	+ 4.6
Bristol	1,189	+ 4.4	- 17.7	1,946	+ 22.4	+ 21.1
North and West Midland Counties (excluding Bristol)	1,772	+ 7.9	- 2.7	3,046	+ 16.1	+ 14.6
South Midland and Eastern Counties ..	1,874	+ 1.7	- 6.3	3,200	+ 9.5	- 4.7
London	2,039	- 2.1	- 5.4	4,800	+ 0.2	+ 2.1
Glasgow	761	+ 3.3	- 0.8	1,572	+ 12.3	- 1.8
Rest of United Kingdom	1,323	+ 3.5	- 15.6	1,857	+ 15.0	- 21.9
Total, United Kingdom	19,360	+ 3.3	- 3.4	34,694	+ 9.3	+ 4.4

Employment in Leeds was still moderate, but a further improvement was shown; at other places in the North employment was slack, but a slight improvement was reported. At Bristol employment was fair, and better than in February. In the rest of the North and West Midland Counties and in the South Midland and Eastern Counties employment was quiet, but slightly better, in some localities, than last month. In London employment showed little change. In Glasgow employment remained fair, while in the remaining parts of the United Kingdom it was slack.

SHIRT AND COLLAR TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during March in the shirt and collar trade continued slack on the whole. Returns received from firms employing about 10,000 workpeople showed that 37 per cent. of that number lost on an average 12½ hours during the week ended 25th March on account of short time.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to the numbers employed and wages paid:—

District.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
London	2,797	+ 1.4	- 7.0	£ 4,890	+ 0.6	+ 12.7
Manchester	1,621	- 10.7	- 17.2	2,625	- 3.2	+ 6.9
Rest of Lancs. and Yorks. and Cheshire ..	1,243	+ 6.9	+ 20.2	1,500	- 0.4	+ 23.0
South Western Counties.	1,058	+ 4.9	- 11.8	1,483	+ 2.4	- 6.2
Rest of England and Wales	879	+ 0.7	- 4.4	1,446	+ 2.5	+ 22.1
Glasgow	1,457	+ 4.6	+ 2.3	2,231	+ 5.9	+ 17.4
Londonderry	950	- 0.4	- 23.0	1,323	- 6.0	- 19.2
Belfast	493	+ 2.5	- 10.7	674	+ 7.5	- 13.5
Total, United Kingdom ..	10,498	+ 0.5	- 7.3	16,037	+ 0.6	+ 7.1

In London employment continued slack. At Manchester, it declined. In the rest of Lancashire and in Yorkshire and Cheshire employment improved, and very little short time was reported. There was a slight improvement in employment in the South-Western Counties; in the rest of England and Wales it was quiet. At Glasgow, short time working was still prevalent. At Londonderry and Belfast employment remained dull.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

DRESSMAKING AND MILLINERY.

EMPLOYMENT with dressmakers in London during March continued to improve, but, on the whole, was again only fair. Returns from retail firms (chiefly in the West End) employing 1,128 workpeople in the week ended 25th March showed an increase in the number employed of 5.5 per cent. in comparison with February, and of 0.9 per cent. in comparison with a year ago.

In the West End, employment with milliners continued fair and, compared with February, showed an improvement, although a little short time was reported.

WHOLESALE MANTLE, COSTUME, BLOUSE, ETC., TRADES.

In London some short time was still worked, and employment generally was only fair, but showed a slight improvement on the previous month. Returns from firms employing

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

2,023 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 25th March showed an increase of 1.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 6.0 per cent. compared with March, 1921.

Employment in Manchester was fair, and continued to show a slight improvement. A small amount of short time was reported in the costume and mantle trades. Returns from firms employing 2,216 workpeople showed an increase in the number employed of 2.1 per cent. on February, and of 2.5 per cent. on a year ago.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade showed a further slight improvement, and, on the whole, was moderate. Of the operatives covered by the returns received, about 34 per cent. worked short time. Returns from firms employing 1,341 workpeople showed an increase in the number employed of 1.9 per cent. in comparison with a month ago, but a decrease of 10.0 per cent. in comparison with March, 1921.

CORSET TRADE.

Employment during March continued to improve, and, in general, was fairly good, although some short time was again reported. Returns from firms employing 5,950 workpeople in the week ended 25th March, showed an increase of 5.1 per cent. in the number employed as compared with February, and of 9.7 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

LEATHER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the tanning and currying section was again fair generally. In the manufactured leather goods section it continued slack, but a slight improvement was reported from a few branches. Short time continued to be worked to a considerable extent. Returns received from Trade Unions covering 9,583 workpeople showed that 11.0 per cent. of their members were unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 10.0 per cent. in February and 11.7 per cent. in March, 1921.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 13.8 at 27th March, as compared with 13.5 at 21st February.

Employment with skippers, tanners and curriers continued to be bad in some centres, and on the whole was only fair, as in the previous month. Short time continued to be worked to a considerable extent, especially with leather dressers. With saddle, harness and horse-collar makers at Walsall there was a slight improvement, but employment continued slack and some short time was worked; at Birmingham it continued very slack, although a little improvement with cycle saddle makers was reported. With portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather workers employment continued bad, with a considerable amount of short time; at Birmingham the improvement reported last month with trunk makers was not maintained.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

DURING March there was a further slight improvement in this trade, but employment generally continued slack and much short time was still reported. As compared with a year ago there was an improvement.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the boot, shoe, and slipper making and repairing trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 9.9 at 27th March, as compared with 10.2 at 21st February.

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

District.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
England and Wales:—						
London	2,136	+ 1.5	+ 13.6	£ 5,274	+ 0.1	+ 14.3
Leicester	8,964	+ 1.1	- 1.5	23,870	+ 3.9	+ 11.0
Leicester Country District ..	2,718	+ 1.0	+ 10.0	6,408	+ 4.6	+ 14.9
Northampton	6,755	- 0.4	- 2.4	16,730	+ 8.1	+ 1.1
Northampton Country District ..	7,150	- 0.6	+ 3.0	15,943	- 3.7	+ 10.5
Kettering	3,257	+ 2.8	+ 5.1	7,976	- 2.9	+ 6.0
Stafford and District ..	2,399	+ 1.9	+ 3.2	5,627	+ 5.7	+ 3.7
Norwich and District ..	3,786	+ 2.4	+ 28.6	8,792	+ 4.9	+ 37.8
Bristol and Kingswood District ..	2,099	- 1.5	+ 27.1	3,839	- 5.2	+ 50.3
Leeds and District ..	1,495	- 1.9	+ 3.0	2,976	- 9.7	- 3.9
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley) ..	3,633	+ 4.0	- 2.7	8,468	+ 7.7	+ 18.2
Birmingham and District ..	981	+ 0.4	+ 6.5	1,957	+ 0.3	+ 4.0
Other parts of England and Wales	2,504	+ 1.0	+ 1.2	4,459	+ 2.2	+ 20.7
England and Wales ..	47,867	+ 0.9	+ 4.3	112,319	+ 2.2	+ 11.9
Scotland	2,441	- 0.2	- 3.4	4,604	- 6.7	- 9.5
Ireland	434	- 5.2	+ 104.7	757	- 4.8	+ 90.2
United Kingdom ..	50,742	+ 0.8	+ 4.3	117,680	+ 1.8	+ 11.1

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

Returns received from firms employing 32,882 workpeople showed that in the week ended 25th March more than 46 per cent. of these employees worked, on the average, 12½ hours a week less than full time.

In London employment continued bad. At Leicester there was a further slight improvement, and employment was good in some departments; but a good deal of short time was still reported. At Hinckley employment was bad, and all firms were working short time. There was some improvement at Northampton; but employment continued bad on the whole, and short time was general. Employment was also bad at Kettering, and poor at Desborough, where it showed a decline. At Ringstead employment was very bad, owing to the completion of Government contracts; it was also bad, and showed a decline, at Rushden, where full-time working was exceptional. At Stafford there was a further slight improvement, and short time had almost ceased.

At Norwich employment in March was good; most of the operatives were on full time, and there was even some overtime. At Bristol and Kingswood employment was bad, with much short time. Employment showed a decline at Wolverhampton, and was very quiet; three-quarters of the operatives were on short time. At Leeds employment was bad, and worse than in February.

In Scotland employment remained bad or quiet at all the principal centres, except at Kilmarnock, where it continued fair. The exports of boots and shoes in March, 1922, amounted to 65,402 dozen pairs, or 19,583 dozen pairs more than in February, 1922, and 13,146 dozen pairs more than in March, 1921.

BRICK AND CEMENT TRADES.

BRICK.

EMPLOYMENT in the brick trade continued very slack during March. Some brickyards remained closed, while considerable short time was worked. In the South Wales and Monmouth district employment was reported as fair, and better than in the previous month. All brick makers in the Nottingham area were working about half time, and in the Bridgwater district, workpeople were engaged only four days a week.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the brick and tile and cement trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 27th March, was 19.2, as compared with 19.7 at 21st February.

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

Districts.	Total Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	2,535	- 2.6	6,855	- 1.8
Midlands and Eastern Counties	2,689	- 4.6	6,455	- 0.4
South and South-West Counties and Wales	1,201	- 0.6	3,010	- 6.6
Other Districts	1,043	+ 4.0	2,477	+ 1.7
Total	7,468	- 2.2	18,797	- 1.7

Returns from firms employing 6,888 workpeople in this trade show that about 48 per cent. of their workpeople worked short time to the extent of 11 hours, on the average, during the week ended 25th March.

CEMENT.

Employment during March continued very slack generally. Returns from employers employing 5,867 workpeople in the week ended 25th March, 1922, showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 3.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the previous month. Compared with March, 1921, there was a decrease of 45.3 per cent. in the number employed and of 56.7 per cent.* in the amount of wages paid by these firms. Returns received from firms employing 5,793 workpeople in this trade show that nearly 23 per cent. of their workpeople worked short time to the extent of about 10 hours, on the average, during the week ended 25th March.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades, taken as a whole, continued slack during March, but again showed a slight general improvement. In some centres, however, a decline was reported and short time was worked in a few districts. In all the geographical divisions shown in the Table given below, especially in the Yorkshire division, there was a decrease in the numbers registered as unemployed.

With plasterers employment continued fairly good, and with bricklayers, carpenters and plumbers it remained slack. With painters there was a marked improvement, as is usual at this season, but with masons, labourers and workpeople employed on construction of works employment was again bad.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reduction in rates of wages.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople claiming unemployment benefit at 27th March :-

Occupation.	Number of Unemployment Books Remaining Lodged at 27th Mar., 1922.	Percentage of Unemployment at 27th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 21st Feb., 1922.	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
Building Trade.				
Carpenters	14,123	10.1	- 0.5	
Bricklayers	7,359	11.6	- 2.5	
Masons	3,522	13.9	- 3.6	
Plasterers	713	3.9	- 0.4	
Painters	20,730	17.3	- 10.8	
Plumbers	3,763	10.1	+ 0.2	
All other occupations	95,350	24.1	- 2.6	
Total	145,530	18.2	- 3.3	
Construction of Works.				
Navvies	11,282	28.5	- 2.0	
All other occupations	18,656	22.4	- 2.3	
Total	29,938	24.4	- 2.2	
Grand Total	175,468	19.0	- 3.1	
Divisions.				
London	37,111	19.7	- 3.0	
Northern Counties	8,320	20.9	- 1.4	
North-Western	24,036	21.2	- 3.8	
Yorkshire	10,773	15.4	- 4.2	
East Midlands	5,838	19.6	- 3.3	
West Midlands	15,416	24.6	- 3.5	
South Midlands and Eastern	14,274	15.8	- 2.9	
South-Eastern Counties	7,636	11.9	- 4.5	
South-Western	13,977	15.0	- 2.4	
Wales	7,781	21.0	- 2.5	
Scotland	15,108	18.2	- 3.7	
Ireland	15,442	30.1	- 1.1	
United Kingdom	175,468	19.0	- 3.1	
Males	174,996	19.1	- 3.2	
Females	473	6.2	+ 0.1	

WOODWORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES.

In these trades employment was again bad during March, but it was slightly better on the whole than in the previous month. Returns were received from trade unions covering 87,580 workpeople, of whom 8.8 per cent. were stated to be unemployed at the end of March (exclusive of considerable numbers on short time), as compared with 9.2 per cent. at the end of February and 9.0 per cent in March, 1921.

Mill-Sawing and Machining.—Employment remained bad in this trade during the month, but a slight improvement was reported at a few centres. Short time was worked in most districts. The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the mill-sawing and machine woodworking trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 27th March, was 13.6, as compared with 15.3 at 21st February.

Furnishing.—In this trade employment continued bad generally, but it was somewhat better than a month ago, and in some districts employment was reported as fair and at a few centres as good. A considerable amount of short time was worked during the month.

Coach Building.—Employment was moderate in this trade during March, showing an improvement on the previous month. Short time was worked at most centres, especially on railway carriage work at Birmingham.

Coopering.—In this trade employment remained bad on the whole, and short time was general.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the brushmaking trade showed a slight improvement during the month, being moderate on the whole. With basket makers employment remained bad. Employment with packing-case makers also continued bad, and short time was reported at various centres. With wheelwrights and smiths employment was again bad, and short time was worked in some districts.

PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

In the paper and bookbinding trades employment continued bad generally during March; it showed a slight improvement, however, in the printing trade, as compared with the previous month. A good deal of short time was still being worked in all three trades, especially in the paper and bookbinding trades.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the printing, publishing and bookbinding trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 7.6 at 27th March, as compared with 8.2 at 21st February.

With letterpress printers employment, on the whole, showed a slight improvement on the previous month, both in London and the provinces. In the lithographic printing trade employ-

ment continued bad, and much short time was worked. Of over 7,600 workpeople in the letterpress and lithographic printing trades covered by returns received by the Department, 24 per cent. were working short time and losing, on an average, 8 hours each per week; in London there was also some overtime worked by a considerable number of letterpress printers.

Employment in the bookbinding trade continued bad generally. Of 2,900 workpeople concerning whom returns were received, 37 per cent. were working, on an average, 9 hours per week short of full time.

In the paper trade a slight improvement was reported in one or two districts, but the majority of the mills reported on were again working irregularly, and some were closed down altogether. Of over 8,000 workpeople covered by returns received, 32 per cent. were losing, on an average, 14 hours each per week through short time.

The following Table summarises the Returns from Trade Unions relating to unemployment in March :-

	No. of Members of Unions at end of Mar., 1922.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		Mar., 1922.	Feb., 1922.	Mar., 1921.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Printing	76,810	6.0	6.9	5.7
Bookbinding	13,327	11.4	11.1	9.4	+ 0.3	+ 2.0

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

	Number of Workpeople		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
	United Kingdom	24,437	+ 0.7	68,369

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the pottery trades during March was slack on the whole, and much short time continued to be worked. In Staffordshire employment was slack in the china and earthenware sections, and bad in the tile section of the trade. In the earthenware section of the trade it was moderate at Derby and in Yorkshire. In Scotland employment was moderate in the earthenware section and bad in the stoneware section of the trade.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 12.9 at 27th March, as compared with 15.1 at 21st February.

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

BRANCHES.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
	China Manufacture	1,594	+ 0.6	3,245
Earthenware Manufacture	8,156	+ 1.9	15,336	- 1.1
Other Branches (including unspecified)	1,651	- 3.5	2,978	+ 0.2
Total	11,401	+ 0.9	21,559	- 0.7

Returns received from employers relating to short time working showed that about 41 per cent. of over 10,000 workpeople covered by the returns, worked, on an average, 20 hours short of full time in the week ended 25th March.

The exports of china, earthenware and pottery in March, 1922, amounted to 238,464 cwts., or 16,273 cwts. less than in February, 1922, and 52,023 cwts. less than in March, 1921.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

GLASS TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was bad during March, and slightly worse than a month ago.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the glass trades (excluding optical and scientific glassware), as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 21.9 at 27th March, as compared with 20.6 at 21st February.

Employment with plate glass bevellers was very bad, especially in the Birmingham district. With flint glass cutters and flint glass makers employment continued very slack, and was worse than a month ago. There was a further decline in employment amongst glass bottle workers in most areas, several additional factories having closed down during the month.

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

Branches.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
	Glass, Bottle (not bottles)	4,589	- 1.6	12,463
Flint Glass Ware	1,851	- 2.7	4,563	- 3.8
Other Branches	594	+ 5.7	1,374	+ 1.8
Total	7,034	- 1.3	18,000	- 2.2

Returns covering 5,004 workpeople showed that in the week ended 25th March, 23.7 per cent. were working, on the average, 17 hours less than full time.

FOOD PREPARATION TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT showed little variation on the whole in the food preparation trades during March, and was again only moderate.

Employment remained fair in the sugar-refining industry, but there was a small improvement as compared with last month. Of the workpeople reported on for the week ended 25th March nearly 10 per cent. worked 14 hours overtime, while 7 per cent. worked 14 hours short time. Employment was also fair in the cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery trades; of the workpeople reported on nearly 16 per cent. lost on an average over 9 hours in short time; a small amount of overtime, however, was worked at some firms. It was moderate in the biscuit and cake-making trades, in which 50 per cent. of the workpeople reported upon lost on an average 7½ hours in short time. In the jam and marmalade trade there was a seasonal decline in employment. Of the workpeople reported on, about 6 per cent. lost on an average 9 hours in short time; some overtime was also reported. Employment was again moderate in the bacon and preserved meat trade; of the workpeople reported on nearly 13 per cent. lost 6½ hours in short time, while nearly 10 per cent. worked 3 hours overtime, on the average, in the week ended 25th March. In the pickle and sauce-making trades employment slightly improved; 24 per cent. of the workpeople reported on worked on the average 6½ hours short time.

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

Trade.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 25th Mar., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
	Sugar Refining, etc.	6,977	+ 3.2	23,550
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery	30,213	+ 0.3	66,747	+ 3.5
Biscuits and Cakes	14,797	+ 0.5	30,304	- 2.2
Jams and Marmalade	6,674	- 5.5	13,602	- 5.4
Bacon and Preserved Meats	3,397	- 1.6	7,366	- 3.4
Pickles and Sauces	1,597	+ 2.0	3,010	+ 1.0
Total	63,655	- 0.0	144,579	+ 0.9

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

AGRICULTURE.*

ENGLAND AND WALES.

THE cold winds and frost prevalent during March did not delay field work to any great extent, and cultivation was well forward. Employment showed little change compared with February, the supply of labour being in excess of the demand in practically all parts of the country. Where potato planting was in progress, however, more workers were employed than in the previous month.

SCOTLAND.

Labour was plentiful in all parts of the country, with the exception of Skye. At the Berwick hirings there was an excess of male workers, and women workers were more plentiful than in recent years.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was moderate during March, and showed a decline on the whole compared with the previous month.

The number of fishermen whose unemployment books were lodged at Employment Exchanges at 27th March was 3,355, as compared with 3,252 at 21st February.

East, South and West Coasts.—At Hull employment was fair with fishermen and good with fish dock labourers and fish curers. At Grimsby it was good in all branches, an improvement being reported with regard to the fish dock labourers and fish curers. At Yarmouth all branches continued to be fairly well employed. At Lowestoft there was a decline in employment as compared with the previous month, and it was only moderate with fishermen and fish dock labourers and bad with fish curers. In the Devon and Cornwall district employment was adversely affected by rough weather. At Cardiff, Swansea and Milford Haven employment was slack.

Scotland.—At Aberdeen employment was moderate in all branches, a decline compared with the previous month. At Peterhead it continued moderate with fishermen and bad with fish dock labourers and fish curers. At Macduff it remained fair with fishermen and bad with fish curers, but declined to bad with fish dock labourers. At Fraserburgh the improvement in employment among fishermen continued, but it was still only moderate; with fish dock labourers and fish curers it was again bad.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of fish landed in the United Kingdom in March, 1922, as compared with March, 1921:—

Table with columns: Quantity of fish landed (Mar. 1922, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with Mar. 1921), Value (£) (Mar. 1922, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with Mar. 1921). Rows include Fish (other than shell) and Shell Fish.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT among dock labourers during March continued slack generally, but there was a slight improvement at London and Liverpool and on the Tyne, and with some sections of dock labour at a few other ports. The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the canal, river, harbour, dock and wharf service, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 27th March, was 22.4, as compared with 24.3 at 21st February.

London.—The following Table shows the average daily number of labourers employed at the docks and at the principal wharves in each week of the month:—

Table with columns: Period, Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London (In Docks, At Wharves making Returns, Total), Average for Feb. 1922, Average for Mar. 1921.

* Based on information supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Board of Agriculture for Scotland.

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in March was 1,203, as compared with 1,175 in February and 1,453 in March, 1921.

East Coast.—On the Tyne employment was fair, and better than in February. On the Tees employment was very slack, much short time being worked. At Hull and Ipswich employment remained slack; while at Yarmouth and Lowestoft it was reported fair.

Southern and Western Ports.—Employment continued slack at Plymouth, Falmouth and the Bristol Channel ports, but a slight improvement was reported with dock workers at Swansea. An improvement was also reported with coal tipplers and trimmers at the Bristol Channel ports, with whom employment was fair. With dock labourers at Liverpool employment was reported fairly good, and better than a month ago, but with coal heavers and trimmers at Liverpool it continued bad. The average weekly number of dock labourers employed at Liverpool during the four weeks ended 27th March was 14,573, compared with 13,628 in the four weeks ended 27th February and 14,638 in the corresponding period of last year. Employment was slack with dock workers at Manchester.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment was poor at Glasgow, but remained fair at Dundee. At Belfast employment was fair, and a little better than in February.

SEAMEN.

DURING March employment among seamen remained slack, and large numbers of men were unable to obtain berths. On the whole, however, it was slightly better than in the previous month.

The percentage of seamen unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 21.2 at 27th March, as compared with 23.9 at 21st February.

On the Thames the demand fluctuated, and was reported as fairly brisk at the end of the month. Employment on the Tyne was fair until the last week of March, when a substantial decline set in. On the Wear a very moderate demand became practically insignificant in the second half of the month. A slight improvement was reported on the Tees in the first ten days of March; subsequently shipping was almost at a standstill. At Hull there was a fairly good demand, and employment was better on the whole than in February.

After improving steadily in the first half of the month the demand at Southampton declined, and at the end of the month was quiet. At Bristol employment was very quiet. At Avonmouth and Cardiff the demand improved in the first half of the month, but declined afterwards. Employment improved a little at Newport towards the end of the month after a gradual decline. At Swansea employment was only moderate. In the foreign-going trade on the Mersey there was a gradual falling off in the demand, followed by a revival in the last week of the month.

Employment on the Clyde continued moderate on the whole. At Leith employment improved, and there was a fair demand at the end of the month.

At Dublin an improving demand in the first half of March was not maintained at the end of the month. Employment at Belfast was generally quiet.

The following Table shows the number of seamen shipped in British registered foreign-going vessels at the principal ports during March:—

Table with columns: Principal Ports, Number of Seamen* shipped in (March 1922, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on Month ago, Year ago, Three months ended March 1922, March 1921). Rows include East Coast & Wales, Bristol Channel, Other Ports, Scotland, Ireland, and Total.

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

UNEMPLOYMENT AND SHORT-TIME WORKING IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

UNDER the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 and 1921, substantially all persons for whom Health Insurance contributions have been paid, except outworkers and persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, must be insured against unemployment. Employees of local 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 be excepted. Persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum are excepted, as are also juveniles under 16 years of age. An applicant for unemployment benefit must, inter alia, prove continuous unemployment, and it is provided that two periods of unemployment of not less than two days each, separated by a period of not

more than two days, during which the insured contributor has not been employed for more than 24 hours, or two periods of unemployment of not less than six days each, separated by an interval of not more than six weeks, shall be treated as continuous unemployment for this purpose. Persons employed in establishments where, owing to trade depression, the number of working days has been reduced on a systematic basis in such a manner as to fall within the above provision are accordingly eligible for benefit. Payment of unemployment benefit is subject to certain statutory conditions and disqualifications. The procedure requires the "lodging" of an unemployed person's unemployment book, and the record of books "lodged" thus affords a measure of the extent to which unemployment is prevalent in the insured industries.

Large table with columns: Industry, Estimated Number of Insured Workpeople (Males, Females, Total), Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 27th March, 1922 (Males, Females, Total), Percentage Unemployed (Total, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 21st Feb. 1922), Number of Short-Time Workers claiming Unemployment Insurance Benefit at 27th Mar., 1922 (Males, Females, Total), Percentage on Systematic Short Time (Total, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 21st Feb. 1922).

The estimated numbers of insured workpeople and their distribution among the various industries have been revised, and for the purpose of comparison the percentages unemployed and on systematic short time at 21st February, 1922, have been re-worked on the new basis.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics (see note in next column) the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in March resulted in a reduction of £223,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 1,350,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £800 in the wages of about 10,000 workpeople.

The groups of trades principally affected by the changes are shown below:—

Group of Trades.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ..	10,500	686,000	£ 800	£ 64,400
Iron and Steel	—	76,000	—	10,900
Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal	—	74,000	—	15,100
Transport	—	300,000	—	97,500
Food	—	46,000	—	4,500
Other	—	172,000	—	31,000
Total	10,500	1,354,000	800	223,400

In the coal mining industry rates of wages were reduced by amounts ranging from under 2 to over 3 per cent. on current rates in Northumberland, Yorkshire and the East Midlands, Lancashire and North Staffordshire, North Wales and Scotland. They were increased, however, by over 3 per cent. in the Radstock district and by less than 1 per cent. in the Forest of Dean. Iron ore miners in Cumberland sustained a decrease of 4d. per shift.

In the iron and steel trades there were reductions in the wages of puddlers and millmen amounting to nearly 12 per cent. on current rates in the North of England and 8½ per cent. in the West of Scotland, while Siemens steel workers in South Wales had their bonuses reduced by 2d. and 1d. per day for men and boys respectively. A considerable number of labourers and other classes in steel works generally were affected by a second instalment of a reduction which became due under sliding scale arrangements in February, but which was modified to operate in three instalments at monthly intervals.

There was a decrease of 4s. per week in the war wages of ship repairers in South Wales and of varying amounts in piece rates. Other metal trades affected by reductions in March included electrical cable-making, in which the reductions varied from 5½d. to 2s. per week; wire-drawing, in which a bonus of 80 per cent. on earnings up to £2 per week was reduced to 60 per cent.; lead smelting, in which there was a decrease of 1d. per hour; and bobbin and shuttle making, in which the decreases varied from 1s. to 3s. per week.

The principal changes in the transport trades affected men employed in the merchant shipping service and dock labourers. In the case of the former able seamen and firemen sustained decreases of 30s. per month or 10s. 6d. per week, and ordinary seamen 25s. per month, or 8s. per week, on monthly and weekly articles respectively; in the latter case there was a general reduction of 1s. per day or 6d. per half-day on time-rates and of 20

per cent. on piece-rates, into which was merged a previous reduction of 3s. per day.

The largest body of workpeople affected in the food trades were men in flour mills, whose wages were reduced by 1s. 6d. per week. There were decreases of 3s. or 4s. per week in the wages of sugar refiners, and also reductions in the wages of bakers in various districts.

In trades other than the above the principal reductions included in the statistics affected chemical workers, textile warehousemen in London, and rubber workers in Lancashire. There were also numerous reductions in many districts in the wages of agricultural labourers, who are excluded from the statistics.

Of the changes taking effect in March, 6, affecting 15,000 workpeople, were arranged by arbitration; 4, affecting nearly 1,000 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales; and the remaining 120, affecting over 505,000 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives, or took effect as the result of Orders under the Trade Boards Act. In 10 cases, involving over 3,000 workpeople, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Summary of Changes in January—March, 1922.

The following Table summarises the effect of the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department as having taken effect in the first three months of 1922:—

Group of Trades.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Building	400	487,000	£ 70	£ 55,700
Mining and Quarrying ..	19,300	1,071,000	3,300	236,800
Iron and Steel	—	233,000	—	108,700
Engineering and Shipbuilding	—	1,305,000	—	194,700
Other Metal	—	513,000	—	59,700
Textile	200	446,000	50	70,900
Clothing	—	235,000	—	39,000
Transport	—	915,000	—	248,000
Paper, Printing, &c. ..	—	104,000	—	15,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	—	162,000	—	29,900
Public Utility Services ..	—	297,000	—	75,100
Other	—	311,000	—	78,500
Total	19,900	5,877,000	3,420	1,210,000

Hours of Labour.

Only one important change was reported in March, affecting tramway employees at Newcastle.

[NOTE.—The above statistics exclude changes affecting Government employees, police, farm labourers, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to provide a basis for statistics. Details of changes in current rates of agricultural labourers, clerks, etc., however, so far as reported to the Department, are included in the Table below.]

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1922.

NOTE.—The following Table relates mainly to changes which came into operation in March, with effect either from that month or from earlier dates. Certain earlier changes, however, of which particulars were received during March are also included. The weekly rates quoted are in respect of a full ordinary working week and do not take into account the effect of short time working.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Building	Bury St. Edmunds	23 Feb.	Bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, slaters, plumbers, plasterers and painters ..	Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: painters, 1s. 3d.; other tradesmen, 1s. 6d.
	Chipping Sodbury and District	4 Mar.	Building trade operatives ..	Decrease of 2d. per hour (1s. 2d. to 1s.). Uniform rates adopted of 1s. 7d. per hour for tradesmen, and 1s. 3d. per hour for labourers.
	Bideford	11 Feb.	Building trade operatives ..	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: tradesmen, 1s. 6½d.; labourers, 1s. 2½d.
	Fodmin	6 Feb.	Building trade operatives ..	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: tradesmen, 1s. 5d.; labourers, 1s. 1d.
	Certain towns in Cornwall*	4 Mar.	Building trade operatives ..	Decrease of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: tradesmen, 1s. 4d.; bricklayers' labourers, 1s.; general labourers, 11d.
	Newtown	3 Mar.	Building trade operatives ..	Decrease of 1½d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 6½d.).
	Pwllheli	28 Feb.	Tradesmen (including painters) ..	Decrease of 2d. per hour. Rates after change: skilled labourers, 1s. 2d.; unskilled labourers, 1s. 1½d.
	Aberdeen	7 Mar.	Joiners, slaters, plumbers and plasterers ..	Decrease, under "cost of living" sliding scale, of 1½d. per hour (1s. 10½d. to 1s. 9d.).
	Dundee and District	1 Mar.	Plumbers ..	Decrease of 4d. per hour (2s. 4d. to 2s.).
	Falkirk and District	1 Mar.	Plumbers ..	Decrease of 1d. per hour (2s. 1d. to 2s.).
	Inverurie and Huntly	4 Mar.	Masons ..	Decrease to a rate of 1s. 7d. per hour.
	Stirling	8 Mar.	Painters ..	Decrease of 4d. per hour (2s. 1d. to 1s. 9d.).

* Including Camborne, Falmouth, Hayle, Newquay, Penzance, Redruth, St. Ives and Truro.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1922—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Building (contd.)	Waterford	23 Jan.	Building trade operatives ..	Decrease of 2d. per hour. Rates after change: tradesmen, 1s. 11d.; labourers, 1s. 2d.
	Wexford	1 Mar.	Building trade operatives ..	Decrease* of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: tradesmen, 1s. 6½d.; labourers, 1s. 0½d.
Coal Mining	Northumberland..	1 Mar.	Workpeople (both underground and surface) employed in or about coal mines other than those workpeople whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Decrease of 2.66 per cent. on standard base rates of 1879, leaving wages at the minimum of 80 per cent. above the standard of 1879, subject to lower paid men receiving a subsistence wage of 6s. 10d. per day.†
	Durham	25 Feb.	Adult day-wage workers employed in or about coal mines	Subsistence wage fixed at 6s. 10d. per day (compared with 6s. 11d. during February).
	Cumberland	25 Feb.	Lower paid datal workers employed in or about coal mines	Subsistence wage previously granted reduced from 6s. 11d. to 6s. 10d. per day for men 21 years and over, and from 6s. 8d. to 6s. 6d. per day for those 18 to 21 years.
	Yorkshire and East Midland Area.‡	1 Mar.	Workpeople (both underground and surface) employed in or about coal mines other than those workpeople whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Decrease of 5.83½ per cent. on standard base rates of 1911, leaving wages 91.23 per cent. above the standard of 1911.
	Lancashire, North Staffordshire and Cheshire	1 Mar.	Workpeople (both underground and surface) employed in or about coal mines other than those workpeople whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Decrease of 4 per cent. on standard base rates of 1911, leaving wages 57 per cent. above the standard of 1911.
	Forest of Dean	1 Mar.	Workpeople (both underground and surface) employed in or about coal mines other than those workpeople whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Increase of 1.15 per cent. on standard base rates of 1919, making wages 63.15 per cent. above the standard of 1919.
	Radstock	1 Mar.	Workpeople (both underground and surface) employed in or about coal mines other than those workpeople whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Increase of 11.73 per cent. on standard base rates of 1918, making wages 55.78 per cent. above the standard of 1918.
	North Wales	1 Mar.	Workpeople (both underground and surface) employed in or about coal mines other than those workpeople whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Decrease of 3.7 per cent. on standard base rates of 1911, leaving wages at the minimum of 32 per cent. above the standard of 1911.
	Scotland	1 Mar.	Workpeople (both underground and surface) employed in or about coal mines other than those workpeople whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Decrease of 19.02 per cent. on standard base rates of 1888, leaving wages at the minimum of 110 per cent. above the standard of 1888, subject to a subsistence wage for lower-paid day wage surface workers.
	South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire	1 Feb. 1 Mar.	Miners and surface workers employed in fireclay mines	Decrease of 6d. per shift for those 18 years of age and over and of 3d. per shift for those under 18. Decrease of 3d. per shift for those 18 years of age and over and of 1½d. per shift for those under 18.
Fireclay Mining	Cumberland	6 Mar.	Iron ore miners ..	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 4d. per shift in the bargain price (10s. 6d. to 10s. 2½d.), and of 4d. per shift in the minimum wage (7s. 10d. to 7s. 6d.).
	Furness	12 Mar.	Winding enginem... .. . Other underground and surface workers	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 3d. per shift (9s. 1½d. to 8s. 10½d.). Decrease, under sliding scale, of 2d. per shift for men and of 1d. for boys under 16.
Iron Mining	Northumberland and Durham	1 Mar.	Iron ore miners and surfacemen (except black smiths and fitters)	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 8d. per shift (9s. 7d. to 8s. 11d.) in the bargain price for miners; of 6d. per shift (8s. 9d. to 8s. 3d.) in the minimum wage; of 8d. per shift for surfacemen; of 4d. per shift for boys under 16.
	West Cumberland	13 Mar.	Freestone quarrymen and labourers	Decrease* of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: quarrymen, 1s. 9d.; labourers, 1s. 5d.
Quarrying	Leicestershire	1st pay in Mar.	Granite quarrymen ..	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 3d. per shift for men and of 1½d. per shift for boys under 16. Rates after change: knobblers, 8s. 8½d.; day borers (1st class), 8s. 2½d.; day labourers (1st class), 7s. 6½d.; ruddmen, 7s. 0½d.
	Warwickshire	2 Mar.	Limestone quarrymen ..	Decrease of 15 per cent. Time rates after change: quarrymen, 1s. 3d. per hour; labourers, 1s. 1d. and 1s.
	Clitheroe and District	9 Mar.	Limestone quarrymen ..	Decrease of 1½d. per hour for timeworkers (1s. 3d. to 1s. 1½d.) and a proportionate decrease for pieceworkers.
Pig Iron Manufacture	Dumfriesshire	25 Feb.	Freestone quarrymen, crane drivers, labourers, etc.	Decrease of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: quarrymen, 1s. 3d.; labourers, 1s.
	West Cumberland and North Lancashire	2nd full pay in Mar.	Workpeople at blastfurnaces (except bricklayers, joiners, but including engineers and electricians)	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 4½ per cent. on the standard of 1919, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard, plus in some cases an output bonus, and subject to a minimum wage of 39s. per week for adult furnacemen. [Second instalment of decrease due under sliding scale.¶]
Iron and Steel Smelting and Manufacture	Various Districts in England and Scotland¶	12 Mar.	Semi-skilled workers, labourers and certain other classes in steel works	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 20 per cent. on standard rates, leaving the puddling rate 13s. 6d. per ton, plus 50 per cent.
	North of England	27 Mar.	Iron and steel millmen ..	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 20 per cent. on standard rates.
	Midland District..	6 Mar.	Non-scale workers employed in iron and steel works	War bonuses reduced by 1s. per week for men, by 6d. for youths 18 to 21 years, and by 3d. per week for boys under 18.
	South-West Wales	4 Mar.	Workpeople, excluding maintenance men, engaged in Siemens steel manufacture	Special bonuses of 6d. per day for men 18 years and over, and 3d. per day for boys reduced to 4d. and 2d. per day respectively.
Iron-founding	West of Scotland	27 Mar.	Iron puddlers ..	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 15 per cent. on standard rates, leaving the puddling rate 13s. 6d. per ton, plus 62½ per cent.
	Newport (Mon) and District	3 Mar.	Iron millmen ..	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 15 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 62½ per cent. above the standard.
Boiler-making	Various Districts in England and Scotland¶	1 Mar.	Moulders ..	Decrease of 2s. per week (80s. to 78s.).
	Tyne, Wear, Tees and Hartlepool Districts and Darlington	1 Mar.	Riveters, caulkers, platers and drillers who received a war wage advance of 20 per cent. on basis rates in 1918	Pieceworkers: Decrease of 5 per cent. on pre-war piece prices (reckoned on net earnings for platers with helpers). Lieu workers: Decrease of 7½ per cent. on basis lieu rates (reckoned on net earnings for platers with helpers). Decrease of 5 per cent. on pre-war piece prices (from a total of 20 per cent. granted in 1918).

* This decrease took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index figures of retail prices, etc.
 † In the case of adult underground pieceworkers the method of calculating the statutory minimum wage was revised as from 1st January, 1922, by adding 5ths of the amount by which the county percentage exceeds 50 per cent. to the legal minimum base rates in lieu of 5ths as previously.
 ‡ Viz. Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Cannock Chase, and Warwickshire.
 § In the case of West Yorkshire, the surface workers' percentage addition to the 1911 standard from 1st March was 89.57 for the Eastern Area and 86.23 for the Western Area.
 ¶ For particulars of subsistence wage in operation see p. 80 of the February 1922 LABOUR GAZETTE. In the case of surface and other workers for whom there are no defined basis rates the present wages are calculated by deducting 16 per cent. from the rates in operation in March, 1921, after deducting from the latter the flat rate advances in operation at that date; an advance of 1s. 8d. per shift given to winding enginem in December, 1920, is not subject to the reduction of 16 per cent.
 ¶ For particulars of the districts affected and the amounts of the decreases see Table and footnote † on p. 133 of the March GAZETTE.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1922—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, and Other Metal Trades.

* Members of the Boilermakers' and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society. † Members of the Shipconstructors' and Shipwrights' Association. ‡ Group 1.—London, Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham, Newcastle, Glasgow, Liverpool, Huddersfield, Warrington, Bolton, St. Helens, Swansea and Edinburgh.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1922—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Farriery, Pin, Hook, Eye and Snap Fastener Trade, Miscellaneous Metal Trades, Woollen and Worsted Yarn Spinning, Flannel Industry, Jute Industry, Rope Making, Silk Industry, Hosiery Manufacture, Lace Manufacture, Asbestos Industry, and Coir Mat and Matting Industry.

* Including Newcastle, Sunderland and South Shields. † This decrease took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1922—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Clothing Trades, Transport Trades, and Merchant Shipping Service.

* In the case of permanent men, the reduction was to operate in the first week wholly worked from 20th March. † Coal trimmers at Glasgow and Manchester, tippers and trimmers at Liverpool and Garston, and tippers at Ardrossan were affected. ‡ The reductions for pieceworkers were applied in the above manner at the majority of ports. But at certain ports the following arrangements are reported as regards pieceworkers' reductions:—Tyne: The reductions of 10 per cent. on 1921 tariff rates for river workers and 25d. per ton for quayside workers, which took effect in August, 1921, and January last are merged into the 20 per cent. quoted. London: It was agreed to deduct from the piecework earnings 2s. 8d. per day; this in addition to the 3s. per day already deducted in August and January last was taken as the equivalent of 20 per cent. in piece rates. Hull: Timberworkers' percentage of 120 on tariff rates was reduced to 100; grain workers' list prices was revised involving a reduction in most cases of 1d. or 1d. per ton. Boston: The 15 per cent. estimated to have resulted in a reduction of about 15 to 20 per cent. Liverpool: Pieceworkers sustained a decrease of 1s. per day or 6d. per half day. At Middlesbrough the decrease for timeworkers was 11d. instead of 1s. per day on account of six days' pay being given for a full week (to make up the normal amount of 5s. 6d. per week).

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1922—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Transport Trades, Agriculture and Fishing, and various localities.

* Where the percentage of 120 does not yield 75s. per week to tippers and teamers, special consideration is to be given, but the percentage addition is not to exceed 150 in all. At Birmingham, where 151½ per cent. was previously paid on basis rates, the earnings under the above revision were to be guaranteed at a minimum of 14s. per day, 3s. per half-day, or 1s. per 6 hour shift on Saturday. At Hull the new minimum is 14s. per day or 7s. 6d. per half day. † Provision was made for further reductions to bring wages down to the scale level by doubling the reductions due every quarter under the cost of living sliding scale applicable to railway traffic workers generally. ‡ The lower rate applied to one horse drivers and the higher rate to two horse drivers. § These decreases are in accordance with instructions issued to their members by the Birmingham Horse and Vehicle Owners' Association and the Birmingham and Midland Counties Coal Merchants' Association. It is understood that they were not embodied in a formal agreement with a trade union. ¶ The new rates of wages and working hours referred to above are those which have been agreed upon by the local Conciliation Committee set up under the Corn Production Act (Repeal) Act, 1921. The Minister of Agriculture has confirmed the agreements made for the Isle of Ely and Surrey. †† The new rate referred to was not accepted by the workers' side of the Conciliation Committee, but formed the basis of a recommendation by the employers' side.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1922—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Agriculture and Fishing, Paper, Printing and Allied Trades, Furniture and Woodworking Trades, Mill Sawing, Vehicle Building, Packing Case Making, Pianoforte Manufacture, Boot Last Making, Chemical, Glass, Brick, Pottery, Etc., Trades, and Miscellaneous Trades.

* The new rates of wages and working hours referred to above are those which have been agreed upon by the local Conciliation Committee set up under the Corn Production Act (Repeal) Act, 1921. † This decrease took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, etc.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1922—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Chemical, Glass, Brick, Pottery, Etc., Trades, Food, Drink, and Tobacco Trades, and Miscellaneous Trades.

* Basic time and piece rates which were in operation at 24th March, 1921, are subject to an addition of 20 per cent., and 25 per cent. respectively. † The change took effect under an agreement arrived at by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Flour Milling Industry.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1922—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes entries for MISCELLANEOUS TRADES, PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES, and various localities like Great Britain, London, Lancashire, etc.

* Viz., those 21 years of age and over with not less than three years' experience in certain operations, or those of any age who have served an apprenticeship of not less than five years in these operations. † This decrease took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, &c.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1922—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes entries for PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES and Local Authority Services in Shropshire, Aberdeen, Dundee, and Glasgow.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1922.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes entry for Tramways Undertakings in Newcastle-on-Tyne.

* The decrease took effect under an agreement made by the East Midlands Joint Industrial Council, covering the counties of Lincoln, Derby, Nottingham, Leicestershire, Rutland and Northampton. † The decrease took effect under an arrangement by which wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices, &c.

CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN APRIL, 1922.

The following groups of workpeople are affected by reductions in wages reported as having been agreed to take effect in April: building trade operatives; coal miners in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Midlands; blastfurnacemen in Cleveland; ironworkers in Midlands; tube workers; screw, nut and bolt, and various other metal workers in the Birmingham district; heating and domestic engineers; mantle and costume makers; dressmakers; ready made tailors; railwaymen; omnibus workers in London; brickmakers; cement workers; soap and candle makers; employees in gas and electricity undertakings.

MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON TRADES.

The results of recent ascertainties of the selling prices of iron are given below:—

Table with columns: Product and District, Period covered by last Audit, Average Selling Price Per Ton, Decrease of last Audit* on Previous Audit, A Year ago. Includes entries for Pig Iron and Manufactured Iron.

Pig Iron.—The decrease in the ascertained selling price of Cleveland pig iron for the quarter ended March resulted in a reduction of 1.5 per cent. on the standard wages of blast furnacemen (with effect from 2nd April). In Cumberland the ascertainment for February resulted in decreases in the wages of iron ore miners of 4d. per shift in the bargain price and minimum wage, of 3d. for winding engine-men, and for other underground and surface workers of 2d. per shift for men and 1d. per shift for boys.

Manufactured Iron.—In the North of England the wages of puddlers and millmen were reduced by 20 per cent. on standard base rates, whilst in the West of Scotland the reduction

* Stated to the nearest farthing. † No ascertainment was made for this period.

amounted to 15 per cent. In both cases the reduction operated as from 27th March. Particulars of these decreases are given on page 177.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES. QUARTERLY RETURNS OF SALES.

Table with columns: Names of Societies and Nature of Business, Sales* in the Fourth Quarter of 1921, 1920, 1916, Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with A Year ago, Five Years ago. Includes entries for English Wholesale Society, Scottish Wholesale Society, and Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society.

* The figures given for Productive Departments represent Sales and Transfers to the Distributive Departments. † Revised figures. ‡ These figures represent a Quarter of 14 weeks.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

THE number of persons relieved on one day in March, 1922, in the thirty-one selected areas named below corresponded to a rate of 549 per 10,000 of population, showing an increase of 15 per 10,000 on the previous month and of 353 per 10,000 on a year ago.

Compared with February, 1922 the total number relieved increased by 25,797 (or 2.8 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients of relief decreased by 2,007 (or 1.6 per cent.), while the number of outdoor recipients increased by 27,804 (or 3.5 per cent.). One district showed no change, twelve showed decreases, and every other district showed an increase. The greatest increases were in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district (156 per 10,000) and in the Glasgow district (130 per 10,000); the largest decrease was in the Wigan district (38 per 10,000).

Compared with March, 1921, the total number relieved increased by 612,189 (or 179.6 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients of relief increased by 8,375 (or 7.2 per cent.), and the number of outdoor recipients increased by 603,814 (or 269.0 per cent.). Every district showed an increase, the greatest being in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district (1,040 per 10,000) in the Sheffield district (986 per 10,000) and in the Stockton and Tees district (973 per 10,000). Fifteen districts showed increases ranging from 210 to 730, and thirteen districts showed increases ranging from 43 to 165.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Areas, Indoor, Outdoor, Total, Rate per 10,000, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a, Month ago, Year ago. Rows include England & Wales, West Ham, Other Districts, Scotland.

* These urban areas include in the case of England and Wales more than one poor-law union, except in the Leicester, Birmingham, and West Ham districts; and more than one parish in the case of Scotland, except in the Aberdeen district. † Exclusive of Casuals: of Patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses; and of persons receiving out-door medical relief only. ‡ The numbers included for the Middlesbrough and Sheffield Unions do not cover changes which have taken place since the 11th March, 1922, and the 4th March, 1922, respectively. § The figures for Scotland include able-bodied unemployed in receipt of poor relief.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.*

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment during March, 1922, was 214 as compared with 175 in the previous month and 187 a year ago. The distribution of such fatal accidents among the various trades is as follows:—

Table with columns: RAILWAY SERVICE, MINES, QUARRIES over 20 feet deep, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. Rows include Brakemen and Goods Guards, Engine Drivers, Firemen, etc.

* Based on Home Office, Mines Department and Ministry of Transport Returns. † Includes 6 females: 3 in the Wool, 1 in other Textile, 1 in other Non-Textile industries and 1 at Docks, Wharves, Warehouses, etc.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

THE total number of cases* of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during March, 1922, was 33. Two deaths due to lead poisoning in the pottery industry were also reported. Two cases (one fatal) of lead poisoning among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during March, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

The cases of poisoning and anthrax are analysed below:—

Table with columns: (a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING, (b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING, (c) CASES OF ANTHRAX. Rows include Smelting of Metals, Plumbing and Soldering, Printing, etc.

* Cases include all attacks reported to the Home Office 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. † Of the three persons affected in the Pottery industry one was a female.

RETAIL PRICES AND EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information in each country, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the periods for which the rise is measured, suggest the need for caution in drawing conclusions from a comparison between the figures for any two countries. 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.]

GENERAL SUMMARY.

I.—FOOD.

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

Table with columns: Country, Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914 (July 1918, July 1919, July 1920, July 1921, Latest figures available). Rows include United Kingdom, Foreign Countries, Overseas Dominions.

* Figure for June. † The increases shown are for families of the lowest income class; in February the increase for all working-class families ranged from 292 to 299 per cent. ‡ Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. § Figure for 3rd Quarter.

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 †

Table with columns: Country, Items on which Computation is based, Percentage increase as compared with July, 1914 (July 1918, July 1919, July 1920, July 1921, Latest figures available). Rows include United Kingdom, Foreign Countries, Overseas Dominions.

* A=Food; B=House-Rent; C=Clothing; D=Fuel and Light; E=Other or Miscellaneous Items. † Exceptions to this are: France, Australia and South Africa, in which comparison is with the average for 1914; Belgium, April, 1914; Rome, Milan and New Zealand, January to June, 1914; Germany, average 1913-1914; Poland, January, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; United States, 1913. ‡ Figure for 3rd Quarter. § Figure for June. ¶ Figure for May.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, so 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 for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 162-163 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in other countries. For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see pp. xxiv-xxvi and 8-20 of the Fourth Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics Cd. 5415 of 1911, also "International Labour Review," July-August, 1921, issued by the International Labour Office.]

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in March.—The total number of unemployed remaining on the "live register" at Employment Exchanges in the week ended 1st April was 16,207 (11,578 men and 4,629 women). The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled was 8,031 (3,718 for men and 4,313 for women). During the week under review the Exchanges succeeded in placing 23,648 persons (19,142 men and 4,506 women) in situations, and, in addition, found employment for 2,262 foreign immigrants.

Out-of-Work Benefit in March.—According to the latest returns, 6 departmental and 71 municipal unemployment funds were in operation throughout France on 7th April, the total number of persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit through their agency being 7,989 (6,591 men and 1,398 women). Of this total, 5,636 were resident in the Seine Department, including 3,546 in Paris. It is pointed out that these figures do not fully indicate the total number of persons out of employment. They do not include those on short time. Further, where unemployment funds are in operation particulars are not complete, while in localities where no fund exists the numbers out of work are not recorded.

GERMANY.

Unemployment in February.—The issue for 31st March of the official journal, Reichsarbeitsblatt, in its summary statement concerning conditions in February, states that the first half of the month under review was marked by the strike of workpeople and other employees of the State Railways. The effects of this became visible in the form of stoppages in the supply of raw materials and coal and in the cessation of sales of goods, and resulted in many cases in reductions in industrial establishments. After the settlement of the dispute and following on the advent of milder weather the situation as a whole improved, particularly as regards occupations carried on in the open. This one cannot describe the situation of the labour market in general as having become worse, and there are indications which point to employment being on the up-grade.

Among trade union organisations unemployment, after a temporary increase in January, again showed a decline, principally due to the resumption of activity in the building trades. Out of 6,159,261 members covered by the returns the unemployed on the last day of the month numbered 168,575, or 2.7 per cent. of the total membership.

Table with columns: Unions, Membership reported at end of Feb., 1922, Percentage of Membership Unemployed (Feb., 1922, Jan., 1922, Feb., 1921). Rows include All Unions making Returns, Principal Unions.

* Journal Officiel, 8th April, 1922. Paris.

The number of unemployed persons in receipt of out-of-work donation in February indicates a slowing down of the rapid increase which had taken place during recent months. On 18th March 209,293 totally unemployed persons were in receipt of this allowance, 178,717 being men and 30,576 women. This total is an increase of 4.9 per cent. over the corresponding figure for 1st February.

Statistics relating to employment exchanges, supplied by about the same number of returns as in the preceding month, afford evidence in February of some improvement in conditions. The total number of applications for employment was 867,583 (as against 879,313 in January), and that of vacancies notified by employers 599,755 (587,102 in January), giving in the former case a slight decrease (1.33 per cent.) and in the latter an increase (2.16 per cent.). For each 100 situations offered there were thus in February 145 applications on an average, as against 150 in January.

Returns from 5,958 sickness insurance societies show an increase in the number of persons under obligation to insure, and therefore assumed to be in work, from 12,101,730 on 1st February to 12,304,836 on 1st March, a rise of 203,106, or 1.7 per cent.

BELGIUM.*

Unemployment in January and February.—Returns relating to January were received by the Belgian Ministry of Industry and Labour from 1,702 unemployment funds with an aggregate membership of 762,505. On the last working day of the month 49,172 of these, or 6.4 per cent., were totally unemployed, and 36,092 partially so. The proportion totally unemployed for the previous month was 6.6 per cent. The aggregate days of unemployment in January numbered 1,719,144, as compared with 1,477,066 in December.

During February 15,843 applications for employment were received by the Employment Exchanges, as compared with 18,183 in January. Offers of situations numbered 9,056 (9,277 in January). For every 100 situations registered as vacant there were thus 175 applications, as compared with 196 in January.

HOLLAND.

Unemployment in January.—According to a statement furnished by the Ministry of Labour at the Hague 83,723 insured workpeople were out of employment at some time during the week ended 28th January, 1922, out of a total of 377,575 comprised in the returns. This gives a ratio of 22.2 per cent. unemployed, as compared with 15.7 per cent. at the end of December and 11.3 per cent. at the end of November. Out of those unemployed in January 65,700 were without work for six days during the week to which the figures relate and 18,023 for a shorter period.

Unemployment in Amsterdam in February.—According to a statement issued by the Amsterdam Municipal Statistical Bureau the percentage of members of trade unions affiliated to the State Unemployment Insurance Fund in that city who were out of work in February was 24.5, as compared with 25.9 in January, and 25.1 in February, 1921. The members include diamond workers (of whom 79.2 per cent. were unemployed in February, 77.9 per cent. in January, and 88.6 per cent. in February, 1921) and cigar makers (62.5 per cent. unemployed in February, 64.1 per cent. in January and 62.3 per cent. in February, 1921).

SWITZERLAND.†

Unemployment in February.—According to figures compiled by the Central Employment Department of Switzerland, on the basis of returns from Employment Exchanges, the number of applicants for employment remaining on the "live register" of the Exchanges on 28th February was 99,541. (At the end of January the corresponding total was 97,091, and at the end of February, 1921, 42,705.) Of these, 22,679 were employed on relief works, and 1,574 on building and other subsidised work, leaving 75,288 entirely without work. Among the 99,541 applicants for employment were 19,447 persons normally engaged in the watch, clock and jewellery trades, 18,181 in the building trades, 12,952 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, and 7,147 in the textile trades. In addition, 46,761 persons were reported as only partially employed, including 15,983 in the textile trades, 15,835 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, and 5,132 in the watch, clock and jewellery trades. The vacancies offered by employers remaining unfilled on the same date numbered 1,050.

During the month of February on an average 897 applications for employment were made for each 100 vacancies reported for men and 465 for each 100 for women. In January the figures were 956 and 437 respectively.

ITALY.

Unemployment in January.—According to information supplied by H.M. Commercial Secretary at Rome the number of unemployed in Italy on 1st February was 606,819, as compared with 541,779 on 1st January. This increase of 12 per cent. does not imply that the general situation has become worse; it is chiefly due to the seasonal unemployment in agriculture.

The provinces most seriously affected by unemployment, judged by the number of persons out of work, were Emilia (143,665), Lombardy (135,248), Venetia (105,226), Piedmont (57,738), Tuscany (36,982), Liguria (30,404), Apulia (26,931).

In addition to the above, 29,662 workers were employed on short time on 1st February, as compared with 37,719 on 1st January.

* *Revue du Travail*, March 1922. Brussels.
† *Industrial and Labour Information*, 24th March, 1922. Geneva.
‡ *Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt*, 15th March, 1922. Berne.

DENMARK.*

Unemployment in February.—Out of a total of 278,105 workpeople covered by returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by trade unions and by the Central Employment Exchange 33.1 per cent. were unemployed on 24th February, as compared with 28.9 per cent. at the end of January and 23.2 per cent. at the end of February, 1921.

	Number of Workpeople included in Returns for 24th Feb., 1922.	Percentage Unemployed.		
		24th Feb., 1922.	27th Jan., 1922.	25th Feb., 1921.
Copenhagen:—				
Building trades	11,864	52.6	46.6	40.7
Other industries	61,451	23.4	28.4	24.2
Commercial employment ..	9,174	10.3	9.1	4.6
General labourers (trades not specified)	31,303	27.0	23.0	19.0
Total	113,792	29.6	27.2	22.8
Provinces:—				
Building trades	20,302	63.8	58.4	47.9
Other industries	56,296	28.0	24.8	24.0
Commercial employment ..	10,874	7.0	6.3	3.5
General labourers (trades not specified)	76,841	37.7	30.1	20.0
Total	164,313	35.6	30.1	23.5
Grand Total	278,105	33.1	28.9	23.2

NORWAY.†

Trade Union Unemployment in January.—The percentage of members reported as unemployed at the end of January in certain trade unions making returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics was 20.4, as compared with 18.3 at the end of the preceding month, and 10.5 in January, 1921.

Unions.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.		
	Jan. 31, 1922.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Jan. 31, 1921.	Jan. 31, 1922.	Dec. 31, 1921.	Jan. 31, 1921.
	Bricklayers and masons (Christiania)	931	933	928	10.2	15.4
Carpenters	892	905	1,323	35.1	33.1	31.1
Painters (Christiania) ..	611	610	641	29.3	24.4	16.8
Metal workers	6,791	6,840	9,809	23.2	21.2	8.8
Boot and shoe makers ..	821	803	1,006	11.1	8.3	9.3
Printers	2,363	2,362	2,588	10.9	9.1	6.3
Bookbinders (Christiania) ..	742	801	878	24.4	14.0	8.9
Cabinetmakers	598	554	603	28.3	23.5	13.1
Bakers (Christiania)	500	550	590	11.0	9.6	7.6
Total	14,239	14,358	18,366	20.4	18.3	10.5

SWEDEN.‡

Unemployment in January and February.—The percentage of unemployed among members of Swedish trade unions on 28th February was 32.5, as compared with 34.8 at the end of the preceding month and 20.7 on 28th February, 1921.

Full particulars, however, are not available for the latest date, and the following Table relates to the end of January:—

Unions.	Membership reporting on 31st Jan., 1922.	Percentage Unemployed.		
		31st Jan., 1922.	31st Dec., 1921.	31st Jan., 1921.
All Unions making Returns ..	140,768	34.8	33.2	20.1
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Blastfurnacemen	10,156	32.4	41.5	22.7
Foundrymen, etc.	3,014	80.5	44.8	18.4
Engineering workers	38,247	41.8	33.8	16.5
Electrical workers	2,619	24.4	22.7	15.4
Textile workers	4,185	6.7	6.5	19.2
Clothing workers	3,124	12.1	16.7	37.8
Boot, shoe and leather workers ..	6,077	17.7	13.1	10.9
Brewery workers	3,102	9.3	8.2	2.6
Tobacco workers	3,069	1.5	7.9	0.4
Sawmill workers	8,009	57.8	63.0	26.5
Wood workers	8,672	54.3	42.1	33.5
Municipal workers	5,866	6.0	4.8	3.3
General and factory workers (trades not specified)	14,091	44.5	45.3	32.6
Commercial employees	6,239	12.6	12.3	6.1

Returns from Employment Exchanges show that during February 479 applications for employment were registered on an average for each 100 vacancies notified by employers, as compared with 482 in the preceding month and 301 in February, 1921.

CANADA.§

Employment in January.—For the fortnight ended 31st January returns were received by the Employment Service of Canada from 5,944 firms, with an aggregate pay-roll of 630,344 persons.

* *Statistiske Efterretninger*, 5th April, 1922. Copenhagen.
† Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.
‡ *Societal Meddelanden*, No. 4, 1922, Stockholm, and from information supplied through the courtesy of the Director of the Department for Social Affairs.
§ *Employment*, 1st March, 1922. Ottawa.

In the preceding fortnight the same firms reported 644,944 employed, the decrease in staff at the later date being 14,600, or 2.3 per cent. If the number 100 be assigned to the week ended 17th January, 1920, the index of employment for the period under review is 78.9, as compared with 80.6 for the fortnight ended 15th January, 1922. The corresponding figure for the fortnight ended 31st January, 1921, was 90.1.

Unemployment among Trade Union Members.—According to information supplied by the Canadian Department of Labour 10.6 per cent. of trade unionists covered by the returns relating to unemployment were out of work on 1st March. Details for this date are not yet available. At the end of January returns were received from 1,525 labour organisations with a total membership of 159,280. For all trades reporting, 13.9 per cent. of the members were unemployed on 31st January, as compared with 15.1 per cent. at the end of the preceding month, and 13.1 per cent. in January, 1921.

UNITED STATES.*

Employment in February.—The following tabular statements showing the volume of employment in representative establishments in thirteen manufacturing industries and in bituminous coal mining in the United States in February, 1922, as compared with (a) the preceding month, and (b) February, 1921, are compiled from reports received by the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics:—

(a) February, 1922, as compared with January, 1922.

Industry.	Number of Establishments reporting.	Number of Workpeople.			Earnings.†		
		Jan., 1922.	Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-)	Jan., 1922.	Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-)
Coal mining (bituminous) ..	81	23,153	23,692	+ 539	1,241,914	1,590,854	+ 348,940
Iron and steel ..	108	113,656	124,201	+ 10,545	4,568,269	5,286,929	+ 718,660
Railway and tram-car building and repairing ..	64	58,787	57,006	- 1,781	3,025,456	3,343,661	+ 318,205
Automobiles ..	49	85,524	89,647	+ 4,123	1,539,613	2,431,860	+ 892,247
Cotton manufacturing ..	58	60,895	58,725	- 2,170	1,036,146	974,593	- 61,553
Cotton finishing ..	17	13,534	12,164	- 1,370	285,769	234,596	- 51,173
Hosiery and underwear ..	61	29,609	30,451	+ 842	484,247	512,153	+ 27,906
Woolen	49	42,828	43,418	+ 590	890,360	917,636	+ 27,276
Silk	45	18,300	18,305	+ 5	743,501	763,804	+ 20,303
Men's ready-made clothing	47	27,014	26,626	- 388	792,495	756,685	- 35,810
Boots and shoes ..	77	66,230	67,338	+ 1,108	1,526,133	1,522,520	- 3,613
Cigars	54	14,622	15,196	+ 574	256,861	256,512	- 349
Leather	37	15,023	15,228	+ 205	326,603	341,319	+ 14,716
Paper	57	24,619	24,967	+ 348	586,186	592,893	+ 6,707

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Federal Commissioner of Labour Statistics, Washington.

† The figures represent the aggregate wages bill for two weeks in the case of coal mining, the iron and steel, railway and tramcar building and repairing, and silk industries, and for one week in other cases.

‡ Increase of less than 0.1 per cent.

OFFICIAL NOTICES, ETC.

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919.

THE INDUSTRIAL COURT.

ROPEWORKERS—LIVERPOOL.—National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers v. Garnock Bibby and Co. Ltd., Jackson McConnan and Temple, Ltd., The Liverpool Ropery Co. Ltd. Under the Trade Boards Acts minimum rates of wages were fixed for workpeople engaged in the rope, twine and net trade, as follows:—Adult women workers 8½d. an hour as from 2nd April, 1920, increased to 10½d. an hour for the classes to which the women concerned belong, as from 31st December, 1920, and reverting to 8½d. an hour for all women workers as from 30th April, 1921. On 11th May, 1921, notices were posted on the firms' premises to the effect that the rate of 10½d. an hour would continue to be paid until the end of that month, when the rate would be gradually reduced until it reached the minimum fixed by the Trade Board. The operatives thereupon ceased work. Decision.—The Court decide that adult female timeworkers shall be paid the rate of 10½d. an hour as from the date when work was resumed until the beginning of the first pay period following the date of the decision; that the rate of 9d. an hour shall then be payable until the beginning of the first pay period falling wholly in April, 1922, and a rate of 8d. an hour thereafter. In the case of men the employers intimated that they were prepared to accept by way of settlement that work should be resumed at the rate in force when the stoppage occurred, less the engineering trade reductions which have since become effective. The Court endorse this proposal with the proviso that the rate payable from the date on which work was resumed until the beginning of the first pay period following the date of the decision shall be the rate which

The above figures show that in February there were increases in the number of persons employed in ten industries and decreases in four. The largest increases (9.3 per cent., 4.8 per cent., and 4.6 per cent.) are in iron and steel, automobiles and cigar manufacturing respectively. A decrease of 10.1 per cent. is shown in cotton finishing. Nine industries show an increase and five a decrease in aggregate earnings. The largest increases are 58.0 per cent. in automobiles, 28.1 per cent. in coal-mining and 15.7 per cent. in iron and steel. Cotton finishing and cotton manufacturing both show decreases, of 17.9 per cent. and 5.9 per cent. respectively.

(b) February, 1922, as compared with February, 1921.

Industry.	Number of Establishments reporting.	Number of Workpeople.			Earnings.†		
		Feb., 1921.	Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-)	Feb., 1921.	Feb., 1922.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-)
Coal mining (bituminous) ..	82	24,826	24,020	- 806	1,620,467	1,632,901	+ 12,434
Iron and steel ..	109	144,679	124,932	- 19,747	9,393,391	5,306,863	- 4,086,528
Railway and tram-car building and repairing ..	63	62,878	56,882	- 5,996	4,220,035	3,335,443	- 884,592
Automobiles ..	48	58,536	92,746	+ 34,210	1,381,052	2,520,514	+ 1,139,462
Cotton manufacturing ..	60	60,453	61,556	+ 1,103	1,029,897	1,024,034	- 5,863
Cotton finishing ..	17	11,002	12,164	+ 1,162	241,351	234,596	- 6,755
Hosiery and underwear ..	63	19,215	30,051	+ 10,836	310,330	496,778	+ 186,448
Woolen	49	31,796	44,461	+ 12,665	663,333	953,359	+ 290,026
Silk	45	16,323	18,305	+ 1,982	718,542	763,804	+ 45,262
Men's ready-made clothing	46	22,390	28,824	+ 6,434	635,025	801,170	+ 166,145
Boots and shoes ..	75	52,404	67,004	+ 14,600	1,288,036	1,512,597	+ 224,561
Cigars	53	15,573	14,927	- 646	291,174	252,422	- 38,752
Leather	37	12,050	15,228	+ 3,178	274,124	341,319	+ 67,195
Paper	57	28,706	25,425	- 3,281	722,393	603,259	- 119,134

A comparison of the figures for February, 1922, with those for February, 1921, shows increases in the number of persons employed in nine of the fourteen industries. The most important increases (58.4 per cent. and 56.4 per cent.) appear in the automobile and hosiery and underwear industries respectively. Iron and steel shows a decrease of 13.6 per cent. and paper making one of 11.4 per cent. Eight industries show an increase in aggregate earnings, the greatest being in automobiles (82.5 per cent.), hosiery and underwear (60.1 per cent.) and woolen (43.7 per cent.). Percentage decreases of 43.5, 21.0 and 16.5 appear in iron and steel, railway and tramway car building and repairing and paper making respectively.

POLAND.

According to figures published in *Industrial and Labour Information* for 31st March, the number of unemployed persons in Poland increased from 178,776 on 1st January to 182,000 on 11th February. Approximately 66,000 of the latter total were skilled urban workers and 66,000 unskilled, while 50,000 were agricultural workers.

was being paid on 2nd May, 1921, and that the reduction shall be made in two equal instalments to take effect upon the same dates as those which are to be made in the rates of women workers. Issued 1st March, 1922. (718.)

NAVVIERS AND LABOURERS—NORTHWICH HOUSING SCHEME.—National Union of General Workers v. Samuel Hutton & Co. The men concerned are engaged upon the preliminary work in connection with the Northwich Housing Scheme, and until May, 1921, were paid the district building trade rate. In May, 1921, the Ministry of Health issued a circular which laid down that the appropriate rate for men engaged upon state-aided housing schemes was the district rate of the civil engineering industry, and that where no such rate existed the rate should be that paid by the local authority to their employees engaged upon similar work. The contractor accordingly reduced the rate from 1s. 5½d. per hour to 1s. 2½d. per hour. The claim of the union is that the men shall continue to be paid the district building trade rate. Decision.—The court decide that the appropriate rate is that of the civil engineering industry. So far, the Civil Engineering Construction Conciliation Board have not specifically classified Northwich, and pending such classification the court direct that the rate payable shall be that applicable to Class II. towns and areas, which is 1s. 3½d. an hour. Should the Board decide upon a different classification for Northwich the rate shall be modified in accordance therewith. As agreed between the parties the decision shall take effect as from 17th February, 1922. Issued 7th March, 1922. (719.)

SMITHS—HEAVY LAMINATED SPRING TRADE.—Associated Blacksmiths' and Ironworkers' Society v. Laminated Railway Spring Manufacturers' Association. On July 1st, 1921, the parties came to an agreement by which the bonus payable was to be regulated by a sliding scale at the rate of 1s. for every complete six points movement of the LABOUR GAZETTE cost

sliding scale agreement. The question at issue is whether or not the sliding scale agreement shall be continued. Decision.—The Court decide that the sliding scale agreement shall continue in operation subject to the provision that in future, should any alteration in wages be contemplated by either party, reasonable notice should be given to terminate the agreement, or to modify it as the case may be. Issued 22nd March, 1922. (720.)

SAILING BARGE CREWS—THAMES AND MEDWAY.—Sailing Barge Owners' Committee v. Transport and General Workers' Union. Difference.—Question of the number of clear working days to be allowed for loading and discharging fine goods cargoes before incurring demurrage. A list of rates for the barges concerned was compiled in 1911 and came into operation on 1st January, 1912. In this list demurrage on fine goods cargoes—goods such as wheat, sugar, oil and timber which are loaded into barges *ex ship* or dock—was payable after six clear working days. A decision of the Committee on Production, No. 1,947, dated 25th July, 1918, directed that the six days should be reduced to five, and the present practice is governed by this decision. The barge owners seek to re-establish the rule allowing six days. Decision.—The number of days allowed before incurring demurrage shall remain as at present—namely, five. Issued 5th April, 1922. (721.)

CONCILIATORS, SINGLE ARBITRATORS AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION APPOINTED BY THE MINISTER OF LABOUR UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT, 1896, AND THE INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY WORKERS : SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE.—Employers' side v. Employees' side of the District Joint Industrial Council No. 4 (South Wales and Monmouthshire) for the Electricity Supply Industry. Difference.—Claim of the employers for reductions of wages as follows:—Skilled and semi-skilled men, 6s. per week; unskilled men, 4s. per week. Arbitrator—Sir William W. Mackenzie, K.B.E., K.C. Award.—The wages of skilled and semi-skilled men should be reduced by 5s. per week, as follows:—2s. per week as from the beginning of the first pay period following the date of award; 2s. per week as from the beginning of the first pay period following 1st June, 1922; 1s. per week as from the beginning of the first pay period following 1st July, 1922. The wages of unskilled men should be reduced by 3s. per week, by three instalments of 1s. per week as from the dates mentioned above. Issued 12th April, 1922. (I.R. 143/23/1922.)

AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED BY OFFICERS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

CABLE WORKERS (WOMEN) : GREENWICH.—National Union of General Workers (Women Workers' Section) v. Saxonia Electrical Wire Company, Ltd., Greenwich. Difference.—As to the firm's intention to reduce wages. Agreement.—The firm would re-open their works on the wages and conditions arranged in August, 1921. Owing to the fall in the "Cost of living," the following wages would be paid to women as from 14 days following the date of agreement:—

18 years and over, 32s. 6d. per week.
17 years and over, 20s. 6d. per week.
16 years and over, 18s. 6d. per week.
15 years and over, 17s. 0d. per week.

The question of altering the basic rate of wages for girls between 18 and 21 years of age would be the matter of future discussion between the parties. Agreed 27th February, 1922. (I.R. 476/1922.)

PAINTERS : STIRLING.—Scottish Painters' Society v. Stirling Master Painters' Association. Difference.—Proposal by the employers to reduce wages from 2s. 1d. to 1s. 8d. per hour, this rate to continue for six months, and to amend the existing working conditions. Agreement.—Wages and lodging allowances from the date of agreement until 31st December, 1923, would be the same as those of Glasgow. A schedule of working rules was agreed to, to be binding on the parties until 31st December, 1923. Signed 8th March, 1922. (I.R. 133/1922.)

BUILDING TRADE OPERATIVES : EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT.—National Federation of Building Trades Operatives v. East Grinstead and District Master Builders' Association. Difference.—As to the Employers' proposal, after seceding from the Southern Counties Federation, to revert to payment of the Grade "C" rates of the Southern Counties Area Scheme of 1920, involving a reduction of 1d. per hour, as from 20th January. Agreement.—The existing "B" Area of East Grinstead would be extended to a radius of 6 miles from East Grinstead Church and the existing "B" rate would be reduced by ½d. per hour, the wages in the outside portion of such 6 miles radius being increased by ½d. per hour. The remaining area of the Association would be paid the "C" rate. This arrangement would be subject to such alterations as are agreed by the National Wages and Conditions Council for the Building Trade, and to any adjustments regarding lower paid areas. A District Committee would be set up to discuss from time to time questions arising

locally out of the working rules and conditions at present operative throughout the Southern Counties Area. Agreed 28th March, 1922. (I.R. 295/1922.)

STEREOTYPERS : LONDON.—National Society of Electrotypers, etc., v. H. M. Stationery Office. Difference.—As to the employ of a non-unionist who was being paid a rate below the trade union rate of £6 5s. per week. Agreement.—The man concerned would be paid £5 10s. per week, to be increased to £5 15s. per week at the end of three months from the date of agreement, and to £6 at the end of six months. At the end of nine months he would be paid the standard rate of wages in operation in General Printing Firms (where compositors and machine men are employed) in the London Area. Signed 10th March, 1922. (I.R. 558/1922.)

WASTE-PAPER WORKERS : LONDON.—Transport and General Workers' Union v. Phillips, Mills, and Co., Ltd., Battersea. Difference.—Proposal of the firm to increase the working hours of labourers from 45 to 50 per week instead of reducing the current wage of 55s. per week, and a claim by the Union for the operation of a schedule of minimum rates and working conditions for all workers. Agreement.—The firm would continue to pay to labourers the rate of 55s. for 45 hours, and 11s. for Saturdays when worked, and would follow any future adjustments made between the Waste-paper Merchants' Association and the Union. The recommendations of the Transport Workers Court of Inquiry and the rates of wages and conditions agreed to by the London Cartage and Haulage Contractors' Association, the Metropolitan and Home Counties Road Transport Association and the Motor Transport Employers' Federation would be applied to transport workers employed by the firm. Agreed 10th March, 1922. (I.R. 577/1922.)

CORPORATION WORKERS : CROYDON.—Electrical Trades Union, Amalgamated Engineering Union and National Union of General Workers v. Croydon Corporation. Difference.—As to the dismissal of two employees of the Corporation, members respectively of the Electrical Trades Union and the Amalgamated Engineering Union, consequent upon their successive refusal to undertake the work of another member of the Amalgamated Engineering Union who had been locked out by his employers, members of the Engineering Employers' Federation and working under contract for the Corporation. Agreement.—The two men would be reinstated without loss of pay, and the Corporation would take over the whole of the work in question, the men concerned agreeing to carry out the instructions of the management. Agreed 27th March, 1922. (I.R. 634/1922.)

TRADE BOARDS ACTS, 1909 AND 1918.

ORDERS.

ORDERS confirming minimum rates of wages as fixed and/or varied by the following Trade Boards, have been made by the Minister of Labour under Section 4 (2) of the Trade Boards Act, 1918:—

Aerated Waters Trade Board (Scotland).

Order, dated 24th March, 1922, confirming general minimum time-rates and overtime rates (as varied) for male and female workers, and specifying 3rd April, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

General minimum time-rates for workers other than those employed in the Orkney and Shetland Islands, to operate (i) from the effective date until 31st May, 1922, are (a) for male workers of 21 years of age and over, 1s. 1½d. per hour; (b) for female workers of 18 years of age and over, 7d. per hour; (ii) from 1st June, 1922, (a) for male workers of 21 years of age and over, 1s. 0½d. per hour; (b) for female workers of 18 years of age and over, 6½d. per hour; with lower rates in each case for younger male and female workers. The rates for male and female workers in the Orkney and Shetland Islands are in each case 1d. per hour less than the rates specified above.

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order dated 4th April, 1922, confirming general minimum time-rates as varied for certain classes of male apprentices, and specifying 18th April, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

The *general minimum time-rates* are as set out below for male indentured apprentices (as defined by the Trade Board in their Notice D (13) dated 21st September, 1921) who are apprenticed for a period of five years (a) to hand-sewn making and (b) to hand-sewn making and repairing (not less than one-third of apprentice's time being spent in hand-sewn making), and are employed under an indenture in the form prescribed by the Trade Board in the above-mentioned Notice D (13), which, in addition, contains a provision that the apprentice shall be provided by his employer with sufficient meat, drink, washing, medicine, medical attendance, clothing, lodging and all other necessaries during the period of apprenticeship, and who commence their apprenticeship on or before their sixteenth birthday and are registered with the Trade Board and employed under the conditions laid down for apprentices by the Board.

The rates applicable are the following net sums (that is, clear of all deductions, including deductions under the National Insurance Act, 1911, as amended by any subsequent enactments, and deductions authorised by any Act to be made from wages in

respect of contributions to any superannuation or other provident fund), namely:—

	Per week of 48 hours.	s.	d.
During the 1st year of apprenticeship	...	1	6
" 2nd "	...	2	6
" 3rd "	...	3	6
" 4th "	...	4	6
" 5th "	...	5	6

These rates also apply to indentured apprentices of the classes specified above who were indentured prior to the 15th May, 1920, and who are under adequate instruction in hand-sewn making or hand-sewn making and repairing, notwithstanding that the indenture provides also for instruction in boot and shoe repairing generally.

Boot and Floor Polish Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order, dated 9th March, 1922, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates, and overtime rates (as fixed) for male and female workers; and specifying 20th March, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

General minimum time-rates, per week of 48 hours, or the number customarily worked by agreement but not less than 44, are as follows:—(a) male workers 21 years of age and over, 60s.; (b) female workers, 18 years of age and over, 32s.; with lower rates for younger workers in each case.

Piece-work basis time-rates: (a) all male workers, 1s. 6½d. per hour; (b) all female workers, 10d. per hour. In respect of the overtime rates the Board have declared the normal number of hours of work to be 48 in any week, 9 on any day (other than Saturday), and 5 on Saturday.

Brush and Broom Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order, dated 15th March, 1922, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates, and overtime rates (as varied) for certain classes of male and female workers; and specifying 20th March, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

General minimum time-rates—(a) All male workers (other than those employed on certain specified operations to whom the rate of 1s. 4½d. per hour is applicable), workers of 21 years of age and over, 1s. 0½d. per hour; 20 and under 21, 11d. per hour; 19 and under 20, 9½d. per hour; (b) female workers (other than pan hands and learners) of 21 years of age and over, 7½d. per hour, with lower rates for younger workers.

Piece-work basis time-rates for female workers (other than pan hands and learners) and home-workers, 8½d. per hour.

Cotton Waste Reclamation Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order, dated 24th March, 1922, confirming general minimum time-rates and overtime rates (as varied) for male and female workers; and specifying 1st April, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

General minimum time-rates—(a) Male workers of 21 years of age and over, 1s. 1d. per hour; (b) female workers of 18 years of age and over (i) in England and Wales, 7½d. per hour; (ii) in Scotland, 7½d. per hour; with lower rates in each case for younger workers.

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (England and Wales).

Order, dated 30th March, 1922, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates, and overtime rates (as varied) for female workers; and specifying 10th April, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

I. *Retail Branch.*—*General minimum time-rates* (i) for bodice, skirt, gown, or blouse hands, of 20 years of age and over (a) who have completed four years as learners, apprentices and/or improvers in the retail branch, and who have had not less than two years' subsequent employment in this branch, and (b) who take bodices, skirts, gowns, and blouses direct from the fitter and make them up without supervision other than the general supervision of the fitter or the workroom foreman or forewoman, are A 8½d., B 9½d., C 9½d. per hour; (ii) for all other female workers, including home-workers, A 7d., B 7½d., C 8d. per hour; with lower rates for learners ranging from 1½d. to 6½d. per hour according to year of employment and area. *Piece-work basis time-rates* for female workers specified in (i) above are A 9½d., B 10½d., C 10½d. per hour, and for all other workers, A 8d., B 8½d., C 9d. per hour.

The rates set out in the respective scales A, B, and C, shall apply as follows:—A.—(a) To all areas administered by Rural District Councils and (b) to all areas administered by Municipal Borough Councils and Urban District Councils with a population of less than 10,000, excluding areas within the Metropolitan Police District. B.—To all areas other than those to which Scale A and C apply. C.—To the area comprising the City of London and the Metropolitan Police District.

II. *Wholesale Manufacturing or other Branches.*—*General minimum time-rates* for workers other than learners, 7½d. per hour, lower rates being proposed for learners ranging from 1½d. to 6½d. per hour according to age at entry and six-monthly period of employment. The *piece-work basis time-rate* for all workers, including home-workers, employed on piece-work is 8½d. per hour.

Hair, Bass and Fibre Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order, dated 24th March, 1922, confirming the general minimum piece-rates (as varied by a reduction of 10 per cent.) for workers

employed on hand-loom weaving (other than Damask Seating Hand-loom Weaving), and overtime rates for this class of workers and home-workers; and specifying 28th March, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

Laundry Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order, dated 4th March, 1922, confirming general minimum time-rates and overtime rates (as varied) for male wash-house and general inside workers; and specifying 27th March, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

General minimum time-rate for workers of 21 years of age and over, 1s. 1½d. per hour, with rates from 11½d. to 3½d. per hour for younger workers. For workers of 21 years of age and over with less than twelve months' experience in the operations in question, the rates during the period of employment required to complete the first and second six months of such experience, are 11½d. and 1s. 0½d. per hour respectively.

Lace Finishing Trade Board.

Order, dated 27th March, 1922, confirming general minimum time-rates for learners; and specifying 5th April, 1922, as the date from which these rates are effective.

Learners not working on Frame Clipping, from 20s. to 8s. per week of 48 hours, according to age at entry and six-monthly period of employment.

Learners working on Frame Clipping, from 19s. to 8s. per week, as above.

Pin, Hook and Eye and Snap Fastener Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order, dated 17th March, 1922, confirming minimum rates (as varied) for certain classes of male and female workers, and the cancellation of the general minimum piece-rates for home-workers set out in Schedule II. of Order 1921, No. 1464, dated 7th September, 1921; and specifying 27th March as the date from which the variation and cancellation are effective.

General minimum time-rates—(a) For male workers of 21 years of age and over (other than home-workers and other than workers employed as pin makers, hairpin machinists, hook and eye makers, machine blackers or automatic machinists (including snap fastener machinists, blackers (other than machine blackers), electro-platers, whiteners or wire-straighteners, 1s. 0½d. per hour; (b) for all female workers of 18 years of age and over (other than home-workers and workers employed in carding hooks and eyes or snap fasteners) (i) employed as charge hands responsible for all work and order, 8½d. per hour; (ii) all other workers 7½d. per hour; with lower rates for younger male and female workers; (c) for all home-workers, 6d. per hour.

Piece-work basis time-rate for female workers (other than home-workers and workers employed in carding hooks and eyes or snap fasteners), 8½d. per hour.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL to fix and/or vary minimum rates of wages have been issued by the following Trade Boards:—

Aerated Waters Trade Board (England and Wales).

Proposal (A5), dated 8th April, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers of 15 years of age and over, and the piece-work basis time-rates for all workers, and to fix general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers of 14 and under 15 years of age.

Rates proposed:—*General minimum time-rates* per week of 48 hours: (a) male workers of 21 years of age and over, 54s.; (b) female workers of 18 years of age and over, 29s.; with lower rates for younger male and female workers.

Piece-work basis time-rates: (a) all male workers, 1s. 5½d. per hour; (b) all female workers, 9½d. per hour.

Brush and Broom Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposals (M 33 and 34), dated 6th April, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates, guaranteed time-rates, general minimum piece-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers, and to fix general minimum piece-rates for the making of certain classes of painting brushes, for Periods dependent upon the Cost of Living Index Figure; and to vary the general minimum piece-rates and overtime rates for female pan hands, other than those employed on certain specified operations.

The rates proposed, as specified below, range according to the Cost of Living Index Figure:—*General minimum time-rates*: (a) for male workers 21 years of age and over, (i) employed in, and with not less than three years' experience in, one or more of the following operations:—"Pan" (hair and bass), "hairs," "finishing" (i.e., the work of all wood-workers employed in finishing or part-finishing brushes or brooms by hand or machine), "boring" (hand and machine boring), "drawing," "bone brush cutting," "bone brush fashioning," "bone brush drilling," "bone brush profiling," the manufacture of artists', medical, painting, whitewash and tar brushes, and brushes not otherwise specified, etc., 1s. 5½d. to 8½d. per hour. (ii) All other workers, 1s. 2d. to 7d. per hour, with lower scales for younger workers. For male workers of all ages who have served an apprenticeship of not less than five years in one or more of the operations specified in (a) above, the rates range from 1s. 5½d. to 8½d.

per hour. (b) (i) Female pan hands (all ages), scales 8½d. to 4½d., 1s. 1d. to 6½d., and 1s. 5½d. to 8½d. per hour for the operations to which the rates at present applicable are 8½d., 1s. and 1s. 4½d. per hour respectively; (ii) female workers (other than (i) and learners), of 21 years of age and over, 8½d. to 4½d. per hour, with lower scales for younger workers and learners.

Guaranteed time-rates for female pan-setting learners, 4d. to 2d. per hour.

Piece-work basis time-rates: (a) female workers (other than pan hands), 9½d. to 4½d. per hour; (b) female pan hands (other than learners), scales 9½d. to 4½d. and 1s. 2½d. to 7½d. per hour for the operations to which the rates at present applicable are 9½d. and 1s. 1½d. per hour respectively.

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (England and Wales).

Proposal (WD 14), dated 6th April, 1922, to vary the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates, and overtime rates for male workers.

Rates proposed:—*General minimum time-rates:* (i) male cutters of 22 years of age and over who are employed wholly or mainly in cutting (including the operations of hooking-up, folding, marking-in or marking-out and dividing), and who have had not less than five years' experience in cutting in the wholesale section of the trade, 1s. 5d. per hour. (ii) other workers of 22 years of age and over, 1s. per hour, with lower rates for younger workers. *Piece-work basis time-rates* for the classes of workers specified above, (i) 1s. 6½d., and (ii) 1s. 1½d. per hour respectively.

Hair, Bass and Fibre Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal (HB 9), dated 27th March, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates, and overtime rates for male and female workers (except workers employed in hand-loom weaving, other than damask seating hand-loom weaving).

Rates proposed:—*General minimum time-rates:* (I) for workers with not less than three years' experience as, and employed as (a) horse-hair sorter, hackler, drawer or buncher, power-loom weaver, winder, damask seating hand-loom weaver, curlier, spinner, hair dyer, cloth starcher, and/or carpet weaver: (i) male workers of 21 and over, 1s. 3d. per hour; (ii) female workers of 13 and over, 7½d. per hour. (b) fibre drafter, dresser or dyer, bass sorter, dyer, cutter, rougher, mixer or finisher: (i) male workers of 21 and over, 1s. 2½d. per hour; (ii) female workers of 18 and over, 7½d. per hour; (II) for all other workers: (i) male workers of 21 and over, 1s. per hour; (ii) female workers of 18 and over, 7½d. per hour, with lower rates in each case for younger workers.

Piece-work basis time-rates: for all workers (a) employed in (I) (a) above: (i) male workers, 1s. 5d. per hour; (ii) female workers, 9d. per hour; (b) employed as in (I) (b) above: (i) male workers, 1s. 4½d. per hour; (ii) female workers, 8½d. per hour.

Hollow-ware Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal (H 11), dated 20th March, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers, and the piece-work basis time-rate for female workers of 18 years of age or over.

Rates proposed:—*General minimum time-rates:* (a) male workers, other than learners, 1s. 0½d. per hour; (b) female workers, other than learners, 7½d. per hour, with lower rates for male and female learners.

Piece-work basis time-rate for all female workers of 18 years of age or over, 8d. per hour.

Laundry Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal (W 12), dated 15th March, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates, guaranteed time-rates, and overtime rates for all female workers.

Rates proposed:—*General minimum time-rate and guaranteed time-rate* for female workers of 18 years of age and over, 7d. and 6d. per hour respectively; with lower rates for younger workers and certain workers with limited experience in each case. *Piece-work basis time-rate* for female workers of all ages, 8½d. per hour. For workers specially employed for emergency work, or whose employment is of a casual nature, the following rates are proposed:—*General minimum time-rates:* (a) for workers of 18 years of age and over, 7½d. per hour; (b) under 18 years, 7d. per hour. *Piece-work basis time-rate* for workers of all ages, 9d. per hour.

Machine-Made Lace and Net Finishing Trade Board.

Proposal (L 10), dated 27th March, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates for workers other than learners from 7d. to 6½d. per hour, and in the case of workers who fetch their own work direct from the warehouse, but not through a middleman, from 8d. to 7½d. per hour, and the general minimum piece-rates for processes in the finishing of Hair Nets, whether they are the product of Plain Net Machines or not, and for processes other than the Finishing of the product of Plain Net Machines by a reduction of 10 per cent.

Made-up Textiles Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal (M.T. 4), dated 28th March, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates, and overtime rates for Male and Female Workers.

Rates Proposed:—*General Minimum Time-rates:* (a) Machinists (sewing), Cutters, Foremen waterproofer and mixers, Foremen packers, All other Foremen, Splicers of ropes over ½ ins. in circumference, Palm and needle hands, Ropers of tents and coal sacks, Awl and needle stitchers (leather and canvas), Letter writers (other than stencilers). (i) Male workers 21 years of age and over, 1s. 2d. per hour, (ii) female workers of 18 years of age and over, 7½d. per hour; (b) All other workers except learners: (i) Male workers of 21 years of age and over, 11½d. per hour, (ii) female workers of 18 years of age and over, 6½d. per hour, with lower rates for younger male and female workers.

Piece-work Basis Time-rates: (a) All workers employed on the operations specified in (a) above: (i) Male workers, 1s. 3d. per hour, (ii) female workers, 8½d. per hour; (b) All other workers: (i) Male workers, 1s. 0½d. per hour, (ii) female workers, 7½d. per hour.

General minimum time-rates are proposed for male and female learners employed on machining, cutting, awl and needle stitching, operations performed by Palm and Needle Hands (including roping of tents and coal sacks), flag making, ranging, from 9½d. to 2½d. per hour in the case of males and from 5½d. to 2½d. per hour for females, according to age and whether first or second year of employment.

Milk Distributive Trade Board (England and Wales).

Proposal (M.D. 6), dated 23rd March, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers.

The proposed rates set out below in the respective Scales A, B and C shall apply as follows:—(a) To all areas administered by Rural District Councils and (b) to all areas administered by Municipal Borough Councils and Urban District Councils which according to the most recent Census had a population of less than 10,000; but so as in neither case to apply to any area within the Metropolitan Police District. B.—To all areas other than those to which Scales A and C apply. C.—To the area comprising the City of London and the Metropolitan Police District.

General minimum time-rates per week of 48 hours, or the number customarily worked:—(a) Foremen, A 56s. 6d., B 67s., C 72s. 6d.; (b) Male workers of 21 years of age and over: (i) Sterilizers and Clerks, A 51s. 6d., B 59s. 6d., C 62s. 6d., (ii) Shop Assistants and Roundsmen, Pasteurizers, Assistant Sterilizers, and all other workers except (a) and (b) (i) above: A 46s. 6d., B 54s. 6d., C 57s. 6d.; (c) Female workers of 21 years of age and over: (i) Roundswomen (no variation), (ii) Clerks A 35s. 6d., B 37s. 6d., C 45s. 6d., (iii) Shop Assistants, A 28s. 6d., B 32s. 6d., C 37s. 6d., (iv) All other workers, A 28s., B 31s. 6d., C 35s. 6d. Lower rates are proposed for younger male and female workers.

Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal (Q. 13), dated 10th March, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for female workers.

Rates Proposed (A) for the period from the date on which the proposed variation takes effect until 15th July, 1922:—*General Minimum Time-rates:*—Female workers of 18 years of age and over employed as (a) Polishers or Drop Stammers: (i) During the first twelve months of employment after the age of 18, 9½d. per hour, (ii) after completion of twelve months after the age of 18, 10½d. per hour, (iii) workers entering these branches of the trade for the first time at or over the age of 18 years, 8½d. per hour; (b) Hand-Brush-Japanners and Hand-Brush-Lacquers, who are capable of finishing all classes of work, Blow-Pipe Braziers or Solderers using ordinary Hand-Iron or Blow-Pipe with Bar Solder: (i) 8½d., (ii) 9½d., (iii) 7½d. per hour respectively as above; (c) All other female workers 7½d. per hour, with lower rates for workers under 18 years of age in each case.

Piece-work Basis Time-rates for workers specified above: (a) 11½d., (b) 10½d., (c) 8½d. per hour respectively, with lower rates for younger workers.

B.—As from 15th July, 1922, the *General Minimum Time-rates and Piece-work Basis Time-rates* proposed for female workers of 18 years of age and over are ½d. per hour less than the rates specified above, but for workers under that age there is no variation.

Sugar, Confectionery and Food-Preserving Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal (F. 8), dated 7th April, 1922 (issued with the Minister's consent), to vary the general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers.

Rates Proposed:—*General Minimum Time-rates:*—(a) All male workers; and female workers employed during the whole or any part of their time in any of the following operations:—Cocoa Making; Boiling Sugar for Boiled Sweets, other than the Boiling of Sugar in Vacuum Pans; Brogueing of Hermetically-Sealed Receptacles containing Meat, Poultry, Fish or Soup, during the Process of Cooking; Hand-Soldering of Hermetically-Sealed Receptacles containing Meat, Poultry, Fish or Soup; Tongue Pumping; Butchers' or Pork Butchers' Work in Preparing Meat for Sausages or "Smalls"; Brining Vegetables for Pickling; Making Extract of Meat:—(i) Workers of 21 years of age 10d. per hour, with the addition of 1d. per hour for each year above 21 years of age up to 1s. 1d. per hour for workers of 24 years of age and over; (b) Female workers (other than those

specified in (a) above) of 18 years of age and over 7d. per hour, with lower rates for younger workers. *Piece-work Basis Time-rates:*—(i) All male workers and female workers specified in (a) above 1s. 3d. per hour, (ii) all other female workers 8d. per hour.

Further particulars regarding these minimum rates of wages may be obtained from the Secretary of the Trade Board concerned at 7-11, Old Bailey, London, E.C. 4.

Objections to the proposed rates (which should be in writing and signed by the person making the same, adding his or her full name and address) may be lodged with the Trade Board issuing the notice, within two months from the date of the Notice of Proposal, and should be sent to the Secretary of the Trade Board at the above-mentioned address.

Particulars regarding minimum rates of wages Proposed, Fixed or Varied by Trade Boards established in Northern Ireland may be obtained from the Secretary, Office of Trade Boards (Northern Ireland), Upper Queen Street, Belfast.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

VOLUMES containing the collected decisions of the Umpire appointed under Section 12 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, respecting disputed claims to benefit, are published by His Majesty's Stationery Office. The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

CASE No. 1,756—SECTION 7 (1) (iii).—AVAILABLE FOR WORK—SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT, UNABLE TO OBTAIN—SEAMEN DISCHARGED FROM SHIPS—AVAILABILITY IN INTERVAL BETWEEN VOYAGES—EXPECTATION OF RE-ENGAGEMENT FOR NEXT VOYAGE INSUFFICIENT FOR DISALLOWANCE.

The applicant, who had last been employed as a fireman on board ship, lodged a claim for benefit on 30th September, 1921. Payment was suspended on the ground that the applicant was not available for work.

This was submitted as a test case, the question at issue being whether a seaman employed on a regular liner or at regular intervals in other ships could be regarded as unemployed, available for work and unable to obtain suitable employment whilst off articles in the normal period which elapsed between voyages.

The Association contended, on behalf of seamen, that their member, although he happened to have been employed on a particular ship for more than one voyage, was unemployed and available for work directly he was discharged from a ship on completion of a voyage. Only a few of the ship's hands worked on the ship whilst she was in Southampton Docks, and this man had tried without success to obtain another berth aboard ship, or suitable work ashore. He was only engaged by a shipping company for the period of the voyage, at the end of which he was discharged, and was then ready and willing to accept employment on any other ship which required men, even out of the district. It could be readily understood that a seaman would much prefer to be employed the whole of the 52 weeks in a year instead of working seven weeks and being unemployed a further three weeks. The present rate of wages of seamen certainly did not allow them to be out of work three months out of the 12 in a year.

The district representative of the Association stated that on discharge from the ship the men immediately applied to his office for another engagement, and that he had to send those men who had been longest on the district roll. Very few of the seamen were engaged on the boat when in port since repair work was contracted out, and only a few were called upon to assist fitters. Some of the men had been with the same shipping company for 20 years, and naturally desired to remain on the same boats.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed. The Court found that the applicant was not unemployed within the meaning of the Acts since the intervals of waiting between voyages was incidental to such employment.

The Association declined to accept the recommendation of the Court of Referees. They submitted that a seaman was engaged by a shipping company only for the period of the voyage, at the end of which he was discharged, and was then ready and willing to accept any other ship which required men, even out of the district.

The actual fact was that there had been very few engagements of full crews for ships at that port during the last nine months or so, and this had meant that, although the applicant, the day after he was discharged from his ship, would have been willing to sign on in another, as he could not afford to be idle for two or three weeks, there had been no other ships requiring hands for which he had been able to sign on.

On the other hand, it was submitted that, in the case of a seaman who was regularly employed by one shipping company year in and year out, some doubt arose as to whether, in the periods between articles, the conditions of Section 7 (1) (ii.) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, were fulfilled. The position of a seaman during these periods would appear to be somewhat analogous to that of a shore workman, who was off work without wages during customary holiday seasons.

Again, the method of payment of seamen per voyage might be held to have been adjusted in such a manner as to cover these "off" periods.

Should seamen generally be held to be unemployed, a further condition as to availability for work must be satisfied. In the case of a regular employee of a company, it would be difficult to uphold a claim for benefit on this ground. The applicant would undoubtedly wish to continue with the line on whose ships he had served, say, for a period of 10 to 15 years, and he might, therefore, not be held to satisfy the condition "available for work" in the periods between articles.

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

"A sailor in the Mercantile Marine, on discharge from a ship, must be held, speaking generally, to be at the moment 'unable to obtain suitable employment,' unless there is evidence to the contrary. The mere fact that he may have a good expectation of being engaged again for the next voyage in a week or a fortnight does not suffice to show that this condition for receipt of unemployment benefit is not fulfilled. His position is somewhat analogous to that of a shore workman who is temporarily suspended."

"It is open to question in some cases, especially those of men who usually sail on regular liners, whether they are also genuinely available for work immediately following their discharge, but I am not satisfied that there is sufficient ground for my giving any general ruling to the effect that they fail for any definite period to satisfy the conditions of Section 7 (1) (iii.) of the Act. If the conditions of their employment are such that a special disqualification should be imposed in the case of men who have the opportunity for making regular voyages, over and above the universal requirement of a waiting period of six days, this is a matter which would have to be dealt with by Statute."

CASE No. 1,894—SECTION 7 (1) (ii).—NOT UNEMPLOYED—DEMobilisation FROM ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY—APPLICANT'S CONTRACT OF SERVICE NOT TERMINATED.

The applicant had last been employed as a temporary constable in the Royal Irish Constabulary, and stated that he lost this employment on the 30th January, 1922. Action on the claim for benefit was formally suspended by the Insurance Officer for submission to a Court of Referees, for determination as to whether the applicant could be regarded as unemployed.

At the hearing before the Court the applicant produced his discharge certificate, which gave "demobilisation of the force" as the reason for dismissal. He served in the constabulary from the 17th November, 1921, to the 30th January, 1922. He stated that he was guaranteed one year's employment by agreement, but was demobilised in consequence of the Treaty of Settlement. He was still guaranteed full pay up to and including the 16th November, 1922. The Government had the right to call upon his services at a moment's notice, but, apart from this, he submitted that he was available for and genuinely seeking employment.

This statement of the position was confirmed by the employers. Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed. The Court were of opinion that the applicant was not unemployed within the meaning of Section 7 (1) (ii) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, in that his contract of service had not terminated.

The Insurance Officer submitted the recommendation of the Court of Referees to the Umpire for a definite ruling as to the peculiar position of these men.

Further information was obtained as to the terms of employment of members of the Royal Irish Constabulary, from which it appeared that there were several different classes of men whose contracts differed in material particulars. The applicant in question had been engaged on a yearly basis, and after the completion of his first year he re-engaged for another 12 months, which in the ordinary course, would not expire until November next. In consequence of the Irish settlement these men were dispersed, but those who were in the position of the applicant, with unexpired contracts, were not technically discharged. The Treasury had agreed, however, that all money claims would be finally settled up by 31st March, 1922, and on completion of the final settlement a definite discharge would be given.

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

"The applicant's contract with the Government for employment in the Royal Irish Constabulary cannot be regarded as finally terminated at present."

CASE No. 1,999.—SECTION 8 (1) TRADE DISPUTE—RELIEF WORKERS—WORK PERFORMED IN RELAYS OF THREE DAYS EACH—DISPUTE ON REDUCTION IN WAGES—APPRECIABLE STOPPAGE OF WORK.

The applicant, who had last been employed on road-making under a corporation relief-work scheme, became unemployed on the 15th January, 1922, and it was reported that he was one of a number of men who, after holding a meeting on the 11th January, decided to come out on strike on the question of wages paid for the relief work.

It appeared that the rate of wages paid for the work varied according to the class of work upon which the men were employed. Reductions in wages had previously been agreed to, but recently the Corporation had decided that the relief workers should be brought within the scope of the "Non-Trading Section's Agreement." This decision was accepted, although it involved a reduction in the rate of wage. After a circular had been received from the Ministry of Health to the effect that the men were to be paid 75 per cent. of the standard rate for the work in question, it was decided that the ruling of the Ministry

of Health should not be enforced during the probationary period which the men were serving. The men objected to serving the probationary period on the ground that 90 per cent. of them had had considerable experience in manual work. As a result they decided to cease work on the ground that the wages were inadequate, and a stoppage of work occurred in the following manner:—The work was being performed by three gangs, who were working under the system of three days "work" and six days "play." After the meeting on the 11th January the gangs failed to turn up for work when their turn came round. The first gang refused to work on the 12th January; the second on the 16th January, and the third on the 19th January respectively. The vacancies created by the men refusing to work were not filled, but the Borough Surveyor reported on the 30th January that the men had returned to work that morning in such numbers as to enable him to carry on with all work in hand, and he, therefore, considered the situation to be normal again.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim to benefit should be disallowed on the ground that the applicant had lost his employment by reason of the stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at the premises where he was employed.

The Association, however, declined to accept the recommendation of the Court of Referees, and appealed to the Umpire on the applicant's behalf.

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claim should be disallowed up to and including 28th January.

"There appears to have been an appreciable stoppage of work due to a trade dispute, but the employer reported that the situation was normal by 30th January.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920 AND 1921.

PROPOSED SPECIAL ORDER.*

The following is an extract from a Notice which appeared in the *London Gazette* on the 17th March:—

The Minister of Labour hereby gives notice, pursuant to Section 36 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, that he proposes to make a Special Order, under Section 39 of the Act, providing that contributions paid by employers under the Unemployment Insurance (Mercantile Marine) Special Order, 1921, in respect of masters, seamen and apprentices

* See special article on p. 157.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING MARCH.

[All the Official Publications (distinguished as Cd., Cmd., H.L., H.C. or S.O. publications) may be purchased through any bookseller or directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses: Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C. 2, and 23, Abingdon Street, London, S.W. 1; 37, Peter Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; 23, North Street, Edinburgh; or from Eason & Son, Ltd., 40 and 41, Lower Sackville Street, Dublin.]

UNITED KINGDOM.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.—Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year ending 31st December, 1919. (a) Part A. Appendix (A); Statistical and other information relating principally to friendly societies, orders and branches, workmen's compensation schemes, loan societies and railway savings banks. [S.O. publication: price 5s. 6d.] (b) Part C. Trade Unions. [S.O. publication: price 15s.]

MINING.—(1) Reports of H.M. inspectors of mines for the year 1920. Board of Trade, Mines Department. [S.O. publication: price 6s. 6d.] (2) Mines and quarries, general report with statistics for 1921. Preliminary statement (subject to correction) of the number of separate fatal accidents and the number of deaths caused thereby in and about mines and quarries of the United Kingdom during the year 1921. Board of Trade, Mines Department. [S.O. publication: price 6d.] (3) Statistical summary of the costs of maintenance and production, and the proceeds of the coal-mining industry (a) during the quarter ended 30th June, 1921. [Cmd. 1596: price 2d.] (b) for the quarter ended 30th September, 1921. [Cmd. 1597: price 2d.] Board of Trade, Mines Department.

NATIONAL EXPENDITURE.—Estimates for Civil Services for the year ending 31st March, 1923. Class VII. Health, Labour and Insurance. Treasury. [H.O. 32-VII.: price 1s.]

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.—National Health Insurance Fund accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1919. Exchequer and Audit Dept. [H.C. 22: price 2s.]

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.—An analysis of the individual differences in the output of silk-weavers. Report No. 17. (Textile series No. 4). Industrial Fatigue Research Board. [S.O. publication: price 1s. 6d.]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—(1) Unemployment Fund account, 1919-20. Exchequer and Audit Department. [H.C. 34: price 2d.] (2) Report by the Government Actuary on the financial

who are neither domiciled nor have a place of residence in the United Kingdom, shall be credited to the Special Fund for seamen constituted under paragraph (c) of Sub-section (1) of Section 27 of the National Health Insurance Act, 1918, and shall be applied by the Governing Body of the said Special Fund for the provision of such benefits specified in the scheme prepared by the said Governing Body as may be approved by the Minister and the Board of Trade.

Copies of the Order proposed to be made may be obtained on application to the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Insurance Department, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W. 1. The rest of the Notice deals with the lodging of objections, which had to be received on or before April 7th.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

(1) Indiarubber Regulations, 1922.

The LABOUR GAZETTE for March, 1922 (page 150), contained a notice of the revised Draft Regulations proposed to be made under Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, for the manufacture of indiarubber and of articles made wholly or partially of indiarubber. These Regulations were duly made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the 31st March, 1922. They may be cited as the *Indiarubber Regulations, 1922*,* and come into force on the 1st May, 1922.

(2) Pottery Particulars Order.

On the 31st March, 1922, the Secretary of State for the Home Department made an Order under Section 116 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, applying the provisions of the said section, subject to certain modifications, to factories and workshops in which the manufacture or decoration of pottery is carried on. The Order, which may be cited as the *Pottery Particulars Order*,* comes into force three months after the date of the Order.

Section 116 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, which related primarily to textile factories, but may be applied by the Secretary of State, by Special Order, to non-textile factories, requires the occupier of the factory to cause to be published particulars of the piece-work rate of wages applicable to the work to be done, and also particulars of the work to which that rate is to be applied.

* Copies can be purchased through any bookseller or directly from H.M. Stationery Office.

provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Bill, 1922. Ministry of Labour. [Cmd. 1620: price 3d.]

WELFARE.—Cloakrooms, washing facilities, drinking water and sanitary accommodation in factories and workshops. Welfare pamphlet No. 8. Home Office. [S.O. publication: price 1s.]

BRITISH DOMINIONS AND INDIA.

AUSTRALIA.—Census of the Commonwealth of Australia, 4th April, 1921, (a) Territory of Papua. Bulletin No. 4. (b) Territory of Norfolk Island. Census Bulletin No. 5. Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics. [Melbourne: A. J. Mullett.]

NEW SOUTH WALES.—(1) Compendium of living wage declarations and reports made by the New South Wales Board of Trade. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, 1921.] (2) New South Wales Industrial Gazette, 31st January, 1922. Department of Labour. [Sydney: W. A. Applegate.]

VICTORIA.—Forty-third annual report on friendly societies for the year 1920, to which are appended valuations of societies, numerical and financial summaries of the returns furnished by the secretaries, etc. Government Statist. [Melbourne: A. J. Mullett.]

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—Statistical register for the year 1920-1 and previous years. Part IX. Hospitals, charitable institutions, etc. [Perth: F. W. Simpson, 1922.]

NEW ZEALAND.—(1) Fourth annual report of the Department of Industries and Commerce, 1921. Board of Trade. [Wellington: M. F. Marks, 1921.] (2) Monthly abstract of statistics. December, 1921. Government Statistician. [Wellington: M. F. Marks, 1921.]

CANADA.—(1) The Labour Gazette, February, 1922. Policy of Federal Government on unemployment relief; judicial decisions on right of employers to reduce wages pending action of conciliation board, etc. Department of Labour. [Ottawa: F. A. Acland, 1922.] (2) Wages and hours of labour in Canada, September, 1920, and September, 1921. Wages and hours of labour report No. 3. Issued as a supplement to the Labour Gazette, February, 1922. Department of Labour. [Ottawa: F. A. Acland.] (3) Canada and the International Labour Conference. Industrial Relations Series, Bulletin No. 5. Issued as a supple-

ment to the Labour Gazette, February, 1922. Department of Labour. [Ottawa: F. A. Acland.]

QUEBEC.—The municipal strike and lock-out act, 1921. 11 Geo. V., chap 46.

INDIA.—Labour Gazette, February, 1922. Labour Office, Secretariat, Bombay. [Bombay: Government Printing Office.]

SOUTH AFRICA.—(1) Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics, February, 1922. Office of Census and Statistics. [Pretoria.] (2) Quarterly abstract of Union statistics. January, 1922. Union Office of Census and Statistics. [Pretoria: Government Printer.] (3) Official year book of the Union and of Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland, containing statistics mainly for the period 1910-1920. No. 4, 1921. Union Office of Census and Statistics. [Pretoria: Government Printing and Stationery Office.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

INTERNATIONAL.—(1) International Labour Office. Official Bulletin. Vol. V. Nos. 7-12: weekly, 15th February to 22nd March, 1922. (2) International Labour Review, March, 1922. The President's Conference on unemployment in United States, industrial arbitration in Queensland, etc. International Labour Office. [Geneva.] (3) Compensation for war disabilities in Great Britain and the United States. Studies and reports, series E. No. 4. International Labour Office. [Geneva, 30th December, 1921.]

ARGENTINA.—(1) Boletín de la Dirección General de Estadística y Departamento Provincial del Trabajo. January-March, 1920. Industrial accidents in first quarter of 1920. Department of Statistics. [La Plata.] (2) Cronica Mensual del Departamento Nacional del Trabajo. December, 1921-January, 1922. Labour disputes in period 1916-1920; proposed Bill for sickness insurance and old age pensions. National Department of Labour. [Buenos Aires.]

AUSTRIA.—(1) Amtliche Nachrichten des Oesterreichischen Bundesministeriums für Soziale Verwaltung, February. Texts of laws, decrees, etc., of the Austrian Republic relating to social affairs. Ministry for Social Affairs. [Vienna.] (2) Bundesgesetzblatt für die Republik Oesterreich, 1922, Nos. 1-36 (inclusive). Laws, decrees, regulations, etc., of the Austrian Republic. [Vienna.]

BELGIUM.—Revue du Travail, February. Unemployment in December; wages fixed by collective agreements; retail prices, April, 1914-January, 1922; cost of living index figures at 15th January; labour disputes during December. Ministry of Industry and Labour. [Brussels.]

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.—(1) Rapports de l'Office de Statistique de la République Tchecoslovaque, 1921. Nos. 16 and 17. Statistical Office. [Prague.] (2) Sociální Revue, No. 1 of 1922. Journal of the Ministry of Social Affairs. [Prague.]

DENMARK.—(1) Statistiske Meddelelser, 4 Række, 61 Bind. Miscellaneous Statistics, Series IV, Vol. 61. Statistics of unemployment during the period 1915-1919. Statistical Department. [Copenhagen.] (2) Statistiske Efterretninger, Nos. 5 and 6. Movement of prices of necessities, 1914-January, 1922; unemployment in January. Statistical Department. [Copenhagen.] (3) Beretning fra Arbejderforsikrings-Raadet for Aaret 1920. Report of the Committee on Sickness and Accident Insurance for the year 1920. Ministry of the Interior. [Copenhagen.]

FINLAND.—Social Tidskrift, 1922. No. 2. Proposed law as to sickness, old age, and invalidity insurance; statistics of employment exchanges in January; cost of living index figures, 1914-January, 1922. Ministry for Social Affairs. [Helsingfors.]

FRANCE.—(1) Annuaire Statistique de la Ville de Paris, 1915-1918. Statistics of public employment exchanges, 1915-1918. Municipal Statistical Office. [Paris.] (2) Journal Officiel (Daily). Issues from 28th February to 28th March (inclusive). [Paris.]

GERMANY.—(1) Reichs-Gesetzblatt, Nos. 111 to 113 (inclusive). Laws, decrees, regulations, etc., of the German Federal Government. [Berlin.] (2) Wirtschaft und Statistik, Nos. 4 and 5. Statistics of retail prices in February; wages fixed by collective agreements in engineering, building and printing trades, 1914-1922. Federal Statistical Department. [Berlin.] (3) Reichs-Arbeitsblatt, 15th March, 1922. Employment in February; statistics of employment exchanges on 3rd March; cost of living index figures, December, 1921-February, 1922; wages and other working conditions fixed by collective agreements; membership of German Trade Unions at end of 1921. Federal Ministry of Labour. [Berlin.] (4) Vierteljahrshefte zur Statistik des Deutschen Reichs, 1921. Part III. Statistics of retail prices, January-June, 1921. Federal Statistical Department. [Berlin.] (5) Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger (Daily). Issues from 26th February to 28th March (inclusive). [Berlin.]

GREECE.—(1) Report of the Factory Inspection Department for the year 1920. (2) Statistics of daily and monthly wages at Athens and the Piræus during 1914-1920. Ministry of National Economy. [Athens.]

HOLLAND.—(1) Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, February. Unemployment in November; statistics of employment exchanges in January; wages fixed in public contracts and by collective agreements; cost of living in working class families, etc. December. Central Statistical Bureau. [The Hague.] (2) Maandcijfers van het Statistisch Bureau der Gemeente 's-Gravenhage, November and December. Statistics of employment exchanges at The Hague in November and December; labour disputes; retail prices; unemployment among trade unionists. Municipal Statistical Bureau. [The Hague.] (3) Maandbericht van het Bureau van Statistiek der Gemeente Amsterdam, December, 1921, and January, 1922. Cost of living figures; wholesale and retail prices in 1921; statistics of unemployment among trade unionists and of employment exchanges. Municipal Statistical Office. [Amsterdam.] (4) Verslag over het Havenaanzicht uitgeoefend in 1920. Report of the Harbours Inspection Board for 1920. Ministry of Labour. [The Hague.] (5) Central Verslag der Arbeidsinspectie in het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden over 1920. Report of the Chief Factory Inspection Department for 1920. Department of Labour. [The Hague.]

ITALY.—(1) Bollettino Ufficiale del Ministero per il Lavoro e la Previdenza Sociale, 16th January. Laws, decrees and circulars referring to labour. Ministry of Labour and Social Thrift. [Rome.] (2) La Disoccupazione in Italia al 1° Dicembre, 1921. Unemployment on 1st December, 1921. Reprinted from Bollettino del Lavoro e della Previdenza Sociale. Ministry of Labour and Social Thrift. [Rome.] (3) Città di Torino: Bollettino Mensile dell'Ufficio del Lavoro e della Statistica, December. Cost of living at Turin in December; unemployment; labour disputes. Municipal Office of Labour and Statistics. [Turin.] (4) Città di Milano: Bollettino Municipale Mensile, January. Index figures of cost of living in January. Municipal Office of Labour. [Milan.] (5) Rivista Mensile della Città di Venezia, January. Statistics of population of Venice, 1911-1921; employment exchanges; labour disputes; cost of living index figures. Municipal Statistical Office. [Venice.] (6) Ufficio Provinciale del Lavoro (Roma), 1922, No. 2. Statistics of employment in city and province of Rome, November, 1921; unemployment in November and December. Provincial Department of Labour. [Rome.] (7) Gazzetta Ufficiale (Daily). Issues from 25th February to 25th March (inclusive). [Rome.]

NORWAY.—(1) Norsk Lovtidende, Nos. 8, 10 and 11 (inclusive). Laws, decrees and circulars of the Norwegian Government. [Christiania.] (2) Sociale Meddelelser, 1922. No. 2. Report of Labour Committee on proposed law for protection of workpeople; unemployment statistics for February. Department for Social Affairs. [Christiania.] (3) Statistiske Meddelelser, 1922. No. 2. Retail prices and cost of living in January, 1922; unemployment in November and December, 1921. Central Statistical Office. [Christiania.] (4) Statistisk Maanedsskrift, October, November and December, 1921, January, 1922. Statistics of retail prices, cost of living, employment exchanges. Municipal Statistical Office. [Christiania.]

POLAND.—(1) Revue Mensuelle de Statistique, Nos. 4-6, 1921. Journal of the Central Office of Statistics. [Warsaw.] (2) Revue Mensuelle du Travail, No. 12, 1921. Statistics of employment exchanges in September and October; cost of living index figures at Warsaw in November; labour disputes in October and in second quarter of 1921. Central Office of Statistics. [Warsaw.]

RUMANIA.—Correspondance Economique: Bulletin Officiel de la Direction Générale du Commerce, January. Department of Commerce. [Bucharest.]

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GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS MARCH, 1922.

ADMIRALTY.

(CONTRACT AND PURCHASE DEPARTMENT.)

Automatic Telephone Exchange Equipment: Relay Automatic Telephone Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—Batteries and Cells: Premier Accumulator Co. (1921), Ltd., Northampton; Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester; D.P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell.—Blowers, Rotary and Motors: Reavell & Co., Ltd., Ipswich.—Brake Machine: The Joint Liquidators, Whitehead Torpedo Works, Weymouth.—Brass Bars, High Tension: The Manganese Bronze and Brass Co., Ltd., London, S.W.; the Delta Metal Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—Cells, 40 amp hour: Fuller's United Electric Works, Ltd., Chadwell Heath, Essex.—Cells, Electrical Storage Battery: Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Clifton Junction, near Manchester.—Containers and Covers for Electrical Storage Battery: Fuller's United Electrical Works, Ltd., Chadwell Heath, Essex.—Cooking Apparatus: Moorwoods, Ltd., Sheffield.—Electrodes: The Quasi-Arc Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Enamelled Ware: Anglo-Enamelware, Ltd., W. Bromwich; J. Sankey & Sons, Ltd., Bilston; The Welsh Tinplate and Metal Stamping Co., Ltd., Llanelly.—Glass Shades, Chimneys, etc.: J. Stevens & Son, Birmingham; Mr. J. Walsh Walsh, Birmingham; J. Price & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Burtles Tate, Ltd., Manchester; Molineaux, Webb & Co., Ltd., Manchester; J. Fleming & Co., Stourbridge; The New English Glass Manufacturers, Ltd., Dudley Port, Tipton, Staffs.; J. Lane and Sons, Ltd., Dudley, Wores.—Gunmetal Hose Fittings: E. Barber & Co., Ltd., London, N.; Dodd & Oulton, Ltd., Liverpool.—Lagging Work on Boilers: Newalls Insulation Co., 31, Moseley Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Lathe 10 1/2 in. J. Lang & Sons, Ltd., Johnstone, near Glasgow.—Manganese Bronze Ingots: The Manganese Bronze and Brass Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—Mica: Micanite and Insulators Co., Ltd., London, E.; Mica Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Bromley, Kent.—Oil Fuel Pumping Plant: Cochran & Co. (Annan), Ltd., Annan, Scotland.—Pig Iron: Newton, Chambers & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Summerlee Iron Co., Ltd., Glasgow; W. Baird & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Goldendale Iron Co., Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent.—Reamers: E. H. Pickford & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; G. & J. Hall, Sheffield.—Re-cutting Files: G. Barnsley & Sons, Sheffield.—Screws: British Screw Co., Ltd., Leeds; Henry Cox Screw Co., Ltd., Birmingham; T. Eaves, Ltd., Birmingham; Guest, Keen & Nettletons, Ltd., Birmingham; Horton & Son, Ltd., Darlaston; A. Stokes & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—Shades, Silk: Louis Demier & Hamlyn, Ltd., London, W.—Shutters, Steel Roller: A. L. Gibson, Radnor Works, Twickenham.—Steam Cooking Plant: Benham & Sons, Ltd., London, W.—Steam Heating Equipment: Sturtevant Engineering Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Steam Heating Installation: Sturtevant Engineering Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—Steel Blooms: Vickers, Ltd., Sheffield; Jonas & Colver, Ltd., Sheffield; Steel Peech & Tozer, Ltd., Sheffield; Steel Company of Scotland, Glasgow.—Steel Plates, H.T.: Steel Company of Scotland, Glasgow.—Steel Sectional Material: D. Colville & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow; Park Gate Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., Rotherham; Port Talbot Steel Co., Ltd., Port Talbot.—Switchboard, with Instruments, etc.: Park Royal Engineering Works, Ltd., London, N.W.—Switches: Fuller's United Electric Works, Ltd., Chadwell Heath, Essex.—Tin, in Block: James & Shakespeare, Ltd., London, E.C.—Tubes, Conduit and Fittings: The Brotherton Ediswan Tubes and Conduits, Wolverhampton.—Tubes, Water and Fittings: Russell Bros. (Walsall), Ltd., Walsall; Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Glasgow.—Trolleys, Electric: British Electric Vehicles, Ltd., Southport.—Vulcanised Fibre Sheet: Sutcliffe (of Crumpsall), Ltd., Manchester.—Wire Work: George Baker, Ltd., Birmingham; G. Harding & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; A. A. James, Ltd., West Bromwich; W. Lander & Sons, Birmingham; T. Locker & Co., Ltd., Warrington; H. A. Joyner, London, S.E.; J. Nichols & Son, Ltd., Birmingham; S. Ramsey & Co., London, E.C.

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